Refugee arrivals supported by the CRISP

In 2021, there were 97 refugee arrivals supported by the CRISP. In Argentina, four Eritrean refugees were resettled on emergency grounds in July 2021. UNHCR’s partner Agencia Adventista de Desarrollo y Recursos Asistenciales (ADRA) has been tasked to provide integration support.

In August 2021, one Venezuelan refugee was resettled from Trinidad and Tobago on urgent grounds to Uruguay. He was reunited with two family members shortly after. UNHCR and its partner Servicio Ecueménico para la Dignidad Humana (SEDHU) are providing integration support.

Between October and December 2021, 90 persons accepted under the humanitarian visa scheme for Afghans travelled from Pakistan to Brazil. IOM provided support with the airline tickets, embarkation, transit, arrival assistance and with admission procedures. Pre-Embarkation Checks (PECs), polio and measles, mumps and rubella vaccines, and COVID-19 tests were also provided.

These arrivals are receiving integration support either from sponsors and/or from the civil society organization, Missão em Apoio à Igreja Sofredora (MAIS), as well as the City of Cascavel in coordination with a network of organizations under the Brazil-Afghanistan Coalition.

Publication:
The global mapping report was published in September, 2021.
Read it here!
In focus: Capacity building activities

Regional workshop on good practices

A virtual workshop was held on 27-28 July, to allow States to share experiences, exchange good practices and lessons learnt in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of resettlement programmes and complementary pathways for admission in the region.

Government officials from Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay participated, as well as officials from Italy and Portugal who were invited to share their experiences of implementing resettlement during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a follow-up, participants requested more information on remote interviewing modalities.

How does the GROW pilot in Argentina work?

Suitable donors are identified and mobilized from the UNHCR National Partner’s constituency (Fundacion ACNUR, Comite Argentino). The selected donors are engaged as volunteer mentors to provide hands-on and practical reception and integration support for resettled refugees. Mentors are carefully selected, security vetted, trained and matched with refugees. Private sector fundraising by the National Partner will be utilised to fill gaps in existing integration programmes and services. During the first phase of the pilot, three families will be supported for 12 months.

During the second half of 2021, UNHCR and its National Partner, Fundacion ACNUR, Comite Argentino, identified and selected 15 suitable volunteer mentors from its national donor base. The selected mentors underwent a training during November and December 2021.

This UNHCR-led training also included presentations by the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Settlement Services International (SSI), IOM and the Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative (GRSI). Members of the Argentine Support Network for Community Refugee Sponsorship were also invited to share their experiences of sponsoring refugees under the Programa Siria.
In view of COVID-19, some States have introduced the use of remote interview modalities for resettlement processing. Despite the pandemic, Sweden was able to resettle over 5,000 refugees thanks to remote interviews in 2021. On 9 November 2021, an official from the Swedish Migration Agency was invited to speak about Sweden’s experience with conducting remote interviews. Officials from Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay attended the meeting. Participants were given an opportunity to debate the benefits and challenges of conducting virtual selection interviews.

Brazil technical support: Humanitarian visas for Afghans

In September 2021, Brazil introduced a humanitarian visa for Afghan nationals, stateless persons, and persons affected by the situation of serious or imminent institutional instability, serious violation of human rights, or international humanitarian law in Afghanistan. UNHCR and IOM are providing technical support to interested civil society organizations (CSOs) and associations that are sponsoring Afghan nationals who enter under this humanitarian visa scheme. Technical support has been provided mainly in relation to:

- designing assistance and integration plans;
- establishing local partnerships with host communities and local governments;
- managing of expectations; and
- monitoring and evaluation plans.

In coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, technical support is also being provided to the Brazilian Magistrate Association (AMB) that is sponsoring the integration of eight Afghan women judges and their families (approximately 30 persons in total).

Argentina: Publication on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

In September 2021, IOM Argentina launched the "Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Manual for the Care of the Migrant and Refugee Population in Argentina" via an online event, attended by 50 participants. The Manual includes a series of capacity building activities. Based on the manual, IOM Argentina will develop a training module for government officials and practitioners, civil society organizations, refugee and migrant communities.

The Manual covers:

- community-based mental health approaches;
- international context and priorities in regional and national contexts;
- the intercultural and intersectional approaches on access to health services,
- MHPSS during integration processes; and
- the impact of the pandemic.

You can access the Manual here.
Argentina: Spanish language courses for resettled refugees

UNHCR has entered into an agreement with the Language Laboratory (Laboratorio de Idiomas) of the University of Buenos Aires (UBA) for the provision of Spanish classes to resettled refugees.

The University has also instituted a virtual learning schedule utilizing a task-based approach and methodology aimed at developing the skills and autonomy of students.

Uruguay: Development of health protocol and PDO material

Health Protocol
In light of resettlement arrivals in Uruguay during 2021, IOM Uruguay has been working on a Health Protocol with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health which will be finalized in January 2022. As an essential step in the health check process, the protocol includes testing for COVID-19.

The protocol will be available in English and Spanish.

Finalization of Pre-Departure Orientation materials
In coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, IOM Uruguay is developing Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO) documents for incoming refugees. The PDO will provide information on rights, duties, as well as basic services and access to State resources and organizations. The PDO aspires to be comprehensive and useful for refugees arriving at the country, as well as other migrants when needed. In 2022, IOM will also use this information to develop and improve Uruguay’s profile and information in the global IOM App, MigApp.

PDO materials will be available in English and Spanish.

Update: Mental health and psychosocial support in Brazil

In July 2021, IOM Brazil released the mapping of civil society organizations that provide mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to refugees and migrants. The results of the mapping were taken into consideration in the development of an online training on MHPSS in partnership with the Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP). 25 health professionals and practitioners from civil society organizations have undergone the training which covers key concepts, challenges, and best practices for strengthening MHPSS assistance. The training materials will be launched in 2022 in the format of a Guide on MHPSS in Brazil and will be made widely available to other practitioners.

Access the mapping here.

The CRISP is supported by the following donors:

Portugal United States of America

Links
CRISP website
GCR in action
Three-Year Strategy

UNHCR
Rue de Montbrillant 94, 1201 Geneva Switzerland
+41 22 739 8111 dipcrisp@unhcr.org www.unhcr.org

IOM
Route des Morillons 17, 1211 Geneva Switzerland
+41 22 717 9111 rmm@iom.int www.iom.int