**Appendix – Solidarity in the time of COVID-19: refugee experiences in Brazil**

Table 1 - Profile of the interviewees

| **Nationality** | **Sex** | **Age** | **State** | **Work Situation** | **Arrival in Brazil** | **Date of the interview** | **Duration of the interview**  **(minutes)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Syria | Male | 48 | São Paulo | Employed (essential service) | 2015 | 27/03/2020 | 32:25 |
| Syria | Male | 40 | São Paulo | Self-employed (food area) | 2014 | 27/03/2020 | 25:37 |
| Democratic Republic of Congo | Male | 28 | São Paulo | Employed | 2015 | 27/03/2020 | 30:42 |
| Democratic Republic of Congo | Male | 35 | São Paulo | Unemployed | 2014 | 28/03/2020 | 53:16 |
| Syria | Male | 47 | São Paulo | Self-employed (food area) | 2013 | 28/03/2020 | 27:41 |
| Mali | Male | 38 | São Paulo | Employed | 2012 | 30/03/2020 | 26:47 |
| Mali | Male | 39 | São Paulo | Unemployed | 2013 | 30/03/2020 | 31:38 |
| Syria | Male | 33 | São Paulo | Self-employed (food area) | 2014 | 30/03/2020 | 32:08 |
| Democratic Republic of Congo | Male | 30 | São Paulo | Employed (essential service) | 2013 | 30/03/2020 | 34:47 |
| Democratic Republic of Congo | Male | 34 | São Paulo | Employed[[1]](#footnote-1)  (essential service) | 2014 | 30/03/2020 | 25:57 |
| Guinea-Conakry | Male | 34 | São Paulo | Employed | 2013 | 30/03/2020 | 27:35 |
| Cameroon | Male | 33 | São Paulo | Employed | 2014 | 30/03/2020 | 27:01 |
| Democratic Republic of Congo | Male | 40 | São Paulo | Employed | 2013 | 31/03/2020 | 43:25 |
| Democratic Republic of Congo | Male | 28 | São Paulo | Unemployed | 2014 | 31/03/2020 | 26:36 |
| Democratic Republic of Congo | Male | 40 | São Paulo | Self-employed | 2009 | 31/03/2020 | 63:07 |
| Syria | Male | 30 | São Paulo | Freelancer | 2017 | 31/03/2020 | 53:58 |
| Democratic Republic of Congo | Male | 30 | São Paulo | Unemployed | 2016 | 01/04/2020 | 21:23 |
| Democratic Republic of Congo | Male | 23 | São Paulo | Employed | 2013 | 01/04/2020 | 41:27 |
| Democratic Republic of Congo | Male | 25 | São Paulo | Unemployed | 2014 | 01/04/2020 | 53:19 |
| Democratic Republic of Congo | Male | 39 | Rio de Janeiro | Employed (home office) | 2008 | 02/04/2020 | 51:51 |
| Guyana | Female | 48 | São Paulo | Freelancer | 2011 | 02/04/2020 | 41:13 |
| Democratic Republic of Congo | Female | 36 | São Paulo | Unemployed | 2013 | 03/04/2020 | 31:40 |
| Syria | Male | 27 | Rio de Janeiro | Employed (home office) | 2012 | 03/04/2020 | 66:52 |
| Democratic Republic of Congo | Male | 40 | São Paulo | Employed (home office) | 2013 | 03/04/2020 | 63:01 |
| Democratic Republic of Congo | Male | 20 | São Paulo | Employed | 2012 | 04/04/2020 | 31:54 |
| Syria | Male | 28 | São Paulo | Freelancer | 2015 | 04/04/2020 | 26:17 |
| Syria | Male | 32 | São Paulo | Employed (home office) | 2014 | 04/04/2020 | 38:19 |
| Democratic Republic of Congo | Female | 39 | São Paulo | Unemployed | 2008 | 04/04/2020 | 21:51 |
| Venezuela | Female | 37 | São Paulo | Self-employed (food area) | 2016 | 06/04/2020 | 63:17 |

1 Source: author

## **Semi-Structured Questionnaire with Oral Informed Consent Script**



**Refugees and COVID-19 in Brazil**

**Introduction – Information about the study:**

Thank you very much for agreeing to meet with me. My name is Patrícia Nabuco Martuscelli. I am a researcher from the Núcleo de Pesquisa em Relações Internacionais – Universidade de São Paulo (NUPRI/USP). My research is studying how refugees are affected by COVID-19 in Brazil. This study aims to understand refugees’ lived experiences during the first weeks of the pandemic in Brazil when the governors of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro adopted measures to fight the pandemic. We are interested in learning about several issues regarding the experiences of refugees living in Brazil during the COVID-19 pandemic; we want to understand:

* How refugees are dealing with the pandemic, including measures adopted to fight it and how they get information about it;
* How the pandemic has affected their lives and their work situation;
* How the refugees are keeping contact with their friend and families in time of physical distancing;
* How refugees perceive the answers of the government at the federal level, state level, and municipal level;
* What the refugees expect for the future.

We hope to speak with 20-30 refugees living in the states of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. The information provided to us will be used in published reports, academic articles, and blog posts. We may include quotes from those we interview; your name and all information that can identify you will not be recorded or disclosed.

**Oral Informed Consent Script (the person will also receive the participation sheet):**

Before beginning the interview, I want to emphasize that your participation is voluntary. You are not required to participate, and there is no penalty for not participating. If you consent to be interviewed, you can refuse to answer any question, and you may stop the interview at any time for any reason. You can withdraw from this study at any time, and all the information you gave me will be deleted and not used in the study anymore. Your interview will be stored in secure places following the highest international security standards. No other person will know that you gave me this interview.

We do not expect participation in this interview to benefit you personally. We hope that the project will be of public benefit and generate knowledge to inform public policies and decision-making processes.

This interview is also an opportunity for you to express yourself on an important topic in refugees’ lives in Brazil and your life. Perhaps people who have not had the opportunity to have direct contact with refugees will read these research results. You may use this opportunity to inform those who do not know what you think and want, or the difficulties you face, or how you think your life could be better, for example.

I know that you are busy, and I will try to be as focused as possible. I have a series of questions I would like to ask over the next 40 minutes or so. The interview will be audio-recorded unless you prefer that only handwritten notes be taken.

Following the interview, if you have any questions regarding this project, you can contact me, Patrícia Martuscelli, at [telephone number] or patnabuco@alumni.usp.br.

* Do you have any questions about the research project, our research team, or the purpose of this interview? (Yes/No)
* Do you voluntarily agree to participate in the study? (Yes/No)
* Do I have your permission to audio record the interview? (Yes/No)

Thank you. I will now proceed with the interview.

**Information on the refugee**

* What is your country of origin?
* What is your age?
* In which city do you live? Who lives with you? (e.g., your family, friends. Did your family come after you?)
* When did you arrive in Brazil?

**Information on COVID-19**

* What do you know about COVID-19?
* How do you get information about this new disease?
* How are you dealing with the COVID-19? (e.g., did you adopt any special measures? Are you in quarantine? Are your children going to school? Since when?)
* Do you have diabetes, heart problems, breathing problems, or any chronic diseases? How about your Family?
* How are you feeling at this moment?

**Work**

* Do you work? Are you currently employed? (e.g., if yes, what do you do?)
* Is anyone in your house working too?
* How was your work situation before this pandemic? And after?
* What is the situation of your Family at this moment?

**Contact with Family and Friends**

* When you need help, who usually helps you?
* How are you having contact with your Family?
* How are you having contact with your friends?
* How is the situation of COVID-19 in your country of origin?
* How do you think that this pandemic affects your life?
* How do you think that this pandemic affects the life of refugees in general?

**Answers from the Brazilian authorities**

I will ask you three questions now that may look the same, but they are different. If you do not want to answer them or do not know, that is not a problem. Just let me know, ok?

* + How do you think that the president of Brazil is dealing with the pandemic?
  + How do you think that the mayor of your city is dealing with the pandemic?
  + How do you think that the governor of your state is dealing with the pandemic?
  + How is the government in your country dealing with this pandemic?

**Advice and Future thoughts**

* How do you think that the Brazilian government could help refugees during this time of COVID-19?
* If you could give the Brazilian government recommendations about this situation of COVID-19, what would you say?
* If you could advise another refugee about this issue of COVID-19, what would you say to him/her?
* What do you expect for the next three months?
* What do you expect in the future in general?
* Would you like to add any information or idea that I did not ask you about and think it is important for this topic of refugees and COVID-19 in Brazil?

**End of the interview**

I asked you all the questions that I needed to ask. Thank you so much for answering my questions. Your interview contributed a lot to my study. I will send you the results of my research as soon as I finish writing them. If you know other refugees that would like to be part of the research, I would appreciate if you could share my contact with them. At any time, if you do not feel comfortable or if you do not want to be part of this research anymore, you can contact me without any problems. You have my phone number and my email. Please enter in contact with me whenever you need. Thank you again for your time and attention.

1. He was employed during the interview. However, he lost his job ten days after that due to his company’s cut of costs following the closure of non-essential commerce in Brazil. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)