1st Annual Meeting of the Companies with Refugees Forum

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Check out some of the Forum’s activities carried out in 2022 in the 5th and 6th editions of the Forum’s newsletter.

Career Boosting Workshop

AVSI Brasil, in partnership with UNHCR, promoted the “Career Boosting Workshop”, which has thus far trained 41 people. The training is given in Boa Vista-RR and informs beneficiaries about labor laws, how to write resumes and prepare for job interviews. In addition, it assisted in the preparation of 100 resumes and the issuance of Work and Social Security Card.

Live video of the Protect Work campaign

On 27 July, the Protect Work Campaign, an initiative of the Ministry of Labor and Welfare, UNHCR, ILO and IOM, promoted a live event for 60 participants to answer questions about labor rights in Brazil.

Participation in ExpoABRH-AM

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By May to August 2022

**supporting Employability**

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Entrepreneurship Workshop at the Janokoida shelter

In August, through articulation between the Pan American Development Foundation and Sala do Empreendedor, the first Entrepreneurship Workshop was held at the Janokoida shelter in Pacaraima-RR, with 18 participants. Also in August, the Community Garden Course was taught through the Integrating Horizons Program, offering training in urban gardens with soil preparation, planting and composting techniques. Twenty-five people participated in this community integration space.

Workshop on Business Formalization

On 29 June, 45 people participated in training on business formalization. The online course was promoted by the Refugee Entrepreneurs platform, in partnership with Aliança Empreendedora.

Exhibition of products at fairs in Boa Vista

About 50 refugee and migrant entrepreneurs exhibited their products during the municipal’s June festival in Boa Vista, which took place between 11 and 18 June. The space was promoted by UNHCR in partnership with AVSI, Fraternity - International Humanitarian Federation, Fraternity Without Borders (FSF), SJMR, A Casa - Museum of the Brazilian Object, the municipality of Boa Vista and Operation Welcome. The population in Boa Vista was also able to see more products from Venezuelan entrepreneurs at the 3rd edition of the IntegraArte Fair, held in early July at Roraima Garden Shopping.

1st Mujeres Fuertes group concluded

In June, 46 refugee entrepreneur women from Manaus-AM received kitchen kits and financial assistance. This was the final stage of the first “Mujeres Fuertes” group, an initiative of Hermanitos, Amazonas and Roraima’s Public Prosecutor’s Office and UNHCR, with support from Instituto Mana.

Livelihoods actions in shelters

In Manaus, between June and August, 46 adults and 10 refugee and migrant children sheltered at the Coroado shelter participated in activities to foster their autonomy promoted by NGO Hermanitos in partnership with the State Secretariat of Social Assistance (SEAS) and UNHCR.

São Paulo Hands and Minds Program

Between June and August, the Hands and Minds Program implemented by São Paulo’s Municipal Secretariat for Economic Development and Labor, registered about 20 refugee and migrant artisans, in partnership with Cáritas São Paulo and UNHCR. They were referred to participate in fairs and courses, allowing them to access available programs for entrepreneurs.

UP Digital Marketing

In partnership with UNHCR and Hermanitos, Sebrae opened Up Digital Marketing groups especially for refugee and migrant entrepreneurs. Online meetings and individual mentoring focused on improving the digital presence of businesses took place between July and August, reaching 22 participants.

Access to microcredit for refugee entrepreneurs

In the first half of 2022, Banco do Povo Crédito Solidário, with UNHCR support, reached the mark of 118 refugees and migrants who were provided with microcredit aimed at entrepreneurship, totaling BRL 341 thousand in transactions made. This particular line of credit is supported by the Kiva organization.

CrediTodos, a Banco Pérola program, supported by UNHCR, has benefited 90 refugee and migrant entrepreneurs since 2021, most of them in Manaus and Boa Vista. A total of 133 microcredit loans were granted.

Shelter exit strategy

UNHCR, in partnership with Instituto Mana and Cáritas Arquidiocesana de Manaus, has acted to promote the self-sufficiency of people in shelters. As they leave the shelter, families receive core-relief item kits, household items and three months of financial support as well as social assistance. Between June and August, 45 families were benefited, impacting 121 people, of which 18 are indigenous peoples.

In Boa Vista-RR, the “Novo Caminhar” Project is part of the exit strategy for shelter residents. In the third edition of the strategy, implemented by SJMR in partnership with UNHCR, 19 families received training, financial assistance and personal hygiene and kitchen kits.
Training in financial education

In order to develop the skills of refugees and migrants seeking insertion in the job market, five training courses in financial education were given, with a total of 81 participants. Two sessions were specifically for indigenous artisans residing in the Waraotuma a Tuananko shelter, in Boa Vista-RR.

People of the Waters Project

The International Institute of Education of Brazil (IEB), in partnership with UNHCR, implemented the “People of the Waters project – work, participation and livelihoods”, with indigenous Warao residents of Belém and Ananindeua. Between May and August, 70 artisans were supported in registering and issuing the National Artisans Card and in accompanying them to fairs; 67 resumes were stored in a resume bank; 40 resumes were sent to job openings; 16 people were accompanied in job selection processes, and 3 indigenous people were hired.

Electrician and Facility Safety work training courses

In June, 14 women between those sheltered at Aldeias Infantis, a partner organization of UNHCR, and those living in the neighborhood completed the Electrician and Facility work training courses offered by the company Tegra Incorporadora, in São Paulo. Taught by SENAI, the courses contributed to the hiring of nine participants.

Work training courses

Between May and August, 77 refugees completed the work training courses in Manaus with support from Hermanitos and ADRA’s Reference and Support Centre to Refugees and Migrants (CARE), in partnership with UNHCR. In Boa Vista, in partnership with AVSI Brasil, UNHCR supported 595 refugees and migrants to enroll in training courses.

Youth training in partnership with CIEE

On 28 June, UNHCR and the Company-School Integration Center (CIEE), along with Hermanitos and ADRA, held the closing ceremony of the “Creativity Workshops”, which reached 31 young refugees and migrants in Manaus.

Narunoko Project

The Narunoko project consists of an exit-strategy from shelters targeting indigenous peoples in Boa Vista-RR for the population that is economically stable. The interviews and training at SJMR took place in May and June. From there, 11 families began their transition out of the shelter, supported with financial assistance and kitchen, personal hygiene and cleaning kits, among other items.

Support to Warao artisans for income generation

Between May and August, A Casa - Museum of the Brazilian Object held training activities for making and selling crafts with 53 Warao women artisans in Manaus. The artisans also participated in three external events, with a total of 73 pieces sold.

Meeting of the National Forum of State Councils and Committees for Refugees and Migrants

On 26 June, the “1st Meeting of the National Forum of State Councils and Committees for Refugees and Migrants” was held, in Natal-RN, with support from UNHCR and headed by Rio Grande do Norte’s Intersectoral State Committee for Refugees and Migrant Services. The Forum was the first of its kind in Brazil and was aimed at strengthening the dialogue and exchange experiences among key stakeholders for articulating socio-economic inclusion initiatives in order to overcome challenges commonly faced by refugees and other forcibly displaced people.

Agreement to foster opportunities

On 15 August, UNHCR and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in Brazil signed a memorandum of cooperation to foster opportunities for socio-economic inclusion of refugees, mainly from Venezuela.

Financial education for Warao people. © ASVI Brasil
Cooperation with MPT PA-AP and MPPA

On 8 May, UNHCR signed a memorandum of understanding with the Labor Prosecutor's Office of Pará and Amapá and the State Prosecutor's Office. The objective is to share experiences to combat racism and xenophobia, in addition to supporting socio-economic insertion of people in need of international protection in Pará.

Memoranda with the Executive Branch

Between May and August, UNHCR signed four memoranda of understanding with state and municipal governments: the cities of São Paulo, Guarulhos and Araçatuba, and the Rio Grande do Norte state government. The agreements allow efforts to be coordinated, with training and the exchanges of experiences with civil servants, technical support for developing and revising service protocols, among others.

Municipal Conference in Juiz de Fora/MG

The 2nd Municipal Conference on Policies for Migrant, Refugee, Stateless and Returnee Population in Juiz de Fora-MG was held in August and received support from UNHCR. The Conference aims to collect inputs for the participatory development of the Municipal Plan of Juiz de Fora and had more than 85 participants.

Municipal policy development seminar

On 20-21 June, UNHCR and the Municipal Secretariat for Women, Social Assistance and Citizenship (SEMASC) of Manaus held a seminar aimed at developing a municipal policy for refugees and migrants, reaching about 80 representatives of state and municipal governments, civil society and the refugee and migrant population.

UNHCR initiatives for economic inclusion of refugees in Brazil

UNHCR has published a catalogue of its initiatives aimed at the economic inclusion of refugees in Brazil.

Warao Perceptions about Work

Within the scope of the Water People project, IEB and UNHCR published, on 20 June, the document.

Opportunities and challenges for local integration of people of Venezuelan origin voluntarily relocated in Brazil during the Covid-19 pandemic

On 11 August, in Boa Vista, UNHCR, UN Women and UNFPA published the study which was carried out under the MOVERSE Program, with support from the Luxembourg Government.

1st Cities of Solidarity Brazil Report: Protection and Integration of Refugees under Local Planning

On 16 May, UNHCR released, in partnership with UNESCO, the document about 27 best practices aimed at the protection and integration of refugees and migrants from 17 different municipalities.

Analysis to promote autonomy and local integration of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Manaus: socio-economic and labor profile research

On 26 May, UNHCR, with support from the MPT/AM and RR, launched the research produced by Pólis Research with support from AVSI and UNHCR.

UNHCR Brazil is grateful for the support of all its donors including:

Private donors of UNHCR Brazil:

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