From 25 August to 1 September, José Egas, UNHCR Representative in Brazil, has been on a mission to Manaus, Boa Vista and Pacaraima where he visited Operation Welcome’s facilities, met with partners and authorities, and joined various initiatives supported by UNHCR locally.

During his 2-day visit in Manaus, the Representative accompanied UNHCR team to the new facilities of Manaus Transit Shelter (ATM), Support Spaces and the Reference Center for Refugees and Migrants (CARE) and observed how registration and protection activities and housing strategies supported by livelihoods interventions are being consolidated.

In the border town of Pacaraima, the Representative visited Operation Welcome’s reception and documentation facilities, and joined the choir “Canarinhos da Amazônia” where the legacy of Director Miriam Blos is still vivid in the activities and memories of children. In Boa Vista, the Representative paid a visit to the shelter community libraries of “Mi casa, Tu casa” project, was interviewed by the volunteers of the community radio “RadioLab” and could talk to refugees and migrants while visiting the emergency shelters in the city. The conclusion of the mission was marked by the official inauguration, together with the First Lady of Roraima State, of an integration area called “Merunti”, which means energy in Macuxi (indigenous language of the Northern Amazon region), developed in the backspace of Setrabes headquarter (Roraima Labor and Social Welfare Secretariat). The space, conceived with sustainability concepts at the core of its structure, mixes minimalism with innovative technologies, such as the system to collect rainwater to irrigate the garden surrounding the space and the biodigester turning organic waste into biogas for cooking.

Operation Welcome changes its command

Since 31 August, after a ceremony marking the transfer of command, General Sérgio Schwingel assumed the coordination of Operation Welcome Task Force, the Federal Government’s entity responsible for the humanitarian response to Venezuelan refugees and migrants. General Schwingel is the third commander of the Operation since 2018, and replaces General Antônio Manoel de Barros, who has carried out this role for the last year.
Leadership school’s courses “Círculos Makunaimi de Diálogo” closure ceremony

Sixty indigenous refugees and migrants from Venezuela graduated from the leadership school’s courses “Círculos Makunaimi de Diálogo.” The initiative of UNHCR together with Fraternidade Internacional and Instituto Insikiran, receiving the support of the European Union through its Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), contributes to indigenous communities’ empowerment through expanding their knowledge of rights and ownership over decisions that impact their life in Brazil.

“A New Pathway” project

On 18 August, the first class of “Novo Caminhar”, a UNHCR project in partnership with SJMR, AVSI, and FSF, took place. The project aims to support 20 families to build their capacities and self-reliance for their local integration. They will receive a one-month training and will be supported with CBI for the first three months of their transition outside the shelters.

UNHCR and partners strengthen the protection of refugees and migrants at Brazilian airports

In Galeão Airport - Rio de Janeiro, multi-language LED panels were installed to indicate the location of the Advanced Post for Humanized Assistance to Migrants (PAAHM). In the PAAHM, working 24/7, a team from the Municipal Guard is prepared to support newly arrived who are in need of international protection with information, assistance and referral to the service network. Moreover, UNHCR and the Department of Development and Social Assistance of Guarulhos concluded the first meeting between Advanced Posts for International Protection in Airports, which counted on the participation of coordinators from Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo and Pará.

Registration activities held in Belém

In coordination with FUNPAPA, UNHCR and partner organization Aldeias Infantis conducted a verification exercise at the municipal shelter on 25 and 26 August 2021. The exercise had the purpose of registering new people and updating information on existing profiles, which is a key step in ensuring refugee protection and facilitating their access to basic assistance and appropriate responses. UNHCR Brazil continues to make significant investments in registration and identity management, which are made possible through ECHO contributions.

In Roraima, activities involving aquaponics and biodigesters are helping to reduce the impacts of Operation Welcome’s facilities on the local environment. In Espaço Emergencial 13 de Setembro, a fish tank system combines fish farming with the cultivation of vegetables using the same water source. At São Vicente 2 shelter, a biodigester is generating renewable energy for the site, reducing the volume of garbage that would be dumped in the Boa Vista municipal landfill.

Green initiatives in temporary shelters in Brazil change the relationship of refugees and migrants with the environment

In Brazil, green initiatives in temporary shelters for refugees and migrants are transforming the relationship between them and the environment. Sixty indigenous refugees and migrants from Venezuela graduated from the leadership school’s courses “Círculos Makunaimi de Diálogo,” an initiative supported by UNHCR, Fraternidade Internacional, and Instituto Insikiran, with funding from the European Union through its Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP). This initiative contributes to the empowerment of indigenous communities by expanding their knowledge of rights and ownership over decisions affecting their lives in Brazil.

On 18 August, the first class of “Novo Caminhar,” a UNHCR project in partnership with SJMR, AVSI, and FSF, started. The project aims to support 20 families in building their capacities and self-reliance for local integration. Participants will receive a one-month training and support from CBI for the first three months of their transition outside the shelters.

In Galeão Airport - Rio de Janeiro, multi-language LED panels were installed to indicate the location of the Advanced Post for Humanized Assistance to Migrants (PAAHM). In this post, a team from the Municipal Guard is prepared to assist newly arrived individuals who need international protection with information, assistance, and referral to the service network. UNHCR and the Department of Development and Social Assistance of Guarulhos also held the first meeting between Advanced Posts for International Protection in Airports, involving coordinators from Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, and Pará.

In coordination with FUNPAPA, UNHCR and partner organization Aldeias Infantis conducted a verification exercise at the municipal shelter on 25 and 26 August 2021. This exercise aimed to update profiles and register new people, a crucial step in ensuring the protection and facilitation of access to basic assistance and appropriate responses. These investments in registration and identity management are made possible through ECHO contributions.
Afghanistan is experiencing a humanitarian crisis as violence and insecurity have brought more suffering and internal displacement for thousands of Afghans. Over half a million people have been internally displaced in 2021 alone – and the number of people forced to flee continues to rise. This latest wave of violence in 2021 is another blow for Afghans, who have suffered more than 40 years of conflict, natural disasters, chronic poverty and food insecurity. The resilience of refugees, the internally displaced and host communities is being stretched to the absolute limit.

To lead the narrative on the unfolding of the Afghan crisis and draw Brazilians’ attention to the need to support the affected population, UNHCR Brazil spokesperson gave interviews to the country’s main media outlets, such as CNN Brasil and Globo News. Digital influencers engaged with the theme on the occasion of World Humanitarian Day, further expanding the outreach of the emergency fundraising campaign. The action also had the support of Leticia Spiller, UNHCR High Profile Supporter in Brazil.

Donate now to support UNHCR’s efforts in response to the crisis in Afghanistan: doar.acnur.org/acnur/afeganistao.html

To learn more about UNHCR’s response in Afghanistan, visit the Afghanistan emergency page: acnur.org/portugues/publicacoes/

UNHCR Brazil Funding update

US$ 52,5 million

UNHCR’s financial requirements in 2021

37% funded

As of 31 August 2021

For more information: reporting.unhcr.org

HIGHLIGHTS

Partnership Agreement between UNHCR and the State University of Mato Grosso do Sul (UEMS) signed under the scope of Catedra Sérgio Vieira de Mello (CSVM)

UEMS is the 29th partner university supporting CSVM to promote research and academic cooperation opportunities for the refugee population and raising public awareness on forced displacement topics and international protection.

Webinar on education for children in displacement contexts

UNHCR participated and presented the challenges and perspectives for refugee children in emergency situations in a webinar hosted by UNICEF and União Nacional dos Dirigentes Municipais de Educação (UNDIME) with the participation of nearly 200 people from UN agencies, teachers, and general staff of different public schools.

New fishes delivered for the project of fish farming of the Tarau Paru community

Aiming at promoting livelihoods and peaceful coexistence between the host and Pemón-Taurepang communities, the Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária (EMBRAPA) and Instituto Federal de Roraima (IFRR) – Campus Amajari, in collaboration with UNHCR, have provided new fishes for the fish farming project of the Tarau Paru community.

Ministry of Justice extends resolution and publishes new ordinance

CONARE extended until 31 December 2022 the resolution recognizing a situation of grave and generalized violations of human rights in Venezuela, making possible the continuous application of prima facie procedures of Venezuelans’ asylum claims. Also, the Ordinance 25/2021 was published extending the validity of asylum-seeker protocols and residence permits until 15 March 2022.

PUBLICATIONS

Factsheet (August)
bit.ly/3C19hhR

External Updates (July)
bit.ly/3nfoCqQ

Manaus Bimonthly Activities Report (Jul – Aug)
bit.ly/3z4rRDW

Belém Semester Activities Report (Jan – July)
bit.ly/2X3MEKv

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UNHCR Brazil is thankful for the important support of and partnerships with other UN agencies, Brazilian authorities (at federal, state and municipal levels) and civil society organizations working together to deliver the emergency response and in the regular programmes of the Brazilian operation.

UNHCR Brazil is also thankful for the support of private donors and:

UNHCR Partners in Brazil:

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**UNHCR's private sector donors:**