Situation

- As of 30 June, Brazil had 1,402,041 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 59,594 deaths. Despite the rising number of cases in the country, most of Brazilian states are announcing gradual reopening of non-essential services. The majority of COVID-P19 cases are concentrated in the states São Paulo, Ceará and Rio de Janeiro.
- The clinical section of the Área de Proteção e Cuidados (APC) was inaugurated on 19 June with the support of R4V partners. The space, with a capacity of 254 beds, received 117 patients as of the end of the month. Out of this total, 64 patients were discharged once they completed the treatment and clinical observation. Of the remaining 53 hospitalized persons, 51 were nationals and only two were Venezuelans. As of the end of June, the Protection Area of the APC was hosting in isolation only 10 suspected and four confirmed C-19 cases.
- The extension of the Emergency Basic Income benefit for an additional two months was officialized on 30 June through Decree 10.412. The benefit targets informal workers regardless of nationality, providing a subsidy of BRL 600 per month for up to two adult members of a household or BRL 1200 for single female headed households.
- Entry restrictions for foreign nationals have been extended until the end of July with the approval of Ordinance nº 319/2020 and nº 340/2020. The measures remain the same as the ones contained in the Ordinance nº255/2020, establishing exceptional and temporary entry restrictions in the country, by air, land, or sea of foreigners regardless the nationality. Ordinance nº 340/2020 now allows for entry for the purpose of family reunification for all nationalities except Venezuelans.

Response

Education

- Programmes tailored for Venezuelans children on the move have been produced in three languages – Portuguese, Spanish and Warao (an indigenous language) – and broadcasted by radio stations in Amazonas and Roraima States. Soon, they will be made available as podcasts. In addition, 2000 portable radio devices are being distributed in shelters, prioritising families with school-aged children.
- The Education Sector and the Indigenous Population Working Group have been working together to develop intersectoral strategies. A need assessment has been under discussion to better understand the specific needs of the indigenous population and improve their access to education.

Health

- Mobile health and community health workers have critically complemented the public health system, which became severely overstretched due to COVID-19. Mobile health clinics strengthened their operation in Boa Vista, with doctors and nurses available to provide primary health care to vulnerable populations living in Operation Welcome’s shelters, spontaneous settlements and the support area around the Central Bus Terminal. Community health workers continued to monitor the groups at risk in shelters, identifying early symptoms of the disease and referring the suspected cases for medical evaluation. As a result, a total of 2,825 people living in 16 shelters were directly monitored.
- This month, USD 30,000 worth of medicines was donated to the Area of Protection and Care (APC) in Boa Vista, as well as medical supplies and personal protective equipment to be used in intensive care. In addition, partners provided specialized training to professionals assigned to work at the APC, in partnership with the Federal University of Roraima.
- Furthermore, partners provided primary care to the children living in shelters. Some 800 boys and girls had accessed to last month’s minimum set of vaccines according to Brazilian standards.

Integration / Interiorization / Hum. Transportation

- The sector continues its efforts to strengthen the integration of women. In partnership with the Ministry of Citizenship, partners released a new version of their emergency assistance booklet tailored for the specific needs of women. In addition, a webinar was organised to mark the conclusion of the 4th edition of the Empowering Refugee Women project, which contributes to improve the women’s employability.
- Partners officially launched a free online Portuguese course for Refugees and Migrants, in partnership with the UniCesumar University, with a live transmission on YouTube. All the 1,000 course places were filled up on the first weekend after the launch.
Nutrition / WASH
- As part of its strategy to ensure effective and strategic nutrition responses to children living in shelters, especially in the context of COVID-19, partners screened children for malnutrition and provided them with nutrition supplements. In addition, pregnant and lactating women received daily micronutrient tablets and caregivers of children between 0-23 months received feeding counselling.
- After a round of consultations, the WASH sector agreed on a new coordination structure, which will consist of one national WASH sector and local WASH committees in Pará, Amazonas, and Roraima, all with strong participation of relevant governmental institutions. In addition, a national WASH strategy has been drafted, including joint priorities, activities and quality standards.
- WASH actors provided essential services to shelters, spontaneous occupations and indigenous host communities in Boa Vista and Pacaraima through water trucking, installation of handwashing facilities with additional water storage, distribution of hygiene kits and CBI vouchers. In addition, shelter management was supplied with essential cleaning equipment and supported with the establishment of WASH committees, who monitored the services provided. Hygiene promotion was also carried out. Lastly, in Manaus, hygiene kits were distributed, and water points and handwashing facilities were installed in temporal shelters.

Protection
- In partnership with the Ministry of Human Rights, Labour Prosecutor’s Office, and Federal Public Defender’s Office, the sector created communication materials to raise awareness about the increased risks of human trafficking in the context of COVID-19 pandemic. The documents can be found at https://r4v.info/es/documents/details/77162
- Partners provided support to ‘Quarantine without violence’, an awareness campaign launched by the House of the Brazilian Women, a government one-stop centre for survivors of GBV. Its objective is to encourage women, suffering of any form of violence, to seek psychological support and to report file a complaint even in the context of COVID-19. It also seeks to sensitize Brazilian and Venezuelan men on domestic violence.
- Lastly, in Boa Vista, partners carried out a training called ‘Be Brave, not Violent’, which aims to mitigate gender stereotypes, foster positive masculinities, active fatherhood and unite men to end violence against women.

Shelter/NFI/Food Distribution
- A new round of site profiles was carried out in the spontaneous settlements in Boa Vista and Pacaraima, providing humanitarian actors with essential information on services and needs at site level to improve assistance delivery. This new round counted some 4,000 refugees and migrants in both cities.
- In partnership with the Integration Sector and the Ministry of Citizenship, a Camp Management and Camp Coordination training was provided to the managers of the so-called Transit Houses (Casas de Passagem), which were created to receive, and support relocated Venezuelans for a few days, being an intermediate support point between Boa Vista or Manaus and the final destination.