Since 2 December 2020, Brazil recognizes the situation of serious and widespread violation of human rights in Afghanistan, allowing its nationals to have facilitated procedures for the recognition of refugee status. Interministerial Ordinance n. 24, of 3 September 2021, guarantees the safe entry of Afghan nationals, stateless persons, and persons affected by the situation in Afghanistan into the national territory.

**ADVANCED POST FOR HUMANIZED ASSISTANCE TO MIGRANTS (PAAHM)**

One of the main demands by newly arrived Afghans to the PAAHM, located at Guarulhos International Airport, is the need for shelter through the local network. Since the increase of arrivals in 2021, the PAAHM has assisted 4,744 refugees of that nationality.

In August 2022, within the framework of the partnership between UNHCR and PAAHM (in force since 2015), UNHCR started to support the Post in the reception of Afghans by hiring three cultural mediators and interpreters of the same nationality. In addition, since November 2022, the Agency has also been collaborating with the systematization of data on services provided, as shown in the graph to the right.

UNHCR has sought to disseminate, through the Help Platform, key information in English, Pashto and Dari for Afghan nationals seeking protection in Brazil.

UNHCR also maintained a daily presence at the airport, especially supporting during the most critical times in terms of new arrivals.

**Between November 2022 and August 2023:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People referred to the local shelter network</td>
<td>2,424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People travelling by themselves</td>
<td>974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family groups</td>
<td>573</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**According to the graph:**

- **Female:** 10
- **Male:** 14
- **18-59 years old:** 1744
- **12-17 years old:** 134
- **0-11 years old:** 307

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**UNHCR SUPPORTS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT’S EFFORTS TO PROVIDE DIGNIFIED SHELTER FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES**

Due to the continuous arrival of Afghan refugees in the state of São Paulo, the Federal Government, through the General Coordination of Migration Policy of the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, held meetings with local actors to better understand the situation, achievements and challenges of this displacement to Brazil. Among the activities carried out, the Federal Government attended the meeting of the Working Group on Management and Coordination of Shelters on 4 August. Coordinated by UNHCR, this Working Group brings together the management of shelters in the Afghan refugee reception network, in addition to their respective partners and representatives of the state of São Paulo and the municipalities of São Paulo and Guarulhos, becoming an important space for training and exchange of experiences. During the meeting, it was possible to discuss shelter needs and detail the good practices developed by the network.

**MULTISECTORAL ASSISTANCE AND PROFILE OF THE AFGHAN POPULATION**

UNHCR counts on the partnerships with civil society organizations¹ to offer free services and assistance in several areas, such as access to information and guidance on documentation, housing, health, education, Portuguese language courses, job opportunities, among others.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age-sex pyramid</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≤ 14 years old</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-24 years old</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-59 years old</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥ 60 years old</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NEWS**

**Partnership guarantees Portuguese classes for Afghan refugees**

In partnership with the NGO Educação Sem Fronteiras, UNHCR has resumed offering Portuguese language classes to Afghan refugees sheltered in the state of São Paulo so that they can develop their language skills and, thus, ensure greater autonomy and better employability opportunities. Currently, the NGO serves people in the shelters "Todos Irmãos", "Aldeias Infantis SOS Poá", "Povos Fraternos" and in the temporary space set up in Praia Grande.

Learning Portuguese continues to be one of the main demands of Afghan refugees. This is because the refugees’ protection and access to rights will be better guaranteed with improved communication.

**UNHCR increases shelter vacancies to provide immediate support to Afghans arriving**

In order to guarantee better quality shelter for Afghan refugees who continually arrive at Guarulhos airport, UNHCR, in partnership with the organization Aldeias Infantis SOS, has opened a new shelter with 30 places, with the main focus on receiving families.

Located in the municipality of Poá, in Greater São Paulo, these 30 new places are in addition to the 87 places already funded and supported directly by UNHCR, from which 543 Afghan refugees could already benefit.