UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

FACT SHEET

HUEHUETENANGO FIELD UNIT

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OPERATIONAL CONTEXT AND KEY FIGURES

Guatemala is a country of origin, transit and return and has increasingly become a destination for refugees and asylum seekers. UNHCR has 7 offices in the country including Huehuetenango which covers the departments of Huehuetenango and Quiché.

Huehuetenango has two official border crossing points with Mexico. Huehuetenango receives high traffic of mixed movements and, along with Quiché, receives the highest number of returnees, including unaccompanied children and adolescents.

UNHCR coordinates with the municipal and departmental authorities, international agencies, NGOs and communities, and 3 partner organisations to provide humanitarian assistance and access to livelihoods. UNHCR also ensures local integration of people in need of international protection by working with local communities and authorities, including through the City of Solidarity initiative that Huehuetenango has endorsed.

113
refugees and asylum-seekers

9,209
Guatemalans at risk

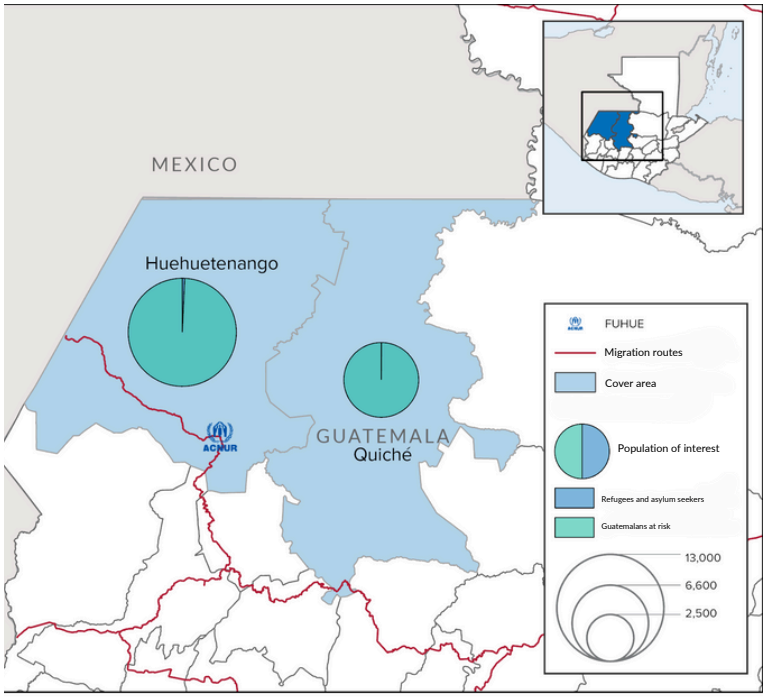
6,919
people served in 2023

20,330
assistance provided in 2023

OTHER RELEVANT DATA

- 15,135 with protection needs (2024)
- 44,901 people in food insecurity (2024)
- 9% of illiteracy (2018)
- 6% of child labour (2018)
- 30% of poverty (2014)
- 339 crimes against women per 100,000 population (2021)
- 41% of unemployment (2018)
- 32% without access to water and sanitation (2018)

Source: Humanitarian Response Plan (2024) and National Statistics Institute (INE). Data for the municipality of ***Huehuetenango****.*



IMPACT OF THE 2023 RESPONSE

Assistance

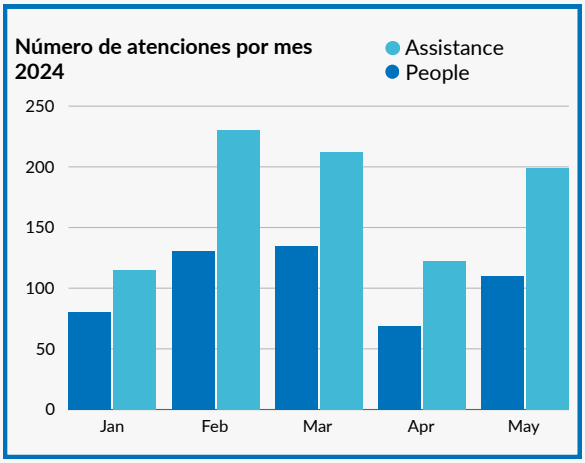
- **3,821** people received counselling, protection interviews, shelter referrals, livelihoods support, cash, legal advice, and protection of from gender-based violence.
- **132** new asylum-seekers were identified in 2023.
- **467** Guatemalans at risk were provided protection through the Safe Mobility Programme.

Child protection

- Refugee and asylum-seeking children and adolescents received registration support for the 2024 school year in the framework of the Departmental Commission for Children, Adolescents and Youth.
- **197** law, social work, and education students received international protection training.

CAPMiR Huehuetenango

The Centre for Attention to Migrants and Refugees (CAPMiR) serves as a key protection space to facilitate access to territory and shelter, provides humanitarian assistance, shares official information and identifies risks and protection needs. In 2023, five CAPMiRs assisted **25,814** people, of which **1,462** were facilitated in CAPMiR Huehuetenango.



Source: CAPMiR 2024 Monitoring

UNHCR works with indigenous communities in Quiche and Huehuetenango to enable them to live a safe and dignified life. © UNHCR/Víctor S.

Livelihoods

- **100** women and **15** asylum-seekers received financial empowerment workshops.
- A consultancy in Cuilco, Ixtahuacan, Aguacatan and Colotenango, identified women and young entrepreneurs to form part of a supply business model.

Alliances

- UNHCR supported the Technical Committee for Inter-institutional Coordination for the Attention to Migrants, Family Members of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers to become the Departmental Commission for the Attention to Migrants and Refugees (CODAMIR) of the Departmental Development Council (CODEDE), to strengthen referral to public services.
- 400 people received vaccinations, pre-hospital care, prenatal care, planning and general medical consultation with the Ministry of Health over days at the CAPMiR.

Training

- **262** local government officials and **757** civil society members participated in training on protection, integration, durable solutions, community protection and inter-institutional care routes for persons in need of international protection and victims of gender-based violence.