Internet and mobile connectivity are key to foster relationships and connect refugees to communities, services and opportunities in host countries. Yet, refugees usually struggle to find an immediate and affordable connection to talk to their families or access services by phone. During their journeys, internet and telephone coverage may be lacking, costs can be high and sometimes selling their phones is the only solution to gather money for the travel. This increases protection risks and mental health impacts as refugees feel even more separated from their loved ones and uprooted from home.

That is why, in February, UNHCR and ICRC joined efforts to establish a connectivity point in BV-8 Annex, next to the Reception, Documentation and Relocation Centre (PITRIG) of Operation Welcome in Pacaraima. The Connectivity Post counts with eight tablets and allows refugees and migrants as well as Brazilians to access social networks, connect to family and friends, and receive information on available services. In total, the site can offer up to 500 free Wi-Fi accesses daily and limits the time of use to 30 minutes per person to ensure that as many people as possible enjoy the service.

Read more at bit.ly/3vfKK8j

UNHCR and ICRC promote digital inclusion of refugees, migrants and host communities

UKRAINE SITUATION

In late February, UNHCR scaled up its operations in Ukraine, working with authorities, UN agencies and other partners, and made efforts to raise funds in support of people forced to move. It is estimated that 12 million people inside Ukraine will need help and protection, while more than 4 million may need assistance in neighboring countries in the coming weeks.

Among UNHCR actions planned for Ukraine are emergency financial assistance to the most vulnerable people, food distribution, access to water, health care, education services, emergency shelter and the reconstruction of damaged homes. The team is also supporting authorities in neighboring countries to set up reception centers, with special attention to the prevention and mitigation of gender-based violence.

UNHCR is urging individuals and corporations in Brazil to show their solidarity and help people in dire need in Ukraine and in the neighboring countries at this critical moment.

“There are no winners in war, but countless lives will be torn apart”

Filippo Grandi, UNHCR High Commissioner

Read UNHCR High Commissioner statement at bit.ly/3Cpfpfw

Please make a donation at bit.ly/ajudarucrania
In the end of February, the Second Secretary of the Embassy of Canada, Tarryn Elliott, visited Boa Vista and Pacaraima, in Roraima. The 5-days agenda covered visits to Operation Welcome sites, including PITRIGs from both cities, the Coordination Centre for Interiorization (CCI), indigenous and non-indigenous refugee communities, settlements, and shelters.
Refugees in the Americas share their recipes in UNHCR cookbook

Gastronomy has the power to foster inclusion and dialogue between communities. “From Our Table to Yours: Fusion Cuisine”, is a book of recipes shared by women and men who were forcibly displaced in Latin America and the Caribbean and who have found a way to preserve their origins, share experiences and integrate into their host country through cooking.

Among the different stories, Yilmary, a Venezuelan refugee, tells how she found in Brazil a safe place for her children to grow up. She currently lives with her family in São Paulo, is part of the Refugee Entrepreneur Platform and shared the cachapa recipe, also available in her restaurant.

Download UNHCR’s recipe book at bit.ly/3AC8rbQ

HIGHLIGHTS

Committee is established in Rio de Janeiro

UNHCR, IOM and PARES Caritas RJ welcomed the creation of the Municipal Intersectoral Committee for Policies for the Care of Refugees, Migrants and Stateless Persons in Rio de Janeiro (COMPAR-Rio), which aims at defending and promoting the human rights of refugees, immigrants and stateless persons. Read more at bit.ly/356NtGH

Sisteminha Project updated in Roraima

UNHCR accompanied a visit of the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA) at the Pemón-Taurepang indigenous community of Tarau-Parú, in Pacaraima. During the visit, a new cleaning system was installed in the fish tank, and an informative session on fish farming was organized within the community.

2022 Nansen Refugee Award

Each year, Nansen Refugee Award recognizes people and organizations that have shown extraordinary commitment and dedication in assisting persons of concern to UNHCR. For this year, UNHCR Brazil promoted the nomination of Padre Jesus de Bobadilla, a priest from the Diocese of Roraima who has been working with Venezuelan indigenous and non-indigenous refugees even before the beginning of the massive influx to Brazil. Padre Jesus has provided support to these people, including Warao groups, and promoted initiatives to integrate children and young people into the Brazilian community.

DASHBOARDS

- 5W RMRP 2021 bit.ly/3tMSkVH
- Shelters in Roraima bit.ly/3dcF6dT
- CONARE’s Decisions bit.ly/2ZOne1w
- Internal Relocation Strategy bit.ly/3asTv3C

PUBLICATIONS

- Livelihoods Activities Report (November – December 2021) bit.ly/3w77WGe
- Infographic Protection Monitoring High Frequency Survey bit.ly/3JS5Pgk
UNHCR Partners in Brazil:

UNHCR Brazil is thankful for the support of private donors and:

UNHCR Brazil is also thankful for the important support of and partnerships with other UN agencies, Brazilian authorities (at federal, state and municipal levels) and civil society organizations working together to deliver the emergency response and in the regular programmes of the Brazilian operation.