



Guate's Wrap-up

Our impact last month



PEOPLE WE SERVE IN GUATEMALA

Guatemala plays a significant role in the dynamics of human mobility in the Central American region. Because of its geography, it is characterized as a **country of origin, transit, destination, and return for mixed movements** of persons, including asylum-seekers, refugees, returnees, Guatemalans at risk of displacement, and migrants. These different population groups present varying needs and profiles including: victims of trafficking, gender-based violence survivors, unaccompanied or separated children, and LGBTIQ populations.

People on the move through Guatemala tend to use hard-to-reach areas and non-official border crossings. The use of such routes **increases vulnerability and heightens protection risks**, especially the risk of being trafficked and smuggled and the risk of exploitation and gender-based violence. These populations' protection and humanitarian needs remain high; therefore, access to vital information, support covering basic needs, and sustainable livelihoods remain priorities.

- 634 refugees
- 1,485 asylum-seekers
- 2,076 returnees assisted by UNHCR and its partners in 2022
- 26,833 Guatemalans at risk referred to specialized services between 2021-2022
- 27,751 individuals in transit assisted



THE PERAZA FAMILY, VENEZUELAN REFUGEES WHO RELY ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN GUATEMALA



"Life is like an arepa; it tastes like what you put on it" is the motto of the Peraza family*, who are Venezuelan refugees in Guatemala, and their primary source of income is precisely the arepa, a typical dish of their home country based of corn, which they sell in their small restaurant that has survived with resilience and family unity.

The three family members fled after facing several armed robberies against them and their business in Venezuela. Although the father got a job in Guatemala, it was not enough to cover their needs, so Jessica*, the mother, and her son Bryan* ventured into the world of entrepreneurship with a [Venezuelan breakfast business called Capriccio](#).

Jessica became an expert in making stuffed arepas with various types of meat and delicious sauces, and little by little, they gained customers, but the pandemic was a hard hit. Their business went bankrupt, and Jessica and Bryan suffered severe health problems that lowered the family's spirits. At that time, the Perazas had contact with the UN Refugee Agency-UNHCR and its partner Tierra Nueva. They assisted them with [psychosocial support and financial assistance](#) in cash to cover their urgent needs and encouraged them to reopen the business.

"The generosity and hospitality of Guatemalans were key to rising from the ashes; we only have to give what we receive," concludes Jéssica. Now, Capriccio is a benchmark for Venezuelan culture in the community. With their business, they employ two Guatemalan women, and they also open their doors every Tuesday so that other entrepreneurs receive business classes with the Foundation for Economic Development.

**names changed for protection reasons*

ACTION FROM THE FIELD



"In [Peten](#), UNHCR participated in the Office Against Sexual Violence, Exploitation, and Trafficking in Persons (SVET) campaign against human trafficking in Santa Elena, where they provided information on human rights and services available provided by UNHCR and its partners.



In [Izabal](#), in a workshop organized by IOM, UNHCR trained local authorities and staff from the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction and the Secretary of Social Work of the President's Wife on protection standards, good practices in the prevention and response of GBV, xenophobia, risks to child protection, and coexistence in emergency response.



In [Huehuetenango](#), UNHCR contributes to preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence by empowering local women and providing information about their rights.



In [Esquipulas](#), in the framework of the Cities of Solidarity initiative and working towards strengthening the access to basic needs, UNHCR inaugurated three new health clinics in the Municipality's Health Center.



In [Tecun Uman](#), UNHCR provided information sessions for children on the inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers at schools.



In [Guatemala City](#), UNHCR provided training on entrepreneurship skills and solidary economy to over 40 women from host communities.

CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE WE SERVE: THE NEW MIGRANT AND REFUGEE RESOURCE CENTER (CAPMiR)



UNHCR, along with UNICEF, IOM, and the Guatemalan Migration Institute, inaugurated a [new Attention Center for Migrants and Refugees \(CAPMiR\)](#) in Agua Caliente, Esquipulas, near the border with Honduras.

The Center offers [information and guidance on services and programs provided for people on human mobility](#), including counseling, psychosocial services, pre-hospital care, and basic humanitarian assistance. The Center also integrates services from partner organizations such as Save The Children, Guatemalan Red Cross, Casa del Migrante, Ombudsperson's Office Mobile Unit "Procumóvil," UNHCR, UNICEF, and IOM. Working together guarantees the safe identification and referral of people according to their needs, mitigates risks, and facilitates family reunification.

LEARN MORE



UNHCR's annual **Global Trends** report on the state of forced displacement shows record levels of people forced to flee and an urgent need to stand with refugees and displaced people. According to the newest report, the number of people forced to flee has increased yearly over the past decade. By the end of 2021, 89.3 million people were forced to flee. Today, that number is **over 100 million**, representing more than 1% of humanity.

However, against unprecedented levels of forced displacement, the world witnessed some positive developments. Access to asylum improved, and by the end of 2021, asylum-seekers could access 121 countries. Also, during the year, over 1 million people received a decision on their refugee claim.

UNHCR's Global Trends report presents **key statistical trends and the latest numbers** of refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced and stateless persons worldwide, and people who have returned to their countries or areas of origin. The figures are based on data reported by governments, non-governmental organizations, and UNHCR. The report is published once a year and reflects on the previous year.

[DOWNLOAD THE REPORT](#)

UNHCR Guatemala Factsheets

Read our operation's [latest general factsheet](#) and the [Cities of Solidarity initiative factsheet](#)

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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 3 August 2022)

Funded: 17.3 million USD (41%)

Unfunded: 25.1 million USD (59%)

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



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