

Guatemala

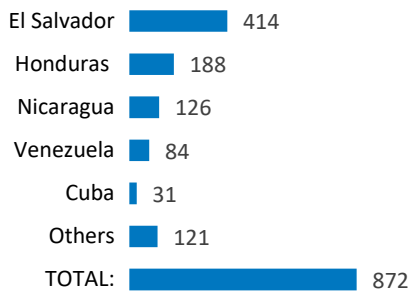
July 2023

Guatemala's geographic location plays a significant role in human mobility within Central America. The country experiences diverse mixed-movement dynamics, involving several individuals **seeking international protection**.

Persons in transit often opt for hard-to-reach areas and unofficial border crossings. This situation exposes them to **potential dangers**, including **gender-based violence** and **human trafficking**, which further jeopardize their well-being during their journey.

UNHCR in Guatemala works to ensure that **people with protection needs** can access territory, documentation, protection referral mechanisms, essential aid, basic services, and durable solutions.

Refugees in Guatemala

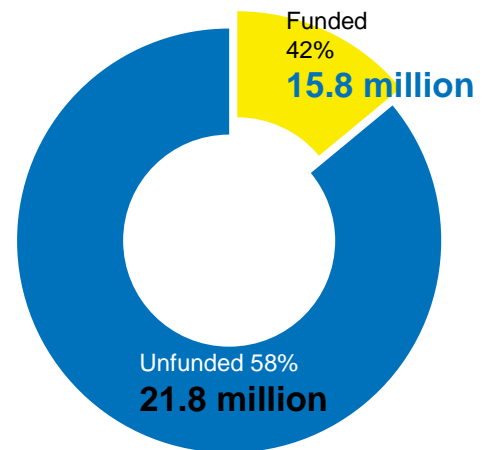


* Source : Guatemalan Migration Institute (IGM) as of June 2023.

FUNDING (AS OF JULY 2023)

USD 37.6 million

requested for the Guatemala operation



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

77 National Staff

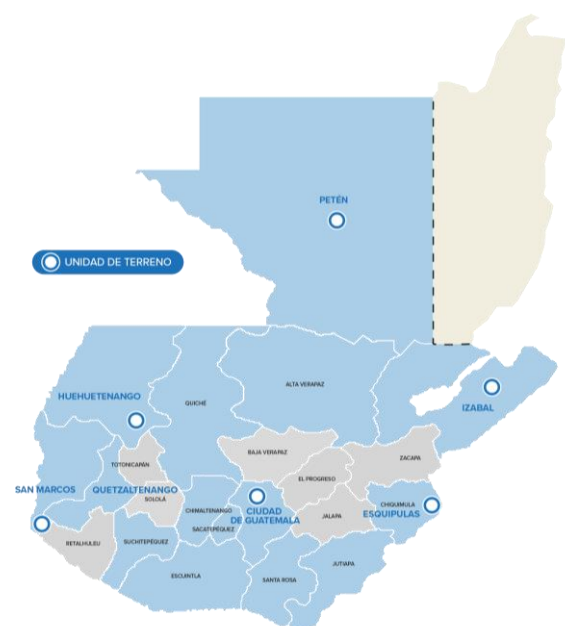
49 International Staff

Offices:

01 Branch Office in Guatemala City

01 Field Office in Guatemala City

05 Field Units in Peten, Huehuetenango, San Marcos, Chiquimula and Izabal.



Working with Partners

UNHCR in Guatemala has established **partnerships** with governmental institutions, collaborates closely with UN Women, IOM, UNICEF and other UN agencies, and ten non-governmental organizations. Additionally, UNHCR actively supports the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) with the Government of Guatemala and plays a crucial role in co-leading the UN Specialized Working Group on Migration (GEMIG) and the Protection Cluster. At the grassroots level, UNHCR is actively involved with departmental governments, municipalities, and local authorities to ensure the protection and well-being of displaced individuals in the country.

Main Activities

UNHCR's activities in Guatemala focus on **improving the protection environment** for nationals at risk, asylum-seekers and refugees, and individuals in transit from the mixed movements, ensuring access to territory, enhancing State and civil society's protection capacities, and fostering inclusion through better access to rights and services. As of July 2023, UNHCR and partners have assisted more than 83,900 people throughout the year in 21 different departments. These **priorities are aligned** with actions included in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2020-2025, the National Chapter of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS), and the current Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

Protection

- UNHCR works to **support the capacities** of public institutions mandated to protect displaced populations, including staffing, technical assistance, infrastructural support, and advocacy at the political level for the rights of people with protection needs. Such initiatives ensure better access to documentation, strengthened public institutions, and compliance with international standards on **refugee status determination**. In 2023, UNHCR and partners have trained more than 2,700 people from government institutions and civil society organizations in international protection and refugee status determination.
- In the quality of the **Protection Cluster** leader, UNHCR holds meetings with the humanitarian country team to promote the centrality of protection to the humanitarian response in the country, aiming to ensure the transversalities of protection within the humanitarian country team's strategy and response.
- UNHCR works to offer **resettlement solutions** to refugees and Guatemalans at high risk, through revised and simplified procedures, strengthening the capacity of caseworkers, protection staff and partners, including relevant government institutions, in identifying and referring cases with protection needs.
- UNHCR has expanded its presence in key areas at the border by implementing **CAPMiRs** (assistance centres for migrants and refugees) and through mobile units covering remote areas. The CAPMiRs are part of an alliance led by the Guatemalan Government in coordination with UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM. Through its community-based strategy, it also aims at identifying key informants in the field to provide information and orientation. As of the end of July, more than 13,600 people have been assisted in the CAPMiRs. Additionally, as of 12 June 2023, services in the CAPMiRs have expanded to support the government with the Safe Mobility Initiative by identifying and giving proper follow-up to international protection needs cases.
- UNHCR has started mapping and strengthening specialized services to prevent, identify, and respond to **gender-based violence** cases, and is also covering through partners, including differentiated care tailored for indigenous, LGBTIQ+ population. In 2023, UNHCR and partners trained 348 people in gender-based violence prevention. Finally, UNHCR and partners trained 229 people in **child protection** and rights to reinforce the national response.

Shelter

- UNHCR enhanced **shelter infrastructure** and protection capabilities by sharing best practices and reinforcing protection standards, including gender-based violence prevention. This improved shelter conditions, space allocation, feedback mechanisms, and infrastructure investment. UNHCR also co-leads the **Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster (CCCM)** with IOM, overseeing over 15 temporary shelters managed by various partners. This collaboration aims to address shelter needs, reduce risks, and implement innovative solutions.
- UNHCR is working with partners to reinforce **humanitarian standards** through capacity-building and standard operational and monitoring procedures to ensure the implementation of protection standards, prevent violence, and avoid crowded areas.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR's **community-based** approach lends itself to a large field presence and the implementation of interventions to prevent protection risks and strengthen protection mechanisms. Furthermore, to achieve the full inclusion of people with protection needs in Guatemala, UNHCR works to strengthen community participation structures, promote **peaceful coexistence**, and advocate for including refugees and asylum-seekers in national and local public policies.
- UNHCR works to enhance several community initiatives. For example, the Office supports the **Cities of Solidarity** initiative and community networks to prevent and address discrimination and xenophobia and peaceful coexistence in seven different municipalities, being San Benito, Flores in Petén; Livingston, Puerto Barrios in Izabal; Esquipulas, Chiquimula; Villa Nueva, Guatemala City, Guatemala; as well as 2 Departmental Governorates such as Huehuetenango and Quetzaltenango.

Durable Solutions

- As of the end of July, 1,465 individuals from 479 families received **cash assistance** (CBI) to meet their basic needs and support their **livelihoods** initiatives from January to July 2023. Furthermore, UNHCR in Guatemala concentrates on six strategic objectives to enhance the **economic inclusion** of refugees, asylum-seekers, and at-risk Guatemalans. These objectives include strengthening economic protection, providing education and training, facilitating access to financial resources, promoting employment opportunities, and fostering private-sector partnerships. The aim is to empower individuals towards self-reliance and contribute to lasting solutions.

Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

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



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

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CONTACTS

Besem Obenson, Representative, obenson@unhcr.org  @RepACNURGuate

Jean Pierre Casasola, External Relations Officer, moraj@unhcr.org  @JeanPierreMora