UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Guate's Wrap-up
Our impact last month

THREE EXAMPLES OF HOW COMMUNITIES CAN SAVE LIVES IN GUATEMALA

In UNHCR, we understand the importance of **community leaders** in protecting people who arrive in Guatemala from fleeing violence and persecution. We work together to strengthen their capacities so that they can identify asylum seekers in the context of mixed movements of people transiting through the country. Here, we tell the stories and experiences of some of these communities and their important work.

1. Jimeritos, Izabal

*Felicita is a **community leader and protection agent in the community of Jimeritos,** in the border area of Guatemala with Honduras. Near the border of El Cinchado-Corinto, hundreds of people take this route through the community on their transit through the country. Responding to the ongoing influx of mixed movements in the area, people from the community of Jimeritos have been trained on topics related to refugees and asylum seekers, specialized assistance to women survivors of gender-based violence, and UNHCR's mandate and services. Thanks to these efforts, Felicita identified the case of a woman fleeing persecution from the gangs in her country of origin and referred her to UNHCR's legal partner, El Refugio de la Niñez. She received humanitarian assistance and legal guidance, and now is safe in Puerto Barrios, Izabal.*

2. Solidarity Families, Petén

*Valentin, a **compassionate member of the Network of Solidarity Families**, shines as a beacon of hope along migration routes in Guatemala. With his family by his side, he offers shelter, food, and crucial guidance to those in transit. Their home has become a sanctuary, relying on their own resources to support others. Valentin's journey from humble beginnings fuels his unwavering commitment to helping others, and his fertile land sustains both his family and those in need. Amidst the challenges of COVID-19, their doors remain open, providing hot meals and a safe space. Valentin's dedication and his children's support create an environment of trust, unity, and resilience. Their selfless actions embody the power of compassion, inspiring a brighter future for all.*

*The **Network of Solidarity Families** is a dedicated group of volunteers committed to providing essential humanitarian aid and support to people in movement including refugees and migrants. Through their selfless efforts, they offer crucial resources such as **food, shelter, hygiene items, and medicine** to those in transit or in communities with limited basic services. Their training from UNHCR and partners equips them to provide information on human rights and available services, as well as identify and refer individuals with specific protection needs. With their voluntary efforts and reliance on personal resources or donations, the Network of Solidarity Families exemplify true altruism as they tirelessly work to improve the lives of those in need.*

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3. Protection Agents, Livingston

*In the **City of Solidarity of** Livingston, UNHCR, UN Women, and the Center for Research, Training, Support for Women and Youth (CICAM) work together to strengthen protection agents in the area. With this effort, **local women aim to prevent and respond to gender-based violence** by integrating into community protection structures. As in Jimeritos and Petén, this women's network in Livingston, Izabal, is also prepared to identify people with international protection and refer them to the appropriate services.*

UNHCR will continue to work with the communities and their leaders who stand out for their solidarity and commitment.

AROUND GUATEMALA WITH UNHCR

UNHCR in Guatemala is present in **16 of the 22 departments** of the country through field offices, mobile units, partner organizations, and other interventions. Each area of the country is different and requires unique interventions that respond to local needs and the dynamic context of mixed movements in the region.

Come along in this **journey throughout Guatemala,** by clicking on each region you can learn more about UNHCR's presence and work in the field:

UNHCR visited the Comprehensive Childcare Center (CAI) in Flores alongside the Resident Coordinator, Miguel Barreto.

In Izabal, UNHCR works hand in hand with Ak'Tenamit, a community organization that promotes the education and comprehensive development of children and youth in Izabal.

Esquipulas is one of the first Cities of Solidarity in Guatemala. Together with UNHCR, the Municipality has worked for the inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers into their community.

In San Marcos, UNHCR and partner La Alianza organized social cartography workshops to identify challenges faced by the Guatemalan youth and refugees.

Since the recent inauguration in March, UNHCR and partners have assisted around 375 individuals at the CAPMiR (Assistance Center for Migrants and Refugees) in Huehuetenango.

Around 2,800 people from ages 16 to 61 years have participated in courses in the mobile Workshop School.

UNHCR GUATEMALA EXTERNAL DOCUMENTS:

Read the latest Migrants and Refugees Assistance Centers (CAPMiRs) Activity Report

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

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

Please contact:

Jean Pierre Mora, External Relations Officer
moraj@unhcr.org - (502) 3191 7420

UNHCR is grateful for the contributions from our donors, which make our work possible.

UNHCR's financial requirements for the Guatemala operation in 2023 (as of 23 May 2023)

Funded: 5.1 million USD (14%)	Unfunded: 32.5 million USD (86%)

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is grateful for the support of:

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Updated on May 2023

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