UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Guate's Wrap-up

Our impact last year

As 2023 comes to an end, UNHCR in Guatemala reflects on the year and the assistance we provided to **over 130,000** refugees, asylum-seekers, and others in mixed movements.

In 2023, thanks to the **generous contributions of our donors** and through collaboration with our partners, UNHCR in Guatemala:

- Assisted **24,400** people in mixed movements at the Assistance Centers for Migrants and Refugees (CAPMiR)
- Trained **24,630** civil servants & members of civil society on international protection, gender violence, child protection, etc.
- Provided cash-assistance to **3,700** individuals to cover basic needs

This year, UNHCR in Guatemala and partners continued to provide vital information and services, humanitarian assistance, and strengthened access to protection services in the country. **Here are a few highlights:**

Strengthening the Asylum System

Collaboration and Capacity Building with Government Authorities: 2023 marks the year with the **most asylum claims processed and individuals recognized** as refugees (293) in the previous 6 years. With UNHCR's technical support and capacity-building sessions, the Refugee Status Determination Department (DRER) of the Guatemalan Migration Institute (IGM) has significantly improved the refugee status determination (RSD) process.

Additionally, with UNHCR's support, the IGM began implementing a pilot exercise with mobile outreach services in key locations to decentralize RSD procedures, particularly in border areas.

Emergency Response

Floods and rainy season: Due to increased rains and the presence of Tropical Storm Pilar, many refugee and local families were affected by floods. Together with the Municipality of Puerto Barrios in Izabal, UNHCR provided hygiene kits for 86 families and assisted the local authority in the adaptation of 3 temporary shelters.

Community-based Protection

Community health promoters: UNHCR and partner Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC) implemented a pilot project to strengthen community protection networks through community health promoters trained in primary health assistance and international protection, aiming to identify and refer cases of people with protection needs.

INNOVATING AND RESPONDING TO NEEDS

Mixed Movements Monitoring: UNHCR and partners continued collecting information continuously through the Mixed Movements Monitoring Survey to understand the profiles and needs of people transiting through Guatemala. To date, UNHCR has **surveyed 7,798 individuals** in Chiquimula, Guatemala, Izabal, Petén, San Marcos and Huehuetenango.

With this data, in 2023, UNHCR started producing quarterly reports to identify the protection needs of people in mixed movements and identified that **40% of people surveyed point to violence as one of the reasons for leaving their countries of origin.** This allows UNHCR to identify needs and plan its humanitarian interventions, as well as to provide recommendations to stakeholders and institutions involved in ensuring and strengthening protection services.

LEARN MORE

GETTING READY FOR 2024

Global Refugee Forum (GRF): The Global Refugee Forum 2023 will take place from 13 to 15 December in Geneva, Switzerland. Held every 4 years, the Forum is the **World's largest international gathering on refugees** and is designed to support the practical implementation of the objectives set out in the Global Compact on Refugees: ease pressures on host countries, enhance refugee self-reliance, increase access to third-country solutions and improve conditions in countries of origin.

The Government of Guatemala will attend the Forum and present its pledges. Additionally, the Mayor of San Benito (Petén) will share their experience and good practice as a City of Solidarity and the Guatemalan delegation will participate in the *Marco Integral Regional para la Protección y Soluciones* (MIRPS) parallel event.

GET INVOLVED

We recommend the use of Google Chrome to read the newsletter.

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

Please contact:

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