

# September 2019

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**Newsletter** 

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Two times more refugees are enrolled in Brazilian universities associated with UNHCR

Although UNHCR global data on the inclusion of refugees in tertiary education reveals worrying discrepancies (only 3% of people of suitable age are enrolled in universities) in Brazil, the number of refugees and asylum seekers enrolled in higher education institutions in the UNHCR Sergio Vieira de Mello Academic Consortium (CSVM) doubled in 2019 compared with the previous year.

In September, the CSVM celebrated 15 years of cooperation carrying out and promoting research and education for the refugee population in Brazil. The occasion was marked by the release of a report on refugee education and integration in Brazil avaiable at <u>bit.ly/2m06fZb</u>

The findings of the report reflect the greater role of CSVM institutions in facilitating the entry of refugees and asylum seekers in higher education. Furthermore, greater participation of 22 higher education institutions associated with the CSVM was noted in responding to the teaching, research and outreach in all Brazilian regions.

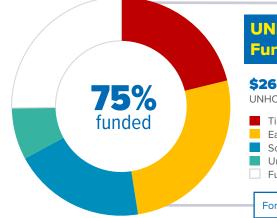
The report was launched during the 10th UNHCR Sergio Vieira de Mello National Seminar, which was held in Rio de Janeiro, organized by four universities.

Read more in bit.ly/2mknJQn

### What is CSVM?

Since 2003, UNHCR has implemented the **Sergio Vieira de Mello Academic Consortium** in cooperation with national universities and the National Refugee Committee (CONARE). Through this cooperation agreement, UNHCR establishes a Terms of Reference with Universities to work towards specific objectives along three lines of action: education, research and outreach.

In addition to promoting university education on topics related to refugees, the CSVM also aims to promote academic education and training of teachers and students on this theme. Working directly with refugees on outreach projects is also set as a high priority.



UNHCR Brazil Funding Update

#### \$26.5 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2019

Tightly earmarked

- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)

2 OCTOBER

- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)

For more information: reporting.unhcr.org

## Main numbers of CSVM repor



### In the area of University education

#### 5,700 Brazilian students

attended undergraduate and postgraduate courses courses covering refugees and international protection themes in **20 educational institutions** in the areas of:



**40 research groups** on asylum and refugees and related topics are active in **18 higher education institutions** affiliated to the CSVM.



"Socioeconomic Profile of Refugees in Brazil" is a result of the debate and research promoted by CSVM.



**19 institutions** promoted protection and integration services for refugees and asylum-seekers in Brazil in 2019.



18 OFFERED PORTUGUESE COURSES for 1,400 people



# Fourth edition of "Empowering Refugee Women" in Sao Paulo

On 10 September, 50 women gathered in Sao Paulo for the launch of the fourth edition of the Empowering Refugees project, a joint initiative of the Global Compact Network Brazil, UNHCR and UN Women strengthening the employability of refugee women. The project, which has already reached 110 women, has two main objectives: to facilitate the access of refugee women to the Brazilian labour market through vocational training and cultural integration and to engage companies and organizations to hire and provide opportunities for refugees. Of the participants in the current edition, most are of Venezuelan origin, representing 46 per cent of the group, followed by women from the Democratic Republic of Congo at 18 per cent, while the remaining participants originate from other countries in Latin America, Africa and the Middle East.

Read more in <a href="http://dkitxel">bit.ly/2kitxel</a>

#### Project's next phase: Roraima

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This year, in addition to Sao Paulo, a class will be formed in Roraima with 30 other women, who will receive an intensive month-long training in employability techniques and Brazilian culture, to share the project's experience in Sao Paulo to benefit the flow of displaced Venezuelans arriving in Roraima.

Educational initiatives in Sao Paulo: Last month, UNHCR supported two important events to promote refugee education in Sao Paulo. The first took place at the Memorial da America Latina Museum celebrating the first graduates of a Portuguese course in partnership with UNINOVE University and Caritas Arquidiocesana de Sao Paulo. The group included 23 refugees from Syria, Venezuela, Iran and the Democratic Republic of Congo, among other nationalities. The second was the seminar "Human Sanctuaries" organized by SESC Sao Paulo in partnership with the Municipal Secretary of Education to provide information and guidance to public school teachers on the integration of refugee students. In total, 74 teachers attended the event.

## **Training for State Prosecutors in Santarém:** On 27 September, UNCHR attended a human rights seminar in Santarém where a training on the legal framework for refugee protection was carried out. A total of 35 people were trained, including state prosecutors, public municipal employees, professors and students.



## **Refugee indigenous children** receive school materials

Approximately 160 tables and chairs were delivered to municipal schools in the villages of Tarau Paru, Bananal, Ingarumã and Arai, located near the Venezuelan border in the state of Roraima. The action is part of a UNHCR project supported by the European Union and developed in coordination with the Pacaraima Education Working Group. Although the materials still do not meet the needs of all villages, they are an important step in expanding access to education for indigenous refugee, migrant and host community children.

Learn more at: bit.ly/2mCwm9c

#### Lecture to private companies in

Sao Paulo: On 5 September, UNHCR participated in an event promoted by Votorantim Bank and the Mulheres do Brasil advocacy group, giving a lecture on the situation of refugees in Brazil and how private companies can engage to promote integration. More than 130 human resources professionals from 30 Brazilian cities attended the event.

## Supporting refugee inclusion policies in Sao Paulo: In September, UNHCR supported the São Paulo Municipality by participating in meetings in preparation for the Second Municipal Conference of Immigrant Policies of Sao Paulo that will take place in November. The main goal of the sessions was to ensure the inclusion of proposals that better reflect the experiences and challenges faced by refugees living in the city.

# RMRP platform now in Portuguese

On 10 September, UN agencies in Brazil and civil society organizations launched the Venezuelan data platform in Brazil. The online page presents the coordinated **Brazilian Humanitarian Response for Venezuelans**,

publishing the latest data on the flow of Venezuelans and numbers of Venezuelans refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in Brazil. It is possible to access documents, monitoring reports, fact sheets and guidance notes on the Brazilian context, as well as the latest UN Brazil news on the response. The data featured are validated and provided by the Federal Government and partner NGOs. The Brazilian website is part of the R4V Regional Interagency Coordination Platform. The platform's regional website provides data from all countries affected by the flow of more than 4 million Venezuelans who left their country as of June 2019. The R4V strengthen and complement the coordination of Operação Acolhida in Brazil, the Brazilian Federal Government's humanitarian response for Venezuelans, the UN and civil society.

Access the Brazilian platform here <u>bit.ly/2Z0wiOP</u>

Access the regional platform here bit.ly/2LAQAIO



# Fun, education and protection in Roraima

To minimize the harsh effects of forced displacement on children, UNHCR has been supporting child and adolescent education and protection spaces implemented and coordinated by UNICEF (the United Nations Children's Fund) in the cities of Boa Vista and Pacaraima, in Roraima. There are 23 units in the state of Roraima that have served more than 15,500 children and adolescents between 3 and 17 years old, until June 2019. This integrated project for education and protection of children and adolescents has the financial support of the European Union, which has contributed to the strengthening of the response to Venezuelans in the northern region of Brazil by supporting their integration and peaceful coexistence with the local community and offering protection to children and others in vulnerable situations.

Read more at: bit.ly/2m2Vgyq



## Regional initiative strengthens resettlement of refugees in South America

Representatives of the governments of Brazil, Argentina, Chile and Uruguay met at a round table on 25 to 26 September to take stock of the Emerging **Resettlement Countries Joint Support Mechanism** (ERCM), a joint initiative of UNHCR and IOM. The event was attended by representatives of the donor countries of this initiative - the United States, Portugal, the United Kingdom and Sweden - as well as Canada and the European Union, which promote similar initiatives. The round table was also made up of representatives of UNHCR and IOM, as well as civil society organizations and local governments. With support from both agencies and their donors, ERCM member countries are consolidating their resettlement processes by enhancing national and local reception and integration structures, promoting resettlement families' self-sufficiency and contributing to host communities.

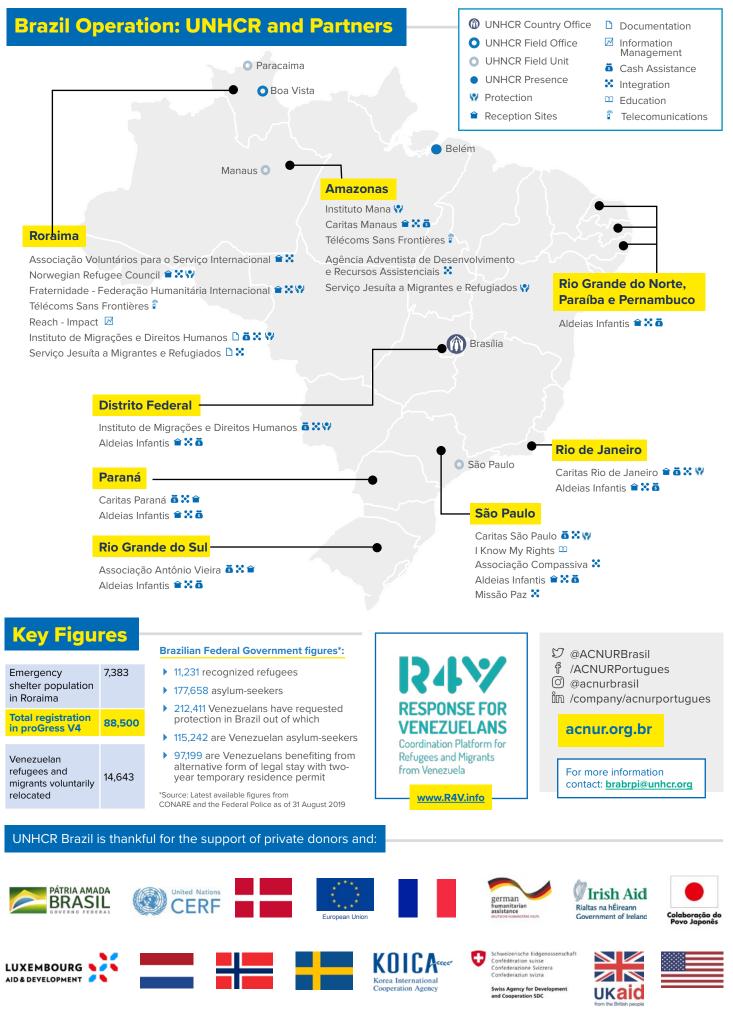
Read more at: bit.ly/2mjoCsH

# Closure of first public resettlement programme

On 28 September, UNHCR monitored the arrival, transfer and reception of the last group of families that benefited from ERCM. With the arrival of this group, Brazil closes the ERCM and closes its first public resettlement programme for Central Americans with 24 resettled refugees who arrived in May, June and September.



The seventh Plenary of the year took place on 12 September at the Ministry of Justice in which 30 Venezuelans were recognized as refugees based on the application of the broader refugee criteria (Art. 1, III of Law 9474/1997), inspired by the Cartagena Definition, and seven Venezuelans were also recognized under the 1951 definition. So far, Brazil has recognized 261 Venezuelans as refugees, with 207 of the cases recognized under the extended definition.



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.