UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Guate's Wrap-up
Our impact last month

2023 Annual Report: profiles and protection needs of people in mixed movements

To understand the profiles and needs of people in mixed movements in Guatemala, UNHCR continuously collects information through its Mixed Movements Monitoring Survey. In 2023, UNHCR and partners surveyed **7,206 individuals in mixed movements** in Guatemala, Quetzaltenango, San Marcos, Huehuetenango, Peten, Izabal, and Chiquimula.

People who are part of mixed movements have **different needs;** including asylum-seekers, refugees, victims of trafficking, and unaccompanied or separated children, among others. Distinguishing the **different reasons why people move** is very important to identify those who have been forced to flee because their lives are in danger. These individuals need protection and specific assistance.

Through mixed movements monitoring, UNHCR and partners have identified that ***42% of the people surveyed fled their country of origin due to violence or conflict and may have international protection needs.***

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Invest in Women, Accelerate Progress!

Every year, UNHCR in Guatemala joins worldwide commemorations for International Women's Day, **reflecting and advocating for the importance of protecting women and preventing gender-based violence.** This year, UNHCR and partners took part in the global campaign "Invest in women, accelerate progress" through the creation of commemorative murals and peaceful coexistence activities with refugee women, asylum-seekers, and host communities throughout the country.

At the **Assistance Center for Migrants and Refugees (CAPMiR by its acronym in Spanish) in Huehuetenango,** UNHCR alongside the National Youth Council (CONJUVE), the U.S Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), partners Refugio de la Niñez, Tierra Nueva, the local refugee population and other local youth organizations painted a mural to commemorate International Women's Day. Throughout the activity, participants **reflected on their hopes for all women in the world**, including peace, living without fear, safe spaces, economic autonomy, freedom from violence, and access to equal opportunities.

In Guatemala City, UNHCR and the Women's Directorate of the Municipality of Guatemala organized the painting of 8 murals at a local school with the participation of a collective of Guatemalan artists, refugees, and asylum-seekers.

In Peten, UNHCR and the Latimos Juntas collective, alongside the Municipal Women's Directorate of Santa Elena, created a mural at the facilities of the CAPMiR (located in Santa Elena's bus station). The mural was inspired by the phrase "Invest to grow" and was painted by local and refugee women.

UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Protection Visits Guatemala

UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, **Ruvendrini Menikdiwela** concluded her first mission to Central America and Mexico by highlighting that a regional "route-based" approach based on solidarity and solutions, is the only way to protect and stabilize the unprecedented number of people forcibly displaced in the region.

In **Guatemala,** she visited the CAPMiR at the Centra Sur bus station in Guatemala City, the Migrant Shelter and the Returnee Center in Tecun Uman, San Marcos to learn more about UNHCR's work in the country, alongside its partners and government institutions.

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Enhancing Protection Environments

UNHCR in Esquipulas has continued to foster positive environments and strengthen protection networks in the area through capacity-building efforts in Asuncion Mita, in the department of Jutiapa. UNHCR has provided trainings on international protection and gender-based violence to over 70 public officials from the Municipal Women's Directorate (DMM), Secretariat of Social Welfare (SBS), organized women's groups, and community leaders to install capacities and increase the number of identifications and referrals of individuals with protection needs from state and NGO sources.

In Izabal, UNHCR supported the development of community work plans in various villages in the area, promoting women participation in community processes and enhancing involvement and collaboration with the local refugee population.

Area-based Protection - Reaching Those Who Need it Most

MOBILE PROTECTION

Guatemala has a significant role in the dynamics of mixed movements in Central America. Characterized as a country of origin, destination, transit, and return for hundreds of people every year. These populations' protection and humanitarian needs remain high. People in transit through Guatemala tend to use hard-to-reach areas, increasing **vulnerability and heightening protection risks,** especially the risk of being trafficked and smuggled and the risk of exploitation and gender-based violence.

To respond to these needs and provide life-saving assistance, services, and information, UNHCR, together with Guatemalan authorities, are implementing two projects to reach out the most vulnerable:

MOBILE PDH

UNHCR and the Human Rights Ombudsperson's Office (PDH) launched the **Mobile PDH project.** Seven units will strengthen local PDH delegations in Petén, Izabal, Chiquimula, Jutiapa, Alta Verapaz, Huehuetenango, and San Marcos. These units will provide information, guidance and receive complaints from individuals in transit throughout the country.

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UNIVETS

Together, UNHCR, partner Refugio de la Niñez and the Secretariat against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons (SVET), implement the **UNIVETs project** to strengthen the SVET's response capacity and territorial reach to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, sexual violence, exploitation, and trafficking.

Since its implementation in 2021, the UNIVETs have reached **more than 69,000 people in 600 communities across the country,** providing information and referrals to specialized services.

The **Vice President of Guatemala, Karin Herrera,** highlighted that: "our government will continue with the commitment to support, strengthen and implement more mobile units like UNIVETs."

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Please contact:

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