2024 | MAY

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

FACT SHEET

IZABAL FIELD UNIT

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OPERATIONAL CONTEXT AND KEY FIGURES

Guatemala has a dynamic context of human mobility as a country of origin, transit, destination and return of people with different profiles and protection needs. The Izabal Field Unit is one of seven UNHCR offices in Guatemala. The office covers the departments of Alta Verapaz and Izabal, the latter located on the Caribbean coast and with a great cultural and ethnic diversity (Garifuna, Maya Q'eqchi' and Mestizo). Alta Verapaz has the largest indigenous population in the country with 93.2 per cent (Maya Q'eqchi', Poqomchí and Achí, among others). UNHCR supports the high numbers of people in mixed movements from El Cinchado on the Honduran border to the northern border with Mexico. UNHCR also supports Guatemalans at risk due to violence, land dispossession and natural disasters; and refugees and asylum seekers seeking to stay in the country.

UNHCR provides protection and humanitarian support in coordination with the authorities, NGOs, communities and 3 partner organisations to respond to people in need of international protection.

238
refugees and asylum-seekers

7,592
Guatemalans at risk

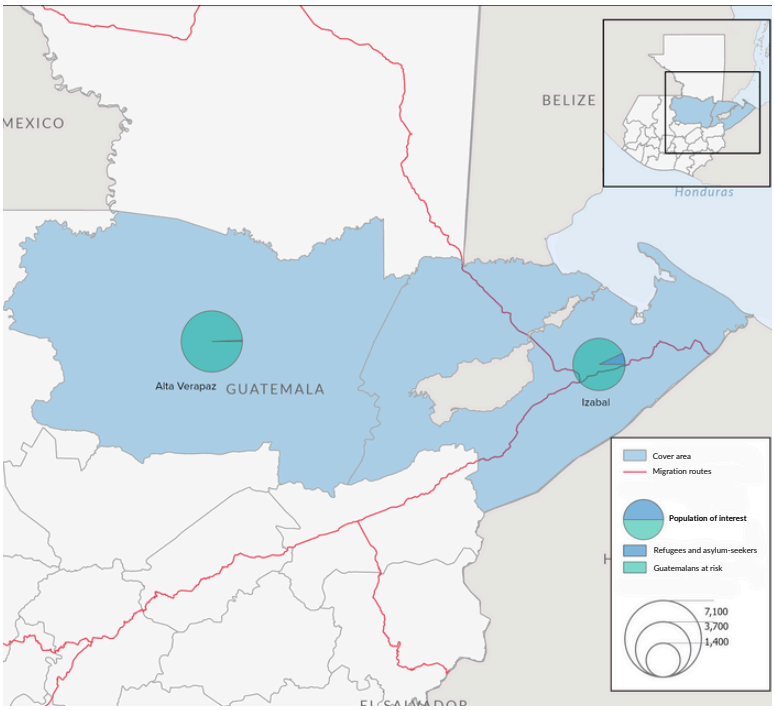
15,815
people served in 2023

34,840
assistance provided in 2023

BACKGROUND DATA

- 30,150 with protection needs (2024)
- 27,229 people in food insecurity (2024)
- 9% of illiteracy (2018)
- 5% of child labour (2018)
- 30% of poverty (2014)
- 682 crimes against women per 100,000 population (2021)
- 43% of unemployment (2018)
- 32% without access to water and sanitation (2018)

*Source: Humanitarian Response Plan (2024) and National Statistics Institute (INE). Data for the municipality of **Puerto Barrios**.*



MAIN IMPACTS OF THE 2023 RESPONSE

Assistance

- **1,231** cases of asylum-seekers were identified.
- **580** Guatemalans at risk were assisted through the Safe Mobility Programme.
- **1,398** people received cash assistance to cover their basic needs.
- **15,107** people received guidance and information.

Livelihoods

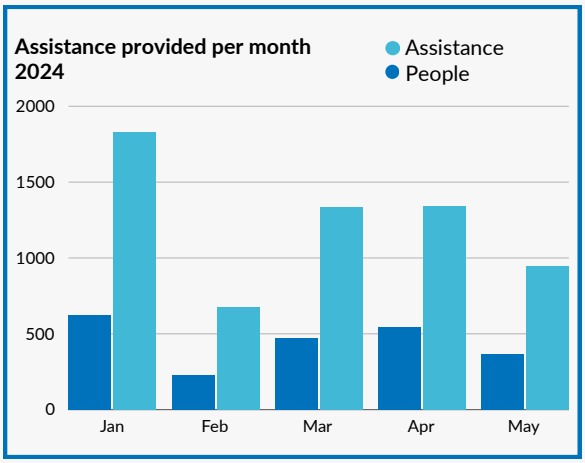
- **89** people received internships in various entities, seed capital for the creation or strengthening of their enterprises or technical-productive training to improve employability.

Mixed movements

- **3,925** people received information and guidance at the CAPMiR.
- **3,425** people received medical and psychological assistance.
- **935** hygiene kits were delivered.

CAPMiR El Cinchado

The Centre for Attention to Migrants and Refugees (CAPMiR) serve as a key protection space to facilitate access to territory and shelter, provide humanitarian assistance, share official information and identify risks and protection needs. In 2023, five CAPMiRs assisted **25,814** people, of which **4,103** were facilitated in CAPMiR El Cinchado.



Source: *Monitoring CAPMiR 2024*

UNHCR supported the creation of the Community Protection Officers' Network. © UNHCR/Victor Sanchez

Training

- **187** staff and **112** members of civil society were trained in protection issues.
- UNHCR donated an *Ambulancha* boat to the municipality of Livingston to evacuates people in serious health conditions for medical care.

Community empowerment

- **3,124** people in 7 communities benefited from peaceful coexistence projects.
- More than **100** community leaders strengthened their knowledge and skills in community participation, leadership and protection.
- **35** young people and teachers from local associations participated in protection training.

Gender violence

- UNHCR built the *Centro de Atención Integral a la Mujer* which serves survivors of gender-based violence.
- **30** local women leaders were empowered for the creation of the Community Protection Agents Network.
- **954** women participated in workshops and initiatives related to gender-based violence prevention and response.