

10,000 refugees and migrants relocated from the Manaus Transit Shelter (ATM)

Yohana Andreina, 40, Archimedes Ojeda, 42, and their family boarding to the municipality of Sorriso (MT). The group stayed overnight at the Manaus Transit Shelter before boarding the plane to their destination

Photo: © UNHCR / Felipe Imaldo

Structured to enable the voluntary internal relocation of Venezuelan refugees and migrants to other cities in Brazil, the Manaus Transit Shelter (ATM) has already helped over 10 thousand people to move to 23 Brazilian states since its inauguration in July 2019.

The ATM works as a temporary shelter for those who are already registered and scheduled to move to other states and are waiting for travel, or for people who are being relocated from Roraima, and pass through Manaus before arriving at the final destination.

UNHCR manages the shelter in a joint work with the Ministry of Defense, and in partnership with *Fraternidade Internacional* (FFHI) and the Ministry of Citizenship. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and *Operação Acolhida* (Operation Welcome, in English) provide plane tickets and logistical support, and the Amazonas state government provides the facilities.

UNHCR has been involved with the activities in the shelter ever since its inauguration and has already invested over 1.4 million BRL in adapting its infrastructure, renovating bathrooms, and acquiring items such as mattresses, drinking fountains and furniture. UNHCR also assisted in structuring the facility's specialized technical team through its partner, *Fraternidade Internacional* (FFHI).

→ [Read more on the website](#)

The shelter has a capacity of 254 people, who may stay for a few hours or days while waiting for travel for their respective destinations.

UNHCR's impact in Manaus in the first months of 2021

4,026 refugees and migrants supported with protection actions, access to documentation, legal and social assistance, among other activities.

1,303 refugees and migrants supported with internal relocation from the Manaus Transit Shelter (ATM) to several Brazilian states and provided with temporary emergency shelter.

11,228 basic and household items distributed to cover basic needs such as hygiene, cooking and cleaning kits, diapers, mattresses, backpacks, beds, blankets and PPE.

1,504 refugees and migrants participating in community-based protection activities, such as COVID-19 awareness sessions, community workshops, open discussions and online workshops.

329 families supported with reliable information and messages through the *Promotores Comunitários* (Community Outreach Volunteers, in English) initiative and through refugee and migrant volunteer groups.

638 people benefited from emergency financial assistance to fulfil their basic needs.



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Reopening of the Santo Antônio Shelter with expanded capacity and solar power

The Beato João Batista Scalabrini shelter, a reference in the reception of refugees and migrants of various nationalities in Manaus, was reopened on 23 March, after a renovation led by *Cáritas Arquidiocesana de Manaus* in partnership with the General Consulate of Japan in Manaus, UNHCR Manaus Office and the State Secretariat of Justice, Human Rights and Citizenship (SEJUSC).

The renovation expanded the shelter's capacity from 20 to 70 people, and included a new kitchen, three bathrooms with laundries, one administrative office, one overflow room and a common area. Solar panels that will provide savings of up to 60% in electricity costs have also been installed.

UNHCR supported the architectural design planning for the renovation of the space and also provided various items such as furniture, tables, chairs, computers and mattresses.

Parque das Tribos community receives essential items to fight COVID-19

UNHCR has delivered 100 cleaning kits to the Parque das Tribos indigenous community, in Manaus, in one of the actions to help communities during the COVID-19 pandemic and to promote the peaceful coexistence between Venezuelan refugees and migrants and indigenous peoples in the state of Amazonas.

Over 4,000 Brazilian indigenous individuals of various ethnicities coexist in the area, including the Dessana, Marubo and Kokama. In 2020, UNCHR has already benefitted over 14,000 refugees and migrants by the donation of basic items, including hygiene kits, beds, hammocks, among others.



SES-AM / Rodrigo Santos

UNHCR makes new donations to the State Department of Health (SES-AM) to help the state cope with floods, a dengue outbreak, and the COVID-19 pandemic

In response to a request from the Government of Amazonas, UNHCR secured over 1,4 thousand first necessity items for the emergency in the municipality of Boca do Acre (1,028 km from Manaus), one of the Amazonian municipalities that was most affected by the overflowing of the Purus and Acre rivers, while also dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and a dengue outbreak.

Donations also include 300 mattresses with covers, several mosquito nets and 10-liter water bottles, 800 family and individual hygiene kits and 20 beds. UNHCR also secured a donation of 20 cribs to the Amazonas Health Department (SES-AM) to support the maternity areas of public hospitals in the state during the COVID-19 pandemic.



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Vulnerable individuals living in the Manaus Bus Station are transferred to safer shelters

On March 2021, UNHCR supported the voluntary relocation of 53 Venezuelan refugees and migrants who used to be accommodated at the Manaus Bus Station Support Space (PRA) and were transferred to local shelters managed by the state government and civil society. The action was the result of a partnership between UNHCR, the Federal Prosecutor's Office (MPF), the state government, the Mana Institute, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Brazilian Red Cross, the Brazilian Armed Forces, and the Municipal Health Secretariat (SEMSA).

This initiative includes a weekly mapping of individuals and families in a vulnerable situation, and informative sessions held at the Manaus Bus Station. Refugees who express interest in moving to the shelters are tested for COVID-19 and isolated, if necessary, as part of Operation Welcome's shelter allocation procedures.



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44 refugees now have access to formal employment through an ADRA initiative in Manaus

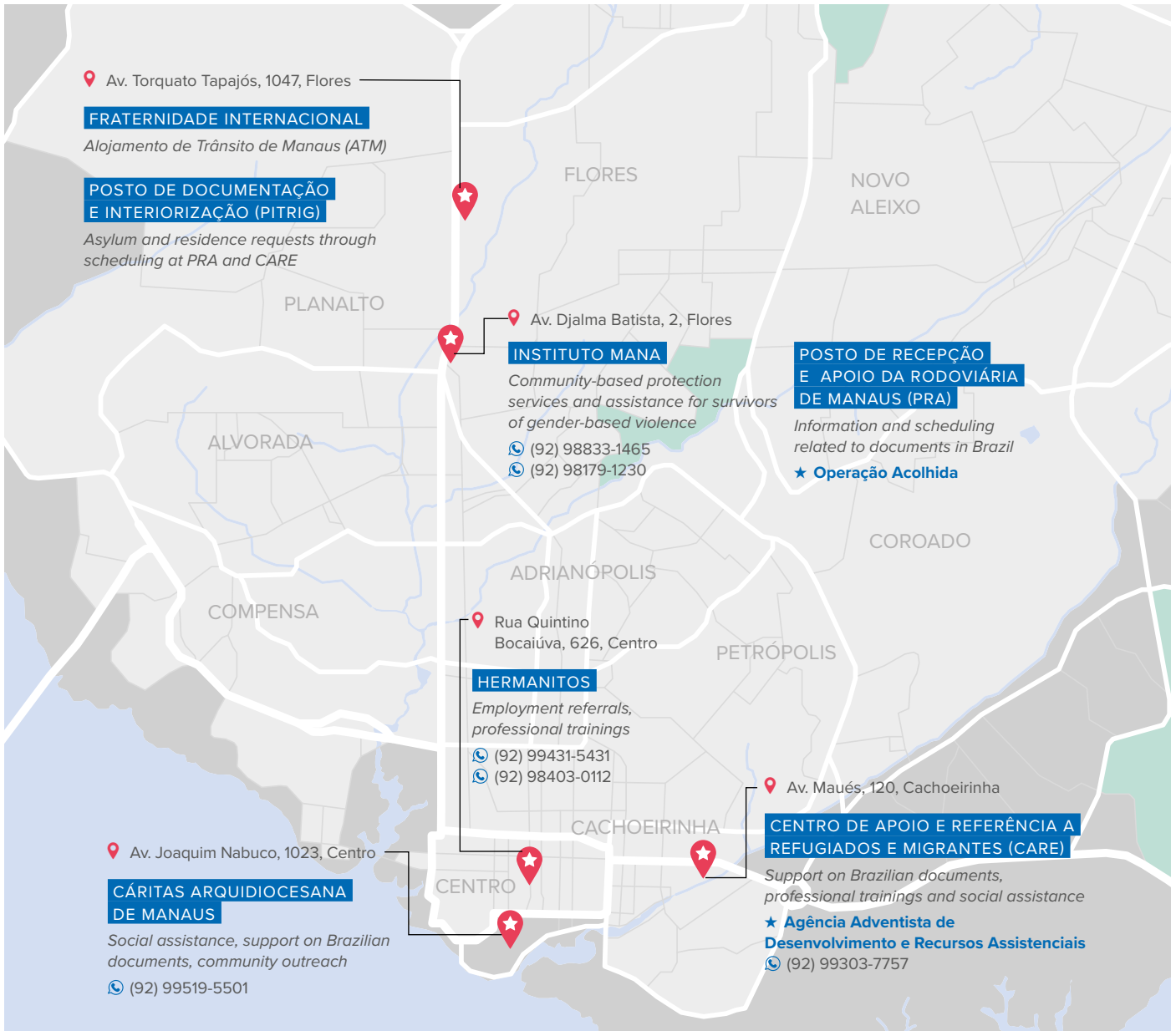
A total of 44 Venezuelan refugees and migrants were hired in formal jobs in Manaus during the first months of 2021, as the result of an initiative by the *Centro de Apoio e Referência para Refugiados e Migrantes em Manaus* (CARE) (Support and Reference Center for Refugees and Migrants in Manaus, in English).

The Center is managed by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) with support from UNHCR, and has supported 220 people in their search for formal employment since the beginning of the year. The CARE Center has also made contact with 36 new companies for awareness-raising and the forwarding of refugee resumes for job openings. 55 new resumes were also added to the institution's database to be forwarded for job openings. The Center currently counts with a database of 351 resumes.

Hermanitos NGO supports 84 refugees in job searches

The NGO Hermanitos, a UNHCR partner in Manaus, has made contact with six companies and three associations who represent the interests of different economic sectors, including shopkeepers, bars and restaurants located in Manaus. The goal is to strengthen coordination with the private sector to encourage the hiring of refugees and, at the same time, to identify job openings for the referral of refugees and migrants. The NGO has also supported 84 refugees with the drafting and/or inclusion of their resumes in employment databases in the first two months of 2021, activities that are expected to be continued in the coming months.

Map of the action network in Manaus



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UNHCR Partners in Manaus:



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UNHCR Brazil is also 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.