



Indigenous Warao produce handicrafts at the Pintolândia shelter in Boa Vista.

UNHCR Operation Fact Sheet in the State of Pará

Since April 1st, 2019 the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has been present in the State of Pará with the aim to support Municipal and State authorities to strengthen the emergency response for the arrival of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, especially indigenous Warao from Venezuela. Since then, UNHCR has been working closely with local partners, both in Belém and Santarém, in three axes of action: *Advocacy*, *Technical Support on Emergency Response* and *Capacity Building* on refugee protection.

It's estimated the presence of 800 Waraos as asylum seekers in the State of Pará, accommodated in municipal and state shelters as well as in private housing. The total number of Venezuelans in Pará is unknown given the high level of mobility among the group and the geographic dimension and characteristics of the State. In addition, non-indigenous Venezuelans demand less support from public services and tend to live in private housings, which poses a challenge for local authorities to identify their location. As there isn't a systematic data collection capacity or a state-wide database, the obtention of more accurate data remains challenge. Estimates are based primarily on the number of PoCs residing in shelters managed by various state and municipal actors.

Belém is a river city and most refugees and migrants arrive here by boat after reaching Manaus by road. Venezuelans, especially indigenous Waraos, come to the State of Pará for different reasons, some come in search of better living conditions, looking for shelter and work opportunities, and many come to reunite with family members who are already in Pará. Loss of documentation during this journey is common and slows down the registration process, sometimes leading to duplication of asylum requests and multiple vaccinations in different localities

The most urgent needs of indigenous asylum seekers from Venezuela in the State of Pará relates to access to adequate shelter and WASH (Water, Sanitation and Health). However, there are specific protection risks linked to the high rate of separated/unaccompanied children and adolescents as well as to their specificities as an indigenous group. In response to that UNHCR has prioritized to build the capacity of local actors on the matter of refugee protection, relevant legal framework and emergency response (on the sectors of coordination, shelter, documentation and health). UNHCR is also advocating at local, regional and federal level for a greater involvement of indigenous and indigenists organizations in the humanitarian response to indigenous Venezuelans as to ensure a culturally appropriate approach.

Estimated Number of indigenous Warao in Brazil

3,783

Estimated Number of indigenous Warao in the state of Pará



Estimated Number of indigenous Warao in Belém



Estimated Number of indigenous Warao in Santarém



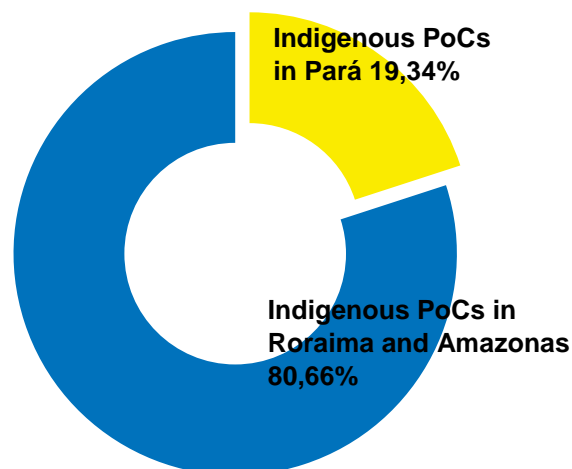
Estimated Number non-indigenous Venezuelans in Pará



*This is an estimation provided by civil society Organizations on the basis of referrals done since 2017. There hasn't been yet any demographic study on the presence of non-indigenous venezuelans in the state of Pará

JULY 2019

Where are the they?



Requests

Estimated Number of refugees and migrants Venezuelans in Brazil



Estimated Number of Venezuelans refugee requests in Brazil



Estimated Number of Venezuelans with temporary or permanent residence permit in Brazil



Partners

- State Secretariat of Justice and Human Rights (SEJUDH)
- State Secretariat of Social Assistance and Labor (SEASTER)
Municipal Secretariat of Social Assistance of Belém (FUNPAPA)
- Municipal Secretariat of Labor and Social Assistance of Santarém (SEMTRAS)
- Civil Society (Cáritas, Só Direitos, Venezuelanos Belém)
- Federal and State Public Prosecutor's Office (MPF/MPPE)
- Federal Public Defender's Office (DPU)
- Brazil's Bar Association (OAB)
- University of Pará (UFPA)
- UNICEF and UNDP.

Main Activities

APRIL - AUGUST 2019

▪ Advocacy

- Invitation of 11 representatives from the State of Pará to Boa Vista and Pacaraima to introduce the delegation to perspectives of emergency response and promote the exchange of good practices. This activity was executed in partnership with UNICEF;
- Conduction of 3 trainings on UNHCR's mandate and International Refugee Law to the Secretary of State of Justice and Human Rights (SEJUDH), the State Commission on Human Trafficking (COETRAE) and the Municipal Secretariats of Health, Education and Social Assistance, reaching over 250 people;
- Meeting of UNHCR's Supply Unit with the private market, unions and commerce chambers regarding UNHCR's mandate, procurement and administrative procedures. UNHCR also sensitized the private market about the local migratory context, challenges and opportunity areas for cooperation in order to support the response being implemented by government authorities, especially in the realms of local integration and livelihoods;
- Sensitization of Educational Institutions about the Sérgio Vieira de Melo Chair. Meetings were held with University of Amazonia (UNAMA), Federal University of Pará (UFPA) and Faculdade FIBRA. In June, UFPA launched a special selection programme for refugees, asylum seekers, migrants, stateless persons and victims of trafficking with the aim of fostering the social inclusion and local integration of groups with specific needs/vulnerabilities. From 2020, the University will provide two additional vacancies in each of its graduation courses. UNHCR held a meeting with the Rector to congratulate him for the initiative and to advocate for the inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers in extension projects currently being implemented at the University. Conversations with the University about the subject are ongoing;
- UNHCR raised awareness about the rights and duties of refugees and asylum seekers and their access to the National System of Social Assistance (SUAS) at the National Meeting of the Collegiates of Municipal Managers of Social Assistance (CONGEMAS) which took place in August. The 3-days event gathered almost 2.000 participants and represented an unique opportunity to reach out to managers who were already receiving Venezuelans in their municipalities but lacked quality information on how to provide adequate assistance to this public, especially to indigenous Venezuelans.. In this opportunity, UNHCR launched an *Informative Note to Municipalities on Spontaneous Arrivals of Venezuelans*, produced in partnership with the Ministry of Citizenship. The Note was discussed with and distributed to representatives of Secretariats of Social Assistances from different municipalities of Brazil, especially from the North and Northeast regions. Over 10.000 booklets on refugee protection and emergency response were distributed;
- In August, UNHCR sensitized 50 persons, among students, professors and public servants about the importance of affirmative actions for the social and educational inclusion of refugees in Brazil on the National Seminar on Diversity, Accessibility and Inclusion conducted at the Federal University of Pará (UFPA). At the opportunity, UNHCR presented the study on the *Socio-Economic Profile of Refugees in Brazil* as well as the contribution of a number of Brazilian Universities to the local integration of refugees through the Sérgio Vieira de Melo Chair.

- Conduction of a Seminar in August in partnership with the State Secretary of Justice and Human Rights (SEJUDH) and the National Committee for Refugees (CONARE) to launch “Refúgio em Números” and UNHCR’s dashboard. A total of 70 participants attended the Seminar;
- **Documentation and Registration**
 - Dissemination of informative material about access to documentation, legal framework for asylum/migration, federal resolutions and ordinances, guidelines on unaccompanied/separated children to the local authorities (Secretaries of Social Assistance, Federal and State Public Prosecutor’s Office, Public Defender’s Office, Federal Police) of the municipalities of Belém, Santarém, Parauapebas and Monte Alegre.
 - Technical support provided to the Secretary of Social Assistance of the Municipality of Belém (FUNPAPA) during a registration activity conducted in July aiming at collecting baseline information concerning the Waraos in Belém and registering them at Cadastro Único. Invited by the Municipality, UNHCR participated of the exercise for two days, having made suggestions to the registration form and referral needs;
 - Conduction of workshops in Belém and Santarém in August in partnership with the State Secretary of Justice and Human Rights (SEJUDH) and the National Committee for Refugees (CONARE) on access to the asylum procedure and the implementation of SISCONARE. The two events gathered a total of 70 representatives, including municipal and state authorities, public servants at the technical level, the judiciary (Federal and State Prosecutor’s Office, Federal Public Defender’s Union, Brazilian Bar Association), the academia (UFPA, UEPA, UFOPA) and the civil society.
- **Shelter**
 - Technical support provided to municipalities on emergency shelter through the distribution of relevant informative material on shelter management, conviviality rules and SoPs for the distribution of food and Non-food items.
 - Two visits of UNHCR’s shelter specialist to Belém and one mission to Santarém to evaluate shelter sites following the invitation of local authorities. As a result UNHCR developed the layout of the new spaces according to international shelter standards and best practices;
 - Training on shelter reallocation methodology to the shelter coordinator and technical team at Santarém. The training included simulation and the production of tailored informative material compiling instructions and a step-by-step guide on how to conduct the exercise. As a result, Santarém’s team was able to lead the transference activity of 200 indigenous Venezuelans successfully, guaranteeing their safety and preventing conflict;
- **Health**
 - Distribution in June of kitchen sets (including cooking and dining utensils) and hygiene kits (containing shampoos, soaps, toothpastes, deodorants, pads and diapers) to 200 persons of concern in Santarém;

Contact Information



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