

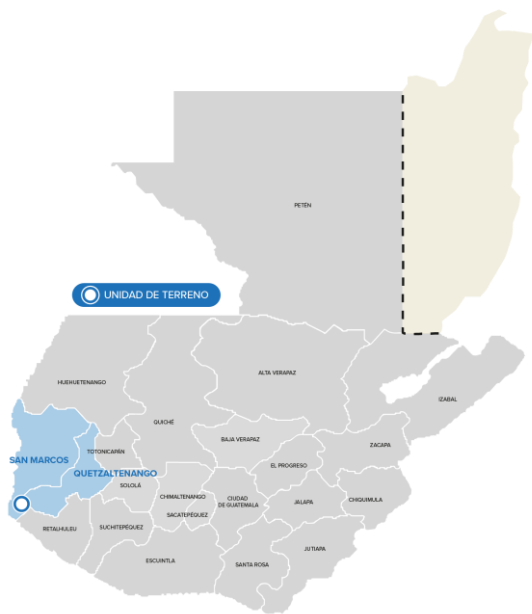
UNHCR Guatemala - Tecun Uman Field Unit

October 2022

Guatemala has a **dynamic context of mixed movements** as it is a country of origin, transit, destination and return of people with different profiles and needs. In addition, it has positioned itself as a destination country, welcoming more and more **refugees and asylum-seekers**.

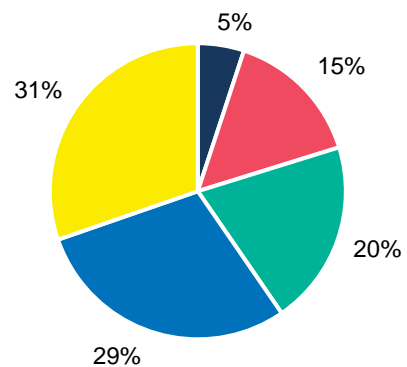
In **response to these flows of people in mixed movements**, UNHCR has six field offices in the departments of: **San Marcos, Izabal, Guatemala, Huehuetenango y Chiquimula**. **The Tecun Uman Field Unit** covers the departments of San Marcos and Quetzaltenango, including the city of Quetzaltenango.

San Marcos has **two official borders** with Mexico, making it a strategic department in terms of human mobility. UNHCR, together with 6 partners, provides care and humanitarian assistance, livelihood access, and encourages the integration of the people we serve in southwestern Guatemala.



People UNHCR Serves in Quetzaltenango and San Marcos

■ Venezuela ■ Nicaragua ■ Honduras
■ El Salvador ■ Others



19,391 Assistances provided by UNHCR and its partners in San Marcos and Quetzaltenango.

30,114 Returnees assisted at the Tecun Uman Returnee Center.

261 Individuals with international protection needs assisted by UNHCR and its partners.

90 Participants of programs aimed at employability and entrepreneurship.

195 Beneficiaries of cash-assistance for basic needs.

*Data as of September 2022



Home visits and biometric measurements in Catarina, San Marcos. ©UNHCR/ 2022

UNHCR's Activities in Quetzaltenango and San Marcos in 2022



- Since January, UNHCR has trained **726 people** from civil society organizations, schools, community leaders and staff from municipal, departmental, and national institutions on international protection, gender-based violence, rights of the LGBTIQ+ population, intervention techniques in community.
- In the municipality of Ayutla, San Marcos, UNHCR implemented the sessions "**Educating about asylum in schools**" to promote the inclusion and non-discrimination of refugee children in the national educational systems and educate them about children's rights. **83 Guatemalan and international students** aged 8-12 participated.
- Also, in Ayutla, with partner Tierra Nueva, UNHCR conducts **group psychosocial support sessions** with the refugee population, focusing on assisting refugee women and parents and strengthening their integration into the local community. **Monthly, 35 people participate** in the support groups
- In September, UNHCR made home visits to **35 refugees and asylum-seekers** in Quetzaltenango and San Marcos. Through these visits, people are assisted with registration and biometrics (BIMS), orientation, psychosocial care, and identification of possible referrals to various care programs.



- The Tecun Uman Returnee Center has received **30,114 people** this year who have been assisted with information services, identification of protection needs, hygiene and COVID prevention kits, humanitarian assistance, health services, and connectivity.
- UNHCR installed two internet access points at the Tecun Uman bus terminal and the Returnees Center to facilitate communication and re-establish family contacts for refugees, those in transit, and returnees. Five point charging stations have been placed in the city for the same purpose.
- Through informative sessions, UNHCR has **trained 30 cash-based assistance (CBI) beneficiaries** in the collection mechanisms, operation of the program, and duties and rights associated with assistance.



Phone charging station at the Center for Returnees in Tecun Uman. ©UNHCR/ 2022



Odilia, a Salvadoran refugee, started her own pupusa business in San Marcos. ©Hiram Villarreal/ UNHCR/ 2022

- In June, UNHCR and the municipality of Ayutla inaugurated the improvements to the Ayutla Explorer ecological sports and recreational park. Peaceful coexistence and local integration are promoted with the installation of **exercise equipment, children's playgrounds, and sanitary service containers** in a safe environment for people of concern and the local community



Inauguration of Ayutla Explorer, an ecological park in Ayutla, San Marcos. ©UNHCR/ 2022



- As part of the participatory assessments of the UNHCR strategy throughout the country, the Field Unit in Tecún Umán consulted **63 people from the refugee community, host community, and Guatemalans in vulnerable situations** about their needs, protection risks, and future joint action opportunities.

- Together with the organization Jovenes por el Cambio, UNHCR carried out the activity “Together for change”, where **150 Guatemalan girls and young women** were trained and sensitized on migration, international protection, and community integration through recreational activities and games.



- In 2022, UNHCR and its partner World Vision inaugurated training centers in the communities of Tejutla, Sibinal, and San José Ojetenam in San Marcos. **10,920 Guatemalans at risk, returnees, and with protection needs will benefit** from technical training in hairdressing, dressmaking, and cooking.
- In Quetzaltenango, the Attention Center for Migrants and Refugees (CAPMiR) has provided assistance and referral services to **310 people** from the Departments of Quetzaltenango, San Marcos and Totonicapán. To ensure that its services reach the places where it is most needed, **501 people in 10 different municipalities** have been informed of the services provided through community interventions.
- Under the slogan **“Renacer en Guate (Reborn in Guate),”** UNHCR in Tecún Umán, the Grupos Gestores organization and the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences of the Universidad Rafael Landívar in Quetzaltenango held a dialogue on the contribution of people refugees and migrants to local economies. The discussion focused on the role of the refugee and migrant communities in the local economy and the role of the host community in the economic integration of refugees. **52 people participated**, including refugees, the private sector, and the student community.

Contacts:

- Besem Obenson,
Representative
obenson@unhcr.org
[@RepACNURGuate](https://twitter.com/RepACNURGuate)

- Juan Ossa,
Head of Field Unit in
Tecun Uman
ossaespi@unhcr.org
[@JuanOssaE](https://twitter.com/JuanOssaE)

UNHCR's financial requirements for the Guatemala operation in 2022 (as of 14 September 2022)

Funded: 18 million USD (42%)

Unfunded: 24.5 million USD (58%)

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is grateful for the support of:



Private donors in Australia | Canada | Germany | Italy | Japan | Republic of Korea | Spain | United States