



## CASE STUDY

**INDIGENOUS CULTURAL AND TRAINING CENTRE - CCFI**  
*RORAIMA HUMANITARIAN MISSION*



*BOA VISTA (RORAIMA), BRAZIL*

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# 1- introduction

The economic and social crisis in Venezuela has led to the forced migration of thousands of people to Brazil, most of whom have entered and are concentrated in the Northern Region of the country. A large part of this population is made up of extended families of indigenous peoples, mainly of the Warao, Pemon, and E'ñepa ethnic groups, with a smaller proportion of the Akawaio and Karinã ethnic groups.

The Brazilian economic and social reality, and more specifically that of the state of Roraima and the municipalities of Boa Vista and Pacaraima, presents great limitations to properly addressing the issue and inserting these people into society. The local job market cannot absorb the demand for employability, and the specific demands of its various sectors do not allow access to the majority of these indigenous people, who present varying levels of schooling and professionalization, and many have low levels of education, little or no training and little or no professional experience.

This reality requires the planning and execution of effective and lasting solutions, with articulation among organizations, in a participatory manner that respects indigenous, ethnic and family peculiarities, as well as the specific demands of gender, age, health issues, and special needs, as indicated in the protocols of the Sphere Handbook: Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards for Humanitarian Response<sup>1</sup>.

The Fraternity – International Humanitarian Federation (FFHI), through its affiliate Fraternity – International Humanitarian Missions (FMHI), in operation at the Roraima Humanitarian Mission, has developed the Indigenous Cultural and Training Centre (CCFI), to concretely contribute to the autonomy of these peoples, integrating professional training, cultural enhancement and human development.

The Roraima Humanitarian Mission consists of a permanent mission that has been active since 2016 in response to the Venezuelan refugee population in Brazil. It began with an emergency approach to protection and meeting basic needs, moving progressively to building and implementing, together with the affected populations, lasting solutions.

This Case Study is dedicated to analyzing the actions being developed by the CCFI to visualize its actions and reflect on its results, challenges, and lessons learned, as well as to understand the importance of jointly building lasting solutions that can serve as a reference for other migratory situations.

It initially presents the scenario context - Chapter two - to provide a better understanding of its complexity and the decisions involved in this humanitarian response. Chapter three presents the experiences of the intervention sectors, explaining the applied strategies to achieve the objectives in these different sectors. Chapter four contains stories of impact, showing examples of those who have undergone transformative trajectories and achieved autonomy with the support of such initiatives.

Chapter five refers to the main outcomes and their indicators, enabling the visibility of the repercussions achieved along the trajectory.

The narrative ends with reflections on the lessons learned through this process - Chapter five - to expand it to potential future scenarios.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.fraterinternacional.org/en/the-sphere-handbook-we-have-responsibility/>

## 2- context

The escalation of the Venezuelan socio-economic crisis has caused a growing population migration to other Latin American countries, and Brazil receives the fifth largest population of these refugees and migrants, currently consisting of more than 300,000 people, according to official estimates<sup>2</sup>.

Major shortcomings occur in food security difficulties and overload of health services, in addition to the limitations of the labor market in absorbing this population. The context of vulnerability not only remains, but also increases due to other factors linked to the profile of these refugees, especially the indigenous population, with characteristics such as lack of knowledge of the Portuguese language, difficulty in resolving issues of documentation, and access to health services, education, rights, and social assistance; obstacles in the validation of Venezuelan diplomas; insufficient approach to training opportunities; low self-esteem, little self-confidence, and little incentive to seek new ways of life.

The reception of the refugee population in the state of Roraima occurred through the official creation of eleven shelters in Boa Vista and two in Pacaraima, which have been managed since 2018 by the Brazilian Armed Forces through its Humanitarian Logistics Task Force and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), through Operation Reception<sup>3</sup> – Brazilian response to the migratory flow. The current reality, as of September 2022, is summed up in six shelters, three of which are for the indigenous population. These spaces were created to meet temporary demands, but have assumed aspects of a permanent solution for the majority of the indigenous refugee population, despite not offering sufficient qualitative conditions for the development of autonomy and independence, leaving the population dependent on humanitarian responses. In addition to the difficulty in leaving this situation, this refugee population is growing exponentially, making shelters insufficient to meet the demand.

Since the beginning of its operations, the Fraternity – Humanitarian Missions<sup>4</sup> contemplated, in the specificity of its response to the migrant indigenous population, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples<sup>5</sup> and the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples<sup>6</sup>. The Fraternity – Humanitarian Missions (FMHI) has also consolidated partnerships for the development of an articulated action that meets the needs of these people and contributes to their autonomy. The initial articulation was mainly with the local government, being later extended to the Brazilian federal government in adherence to Operation Welcome (since 2018). Between 2017 and 2021, the response was developed in partnership with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in the management of five shelters.

Contemplating the indigenous rights to receive clarifications in their mother tongues, two members of the communities were involved to translate basic information into Warao and E'ñepa languages, allowing the elaboration of multilingual informative materials in these indigenous languages, in addition to Portuguese and Spanish, including booklets on general information, health and coexistence norms in the shelters. To meet the shelters' demands in a participatory manner, the Fraternity – Humanitarian Missions (FMHI) also worked on the organization and training of committees of specific areas, such as the Health Committee and the Education and Culture Committee, for participatory discussions, referrals, and decision-making on issues related to these topics.

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<sup>2</sup><https://www.r4v.info/pt/document/analise-conjunta-de-necessidades-jna-brasil2021>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.gov.br/casacivil/pt-br/acolhida>

<sup>4</sup>[http://portal.iphan.gov.br/uploads/ckfinder/arquivos/Convencao\\_169\\_OIT.pdf](http://portal.iphan.gov.br/uploads/ckfinder/arquivos/Convencao_169_OIT.pdf)

<sup>5</sup>[https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfi/documents/DRIPS\\_pt.pdf](https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfi/documents/DRIPS_pt.pdf)

<sup>6</sup><http://observatorio.direitosocioambiental.org/publicacoes/materiais-didaticos/declaracao-americana-sobre-direitos-dos-povos-indigenas-organizacao-dos-estados-americanos-oea/>

Given the need for action based on cultural and ethnic specificities to meet the demands, a diagnosis was developed and conducted through anthropological consultancy. The anthropological advisor dedicated himself to a more detailed study of the characteristics of these ethnic groups, concerning various aspects, such as cosmology, culture, education, ways of life, family relationship, history, and migratory issues. Specific opinions were developed on issues such as food, alcoholism, and the LGBT+ population. Based on this anthropological advice, in 2020 a diagnosis was carried out to identify the educational and labor profile<sup>7</sup>, covering issues such as level of education, previous work experience, courses taken, certifications, and training topics they would like to attend.

The decision to create the Indigenous Cultural and Training Centre (CCFI) was based on all these studies and considerations, together with a process of monitoring and evaluation, outlining the challenges of the context, as well as the wishes, demands, potentials, and specific characteristics of the affected populations.

## 3- the experiences of the sectors of intervention and the humanitarian standards

The method of operating with indigenous populations applied in the Roraima Humanitarian Mission was built based on the diagnosis<sup>8</sup> developed together with the anthropological consultancy, also considering the learning curve in the trajectory of coexistence with these peoples and the collective process of building solutions to face the challenges. The methodological base includes an intercultural perspective, which considers the connection between two important objectives: socioeconomic integration and cultural preservation. Furthermore, it contemplates a multi-ethnic approach, in the sense of integrating different ethnic groups, valuing and respecting their peculiarities. Another important characteristic refers to the participative approach, centered on the individual and collective demands, potentialities, and responsibilities, actively involving the affected populations and strengthening leadership to act as mediators.

Based on these foundations, a set of methodological strategies was developed to expand the possibilities and opportunities for social, economic, and educational integration, reconstruction of livelihoods, recognition of potential, and creation of conditions for its expression. These objectives are assumed by different sectors of intervention of the Fraternity – Humanitarian Missions (FMHI), which develop specific programs of action but act in an integrated and articulated manner. Below is a description of the activities of each sector of intervention in the CCFI.

### 3.1- livelihoods and lasting solutions

The FIHM Livelihoods and Lasting Solutions Sector of intervention implement actions to develop, strengthen and improve livelihoods that provide the populations, social organizations, and communities with the necessary conditions for the sustainability of their lives. Based on the guarantee of fundamental rights and the promotion of dignity that alleviates suffering. This program favors the continuity of development so that they can finally build and reach lasting solutions where they no longer require assistance or protection.

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<sup>7</sup>[https://www.missoeshumanitarias.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Relatorio\\_socioeconomico\\_indigena\\_Roraima.pdf](https://www.missoeshumanitarias.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Relatorio_socioeconomico_indigena_Roraima.pdf)

<sup>8</sup>[https://www.acnur.org/portugues/wpcontent/uploads/2021/03/Relatorio\\_socioeconomico\\_indigena\\_Roraima.pdf](https://www.acnur.org/portugues/wpcontent/uploads/2021/03/Relatorio_socioeconomico_indigena_Roraima.pdf)

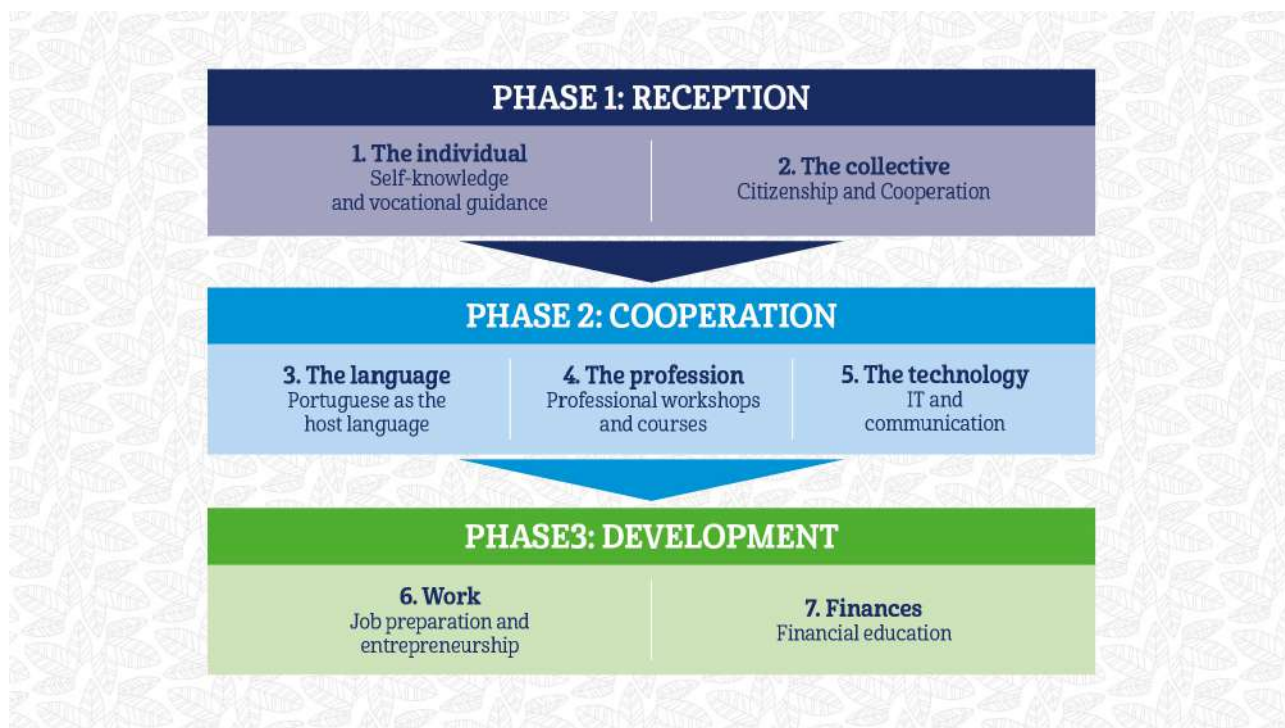


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The CCFI was developed from this perspective, i.e., aiming to offer effective responses in the promotion of socio-economic autonomy in a manner to also lead them to realize the link to human development. The CCFI provides training, the possibility of generating income, and social integration, in association with cultural strengthening, empowerment, and improved self-confidence. The training courses are selected by integrating market demands, existing skills, and individual interests detected through diagnosis.

A pedagogical follow-up is developed with mediation between students and teachers, always considering the cultural and ethnic characteristics of the participants. In addition to a comprehensive program of courses and workshops, the CCFI site offers space for a wide range of activities, such as meetings of representatives and leaders of the communities living in humanitarian shelters as well as Brazilian Indian ethnic groups; meetings of health and education committees; interdisciplinary and inter-institutional seminars; use of space and physical structure for courses from other institutions; and events open to the public, such as fairs with cultural presentations to raise awareness, disseminate information, mitigate xenophobia, and exhibit their products and services.

The observation of the demands and the dialogue with the indigenous peoples allowed the construction of the Continued Training Programme for Development, consisting of three phases: Reception, Capacity Building, and Development.



The welcoming stage involves two items: The Individual (self-knowledge and vocational guidance) and The Collective (citizenship and cooperation).

In the individual, a process of self-knowledge is provided so that each person can identify their interests, skills, dreams, objectives, and goals, developing the self-confidence necessary to achieve their goals with autonomy.

In the collective, topics such as rights, duties, citizenship, collectivity, community, cooperative, associative, and sharing knowledge that has been gained, are approached in a reflective and participatory way. Conversation rounds are also held on networking and solidarity economy.

The Capacity Building phase is composed of three elements: Portuguese learning, as the host language; profession (workshops and vocational courses); and technology (IT and communication).

The language component offers basic and intermediate Portuguese courses in the form of programs aimed at social inclusion, taking advantage of work opportunities, and access to social services and benefits.

The technology component is dedicated to digital inclusion, with basic and intermediate computer training, as well as other activities in the technology and communication areas, enabling access to information focused on achieving their goals, workplace inclusion, and social inclusion.

In the profession, a series of professional courses are made available so that they can choose according to their objectives and affinity with available offerings.

Programs are offered in ten segments that were selected according to the populations' interests (socio-economic diagnosis) and the demands of the local labor market, based on analyses by the National Commercial Apprenticeship Service (SENAC) and the Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare (SETRABES).

The following segments were developed: technology, food, customer service, beauty, clothing and sewing, civil construction, education, cleaning (janitorial), health, and safety.

As alternatives for training for those who do not fit into the category of professional training, activities are carried out in the form of workshops, allowing learning, experimentation, and improvement of trades that can be transformed into individual or collective enterprises. The workshops also constitute contexts in which the trained individual act as a multiplier of knowledge and experiences.

The development phase comprises two components: Work (preparation to access the labor market, and entrepreneurship initiatives). Finance (financial education).

Work - activities aiming at employability and/or entrepreneurship, enabling a broad spectrum of options that can meet interests. Employability is dedicated to preparation for labor and market insertion, development of résumés, business cards, and documentation, orientation about labor laws, rights and responsibilities, interviews, referrals to job vacancies, and a flow of mentoring with information on strategies for finding a place in the market. In addition, continuous guidance is developed to identify obstacles, difficulties, and challenges, as well as the flourishing of new potentials, skills, and interests. To contribute to this process, articulation with local and regional employers is carried out, with informative sessions directed to corporate social responsibility, through the Federation of Industry of the State of Roraima (FIER). The monitoring of job vacancies is continuously developed through a partnership with the SENAC Bank of Opportunities. The Young Apprentice Programme of the Centre for Business-School Integration (CIEE) was also activated.

Entrepreneurship – support and encourage traditional crafts, which is fundamental not only for income generation but also for cultural preservation. This process encompasses the creation and strengthening of groups of women artisans, cultural revival, continuous training, collection of materials, commercialization in fairs, a survey of commercial opportunities outside the municipality, pricing, and determination of added value to the products, follow-up, and supply of materials.

An environmental license was obtained from the Municipal Secretariat of Public Service and Environment for the collection and sustainable use of Buriti straw, one of the main raw materials for making traditional Warao crafts.

In addition to handicrafts, other lines of entrepreneurship are promoted, such as food preparation (bakery, sweets and savories, typical foods), shoe making, and sewing. Courses and continuous training and practice to perfect techniques and improve product quality.

Entrepreneurship training for planning and building business plans to contribute to and monitor individual and collective entrepreneurs. The ongoing monitoring occurs individually and with groups of entrepreneurs, through mentoring and discussions, in addition to the search for opportunities, incentive programs and support for projects, supply of inputs, and the holding of fairs and events to support the commercialization of production.

Still, in the development stage - elements of Financial Education are worked on as a way of visualizing and reflecting on administration tools and resources, financial reserves, developing strategies to manage monetary inflows and outflows, and planning and building a future with quality of life.

Challenges experienced:

- There was no humanitarian response directed towards lasting solutions to the indigenous populations before an unprecedented scenario;
- Dialogue with the indigenous population for community participation in this process;
- Lack of guaranteed financial resources;
- Need for awareness-raising against discrimination and prejudice, among employers, consumers, and society in general.

## 3.2- education in situations of emergencies and humanitarian response

The CCFI's educational design is based on the Inter-Institutional Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE)<sup>9</sup>, particularly the Minimum Requirements for Education: Preparedness, Response, and Reconstruction (RME)<sup>10</sup> guidelines.

The EMRs include education as a fundamental element for humanitarian response, integrated with other aspects, such as health, sanitation, shelter, and food security. They provide quality performances in contexts of crises and emergencies, enabling unification of discourse at the international level, transparency, and

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<sup>9</sup><https://inee.org/pt/sobre-a-inee>

<sup>10</sup><https://inee.org/pt/requisitos-minimos>



greater ease of articulation and cooperation among organizations, in addition to effective contributions to monitoring, evaluation, and accountability processes. They are used as a complement to the Sphere Handbook, adapted to the peculiarities of the context, serving as a very complete and comprehensive guideline. Their organization into domains, requirements, key actions, and guidance notes provides scope and depth, involving the integration of various demands and areas of knowledge, connecting, for example, structural, pedagogical, psychological, political, and legal issues. They address key contemporary educational issues, such as inclusion, diversity, and gender.

The visualization of this set of issues, in a systematized and collectively constructed way, provides guidance and motivation for the continuous construction and evaluation of the educational humanitarian work developed in the CCFI.

In addition to working with other public education institutions - the Teacher Training Centre (CEFORR) of the State Secretariat of Education and Sports (SEED), the Organization of Indigenous Teachers of Roraima (OPIRR), and the Secretariat of Education of the Municipality of Boa Vista - to enable indigenous refugees to have access to their schooling rights, the CCFI has chosen to focus more on non-formal education, on cognitive development integrated with creativity and human values.

Another relevant element in structuring the educational vision of this center for culture and training refers to the Emergency Pedagogy<sup>11</sup>, which has as its central axis the use and appreciation of resources and individual and collective potential, along with the strengthening of strategies for coping with trauma situations that these populations may have experienced or be experiencing, due to all the humanitarian circumstances endured in their native country, during and after migration to Brazil.

Based on this foundation, the CCFI works on human development, strengthening potentialities, expressing creative skills, encouragement of autonomy, self-care, and care for the environment. The artistic expression and the appreciation of the traditional indigenous culture are principles that permeate all its actions, allowing a safe, joyful, and calm welcoming environment, where each individual may feel accepted, respected, encouraged, and recognized as a worthy person, besides having their products, services, skills, experiences, and ideas valued.

To contribute to the education of youth, literacy courses are offered for those aged 13 and up, and vocational courses for those aged 16 and up. The introduction of study routines and practical work brings a new rhythm to the daily lives of participants, contributing to the creation of order and balance, as well as strengthening social skills and memory, concentration, and attention capacities. The CCFI also works by promoting opportunities for creative expressions, such as the Mosaic Workshop, which in addition to encouraging forms of income generation and livelihood construction, acts more deeply and internally in the re-elaboration, reconnection, and re-signification of stories and fragments of life.

The education sector also acts directly in the construction and maintenance of the CCFI's medicinal garden, which provides a place for welcoming, socializing, and connecting with nature, as well as preserving knowledge and practices of traditional indigenous medicine from the various Venezuelan and Brazilian ethnic groups that attend the CCFI.

The educational conception of Emergency Pedagogy is strongly present in the Continuous Development Training Programme, mainly in the welcoming phase, but permeating the whole program, given its approach to the integral development of the human being, in its multiple aspects: physical, mental, emotional, and intuitive. The welcoming phase involves raising the participant's awareness about important

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<sup>11</sup><http://pedagogiadeemergencia.org/>

aspects of personal and collective life, through participative methodologies and the creation of a safe space for experiences and exchanges which contribute to the development of responsibility and autonomy, so that each participant can build their formative process. Elements such as self-knowledge, self-confidence, and resilience are worked on and experienced, to enable the person to identify their skills and interests and to outline their life, personal and professional objectives, becoming the protagonist of their story.

Challenges experienced:

- Difficulty in implementing specific, differentiated, intercultural, and multilingual indigenous school education in Brazil;
- Little preparation of local educational institutions to insert the refugee population in schools, as well as adapting and leveling education for this population;
- Obstacles to validating Venezuelan diplomas in Brazil and lack of proof of education due to the conditions of forced displacement;
- Difficulty in accessing Youth and Adult Education (EJA). Night time and limited commute options;
- Characteristics and content of Brazilian secondary education and the requirements of the National Examination for the Certification of Skills of Youth and Adults are different from the Venezuelan curriculum.

## 3.3- institutional relations, negotiation, and humanitarian dialogue

Humanitarian dialogue is developed with the indigenous community leaders on an ongoing basis, contributing to mediation with other institutions. An important element of this dialogue is the Leadership School, developed in partnership between Fraternity – Humanitarian Missions (FMHI), UNHCR, and the Insikiran Institute of the Federal University of Roraima (UFRR). This school allows the approach of human and indigenous rights, to provide a greater understanding of the Brazilian and world reality, empowerment, and prominence.

In the context of institutional relations, the CCFI has been acting with public institutions, private companies, armed forces, humanitarian and development agencies, indigenous communities, and indigenous organizations, indigenous activists, developing processes of dialogue, articulation, and negotiation, always toward the construction and strengthening of strategies to ensure indigenous access to their rights and responsibilities.

With this purpose in mind, the CCFI has worked with various types of integration formats through formal partnerships and informal agreements, in the various areas and lines of action. It also participates in meetings, seminars, and other events, such as the Seminar on Indigenous Education, which is important for ensuring public policies in this area.

The CCFI case study was selected and presented at the National Workshop on Good Practices for Venezuelan Indigenous Populations in Brazil<sup>12</sup>, promoted by the Municipal Secretariat of Women, Social Assistance and Citizenship (SEMASC), Ministry of Citizenship, and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

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<sup>12</sup><http://blog.mds.gov.br/redesuas/boas-praticas-de-promocao-de-direitos-e-cidadania-da-populacao-indigena-venezuelana-no-brasil/>

The courses in the Training Programme are developed through partnerships with several of the aforementioned actors. For example, literacy projects are carried out with the State Centre for Training of Education Professionals of Roraima (CEFRR), the Federal Institute of Roraima (IFRR), and the Indigenous Missionary Council (CIMI).

Portuguese language courses are developed with the Sérgio Vieira de Melo Chair (CSVM) and the Welcome with Portuguese Center.

Professional courses are promoted through the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and World Vision, which also works with entrepreneurship and employability.

Health committees are organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and Doctors Without Borders (MSF).

Several indigenous organizations participate in the CCFI with cultural and knowledge exchange activities, such as crafts, dance, music, and traditional medicine. Some of these organizations are the Indigenous Council of Roraima (CIR); the Organization of Indigenous Women of Roraima (OMIR); Kapóí - Indigenous Cultural Association of the State of Roraima; the Association of Indigenous Migrants of Roraima (AMIR); and the Group of Indigenous Women Entrepreneurs and Artisans of Boa Vista.

Some organizations contribute with market analysis and job vacancy databases such as the National Industrial Learning Service (SENAI) and the National Employment System (SINE). Other relevant partners are the Salvation Army, which has contributed to the development of Life Plans and psychosocial support; the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), which has invested in entrepreneurial projects; and the Indigenous Department, which supports the organization of handicraft fairs.

Challenges experienced:

- Raising awareness of private companies and educational institutions regarding indigenous issues.
- Building and strengthening Indigenous representation and prominence.

## 3.4- *backoffice* (finance, logistics, communication, human resources, administration)

### Financial

The Financial Sector presented an initial difficulty in attracting resources for this specific cause and proposal of indigenous training, as it was an innovative initiative and an unknown experience, where the results were still uncertain. This led the FIHM-CCFI team to strive even further to be effective, expeditious, and efficient, doing a lot with the little resource available. The performance through partnerships presents itself as an important strategy, as it supplies the financial at the same time that enriches the work and contributes to the strengthening of a network of action.

The effectiveness also occurs in the sense of making the resource reach the affected populations directly, greatly reducing expenses with human resources, management, and administration, considering that all the action is done voluntarily. Thus, the available resources are used to meet the demands of training activities,

such as materials, food, and transportation, as well as seed capital for entrepreneurial initiatives.

### **Logistics**

The logistics required to carry out the CCFI's activities encompass a wide range of components, involving contacts and meetings with the entities offering training, planning and courses organization and operational execution, i.e., purchase and collection of materials, preparation of snacks, organization and maintenance of the CCFI facilities and spaces, advertising, registration, preparation, and granting of certificates.

The spaces are carefully prepared with the necessary materials and equipment, such as computers, projectors, blackboards, brushes, etc. In traditional medicine meetings, the classrooms function as laboratories properly set up for the preparation of medicinal products. The computer room needs to be continuously serviced to maintain the proper functioning of the equipment. The revision and maintenance are also necessary for the specific rooms that function as incubators, such as the industrial kitchen and the sewing workshop.

The advertising of the course offerings is done digitally and in person, with visits to the shelters clarifying all relevant information.

Besides the pedagogical materials, attendance lists and registration forms are prepared. The follow-up and monitoring of the activities are also developed, continuously updating and providing whatever is necessary to solve the emerging demands.

An important challenge of logistics consists in providing with agility and punctuality all the necessary displacements for the transportation of the work teams and the participants, as well as the purchase and delivery of the materials due to the city's great distances to commute.

### **Communication**

The elaboration of a database has contributed a lot to internal communication, with documents, reports, informative materials, presentations, and detailed records of all activities, making it possible to visualize and understand what is being developed in each training area and type of activity, thus creating a stable condition for progress.

The communication with the affected populations' community is carried out with due care to ascertain successful outcomes, with continuous repetition of information, in a calm, clear, and simple way.

Other relevant elements are listening and permanent openness to understanding the indigenous culture and way of life, taking into consideration the cultural differences in the notion of time, rhythm, and worldview.

The activities are recorded with photographs and videos, feeding the FIHM-CCFI image database and generating different communication content, such as institutional videos, social network posts, short documentaries, and website news<sup>13</sup>.

### **Human Resources**

The CCFI's human resources are made up entirely of the Fraternity - Humanitarian Missions (FMHI) core volunteers, securing that the financial resources are directly allocated to training activities.

This format facilitates the action of fully committed individuals spontaneously interested in developing

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<sup>13</sup><https://www.missoeshumanitarias.org/en/livelihoods/>



effective services and contributing to effective solutions. It also contributes to the enrichment of actions through a wide range of skills, experiences, and ideas.

### Administration

Designed to consolidate each operational sector in a database with access by all core team members and the coordination. The management team secures integration of all administration routines, as well as meetings with partners, associations, and indigenous groups.

Weekly planning and review meetings as well as daily briefings are held with the FIHM team, enabling continuous monitoring, evaluation, and quality assurance validation to redirect actions according to needs.

## 4- story of impact

Paulo<sup>14</sup>: “Finding the Way”

Interrupting the development of a seventeen-year-old indigenous youth, leaving everything known up to that point, and picking up a few things to migrate to another country, causes many consequences, one of them being the loss of direction.

Soon after Paulo arrived at the border with Brazil, on February 12, 2017, he stayed for six months in the city of Pacaraima in an indigenous shelter called “Janokoida”, which means “Big House” in the Warao language. He then moved to the city of Boa Vista and went to live in another temporary shelter for refugees where around 650 indigenous individuals of different ethnicities were concentrated, living together in a gymnasium.

The indigenous families of the Warao ethnicity are “extended families”, in which the number of components may exceed twenty individuals due to the strong family ties that make up the social morphology of these communities. But Paulo was alone, as his father had died when he was a child, his mother was in a spontaneous occupation in the city of Boa Vista because there were no vacancies in the shelter, and his brothers stayed in Venezuela with the rest of the family. During those years in the shelter, he formed a family with a young sheltered indigenous woman and they had two children.

In this reality, alcohol came to fill an unknown void in which life perspectives disappeared, leading him to enter a hostile terrain where conflicts became recurrent and the rules of coexistence of the shelter were permanently violated.

The warnings, used as a tool to maintain discipline, accumulated, reaching the moment of expulsion as a last measure in the face of a new and serious situation of violence in which he found himself involved.

During this time at the Boa Vista shelter, Paulo was invited to attend a workshop on shoe-making offered by one of the Fraternity – Humanitarian Missions’ volunteers’ known design shoe-maker offered to twelve indigenous participants. Paulo demonstrated outstanding abilities, completed the course, and stood out among his peers to the point that he was the only one who continued to practice and improve.

At a time when expulsion seemed the only way out, faced with the possibility that he would abandon his acquired profession and have to go to the street with an uncertain future, CCFI managers intervened with

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<sup>14</sup>Fictitious name to preserve the identity of the beneficiary

a proposal for socio-educational measures, which entailed a project to strengthen Paulo's acquired skills, endorsed by his commitment to completely change his conduct, focusing his time on shoe production. This was how Paulo consolidated himself as an entrepreneur with his own business, at the age of twenty, and the brand "KAWARAO", which in the Warao language means "Our Family", was born.

With the support of his wife and children, Paulo found in the CCFI an extended family, relying on the FIHM volunteers to support, strengthen and accompany this new phase of his life. With a lot of effort, going through trials and relapses, he managed to assert himself in his business of shoe-making, consolidating the brand, and being recognized for the excellent work and quality of his products. He also became a multiplier of the acquired knowledge, acting as a monitor in a workshop and sharing his knowledge. With this trajectory, Paulo managed to be resilient and find ways of living to recover from the crisis he experienced.

## 5- outcome and kpis

To contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of the results achieved during the CCFI's activities, some qualitative and quantitative indicators have been systemized. Qualitative indicators refer to visible and clear results in terms of changes in lives, habits, and daily routines, including the definition of objectives, goals, and plans, the development of concrete actions towards these purposes, increased responsibility, and improved communication and expression skills.

The transformations are verified over time, through observations and dialogues, considering the monitoring of this population since the first initiatives in the Roraima Humanitarian Mission.

The quantitative indicators refer to the number of training sessions, trained individuals, mentoring, hiring, consolidated entrepreneurial groups, entrepreneurial individuals, developed business plans, events, partnerships, and raising awareness in companies, besides the approval rate in the courses.

The implementation of the CCFI brought evident renewals in many, with more enthusiasm, confidence, positivity, and appreciation of each achievement. Greater commitment to activities, more active participation, and increased communicative skills were also observed.

In 2021 alone, 25 workshops and 89 courses were held, generating 453 trained individuals, with an 80% approval rate. Sixty-two (62) potential entrepreneurs were identified with follow-up in 14 practice groups. Twelve (12) events were promoted, including five fairs. Three hundred and twenty-five (325) curricula were prepared and mentoring flows were developed with 21 beneficiaries.

The activities with handcrafts consisted of 23 meetings with 234 participants, direct monitoring of 89 craftswomen, and six harvests of Buriti straw with 57 craftswomen.

The performance in entrepreneurship contemplated the support of 13 projects, the delivery of three courses and four capacity-building workshops for entrepreneurs, two mentoring sessions with 17 beneficiaries, and two conversation rounds about pricing with 45 people.

A mosaic workshop was also promoted with youth from the Jardim Floresta shelter.

In 2022, the actions continued to expand, involving new partnerships and welcoming other ethnic groups and indigenous organizations.



A knowledge exchange meeting was held among Brazilian indigenous people from the Wapichana, Macuxi ethnic groups, and Venezuelan Warao living in the Jardim Floresta Shelter.

The CCFI expanded its assistance to the Pemon, Taurepang, and Kamarakoto who are members of the Association of Indigenous Migrants of Roraima (AMIR); and began supporting the Indigenous Cultural Association of the State of Roraima (KAPÓI) of the Wapixana, Macuxi, Patamona, Satere Mawe, and Waiwai ethnic groups.

In partnership with AMIR, monthly meetings are being promoted to exchange knowledge about traditional medicine, to strengthen interculturality and ancestral indigenous knowledge about healing through the use of plants. In addition, three indigenous artists have come together to interact and exchange experiences on painting techniques, and their works have been exhibited at fairs and are on permanent display at the CCFI.

The Continuing Education for Development Programme is being carried out with two classes, concurrently, with welcoming activities, vocational courses, Portuguese language, and computer courses.

The CCFI continues to offer labor preparation services, including the preparation of résumés, the creation of an e-mail account, support for obtaining an Employment and Social Security Card (CTPS), as well as support and advice on entering the labor market.

Another initiative was to identify youth who are enrolled in formal education schools, which were registered on the platform of the Centre for Business-School Integration (CIEE) for inclusion in the Young Apprentice Programme, aimed at labor insertion of those aged 14 to 24 years.

As for entrepreneurship, the CCFI supports indigenous women artisans and entrepreneurs in the city of Boa Vista, with inputs and training for the production of handicrafts in Buriti fiber, crochet, beads, recycling,

sewing, clay pots, and cotton weaving. In addition, women of the Warao ethnic group created a brand of ecological sanitary pads called “Tida Warao”, bringing a sustainable and conscious vision of feminine care.

The CCFI barbershop was also inaugurated, an initiative of a young Warao man from the Jardim Floresta shelter who took a Men’s Hair Cutting course in 2021, and a workshop on shoe-making conducted by Paulo, the indigenous monitor, and founder of the Kawarao brand.

In formal education, there was a meeting on the “Plan of Assistance to Immigrant Indigenous Children and Adolescents in the State of Roraima”, led by the State Centre for Training of Education Professionals of Roraima (CEFERR).

The CCFI also participated in and supported the Indigenous Education Seminar.

## 6- lessons learned and good practices

The complexity of the humanitarian scenario and the Venezuelan migratory situation in Brazil, the commitment of the FIHM - CCFI core volunteer team, the established partnerships, the continuous process of observation and dialogue with the Venezuelan refugee population for the joint construction of lasting solutions, allowing for a series of important learnings.

The importance of approaches that focus on solutions in a more permanent sense and with a medium and long-term vision, which are not limited to immediate aid, emergency support, or welfare strategies, but which promote autonomy and the identification of individual and collective longings, with the strengthening of their implementation trajectory, stands out.

Another relevant learning experience is related to the verification that it is not enough to build solutions with the affected populations, but also necessary to raise awareness and disseminate trustworthy, reliable information to the local population, institutions, and companies, aiming at a greater acceptance and valorization of the refugee population and, more specifically, of the indigenous populations, considering that prejudice and structural racism are still present elements in the Brazilian society.

Awareness-raising campaigns, catalogs of their manufactured products and services, informative materials, fairs, and other events are examples of a set of strategies that must be continually strengthened in the CCFI’s goals and commitment.

Based on emerging demands, it was necessary to expand the objectives of the CCFI services which focus not remain solely on the sheltered refugee population but began to include refugees outside the shelters and also members of local indigenous communities, to collaborate with the strengthening of these peoples and peaceful coexistence, through integration and exchange of knowledge and experiences.

Based on the achieved outcome along the way and also based on the demands, some perspectives are being outlined, such as the expansion of the CCFI’s vision as an entrepreneurial hub, beyond a place for training, experience, and cultural dissemination.



With this direction, it will be necessary for additional spaces to provide services and serve the populations, as well as new environments for production and greater diversification of goods.

For example, an area is being planned for the production of traditional medicine products, using the plants grown in the CCFI's medicinal garden and encouraging ecological alternatives for income generation.

It was also noted the importance of consolidating a handicraft shop as a permanent point of sale and promotion of products, a snack bar for selling typical foods, and other types of snacks produced in the industrial kitchen.

All realizations, expansions, and enhancements must occur according to the manifestations of interest and adhesion of the indigenous populations themselves.

The permanent process of dialogue, follow-up, monitoring, and evaluation is fundamental, enabling the outcome of the initial diagnosis to be continually reviewed, with other instruments of verification and updating of the context.