A nurse with more than 23 years of experience, including as a head of the nursing area of a public hospital in Venezuela, Niepxen participated in the seventh edition of the Empowering Refugee Women project in 2022.

In her first selection process, Niepxen was hired as a production assistant at a private company in Santa Catarina. And, despite arriving in Pacaraima without family in 2021, this time, she did not travel alone.

Vitoria, an unaccompanied trans teenager, arrived at the shelter where Niepxen was living in 2022, and the two established a mother-daughter connection. Therefore, when the voluntary relocation process began, Niepxen didn't think twice and obtained custody of Vitoria, becoming her legal guardian and mother. Together, they traveled to the south of Brazil, with UNHCR financial support.

"I was going to travel without a dollar. That was a gift from God. I bought shoes for both of us and paid for the rent until I received my first salary" , says Niepxen.

Vitoria is finishing high school with excellent grades and now wants to start working as a young apprentice. She has many Brazilian friends, takes dance classes and stands out in her school, says her mother.

Niepxen is an example of courage and highlights the importance of supporting women from the LGBTIQ+ community. She became a mother, friend, and a reference for Vitoria and, together, they found in Brazil a safe space to be recognized as women and as a family.

"I am a trans woman, empowered, hardworking, and a mother. I feel proud of everything I have achieved. This project has had a significant impact on my life because it brought out things I had and allowed me to develop personally and professionally. It is one of the most beautiful memories of my time in the shelter in Roraima, and I am eternally grateful for it."

For more information on distribution by gender, age group and municipalities, access the voluntary relocation dashboard here.
UNHCR data between October and December

Relocation from shelters in Roraima

- People welcomed from Operation Welcome shelters, supported by UNHCR in partnership with AVSI Brasil, ADRA and Fraternidade sem Fronteiras
- 755 people welcomed at the BV-8 Transit Accommodation in Pacaraima (RR) to wait for their internal relocation
- 3,604 (43%) of the people relocated were sheltered in the emergency shelters in Boa Vista, of which 662 left from the Rondon 5 Internal Relocation Center

Performance of UNHCR in the Institutional modality of internal relocation

- 105 people welcomed in 4 reception and integration centers supported by UNHCR
- From a total of 314 people relocated through this modality
- R$ 349,592 allocated by UNHCR for financial assistance (CBI) for the Institutional modality
- 308 installments provided
- 497 people benefited
- 152 families benefited

Performance of UNHCR in the Employment-based modality of internal relocation

- R$172,074 allocated by UNHCR for financial assistance (CBI) for the Employment-based modality
- 43 installments provided
- 482 people benefited
- 182 families benefited

Economic activities of the contracting companies: livestock industry, forestry, services, gastronomy, food production and transport.

PRIVATE SECTOR MISSIONS

In the second half of 2023, the Empowering Refugee Women project organized a business mission to Roraima. Representatives from Riachuelo, Lojas Renner, Iguatemi and Foundever private companies learned about the activities of the Interiorization Coordination Center (CCI) and the Training and Education Center (CCE), the border post and the shelters in Boa Vista and Pacaraima. The objective was to learn about Operation Welcome and raise awareness in the private sector about the importance of including people in need of international protection in the job market and contributing to their local integration.

In the last quarter of the year, Empowering Refugee Women formed four classes in Brasilia, Curitiba and Boa Vista, totaling 64 women with disabilities and caregivers, trans women and heads of single-parent families.

UNHCR also accompanied three business missions to Roraima with companies from outsourcing, machinery sales, engineering, forest management and technology applied to forestry, who are interested in participating in the Employment based modality.
Overview of the Interiorization Strategy from April 2018 to December 2023

The Federal Government’s relocation strategy, implemented by Operação Acolhida, voluntarily relocates Venezuelan refugees and migrants from the states of Roraima to other cities in the country. UNHCR, in partnership with other UN agencies and civil society organizations, has supported the strategy since its launch. Learn more about the Interiorization strategy and UNHCR’s work.

122,701
refugees and migrants relocated in all modalities

60,952
people supported by UNHCR for voluntary relocation

6,957
people welcomed in more than 50 reception and integration centers supported by UNHCR.

16,128
people relocated through this modality

R$2,432,112
allocated by UNHCR for financial assistance (Cash assistance) for the Employment-based modality

R$3,916,849
allocated by UNHCR for financial assistance (CBI) for the Institutional modality

Performance of UNHCR in the Employment-based modality of Internal Relocation

An initiative by UNHCR, UN Global Compact in Brazil and UN Women to encourage refugee and migrant women to access the Brazilian labor market through training, private sector awareness and relocation.

Donor countries of UNHCR in Brazil and global programmes with flexible funding that supports the humanitarian response in the country

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.