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AMAZONAS SUSTAINABILITY CENTER

The state of Amazonas hosts over 1,200 Venezuelan indigenous refugees persons, according to CONARE ¹ and UNHCR. Despite access to public services, many face persistent barriers to securing decent work and generating sustainable income.

A 2023 UNHCR population mapping found that only 44% of families had a regular source of income, and just one in three adults was employed. These challenges are compounded by the community's dispersion across peripheral areas with limited infrastructure, restricting access to employability and income-generation services.

At the same time, Manaus offers growing opportunities through its expanding green economy and increasing adoption of environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices. UNHCR established the Sustainability Centre to connect refugees — particularly Indigenous communities — to these opportunities while strengthening climate resilience.

REGIONAL INITIATIVE



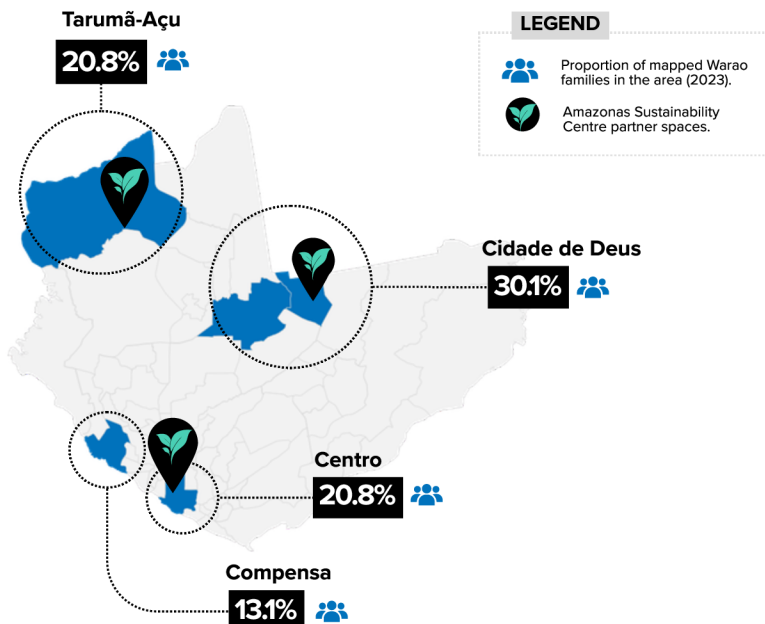
UNHCR Brazil launched its first Sustainability Centre in Roraima in 2023 to align humanitarian action with environmental sustainability. The model engages refugees in sustainable development by providing training in environmental practices, vocational skills, and green economy opportunities.

In 2025, UNHCR expanded the model to Pará, where it trained 30 Indigenous refugees to form Ecological Brigades and implement practical solutions such as urban gardens and improved waste management systems.

DECENTRALISED MODEL

To reduce access barriers and strengthen climate resilience, UNHCR decentralized activities across Manaus by partnering with local institutions in areas with a strong presence of Indigenous refugees. This approach increased participation, enabled locally adapted solutions, and reduced the initiative's carbon footprint.

72% of families live within 2 km of the activities



¹ CONARE (National Committee for Refugees) is the Brazilian government body under the Ministry of Justice and Public Security responsible for assessing and deciding asylum applications.

THE OBJECTIVE

The Sustainability Centre equips refugees — particularly Indigenous communities — with skills aligned with green economy demands, expanding access to formal employment and income-generation opportunities. It combines environmental education, vocational training, and private sector engagement to promote sustainable socioeconomic inclusion and strengthen community resilience.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- 1 Jornadas Verdes**
Offering language, vocational, and professional training aligned with green economy opportunities, including dedicated cohorts for youth engagement.
- 2 Private Sector Engagement**
Engaging and sensitizing companies with strong ESG practices to expand refugees' access to formal employment.
- 3 Ecological Brigades**
Structuring a community-based Ecological Brigade by providing technical expertise through training and the design of action plans and self-management strategies.
- 4 Circular economy pilot**
Designing and implementing income-generating solutions focused on waste reduction, reuse, and sustainable resource management.

FUTURE STEPS

Planned activities include launching a circular economy pilot to produce soap from recycled cooking oil, expanding Ecological Brigades in Indigenous communities, and delivering new Green Journeys cohorts reaching at least 40 participants.

A new cycle will engage 20 Indigenous refugee youth, strengthening their access to decent work opportunities.

FUNDING



Supports the structuring, maintenance, and operation of the Center, including technical equipment and human resources, as well as the implementation of cohort for indigenous youth.



Supports environmental awareness workshops and language, vocational and professional courses, as well as companies liaising activities and the circular economy pilot initiative.

IMPLEMENTATION



In Amazonas, UNHCR implements the Sustainability Center in partnership with Instituto Hermanitos, a leading civil society organization in the North region that promotes the socioeconomic integration of refugees and migrants.

JORNADAS VERDES



88 indigenous refugees trained

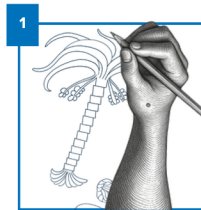


3 neighbourhoods reached

Green Journeys provide nearly 100 hours of training designed to support refugees' integration into green economy opportunities.

The programme combines a core curriculum with three tailored pathways focused on employability or entrepreneurship.

To mitigate participation barriers, the programme also provides financial assistance and childcare support.



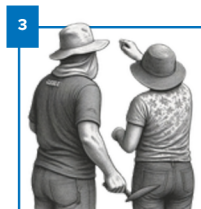
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Workshops on basic waste management concepts and sustainability



PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE

40-hour training focused on practical, work-related communication



SOFT SKILLS

Training to strengthen workplace readiness and interpersonal skills



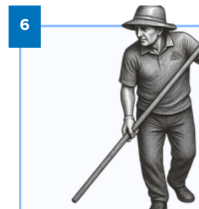
GREEN SKILLS TRAINING

50 hours of training aligned with green labour market demands



INDIVIDUALIZED COACHING

Mentoring and financial literacy support to develop career or business plans



INITIAL IMPULSE

Provision of materials and financial support to kick-start income generation