

Mexico

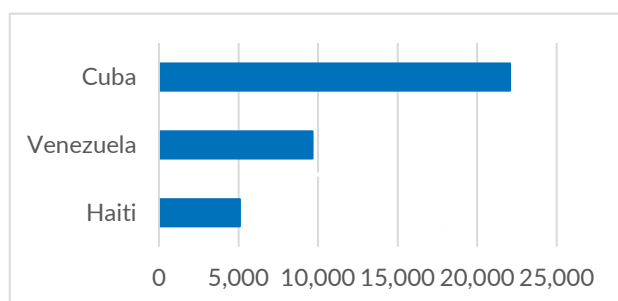
Over the past five years, Mexico has received around **500,000 asylum applications**, with a recognition rate exceeding **60 per cent**. As of 29 August 2025, there are more than **51,000 new asylum claims**, primarily from Cubans (+25,500), followed by Venezuelans (+9,700) and Haitians (+6,500).

60 per cent of all asylum claims in the country are filed in the south of Mexico, especially in Chiapas. Confronted with high asylum numbers, the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMAR) has increased its processing capacity five times since 2018 with the support of UNHCR.

Mexico's flagship **Local Integration Programme (PIL)** has provided relocation and integration assistance to more than **52,000 recognized refugees** since 2016, who are now working for more than **650 private companies** in Mexico and have contributed **US\$15 million** in taxes to the Mexican economy.

ASYLUM APPLICATIONS 2025

TOP NATIONALITIES

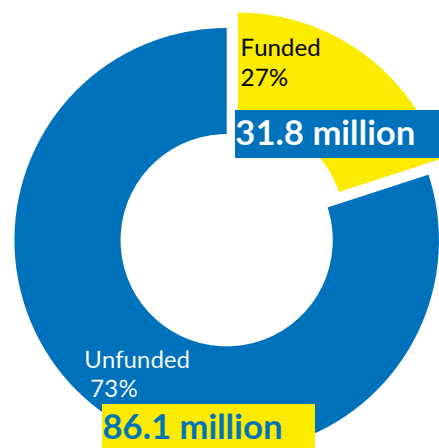


* Data available as of 30 June 2025 on Refugee Data Finder:
<https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/download>

FUNDING (AS OF 31 AUGUST 2025)

USD 117.9 million

requested for Mexico in 2025



UNHCR Presence

Country Office:

1. Ciudad de México

Sub Office:

2. Monterrey
3. Tapachula

Field Office:

4. Tijuana

Field Unit:

5. Ciudad Juárez
6. Aguascalientes
7. Saltillo
8. Guadalajara
9. Tuxtla Gutiérrez
10. San Luis Potosí
11. Villahermosa

Liaison Officers for IDP topics

- Chihuahua (Chihuahua)
- Guerrero (Acapulco y Chilpancingo)
- Michoacán (Morelia)
- Oaxaca (Oaxaca de Juárez)



Operational context

Mexico has evolved from being a country almost exclusively of origin and transit, to being a destination for those forcibly displaced. In 2024, more than **78,900 people** sought asylum in Mexico, with Hondurans being the main nationality. **140,000 people** from more than **110 nationalities** sought asylum in Mexico in 2023, representing a new record. Despite COMAR's efforts, the asylum system remains strained, further challenged by limited legal stay alternatives. To streamline procedures and prevent system misuse, COMAR introduced triage mechanisms and digitalized its system with UNHCR's support.

In 2025, more than half of all asylum claims were filed in **southern Mexico**, including Chiapas, Tabasco, and Veracruz, and **Mexico City** has seen an increase in asylum applications, representing more than **30 per cent** of claims nationwide. The increase caused overcrowding of shelters and increased protection risks. Refugees and asylum-seekers in **northern Mexico** face severe protection risks, with thousands of people living in shelters or informal settlements, exposed to extreme weather, violence, and poor sanitary conditions.

Mexico experiences **internal displacement** due to violence between organized crime groups and land disputes in some **13 states**, particularly in Chiapas, Sinaloa, Michoacán, and Oaxaca. While the national census counted more than **262,400 displaced people** between 2015-2020, the [National Victimization Survey \(ENVIPE\)](#) conducted by Mexico's National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) estimated that more than **320,000 families** were forced to change homes in 2023 alone to protect themselves from crime. Organizations such as the [Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre \(IDMC\)](#) and the Human Rights Program of the Iberoamerican University estimate that some **28,000 people** were internally displaced in 2024 due to mass violence-related events, an increase of **120 per cent** compared to 2023.

Working with partners

UNHCR works closely with refugees, host communities, the government, civil society and other UN organization to protect those forcibly displaced. The UN Refugee Agency co-leads the [UN Inter-agency Group on Human Mobility \(GIMH\)](#) with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), coordinating efforts among **10 UN agencies**, the [International Committee of the Red Cross \(ICRC\)](#), NGOs and multiple working groups on protection, internal displacement, violence towards women and girls, shelters, integration and socio-economic inclusion.

With some **20 partners** and key cooperation agreements with federal and local authorities, academia, and the private sector, UNHCR enhances coordination for protection and **durable solutions** of people forced to flee. Its strong field presence fosters collaboration with state and municipal governments, while more than **650 private sector companies** actively hire refugees in Aguascalientes, Baja California, Chiapas, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Guanajuato, Jalisco, Mexico City, Querétaro, Quintana Roo, Nuevo León, Puebla, San Luis Potosí, and Tabasco as part of Mexico's Local Integration Program.

Key priorities

Ensuring access to protection

Since 2018, UNHCR has supported COMAR through the [Quality Asylum Initiative \(QAI\)](#), improving asylum processing efficiency while ensuring interview quality and integrity. One of the main challenges asylum-seekers face, is the **lack of documentation** (Temporary Visitor Cards for Humanitarian Reasons (TVRH)), making access to essential services difficult.

With a robust network of **45 lawyers**, **45 paralegals**, more than **40 public defenders**, nearly **20 law firms**, and more than **20 law clinics** in more than **30 cities**, UNHCR ensures **access to information and legal assistance** for people forced to flee. University law clinics and pro-bono allies handle complex cases and provide legal opinions. Until mid-2025, paralegals and lawyers reached more than **15,000 people**, facilitating access to asylum and immigration procedures.

UNHCR prioritizes access to timely reliable information on asylum and local integration opportunities through refugee outreach volunteers and innovative communication channels. UNHCR's telephone line Helpdesk responds in average to more than **25,000 queries of people forced to flee** every year, most asking about access to asylum and documentation, while the Facebook page [El Jaguar](#) has reached more than **308,600 unique users** and registered more than **2.5 million views**.

With a particular focus on promoting refugee leadership, UNHCR supports Refugee-Led Organizations (RLOs), community initiatives led by refugees and internally displaced people. Meaningful participation is fulfilled when refugees are prepared for and participate in important decision-making processes.

Reception conditions and access to services

Shelters play a crucial role in humanitarian response, offering not only accommodation and access to essential services, but also specialized assistance such as legal and medical aid, psychosocial support, among others. In 2025, contextual factors have significantly shifted occupancy levels, resulting in changes to the type and level of support provided compared to 2024. While there has been a decrease in new arrivals, current cases staying at shelters are staying for longer periods, often presenting significant protection risks and psychosocial needs. Despite numerous challenges and budgetary constraints in 2025, UNHCR supported more than **9,500 people** through the provision of comprehensive assistance. This was made possible through partnerships with **28 organizations**, which received financial support from UNHCR mainly for staffing, basic services, and the strengthening of their operational capacities. More than **60,000 people** also benefited from the delivery of core relief items, primarily aimed at meeting basic hygiene and nutritional needs.

To protect refugee children, UNHCR has advocated for their inclusion in the national **child protection** system, offering technical support and promoting alternatives to immigration detention with alternative care arrangements when family

reunification is not possible. Between January to June 2025, more than **3,300 children and caregivers** have benefited from child protection services. UNHCR has provided services to more than **650 women and girls survivors of violence**, with **99 per cent** of survivors reporting satisfaction with services. More than **530 people**, including government officials, have been trained on **prevention of violence against women and girls** minimum standards, while **40 volunteers and UN personnel** received training on **protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)**.

Sustainable solutions for refugees

Thousands of refugees relocate to cities with more formal employment prospects through Mexico's **Local Integration Program (PIL)**, with more than **3,000 people** relocated in 2025. Since 2016, more than **52,000 people** have benefited, and **115,000 people** already present at their cities of integration have received support since 2021. UNHCR has cooperation agreements with federal and state authorities, employment offices, and more than **650 private companies** hiring refugees. Refugees participating in the program have already contributed with more than **275 million Mexican pesos** (approximately **15 million USD**), annually in taxes.

By July 2025, more than **770 people** across Mexico received guidance on the **naturalization** process from UNHCR and partners. Nearly **200** successfully obtained their naturalization certificates, representing a significant step toward long-term

integration. UNHCR also supports access to higher education, assisting more than **30 students** through the **Global DAFI Programme** and **40 more** through its tertiary education initiative, with more than **50 per cent** being women.

Internal displacement

UNHCR supports federal and local Mexican authorities in developing public policy frameworks to protect **internally displaced people (IDPs)** and promote durable solutions, including protocols for emergencies. Technical assistance, information management, capacity-building, coordination, and operational responses are the five key areas in which UNHCR assists **six local governments** since 2019. Recently, UNHCR and the Migration Policy Unit (UPMRIP) launched Mexico's first **Guide for the Registration of Internally Displaced People**, assisting local authorities in designing registration mechanisms. At the request of the Supreme Court, UNHCR and ICRC coordinated the Manual on Internal Displacement for Justice Institutions to assist case resolution. At the local level, in Apatzingán, Michoacán, UNHCR and UNICEF helped authorities provide protection, referral pathways, and psychosocial aid within **48 hours** of mass displacements. Consultations with displaced communities on a proposed displacement law in Oaxaca were held. Michoacán approved Mexico's first regulation for mass displacement emergencies, and in Guerrero, the legal framework adaptation and inter-agency trainings were supported by UNHCR.

Financial Information

Timely funding is urgent to ensure the continuity of our activities. UNHCR's humanitarian and durable solutions response in Mexico is made possible thanks to the generous support of major donors who have contributed with unrestricted funding to UNHCR's global operations, and to donors who have generously contributed directly to UNHCR operations in Mexico.

A special thank you to **all our donors in 2025** (as of August 2025):



UNHCR thanks all our individual donors who contribute to our mission every month.

Read more at: [UNHCR Mexico Annual Report 2024](#); [UNHCR Mexico Website](#); [Mexico Global Focus](#); [Mexico Data Portal](#); [Global Appeal 2024](#); [Twitter](#).