

The May/June edition of The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) report on indigenous refugees and migrants in Brazil updates the registration data and population profile, in addition to the actions developed by UNHCR in these months.

### **POPULATION PROFILE UPDATE**

### REGISTRATION HISTORY



### **REGISTERED ON PROGRES:**



### **DISAGGREGATION BY LEGAL STATUS**



49% Asylum seekers



38% Other legal status



13% Refugees

**TOTAL: 100%** 

### **DISAGGREGATION BY SEX/AGE**

2% 2%
2/0 2/0
3% 2%





# WORLD REFUGEE DAY: A NECESSARY LOOK AT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES



With a historic record number of people being forced to abandon their homes globally, totaling more than 82.4 million people, World Refugee Day calls for a reduction in the conflicts that these flows of refugees may generate, as well as efforts to protect these groups in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. For indigenous populations, the impacts of displacement are doubled, not only because of their relationship with the territory in which spiritual and survival practices are developed, but also because of the violation of human rights in their communities of origin, facing several additional challenges in the processes of seeking international protection.

With this in mind, UNHCR, together with its partners and indigenous communities, developed a series of activities in Brazil to recall these challenges and promote reflections with the host society and indigenous refugee communities in the various cities where UNHCR has operations.

These actions make it possible to create relationships and spaces for intercultural dialogue on customs, language, dances, in order to promote knowledge about the nearly 6,000 indigenous refugees and migrants in Brazil, expanding their access to the universal rights ensured by the Brazilian constitution.

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Check below some activities developed to celebrate World Refugee Day:

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MAY/JUNE | 2021 REPORT INDIGENOUS POPULATION



### **Boa Vista**

On June 17 and 18, seven Warao artisans who participate in the joint income generation project between UNHCR and A Casa – The Museum of the Brazilian Object participated in a fair at the Shopping Garden Roraima shopping mall, in a commercial exhibition of their work to the public.

### **Manaus**

UNHCR and Mana Institute carried out various activities in indigenous shelters on the occasion of World Refugee Day. Among them, there was the celebration of the one-year anniversary of the Warao Radio Yakera Jokonae community project in indigenous shelters. The ones in the shelter shared their experiences as indigenous refugees and talked about Warao culture and crafts. The children participated in the #YouthWithRefugees art contest promoted by UNHCR at a global level, which has the theme "Together for Sport".

























## UNHCR ACTIVITIES WITH THE REFUGEE AND MIGRANT INDIGENOUS POPULATION IN BRAZIL











### **Boa Vista**

- On May 6, the Cultural and Indigenous Training Center was inaugurated in Boa Vista, next to the Jardim Floresta shelter, which was renovated to offer educational and professional training to refugee and migrant indigenous people living in the city. As another result of the partnership between UNHCR and Fraternity International (FFHI), and within the scope of Operation Welcome, the Center was designed to become a reference in cultural activities and in professional, educational and language courses that enable further development of the skills and capabilities of indigenous refugees and migrants, contributing to better quality of life, social inclusion and opportunities for income generation.
- On May 31 there was a joint effort with the UNHCR protection and registration team to renew the protocol to request refugee status in the Pintolândia Indigenous Shelter. 94 sheltered indigenous persons were given the pre-documentation to renew expired protocols. On the same day, 41 persons received from the UNHCR team the CONARE notice of the recognition of their status as refugees. In total, more than 760 indigenous Venezuelans were recognized as refugees in Brazil.
- On June 15, UNHCR together with UNFPA, FFHI and sheltered indigenous women developed the activity "Collecting Myths", in which they discussed the use of menstrual cups, and deconstructed myths regarding the female body. The goal is to bring these discussions to indigenous women in the shelters and encourage the creation of conversation circles.

### **Manaus**

- On May 25, UNHCR and the Municipal Secretariat for Women, Social Assistance and Citizenship (Semasc) jointly distributed essential items to indigenous families residing in Shelter Tarumã-Açu 1. In total, 30 indigenous people were given hygiene and cleaning kits. The exercise also included the distribution of mosquito nets and screens to improve disease prevention conditions due to the rainy season in the Amazon.
- In June, the first edition of activities in Sexual and Reproductive Health with indigenous adolescents in Manaus was completed. Led by UNHCR, UNFPA and Instituto Mana, the initiative aimed to promote Education in Sexual and Reproductive Health and mechanisms to prevent and identify situations of gender-based violence. The meetings had the support and endorsement of community members.



### **Belém**

- based on the demands of the Warao indigenous people who expressed their need to better understand and access Brazilian public services, UNHCR carried out an activity for map georeferencing in the Metropolitan Region of Belém, with the support of local protection networks. In all, five groups of Venezuelan refugees and migrants mapped the public health, transport, education and social assistance services available in the regions where they live. UNHCR shared with the communities the maps in print and digital versions, which will work as consultation and dialogue tools for the Warao community and the local protection networks that provide services to this population. The activity was mediated by Warao messengers from the community-based protection project carried out by the organization SOS Children's Villages in partnership with UNHCR and benefited more than 500 indigenous persons living in Belém and the Metropolitan Region.
- In order to strengthen the capacities of the seven community promoters who work in the Children's Villages community-based protection project, UNHCR promoted in May a community-based protection training, the code of conduct for work in humanitarian aid contexts and communication with communities.
- In May, UNHCR began a partnership with the International Institute of Education of Brazil (IEB) to promote the inclusion of refugees and indigenous migrants of the Warao ethnic group in the labor market. The pilot project will focus on the indigenous people welcomed by the city of Belém in the municipal shelter and foresees the mapping of the labor profile, job training and construction of individual and collective life plans with a focus on productive insertion.











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During the third quarter, approximately 20 training sessions were held for just over **600 public agents** from at least **90 municipalities** in the states of Roraima, Minas Gerais, Espírito Santo, Bahia, Pará, Rio Grande do Norte, Piauí, and Mato Grosso do Sul.

The unique characteristics of the culture and displacement of the Warao population, as well as their specific protection needs in urban contexts, require intersectoral work supported by prior information and conceptual alignment that leverage the actions of different local actors. In this sense, UNHCR has sought to support the Waraos by strengthening local networks in the municipalities and states that are now welcoming these indigenous families. The trainings focused on themes such as protection of indigenous refugees, intercultural sheltering components, community protection.



### Southeast/South Regions and Bahia

### **Minas Gerais:**

- On May 3, UNHCR trained 30 employees of the Montes Claros Secretariats of Social Assistance and Health, in partnership with IOM. The training addressed the Warao culture, challenges, guidelines and successful practices in assisting this population.
- On May 18, UNHCR sensitized 8 employees of the Reference Center for Human Rights (CDRH-Norte) and the Reference Center for Women in Montes Claros. The sensitization focused on the presentation of the Warao culture, the theme of gender-based violence (GBV) in contexts of forced displacement and good practices when dealing with situations of GBV in the Warao community.
- On May 27, UNHCR also participated in the training of Law school students in the Tutorial Education Program (PET) of the Federal University of Uberlândia, within the scope of the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair, with an emphasis on protecting indigenous refugees of the Warao ethnic group and the challenges of their integration in Brazil.
- Rights, as well as professors from the Federal University of Espírito Santo. The session presented the Warao culture, the causes of internal displacement of this population in Venezuela and forced displacement to Brazil, as well as basic guidelines to work with this population and the main challenges faced in assisting and supporting their integration.
- On June 10, UNHCR hosted, as invited by the Espírito Santo Secretariat of Labor, Assistance and Social Development (SETADES) and with

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