

# UNHCR Guatemala, Field Unit in Peten

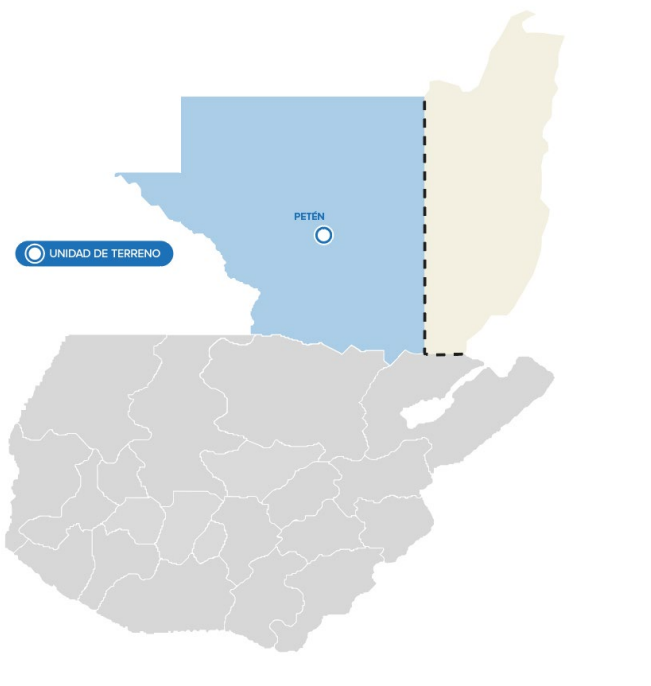
September 2022

Guatemala has a **dynamic context of mixed movements** as it is a country of origin, transit, destination and return of people with different profiles and needs. In addition, it has positioned itself as a destination country, welcoming more and more **refugees and asylum-seekers**.

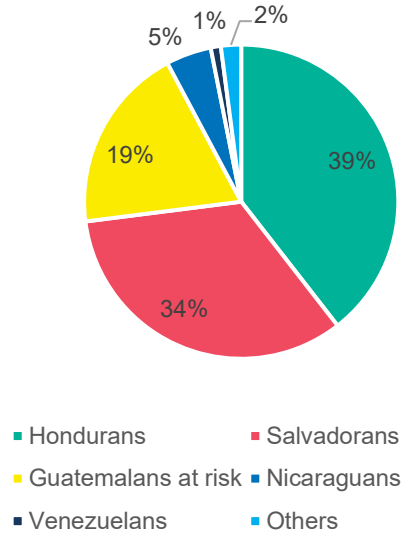
In **response to these flows of people in mixed movements**, UNHCR has six field offices in the departments of:

**Peten**, San Marcos, Izabal, Guatemala, Huehuetenango, and Chiquimula. UNHCR's Field Unit in Peten covers the entire department, which takes up around **31% of the country's territory**.

In addition, **Petén** has **three official borders** (two with Mexico and one with Belize), making it a strategic department in terms of human mobility. In response, UNHCR and its partners have established **11 assistance points**, with the support of mobile units that travel along the migration routes and host communities.



People UNHCR Serves



<b>27,942</b>	Assistances given by UNHCR and its partners in the area.
<b>18,907</b>	People informed about the right to seek asylum.
<b>310</b>	People with international protection needs assisted by UNHCR and its partners.
<b>90</b>	People participating in livelihoods programs for entrepreneurship and employability.
<b>69</b>	Beneficiaries of Cash-Based Interventions (CBI) for humanitarian assistance.

\*Data as of August 2022



Cultural fair in Flores (Peten) for World Refugee Day. ©UNHCR/ 2022

## UNHCR's activities in Peten in 2022

- Since January, **531 people** members of civil society organizations, schools, community leaders and staff of state institutions have been trained by UNHCR on international protection, gender-based violence, and the services available for refugees and people on the move in the department of Peten.
- In the municipality of Flores, together with the Youth Secretariat of the Municipality, the Migrant Shelter Betania and two host schools, UNHCR held awareness workshops with 205 students on the **rights of refugee and migrant children and youth**.
- In June, UNHCR conducted **56 home visits to 153 refugees**, asylum-seekers and Guatemalans at risk within the department. Through these visits, people receive accompaniment, guidance, psychosocial care, and identification of possible referrals to the various care programs provided by UNHCR and its partners.
- In July, UNHCR delivered two 20-liter ecofilters and supplements to the health posts in the communities of Tucan and El Mirador in the Municipality of Sayaxche, and to two quarantine posts of the MOSCAMED program. This action seeks to improve the capacity to provide information and basic assistance to people in transit on the entry routes of the department of Peten.



- This year, the Attention Center for Migrants and Refugees – CAPMIR- in the bus terminal of Santa Elena has provided information services, counselling, first aid, humanitarian assistance and connectivity services to **4,281 people in mixed movements**.
- In the border community of El Ceibo, UNHCR installed **25 solar lamps** at the request of the Community Council for Urban and Rural Development (COCODE) for lighting public spaces, facilitating access to safe and violence-free areas in communities in transit of migratory routes.



- UNHCR supported the installation of 2 containers in the Migrant Houses in El Ceibo and Santa Elena to strengthen spaces for primary care, information points, shelter, and nursing care.
- In addition, with the Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC), UNHCR installed eight solar lamps around the GRC facilities in San Benito and Calvani Park in San Andrés to improve **the working conditions** of refugees who are part of the "Green Corps" program implemented by partner FUNDAECO.



Migrant Shelter Belen in the border community of El Ceibo. ©UNHCR/ 2022



- UNHCR, within the framework of the Cities of Solidarity program, together with government institutions, partner FUNDAECO and the COCODE of the La Primavera community in Santa Elena, participated in the activity "Planting life for the future in the Mayan Jungle Natural Reserve." Young people from the local and refugee community participated in the **planting of 800 trees** together with refugees who are park rangers in the Mayan Biosphere Reserve with FUNDAECO.
- As part of the participatory diagnoses from UNHCR's strategy throughout the country, the Field Unit in Peten **consulted 108 people from the refugee and host communities and Guatemalans in a situation of social vulnerability** about their needs, protection risks, and opportunities in joint actions in the future.



Folkloric dance in the commemoration of World Refugee Day in Flores. ©UNHCR/ 2022

- Commemorating International Youth Day with the Solidarity Cities of San Benito and Flores, UNHCR participated in two cultural and sporting events with the Municipal Youth Offices in both municipalities. **More than 500 young people from urban and rural schools attended the events.** Through the activities, UNHCR promoted awareness of the right to seek safety and support for young refugees.



- In 2022, UNHCR, with its partners El Refugio de la Niñez and FUNDAECO, have benefitted 69 refugees, asylum-seekers, and Guatemalans at risk with programs for socioeconomic and local inclusion. Among them, **42 park rangers from the "Green Corps" program in the Mayan Biosphere Reserve and 48 beneficiaries through internships and entrepreneurship.**
- Within the framework of the Cities of Solidarity program, UNHCR and Clowns Without Borders organized three days full of laughter and activities to promote **peaceful coexistence and local integration** in the municipalities of San Benito and Santa Elena, with the participation of more than 170 boys and girls from the local and refugee community.
- Under the slogan "Reborn in Guate," UNHCR in Peten and the solidarity city of Flores commemorated **World Refugee Day** with a day full of art, folklore, dance, music, and poetry. More than 350 people from the local and refugee community participated, including 12 refugee families who showcased their products and businesses. Also, for World Refugee Day in the municipality of San Benito, more than 60 women (including 19 refugees) participated in a self-care physical and mental health session. Through recreation and leisure for peaceful coexistence and the creation of neighborhood support networks, UNHCR seeks to promote human rights and raise awareness of international protection issues.

#### Contacts:

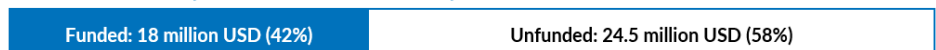
- Besem Obenson,  
Representative  
obenson@unhcr.org  
@RepACNURGuat



- Tatiana Saade,  
Head of Peten Field Unit  
saade@unhcr.org  
@TatianaSaade1



#### UNHCR's financial requirements for the Guatemala operation in 2022 (as of 14 September 2022)



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



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