UNHCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Statistical Office in Brazil (IBGE for its Portuguese acronym) to collect specific data on refugees and migrants as part of the 2022 census. UNHCR has assisted IBGE staff in conducting interviews in the shelters of Operation Welcome and disseminated information materials to the refugee communities, facilitating their understanding of what the 2022 Census is and its importance as part of their local integration in Brazil. Moreover, UNHCR promoted a series of training on protection guiding principles to ensure a culturally sensitive approach, especially in working with indigenous refugee populations. Demographic data, such as those collected in the census, are very valuable as they describe the well-being and living conditions of the population and guide the allocation of public resources and development of public policy nationwide.

UNHCR and JICA strengthen their cooperation in Brazil

On 15 August, UNHCR Brazil and JICA, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, signed a Memorandum of Cooperation to foster opportunities for socio-economic inclusion of people forced to flee, with particular attention to Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Brazil. As part of this collaboration, the two agencies aim to map best practices, as well as conduct joint research, data collection and analysis, to support awareness raising and advocacy on refugee issues.
On 11 August, UNHCR, UN Women, and UNFPA launched the research “Opportunities and challenges for the local integration of people from Venezuela internally relocated in Brazil during the COVID-19 pandemic”. The study – elaborated in the framework of the MOVERSE Joint Programme with the support of the Government of Luxembourg – analyzes the impacts of one of the three pillars of Operation Welcome, the voluntary relocation strategy, and expands on key findings, such as:

- Refugees and migrants from Venezuela who participated in the Federal Government’s voluntary internal relocation strategy had more access to formal jobs, education, and housing in Brazil, compared to those living in Roraima’s shelters.
- Of every ten people who relocated from the North of Brazil to other regions, eight are able to integrate into the labor market.
- Both relocated and sheltered women face greater difficulty finding work, especially those who are head of household or have young children.
- Most sheltered people report some difficulties in understanding Portuguese. However, when the analysis is disaggregated by sex, this challenge is higher among sheltered women.

The research is crucial to guide and improve the interventions of all actors involved in the Venezuelan response and to promote inclusive integration that respects diversity and endorses gender equality.
UNHCR Brazil is now on TikTok

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In August, UNHCR Brazil made its debut on TikTok. A post with the story of Maha Mamo – a human rights activist born in Beirut who was stateless for 30 years and is now a Brazilian citizen – was the most engaging post by UNHCR Brazil on this social media platform, reaching almost 50,000 likes, comments, and shares.

HIGHLIGHTS

First selling of the fish farmed through the “Sisteminha”

For the first time, the bi-national indigenous community of Tarau Parú in Pacaraima was able to market the fishes cultivated through the “Sisteminha”, a pisciculture initiative of UNHCR, EMBRAPA, and the Federal Institute of Roraima to promote indigenous self-reliance. The community sold 26 fish to the local indigenous school, and the profit will be used to maintain the tanks, consolidating the community’s self-management of the project.

Free internet in Boa Vista sites

During August, the Cisco team, through a partnership with UNHCR, installed various equipment to provide free internet for more than 8,000 people in emergency shelters, Boa Vista bus station, and the Consolata Church. Now, refugees and migrants can look for jobs and study opportunities, as well as connect with distant family members online.

Humanitarian Visas extended for Ukrainians

On 30 August, the Brazilian Government published the Inter-ministerial Ordinance N°30 that extends, until 3 March 2023, the granting of temporary visas and residence permits for humanitarian purposes to Ukrainian nationals and stateless persons affected or displaced by the situation of armed conflict in Ukraine.

2022 Refugee and Immigrant Cup launch

On 26 August, the 2022 Refugee and Immigrant Cup was launched to promote the integration of forcibly displaced people through sport and build a solid base of supporters for the refugee cause. Games will occur during September in six states and the Federal District.

Call for Manifestation of Interest: Pilot Program for Small Grants

UNHCR has opened a call inviting organizations led by refugees and other forcibly displaced people living in Brazil to present their interest in participating in the Pilot Program for Small Grants. The Program will provide financial assistance for activities focused primarily on advocacy, protection and assistance of refugees at the community level and conducted in Amazonas, Distrito Federal, Pará, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Roraima. Applications are expected until 30 September.

Learn more about the call and its eligibility criteria at bit.ly/3Smxmbz

DASHBOARDS

- CONARE’s Decisions: bit.ly/2ZOne1w
- Internal Relocation Strategy: bit.ly/3asTv3C
- Shelters in Roraima: bit.ly/3dcF6dT
- Indigenous people: bit.ly/3xzTt4L

UNHCR Brazil Funding update

US$ 52,5 million

UNHCR’s financial requirements in 2022

For more information: reporting.unhcr.org
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