Newsletter -**March, 2023**

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

Guate's Wrap-up

Our impact last month

WELCOME 2023! ¡BIENVENIDO 2023!

Welcome, dear reader, to the **first edition of Guate's Wrap-up** newsletter in 2023. This newsletter is a window to our work protecting people forced to flee. In this space, we will showcase the work of UNHCR in Guatemala.

Each version will be **different and unique**. So, follow us on our journey through 2023. We hope you can tag along!

CONVERSATIONS WITH OUR PARTNERS: Canada's support to empowering women and girls on the move

Aligned with Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy and contributing to the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS), UNHCR and IOM in Guatemala, together with the Embassy of Canada, launched the project *"Empowering Women and Girls Affected by Migration and Forced Displacement in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras."*

With the support of Canada, UNHCR is working to **protect and respond** to the needs of women and girls on the move. In coordination and partnership with government institutions, civil society organizations, and local authorities, the project seeks to promote the recognition and exercise of their rights and provide access to durable solutions.



UNHCR spoke with **Rajani Alexander,** Ambassador of Canada to Guatemala and High Commissioner of Canada to Belize, to tell us more about her vision of the project:

What motivates and inspires Canada to support worldwide and local efforts to empower women and girls?

Canada launched its Feminist International Assistance Policy in 2018. It outlines the government's strategy for contributing to global poverty eradication efforts and to building a more peaceful, inclusive, and prosperous world. Canada firmly believes that ***promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls*** *is the most effective approach to achieving this goal.*

What are your expectations for this project and partnership (Canada-IOM-UNHCR) to empower refugee and migrant women?

Canada expects that this initiative will help to improve the well-being of the most vulnerable women and girls that are affected by irregular migration and forced displacement in targeted areas of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. During the four years the project is being implemented, we want to support governments, communities, and civil society organizations to improve policies, services and programs for migrant and refugee women and girls that face greater risks when they are on the move. ***We want these women to feel safe, to be healthy and to be able to generate the resources that they need to be live a dignified life.***

Any message to the international community in Guatemala on the protection and empowerment of women on the move?

Women and girls on the move are a transnational concern. They are vulnerable in their countries of origin, while they are in transit and also when they reach their destinations. While migration is a life option, it should never be forced due to economic, political or security issues in countries of origin. Canada seeks to ***protect and promote human rights and gender equality*** *in coordination with Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, their people and with other international actors who together work to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.*





LEARN MORE

New Assistance Center for Migrants and Refugees (CAPMiR in Spanish) in Huehuetenango



The newest Assistance Centers for Migrants and Refugees (CAPMiR), inaugurated on February 28th, will provide information and assistance in **Huehuetenango**, an area with two official borders and many irregular crossings used by people on the move towards Mexico.

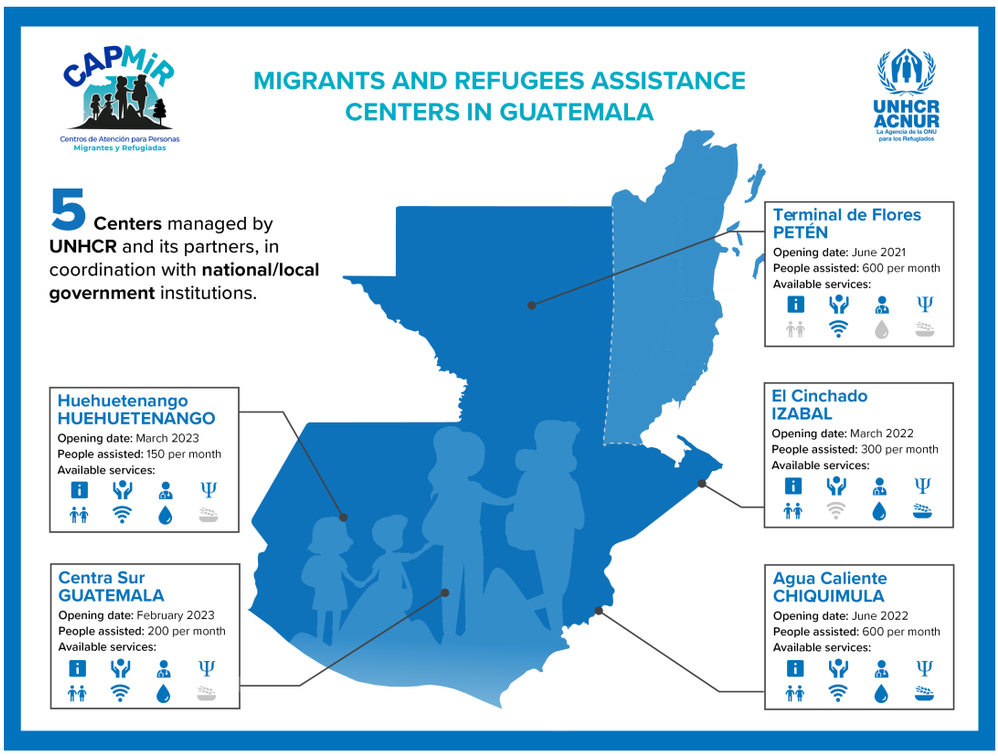






Guatemala has a significant role in the dynamics of mixed movements in the Central American region. It is characterized as a **country of origin, transit, destination, and return** for people, including asylum-seekers, refugees, Guatemalans in areas of high out migration and return, and migrants in transit. To respond to the complex and dynamic flows of mixed movements, UNHCR has scaled its presence in Guatemala through the **Assistance Centers for Migrants and Refugees (CAPMiR).** In coordination with the Guatemalan Migration Institute, local governments, UNICEF, IOM, these Centers provide services and programs for people on the move, including water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH,) psychosocial assistance, and counseling, essential first aid care, basic humanitarian assistance, and information.

From January 2022 up to February 2023, these centers have assisted around **17,500 people**, mainly from Venezuela and Honduras. UNHCR manages manages 5 CAPMiRs throughout the country, located in strategic places used by people on the move:



CHECK IT OUT

EXPRESSIONS THROUGH ART



Discovering stories of people forced to flee

UNHCR serves a wide range of people with international protection needs, such as victims of gender-based violence, trafficking, and LGBTIQ+ individuals. To respond to these needs, UNHCR and its partners provide **specialized services,** including legal and psychosocial assistance.

Through our partner LAMBDA Association, an organization dedicated to **protecting and advocating for LGBTIQ+ individuals,** and thanks to donors such as the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), UNHCR works to assist LGBTIQ people affected by forced displacement and gender-based violence and reinforce their protective environments.

With AECID, UNHCR visited the Safe Space LAMBDA provides for LGBTIQ+ refugees and asylum seekers. Here, we were able to learn about their own stories through an art workshop, where refugees and asylum-seekers were able to transform their voices into art.



LIVING WITHOUT FEAR:
Jose's story

No one should be forced to flee because of **who they love or who they are.** However, José had to leave Honduras after receiving threats because of his sexual orientation. Walking, he arrived on foot in Guatemala, carrying only a backpack, two pants, and one shirt. Here, UNHCR identified him in a high vulnerable situation and was resettled to the United States, where he is now able to live without fear.



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

Would you like to support any of our initiatives and projects?

Please contact:

Jean Pierre Mora, External Relations Officer

moraj@unhcr.org - (502) 3191 7420

UNHCR is grateful for the contributions from our donors, which make our work possible.

UNHCR's financial requirements for the Guatemala operation in 2023 (as of 14 March 2023)

Funded: 2.54 million USD (7%)	Unfunded: 35.06 million USD (93%)

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

Private donors in Australia I Canada I Germany I Italy I Japan I Norway I Republic of Korea I Spain I Sweden I Switzerland I United States

Updated on March 2023

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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