UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

TECUN UMAN

FIELD UNIT 2024

Refugee women in Ayutla, in the framework of the Grant Agreement signed with the organization Youth for Change and UNHCR.©UNHCR/

551 REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

1,051 GUATEMALANS AT-RISK

27,521 PEOPLE ASSISTED

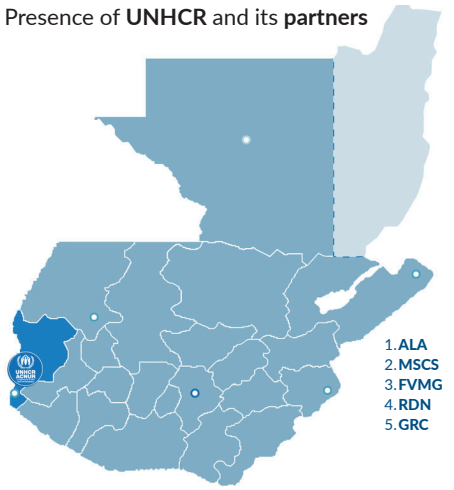
14,202 PEOPLE RECEIVING INFORMATION ON THE ASYLUM PROCEDURE

1 CITIES OF SOLIDARITY

In 2024, UNHCR operated six field offices across Guatemala, including its field unit in Tecun Uman, a key border town in San Marcos known for high levels of displacement and returnee flows, dedicated to safeguarding refugees, asylum seekers, displaced Guatemalans, including returnees in the departments of San Marcos and Quetzaltenango. In collaboration with local authorities, NGOs, communities, and five partner organizations, UNHCR ensures access to essential services, including shelters, clean drinking water, hygiene kits, legal assistance, mental health support, pre-hospital care, and durable solutions.

Additionally, UNHCR promotes labor inclusion for refugees, asylum-seekers, and returnees by engaging with the private sector, offering scholarship programs, and implementing technical training initiatives. In Quetzaltenango and San Marcos, more than 80 individuals received support in accessing formal employment, developing vocational and technical skills, and participating in financial inclusion training. Additionally, strategic alliances were established with 10 companies to expand hiring opportunities

Presence of **UNHCR** and its **partners**



CITIES OF SOLIDARITY

The Government of Quetzaltenango is dedicated to integrating refugees through the Cities of Solidarity initiative.

Since 2021, Quetzaltenango has actively participated in this program, reinforcing safe spaces, education, and protection for all residents. As part of these efforts, refugees have received information about their rights, access to computers, and a newly equipped library.

Additionally, the Center for Integral Attention to Women (CAIM) provides shelter for survivors of violence, while specialized training programs have enhanced intervention skills among government officials and police. Quetzaltenango continues to advance inclusion, security, and solidarity with refugees, ensuring a more supportive and welcoming environment.

36 TRAINED IN PREVENTION, MITIGATION & RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

229 TRAINED IN INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION, ACCESS TO RIGHTS AND SERVICES, & UNHCR MANDATE

379 PERSONS INVOLVED IN PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE ACTIVITIES

229 PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN EMPOWERMENT ACTIVITIES

Source: UNHCR Response Monitoring 2024. Data for Tecun Uman.

*1. ALA | La Alianza Association, 2. MSCS | *Misioneros de San Carlos Scalabrinianos*, 3. FVMG | World Vision Guatemala, 4. RDN | *Refugio de la Niñez* ,5. GRC | Guatemalan Red Cross,.

*The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

YOUTH FOR CHANGE AND MAGNOLIA WOMEN OF COATEPEQUE

Through a grant agreement, Youth for Change (JXC) organized 12 community activities in San Marcos and Tecun Uman, creating spaces for refugee youth and women to exchange experiences and explore methodologies for personal growth, fostering learning, empowerment, and a strengthened sense of community.

In 2024, the Magnolia women's group remained actively engaged, with over 40 members deepening their knowledge on key Community-Based Protection topics, while also leading impactful community actions. Their leadership team was introduced to municipal authorities to facilitate project coordination and collaboration, while also launching entrepreneurship training efforts. Two members were selected to participate in the Innovation Fund's digital literacy project, expanding their skills and opportunities.

Activity carried out in the framework of the 16 days of activism last year, with the group of women magnolias of Coatepeque in collaboration with ALA.©UNHCR/

Nancy Roblero, Legal representative of the organization *Jóvenes por el Cambio* (Youth for Change).©UNHCR/Victor Sánchez Mejía.

©UNHCR/ Víctor Sánchez Mejía.

RETURNEE RECEPTION CENTER

UNHCR identifies Guatemalan returnees with international protection needs and provides information on available protection services.

In 2024, 929 Guatemalans were surveyed at the Returnee Reception Center in Tecun Uman and 115 people were identified, forming 47 cases referred to UNHCR.

UNHCR is grateful for the contributions of donor countries that contribute to our operation in Guatemala and to global programmes with flexible funding:

Also, we thank the contributions of our global private donors in Argentina, Australia, Chile, Brazil, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden and the Uniked Kingdom.

**As of 31 December 2024*

Contact: Jennifer Hamm, Reporting Associate. Email: hammlou@unhcr.org