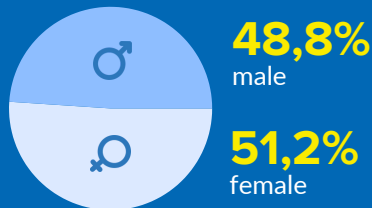


Population profile supported by livelihood actions (July to December 2023)

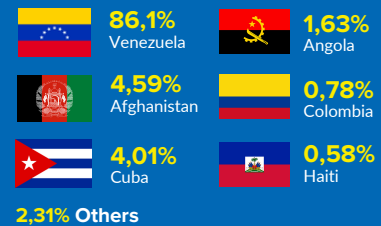
5.539
refugees
and asylum
seekers assisted

GENDER



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

(beneficiaries of all UNHCR activities in Brazil)



Main results by UNHCR and partners



1.218
people with
access to
Portuguese
courses



1.274
people supported in
accessing certification/
training in technical or
professional



3.047
people supported with
integration/guidance in the labor
market, self-employment, or
entrepreneurship initiatives



IN 2023

UNHCR supported over **14,000 refugees** and asylum seekers through livelihood activities, including over **1,100 indigenous** people in need of international protection.

Venezuelan in Brazil turned her grief into art and then won a business award



Norelis (left) with the other winners of the award.
© Sebrae/Erivelton Viana

In December 2023, a Venezuelan refugee Norelis who creates and sell beautiful handicraft, such as accessories and necklaces, achieved second place in the prestigious Sebrae Women in Business Award, Microentrepreneur Individual (MEI) category, surpassing 4,000 competitors nationwide.

"It was at that moment that I saw myself as a businesswoman in Brazil. I thought if they believed in me and my journey, I also needed to believe. I was the first Venezuelan woman to receive a Sebrae award. On stage, upon receiving the trophy, they thanked me for investing in Brazil through my company. Can you imagine what that means?" the entrepreneur becomes emotional.

Norelis believes she is reaping the fruits planted over many years. She began working with crafts to deal with anxiety, depression, and grief following the death of her firstborn daughter at the age of three. The long-awaited restart came with the sale of handicrafts in Boa Vista, through her business called ProCriArt Awekü.

Norelis is one of nearly 90 female entrepreneurs supported by the Refugees Entrepreneurs platform. With just over two years, the initiative by the UNHCR and the United Nations Global Compact in Brazil provided courses, support, and promotion to over 150 ventures throughout Brazil.

HIGHLIGHTS

Refugee women empowered to entrepreneur and engage in the Brazilian job market

© Empoderando Refugiadas



Empowering Refugee Women

In the framework of the eighth edition of Empowering Refugee Women project, UNHCR trained 111 women, with 93 of them completing the Customer Service and Sales course offered by SENAC in Boa Vista (Roraima) and Brasília (Federal District), and 18 participating in employability thematic workshops conducted by COPEL, an energy company in Curitiba (Paraná). The edition was rich in diversity. In addition to different nationalities –Venezuelan, Haitian, Cuban, Congolese, Ivorian, and Pakistani –women with disabilities, single-parent family heads, indigenous women, and LGBTQ+ individuals completed the course.

By December, 27 women were hired, and 79 people were relocated from Boa Vista to other municipalities. Among them, 27 people were relocated with the support of Caritas Brasileira Regional Nordeste II, Caritas Arquidiocesana de Natal, and AVSI (Acolhidos Project through Work) to work at Riachuelo's Distribution Center in Natal. Another 15 people, who already resided in the city, had their employment facilitated by the project, totaling 25 hirings.

The initiative by UNHCR, Global Compact, and UN Women focuses on the training and employability of refugee women, with funding from the private sector (Riachuelo, Lojas Renner, and Primavera Sound) and partnerships with AVSI and the Jesuit Service for Migrants and Refugees (SJMR).



Mujeres Fuertes (Strong Women)

In Manaus, UNHCR trained 100 women in the second semester of 2023. The classes of the third and fourth editions were trained in gastronomy and in the field of aesthetics and beauty. **In Boa Vista**, the project supported the training in gastronomy and soft skills of 97 refugee women, single-parent family heads.

Strong Women is a joint initiative that aims to support refugee women in vulnerable situations to enter the job market or start their entrepreneurial journey. At the end of each edition, participants receive an entrepreneurial kit and financial support to cover basic needs (*Partnership: Hermanitos, ADRA, Ministry of Labor Prosecution, Regional Labor Court of the 11th Region, UN Women, and Humanitarian Logistics Task Force of Operation Welcome*).



© Leticia Aoki/Victor Paris

Brazilian private sector committees to include refugees

In the second semester of 2023, UNHCR made significant efforts to engage the private sector in advancing the socio-economic integration of the refugee communities. Numerous meetings were held with companies and associations to discuss the issue of forced displacement and explore strategies for integrating affected individuals into their workforce.

In July, UNHCR and Amcham - American Chamber of Commerce for Brazil organised a meeting with associated companies and members of the Companies with Refugees Forum to support the labor inclusion of Afghan refugees. The event was attended by 50 participants. In October, the 2nd Annual Meeting of the Companies with Refugees Forum was held in Sao Paulo, with the participation of 200 people representing 45 Forum companies and another 27 companies interested in the topic, as well as partners, civil society organizations, and refugee entrepreneurs.

The engagement of Brazilian companies was consolidated during the 2nd Global Refugee Forum in Geneva in December 2023, when members of the Companies with Refugees Forum committed to hiring or training more than 16,300 refugees in Brazil over the next four years. The commitments are detailed on the Companies with Refugees platform.

Over 300 civil servants learnt about refugee inclusion in labour market

In September, UNHCR, in partnership with National Employment System (SINE), the Ministry of Labor and Employment and the World Bank, conducted an online training session attended by over 300 civil servants from all over Brazil. The session focused on optimizing the SINE's job search service to accommodate refugees, and covered essential topics such as refugee profiles, labour market inclusion data, and best practices in matching labour supply with demand. Then, in December, UNHCR invited civil society organizations working with refugees to learn about the public employment system in an online meeting with Tiago Motta, Director of the Department of Labor, Employment, and Income Public Policies.

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50 Venezuelan businesswomen gathered in Boa Vista to network

In August, UNHCR conducted the Meeting of Refugee Entrepreneurs in Boa Vista attended by 50 Venezuelan women. During this networking event, organized in partnership with Sebrae, ADRA, and the Refugee Entrepreneurs Platform, the participants received guidance on entrepreneurship and access to microcredit, as well as shared experiences and discussed the opportunities and challenges of entrepreneurship in Brazil.

UNHCR supported participation of refugees in three Entrepreneurship Fairs in Brasília

UNHCR supported the organization of various entrepreneurship fairs in Brasília.

- **In July**, the Brasília Pride Association organized the first edition of the LGBTQIA+ Fair, and UNHCR mobilized refugee entrepreneurs to sell their products and services.
- **In September**, 14 refugee entrepreneurs participated in the Entrepreneurship Fair organized by UNHCR in partnership with SJMR and the Institute of Migrations and Human Rights (IMDH). The event featured representatives from Venezuela, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and Nigeria, who showcased their handicrafts and traditional foods to the public.
- **In December**, UNHCR engaged refugee entrepreneurs in another edition of the fair. The event marked the end of the 21 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence and featured the participation of 12 entrepreneurs from Venezuela and Senegal.

UNHCR supports Refugee Youth to access job market in Manaus

UNHCR supported 30 youth refugees in the framework of the 4th edition of the project "Youth in action" which provides refugee youth with guidance, vocational training courses, including soft skill development and financial education. As a result, 100% of beneficiaries received their first job experience through a placement in entry-job positions. The project is implemented in partnership with Hermanitos Association and the Public Labor Prosecutor's Office in Amazonas and Roraima.

By gaining access to education and vocational training, these young people are less exposed to violence and exploitation, and can build networks and develop relationships fostering a sense of belonging within the community. Additionally, such initiatives empower refugee youth to contribute to family income while developing essential skills for entering the job market.

30

refugee youth supported in the four editions of the project in 2023

100%

of the participants were placed in apprenticeship program positions

25 new Haitian teachers of Portuguese were trained to improve integration of their co-nationals

In October, 25 Haitian nationals completed the 12-week training to become teachers of Portuguese for their co-nationals in the framework of the programme promoted by the National Committee for Refugees (CONARE), the National Secretariat of Justice (Senajus) in partnership with UNHCR, the State University of Mato Grosso do Sul (UEMS), the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), and IOM. During the last class, students presented proposals for a 20-hour teaching plan for a "Portuguese as a Welcome Language course" conducted in November.



© Museu A CASA/
Arquivo do projeto



Warao indigenous people increasingly engage in Brazilian economy

- UNHCR awarded a small grant to the Association of Indigenous People of the Warao Coromoto Community (ASIWC) in Brasília to implement a project on social protection and access to rights. Through the initiative, 64 community members were trained to engage in agricultural and handicraft activities to boost income generation and improve their autonomy. Additionally, 27 artisans were enrolled in the Brazilian Handicraft Program and represented the Warao community at the 16th Crafts Fair in Brasília, which took place in November.
- **In August**, UNHCR participated in the Amazon Summit, a preparatory conference for the COP-30, held in Belém. The office coordinated and organized a panel on issue of the forced displacement of indigenous peoples in partnership with the Secretariat of Indigenous Peoples, the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples, the National Indian Foundation, and the Federation of Indigenous Peoples of Pará. Moreover, UNHCR ensured the participation of the Warao Ojiduna Council, an organization led by Warao refugees and migrants, in other side events within the framework of the Amazon Summit, to give visibility to community's demands.
- **In the second semester of 2023**, the Warao Artisan Project supported by UNHCR generated two orders of over 150 pieces each, resulting in a revenue of over USD 3,500; it conducted workshops on sustainable bags for 46 artisans and organized the Buriti Fiber Harvest Expedition in Boa Vista with active participation of the artisans from the Jardim Floresta and Waraotuma a Tuaranoko shelters. (*Partnership: A Casa do Objeto Brasileiro Museum, BID Lab*).
- **In November**, the II Warao Meeting was held in Belém, promoted by the Warao Ojiduna Council, with resources from UNHCR and the Pará Cultural Foundation. The meeting brought together approximately 500 Warao people from the municipalities of Belém, Ananindeua, and Benevides at the Benguí Peace Plant. The meeting featured traditional dances, sports games, and the Warao Ojiduna Council Assembly, representing over 700 Warao located in 13 communities.
- **Throughout the year**, the Nona Anonamo Tuma artisan network consolidated and currently gathers 170 artisans in Pará, divided into 13 production groups (family-based). As a result of this initiative, led by the International Institute of Education of Brazil (IEB), Warao communities began to interact with each other, established partnerships, and participated in fairs.

Business Mission to Roraima

In August, UNHCR, UN Women, and the UN Global Compact in Brazil accompanied the mission of companies Foundever, Iguatemi, Lojas Renner, and Riachuelo to the cities of Boa Vista and Pacaraima to learn about activities under Operation Welcome. The companies are members of the Companies with Refugees Forum, and the latter two, representatives of the textile retail sector, are strategic supporters of the 8th edition of the Empowering Refugee Women project. The mission provided a comprehensive overview of Operation Welcome, visits to shelters, and participation in focus groups with participants undergoing training in the project.

UNHCR supports new beginning outside of shelters

Emergency shelters in Roraima are crucial for accommodating refugees, but they do not represent a lasting solution. Therefore, UNHCR works to ensure that Venezuelan refugees and migrants have the physical, mental, social, and economic conditions to leave these spaces and rebuild their lives in a dignified manner. Projects such as Narunoko and Novo Caminhar exemplify these efforts, promoting sustainable and safe exit from the shelters of Operation Welcome in Roraima. In 2023, these initiatives helped 39 families, who already had a source of income, to leave the shelters to live independently, providing initial financial support and distributing kitchen, hygiene, cleaning, mattresses/hammocks, and blankets kits to 142 people.

PLATFORMS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Joint efforts to provide sustainable housing to refugees

In October 2023, UNHCR partner International Finance Corporation (IFC) general director Maktar Diop visited the Chrysler Building in Brazil in the framework of the joint project on sustainable housing, with the company Citas supported by UNHCR. This company agreed to offer 3 to 5% of its rental units to refugees, with reduced values and conditions. The IFC's global website published about this project at [this link](#).

[Companies with Refugees Forum](#)



Check out the latest news from the Forum in the 11th edition of the Companies with Refugees Forum Newsletter, highlighting the 2nd Annual Meeting of the Companies with Refugees Forum, which had the participation of 200 people. In the second semester of 2023, it promoted 15 activities, including events, roundtable discussions, and online training sessions.

[Refugee Entrepreneurs](#)



In 2023 the Refugee Entrepreneurs platform reached more than 150 members - businesses led by people from 15 nationalities. The Platform hosted 5 events, with the participation of nearly 300 refugee entrepreneurs, and promoted businesses and entrepreneurs in media.

PUBLICATIONS

[Monthly Reports on Employability](#)

UNHCR, in partnership with the Ministry of Labor and Employment, began publishing monthly reports on the formal employability of Afghan, Haitian, and Venezuelan nationals in Brazil. These data indicate that the net hiring balance until August 2023 is more than 153,000 positions, with over 107,250 filled by Venezuelan refugees and migrants; 45,655 by Haitians; and about 740 by Afghan refugees. The reports are based on data from the Annual Social Information Report (RAIS) and the General Registry of Employed and Unemployed (CAGED). [Learn more here](#).

[Research on the Socioeconomic Profile of Indigenous Refugees in Manaus and Boa Vista](#)

The UNHCR research on socio-economic profile of indigenous refugees in Manaus and Boa Vista concluded that formal education and qualification opportunities, along with languages and personal and family interests, are key factors in driving sustainable income generation for these population. Access the research [here](#).

The study aimed at deepening knowledge on socio-cultural characteristics of these populations to consider them in the formulation of initiatives and public policies and was conducted in partnership with AVSI Brasil and Instituto Polis Pesquisa.

[Two guides promoting employment of young refugees were released](#)

These booklets produced in partnership with the One Million Opportunities initiative (1MiO), led by UNICEF, include data on young refugees, how to integrate them into companies, and the advantages of hiring them. They also provides guidance on how young people can seek employment in Brazil and register on the 1MiO platform. [Youth Guide](#) | [Business Guide](#)

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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.