The United Nations continues to support the emergency response against COVID-19 in the state of Amazonas. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) delivered more than 160,000 items to the public health network in Manaus from 22 to 25 January. Among the items were Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), oximeters, medication and beds. Thanks to a generous contribution from the United States to UNHCR’s COVID-19 response in Brazil, UNHCR delivered 115 beds and 90 mattresses, 180 blankets, 26,000 gloves and 300 protective garments. The entire donation strengthened the care structures of maternity hospitals Ana Braga, Alvorada, Alzida Marreiro, Balbina Mestrinho, Chapot Prevost, Nazida Daou and the Dona Lindu Women’s Institute.

On 26 January, the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in Brazil, Niky Fabiancic, joined with the Interstate Legal Counsel of the Amazon to strengthen the partnership between the UN and the Amazon states. During the meeting, held online and chaired by the governor of Maranhão, Flávio Dino, a proposal was presented to create a United Nations Multidonor Fund for sustainable development in the region. The proposal seeks to meet the immediate and medium-term priorities defined by the Consortium. A schedule has been agreed for the Fund to be established as soon as possible.

The governor of Amazonas, Wilson Lima, thanked the United Nations for their support in the face of the public health emergency caused by the novel coronavirus. “We are very grateful for this support. Humanitarian aid is added to the efforts of the Government of Amazonas, the Federal Government and Municipalities, as well as the solidarity actions of society. Once again, the United Nations demonstrates its commitment to the guarantee of human rights, especially the right to life,” the governor said.

“We are very happy with the work of the United Nations. (...) So we are filled with gratitude and I am sure that the Amazonian people recognize all the effort of these organizations and are thankful for this gesture of kindness”, Health Secretary Marcellus Campêlo.
At the national, regional, and global level, UNHCR has been advocating to ensure that around 80 million forcibly displaced people, including 29.6 million refugees, in more than 100 countries are included in vaccination and treatment plans against COVID-19. Among 90 countries that currently have national vaccination strategies in place, 51 have accounted for refugees in their plans. Mike Woodman, UNHCR Senior Public Health Officer, emphasized “it is impossible to break or sustainably slow the transmission of the virus unless a minimum of 70 per cent of the population has acquired immunity.” Therefore, ensuring that refugees are included in the distribution of the vaccine is key to ending the pandemic.

Including refugees in vaccination plans is key to ending the pandemic

UNHCR congratulates the municipality of Nova Iguaçu (RJ) for the vaccination of elderly Venezuelans sheltered against COVID-19

Twenty elderly Venezuelans who were relocated in December to Nova Iguaçu (RJ) were included in the vaccination program against COVID-19 within the criteria recommended by the Ministry of Health as part of a high risk group. Elderly Brazilians were also immunized throughout the day, as well as health professionals working on the front line in the fight against the pandemic.

“UNHCR is deeply grateful to the municipality of Nova Iguaçu for once again leading the inclusion of elderly Venezuelans in social programs, either through the specific reception provided earlier this year and by accounting for them in the immunization program of the municipality. Undoubtedly, this is an example to be followed by other cities that collectively unite in the fight against the pandemic, considering as a priority the most vulnerable”, says Jose Egas, UNHCR Representative in Brazil.

Venezuelan indigenous peoples are received in São Sebastião (DF)

Seventy-nine indigenous people who were camped near the Interstate Bus Station of Brasília were received in a reception center, where they will be supported with social assistance and integration activities. This was made possible from a pilot project to serve the Warao indigenous peoples conceived in partnership between the Secretariat of Social Development (Sedes) and the Organization Caritas Arquidiocesana do Brasil, with the support of UNHCR and IOM.

Activation of Contingency Plan in Boa Vista + Sheltering of population of Ka’Ubanoko

Due to the serious situation that the state of Roraima has been experiencing because of the pandemic and the growth of the population in a street situation, Operation Welcome activated the Contingency Plan in the city of Boa Vista, which will allow for the sheltering of 1,300 more refugees and migrants. The Nova Canaã and Tancredo Neves shelters will be reopened, now for the indigenous population and the other existing shelters will be expanded. UNHCR, with the assistance of the armed forces, installed 128 refugee housing units (RHU). In addition, also in Boa Vista, on 28 January, the closure of Ka’Ubanoko was finalized. More than 850 indigenous and non-indigenous refugees and migrants occupying the site were supported by the UNHCR with shelter, CBI or interiorization.
UNHCR sets a fundraising record in 2020

Despite an extremely challenging year, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has reached an important milestone in private sector fundraising in 2020. In Brazil, thousands of people have become UNHCR donors and large partnerships have included agreements with Itaú Bank, Boticário Group and the Stafford fund, impacting thousands of refugees.

Campaign #PratoDoMundo is highlighted in the media:

since its launch in December, the #PratoDoMundo campaign continues to be shared in the press and social networks through digital influencers. The initiative was highlighted by CNN Brasil, O Estado de S.Paulo, Folha de S.Paulo, Rádio CBN and Globo Rural and more than 20,000 people have already downloaded the e-book.

Get yours now on: www.pratodomundo.com

5 ways refugees have found to fight COVID-19 in 2020:
The COVID-19 pandemic brought immense new challenges for us all in 2020. To be a refugee is to be resilient, regardless of circumstance and last year was no different. Refugees joined their efforts in combating COVID-19 by either responding on the front line, seeking ways to improve physical and mental health, or protecting their communities. Learn more about these inspiring stories that give us hope for 2021 in https://bit.ly/38LStXh

8 innovative ideas from UN Model students to help refugees:
During a debate of the Model United Nations (MUN), UNHCR challenged students to address questions about forced displacement. You can read about winning ideas such as “education system reform with inclusion of refugee law themes” and also “international database with job opportunities for refugees” in http://bit.ly/3tkLYfd

On the day #VisibilidadeTrans2021, we reinforced our support for all people who were forced to flee because of their gender identity!

Towards a world of more tolerance and respect!

VISIT OUR LATEST PUBLICATIONS:

- Boa Vista Quarterly Operational Report
- Livelihoods Quarterly Report
- COVID Flash Update

UNHCR Brazil Funding Update

$ 52.5 million
UNHCR’s financial requirements 2021

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Alan Azevedo

On the day #VisibilidadeTrans2021, we reinforced our support for all people who were forced to flee because of their gender identity!
ACNUR Brasil agradece o grande apoio e parceria com todas as outras agências da ONU, autoridades brasileiras (a nível federal, estadual e municipal) e organizações da sociedade civil envolvidas na resposta de emergência e nos programas regulares da operação brasileira.

With the support of the following organizations and private sector partners:

- UNHCR Country Office
- UNHCR Sub Office
- UNHCR Field Office
- UNHCR Field Unit
- Protection
- Reception Sites
- Documentation
- Information Management
- Cash Assistance
- Integration
- Education
- Telecommunications

HELP - The UNHCR source of information for refugees

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For more information: brabrpi@unhcr.org

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