FACT SHEET I LIVELIHOOD AND ECONOMIC INCLUSION 2023

Participant of the training program. Photo: © UNHCR/ Victor Sánchez Mejía.

Economic inclusion, through access to the labour and financial market and entrepreneurial and economic opportunities, is key to achieving self-sufficiency and resilience for refugees and asylum-seekers in Guatemala. To achieve this, UNHCR developed a livelihoods and economic inclusion strategy that includes six strategic areas of work so that those seeking a place in Guatemala to start again can achieve self-sufficiency in their host communities.

1. Strengthening the environment for economic protection:

In 2023, UNHCR worked together with the public sector to identify and reduce barriers to accessing state programmes at national and local levels that contribute to the socio-economic integration of refugees and asylum-seekers.

15

public sector actors were involved in the implementation of UNHCR's Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion Strategy.

192

refugees and asylum-seekers accessed State economic inclusion programmes.

- Together with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, UNHCR developed four inclusive labour recruitment guides and a manual to establish an inclusive recruitment label for the private sector.
- The Special Personal Identity Document (DPIE) was validated to allow the refugee and asylum-seeker population access to health and social protection services (IGGS- Guatemalan Social Security Institute) and tax identification (SAT- Tax Administration Superintendence).

Participant of the training program. Photo: © UNHCR/ World Vision.

2. Strengthening human capital

UNHCR, with the support of its partner organisations, has invested in and supported the strengthening of the human capital of the refugee and asylum-seeker population to support their socio-economic integration and promote autonomy and empowerment.

410

people strengthened their soft skills for personal and professional success.

320

refugees and asylum-seekers were linked to certified vocational and technical training processes in the areas of basic finance, digital literacy, customer service, cooking, beauty, etc.

- **58** Guatemalan women in Huehuetenango have strengthened their technical and vocational skills for the establishment of a group income generation mechanism in the different communities from which the participating individuals belong.
- **20** refugee women and asylum-seekers in the municipality of Ayutla have strengthened their skills for the establishment of the collective enterprise "Mujeres maravillosas: creando un futuro juntos" (Wonderful women: creating a future together)".

Opening of bank accounts. Photo: © UNHCR/ Flor Cotzojay.

3. Access to financial and non-financial services

In 2023, through advocacy processes, UNHCR promoted financial and non-financial inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers to improve their quality of life and promote their autonomy.

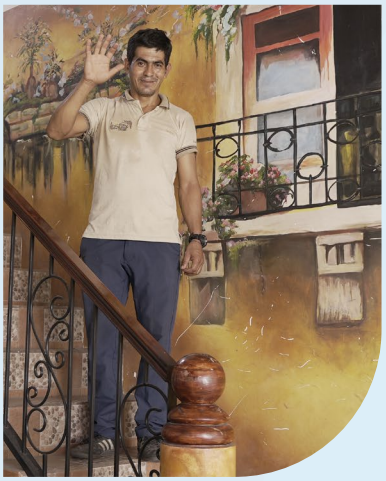
64 refugees and asylum-seekers opened a bank account.

- UNHCR and INTECAP designed a 40-hour training programme on basic finance for vulnerable populations, including refugees, asylum-seekers, and Guatemalans at risk. Within the topics addressed in the training process, refugees, asylum-seekers, and vulnerable Guatemalan individuals will receive training in i) basic money management, basic financial planning, basic financial organization, and recommendations for money direction and control.
- **128** refugees and asylum-seekers strengthened their financial skills.
- UNHCR signed an agreement was signed with Promujer, a microfinance company that allows refugees and asylum-seekers to access productive microcredits.

Participant of the employability program. Photo: © UNHCR/ Victor Sánchez Mejía.

4. Labour market inclusion

In 2023, UNHCR and its partner organisations implemented an employability programme consisting of the development of key labour market skills for refugees and asylum-seekers. Through personalized training, job counselling and access to job opportunities, the programme aims to facilitate their socio-economic integration.



193

people participated in the employability programme.

77

refugees and asylum-seekers were hired directly to a sustainable job opportunity

61

companies are part of an inclusive recruitment network that includes refugees and asylum-seekers as part of their workforce.

- **19** types of industries (hospitality, restaurants, trade or sales, etc) in which refugee and asylum-seeker workers are employed.

Participant of the entrepreneurship program. Photo: © UNHCR/ Victor Sánchez Mejía.

5. Sustainable entrepreneurship

In 2023, UNHCR's entrepreneurship programme sought to foster entrepreneurship and economic empowerment among refugees and asylum-seekers. Through business skills training, one-to-one counselling and access to financial resources and support networks, it helped people to start and grow their own businesses.

267

people participated in the entrepreneurship programme.

92

people received financial support (seed capital and strengthening grants) to start/strengthen their own businesses.

- **66%** of the supported ventures are led by women.
- **72%** of the people participating in the entrepreneurship programme increased their level of self-sufficiency and improved their capacity to cover their basic needs.

Articulation with the private sector. Photo: © UNHCR/ Victor Sánchez Mejía.

6. Private sector and academia

During 2023, UNHCR has led different approaches with actors from the private sector and academia to support the refugee and asylum-seeker population through strategic alliances. Through collaborative processes, UNHCR created employment, training and entrepreneurship opportunities that promote the socio-economic integration of refugees and asylum-seekers, offering tools and opportunities for them to build a prosperous and decent future.

64 actors from the private sector and academia have supported the implementation of UNHCR Guatemala's livelihoods and economic inclusion strategy.

- **15** working spaces with private sector actors were organized to socialize UNHCR's economic inclusion programmes.
- Strategic alliance with the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala for a "business branding" programme that supported 12 refugee and asylum-seeker entrepreneurs to develop their corporate identity, prototyping of marketing materials, and marketing and packaging design to improve the presentation of their products.
- UNHCR coordinated with the San Carlos University (USAC) through the Centro Universitario de Oriente -CUNORI- and Centro Universitario de Izabal -CUNIZAB- for the development of vocational technical training processes aimed at the refugee and asylum-seeker population.
- UNHCR, together with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security and the private sector's Center for Corporate Social Responsibility Action in Guatemala (CentraRSE), developed various Labour Inclusion Roundtables to raise awareness and promote the involvement of companies in an inclusive hiring initiative aimed at vulnerable groups, including population human mobility.

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