Since 2 December 2020, Brazil has recognized the situation of serious and widespread violation of human rights in Afghanistan, allowing nationals of that country to have a facilitated procedure for recognition of refugee status.

In September 2021, Interministerial Ordinance No. 24 guaranteed the safe entry of Afghan nationals into Brazil through the humanitarian visa program that has since allowed the authorization of over 13,100 visas, of which more than 11,400 have already been issued. In September 2023, the Brazilian government published Interministerial Ordinance No. 42, which brings significant changes to the reception policy for Afghan people, having linked the issuance of humanitarian visas to the sheltering capacity of civil society organizations that now will have to sign a cooperation agreement with the federal government. The public notice establishing procedures for the accreditation of these organizations is being developed. UNHCR continues to provide technical support to the government authorities for structuring the new program.

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

Since the increase in new arrivals in January 2022, the PAAHM, located at the Guarulhos International Airport, assisted **6,470 recently arrived Afghan refugees in Brazil** until March 2024. Following the publication of the new Ordinance, in the first three months of 2024, around 500 Afghan refugees were reached by the Post, which represented a 30 percent drop in the provision of assistance compared to the same period in 2023.

Within the framework of the partnership between UNHCR and PAAHM in force since 2015, in August 2022 UNHCR started to support the Post in the reception of Afghans by hiring three cultural mediators and interpreters of the same nationality.

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**Between January 2022 and March 2024:**

**6,470** people assisted

Source: PAAHM

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

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Learn more at acnur.org.br/afeganistao
TEMPORARY SHELTER NETWORK ACTIVATED BY PAAHM IN THE STATE OF SÃO PAULO

ENTRIES FROM AUGUST 2022 TO MARCH 2024

SÃO PAULO

CAE Ebenézer
Management: SMADS and CAMI
Vacancies: 200 | Entries: 1,126

Casa do Migrante
Management: Missão Paz
Vacancies: 110 | Entries: 232

Casa de Passagem (Mooca)
Management: SEDS and Cáritas Brasileira Regional São Paulo
Vacancies: 50 | Entries: 248

Republicas
Management: SEDS and Cáritas Brasileira Regional São Paulo
Vacancies: 50 | Entries: 192

COTIA
Terra Nova III
Management: SEDS and SPM
Vacancies: 150 | Entries: 108

Guarulhos
Todos Irmãos
Management: UNHCR, SDAS, Cáritas SP e Cáritas Guaruinhos
Vacancies: 27 | Entries: 504

Acolhimento Cemeando
Management: C.E.M.E.A.R.
Vacancies: 70 | Entries: 274

Povos Fraternos I e II
Management: SDAS, Núcleo Batuária, Serviço de Promoção da Família
Vacancies: 38 | Entries: 301

Povos Fraternos III
Management: SDAS, Núcleo Batuária, Serviço de Promoção da Família
Vacancies: 62 | Entries: 249

Terra Nova II
Management: SEDS and ASBRAD
Vacancies: 50 | Entries: 268

POA
Aldeias Infantis Poá I e II
Management: UNHCR and Aldeias Infantis SOS
Vacancies: 90 | Entries: 272

MORUNGABA
Vila Minha Pátria
Management: Junta de Missões Nacionais da Convenção Batista Brasileira
Vacancies: 180 | Entries: 993

HANDBOOK FOR THE RECEPTION OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

On March 28, UNHCR launched, in partnership with the São Paulo Municipal Secretariat for Social Assistance and Development, the “Handbook for the Reception Refugees and Migrants: international standards and the experience of the Social Assistance Unified System in the city of São Paulo”. Based on a dialogue between international standards and local practices, the Handbook provides a solid basis for managers to improve sheltering services to refugees and migrants by presenting the pillars for dignified and rights-based reception. Following the publication of the document, UNHCR conducted a series of workshops to around 100 municipal civil servants working with vulnerable populations within shelters.

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.


NEWS

Inauguration of Terra Nova III Shelter with 150 new places

On April 4, Terra Nova III shelter was inaugurated in the city of Cotia to further increase the reception capacity of the state of São Paulo. This was an initiative of the São Paulo State Secretariat for Social Development in partnership with civil society organization Pastoral Service for Migrants (SPM). The shelter can accommodate up to 150 people and will initially host only Afghan refugees referred from PAAHM of Guaruinhos International Airport.

UNHCR has provided technical support to public authorities and to the site management team on issues related to protection, shelter management and coordination.

Election of Afghan delegates at II COMIGRAR in São Paulo

Under UNHCR’s leadership, the Shelter Management and Coordination Working Group took part in the São Paulo State Preparatory Session for the 2nd National Conference on Migration, Refuge and Statelessness (COMIGRAR), promoting debate and mobilization of different actors around the improvement of public policies for migrants, refugees and stateless people. The Group held discussions with Afghan refugees interested in participating in the State Conference and drafted proposals that were presented at the Conference.

During the state-level conference, three Afghan nationals were elected as delegates.

UNHCR Brazil’s donor countries and global programs with flexible funds that support the humanitarian response in the country

UNHCR Brazil private donors