

Guatemala

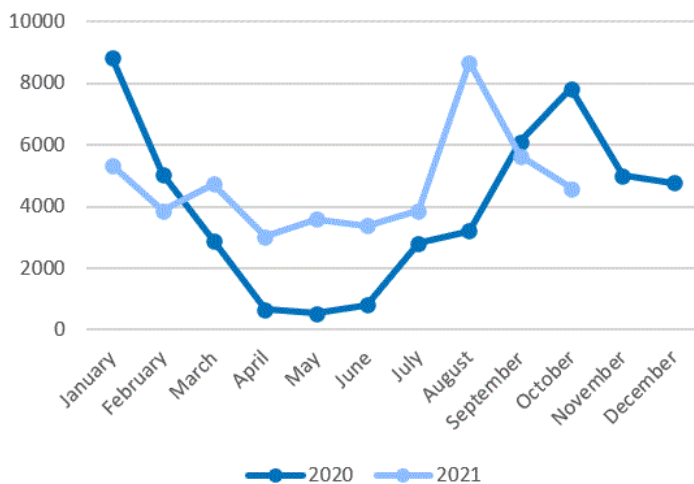
October 2021

To date, **915 new asylum applications** have been registered making it the highest number of applications Guatemala has ever received in one year. In total, there are currently **1,423 asylum-seekers and 487 refugees** living in Guatemala.

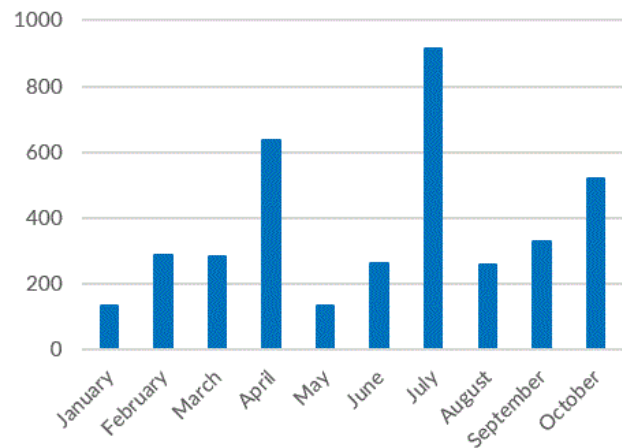
UNHCR and its partners conduct monitoring activities along the main border and transit areas to identify and assist persons in need of protection who are part of the mixed movements. In 2021, the **National Protection Network has assisted over 47,000 individuals in transit.**

Since June 2021, in the centres for returnees in Guatemala City and Tecun Uman, UNHCR has identified **837 Guatemalans with protection needs among the deportee population.** In addition, **4,445 Guatemalans at risk of displacement** have been identified in departments with high-out migration.

Number of people in transit assisted by the National Protection Network (2020 - 2021)



People trained by UNHCR on international protection in 2021



CURRENT CONTEXT OVERVIEW

In 2021, mixed movements have increased in comparison to 2020. In the current year, UNHCR and its partners who are part of the National Protection Network have provided information, legal counselling, shelter, food, basic medical care, psychological first aid, hygiene kits, anti-COVID PPEs, telephone calls and access to Wi-Fi to over 47,000 individuals in transit, 4,600 of them were assisted in October.

At the same time, expulsions of mostly Guatemalans and Hondurans under Title 42 from the United States to Mexico and from there to Guatemala continue. Based on monitoring by UNHCR's partners, as well as statistics received by State institutions, UNHCR estimates that since the beginning of August 2021, over 30,000 persons have been expelled to Guatemala, among them at least 541 persons with protection needs were identified. According to the Guatemalan Migration Institute, at El Ceibo border alone 18,195 mostly Hondurans have been expelled to Guatemala.



Training on refugee protection provided to 47 members of the Departmental Network on Violence, Exploitation and Human Trafficking in Izabal. ©Municipality of Livingston/Feve Cabnal/2021

Working with Partners

- UNHCR has **partnership agreements** with 13 partner organizations and two sister UN Agencies. In addition, UNHCR works closely with other civil society organizations and governmental institutions to protect people in need of international protection.
- At local levels, interinstitutional coordination meetings were held in the **Working Groups on Migration and Protection** in Ayutla (San Marcos), Esquipulas (Chiquimula), Ixcán (Quiché), Puerto Barrios (Izabal) and Flores (Peten) to manage and adapt joint interventions according to the developments of the mixed movements.

Main Activities

Response to Basic Needs

- UNHCR carried out a mission to Alta Verapaz and Huehuetenango, to monitor the implementation of the CBI programme through its partner World Vision, benefitting Guatemalans affected by or at risk of displacement. In addition, a **market analysis was conducted and Focal Group Discussions with beneficiaries were held** to plan the Post Distribution Monitoring that will be done in November.
- In October, UNHCR through its CBI programme has provided **multipurpose cash grants and cash for livelihoods** to 548 asylum-seekers and refugees and 723 Guatemalans in need of international protection who are part of the Protection Transfer Arrangement (PTA) programme. In addition, **the first 3,227 Guatemalans affected by or at risk of displacement received cash assistance**. In 2021, UNHCR has supported 5,415 asylum-seekers, refugees as well as Guatemalans in need of international protection and at risk of displacement with CBI. In total, UNHCR has **distributed over 1.3 million USD** enabling recipients to fulfil their basic needs, reduce protection risks and improve their livelihood opportunities.



Guatemalan indigenous women at risk of displacement withdrawing their cash assistance in San Cristobal Verapaz, Alta Verapaz. ©UNHCR/Hiram Villarreal/2021

Governance, Prevention and Protection

- **UNHCR has trained 520 people** from partners, educational institutions and authorities in October. In Guatemala City, a **four-day residential workshop was organized for 23 members of the Department for Refugee Status Recognition (DRER) and the National Refugee Commission (CONARE)**, comprised of the Guatemalan Migration Institute, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Labour, aiming at strengthening the identification of people in need of international protection and enhance the Refugee Status Determination process. **In 2021, UNHCR has trained over 3,600 people** on its mandate, international refugee law, referral pathways of identified cases and services available to refugees and persons in transit.
- In Quetzaltenango, the project called **UNIVETs** (Unidades Móviles contra la Violencia Sexual y Trata de Personas in Spanish) implemented by the Office against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons (SVET) and supported by UNHCR through its partner Refugio de la Niñez, was officially launched at a local level. As part of the same project that consists in total of six mobile units on a national level, UNHCR accompanied UNIVET and the municipality of Chisec, Alta Verapaz department, in an **awareness raising workshop** provided to 37 mostly Mayan indigenous people on preventing human trafficking. Since the beginning of the project in

September 2021, the **six units informed over 12,000 people**, among them persons on the move, about the services available for survivors of sexual violence, exploitation and trafficking in persons. In addition, **890 government officials were trained by the UNIVETs** on the prevention of and response to GBV.

- In 2021, UNHCR has carried out over **120 protection monitoring missions, 11 of them in October**, across different locations and border areas to guarantee persons in need of international protection have access to the Guatemalan territory and its asylum system.
- A **joint mission** was carried out, between UNHCR's teams from Mexico and Guatemala to the common border of El Ceibo. Meetings were held with State officials, partners, and local communities, to analyse the migration trends along the Tenosique-El Ceibo-Flores route, especially regarding the deportations of mostly Hondurans from Mexico. A further field mission took place jointly with UNHCR Honduras to the common El Cinchado / El Corinto border for the same purpose.
- UNHCR carried out a five-day **field mission to Ixcan, Quiche**, to follow up on the ongoing construction of the new Migrant Shelter financed by UNHCR and meet with the Municipal Migration Board, to whom a training was provided on UNHCR's mandate and international protection. The community of Santiago Ixcan and the official border crossing Los Angeles were monitored, and meetings were held with Guatemalans at risk of displacement and deportees with protection needs.
- In the **two Centres for Returnees in Guatemala City and Tecun Uman, San Marcos**, 246 Guatemalan deportees were interviewed by UNHCR's partner Refugio de la Niñez in October. 157 of them were identified with protection needs and were referred to the PTA program or to other protection mechanisms.
- In Peten, **shelter kits were distributed** to 14 asylum-seekers and refugees, who due to the heavy rainy season suffered flooding of their homes.
- In October, UNHCR held four presentations at the migrant shelter in Esquipulas, Chiquimula, informing 73 people on the move about their rights and the humanitarian assistance available. Since the initiation of the provision of information sessions in August 2021, **UNHCR has given 18 presentations at the shelter and has informed 238 people who are part of the mixed movements.**

Enhanced community-based protection in communities affected by or at risk of displacement

- UNHCR and its partners have identified and registered **4,445 Guatemalans affected by or at risk of displacement** in the departments of San Marcos, Huehuetenango and Alta Verapaz. Based on their individual protection needs, the selected people receive support, including cash grants to access basic needs and/or improve livelihoods mechanisms, contributing to stabilize this population at risk in their places of origin.
- As part of UNHCR's community-based protection strategy and in the framework of the partnership agreement signed between UNHCR and UN Women, a **Training of Trainers** was provided to 10 women working at the Centre for Research, Training and Support for Women and Youth (CICAM). As a follow up, the first workshop was provided by CICAM to 27 female community leaders on creating and strengthening local protection networks in Livingston, El Estor and Puerto Barrios, Izabal.



Follow up with UN Women and the Departmental Women's Protection Network in Alta Verapaz on the implementation of the joint project that aims to strengthen local communities' and institutions' efforts to prevent and respond to gender-based violence.

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Durable Solutions

■ As part of its livelihood and economic inclusion strategy, UNHCR through its partners creates livelihood opportunities for asylum-seekers, refugees, returnees with protection needs and Guatemalans at risk of displacement. In October, **175 asylum-seekers and refugees initiated their internships at companies or set up their businesses** with UNHCR's support. In addition, **245 Guatemalans** at risk of displacement **started their internships**. All people receive CBI for livelihood and are located in the departments of Alta Verapaz, Huehuetenango, Izabal, Jutiapa, Peten, San Marcos.



Guatemalan young man at risk of displacement initiated his internship at a petrol station in San Cristobal Verapaz, Alta Verapaz. ©UNHCR/Joel Cordon/2021

■ In Peten, **57 asylum-seekers and refugees** residing in the department **participated in workshops provided by UNHCR's livelihood unit**. 32 of them attended a presentation on training opportunities available on the online platforms Crehana, Coursera and "Capacitate para el empleo" as well as vocational trainings offered by INTECAP. 12 persons participated in a job application training and an additional 13 persons attended a presentation on successful and sustainable entrepreneurship.



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@RepACNURGuate

■ UNHCR and its partner RDN held **meetings with employers** working in the tourist sector in Peten to present them UNHCR's supported business internship program that includes the following benefits for the participating companies: capacity building of staff, financing of internships for asylum-seekers and refugees for up to three months, facilitation of their recruitment processes.

■ In Izabal, **local integration workshops** were carried out for newly arrived asylum-seekers and provided with information on the Guatemalan asylum system and services available in the department, as well as psychosocial support and resilience-building activities offered by UNHCR's partners.

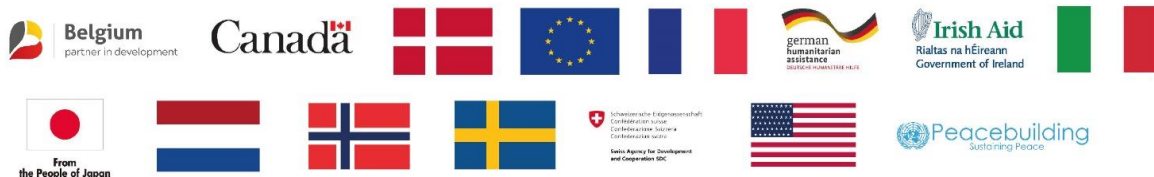
UNHCR's financial requirements for the Guatemala operation

(as of 9 November 2021)

Funded: 31.6 million USD (81%)

Unfunded: 7.5 million USD (19%)

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



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