



Shelters

Shelters led by civil society and religious organizations play a crucial role, as they provide much more than temporary accommodation to asylum-seekers and refugees. They provide protection for those fleeing danger, while ensuring access to information and essential services such as food, clean water, and medical care, covering basic needs. Thanks to the support of UNHCR and its partners, shelters have transformed into multifaceted resource centres that offer everything from information, legal advice, and guidance on asylum procedures to educational training opportunities and professional development, paving the way towards self-sufficiency. Additionally, they are the first step in finding lasting solutions through local integration.

Until July 2024, more than **300 shelters** have been mapped: **95 in the south**, **73 in the center** and **141 in the north**, not including those temporary spaces set up by local communities, mainly in the south.

UNHCR has supported nearly **54 shelters**.

Where more than **50 million MXN** were invested in the following sectors:



- **Infrastructure** – Six shelters
- **Non-food items** – 29 shelters
- **Financial and management support** – 26 shelters, through 13 UNHCR partners
- **Food and nutrition** – Seven shelters



Monitoring and Support Activities

Throughout the year, UNHCR has conducted more than **785 monitoring visits** to **93 shelters**, implementing close to **168 informative sessions** benefiting more than **5,723 individuals**. Additionally, there were almost **640 individual consultations** in over **39 shelters**, which helped address the needs of more than **5,723 people**.

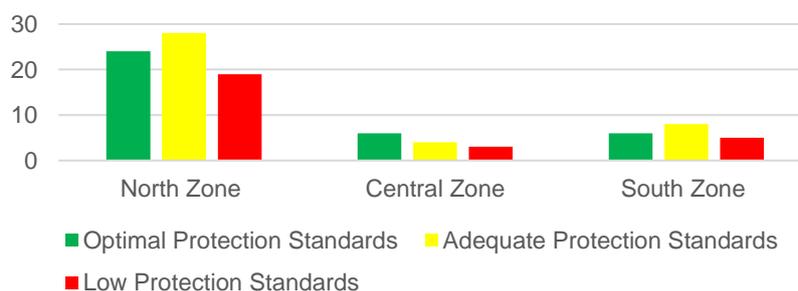
Traffic Light Tool

UNHCR has strengthened shelter protection through the introduction of the "**Shelter Protection Standards Stoplight**". This tool assesses compliance with minimum standards in accommodation spaces, addressing crucial aspects such as protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) and child protection. It also provides a baseline to evaluate shelter conditions, enabling UNHCR to develop strategies and achieve optimal protection standards in collaboration with various sectors involved.

So far in 2024, the tool assessed **103 shelters nationwide**, revealing **36 with optimal protection standards** (green), **40 with adequate standards** (yellow), and **27 with low standards** (red). Regional breakdowns indicate varying levels of protection, providing a baseline for improvement strategies.

With this information, field offices can collaboratively develop work plans with shelter staff to prioritize and guide support, strengthening protection responses.

Shelter Protection Standards by Region (2024)



Coordination Efforts and Digital Platform

UNHCR co-leads the **Interagency Shelter Working Group** to coordinate responses in reception areas and shelters for individuals in need of international protection. A digital platform was developed with UN agencies to coordinate interventions, systematizing information, and sharing interagency standards. UNHCR initiated a working group with international and civil society organizations, fostering **coordinated interventions** and more **effective support** for shelters nationwide.



Capacity-Building and Support

UNHCR organized **nine training sessions** for more than **753 shelter workers** on international refugee protection, GBV, child protection, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, fundraising, civil protection, internal displacement, and volunteering in shelters. Additionally, UNHCR trained the sixth and seventh generation of volunteers from the Hospitalidad y Solidaridad volunteer network that supports full-time volunteering in **14 shelters** in Mexico.

Infrastructure Support and Donations

In 2024, six shelters in the country have received support for infrastructure improvement projects:

- **Four projects** in shelters located near the **northern border** (Desayunador Salesiano in Tijuana, Albergue Diocesano de Cáritas in Torreón, Coahuila, Senda de Vida 1 y 2 in Reynosa, Tamaulipas and shelter Vida in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua) have been completed.
- In the **central region**, a project to construct a warehouse and dormitories for volunteers at Casa del Migrante San Juan Diego in Huehuetoca, Estado de México, is in its final stages and will be handed over to the community in the coming weeks.
- In the **southern area**, a project to improve dormitories at Casa del Migrante Ranzahuer in Oluta, Veracruz, has recently been completed.

As of May - June 2024, through **13 partnership agreements** and joint projects with partner organizations and shelter networks, UNHCR contributed to financing personnel and operating expenses of nearly **26 shelters** in the country, benefiting more than **180,000 individuals** with services such as accommodation, food, psychosocial support, legal guidance, and hygiene supplies.

Donations Impact



UNHCR's donations to shelters included more than **9,000 mattresses, bunk beds, and mats**; **128,000 cleaning items**; **500,000 personal hygiene items**; more than **5,000 kitchen and office supplies**; and more than **1,500 clothing items**, distributed across more than **90 shelters** nationwide so far in 2024.

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. **Timely funding** is urgent to ensure the continuity of our activities.

For more information: [UNHCR Mexico Webpage](#); [Global Focus Mexico](#); [Data Portal Mexico](#); [Global Appeal 2024](#); [Twitter](#); [UNHCR Mexico Newsletter](#).

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