2024 | MAY

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

FACT SHEET

TECUN UMAN FIELD UNIT

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OPERATIONAL CONTEXT AND KEY FIGURES

Guatemala is a country of origin, transit and return and has increasingly become a destination for refugees and asylum seekers. UNHCR has 7 offices in the country including Tecun Uman, which covers the departments of San Marcos and Quetzaltenango.

UNHCR coordinates with the municipal and departmental authorities, international agencies, NGOs and communities, and 5 partner organisations to provide and access to livelihoods and humanitarian assistance including shelter, hygiene kits, and legal advice to people in transit, returnees, Guatemalans at risk, asylum-seekers and refugees.

285
refugees and asylum-seekers

9,345
Guatemalans at risk

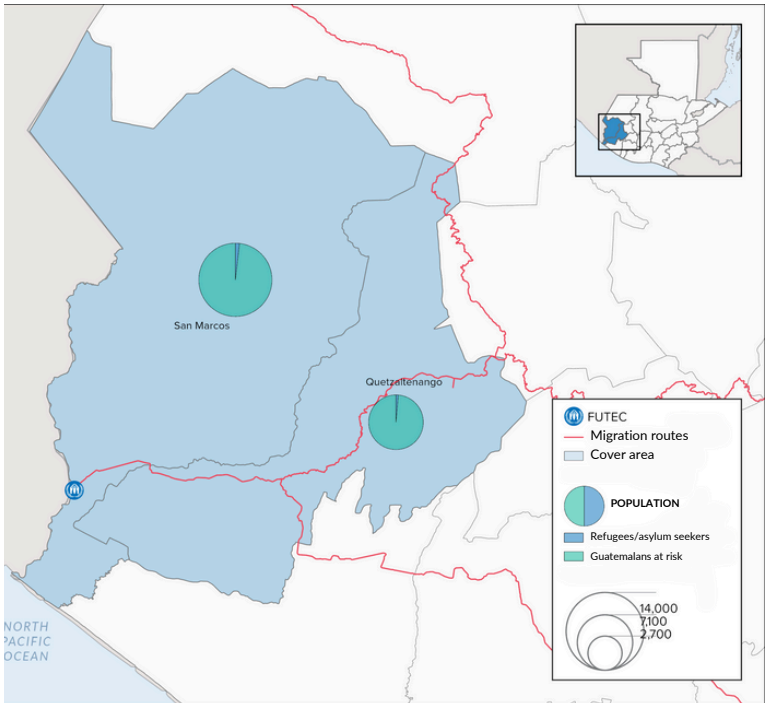
15,573
people served in 2023

33,540
assistance provided in 2023

OTHER RELEVANT DATA

- 20,150 with protection needs (2024)
- 12,542 people in food insecurity (2024)
- 14% illiteracy (2018)
- 7% child labour (2018)
- 29% poverty (2014)
- 379 crimes against women per 100,000 population (2021)
- 48% unemployment (2018)
- 33% without access to water and sanitation (2018)

*Source: Humanitarian Response Plan (2024) and National Institute of Statistics (INE). Data for the municipality of **Ayutla**.*



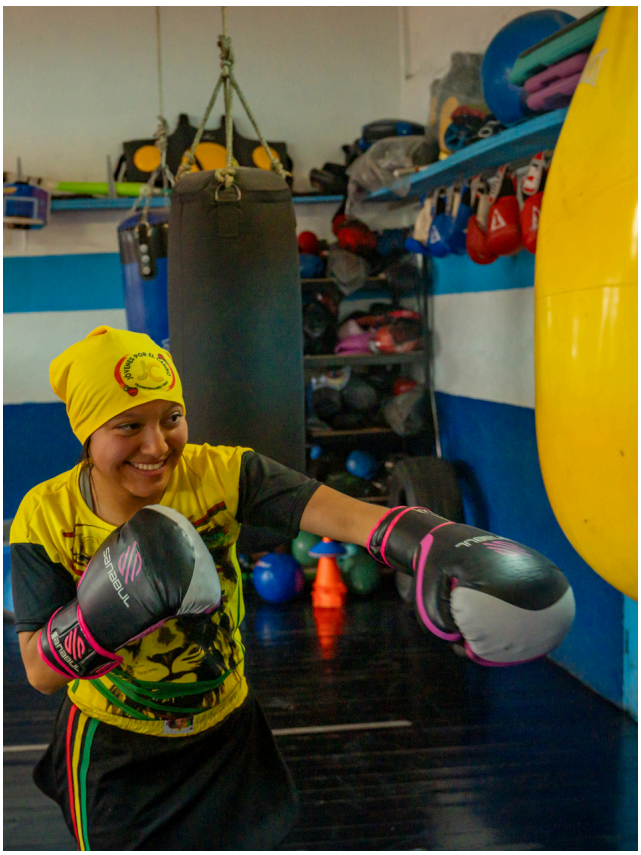
MAIN IMPACTS OF THE 2023 RESPONSE

Assistance

- UNHCR and partners provided **11,700** services to guarantee access to rights and documentation.
- **500** hygiene kits for women, men, boys, girls and babies.
- **140** individuals with international protection needs identified between Quetzaltenango and San Marcos.
- **1,459** persons were referred to the human mobility programme.

Alliances

- Alongside the National Association of Municipalities (ANAM), UNHCR supported formation of a departmental network of San Marcos of **21** municipalities to identify and refer cases with international protection needs.
- UNHCR supported coordination in the Departmental Migration Roundtable of San Marcos and the Municipal Roundtable of Ayutla.



UNHCR supports initiatives such as 'boxing to overcome prejudice and inequality', led by the Youth for Change collective. © UNHCR/Victor S.

Returnee Center

Since 2021, UNHCR strengthened its presence in Tecun Uman by working with the Guatemalan Migration Institute (IGM) through the implementation of Quick Impact Projects and the presence of partners at the Returnee Center.

As a result of UNHCR's work, a total of **1,009** Guatemalans have been identified at the Returnee Center and referred to protection programs, contributing to finding durable solutions for the most vulnerable cases.

Livelihoods

- **1,000+** people (local community and refugees) participated in business fairs in Tecun Uman. More than **50** were provided seed capital and livelihoods training.

Gender violence

- **60** refugee and local women were supported with sexual health and menstrual hygiene together with the local NGO Youth for Change.
- **36** survivors of gender-based violence were referred to the resettlement programme.