Newsletter -May, **2022**

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Guate's Wrap-up
Our impact last month

REFUGEES IN GUATEMALA CONTRIBUTE TO PROTECTING OUR PLANET

On April 22, the world unites to commemorate **International Earth Day.** UNHCR Guatemala and its partner FUNDAECO seek to simultaneously preserve our planet and protect refugees through the **Green Corps** project.

This initiative aims at generating integration opportunities for refugees, asylum seekers, and vulnerable young people and women in host communities by offering opportunities as **park rangers in the country's national reservoirs and ecological parks.**

Diana and Blanca are two women who serve as volunteers in the Green Corps and, in celebration of Earth Day, share a few tips on how to preserve our planet!

Learn More

CELEBRATING ENTREPENEURSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS!

In Guatemala, April 28 is **National Entrepreneurship Day.** This national commemoration seeks to celebrate the entrepreneurship of the micro and small businesses that are an essential pillar of the country's economy.

UNHCR Guatemala recognizes the importance of promoting sustainable livelihoods for refugees and asylum-seekers to achieve economic inclusion. Thanks to the contribution from the Republic of Korea, our **self-employment program** offers training in soft and technical skills, seed capital disbursements, enterprise development, and access to commercialization networks.

To celebrate refugees' entrepreneurial spirit and, in support of the Municipality of Guatemala, UNHCR participated in the National Entrepreneurship Day, a space for entrepreneurs to show their products to new customers.

THE STORY ON A TWEET

MOBILE PROTECTION FOR PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

People in transit through Guatemala tend to use hard-to-reach areas and non-official border crossings. The use of these routes increases vulnerability and heightens protection risks—especially the risk of being trafficked and smuggled and exploitation and gender-based violence.

In response to this situation, since 2019, UNHCR in Guatemala has provided **mobile services in the most remote areas,** seeking to improve access to information, counseling, and orientation on rights and services.

TYPES OF MOBILE UNITS:

- Procumóvil: together with the Ombudsperson Office, these six units cover six departments, offering information services and referrals for protection response to the needs of the most vulnerable persons on the move. The project aims to ensure more effective human rights monitoring in crucial areas of entry, transit, and destination of persons of concern and provide access to host communities to denounce human rights violations.

- Proculancha: UNHCR and its partner El Refugio de la Niñez support the strengthening of the Human Rights Ombudsperson's Office's capacity to prevent and respond to human rights violations against refugees, migrants, and host community members by providing the Office with a new mobile boat unit called "Proculancha." The boat adapts the Procumóvil model to a river context in the department of Izabal. See the Proculancha in action.

- UNIVETs: launched in 2021 with the Office Against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons (SVET); the seven mobile units cover prioritized departments responding rapidly to sexual and gender-based violence and sexual exploitation. The UNIVETs also engage with local actors and community leaders in assisting with the program's implementation, namely through the identification and referral of cases.

In April, UNHCR provided a new, fully equipped all-terrain UNIVET that will operate in the country's western area, reaching remote communities in San Marcos and Huehuetenango. The new UNIVET will be

able to offer protection services to more girls and women across the north-western area of the country. This new unit will promote messages and services on prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV) for the people we serve and their host communities. In addition, the UNIVET staff will train government officials on the prevention of and response to GBV.

- UNHCR's partner, **El Refugio de la Niñez,** also contributes to mobile protection dispatching two mobile units in Petén and Izabal, providing and disseminating information on rights and available services, as well as facilitating referrals to appropriate services.

- Mobile clinics: UNHCR and the Guatemalan Red Cross also has increased its overall response capacity by using mobile units equipped with the structure to provide pre-hospital care along highways transit zones, including areas where the caravans displace.

SALVADORAN REFUGEE HELPS OTHER WOMEN ACHIEVE FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE:

Alma is a 35-year-old Salvadoran refugee who came to Guatemala fleeing violent gangs in her home country. She found protection by settling in Petén; however, she felt lonely and helpless after leaving her family behind.

She found UNHCR and decided to get the support she needed, filing for asylum with the Guatemalan government, learning about her rights and receiving economic assistance and advice for her business.

Through Alma's process with UNHCR and our partner Ixqik, she met other female violence survivors who became leaders in their communities. This inspired Alma to create a **savings support group to help other women** make better decisions and achieve their financial goals. The group is now two years old.

Learn More About Her Story

UNHCR Guatemala Factsheets

Read our operation's latest general factsheet and child protection factsheet

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

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

Please contact:

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

UNHCR's financial requirements for the Guatemala operation in 2022 (as of 5 May 2022)

Funded: 5.1 million USD (12%)	Unfunded: 37.4 million USD (88%)

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

Belgium partner in development · Canada · german humanitarian assistance · Irish Aid Rialtas na hÉireann Government of Ireland · From the People of Japan · Ministry of Foreign Affairs Republic of Korea · PEACEBUILDING FUND

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