



Guatemala's Wrap-up

Our impact last month

WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2023

Hope Away from Home - A world where refugees are **always included**

Every year on **June 20th**, the world commemorates World Refugee Day (WRD). This year, WRD 2023 focuses on **solutions** for refugees and the power of **inclusion**.

Including refugees in the communities where they have found safety after fleeing conflict and persecution is the most effective way to support them in restarting their lives and enable them to contribute to the countries hosting them. We can all do more to give refugees more hope – and more opportunities – while they are away from home. Let's commit to including refugees in our schools, workplaces, health care systems, and beyond.

To commemorate WRD, we asked different people the same question.

What does it mean to find hope away from home?



*"To make your **dreams and desires blossom**, to make the most of your potential in a safe space"*

Azucena*, Asylum-seeker in Guatemala

*"To be able to contribute in my small way to **finding solutions** for those forced to flee"*

Besem Obenson, UNHCR Representative in Guatemala

*"To have an opportunity to **start again in a safe place**, with possibilities and the desire to dream and reinvent yourself"*

Rossy Palma, Deputy Executive Director, El Refugio de la Niñez

*"Finding people and communities to support you along the way and who become your **family away from home**"*

Juan Ossa, Head of Field Office, UNHCR in Tecún Umán

HOPE AWAY FROM HOME EXPO

Can you imagine being forced to leave everything behind—your loved ones, your dreams, your sense of belonging—in search of safety and a chance for a better life. Such is the reality for thousands of refugees and displaced people across Central and South America, fleeing violence, discrimination, and persecution.

Yet, amidst the trials and tribulations, there is a flicker of hope that burns brightly. In Guatemala, a country that has opened its arms to those seeking refuge, **we encounter remarkable stories of resilience, determination, and compassion.** Through the lens of the talented and acclaimed photographer, **Nicolò Filippo Rossi**, we capture intimate moments that illuminate the journeys of these courageous individuals.



In this captivating photo exhibition, titled "**Hope Away from Home,**" we invite you to embark on a visual journey that explores the lives of refugees and others on the move who have found solace and strength away from their homes. Visit the **Post and Telegraph Museum** (7 Ave 12-11, zone 1) and step into this exhibition to witness the transformative power of hope—a force that transcends borders and ignites the path towards a brighter future.

The exhibition will be available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **until July 20th.**

DALI AND JOAQUIN - finding inclusion through cheese

Dali and Joaquin are Venezuelan refugees who were able to find hope away from home in Guatemala. Together, they discovered a remarkable way to integrate into the local community of their host country by making artisanal cheese from their home, Venezuela.

Now, their business is thriving, and **they found hope away from home.**



[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

ACTION FROM THE FIELD

World Refugee Day commemorations travelled through all the corners of Guatemala, bearing **messages of inclusion and hope**. Books, sports and cultural fairs, informative activities, gastronomic spaces, film forums, and many more took place throughout the country.

Follow along to see how UNHCR **commemorated WRD in the field:**



In **San Marcos**, the local and refugee community participated in a medical day, sports, and information fair where they learned about services offered by UNHCR and its partners.



In **Izabal**, UNHCR, the University Center (CUNIZAB), and the local organization Ak'tenamit organized a cultural and sporting event to commemorate WRD with the local community.



In **Huehuetenango**, UNHCR commemorated WRD through culinary and gastronomic activities where people were able to share their own traditions and food at a local shelter that provides humanitarian assistance and protection for vulnerable population.



In **Esquipulas**, UNHCR, representatives from the Municipal Directorate for Women (DMM), the shelter Casa del Migrante, and the Esquipulas Health Center participated in local radio shows to raise awareness for WRD and highlight the importance of inclusion of refugees in host communities.



In **Peten**, the Women's Committee of the La Paz neighborhood organized a karaoke and "top chef" activity with local and refugee women where they got to sing their favorite songs and try different delicious dishes.



In **Guatemala City**, UNHCR and partner World Vision celebrated a "Rally for Inclusion" where the local refugee and asylum-seeker population participated in peaceful coexistence activities and where able to share their life experiences in Guatemala.

IMPACTING THE LIVES OF PEOPLE ON THE MOVE - UNHCR's work in Guatemala

+22,000 people in transit assisted
872 refugees
2,348 asylum-seekers
983 people benefitted with cash assistance
(as of April 2023)

To learn more about UNHCR's work in Guatemala and the assistances provided to refugees, asylum-seekers, Guatemalans at risk and other people in need of international protection read the latest [Operational Update: January-April 2023](#)

[DOWNLOAD HERE](#)

[We recommend the use of Google Chrome to read the newsletter.](#)

Would you like to support any of our initiatives and projects?

Please contact:

Jean Pierre Mora, External Relations Officer

moraj@unhcr.org - (502) 3191 7420

[UNHCR is grateful for the contributions from our donors, which make our work possible.](#)

UNHCR's financial requirements for the Guatemala operation in 2023 (as of 27 June 2023)

Funded: 14.63 million USD (39%)

Unfunded: 22.98 million USD (61%)

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



Private donors in Australia | Japan | Republic of Korea | Spain

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This is an external newsletter of UNHCR in Guatemala for informational purposes only.

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