UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Guate's Wrap-up

2024 Q1 Report: Mixed Movement Monitoring

UNHCR continuously gathers data through Mixed Movements Monitoring to understand the profiles and needs of individuals in mixed movements in Guatemala. Between January and April 2024, UNHCR collected **2,385 individual surveys**, with 55% conducted in border areas. These surveys were carried out in the departments of **Guatemala, Petén, Chiquimula, San Marcos, Huehuetenango, and Izabal.**

Comparing the first quarter results of 2023 and 2024, **Venezuela** continues to have the largest representation in surveys, increasing slightly from 49% in 2023 to 50% in 2024. In contrast, **Honduras** shows a marked decrease from 37% to 32%.

People in mixed movements have diverse profiles, including **asylum-seekers**, **refugees**, **victims of trafficking**, and **unaccompanied or separated children**, among others.

Mixed movements monitoring indicated that ***50% of the people fled their country of origin due to violence or conflict and may have international protection needs.***

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World Refugee Day, June 20th
Celebrating Refugee's Strength and Resilience

UNHCR held a World Refugee Day event in Guatemala at **the National Palace of Guatemala** hosted by the Vice President of the Republic, Dr. Karin Herrera, who emphasized the day's importance and encouraged all institutions to participate in the commemoration. UNHCR also organized a **photo exhibition** at the ***Centro de Formación de la Cooperación Española*** **in La Antigua** to honor the courage and resilience of refugees. The exhibition featured powerful stories and showcased the skills of refugees.

Reforestation day where 300 trees were planted in Quetzaltenango by refugees and Guatemalans

Meeting of the Cities of Solidarity Committee in Puerto Barrios, Izabal

Activity with refugees and asylum-seekers in the Children's Museum, Guatemala City

Soccer championship for women and refugees in Huehuetenango

Various activities were organized in the field to commemorate this important day, including sports, welfare initiatives, and handicrafts, with **refugees and asylum-seekers at center stage.**

Cleanup of Lake Peten Itza as part of an awareness campaign in Flores, Peten

World Refugee Day is not just a commemoration, but **a day of reflection, connection,** and **hope for a better future.**

5K race 'Solidarity with refugees' in Esquipulas, Chiquimula

Connecting with People
High-Level Visits

Visit of the US Ambassador Tobin Bradley to the CAPMiR in Flores, Peten

In recent months, **UNHCR in Guatemala** has been bustling with activities, hosting **missions**, and participating in **events**, all focused on supporting people under the UNHCR's mandate.

Government Institutions, embassies, international organizations, international cooperation offices, and binational chambers of commerce, among others, have observed the work carried out by UNHCR at both **national** and **local levels.**

They have also noted the evolving inter-institutional coordination and the impactful work being done to contribute to the **change in people's lives**.

Visit of Mr. Ahmed Hussen, Canadian Minister of International Cooperation, to the CAPMiR Centra Sur in Guatemala City

Through these high-level visits, we highlight the incredible support, contributions, and achievements within communities and the **profound impact on people's lives** under UNHCR's mandate.

Each visit is a story of collaboration and a powerful reflection of our shared commitment to **transforming the lives of refugees and asylum-seekers.**

"Women and girls are powerful agents of change for development and economic growth. That is why Canada will continue to support projects in Central America that

empower them to reach their full potential, access education and skills training, and participate fully in the inclusive, green economy of today and tomorrow."

- **Ahmed Hussen**, Minister of International Development, Government of Canada.

Visit of the JICA delegation to Ak'tenamit in Livingston, Izabal

Visit of Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, to a children's refuge in Guatemala City.

Visit of the Korean Ambassador, Deukhwan Kim, to the UNHCR office in Guatemala City

High-level visit of the Canadian embassy to the UNHCR office in Tecún Umán, San Marcos

Government
Building Safer and More Inclusive Communities Together

Meeting between the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, and the Guatemalan president, Bernardo Arevalo

Guatemala hosted the third Ministerial Meeting on the **Los Angeles Declaration** in Guatemala City to discuss regional strategies for human mobility. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, attended.

UNHCR reaffirmed its commitment to collaborate with **governments, development entities, NGOs**, and **private sector partners** to enhance protection, foster inclusion and integration, and resettlement opportunities.

Meeting of UNHCR Guatemala and El Salvador teams at the office of the Dirección de Tejido Social in San Salvador, El Salvador

Under the National Action Plan of the Comprehensive Regional for Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS) 2024, the National Technical Team highlighted several key achievements:

1. **Decentralization of the Department for the Recognition of Refugee Status (DRER)**: aims to improve access to, and quality of, services for refugees, asylum-seekers, and individuals in human mobility contexts.
2. **Launch of Social Inclusion Guides**: The Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (MINTRAB) has introduced four guides to help companies integrate refugees, asylum-seekers, and individuals in human mobility.
3. **Casa Joven Program**: The Social Welfare Secretariat of the Presidency (SBS) has implemented good practices through this program.
4. **Certification of Technical and Vocational Competencies**: The Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) now recognizes the Personal Identification Document (DPI) for access to any educational and technical training programs offered by the institution.

Visit of the Vice President, Karin Herrera, to the CAPMiR Huehuetenango

Visit of the Vice President, Karin Herrera, to the CAPMiR Centra Sur in Guatemala City

UNHCR welcomed **Dr. Karin Herrera, the Vice President of the Republic,** to the Centers for Care of Migrants and Refugees (CAPMiR) in **Guatemala City, Huehuetenango, and Peten**. Her support and leadership have been crucial in raising awareness in public institutions

about the integration and protection of refugees and asylum-seekers, ensuring their stability within host communities.

Dr. Herrera's active involvement has increased cooperation from various sectors, leading to a better capacity for local communities to **integrate refugees and asylum-seekers** and fostering an environment of understanding and solidarity.

Visit of the Vice President, Karin Herrera, to the CAPMiR in Flores, Petén

Key Partners
United for Stronger Communities

Our ability to protect and provide **durable solutions** to refugees and asylum-seekers is thanks to the unwavering **commitment and active involvement of our partners.**

Their leadership and dedication play a crucial role in achieving our outcomes. Through their collaboration, we can effectively address the needs of the **refugees and asylum-seekers**, ensuring they receive the protection and assistance necessary for a hopeful and secure future.

Unit for the Prevention of Crimes of Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking of Persons, supported by UNHCR

Human Rights Ombudsperson's Unit, supported by UNHCR

Guatemalan Migration Institute staff at the CAPMiR Centra Sur

Emergency response provided by UNHCR and the Attorney's General Office team in Huehuetenango

Empowering Protection
Fostering Resilience

National Protection Network meeting in Guatemala City

Since 2016, the **National Protection Network,** comprised of **16 organizations**, serves as a strategic ally of UNHCR in providing **humanitarian assistance** and **protection** for refugees, asylum-seekers, people in mixed movements, and individuals in human mobility, establishing itself as a national and regional benchmark.

UNHCR holds the **technical secretariat** role, offering guidance and support for various interventions, including meetings, capacity-building, workshops, advocacy strategies, and case management.

The Network has made significant progress in developing its **Standard Operating Procedures** (SOP) for case management, leading to better coordination and teamwork. This advancement ensures that each organization can deliver individualized and specialized care, and coordinate services among each other, resulting in a more effective and tailored response for those in need of protection.

National Protection Network. Meeting on the Work Plan 2024-2028.

Meeting with the Rafael Landivar University on the implementation of the joint strategy.

UNHCR has trained and strengthened capacities within State institutions and Civil Society entities. **6 workshops** were provided for departmental directors of the Ministry of Education, focusing on International Protection, and ensuring access to the right to education for refugee children through the **Special Personal Identity Card.**

Through a collaboration with the legal clinics of the Rafael Landivar University, asylum-seekers and refugees will receive free legal assistance and orientation on access to asylum in **Guatemala, Alta Verapaz, Quetzaltenango, and Huehuetenango.**

UNHCR Communities
Together for Change

UNHCR community strengthening efforts in Guatemala ensure local integration of refugees and asylum-seekers including training of individuals under UNHCR's mandate, empowering female leaders, and enhancing community knowledge on gender equality, gender-based violence prevention, and international protection. These efforts aim to address the needs affecting their lives and **ensure durable solutions for refugees and asylum-seekers.**

Workshop on protection and access to rights with municipal school teachers in Esquipulas, Chiquimula

Skills and knowledge have been developed to **facilitate the labor inclusion** of refugees and asylum-seekers. This empowers them to secure sustainable employment, contribute to the local economy, and integrate into their communities.

These efforts enhance their quality of life and foster a **more inclusive and supportive society**.

Workshop on leadership and community organization in a host community in Puerto Barrios, Izabal.

Activity 'School for Parents' at School 596 in La Isla, Peten

Artistic activity organised by UNHCR in the framework of International Youth Day

631	08	26
People participating in community structures	Departments	Community processes

Interagency coordination
United in Action

Since August, UNHCR has been leading the Specialized Group for Mixed Movements and Migration under the Resident Coordinators Office (GEMIG in Spanish), which aims to coordinate the efforts of UN agencies, funds, and programs working to protect refugees and migrants.

UNHCR rotates leadership of this group with UNICEF and IOM which has enabled a unified approach, ensuring that collective knowledge and resources are used effectively to address complex needs.

The group has outlined implemented actions, shared best practices, and developed comprehensive strategies **to support the security, rights, and well-being of refugees and migrants**.

Identification of needs and empowerment training of women in Canabaj, Huehuetenango, in collaboration with WFP

UN Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) course in Quetzaltenango

UNHCR and the World Food Programme (WFP) are participating in the **Departmental Commission on Human Mobility in Huehuetenango** to assess the distribution of food in border areas and coordinate efforts to strengthen a women's group in Canabaj, Huehuetenango.

WFP enhances food and nutritional security within communities, while UNHCR **strengthenes gender issues and preventing violence.**

WFP and **UNHCR** have organized training sessions in collaboration with the Municipal Office for Women. These initiatives address immediate needs and empower women and their local communities by increasing resilience.

In May, UNHCR and IOM facilitated the annual **Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)** training in Quetzaltenango. The activity was hybrid and addressed to the PSEA, Humanitarian Group, and UN System Programs inter-agency group. The workshop methodology was developed with **the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)** and included a simulation exercise for Agency Directors.

It was attended by **120 participants**, including Resident Coordinator Miguel Barreto, Directors, and Representatives from various agencies including WFP, FAO, UN Women, UNHCR, and IOM.The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Guatemalan Institute for Migration, and the United Nations system in Guatemala renewed their cooperation agreement to continue to design and implement joint actions on coordination and collaboration for **protection and solutions for people in mixed movements.**

Signature of an MoU between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Guatemalan Migration Institute and the UN.

The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, the **Guatemalan Institute for Migration**, and the **United Nations system** in Guatemala signed a **cooperation agreement** to establish a refugee and migration working group.

This collaboration between these entities aims to strengthen the response to the challenges of migration and **ensure the protection of the rights** of refugees and migrants in Guatemala.

Cities of Solidarity
Empowering Communities

The UNHCR's **Cities of Solidarity** is a regional initiative that aims to recognize and enhance the efforts and leadership of **local governments** in safeguarding and integrating refugees and migrants into the host communities. The initiative seeks to create more inclusive and supportive environments for all by **fostering development**, **embracing diversity**, and **encouraging cultural exchange**.

The Mayor of Guatemala City, Ricardo Quiñónez Lemus, attended the II Conference of Cities of Solidarity.

Signature at the II National Conference of Cities of Solidarity - National Network of Cities of Solidarity

The **II National Conference** of **Cities of Solidarity** took place on September 25 with over **150 participants**, including national and local authorities, embassies, and cooperation agencies.

This conference is a significant milestone as Guatemala now has **19 Cities of Solidarity**, making it the Central America country with the highest level of engagement and participation in this initiative.

Dr. Karin Herrera, the Vice President of Guatemala, addressed the participants emphasizing her commitment to the initiative, and encouraged local authorities to participate.

Signature of the Cities of Solidarity Agreement of the Municipalities of El Estor, Los Amates and Morales in Puerto Barrios, Izabal.

Signature of the Cities of Solidarity Agreement of the Municipality of Jutiapa

Signature of the Cities of Solidarity Agreement of the Municipality of Chiquimula

Signature of the Cities of Solidarity Agreement of the Municipality of Asunción Mita

Signature of the Cities of Solidarity Agreement of the Municipality of Santa Catarina Mita

Izabal became the **first Department** to have **all its municipalities designated as Cities of Solidarity**, exemplifying effective coordination and collaboration for refugees, asylum seekers, and those in human mobility. Izabal reaffirmed its commitment to fostering a **community of solidarity.**

In September, the **Governor's Offices** of **Chiquimula** and **Jutiapa**, along with the **Municipalities** of **Chiquimula, Asuncion Mita, Santa Catarina Mita, and Jutiapa**, signed a letter of understanding to become Cities of Solidarity. This partnership significantly enhances collaborative efforts in the region, fostering stronger local networks and ensuring more coordinated support for refugees and asylum-seekers.

2021	2022	2023	2024
I National Conference	Cities of Solidarity are incorporated into MIRPS	Pledges on Cities of Solidarity presented at the World Refugee Forum	II National Conference in Guatemala and I Refional Conference in Montevideo

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Prepared to Protect
Ready to Respond

The Guatemalan Air Force worked closely with UNHCR in the emergency response in Huehuetenango

UNHCR in Guatemala is ready to respond to emergencies, including any humanitarian crises that may arise. By providing **emergency** protection and **assistance** such as shelter, cash-based aid, and access to medical care, **UNHCR** assists individuals needing international protection to keep them safe.

In Guatemala, **UNHCR** collaborates with the **Government, other UN agencies, partners, and NGOs** to quickly deploy emergency teams and ensure life-saving supplies reach those in need.

Cuilco, Huehuetenango / Guatemala City, Guatemala

Around 600 Mexican people have fled to **Guatemala since July,** due to crime and violence. Among the displaced individuals were women, children, and elderly people who have sought safety in Cuilco, Huehuetenango

UNHCR coordinated the initial response with national and local authorities, partners, and civil society organizations,

In September, **135 Nicaraguan political prisoners** were released due to the advocacy of the United States government, which facilitated their transport to Guatemala.

UNHCR, in collaboration with civil society partners, other UN agencies and in close coordination with both national and local government, provided **essential support,**

through the Migrant and Refugee Department Commission. **Essential items** such as hygiene kits, stoves, and blankets, were quickly delivered. Coordinated interventions resulted in improved communication, more effective resource allocation, and strengthened support networks for the Mexican people. UNHCR also identified international protection needs in coordination with the Guatemalan Migration Institute (IGM) that provide **temporary stay visas** and **registered 38 asylum seekers.**

UNHCR continues to coordinate the response with departamental and municipal authorities, UN agencies and local NGOs.

including cash assistance, lodging, and food. UNHCR worked with various partners to ensure comprehensive aid for the individuals, assisting them through the **asylum system** and the **refugee resettlement process**.

The United States government thanked President Bernardo Arevalo and his administration for their efforts and support in welcoming them and explained that these individuals will be offered the opportunity to apply for safe ways to rebuild their lives in the United States or other countries through the Safe Mobility Office initiative (SMO).

Events, Activities & Workshops

I Breakfast of UNHCR with embassies and cooperation agencies in Guatemala City

The impact of these events and workshops is profound. Engaging with the diplomatic community and cooperation agencies **strengthens partnerships** and fosters mutual support. Workshops with the Protection Network and activities for Pride Day highlighted and promoted the rights of vulnerable communities. Additionally, activities with children fostered their holistic development and raised community awareness about their protection and well-being.

Entrepreneurship Fair in support of non-violence against women and girls

Closure of the Resource Rangers in Terrestrial Ecosystems Certification, organized by UNHCR and INTECAP

Workshop on international protection, as part of the LGBTQI+ Pride Day in Huehuetenango

I Youth Meeting in support of refugees, together with the TAN UX'IL Association and the Municipality in San Benito, Petén

Transforming Lives Through Healthcare
The story of Lucy

Lucy fled her country due to threats against her family, a drastic change that also affected her health. She was looking for a safe place for herself and her family, but the stress took its toll on her well-being. Initially, doctors were unsure how to treat her and what to give her, but they always treated her at the health center.

The health center facilities were expanded and adequately equipped thanks to a collaboration with the **Peacebuilding Fund** in the framework of the Cities of Solidarity in Esquipulas. Quality of care improved, becoming faster and more efficient. Knowing that her family has access to reliable health care has given Lucy peace of mind.

This improvement supported Lucy and countless refugees and asylum-seekers, providing the essential medical care needed to rebuild their lives.

***"The expansion of the Health Center has greatly improved patient comfort."* - Lucy, Refugee.**

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

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

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