

# Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion

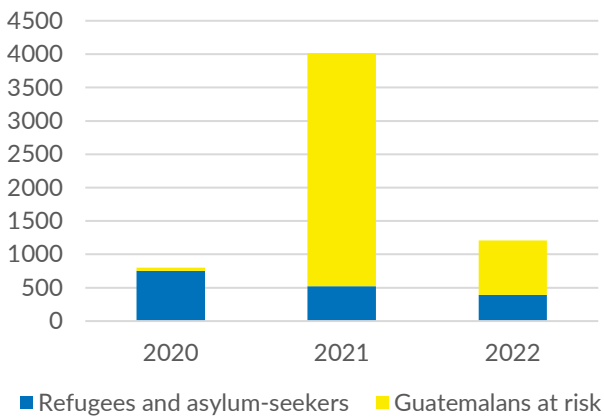
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Guatemala has a **dynamic context of human mobility** as it is a country of origin, transit, destination, and return of people. In addition, it has positioned itself as a destination country, **welcoming more and more asylum-seekers and refugees** who need sustainably generate income to cover their basic needs.

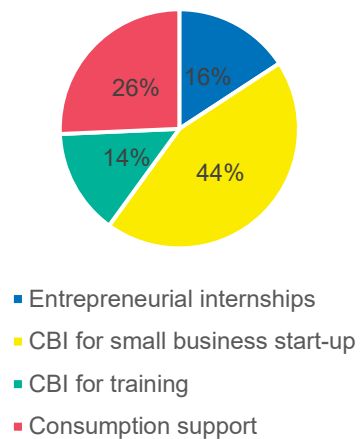
Among the population assisted by UNHCR, **61%** of asylum-seekers and refugees are part of the **economically active population** that can contribute to the Guatemalan economy. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has **increased unemployment rates** and exacerbated the needs of UNHCR's persons of concern.

In this context, Guatemala has incorporated **8 commitments** related to the livelihoods sector in its Action Plan within the **Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS)**. UNHCR and its partners support this response with interventions aimed at **building resilience and self-reliance** for refugees, Guatemalans at risk, and host communities.

Population assisted with livelihood interventions since 2020



Cash-based interventions (CBI) for livelihoods delivered since 2020



Livelihood and economic inclusion actions from 2020

<b>4,014</b>	Beneficiaries from actions aimed at employability (2,809) and entrepreneurship (1,205)
<b>1,120</b>	People participating in the Graduation Model
<b>60%</b>	Of direct beneficiaries of livelihoods interventions are women
<b>40</b>	Government institutions involved in the livelihood's strategy
<b>146</b>	Private sector actors involved in the livelihood's strategy



Refugee participant in the business internship program.  
 ©ACNUR/Victor Sanchez/2021

## Livelihoods and economic inclusion strategy

The main objective of UNHCR Guatemala's livelihoods and economic inclusion strategy is to achieve **self-sufficiency in conditions of safety and dignity** for refugees, asylum-seekers, and Guatemalans at risk, through work with public and private sectors actors such as the Ministry of Labor, the Technical Institute for Training and Productivity (INTECAP), the Center for Corporate Social Responsibility Action in Guatemala (CentraRSE), the Guatemalan Association of Exporters (AGEXPORT), and others. The strategy is based on the following axes:



### 1. Strengthening a favorable environment for socio-economic protection

UNHCR Guatemala works with **public sector actors at the national and local level** to identify and address barriers to access for the refugee and asylum-seeker population in existing socioeconomic livelihood programs, avoiding the creation of parallel initiatives. Likewise, under the framework of the Cities of Solidarity initiative, UNHCR works closely with local governments for the development and establishment of public policies aimed at the population that has been forcibly displaced.



### 2. Promotion of wage-earning employment

**Labor inclusion** is one of the most sustainable methods of supporting UNHCR's persons of concern to achieve self-sufficiency. UNHCR works under a methodology that seeks to prepare beneficiaries to take advantage of the country's labor market opportunities, including market studies, strengthening of life skills, vocational and technical training, reconversion of the labor profile, business internships, and work-based learning, labor intermediation, and psychosocial support.



### 3. Promotion of entrepreneurship

Promoting **entrepreneurship** is increasingly seen as an effective approach to overcoming challenges of the economic and social inclusion of refugees in Guatemala. To support the **self-employment** of persons of concern, UNHCR and its partners carry out: market and value chain studies, strengthening life skills, training for entrepreneurship, seed capital for the start/strengthening of innovative enterprises, business advice, business acceleration, and incubation and accompaniment.



*Together with its partner La Alianza, UNHCR equipped and inaugurated a new baking school in Villa Nueva. ©Victor Sánchez/2021*



#### 4. Implementation of the “Graduation Model”

The Graduation Model seeks to promote the **socioeconomic inclusion of the most vulnerable**. This program is based on a sequential multisectoral intervention so that participating households can achieve a sustainable income and get out of conditions of vulnerability within a period of between 18 and 24 months. The program has a "general package" of support for consumption and financial inclusion to promote access to employment or entrepreneurship. Similarly, the beneficiaries receive psychosocial support and close and constant monitoring to identify specific protection needs that may negatively affect the life of the participating households.



#### 5. Link and articulation with the private sector

Through strategic alliances, UNHCR seeks mechanisms with **private sector** actors to promote the socioeconomic inclusion of persons of concern. These include the promotion of job training, the development of a guide for hiring refugees, the creation of a network of solidarity companies that promote the hiring of persons of concern, the establishment of alliances with business chambers, and the development of spaces to share lessons learned and good practices. So far, **146 private sector actors** (micro, small, medium, and large companies) are part of the livelihoods and economic inclusion strategy.



#### 6. Working with partners

To guide livelihood and economic inclusion interventions, UNHCR Guatemala has established strategic alliances under the whole-of-society approach: government institutions such as the Ministry of Labor (MINTRAB), Technical Training and Productivity Institute (INTECAP), National Youth Council (CONJUVE), National Association of Municipalities (ANAM), local governments, the private sector, and civil society partners, both national and international (World Vision Guatemala, Action Against Hunger, El Refugio de la Niñez, and FUNDAECO).



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#### 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:



Private donors in Australia | Canada | Germany | Italy | Japan | Republic of Korea | Spain | United States