**HIGHLIGHT**

1st Warao Culture Meeting takes place in Belém and Ananindeua, in Pará

With the aim of celebrating and sharing their culture with the host community, the Venezuelan Warao indigenous people residing in Belém and Ananindeua held the 1st Warao Culture Meeting on 10 and 12 December, an event that had the support of The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the International Institute of Education of Brazil (IEB).

The first day of the event was dedicated to sports games in the modalities preferred by the community (soccer and volleyball), in addition to recreational activities such as tug-of-war, archery and cassava grating (where whoever processes the food the fastest wins), creating bonds of friendship between refugees and the Brazilian population. The second day was dedicated to artistic activities such as the presentation of dances and songs, storytelling, in addition to holding a general assembly.

Also on the second day, the Warao Ojiduna Council was launched, an organization representing the 8 Warao communities of Belém and Ananindeua. It is hoped that this organizational structure, established by the Warao, can promote an even broader engagement and participation of indigenous people in the elaboration of public policies in the region.

The meeting took place at the Usina da Paz do Bengui, in Belém, a device of the Government of Pará coordinated by the Strategic Secretariat for Articulation of Citizenship (Seac) and brought together more than 200 Warao, in addition to representatives of state and municipal secretariats and civil society institutions.

**MAIN DATA**

*Presence of the Warao population in Pará*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belém</td>
<td>568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ananindeua</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santarém</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parauapebas</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marabá</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altamira</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cametá</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Mapping not exhaustive. Continuous displacements influence the presence in other municipalities.

Source: Municipal Social Assistance Secretariats and UNHCR, January 2023.
Warao interpreters assist the 2022 IBGE Census

Within the scope of the partnership between the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) and UNHCR for the census of Warao indigenous people in the State of Pará, the institute had the support of Warao interpreters who live in the communities surveyed. In addition to other community members, some of the interpreters who helped with the Census were trained through a course promoted by UNHCR in partnership with professors from the Institute of Letters (MOBILANG Project), at the University of Brasilia (UnB).

Seeking to ensure the Warao population's engagement with the 2022 Census, the Institute's teams and UNHCR visited each Warao community to talk about the IBGE and introduce the team that would census the location and explain about the Census. In September 2022, in the Warao a janoko community (in Outeiro Beira-Mar, Belém-PA), the IBGE began the Warao census by interviewing the aidamo, as community leaders are known. The IBGE team has already surveyed seven Warao communities in Belém and Ananindeua, including the Warao sheltered in shelters in the cities of Belém, Parauapebas, Santarém and Marabá, and families living in Salinópolis.

UNHCR and MPPA launch booklet on the rights of indigenous refugees

UNHCR and the Public Prosecutor of the State of Pará (MPPA) launched in September 2022 the booklet “The State Public Ministry and the rights of indigenous refugees and immigrants”, a document that seeks to guide the actions of members of the state public ministries in relation to the theme, providing information on legal frameworks and good practices. The booklet, a pioneer in Brazil, also had a national launch in an online event organized in partnership with the National Council of Justice (CNJ) and the Federal Public Ministry (MPF).

The booklet is available at this link.

Warao representatives are elected neighborhood councilors in the participatory budget program of the city hall of Belém

“Tá selado” is a Permanent Citizen Participation Forum that allows the citizens of Belém to present and evaluate proposals for the management of the city, which will later guide the allocation of resources within the scope of the Pluriannual Plan (PPA) and the Budget Law (LOA) of the city. In August 2022, based on an articulation made by UNHCR with the Planning Secretariat of Belém (SEGEP) and The Institute of Brazilian Studies (IEB), three Warao communities in the district of Outeiro participated in the plenary in the neighborhood to identify with the Brazilian neighborhood its demands and priorities. On that occasion, four Warao councilors and four alternates were also elected. In a similar practice held in September of the same year, non-indigenous Venezuelan refugees and migrants and other nationalities were able to participate in a specific plenary organized by the secretariat to elect new councilors. The practice will be finalized during the City Congress, to be held in the first quarter of 2023.

Placing information signs and banners in ports, bus stations and airports in Belém

With the objective of guaranteeing the safe access of refugees to Brazilian territory as well as essential information, UNHCR and the Secretariat of Justice and Human Rights (SEJUDH) of Pará, posted signs, banners and informative banners in the main places of entry and transit of the municipality of Belém, such as the International Airport, Waterway and Bus Terminals, in addition to private ports. The materials, posted in places of great circulation or mandatory passage, bring texts in Spanish, French and English, welcome refugees and migrants and inform the existence of the Refugee and Migrant Space and the Advanced Post of Humanized Assistance to Migrants, belonging to SEJUDH, indicating address and opening hours of the devices.
In partnership with CONARE and the Federal Police, UNHCR supports the documentation campaign for asylum seekers and Warao indigenous refugees

Between November and December 2022, UNHCR coordinated a workforce with the Federal Police Department of Migration, the General Coordination of the National Committee for Refugees (CG-Conare), SEJUDH and the Papa João XXIII Foundation to guarantee the document renewal of Warao refugees and asylum seekers living in the cities of Belém and Ananindeua, in the state of Pará. The initiative allowed the Warao assisted to regularize their documentary situation so that they can continue to access their rights in Brazil, including access to government benefits. More than 50 asylum seekers and 20 refugees were served.

Warao indigenous people finish Digital Entrepreneurship course

The National Service of Commercial Learning (SENAC), through a partnership with Banco do Povo de Belém, offered 15 Warao indigenous people the Digital Entrepreneurship course, a result of the articulation between UNHCR and IEB with these institutions to promote livelihoods for refugees. Held in November 2022, the course aims to prepare students to implement digital businesses, offering knowledge about the internet as a business environment, entrepreneurship and digital marketing, digital business planning and management. Digital entrepreneurship is a way of life, especially for those Warao who work with handicrafts, enhancing their ability to market their works via the internet and not being dependent on local fairs and events.

Livelihood actions carried out in partnership with UNHCR

In partnership with UNHCR, the International Institute of Education of Brazil (IEB) has been implementing the “Povos das Águas” project since 2021. In 2022, the IEB sought to contribute to the socio-political organization and strengthening of the livelihoods of the Warao indigenous peoples living in Belém and Ananindeua. To this end, the Institute carried out, with the support of UNHCR, actions to train leaders, teach, employability and entrepreneurship with the Warao.

Below is a summary of these actions:
UNHCR carries out a mission to the cities of Macapá and Oiapoque, in Amapá

UNHCR carried out a mission to the state of Amapá between the 21 and 27 November. In Macapá, the mission included institutional meetings with the Federal Public Defender’s Office (DPU), Federal Highway Police (PRF), Federal Police (PF), Municipal Department of Human Rights (SMDH), State Department of Justice and Public Security (SEJUSP), Captaincy of Ports and Private Ports. In Oiapoque, UNHCR joined a visit organized by the Federal Public Defender’s Office (DPU) with the Federal Police, the Social Assistance and the Police Cooperation Center (CCP) in French Guiana, a mechanism that brings together the police of Brazil and neighboring countries. The objective of the mission was to dialogue with the public authorities to understand the incoming migration flows and the assistance needs of refugees and migrants entering the country through the Oiapoque border. Furthermore, on the occasion, UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) provided training on protection and assistance to refugees and migrants for actors from the local protection network and participated in a public hearing held by the DPU on the subject.

UNHCR and SEJUDH promote meeting of municipalities to discuss the access of refugees to public policies

On the 25 and 26 October, UNHCR and the Secretary of State for Justice and Human Rights (SEJUDH) held a meeting between 10 municipalities in Pará with the objective of promoting the exchange of knowledge and good practices on the access of refugees to public policies of social assistance, health, education, work and documentation from an intercultural perspective. Among the speakers at the event, held in the auditorium of the Federal Police Headquarters in Belém, were representatives of the Ministry of Citizenship (MinCid), the State Secretariat for Social Assistance, Work, Employment and Income (SEASTER), the Social Assistance Secretariats of Santarém and Ananindeua, and the Secretariats for Education of Belém, Ananindeua, Santarém and Marabá, in the state of Pará. On that occasion, theoretical and practical references were also presented on legal frameworks for the protection of refugees and migrants, with the support of indigenous leaders, historical and anthropological aspects of the Warao indigenous population were discussed. About 100 people participated in the activity.

UNHCR carries out a mission to the cities of Macapá and Oiapoque, in Amapá

UNHCR carried out a mission to the state of Amapá between the 21 and 27 November. In Macapá, the mission included institutional meetings with the Federal Public Defender’s Office (DPU), Federal Highway Police (PRF), Federal Police (PF), Municipal Department of Human Rights (SMDH), State Department of Justice and Public Security (SEJUSP), Captaincy of Ports and Private Ports. In Oiapoque, UNHCR joined a visit organized by the Federal Public Defender’s Office (DPU) with the Federal Police, the Social Assistance and the Police Cooperation Center (CCP) in French Guiana, a mechanism that brings together the police of Brazil and neighboring countries. The objective of the mission was to dialogue with the public authorities to understand the incoming migration flows and the assistance needs of refugees and migrants entering the country through the Oiapoque border. Furthermore, on the occasion, UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) provided training on protection and assistance to refugees and migrants for actors from the local protection network and participated in a public hearing held by the DPU on the subject.