WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2022:
Whoever, wherever, whenever. Everyone has the right to seek safety.

On June 20, the world comes together to celebrate and commemorate people forced to flee all over the globe. World Refugee Day (WRD) was held globally for the first time on June 20, 2001, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.

WRD is a special occasion to mobilize support and advocate for refugees’ rights, needs, and protection worldwide. Every year, UNHCR, our partners and donors, stand together to build empathy and understanding for refugees and recognize their resilience.

UNHCR in Guatemala joined worldwide celebrations of World Refugee Day, highlighting the opportunity of #StartingOverInGuate through the right to seek safety, promoting awareness, and strengthening unity between the host communities and the refugee population.

Catch a glimpse of how Guatemala commemorated people forced to flee all over the country:

In Guatemala City, with the support of the Spanish Cultural Center, UNHCR held a protocol act with high-level authorities, where attendees enjoyed a concert by the Ri Nabley Qach’abal Association symphony. The event was attended by several government officials, reiterating their support towards the protection and inclusion of refugees.
In Petén, refugees, asylum-seekers, and the local community shared a day full of art, culture, and folklore in the city of Flores. Attendees enjoyed a beautiful exhibition of portraits and art pieces, the live painting of a mural that represents refugees in Guatemala, and dance performances.

In Huehuetenango, the local community ran a 4k, promoting the right of refugees to seek safety through a family-friendly event in downtown Huehue. Integration through the race was followed by a cultural fair filled with food stands and space for refugees to promote their businesses.

In Guatemala City, pacific coexistence and the promotion of integration also had a spotlight during WRD activities with a bicycle tour organized by the Municipality throughout the city, where hundreds of participants learned about international protection and the rights of refugees.
In Izabal, UNHCR supported the first Model United Nations organized by the local branch of the University of San Carlos. Students discussed global priorities and learned about diplomacy, international relations, and the role of the United Nations.

In Esquipulas, WRD commemorations started big with a sports rally and football matches to promote local integration of refugees into their host communities.

In Tecún Umán, UNHCR and the local community of Ayutla celebrated World Refugee Day with the inauguration of Ayutla Explorer, a sports park with children’s games and outdoor fitness machines, a common space for the host community and refugees who are looking to #StartOverInGuate.
In Guatemala City, economic integration and labor inclusion of the people we serve were promoted through an encounter with representatives of the private sector. UNHCR highlighted the importance of sustainable livelihoods and creating opportunities for refugees to #StartOverInGuate.

In Quetzaltenango, sustainable livelihoods and refugee entrepreneurship spirit were celebrated in the “Starting Over Festival,” where attendees could buy from local businesses and learn about their stories!

In Jutiapa, UNHCR and its partners organized an information fair on the right to seek safety. The local community learned about international protection, refugee rights, and the services provided by UNHCR.

These commemorations throughout the country marked an essential step in the sensibilization of the host community and of key actors on the right of refugees to seek safety – spreading the message that the people forced to flee need an opportunity to #StartOverInGuate.
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SEEK SAFETY?

WHOEVER. WHEREVER. WHENEVER. EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO SEEK SAFETY

RIGHT TO ASYLUM

Seeking asylum is a human-right. Anyone fleeing persecution, conflict, or human rights abuses has a right to seek protection in another country.

SAFE ACCESS

Borders should remain open to all people forced to flee. Restricting access and closing borders can make the journey even more dangerous for people seeking safety.

NO PUSHBACKS

People can't be forced to return to a country if their life or freedom would be at risk. This means that countries shouldn't push anyone back without first evaluating the dangers they would face back home.

NO DISCRIMINATION

People shouldn't be discriminated against at borders. All applications for refugee status must be treated equally, no matter the reason like race, religion, gender or country of origin.

HUMANE TREATMENT

People forced to flee should be treated with respect and dignity. Among other things, this means keeping families together, providing the best conditions and avoiding arbitrary detention.

LEARN MORE ABOUT WRD

UNHCR Guatemala Factsheets

Read our operation's latest general factsheet and factsheet on the Cities of Solidarity Initiative.

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

Would you like to support any of our initiatives and projects?
Please contact:
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UNHCR is grateful for the contributions from our donors, which make our work possible.

UNHCR's financial requirements for the Guatemala operation in 2022 (as of 1 July 2022)

| Funded: 7.4 million USD (17%) | Unfunded: 35.1 million USD (83%) |

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

Private donors Australia | Italy | Japan | Republic of Korea | Spain | Sweden

This is an external newsletter of UNHCR in Guatemala for informational purposes only.
For more information, please reach us at the contact above.

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