

BRAZIL

Situation Report –September 2019



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

<p><b>Ordinance No. 666/2019:</b> the Attorney General's Office filed a preliminary injunction for the suspension of Ordinance 666/2019, which would allow for the summary deportation of any foreigner who has committed an act contrary to the principles and objectives set forth in the Federal Constitution.</p>	<p><b>Youth Court of Roraima:</b> The state's Youth Court decided to prevent new children and teenagers from entering public shelters in the state, managed by the state's Secretariat of Labour and Social Welfare. The judicial decision recognizes that the shelters have reached their full capacity and no more unaccompanied children of any nationality can be sent to such shelters.</p>
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KEY FIGURES

Funding Requirements  
RMRP 2019  
USD 56.5 Mi

Funding Gap  
USD 18.7 Mi  
33%



Funding Received  
USD 25.5 Mi  
45%

Funding Committed  
USD 12.4 Mi  
22%

Official documentation figures have now been updated up through end of August as follows:

- cumulative number of **refugees/asylum seekers**: 115,242
- cumulative number of **temporary residents**: 97,199

In September, there was an estimated daily average of 626 entries and 125 exits in Pacaraima, with a peak of 820 persons entering on 10 September and only 416 persons entering on 29 September. From January to September, there was an estimated daily average of 523 entries and 92 exits, with a peak of 1,253 on 13 August.

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

Meeting of National Refugee Committees from South America: On 6 September 2019, the delegations of the National Committees for Refugees (CONARE) from Paraguay, Uruguay, Chile, Argentina, Bolivia and Brazil (Pro Tempore President) met. The topics discussed included data sharing, exchange of best practices and normative

updates, advancements in statelessness, and the signing of an agreement to guarantee the exchange of information among countries. Brazil highlighted that the number of asylum claims from Venezuela typically fluctuates between 3,000 to 5,000 a month and that there are approximately 190,000 active asylum claims in Brazil, out of which 111,500 are from Venezuela. It was also shared that Brazil is now developing a strategy to simplify the procedure for Venezuelans and studying ways to expedite case analysis, possibly forgoing individual analysis of every case, and that the number of recognized from Venezuela is expected to grow considerably. The delegation from Brazil reinforced that the new web-based tool to claim asylum, SISCONARE, will be the only way to claim asylum in Brazil starting on 15 September 2019 except in Pacaraima.

The next meeting of the group was scheduled for November in Foz do Iguaçu (PR), Brazil with the following agenda items: 1) Case processing modalities to expedite decision (simplified/accelerated manner; manifested funded and unfunded); 2) Admissibility criteria for asylum seekers if it is considered the person offers a risk to the country; 3) Challenges on the integration of resettled cases from Central America; 4) Statelessness determination procedures and 5) Human trafficking.

The Youth Court of Roraima State's decision regarding unaccompanied children: On 13 September, the Youth Court of Roraima State issued a decision regarding the reception and integration of unaccompanied children (UAC) and adolescents from Venezuela. The number of UAC has been increasing in the past months and the age of children decreasing, posing increased challenges for protection networks. The judicial decision recognizes that state shelters for boys and girls are over capacity and no more UAC of any nationality can be sent to such shelters (except by judicial decision) as they are deemed inappropriate to the development and care of children and adolescents. The transfer of these UAC to Operação Acolhida shelters was requested by the State Public Prosecutor's Office, but not approved by the judge. The decision mentions that all actors need to discuss how to solve this situation. Partners have assisted the state institutions in developing a contingency plan and provided psychosocial support in the shelters.

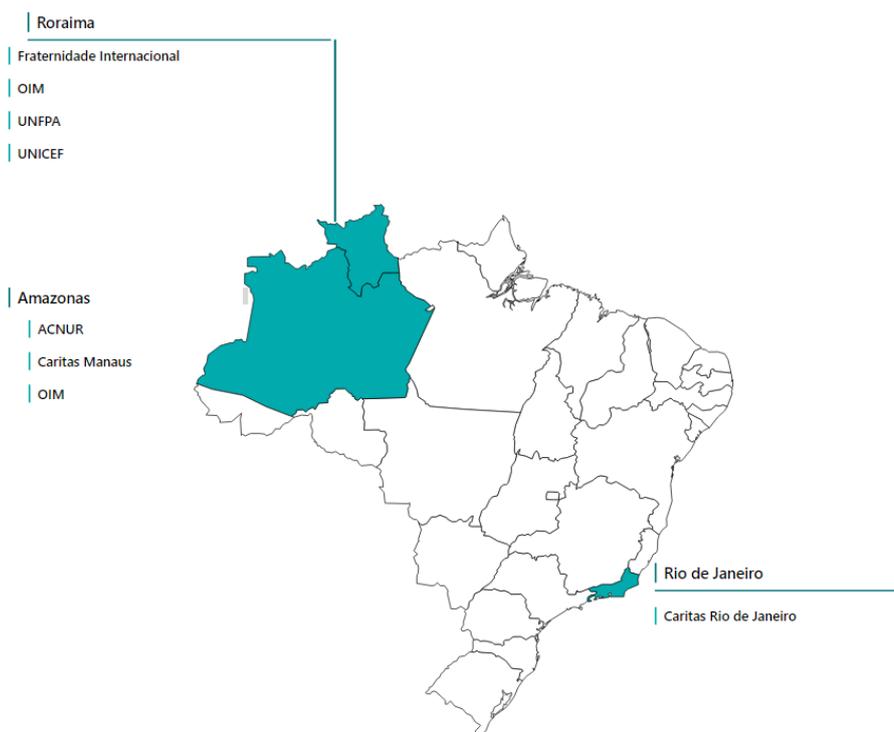
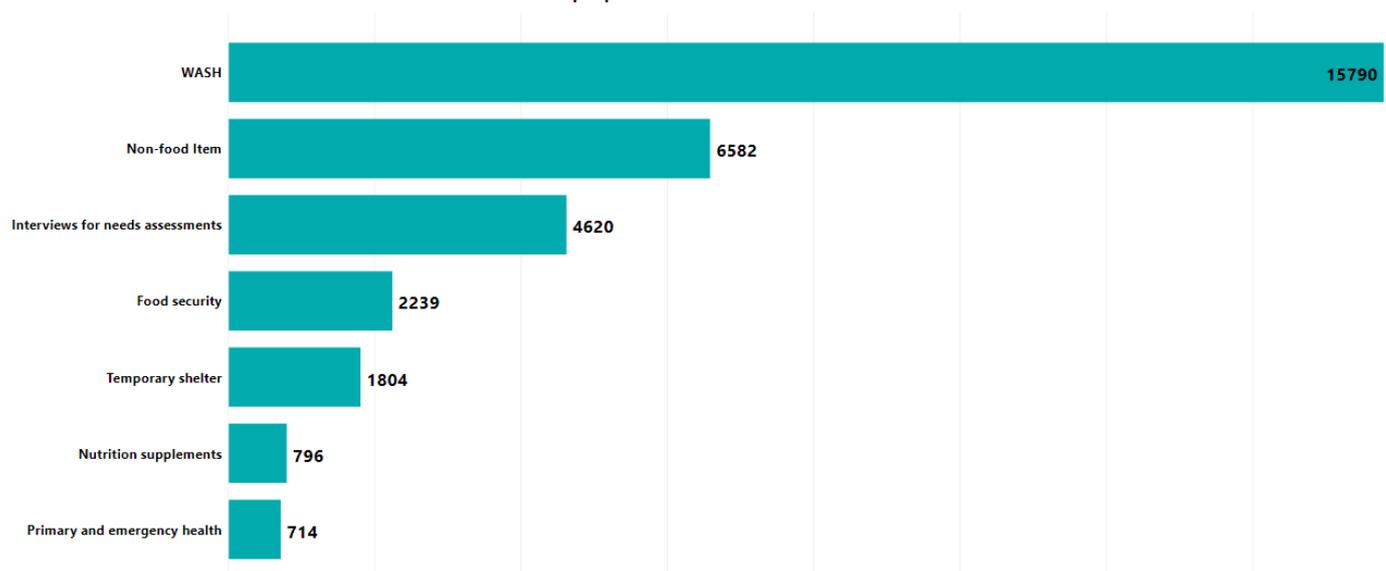
Approval of the new flow modalities for the voluntary relocation process: the Federal Subcommittee responsible for the Relocation process approved the new strategy for the relocation of Venezuelan migrants and refugees and its four different modalities: shelter-to-shelter, social reunification, family reunification, and employment-based. The strategy seeks to enable the modalities to properly correspond to different contexts with the implementation of the new procedures, the need for protection for every migrant and refugee participating in the relocation process was also reiterated.

**Recognition of Refugees:** Thirty more Venezuelans were recognized as refugees based on the application of the broader refugee criteria (Art. 1, III of Law 9474/1997) reaching 221 in total, based on the Cartagena Definition, while seven more Venezuelans were also recognized under the 1951 definition reaching 57 in total.

## Area of Intervention 1: Direct Emergency Assistance

In Brazil, UN Agencies and civil society organizations are working to meet the most basic needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants arriving in the north of the country. Key areas of intervention for the Brazilian context are the provision of temporary emergency shelter, food and non-food items, and health interventions. In addition, needs assessments were conducted.

Number of people who received assistance at least once



1. Actors by AOI who reported through activity.info in August

**Main activities reported in September**

**Shelter**

An approximate 7,000 Venezuelans are sheltered in Pacaraima and Boa Vista. A new layout, following international standards (IASC), was approved by the humanitarian actors and government engaged in the repoinse to double the capacity of BV8, a shelter located in Pacaraima, which receives vulnerable people who are waiting

for documentation and relocation to other states. From September, the space will host up to 1,000 refugees and migrants.

However, lack of additional space in shelters continues to a be major challenge. Two assessments carried out with the Brazilian army this month identified a total of 3,931 Venezuelans sleeping in the streets or occupying private or public buildings in Boa Vista, including 1,326 minors. In Pacaraima, there was an estimated 263 Venezuelans, including 56 minors. These assessments have been widely shared with partners to guide the response. A site profile, which provides a consolidated overview of population statistical data, needs in life-saving sectors and information on activities and gaps was prepared for six spontaneous settlements in Boa Vista. These sites accommodate a total of 1,933 who are living in precarious conditions with limited access to food, health care and WASH facilities.

About 1,000 refugees and migrants per night benefited from the improved secured sleeping area in the surroundings of the bus station in Boa Vista to alleviate the impact of the rain. This space has allowed refugees and migrants to

pitch their tents in a secured area, with access to basic hygiene facilities. 1,177 meals were also delivered to Venezuelans living in the area.

A joint mission to Paraupaebas, in Pará state, was organized by UN agencies, the Federal Public Defender's Office and the State Secretariat of Social Assistance and Labour to carry out an on-site assessment of the situation of 87 indigenous Waraos who settled in Paraupaebas in May 2019 and who are now residing in an indigenous municipal shelter inaugurated in late August. Partners and the SESMA participated in a meeting to establish a health referral network in Belém. The participants highlighted the need to establish a multidisciplinary health post in Belém able to reach out indigenous migrants and refugees.

### **WASH**

In Manaus, the Municipal Secretariat of Health (SEMSA) and Municipal Secretariat of Social Assistance (SEMASC), along with partners, distributed hygiene kits (333) and conducted health and hygiene promotion activities (70) for the Warao population, living in shelters in Manaus. In addition, 490 cleaning kits and 300 kitchen sets were also distributed. In September, partners launched a voucher programme for beneficiaries living in shelters to access hygiene kits through local shops and a total of 2,032 families were already reached.

In addition, SEMASC engaged the community living in shelters in a cleaning activity, with the objective to strengthen autonomy and community organization as well as to improve WASH quality in the shelter, therefore reducing the incidence of diseases. Finally, a nutritional activity led by the local Basic Health Unit (UBS) was held in the Tarumã shelter, carrying out initial screenings for 111 Venezuelans. All the mentioned actions were implemented thanks to the advocacy carried out by humanitarian actors and accompanied by them.

### **Health**

To promote sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), 932 male and female condoms and 500 lubricants were distributed in Roraima State, facilitating the right of refugees and migrants to access basic health items and to promote safe sex practices and prevent Sexual Transmitted Infections (STIs) in Boa Vista and Pacaraima. Dignity kits were delivered to 151 women at risk, girls, survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), LGBTBI people and people with other specific needs.

215 children and adolescent accessed primary health care services supported by partners, including 169 children under 5 years old and 46 adolescents.

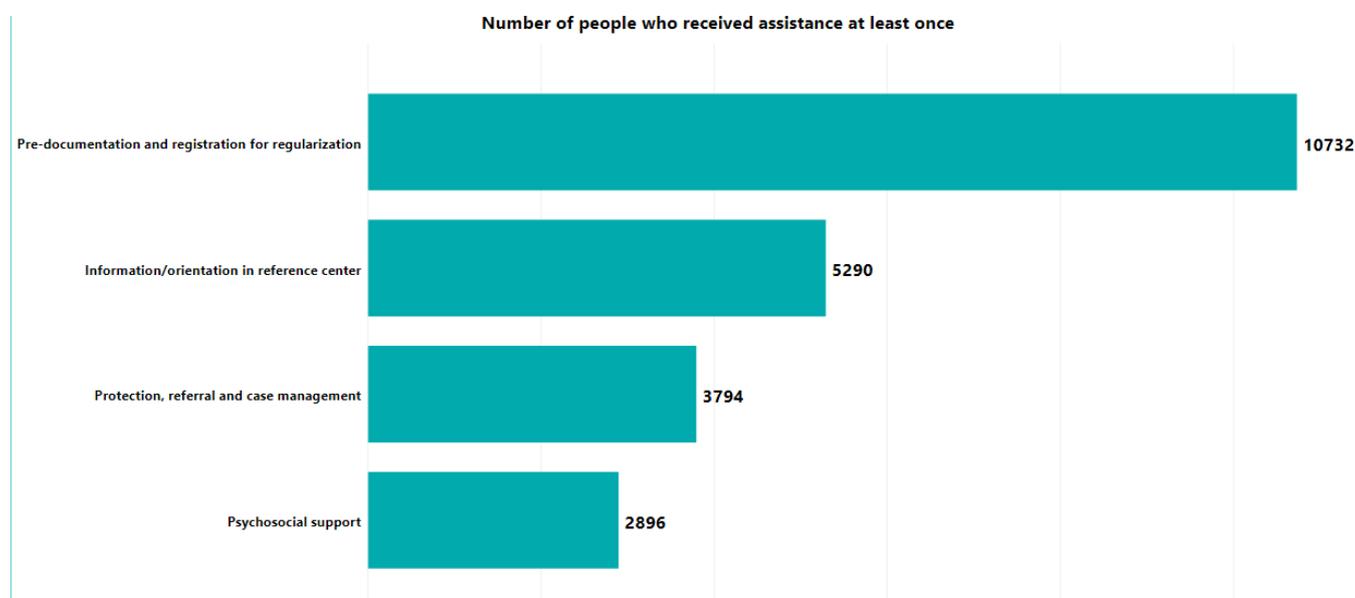
### **Food and Nutrition**

A joint mission to Pacaraima was conducted by partners with the objective of implementing a pilot agricultural project in the Tarau Paru community. The project, to be implemented with the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA), would support both the local and refugee population, offering an opportunity to learn more efficient agricultural techniques and improve food security.

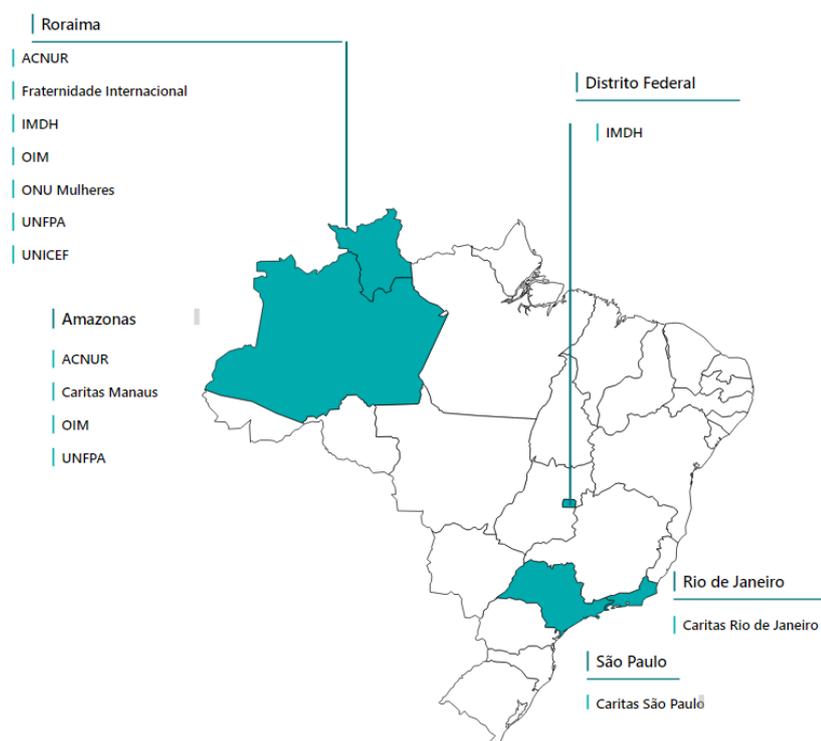
A nutritional assessment was conducted in one of 11 the shelters in Boa Vista reaching 160 children under 5 years old showing poor wasting nutritional status with 1.8% of the children suffering from severe acute malnutrition and 3.2% from moderate acute malnutrition. Prevalence of stunting (height for age) remain acceptable at 7.6%, with 1.3% with very low stature and 6.3% with low stature. This month in Roraima State, 796 children from 6 to 59 month received nutrition supplements to prevent undernourishment.

### **Area of Intervention 2: Protection**

Throughout Brazil, UN Agencies and civil society organizations provide protection to Venezuelan refugees and migrants through documentation assistance, registration, case management, protection referrals and tailored response for populations with specific needs such as LGBTI, children, persons with disabilities, persons at risk of SGBV, pregnant women and indigenous people.



2. Actors by AOI who reported through activity.info in August



### Main activities reported in September

Venezuelan refugees and migrants received support in processing asylum or residency applications, with about 10,000 venezuelans reached in the two Documentation Centres in Boa Vista and Pacaraima, as well at the Reference Centre in the Federal University of Roraima, facilitating their access to basic rights and services in Brazil, including health and education. In the documentation centres and at the bus station, a total of 2,297 informational materials, including guides on human rights, brochures on the prevention of human trafficking, labour exploitation and

application for temporary residency were distributed.

Partners in Boa Vista coordinated a documentation and health task force for Indigenous Warao, living both in shelters and in street situations. Approximately 250 migrants and refugees received support in processing documentation and health assistance, including medical consultations and medicines. In neighbourhoods in Boa Vista, an information campaign was organised to raise awareness of the documentation processes, reaching 170 Venezuelans.

In Brasilia (Distrito Federal), 293 people benefitted from information, orientation and pre-documentation assistance by partners and had their access to documentation facilitated. In Manaus, partners, in coordination with the armed forces of *Operação Acolhida*, the State Government, the Federal Police and the Ministry of Labour, conducted two documentation task forces to process refugee protocols and temporary residence permits for both indigenous and non-indigenous Venezuelans living in shelters and in the streets. Some 300 Venezuelans received support with their temporary residency and asylum applications. In addition, more than 1,000 informational materials, including guidance on human rights, brochures on the prevention of human trafficking, labour exploitation and application for temporary residency were distributed. The Armed Forces alongside UN Agencies presented the structure and organization of the Documentation Centre in Manaus to local government, with the opening scheduled for late October. In addition, the “International day against sexual exploitation and human trafficking of women and children” was marked with activities at the bus station, including information sessions about prevention to refugees and migrants.

A mapping exercise of protection services and gaps for Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) response was also carried out in Manaus in coordination with civil society organizations and UN Agencies.

Informational materials and counselling on Gender-based violence, LGBT rights, health services, social assistance and security services reached 729 people at the Documentation Center in Boa Vista and 484 in Pacaraima. This included the distribution of booklets with life-saving information on GBV, with tangible solutions to improve quality and access to survivor-centered, multi-functional services and referral systems to respond in a timely manner to GBV incidents. Moreover, partners organised information sessions on the rights and duties of refugees and migrants, support networks, GBV and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) such as HIV. Psychosocial support has also been provided for migrants and refugees, mainly for women, youth, sexual and gender-diverse people, persons with disabilities and the elderly., reaching 705 migrants and refugees in Boa Vista in September.

A workshop on Community Based Protection was provided to partners’ staff engaged in community participation in Boa Vista, Roraima State. A total of 28 persons attended the workshop including representatives from civil society organisations. The training covered the basics of CBP, an approach designed to identify a community’s most serious protection risks, explore their causes and effects and jointly decide how to prevent and respond to them. It also offered an opportunity for the exchange of best practices among all actors working in and outside shelters as well initiating the analysis of operational challenges on community engagement.

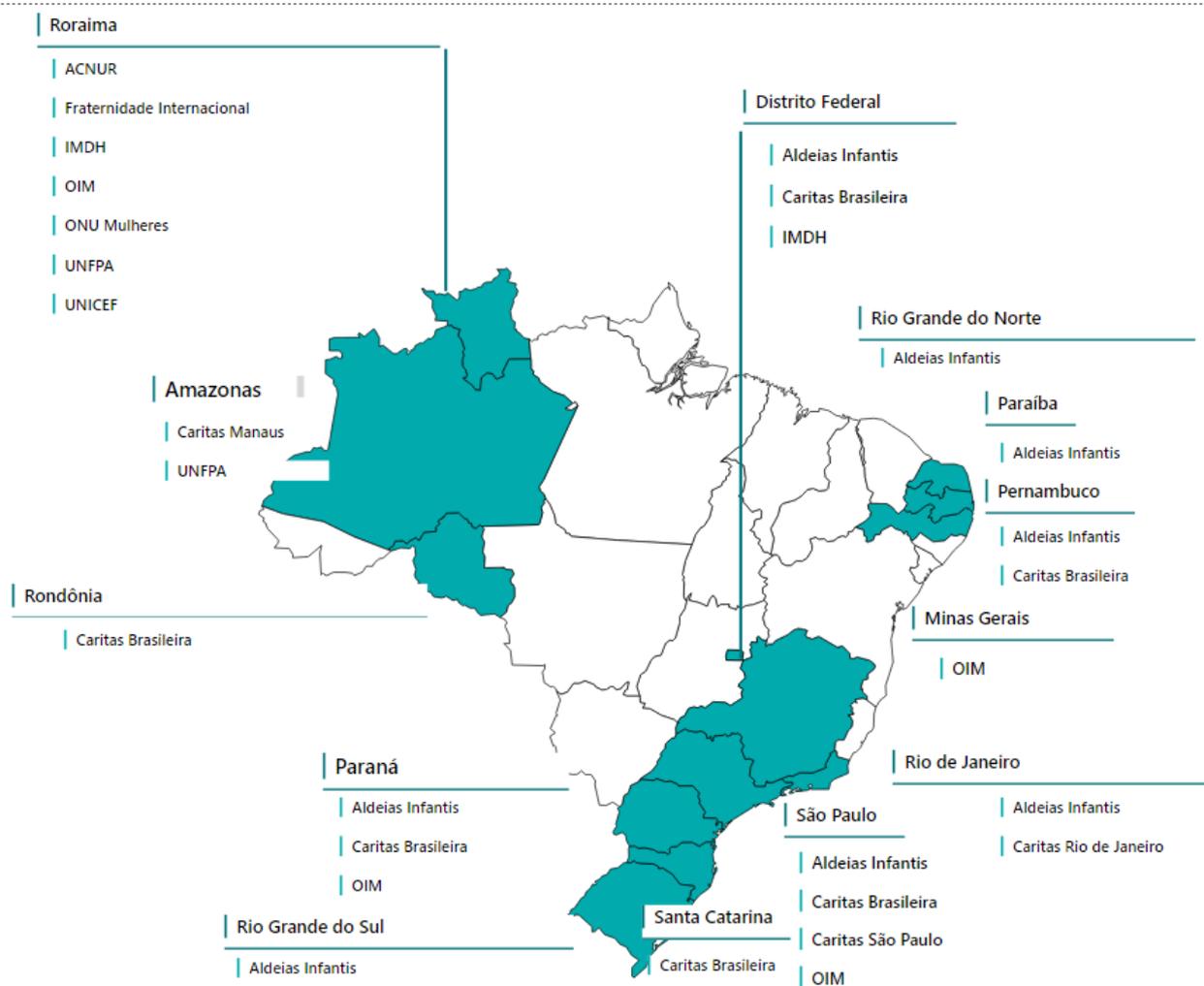
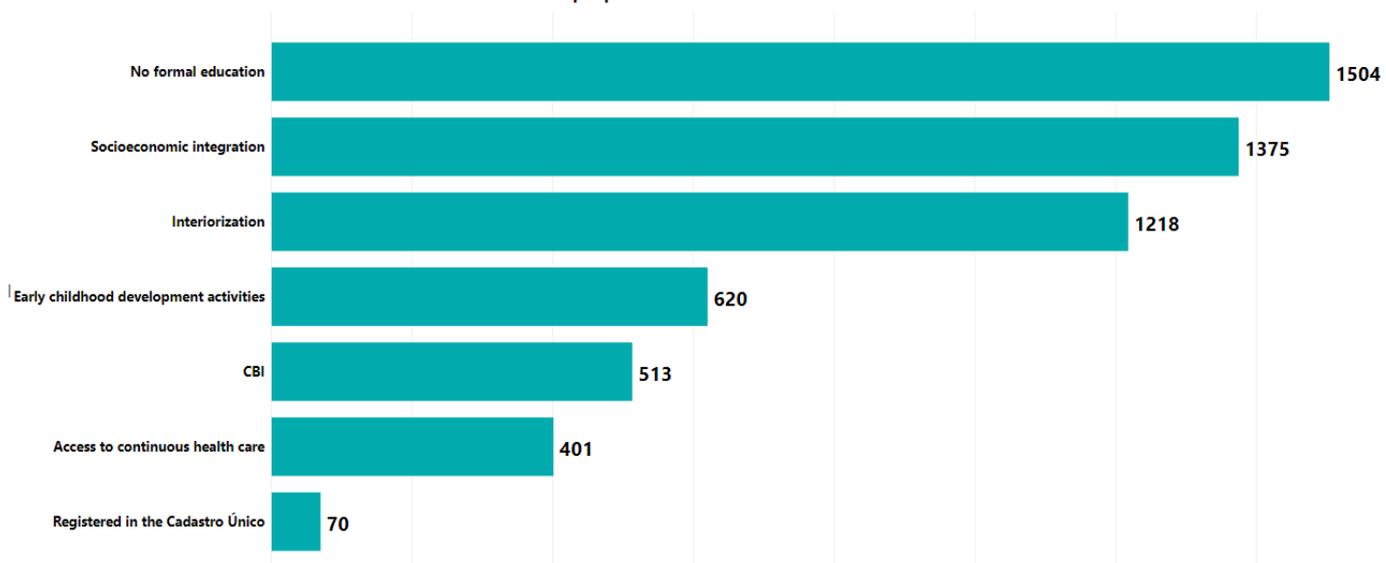
Partners’ psychosocial support teams identified 42 cases of child protection through the integrated education and protection spaces, referring them to the protection network system. In this regard, the most significant needs concerned separated children and adolescents. In September, the total caseload registered by the Public Defender of the Union (DPU) was 77 unaccompanied children and adolescents, while 333 separated children and adolescents arrived at border in Pacaraima. In addition, 200 arrived without any legal documentation from Venezuela. Partners are developing a response based on case management (early detection, referral and monitoring). Additionally, they organised an assessment mission to develop an alternative care arrangement programme and support local institutions.

In September, the 23 integrated education and protection spaces located in Pacaraima, Boa Vista and Manaus reached a total of 1,630 children. The spaces provide psychological support, education and protection mechanisms.

### **Area of Intervention 3: Socio-Economic and Cultural Integration**

UN Agencies and civil society organizations continued to promote socio-economic and cultural integration of Venezuelan refugees and migrants throughout Brazil through voluntary relocation, labour insertion, training, Portuguese language classes and school enrolment, as well cash-based interventions.

Number of people who received assistance at least once



3. Actors by sector who reported through activity.info in August

Main activities reported in September

In September, a total of 1,218 Venezuelan refugees and migrants were voluntarily relocated from Roraima State to other parts of Brazil through family and social reunification (438 and 635 individuals respectively), were matched with employment (43 individuals) or were received in shelters managed by civil society or municipalities (102 individuals). Among these, 788 flew on planes operated by the Brazilian Armed Forces and 430 received flight tickets on commercial airlines by partners. A total of 16,611 people have been relocated since the beginning of the operation in April 2018.

To facilitate and lower the costs of the relocation of refugees and migrants from Roraima State, which transit-wise is poorly connected to the rest of the country, the *Operação Acolhida* decided to open a transit shelter in Manaus, capital of the neighbouring state of Amazonas. The itinerary consists of the following: 1. People are transported by bus from Boa Vista to Manaus 2. In the centre, they are provided with basic assistance such as food and shelter for up to three days. 3. Subsequently, they fly to their city of destination. As of 10 September, the Army informed that 1,518 migrants and refugees had already passed through the transit shelter to be relocated to other regions of Brazil.

Partners from civil society provided overall support to the interiorization operation. Some 500 refugees and migrants were accommodated in rented houses in six different states, mostly in the South of the country and received core relief items such as food, hygiene kits, sanitary items, kitchen utensils and clothes. With the goal of increasing the self-reliance and integration of Venezuelans, the shelters offer comprehensive services such as psychological support, legal assistance and Portuguese language classes. The refugees and migrants stay in these shelters until their integration into the local labour market (on average between three to five months).

In the states of Amazonas and Roraima, partners organised vocational trainings and Portuguese classes. In Brasília, the services provided by partners include counselling for refugees and migrants, individualized monitoring and referrals to job vacancies and vocational courses, information on revalidation of diplomas, awareness raising of potential employers, intermediation for job vacancies and support for self-employed entrepreneurs. More than 100 people were reached in the capital.

Through the Women's Empowerment HUB (WEB), and in partnership with the private sector, industry associations and public organisations, partners organised lectures, courses and other activities to the benefit of approximately 250 women. These activities organised in Roraima State included financial education, small business entrepreneurship, cooking classes, courses on product development, pricing, entrepreneurship and basic concept of economics.

On 9 September, in São Paulo, 40 refugee women attended the opening ceremony of the fourth edition of the Empowering Refugee Women project, which provides workshops to facilitate access to employment and promote entrepreneurship amongst participants. The project is implemented by partners and Brazil's Global Compact Network in partnership with private sector companies. Besides São Paulo, the project will soon be expanded to Boa Vista to contribute to the labour market integration of Venezuelan women there.

In the states of Amazonas and Roraima, partners organised vocational trainings and Portuguese classes. In Brasília, the services provided by partners include counselling for refugees and migrants, individualized monitoring and referrals to job vacancies and vocational courses through conversation circles, information on revalidation of diplomas, awareness raising of potential employers and intermediation for job vacancies and support for self-employed entrepreneurs. More than 100 people were reached in the capital.

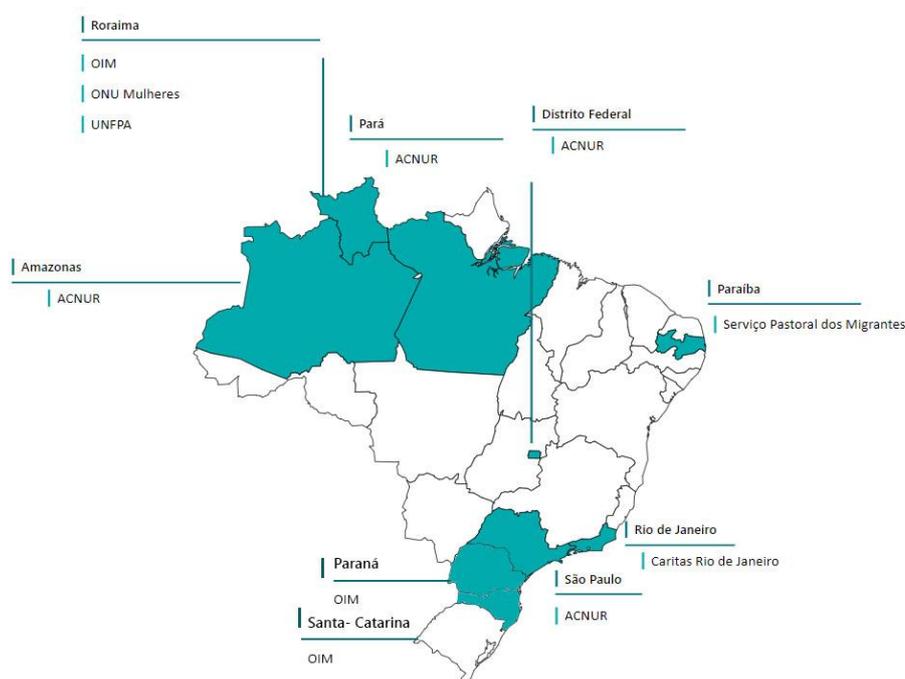
As part of their efforts to mobilise the private sector in support of the socio-economic integration of refugees and migrants, partners organised the third Forum on Employment and Entrepreneurship on 11 September in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais State. The event provided an opportunity for policy makers and private companies to discuss the benefits that migrants and refugees can provide in terms of knowledge, expertise and diversity and best practices for private sector engagement. Guidelines and good practices on refugee and migrant integration in the labour market were presented and the "Policy Guide on Entrepreneurship for Migrants and Refugees" was launched. The

guide comes in the form of policy recommendations and possible measures that can be adopted by government and other relevant stakeholders in host countries, depending on local circumstances and needs. While companies can play a central role in assisting Venezuelans, most lack information and/or might be reluctant to hire them. To address this issue, three workshops were held for human resources professionals during the month in Campinas (São Paulo State), Cascavel and Quatro Pontes (Paraná State). The states of São Paulo and Paraná have received more than 35 per cent of the Venezuelans relocated voluntarily from Roraima. The workshops debunked myths on refugees and migrants, offered tools to design inclusive social responsibility policies and discussed hiring processes and labour legislation.

In Boa Vista, from 23 to 27 September, partners organised the event “Promoting the access of Venezuelan migrants to the labour market” to foster the labour force integration of Venezuelans, promoted by the Ministry of Citizenship, in partnership with the organization Paulus. The Workshop took place in the Ericsson Computer Lab in the Reference Centre for Refugees and Migrants at the Federal University of Roraima benefitting 60 Venezuelans.

### Area of Intervention 4: Strengthening the capacity of host government

In Brazil, to strengthen host government capacities in the coordination of response, UN Agencies and civil society organizations carry out awareness raising, capacity building and advocacy to improve the quality of response for Venezuelans refugees and migrants, to ensure their rights are respected and to promote their access to services and opportunities, with particular attention to specific needs populations.



4 Actors by AOI who reported through activity.info in August

### Main activities reported in September

On 2 September, a workshop was conducted for the Public Prosecutor’s Office from the State of Pará (MPPA) on national and international protection and legal frameworks and case law regarding asylum and indigenous peoples applicable to Brazil. Prosecutors from different municipalities where indigenous migrants and

refugees are living in Pará (e.g. Marabá, Itaituba, Santarém, Ananideua) attended the event. The focus was also on raising awareness on the vulnerability faced by indigenous Warao in the state of Pará and to welcome and reinforce the role of Public Prosecutor’s Office and the importance of their leadership in mainstreaming a protection-oriented approach towards the response of local authorities to the arrival of indigenous migrants and refugees.

On 10 to 11 September, in Paraupebas, Pará State, partners conducted a training for 30 people from different Secretariats and institutions on refugee protection, legal frameworks and asylum procedures in Brazil, introducing SISCONARE and discussing its impact on the existing flow of access to documentation in the municipality of Pará. The main risks and gaps identified in Paraupebas were: inadequate design of the wood-fired oven built in the shelter which is posing imminent safety risks to women and especially children; exposure of hammock structures to

afternoon sunlight, increasing the heat inside the shelter and the risks of dehydration of children and newborns; and the difficulty of accessing documentation as the nearest office of Federal Police that process asylum claims is located 3 hours away by car (in the municipality of Marabá). An upcoming mission to Marabá has been planned to discuss with local authorities and other actors a way of facilitating the access of Venezuelans to documentation, possibly through a task force.

From 9 to 13 September, partners participated in a workshop on the Warao Indigenous population in Teresina, Piauí, a city in northern Brazil, organized by the State Federal University of Piauí with the support of the municipal and state governments and the National Indigenous Foundation (FUNAI). The objective of this workshop was to discuss the rights of refugees and migrants and improve their access to services. Partners organised a training on the protection of the indigenous population and shared shelter guidelines. There were 150 participants.

From 18 to 20 September, partners supported the Tenth edition of a round of regional workshops promoted by the Federal Public Prosecutor's School (ESMPU) to reinforce the capacity of stakeholders involved in the reception, integration and relocation of refugees and migrants in Brazil, strengthening local support networks and improving public policies. A series of workshops was organised by partners, including on integration in the labour market, combatting xenophobia, gender issues and vulnerable groups.

Partners worked with Paraná State Government to increase the capacity of its civil servants on matters of migration, asylum, trafficking in persons, labor exploitation and the humanitarian response in Brazil. On 21 and 24 September, two workshops were organised to raise awareness on these issues and offer tools for these civil servants to better assist Venezuelans. 43 public officials from the Federal Public Defender (an institution, which offers free legal, judicial and out-of-court assistance to citizens with limited financial resources) and the Ministry of Justice participated.

On 27 September, partners attended a Human Rights Seminar in Santarém where a training on the legal framework for refugee protection was conducted. A total of 35 people were trained, including state prosecutors, public municipal employees, professors and students.

## COORDINATION

**Information Management WG** – An IM meeting (6 September) and a workshop (10 September) were organised to prepare the 2020 RMRP, including a presentation and validation of the (1) findings of the needs assessment prepared by the team, (2) People in need (PIN) and projections of the Venezuelan population in Brazil in 2020. The indicators for the monitoring of activities as defined in the 2020 response plan were also discussed.

**Coordination Working Group (WG)** – In September, several meetings with sector leads and future sector members took place to prepare the main issues about the 2020 RMRP to be discussed in the following workshop. On 11 September, a second 2020 RMRP workshop was held with the objectives to validate the whole 2020 RMRP contents, including indicators, priorities, activities, modalities and integrated approaches as well as to agree on the 2020 RMRP Chapeu main elements, and, with the cooperation of the sector leaders, finalise the draft of the narrative of the sector chapters. A total of 59 people representing about 30 different organizations across Brazil participated. In total the 2020 RMRP counts with 40 organizations, double the number compared to 2019.

A total of 508 activities submitted by 40 organisations were analysed and approved by a validation committee held on 24 and 25 September and composed of members of the R4V coordination team and national platform members. The budget requirement for 2020 increased by 63 per cent from USD 56.5 Mi to USD 88.2 Mi

**Communication WG** – On 10 September, the R4V Brazilian webpage was launched to the public and journalists. The page, containing details about the response in Brasil, can easily be accessed online (<https://r4v.info/es/situations/platform/location/7509>).

**Protection WG** – In September, in Boa Vista, the Ministry of Citizenship hosted the Working Group, with the participation of UN agencies and civil society, while two Venezuelan women were invited and joined the meeting as observers. The group discussed the risk of human trafficking and prevention mechanisms that could be implemented. The output was a document with a summary of security and safety issues and risks, to eventually be shared with the relevant authorities advocating for a stronger Federal Response on some of the specific points raised. Among the recommendations are the establishment of a curfew in certain shelters areas and increasing awareness-raising campaigns for prevention of violence and incidents. It was agreed to continue the discussion within the Human Trafficking sub-working group and to prepare a note on the situational report to be shared with the authorities.

**Support Spaces** - A focal point at inter-agency level under the Protection WG has been designated to coordinate the implementation of the Support Space strategy at Brazilian level.

#### **Communication with Communities- Task Force**

From 11 to 13 September, partners conducted a needs assessment in relocation shelters in São Paulo and Brasília, in spontaneous settlements and documentation centres in Boa Vista and Pacaraima. More than 300 people were reached through single interviews, focus groups and key informants. The assessment tools were created so that partners have a common baseline to understand the main information and communication needs of the different population groups. A common strategy will be devised after the release of the findings in October/November.

## **PLATFORM PARTNERS**

| ADRA- Adventist Development and Relief Agency | Antonio Vieira Association - Jesuits of Brazil | ASBRAD Brazilian Association for the Defense of Women, Children and Youth | Cáritas Brasileira | Cáritas Rio de Janeiro | Cáritas São Paulo | CMDH Roraima Centre for Migration and Human Rights | Félix Guattari Institute | IMDH Institute for Migration and Human Rights | IOM | Pastoral Service of Migrants | SEFRAS Franciscan Solidarity Association | SOS Children's Villages of Brazil | UNAIDS | UNDP | UNEP | UNESCO | UNFPA | UNHCR | UNICEF | UNODC | UNWOMEN | World Vision

## **CONTRIBUTIONS**

*Partners in the response are very grateful for the financial support provided by donors, contributing to their activities with un-earmarked and earmarked funds.*

Austria | Brazil | CERF | Canada | Denmark | European Union | France | Germany | HolySee | Italy | Ireland | Japan | Luxembourg | Netherlands | New Zealand | Norway | Private donors | Republic of Korea | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America

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