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.

In September 2021, Interministerial Ordinance n. 24 guaranteed the safe entry of Afghan nationals into Brazil through a humanitarian visa program that has since made possible to authorize 13,133 visas, out of which 10,985 have already been issued. However, in September 2023, the Brazilian government introduced a new Interministerial Ordinance that brings significant changes to the reception policy for Afghans in the country.

UNHCR is providing technical assistance to government authorities for the structuring of the new program outlined in the policy, which will initially be valid until December 2024.

Since November 2022, UNHCR collaborates with PAAHM to improve the collection and disaggregation of data, as shown in the charts below:

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

Since the increase in new arrivals (January 2022) until January 2024, the PAAHM, located at the Guarulhos International Airport, has already assisted 6,213 recently arrived Afghan refugees in Brazil. The month of January 2024 saw a relative decline in the number of monthly assistances, with 242 Afghan nationals supported, the lowest number since February 2023.

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.

UNHCR also maintained a constant presence at the airport and providing specific support during the most critical times in terms of new arrivals.
Partnerships and Assistance to Afghan Refugees in Brazil

Language Inclusion

The Giramundo Festival, promoted by the organization “Education without Borders”, celebrated the graduation of Afghan students from the various Portuguese courses offered by the institution, including exclusive classes for women and children. In 2023, 182 Afghan refugees had access to Portuguese classes facilitated by “Education without Borders” in partnership with UNHCR in six different shelters in the local network. Language training opportunities mark a significant step in the journey of social inclusion for these refugees, given that learning the Portuguese language serves as a vector for effective access to public services, integration into Brazilian society and the reconstruction of their lives in this new context.

Multisectoral Assistance and Profile of the Afghan Population

UNHCR counts on the partnerships with civil society organizations 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.

Additional Protocol to Shelter Regulations

In December 2023, within the scope of the Working Group on Shelter Management and Coordination, coordinated by UNHCR, the additional protocol to the rules of shelters and reception centers was created, which aims to promote peaceful and respectful coexistence between sheltered people, as well as a welcoming and inclusive environment.

With a version translated into the Dari and Pashto languages, the rules were discussed with the community in 10 shelters participating in the Working Group through synchronous assemblies, in which 200 Afghan refugees participated.

Participation in an Event on Human Smuggling

In January 2024, the Working Group on Shelter Management and Coordination received an invitation from the Ministry of Justice and Public Security to participate in the Validation Workshop of the National Plan to Combat Migrant Smuggling, which sought to define concrete actions to fight the smuggling of migrants, in addition to establishing coordination mechanisms between relevant actors.

The two organizations selected to represent the Group at the event were Núcleo Batuíra and Caritas Arquidiocesana de São Paulo - the latter is an UNHCR partner. The organizations presented the challenges of the managers of shelters for Afghan refugees in disseminating reliable information about the risks of human smuggling, as well as in implementing protective approaches for these populations.