





FUNDING SITUATION\*\*

REQUIREMENT: 126 M

## Situation

- On 20 January, the Federal Government of Brazil issued Inter-Ministerial Ordinance 666 updating entry requirements to Brazil. Entry by land for foreigners remains subject to proof of COVID-19 vaccination, with exemptions for those affected by the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, who can enter without having completed their immunizations. However, Venezuelans who entered Brazil irregularly are required to show proof of vaccination performed in the last 14 days to be able to access migratory regularization procedures. Asylum-seekers are also required to abide by these measures or risk having their claims disqualified.
- In Pacaraima, R4V partners reported a decrease in homelessness in comparison to the previous months, with 573 Venezuelans living in the streets of Pacaraima as of January, compared to 2,330 Venezuelans identified as homeless in September 2021. The decline can be attributed, amongst other factors, to the improved documentation procedures for refugees and migrants, after the Federal Police worked together with R4V partners to expedite regularization procedures at the Screening and Documentation Centers (PiTrigs) of Roraima State. As a result, the average waiting time to complete the regularization procedure and receive documentation is currently 2 to 3 weeks, compared to 2 to 3 months at the end of 2021.
- Following heavy rains, the new Manaus Transit Shelter (ATM) suffered from two flooding episodes that damaged materials and equipment. The State Department for Justice, Human Rights and Citizenship (SEJUSC) stated that repairs were made to prevent further floods, and the coordination of Operation Welcome announced that the inauguration of the new ATM, foreseen for January, would be postponed.

# Response

# **Education**

In Pacaraima, R4V partners joined efforts with local actors to build a cultural center in the Indigenous community of Ta'rau Paru, which was completed and inaugurated in January. Built in the shape of a maloca, a type of indigenous dwelling, the center will host educational and cultural activities for around 500 children. Almost 900 Indigenous people of the binational Taurepang/ Pemon ethnicities live in the community, 600 of whom are refugees and migrants from Venezuela. The cultural center is equipped with computers, printers, and desks to improve the students' learning experience.

# 🔁 Health

- R4V partners and the Health Department of the Federal District facilitated the training "Health, Migration, and the Indigenous Venezuelan population" for 25 local public healthcare providers. The session focused on cultural aspects of the Warao ethnic group, their specific needs and health concerns, highlighting the importance of intercultural communication and an intersectoral health network for Indigenous peoples.
- To improve refugees and migrants' access to public health services, R4V partners and the Health Department of Rio Grande do Sul State launched a booklet to facilitate communication between this population and healthcare providers. "Reception of International Migrants in Healthcare Facilities" addresses identified communication difficulties to improve the quality of diagnosis and medical care provision. It is written in five languages, including Spanish, due to the increase in Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the Southern region.

# Integration / Interiorization / Humanitarian Transportation

- R4V partners assisted 2,263 Venezuelans to participate in the Interiorization strategy of the Federal Government, providing them with humanitarian transportation, job placement support and temporary housing. 86 per cent were relocated through family and social reunification; 7 per cent were relocated to shelters; and other 7 per cent were matched with employment opportunities. Of these, 34 people were hired to work in Rio Grande do Sul and 57 in Santa Catarina the agricultural sector or other industries.
- A new good practice from the Sitel Group Company was published in the "Companies with Refugees Platform," a joint initiative of R4V partners and the Brazilian Network of the Global Compact, that gives visibility to successful experiences of labor integration of refugees and migrants to encourage their replication. As part of the "Companies with Refugees" initiative, the Sitel Group hired more than 700 refugees and migrants, including Venezuelans, and 15 per cent of them have already been promoted to higher positions.



Nutrition partners continued their nutritional surveillance programmes and screenings in the shelters of Pacaraima, Boa Vista, Manaus, Belém, Ananindeua and Santarém. Partners screened 222 children under the age of 5 for malnutrition and distributed daily micronutrient tablets (including iron/folic acid) to 89 pregnant or lactating women. In addition, R4V partners held 496 counselling sessions on appropriate feeding for caregivers of infants, girls, and boys aged 0-23 months.



In order to support authorities in managing the regularization backlog that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic, R4V protection partners supported the Federal

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Police's "Operation Horizon," aiming to expedite the processing capacity for documentation issue and renewal. In this context, R4V partners donated equipment, provided additional staffing, helped with the drafting of referral pathways, and provided training for officials and volunteers. R4V partners also facilitated access to documentation procedures for almost 200 refugees and migrants from Venezuela living in a spontaneous settlement in Manaus, by assisting them in scheduling appointments with the Federal Police and submitting their requests for asylum, residence permits, or the renewal of their current status.

- R4V partners promoted information sessions with refugees and migrants at PRA (Reception and Support Center) in Boa Vista and at BV-8 (transit shelter) in Pacaraima. Almost 90 people attended the sessions, which aimed to raise awareness about gender identity, diversity, LGBTQI+ phobia, and LGBTQI+ protection legislation.
- In the context of Transgender Day of Visibility (29 January), R4V partners concluded a virtual training on Protection and Community Integration of LGBTQI+ Refugees and Migrants for over 60 implementing partners working in São Paulo. The sessions strengthened partners' capacity in providing sensitive and specialized care and contributed to expanding the networks of Support and Safe Spaces.



R4V partners continued to support Operation Welcome in making improvements to some of Boa Vista's shelters, establishing regular communication with the communities in relation to the ongoing shelter-restructuring plan that will lead to the opening of a new emergency site for Indigenous Venezuelans, called "Tauranoko". Dialogue with the community has already proven to be successful, as partners responded positively to the main concerns expressed by the communities regarding the new shelter infrastructure and redesigned some key components of the facility, including an entry area and communal kitchens. The new shelter will provide for more dignified reception conditions, in line with international humanitarian standards, while also reflecting cultural practices and other social dynamics of indigenous refugees and migrants from Venezuela.

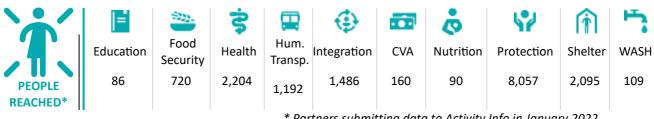
In Pacaraima, R4V partners installed an access control system at the BV-8 Transit Center, increasing refugees and migrant's safety inside the shelter. The new system requires the presentation of a key card at entry and exit points, which also allows for better monitoring of the reception space.

WASH

- R4V partners launched and distributed a booklet indicating the location of public bathrooms, showers, and laundry facilities in Pacaraima and Boa Vista. These facilities are free of charge and available for use by refugees, migrants and the host community. Efforts are being conducted to widely disseminate this Communicating with Communities (CwC) material, especially with new arrivals, who find themselves in vulnerable situations.
- R4V partners responded to the water quality concerns of around 11,000 refugees and migrants in Boa Vista's and Pacaraima's shelters and spontaneous settlements through a series of related actions: water storage tank cleaning; cleaning and disinfection of drinking water taps; replacement of water tap filters, including activated carbon filters; and testing for residual chlorine. In Pacaraima, the testing of water quality in shelters, open spaces and the military base, was conducted in the framework of the "Vigiagua" programme, implemented jointly by the state of Roraima and R4V partners.
- To support community centers that provide assistance to refugees, migrants and affected host communities, R4V partners distributed almost 1,000) hygiene kits. Recipients of these items include a shelter managed by the Social Development Department of Palmas, Tocantins state, which is housing Warao families, and the Reception and Integration Center "Casa Resgate" in Campo Grande (Mato Grosso do Sul state). The donations are intended to complement the support that is provided by these municipalities to meet the basic needs of Warao indigenous groups as well as beneficiaries of the Interiorization Strategy of the Federal Government.

### R4V Brazil Platform Partners

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<sup>\*</sup> Partners submitting data to Activity Info in January 2022.