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Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement 2022

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Arrivals supported in 2022

During the first half of 2022, CRISP supported a total of 110 refugees received by Brazil (92), Argentina (16) and Uruguay (2). Since the beginning of the project, a total of 221 refugees received CRISP support. IOM provided pre-departure and movement support which included international and domestic airline tickets, pre-migration health activities, vaccinations, COVID-19 testing, as well as immigration and customs facilitation. Afghans supported by the CRISP receive accommodation and integration support from civil society organizations in Brazil.
**Protection monitoring of Afghan humanitarian visa holders in Brazil**

Since the establishment of the humanitarian visa for Afghans, stateless persons, and persons affected by the situation in Afghanistan in September 2021, there has been an increase of arrivals to Brazil. According to official figures, approximately 5,000 visas have been issued by Brazilian embassies in countries such as Pakistan, Iran and Türkiye. The CRISP has supported with the movement of 191 Afghans to Brazil, whose integration is provided by local NGOs.

With the support of the CRISP, a field mission to São Paulo and surrounding areas was conducted by UNHCR between 4-7 July to undertake a needs assessment regarding the situation of Afghans in Brazil and monitor their protection situation. This monitoring exercise was conducted for Afghans not moved by the CRISP to Brazil. Through site visits to shelters and support spaces, as well as consultations with refugee focal groups, local authorities and NGOs providing support to refugees, the main challenges faced by the newcomers were identified. UNHCR is in the process of mobilizing stakeholders to enhance existing capacities to better respond to the refugees' needs.

**Development of outreach materials**

CRISP supported the drafting and translation into Pashto and Dari of materials regarding accessing rights in Brazil and the main services available for the new arrivals. Translation to Pashto and Dari of existing Communication with Communities material was also supported. The material covered topics such as accessing documentation and how to apply for asylum, accessing social benefits and other topics of interest to refugees was also supported.

The communications materials were disseminated digitally, via email, through uploading on UNHCR’s Help platform, as well as by WhatsApp.

**Intercultural communication workshop**

In May 2022, IOM Brazil and the Ministry of Justice and Public Security (MJSP), through the General Coordination of the National Committee for Refugees (CG-Conare), held a workshop on Intercultural Communication. Participants included 20 employees from host organizations in Curitiba and Jundiaí, in addition to employees and volunteers from the Mission in Support of the Suffering Church (MAIS). The workshop was targeted at practitioners supporting with the reception of Afghan arrivals. It presented tools to welcome new arrivals that take into consideration linguistic and cultural barriers, individual vulnerabilities and common difficulties experienced upon arrival. The workshop publication is available here.

**Technical support for Afghan cultural mediators**

Upon arrival in a new country, refugees need to navigate various practical tasks in an unfamiliar environment. Supportive relationships with members of established refugee and diaspora communities can often help refugees to build their connections with the receiving community. Through these connections they can access other important integration resources such as employment, volunteering opportunities and a broader social network, as well as opportunities to participate in wider community activities. Afghan arrivals in Brazil have been facing significant language and cultural barriers upon their arrival. Moreover, there is no established diaspora in the country to support with immediate integration. This situation is making integration difficult due to the absence of a network that can share their experiences and advise on solutions.

Under the CRISP, UNHCR is providing support to one of its implementing partners in São Paulo, Caritas, to train and build the capacity of Afghan cultural mediators. The aim is to foster the creation and development of new social and mutual support network, and to assist the newcomers in accessing immediate assistance and the enjoyment of rights.
Workshops on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

Regional workshop - In May 2022, a joint workshop was held by IOM Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay on MHPSS with the participation of 25 government officials from the region. The workshop addressed MHPSS during the resettlement process, including good practices and challenges faced by migrants and refugees.

IOM Brazil presented the results of a mapping of civil society organizations providing MHPSS to refugees and migrants, created as a result of feedback from 53 organizations in the country. The mapping aims to identify ways to improve MHPSS to migrants and refugees in Brazil and to gather a comprehensive overview of the work of these organizations.

IOM Argentina presented the main activities regarding MHPSS that were developed in recent years, highlighting the development of the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Manual for the Care of the Migrant and Refugee Population in the Argentine Republic, launched in 2021. This material is used at the national level to facilitate workshops for counterparts involved in migration issues, as well as for professionals who provide MHPSS services to the migrant and refugee population. A mapping of institutions providing MHPSS in Argentina was also shared as part of these discussions.

Argentina - In April 2022, IOM Argentina conducted Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) workshops based on the manual developed under CRISP to support migrants and refugees in Argentina. Ten workshops were conducted (in-person and virtually) with the attendance of 189 participants including governmental officials, mental health professionals, and refugee and migrant communities.

Participants were trained on community-based mental health approaches, intercultural and intersectional approaches on access to health services, and MHPSS during the integration processes. Positive feedback was received from the participants with regards to increased technical knowledge on MHPSS. IOM Argentina also conducted a mapping of institutions providing MHPSS to migrants and refugees in different languages. Over 70 institutions, in 8 provinces were included.

The training video is available here.

Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework Support Platform

The Governments of Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay participated in a special event on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways convened by Canada who is the Chair of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework Support Platform (MIRPS_PS). The goal of the event was to share promising practices on Canada’s resettlement programme and community sponsorship scheme with Southern Cone governments, especially Brazil and Uruguay. Additionally, the government representative from Argentina participated in a panel on Community Mobilization and Welcome, presenting their experience of implementing the community sponsorship scheme as well as the GROW pilot. Insights were also provided on plans for the regional promotion of community sponsorship and possible replication in Uruguay.

The government representative from Brazil participated in a panel on local integration policies and practices in the Americas, presenting their interiorization strategy – which voluntarily relocates Venezuelan refugees and migrants from border states to other parts of the country.
GROW: Refugee arrivals to Argentina

The first three refugee families (16 persons) were resettled to Argentina in April 2022, under the support of GROW: growing solutions and funding for refugees. The GROW pilot in Argentina is led by UNHCR and enables suitable donors to be 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 to the refugee families. Mentors are carefully selected, security vetted, trained and matched with refugees. Private sector fundraising by the National Partner is utilized to fill gaps in existing integration programmes and services.

The CRISP is supporting strategic capacity building aspects of GROW, including provision of technical assistance to the government authorities in the design of the pilot. CRISP has also supported with pre-departure arrangements and movement. The families are currently being supported with the integration process by the volunteer mentors, UNHCR and a protection NGO.

Mentors have been supporting the families with orientation and in their adjustment to life in Buenos Aires. Currently, the families are learning Spanish and are being supported on economic literacy and development of micro enterprises.

Portugal: Delivery of CRISP Training for authorities

The CRISP training package, which was initially developed in 2020, was delivered to officials from the Government of Portugal between 22 March and 21 April. Consisting of six sessions, the course targeted state practitioners from the Immigration and Borders Service (SEF) and the High Commission for Migration (ACM).

UNHCR Global Learning and Development Centre (GLDC) provided logistical support and facilitation for the virtual delivery. Participants were also given access to UNHCR’s learning platform, in order to complete the e-Learning course on Protection.

Each session was tailored to the Portuguese context in coordination with IOM and UNHCR country offices in Portugal. Aspects covered during the training included resettlement and complementary pathways, refugee identification, state adjudication and selection missions, movement management and preparations, pre-migration health activities, pre-departure orientations, psychosocial approach and effective communication, data protection and working with interpreters.

The CRISP is supported by the following donors:

Portugal

United States of America

Links

CRISP website
GCR in action
Third Country Solutions for Refugees: Roadmap 2030

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