

Aimed at contributing to your adaptation in Brazil, Caritas Arquidiocesana de São Paulo (CASP), an institution linked to the Catholic Church, with the support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), has produced this material, in which you will find information about documentation, housing and financial issues in the country.

In order to produce it, we relied on the support of Afghan consultants. We hope this material is useful and that it can help you restart your lives in Brazil.

Count on us!




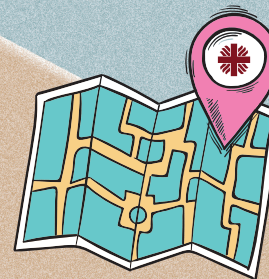
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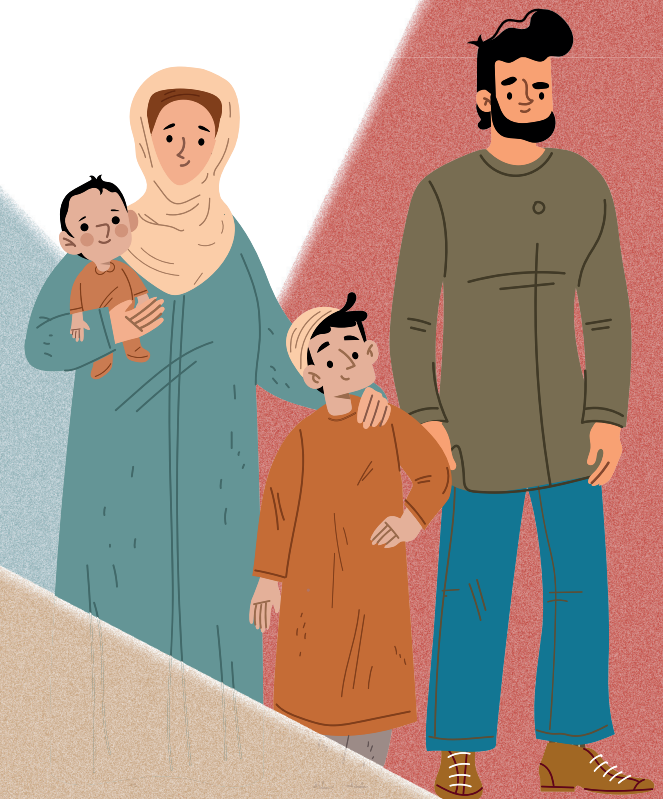
Open on

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays,
from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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HOUSING



PUBLIC SHELTERS

Those are institutions where families and single individuals live collectively - for free - sharing communal areas and, in many cases, rooms. There are different options in São Paulo and its metropolitan region.

What are shelters?

Shelters are structures of the Brazilian System of Social Assistance that aim to temporarily accommodate people in extreme vulnerability and without a family support network. Shelters exist for decades providing support not only to Brazilians, but also to refugees and migrants.

How to get a place in the shelter?

- 1 You can go to the Advanced Post for Humanized Assistance at GRU airport and request a place for you and your family.
- 2 You may refer to an institution, such as Caritas – UNHCR’s partner – and request their social workers to refer you and your family to a shelter.
- 3 You can also look for a “Centro POP”, a municipal institution in the city of São Paulo – or similar Social Centers available in the city where you are – and request a place.

Note: as vacancies are very limited, you most likely won’t be able to choose the shelter to which you will go. Also, vacancies may not be immediately available.

What facilities do they offer?

That varies, but they tend to have collective dorms, bathrooms, living and TV rooms, internet connection, laundry service, daily meals based on the Brazilian diet, psychosocial support, among others services.

Do families stay together in their rooms?

Most of the shelters have separate male and female rooms, but families can get together in the common areas during the day.

Are we allowed to cook?

Most shelters have cooks or delivered meals, but in a few of them you are allowed to cook.

Is there halal food?

Halal meat is not found in all shelters. But chicken, red meat and pork are cooked separately.

Is the stay permanent?

No, it is temporary, either for up to 6 months or 1 year, in general. During this time, you may find ways to achieve autonomy with the support of relevant actors.

Can I move, then return later on to the shelter?

If you ever need to go back to the shelter, you will need to request a place just like you did the first time and wait for a vacancy in any of the available shelters.

Can I change shelters?

Due to the high influx of refugees and migrants to São Paulo, shelters are operating near their maximum capacity, so it is very hard to find a place in another institution. If you’ve been allocated in one, please maintain the spot you were granted.

Can I use the shelter address as proof of residence?

Yes, you can. With the shelter address as a proof of residence you may enroll your kids in the nearest school (if there are available vacancies), apply for governmental financial help, open a bank account, etc.



PRIVATE HOMES

If you want to rent your own place to live, we recommend you follow these steps to ensure you are going to find the best possible option, while guaranteeing your rights and respecting the Brazilian law

- 1 Search for options online in official Real Estate Apps
- 2 Look for an Imobiliária*
- 3 Visit and negotiate prices
- 4 Sign and notarize the renting contract

*Real estate agencies in Brazil are called “Imobiliárias”. They will show you properties in which you might be interested, mediate your contact with the owners and help you with the bureaucratic procedures in accordance to the Brazilian legislation.

P.S.: Besides the rent, remember you’ll also have to afford domestic bills, such as electricity, water, cooking gas, taxes (IPTU), etc.

What do I need to rent a house?

Bank account

Proof of residence

Rental assurance / guarantee



CPF

A Brazilian document with a photo

LIVING IN SÃO PAULO

Starting a life in a new city also means getting to know its features, traditions, neighborhoods, public spaces, transportation modes, the pace of life, etc.

Transportation

With more than 12 million people, São Paulo offers a satisfactory transportation system, which includes buses, trains and metro lines. The current fare for the metro is 4,40 BRL, while the bus fare varies according to the distance to be travelled. We recommend you get the transport card, called “Bilhete Único”.

P.S.: Elderly and handicapped people as well as kids under 6 don’t pay for public transportation in the city. Students pay half the fare.

Public Spaces

Numerous parks, libraries, squares and museums can be found all over the city, most of them free of charge.

Hotels

If you are looking for a hotel room, try to stick to the information given above, in order to find the best cost benefit for you: check prices, the neighborhood features, transportation accessibility, etc.!

P.S.: Brás is a district known for welcoming many migrants!

