2024 | MAY

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

FACT SHEET

GUATEMALA FIELD OFFICE

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT AND KEY FIGURES

Guatemala is a country of origin, transit, destination and return of people with different protection needs. It has increasingly become a country of destination of more refugees and asylum-seekers. UNHCR has 7 offices in the country. The Guatemala Field Office covers the departments of Guatemala, Santa Rosa, Escuintla, Sacatepequez, Suchitepequez and Chimaltenango which are areas of high flow of mixed movements including Guatemalans. The office coordinates a protection-focused response, managing cases of people at risk at La Aurora International Airport and the Centre for Returnees.

UNHCR coordinated a response that assisted 29,500 people with ten partner organisations in the areas of shelter, legal support, psychosocial attention, pre-hospital care and durable solutions to refugee claimants, refugees and Guatemalans at risk. Protection was coordinated with the municipal authorites of Guatemala City and Villa Nueva which are both Cities of Solidarity.

1,576
refugees and asylum-seekers

24,125
Guatemalans at risk

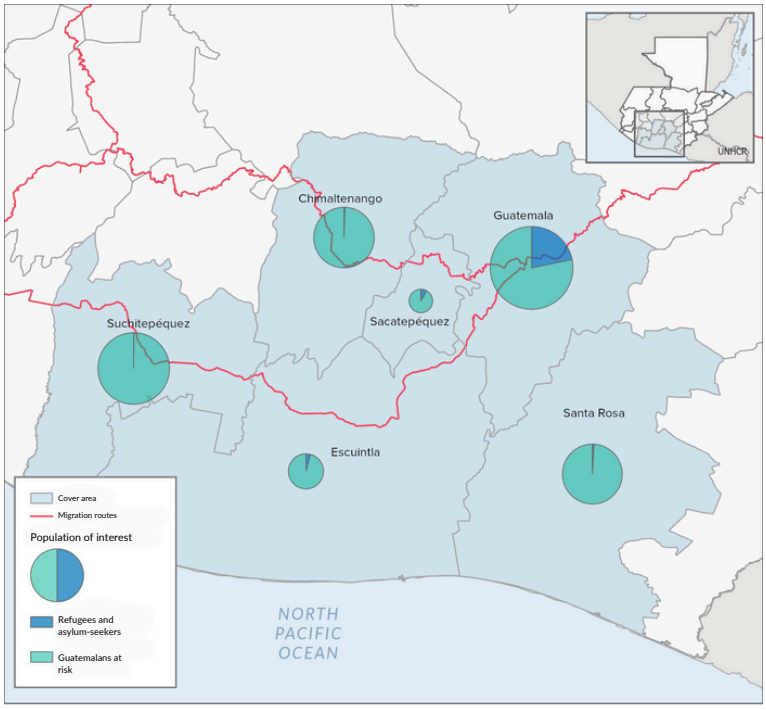
29,500
people served in 2023

106,300
assistance provided in 2023

OTHER RELEVANT DATA

- 60,229 with protection needs (2024)
- 134,392 people in food insecurity (2024)
- 4% of illiteracy (2018)
- 4% of child labour (2018)
- 14% of poverty (2014)
- 167 crimes against women per 100,000 population (2021)
- 37% of unemployment (2018)
- 5% without access to water and sanitation (2018)

Source: Humanitarian Response Plan (2024) and National Statistics Institute (INE). Data for the municipality of ***Guatemala City****.*



MAIN IMPACTS OF THE 2023 RESPONSE

Assistance

- **20,700** people assisted with services including information, counselling, basic necessities (CBI) and legal advice.
- **708** face-to-face consultations benefiting **340** women, **361** men and **7** persons belonging to the LGBTQIA+ community of various nationalities.
- **205** cases of refugee status applicants identified and **3,704** Guatemalans at risk assisted through the Safe Mobility Programme.

Community empowerment

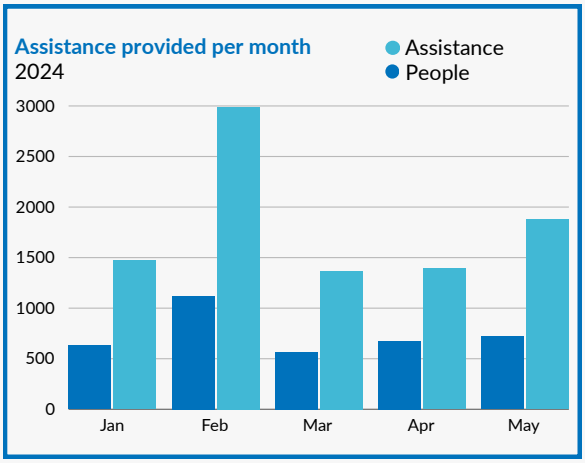
- Peaceful coexistence has been strengthened in Amatitlan, Villa Nueva and Guatemala through cultural activities involving 1,300 people. In addition, several community health promoters were trained in international protection.

Child protection

- A three pilar action plan guaranteed local integration of refugee children and adolescents.

CAPMiR Centra Sur

The Centre for Attention to Migrants and Refugees (CAPMiR) serve as a key protection space to facilitate access to territory and shelter, provide humanitarian assistance, share official information and identify risks and protection needs. In 2023, five CAPMiRs assisted **25,800** people, of which **6,230** were facilitated in CAPMiR Centra Sur.



Source: Monitoring CAPMiR 2024

UNHCR supported refugees to integrate into the labor market.
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Livelihoods

- **23** people received seed capital to purchase materiales for alternative income generation.
- **120** people received training in English, sales, carpentry, robotics, digital upgrading and financial literacy.
- **22** people received internships and/or were directly linked to jobs in various companies (customer service, administration and security), thus improving their socio-economic inclusion.

Training

- **916** people from civil society organisations and **590** civil servants, **147** young people and **118** parents from the host communities received training in protection, integration and solutions aimed at improving community coexistence.
- Workshops were held for **40** civil servants on new masculinities and reporting routes to prevent gender-based violence. Workshops were also held for LGBTIQ+ refugees on financial inclusion as an essential part of their integration.

Gender violence

- **11,394** people received GBV training from UNHCR and our partner SVET.
- **1,568** people benefited from **10** advocacy and violence prevention activities through festivals, talks, painting sessions and murals.