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# ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF VULNERABLE NATIONALS FROM VENEZUELA IN BRAZIL

USAID supports the International Organization for Migration’s (IOM) “Economic Integration of Vulnerable Nationals from Venezuela” activity in Brazil.

## HOW DOES THE ACTIVITY WORK?

The “Economic Integration of Vulnerable Nationals from Venezuela” activity supports the Government of Brazil’s “interiorization” program which relocates willing Venezuelan’s migrants and refugees from the remote border region of Roraima State to larger population centers. The purpose of this activity is to provide Venezuelan migrants with access to sustainable livelihoods, housing, and basic services including health and education, by matching them with destination communities where the basic elements of socio-economic integration can be met.

The activity has two primary objectives: a) The economic integration of Venezuelan nationals through facilitated access to formal employment and enhanced access to livelihood opportunities; and b) The social integration of Venezuelan nationals by strengthening access to rights and services that advance their social inclusion.

## ACHIEVED RESULTS

The Project is present in five states (São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Santa Catarina, Paraná, and Rio Grande do Sul) and the Federal District. It has as leading lines of action the training of refugees and migrants, strengthening entrepreneurship, promoting their employment, and guaranteeing access to rights. Since the beginning of the Project in December 2019, they have been provided opportunities for sustainable socio-economic integration for more than 17,897 refugees and migrants. The significant results within the period were:

- **Qualification and professional training in various areas:** 5,242 migrants (2,162 men; 2,935 women; 145 others – survey in progress) participated in business management, marketing, graphic design, IT, administrative assistant, agriculture, industry, HR assistant, among others.
- **Entrepreneurship:** IOM supported diversified business development by migrants and ensured specialized mentoring for business plan development and financial support through seed capital for 2,575 migrants (328 men; 2,245 women; 2 others) to start or accelerate their businesses.
- **Portuguese courses:** In conjunction with implementing partners, IOM developed teaching solutions of Portuguese in virtual and face-to-face formats at primary and intermediate levels. Over 4,600 (1,393 men; 1,502 women; 1,705 others – survey in progress) beneficiaries participated.
- **Employability:** The IOM sensitized private sector actors to the benefits of hiring migrants and actively searched for vacancies for the labor insertion of refugees and migrants, which resulted in 2,287 formal employments (1,366 men; 918 women; 3 others) in the states of Paraná, Santa Catarina, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Sul, Federal District, and São Paulo.

Throughout its work for the economic integration of migrants, the IOM is concerned with building equal opportunities for women, youth, the LGBTQIA+ community, and indigenous peoples. Concerning migrant indigenous people, the IOM is supporting communities to learn Portuguese and develop new professional skills to be better prepared to enter the Brazilian labor market.

IOM has held webinars, courses and has launched platforms, booklets, lectures, and online seminars to educate the private sector on the legal requirements related to hiring Venezuelan migrants as well as the considerable skills and talents this community has to offer. IOM has also strengthened the capacities of key actors, including private, public and NGOs, working on the social and economic inclusion of migrants in the six targeted states.

## PROJECT INFORMATION

**IMPLEMENTER:** International Organization for Migration (IOM)

**COMPONENT DURATION:** December 1, 2019 – May 31, 2022

**USAID FUNDING:** \$4,000,000

**LOCATION:** Brazil (Federal District, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, and São Paulo)

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