

Guatemala Fact Sheet

June 2024



Welcome the stranger.
Protect the refugee.

Introduction

Guatemala contends with a complex and enduring crisis marked by poverty, pervasive inequality, escalating violence, economic challenges, and constrained governmental capacities. The prevalence of displacement due to both violence and climate change-related events further compounds the multifaceted challenges facing the country. HIAS is inaugurating field offices in Guatemala to respond to the needs of displaced people by working with humanitarian actors and other civil society organizations.

Guatemala is host to an increased population in transit, especially in border areas with Mexico, Honduras, and El Salvador. HIAS Guatemala supports people in transit that have urgent humanitarian and psychosocial support needs. HIAS has also been selected as UNHCR's partner for the 2023-2026 multi-year plan in Guatemala.

HIAS Programs and Focus

HIAS is dedicated to assisting people by providing comprehensive support for travel to the United States through the newly established Safe Mobility Office in Guatemala. The support encompasses case intake, case management and assessment, pre-travel assistance, and general travel support. HIAS Guatemala also provides people with a range of different services.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention and Response

HIAS Guatemala's GBV prevention and response program provides emergency accommodation for people at risk of GBV as well as survivors. HIAS collaborates with Airbnb to offer safe and secure housing to families, single mothers, and members of the LGBTQ community who find themselves homeless and in need of temporary accommodation.

Economic Inclusion

Access to dignified, sustainable, and safe livelihoods is at the core of our economic inclusion interventions. Our socioeconomic support program helps at-risk families focus on the best ways to integrate into communities. HIAS focuses on women, single mothers, and survivors of GBV to empower them to achieve self-reliance through economic inclusion programs.

Community-Based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (CB-MHPSS)

Our mental health programs involve training community members to identify acute emotional distress in children and adults, then providing them with tools to appropriately respond. HIAS offers capacity building to front-line service providers, such as community leaders and local non-profits, focusing on psychological first aid. The program emphasizes a self-care and caregiver sensitive approach and includes key areas such as PSEA (Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse) and burnout prevention.

HIAS in Latin America and the Caribbean

HIAS advocates for the protection of refugees, asylum seekers, other displaced populations, and local host communities throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. As part of a comprehensive regional response to meet the urgent needs of these populations, HIAS participates in several coordination platforms and partnerships with a focus on protection, socioeconomic integration, MHPSS, food security, GBV, and cash and voucher assistance.



GBV Response

Our GBV program provides emergency accommodation for people at risk of violence as well as survivors.



Economic Inclusion

Our socioeconomic support program provides at-risk families with tools that facilitate integration into communities.



CB-MHPSS Support

We train community members to identify acute emotional distress in children and adults, then provide them with tools to respond



HIAS workers observe current humanitarian trends along the Suchiate river, which divides Guatemala from Mexico. September 13, 2023. (Selia Montes for HIAS)

HIAS currently has programs in 11 countries in LAC (Aruba, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela) and partners with a wide range of government agencies, UN entities (UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, UNVFVT), the private sector (Airbnb, TATA Consultancy Services, and Manpower), and other NGOs and consortia, including Save the Children, Norwegian Refugee Council, Danish Refugee Council and World Vision.

Contact

For more information, please contact:

María José Gómez de la Torre, Program Manager
maria.gomezdelatorre@hias.org