

LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES REPORT

January-June 2023

Population profile supported with livelihood actions

8.571
refugees and asylum seekers
assisted between January and
June 2023

14,2%
indigenous
people

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

(beneficiaries of all UNHCR activities in Brazil)

85,9%
Venezuela

1,5%
Angola

4,7%
Cuba

6,3%
Other

1,6%
Afghanistan

GENDER



Main results

The numbers highlighted below were recorded by UNHCR and its implementing partners in the period from January to June 2023. Next, the main actions developed for the socioeconomic inclusion of refugees and forced displaced people in Brazil in this period are reported.

6.142 refugee people supported with insertion/guidance in the labor market, self-employment or entrepreneurship initiatives

1.468 refugee people supported in accessing certification/training in technical or professional skills

844 refugees with access to Portuguese courses

117 refugee people supported with financial inclusion activities



INDIGENOUS REFUGEE PEOPLE

398 people supported in accessing certification/training in technical or professional skills

532 people supported with insertion/guidance in the labor market, self-employment or entrepreneurship initiatives

A story of new beginning in Brazil



In 2021, at the height of the Covid-19 crisis, [Yelitza](#) and her husband decided to leave Venezuela for Boa Vista, in Roraima, in search of a better quality of life and opportunities for their eight-year-old daughter.

With a degree in Pedagogy, Yelitza saw Gastronomy as an opportunity to become an entrepreneur in Brazil. So, in February 2023, she founded Olá Biscoiteria, which offers cookies in a variety of flavors. The entrepreneur accepts orders and makes deliveries in Boa Vista. She now dreams of having her own store.

Like her, 96% of the entrepreneurs on the [Refugee Entrepreneurs platform](#) plan to expand their businesses in Brazil. This is according to a survey carried out by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and Innovare Pesquisa.

The study also showed that almost half of the entrepreneurs interviewed (44%) have already hired employees in Brazil, whether they are Brazilian or of other nationalities. They are thus contributing to the generation of income and employment in the country.

[Find out more about the survey here.](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

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Projects promote female entrepreneurship

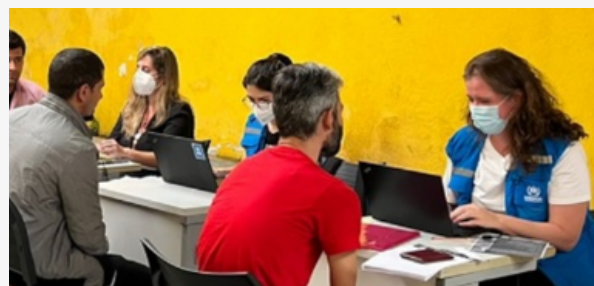
There is a significant increase in women and children, especially Venezuelans, among people arriving in Brazil applying for refugee status. This change in profile was evidenced in the [Refuge report in numbers 2023](#), released in June by the Observatory of International Migration (OBMigra). [Recent research](#) also shows that women, especially those with children and single-parent families, have more difficulty accessing the Brazilian formal labor market.

Faced with this scenario, UNHCR has reinforced initiatives aimed at the socioeconomic inclusion of refugee women. An example is the Mujeres Fuertes project, which is supporting 200 refugee women, heads of single-parent families, in Manaus-AM and Boa Vista-RR, with training and encouragement to open their businesses. In the first half of 2023, a group of 50 women completed the program focused on gastronomic business in Manaus. Another three classes are in progress: two in Manaus (Gastronomy and Aesthetics and beauty) and one in Boa Vista (Gastronomy). In addition to the courses, the women participating in the project receive follow-up, financial support and equipment to start their ventures (*Partnership: Hermanitos, ADRA, MPT-AM/RR, Mana Institute, UN Women and the Humanitarian-Logistical Task Force of Operation Welcome*).

This year, the [8th edition of Empowering Refugee Women](#) was also launched, with 80 training places in Boa Vista. The initiative encourages refugee and migrant women to access the Brazilian labor market through training, raising awareness of the private sector and voluntary relocation to different cities.

Intertwined Hands Project

Since March, 75 Venezuelan, Haitian and Brazilian people have been supported by the Intertwined Hands project, which offers a training program in entrepreneurship, solidarity economy, interpersonal skills and technical qualification in cutting and sewing. The series of trainings in Manaus continues until September (*Partnership: Scalabrini Association at the Service of Migrants, MPT-AM/RR*).



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Employment promotion of refugees from Afghanistan

Between January 2022 and April 2023, 6,194 people from Afghanistan entered Brazil.

[In addition to offering humanitarian assistance to refugees from Afghanistan](#), UNHCR also seeks to promote effective and long-term solutions that allow them to rebuild their lives with dignity in Brazil, supporting their process of learning Portuguese, accessing public services and local and socioeconomic integration.

In order for support activities to be based on evidence, a mapping of professional profiles of shelters in São Paulo was carried out, which was presented at an awareness meeting, together with members of the Companies with Refugees Forum, bringing together 55 people from 19 companies.

UNHCR also conducted training on the inclusion of refugees in companies with the EY consultancy, for around 130 employees, and a meeting was held with the reception centers in São Paulo and Guarulhos to exchange experiences in employability of this population.

UNHCR has been leading the humanitarian response to Afghan refugees in Brazil.

Information about the profile of this population and how to support it is [available here](#).

Webinar with financial institutions

On 10 May, UNHCR and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) promoted the Webinar Financial Inclusion of Refugees and Migrants: Challenges and Best Practices. The purpose of the meeting was to disseminate information on financial inclusion initiatives and programs. The webinar was attended by almost 100 representatives of civil society organizations, financial and banking institutions (*Partnership: ABCRED e ABDE*).



Meeting of refugee entrepreneurs in Rio de Janeiro

UNHCR, through the Refugee Entrepreneurs Platform, promoted the 1st Face-to-Face Meeting of Refugee Entrepreneurs in Rio de Janeiro, on June 15th. The event was attended by 25 entrepreneurs and featured lectures on microcredit, mentoring programs and female entrepreneurship (*Partnership: Special Secretariat for Citizenship of the City Hall of Rio de Janeiro*).

New Sine post to assist refugees and migrants

In May, a specific service point for refugees and migrants from the National Employment System of Roraima (SINE/RR) was inaugurated at the Interiorization Coordination Center (CCI), in Boa Vista. The objective is to speed up the referral flow and support the inclusion of this population in the labor market (*Partnership: State Department of Labor and Social Security of RR, Humanitarian-Logistical Task Force and World Vision*).

Families in Manaus and Boa Vista are supported to achieve autonomy

In Manaus, 71 refugees from 23 sheltered family groups were supported by the strategy to leave shelters, with social assistance monitoring, provision of basic needs kits and household items, and financial support for three months (*Partnership: Cáritas Arquidiocesana de Manaus and Mana Institute*). The Novo Caminhar 2023 Program, in its 4th edition in Boa Vista, selected 24 participating families for voluntary and assisted departure from the shelters of the Operation Welcome. In total, 103 people are still in the training phase of the program (*Partnership: SJMR, UNFPA and Salvation Army*).

Within the scope of Narunoko Project, also aimed at people leaving shelters, 11 indigenous refugee and migrant families were pre-selected to participate in training aimed at socioeconomic insertion and integration in Boa Vista

Opening bank accounts

Between April and May, 33 bank accounts were opened in digital banks for artisans benefiting from the Artesania Warao Project in the Jardim Floresta, Waraotuma a Taranoko and Janokoida shelters, in Roraima. The action aims to guarantee the artisans more autonomy in their financial management (*Partnership: A CASA Museum*).

Warao artisans receive training

In Manaus, 35 Warao indigenous refugee women participated in the handicraft training and support program. They received instruction on sales techniques, financial education and workshops on natural dyeing, as well as support for production, marketing and the issuance of the National Craftsman's Card, among others (*Partnership: A Casa do Objeto Brasileiro Museum, BID Lab*). In Roraima, the A Casa Museum, between April and May, held financial education workshops for 69 Warao artisans.

In Belém and Ananindeua, in the state of Pará, the artisans received support in structuring production groups. They take turns and are responsible for selling pieces produced in all communities. The initiative directly benefited up to 139 artisans, divided into 13 production groups (*Partnership: International Institute of Education of Brazil - IEB*).

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Campaign for access employability

On World Refugee Day, 20 June, UNHCR participated in the joint effort organized by the government of the State of São Paulo, which took place at the Immigrant Citizenship Integration Center. The initiative offered support in documentation, employability and social assistance.

Action Plan for Strengthening the Protection and Local Integration of the Haitian Population in Brazil

On 20 June, with the support of UNHCR, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security (MJSP) launched the "[Action Plan for Strengthening the Protection and Local Integration of the Haitian Population in Brazil](#)", an integral part of the Program for Accelerating Refugee Policies for People of African Descent. It is estimated that, currently, around 161,000 Haitian people live in Brazilian territory with access to rights and public policies, but still with numerous challenges, such as socioeconomic integration



Revalidation of Diplomas

On 22 June, UNHCR launched two products related to the revalidation of diplomas of refugees in Brazil. The first was the report "[Revalidation of Refugee Diplomas in Brazil: challenges and opportunities](#)", and the [interactive data panel](#) on the revalidation of Higher Education diplomas between 2016 and 2022 in Brazil (*Partnership: NGO Associação Compassiva*).

Training of young people in Ananindeua

On 30 June, 17 Warao teenagers and young people received guidance on Internship and Young Apprentice Programs and on the Brazilian labor market. The activity in Ananindeua-PA had a Warao interpreter who facilitated communication and reception (*Partnership: CIEE and Social Assistance Secretariat of Ananindeua*).

Preparation of the National Policy

In February, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security set up a Working Group to prepare the [National Policy on Migration, Refugee and Statelessness](#), organized into five thematic axes. UNHCR participated in discussions on all axes, sent technical recommendations and supported the methodology and systematization of the WG's weekly meeting.

UNHCR supported the institutionalization and strengthening of public policies in several Brazilian municipalities:

Araçatuba-SP

Participation in the launch of the 1st Municipal Policy Plan for Immigrants, Refugees and Stateless Persons in Araçatuba. UNHCR entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the municipality in 2022.

Belém-PA

Signing of an MoU with the Municipality of Belém to strengthen technical capacity. The sanction of the Municipal Law for Refugees, Migrants and Stateless Persons was also celebrated, and the creation of the Municipal Committee for Refugees, Migrants and Stateless Persons of Belém.

Goiás

Signing of an MoU with the State Secretariat for Social Development of Goiás (SEDS) to increase technical capacity and assistance actions, in addition to supporting the preparation of a State Policy Plan for Refugees and Migrants in Goiás.

Juiz de Fora-MG

Participation in the launch of the Municipal Policy Plan for the Migrant, Refugee, Stateless and Returned Population of Juiz de Fora. The plan was supported by UNHCR with the hiring of a specialized consultancy. On the occasion, UNHCR also offered, together with the Government of the State of MG, training for more than 130 municipal servants from more than 25 municipalities in the Zona da Mata region.

Rio de Janeiro-RJ and Manaus-AM

UNHCR offered training on building public policies supporting the institutionalization of local initiatives. In January, training was carried out with the State Intersectoral Policy Committee for Attention to Refugees and Migrants in Rio de Janeiro. And in February, with the Municipal Committee for Refugees, Migrants and Stateless Persons of Manaus. In collaboration with the Government of Amazonas, UNHCR also provided technical support to the State Secretariat for Justice, Human Rights and Citizenship for the revision of the state plan of public policies for the refugee and migrant population.



FONACCERAM
Fórum Nacional de Conselhos e
Comitês Estaduais para Refugiados,
Apátridas e Migrantes

In addition, UNHCR, which makes up the executive secretariat of the Forum, supported the preparation of information material for women's day and the [2022 Activity Report](#).

PLATFORMS AND PARTNERSHIPS

World Bank

Signing of an MoU with the World Bank with the aim of promoting strategic cooperation and collaborating in carrying out activities to combat poverty and to promote the reception of refugees and migrants in vulnerable situations. On 21 June, UNHCR and the World Bank promoted an event in Brasília to discuss how development actions can support the humanitarian needs of refugees and socioeconomic integration. More than 30 people participated.

Companies with Refugees Forum



Check out the news from the Forum in editions [9](#) and [10](#) of the Companies with Refugees Forum Bulletin. In June, the [initiative completed two years](#), bringing together 80 members. In the first half of 2023, it promoted nine activities, including events, conversation circles and online training.

Refugee Entrepreneurs



The Refugee Entrepreneurs Platform counted more than 130 businesses led by people of 15 nationalities. The Platform promoted three events, with the participation of 75 entrepreneurial refugee people.

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UNHCR's private sector donors



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.