



HIAS

Welcome the stranger.
Protect the refugee.

2022-2023 Overview

HIAS MEXICO

HIAS Mexico

Overview 2022-2023



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Protect the refugee.**

HIAS MEXICO 2022

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HIAS MEXICO

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Our History

From our beginnings in the 1880s in a storefront on the Lower East Side of Manhattan providing food and shelter to Jews fleeing antisemitism in Eastern Europe, to our work nearly 140 years later providing social, emotional, legal, and advocacy support to those in need around the world, HIAS has served as a pivotal force for displaced people for generations. Indeed, HIAS began its work even before the world had a legal concept of a “refugee.”

Having helped more than 4.5 million refugees and immigrants escape persecution, HIAS is uniquely qualified to address the modern refugee situation, which has become a global humanitarian crisis. After over 100 years of serving Jews fleeing persecution around the globe, HIAS, starting in the 2000s, expanded its work in the U.S. to include assistance to non-Jewish refugees devastated by the aftermath of conflicts in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Haiti, Hungary, Iran, Morocco, Poland, Romania, Tunisia, Vietnam, and the successor states to the former Soviet Union.

HIAS began a new chapter in 2002 when it established operations in Kenya to provide protection to refugees from African countries plagued by conflict, to advocate on their behalf, and to resettle the most vulnerable. Soon after, we began work in Latin America, serving people displaced by conflict in several countries. Currently HIAS works in 16 countries including Aruba, Austria, Belgium, Chad, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Greece, Guyana, Israel, Kenya, Mexico, Panama, Peru, United States, and Venezuela. As the only global Jewish organization whose mission is to assist refugees wherever they are, HIAS continues to protect, empower, and resettle refugees of all faiths and ethnicities from around the world.



Vision, Mission, and Values

Vision

HIAS stands for a world in which refugees find welcome, safety, and opportunity.

Mission

Drawing on our Jewish values and history, HIAS provides vital services to refugees and asylum seekers around the world and advocates for their fundamental rights so they can rebuild their lives.

Values

Impassioned by our mission, we bring the lessons of HIAS' history and Jewish ethics and experience to our commitment to serve refugees and other displaced persons of concern around the world through the following values:

Welcome • Acogimiento • Hospitalité • הכנסת אורחים (Hachnasat Orchim)

We **Welcome** the Stranger

Justice • Justicia • Justice • צדק (Tzedek)

We Pursue **Justice**

Empathy • Empatía • Empathie • חסד (Chesed)

We Approach our Clients with **Empathy**

Partnership • Compañerismo • Coopération • חברותא (Chevruta)

We Believe in Changing the World through **Partnership**

Courage • Coraje • Courage • אומץ (Ometz)

We Act with **Courage** to Build a Better World

Resilience • Resiliencia • Résilience • רוח (Ruach)

We Adapt and Thrive, Continuously Demonstrating our **Resilience**



Photos: Glenna Gordon; Michael Datikash

Our Impact

Around the world, HIAS makes tangible changes in the lives of refugees and other forcibly displaced people, advancing their legal, social, and economic rights. Our experience and technical expertise, as well as our integration of international best practices, allows for our work to have real and sustained impact. We partner with government agencies and other humanitarian organizations to reach the greatest number of those in need. The core areas where we work include:

1. Legal Protection
2. Gender-Based Violence Response and Risk Reduction
3. Community-based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
4. Economic Inclusion

Legal Protection

Refugees and other people forcibly displaced from home are fleeing persecution and violence. They need to be able to safely cross borders into countries where their lives are not at risk. Once over the border, they need information and legal representation to secure legal status and access their rights. Without that status, refugees are forced to live on the margins of society, sometimes for generations, without access to healthcare, education, dignified work, or safe shelter. HIAS begins by educating refugees about their rights, then secures protection by engaging in advocacy, legal representation, and strategic litigation, and working with government authorities.

Gender-Based Violence Response and Risk Reduction

Compounded by rampant gender inequality, forced migration and displacement quickly erode the limited protections women, girls, and LGBTQ populations have, even in times of stability. HIAS is driven by their voices and needs, working to empower them and engage the whole community to reduce the risk of gender-based violence. We raise awareness so survivors know where and how to get help after experiencing violence. We train advocates and support existing services so that no survivor—regardless of age, sexual orientation, or gender identity—suffers alone. We help communities begin the kind of transformative work

that leads to longer-term change. We stay connected to and raise our collective voice alongside those of displaced women, girls, and LGBTQ populations globally.

Community-Based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

Violence, conflict, and displacement disrupt relationships and daily life, break down existing support systems, and have a devastating impact on mental health, overall wellbeing, and recovery. A supportive environment is essential to healing and recovery for refugees and other people forcibly displaced from their homes. One of the best ways to build a supportive environment is to strengthen existing relationships, networks, and practices which promote mental health and well-being and allow communities to cope and heal. We facilitate community support groups and psychological support from both lay and professional providers and ensure access to services for more intensive mental health support. Crucially, we sustain our efforts by building the psychosocial competence of HIAS personnel and stakeholders to respond to the acute distress of forcibly displaced persons.

Economic Inclusion

When refugees and forcibly displaced people arrive in countries of asylum, they often need to adapt their skills to earn sustainable and safe livelihoods. HIAS supports refugees on their road to self-reliance, helping them to find programs focused on poverty eradication, employment, entrepreneurship, and financial services. We advocate for the rights of both refugees and local host communities to access dignified, sustainable, and safe work, alongside economic development.

Emergency Response

In 2021, with the support of a transformational grant from MacKenzie Scott, HIAS embarked on an exciting new initiative to strengthen our global capacity to respond quickly to new humanitarian emergencies. HIAS' Emergency Department will work closely with country offices to create emergency preparedness plans and provide guidance to adapt core programs to emergency contexts. HIAS will also train a cadre of staff with specialized skills able to deploy quickly during emergencies for assessments, response activities, donor engagement, external communication, and advocacy. Through this multiyear initiative, HIAS will build the skills, systems, and organizational culture needed for effective coordination and response to emergencies.

Accountability to Affected Populations

HIAS' Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) Framework ensures the inclusion of refugees, other forcibly displaced people, and vulnerable host communities throughout the program cycle. Informed by the Core Humanitarian Standards and the principle of "Do No Harm," the framework pillars are: communication and transparency; feedback and response; participation and inclusion; and learning and adaptation.

HIAS ensures that program design is based on evidence from needs assessments, including the annual UNHCR participatory needs assessment, and consultation with affected communities. HIAS shares information about its accountability commitments and available

services in all country offices. HIAS proactively invites affected people to provide feedback on planned and ongoing activities through context-appropriate, accessible channels, ensuring that all affected people can voice feedback, recommendations, and concerns safely and equitably. HIAS uses feedback received to adapt ongoing programs and shape the design and implementation of future programming.

Governance, Structure, and Policies

Globally, HIAS employs more than 1,300 staff in 16 countries, with headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland (U.S.).

HIAS' Board of Directors is made up of 22 members, including 10 women. It meets at least four times a year. The Board has three officers and operates with six active committees that meet regularly. Board members bring a wide range of professional and business experience to their service, including law, finance, education, and non-profit and refugee advocacy leadership.

HIAS staff are subject to a robust Code of Conduct and set of internal policies, including PSEA, Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment, Conflict of Interest, Privacy, Whistleblowing, Security and Emergency Preparedness, Information Security, Data Breach, Finance and Accounting, as well as others relating to procurement, travel, and reimbursements.

Context for Vulnerable Refugees and Migrants in Mexico



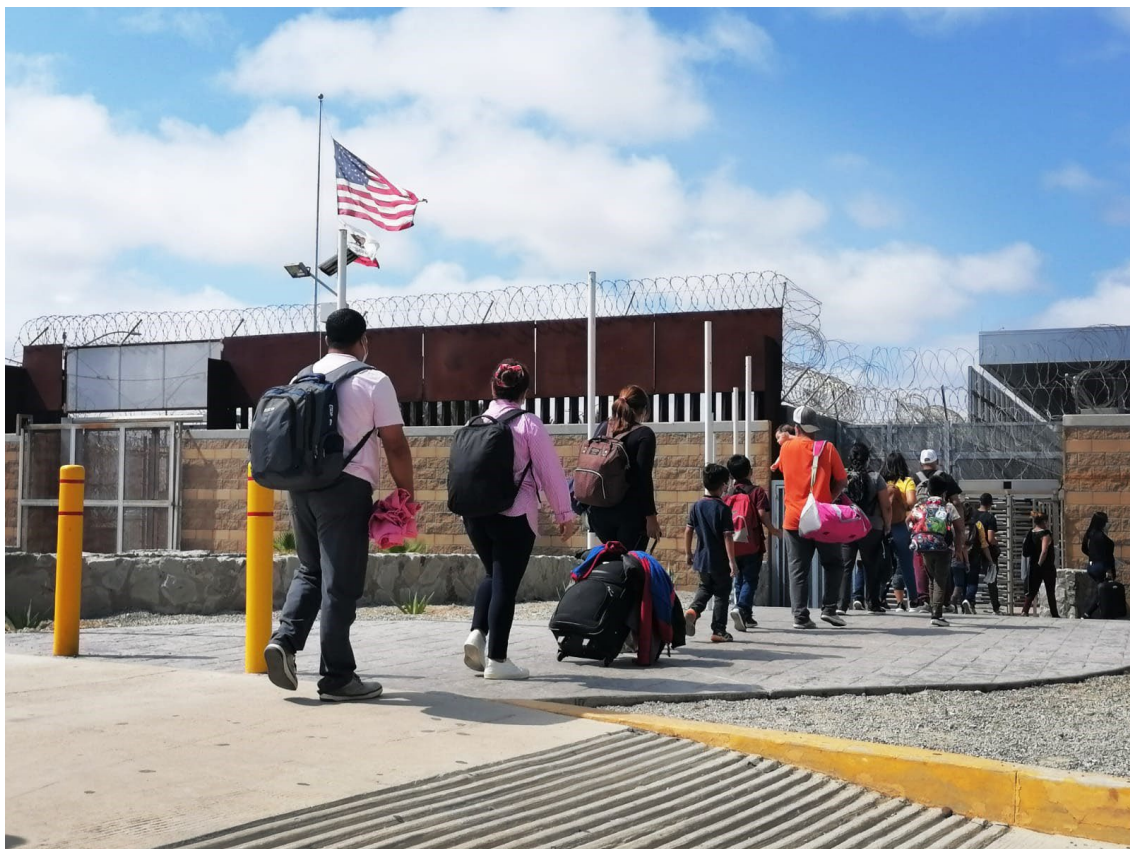
The Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Region continues to face intersecting forced displacement crises, including ongoing instability in Venezuela, Colombia, Northern Central America, and Nicaragua. The COVID-19 pandemic has only worsened the economic and social hardships faced by both displaced populations and those hosting them. The more than 18 million people displaced in the region have fled violence, insecurity, persecution, and human rights violations. This number accounts for 20% of all global displacement. HIAS' comprehensive regional response meets the urgent needs of refugees, asylum

seekers, and other forcibly displaced people in Aruba, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guyana, Mexico, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela.

Mexico has become both a transit and destination country for vulnerable displaced populations. The influx of asylum seekers and transit migrants—combined with pandemic-related restrictions, lack of resources, and ongoing violence and exploitation—present massive humanitarian challenges. Thousands of refugees and other forcibly displaced people have arrived in Mexico, and while most make their way to the northern border to seek asylum in the United States, significant numbers look to Mexico for protection. In 2021 the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMAR) received nearly 132,00 claims for

asylum in Mexico, an increase of 220% over 2020. This increase in migration has been driven by the intersecting effects of violence and armed conflict, climate change, and gender-based violence (GBV) in the region. In an effort to build its international reputation as a safe haven for refugees, in August 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomed sponsored Afghan families to Mexico City, who will stay in the country until relocated to the U.S. or Canada.

Reforms in Mexican migration law in 2012 established a progressive framework to protect displaced people. In practice, however, these laws are unevenly implemented, and the detention and deportation of migrants and asylum seekers is commonplace. Migrants and asylum seekers face abuse and exploitation, including gender-based violence. Those living in Mexico's northern border cities, particularly women, girls, and LGBTQ refugees, face extremely high levels of violence including rape, kidnapping, and human trafficking. Internally displaced Mexicans from Guerrero, Michoacan, and Chiapas who are victims of violence or displaced by infrastructure projects affecting rural and indigenous communities need protection and basic services.



Individuals who benefitted from the Title 42 Exception program, managed by HIAS, entering a US port of entry from Tijuana, Mexico in August of 2021. **Photo:** HIAS Mexico

The Migration Protection Protocols (MPP) or “Remain in Mexico” policy, border closings, and expulsions under Title 42—which allows the U.S. government to prevent individuals from entering the country during certain public health emergencies—have resulted in the U.S.-Mexico border essentially being closed to most people attempting to assert their legal rights to seek asylum in the United States. Despite widespread condemnation by both public health experts and refugee advocates, Title 42 is still being used by the U.S. to justify returning people to their country of last transit, without being able to make a claim of asylum, with over one million expulsions to date. In addition, MPP was introduced in 2019 and used by the previous U.S. administration to force most asylum seekers who presented themselves at the southern border to wait for their asylum hearings in Mexico, rather than in the U.S. Tens of thousands of people were affected by the policy, and thousands continue to have their access to protection in the U.S. blocked, including Haitian nationals who are now included under MPP. Many have waited for months or years for their hearing dates in highly dangerous areas of Mexico without basic services. The lack of safe and legal pathways to obtain protection in the United States continues to trap people seeking safety in areas controlled by criminal organizations in Mexico.

HIAS Programs in Mexico

HIAS Mexico offers integrated programs focused on legal protection, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response, and community-based mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). HIAS Mexico serves asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants across the northern border region including in Tijuana, Juarez, and Matamoros. In June 2021, HIAS Mexico established a presence near the southern border at Palenque and introduced legal, MHPSS, and GBV services in central Mexico. HIAS Mexico is also expanding its presence in Chiapas with two new offices. HIAS Mexico’s program participants are survivors of violence and torture; unaccompanied children; adolescent girls at risk for GBV (including girls in early marriages); breastfeeding women and single mothers with small children; LGBTQ persons; older adults with medical issues; people with chronic diseases; and family groups with limited access to food. HIAS realizes people carry a diversity of experiences and intersecting identities requiring unique support and solutions. As such, HIAS takes a holistic approach to its interventions and offers integrated programming in GBV prevention and response, community-based mental health and psychosocial support, economic inclusion, and legal protection.



HIAS staff attorneys, Alessio Mirra and Fabiola Quintana, providing orientation and information to two clients who were living in a refugee camp in Matamoros in 2021. **Photo:** HIAS Mexico

HIAS Mexico's **legal protection** services include information, orientation, and representation for those seeking asylum in the U.S. or protection in Mexico. On the U.S. border, HIAS assists asylum seekers from many countries, including El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Haiti, among others, to obtain legal protection, either by pursuing their claims for asylum in the U.S. or by applying for protection in Mexico. HIAS Mexico offers Know Your Rights workshops and individual legal consultations. HIAS Mexico also partners with HIAS' headquarters-based Legal and Asylum Department to provide referrals and develop programming to support legal representation of asylum seekers. HIAS has Border Fellows embedded in local NGOs in Tucson, Arizona; El Paso, Texas; Harlingen, Texas; Laredo, Texas; and San Diego, California to provide public legal education, representation, and referrals. HIAS Mexico's programs mirror this work, allowing for a unique cross-border operation.

In 2021, HIAS Mexico helped close to 10,000 people enter the U.S. as exceptions to Title 42 due to vulnerabilities like pregnancy, disability, LGBTQ status, and gender-based violence. HIAS Mexico also assisted close to an additional 13,000 vulnerable asylum seekers enter the U.S. when MPP was temporarily halted from February to December 2021. Furthermore, with support from UNHCR and ECHO, HIAS Mexico provided more than 15,000 individuals with legal protection services, MHPSS support, and GBV protection in Mexico. HIAS Mexico

has also helped more than 200 Afghan refugees prior to their resettlement to the U.S. and other countries with basic needs and MHPSS support.

Asylum seekers and other vulnerable populations living in or traveling through Mexico have identified **gender-based violence (GBV)** as a prevalent form of abuse they have faced in their home country, on migration routes, and/or while waiting in Mexico to receive legal protection. Women consistently describe being raped, assaulted, extorted, or forced to marry members of criminal armed groups, including gangs and drug cartels, who use sexual violence to maintain control over territory and to control women who do not comply with their demands. HIAS Mexico offers critical services to support GBV survivors and help reduce the risk of GBV, using a survivor-centered approach that includes GBV case management, psychosocial support, and referrals for health services. In addition, HIAS Mexico supports other service providers to strengthen care for survivors, providing trainings on informed consent, confidentiality, survivor-centered and non-discriminatory GBV services, and referral mechanisms. HIAS Mexico also recruits, trains, and deploys Mobile Protection Response teams with GBV and MHPSS response capacity. Due to the impact of COVID-19, HIAS Mexico introduced Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) to support survivors of GBV and people at risk (including women, girls, and LGBTQ people) to address their immediate needs and strengthen coping mechanisms. HIAS Mexico also deploys whole-of-community approaches to GBV risk mitigation and prevention, engaging a range of community members in community conversations raising awareness on women's rights. Alongside HIAS' work to empower women and adolescent girls, men have joined a series of community-based conversations on positive masculinity, gender equality, non-violent behavior, and alternatives to violence.

HIAS Mexico is currently one of the few service providers in Northern Mexico offering community-based **mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)**. This is implemented through a multilayered approach aimed at ensuring a continuity of care for program participants. Psychological First Aid and other individual-focused psychological interventions—both remote and in-person—are employed, as are specialized services, including referrals for psychiatric care, for complex cases. The MHPSS team also conducts group-based training to promote positive coping mechanisms for people on the move and reinforcing psychosocial support skills of front-line service providers. HIAS Mexico also distributes hygiene kits, including menstrual hygiene materials, to vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and lessen the stress and anxiety many feel without access to basic hygiene items. MHPSS services are an essential complement for legal support services, and can be critical to enable vulnerable migrants to successfully advocate for themselves and participate fully in their legal asylum claims. HIAS Mexico's integrated, holistic programming is thus critical to successful legal outcomes for asylum seekers who are survivors of extreme violence and are often still experiencing ongoing potentially traumatic experiences.



Children washing dishes at a refugee camp in Matamoros, Mexico, where HIAS was providing legal services in 2021. **Photo:** HIAS Mexico

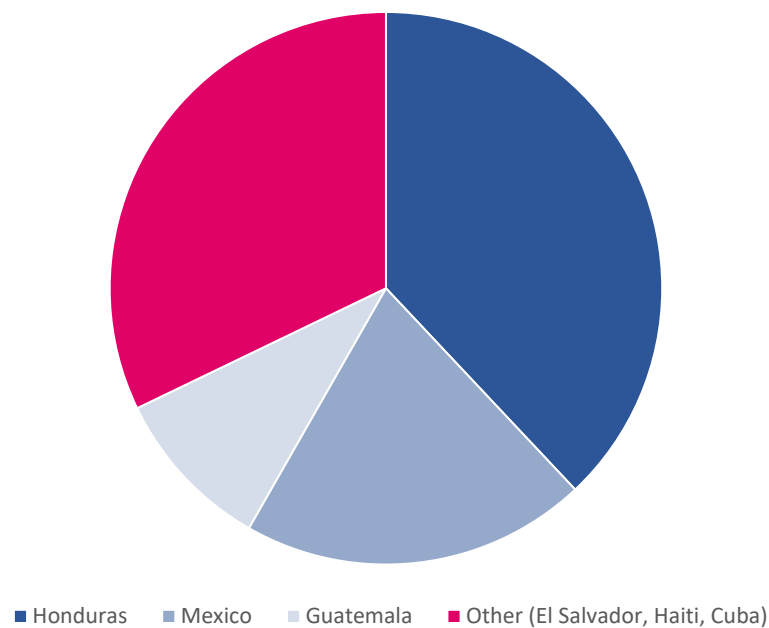
HIAS Mexico implements HIAS' global **Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) Framework** and staff are trained on AAP principles and standard operating procedures. HIAS Mexico displays the Code of Conduct in all offices and shares information via WhatsApp and other communication platforms about its accountability commitments and available services in all operating locations (Juarez, Matamoros, Mexicali, Mexico City, Monterrey, Nuevo Laredo, Queretaro, Palenque, Reynosa, Tijuana). Information-sharing is included in HIAS Mexico's standard operating processes for case management with clients. HIAS Mexico also uses feedback and response mechanisms that are accessible and context appropriate, including anonymous suggestion boxes in each office location, a dedicated email address, and an online

reporting platform for submission of feedback, concerns, and suggestions. HIAS invites community representatives and clients to share their feedback and experiences on an ongoing basis.

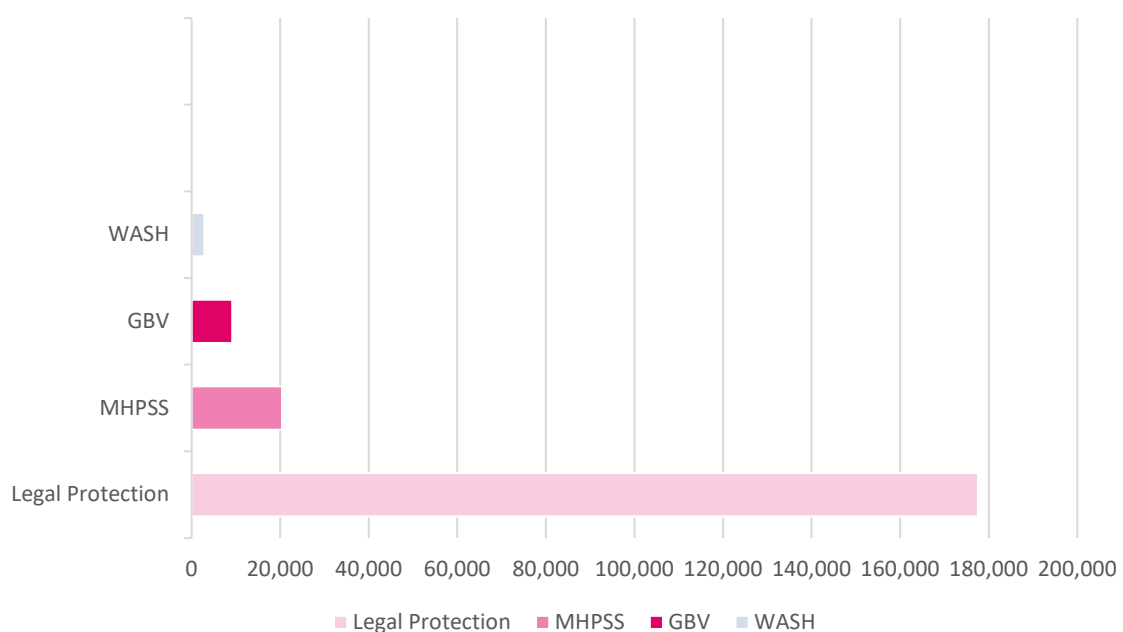
Looking ahead at programs, HIAS Mexico expects to see increased flows of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers and growing humanitarian need and vulnerability. HIAS is committed to improving access to due process and functioning and humane asylum systems for those seeking safety. HIAS will continue to respond to humanitarian needs across the country, with comprehensive interventions building on current programming. Given the significant unmet needs, HIAS Mexico plans to expand its GBV programming and strengthen community protection mechanisms to new locations and with additional activities. HIAS Mexico would also like to expand strategic litigation work to achieve even greater impact at scale. With additional resources, HIAS will expand into key locations including Nogales, Hermosillo, and Tapachula. HIAS Mexico will continue to pursue opportunities to assist Mexican IDPs at the northern border. In coordination with HIAS' headquarters-based emergency department and the LAC regional office, HIAS Mexico will also build out its **emergency response** strategy and establish a core team to be able to respond appropriately

to future crises. This will build on the experiences and lessons learned from responding to new crises throughout 2021, including changing U.S. policies, border closures, Haitian expulsions, and Afghan refugees' arrival in Mexico.

Graph 1: Populations Served in 2021



Graph 2: People Reached by Program Area in 2021



Coordination: Partners and Peer Networks

HIAS Mexico works closely with UNCHR Mexico and its partners and will continue to collaborate with local professionals, faith-based organizations, and NGO partners. HIAS Mexico coordinates with the National Institute of Migration (INM), COMAR, and other relevant government agencies to improve legal services for asylum seekers in all program locations. HIAS Mexico will continue to coordinate with government officials to promote access to services, particularly for vulnerable groups. HIAS Mexico is a member of a consortium with the Danish Refugee Council, Plan International, and Save the Children to strengthen integrated protection and humanitarian assistance for refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants in the northern and southern border regions of Mexico. HIAS Mexico is also a member of the legal protection, MHPSS, and GBV networks created by UNHCR with local NGOs and shelters that work in Mexico City, Puebla, Querétaro, and Chiapas. HIAS Mexico coordinates with Doctors Without Borders (MSF) for MHPSS services. HIAS Mexico also participates in the national and regional protection working groups led by UNHCR to avoid duplication of services and coordinate responses to gaps and emerging needs. HIAS Mexico coordinates with U.S.-based partners on issues related to U.S. asylum and immigration policy and cross-border legal assistance. Going forward, HIAS Mexico will work to strengthen government capacity to respond to the needs of refugees, asylum seekers, and vulnerable migrants. HIAS Mexico will also focus on strengthening partnerships with local organizations and regional NGO networks and fostering clients' leadership to deepen and sustain impact.

Operational Support for Programs

As HIAS' programs expand to meet new global needs, HIAS remains committed to delivering the highest quality of services to those it seeks to support and empower. To enable country teams to succeed and thrive, HIAS will invest new operational resources in our programs, processes, and people.

Representing one of HIAS' largest programs, the HIAS Mexico team is comprised of 110 staff deployed in thirteen locations. The Country Director leads a Senior Management Team made up of key senior staff. Each HIAS Mexico staff member abides by HIAS' Code of Conduct and other policies and procedures in line with global best practices. All staff members have completed trainings on **Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)**. These trainings are updated and repeated regularly to ensure both prevention and response to any reported incidents of SEA. HIAS applies a gender lens when analyzing, planning, and making decisions across all its operations, in order to ensure the safety, security, and wellbeing of the entire organization's staff. HIAS invests in the skills and capacity of staff worldwide, supporting a wide range of local, national, regional, and international trainings for staff. HIAS ensures that international staff have diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ) training. Mexico will be mapping its staff training and capacity building needs against programmatic objectives. HIAS Mexico plans to establish further opportunities for peer-to-peer learning with other HIAS country offices.



HIAS staff attorney, Devanny Jimenez, providing orientation to individuals outside of a refugee camp in Matamoros, Mexico in 2021. **Photo:** HIAS Mexico

HIAS Mexico's growth in programming will require changes to the **staffing structure** to meet new programmatic needs, provide opportunities for professional development, and position the team for further growth. HIAS Mexico will continue to review and adjust its overall human resources strategy and staffing plan, creating new positions as necessary and adjusting job descriptions to align staff skills, interest, and workload. To promote **staff wellbeing**, HIAS has a global contract with the Konterra Group, which provides support both for work-related and personal challenges. HIAS Mexico will assess whether additional measures are necessary to prevent staff burnout, as programs grow and new emergencies unfold. The goal of these efforts is to enhance program outcomes as well as improve staff satisfaction, retention, and wellbeing across the country team.

HIAS is committed to developing an effective and sustainable **safety and security** risk management system that is in line with its values and mission and our organizational duty of care. HIAS Mexico has bolstered its safety and security approach in line with additional increased risks and scrutiny of programming sites along the border as HIAS Mexico began work on Title 42 cases. HIAS Mexico has a local security manager supported by HIAS' regional and headquarters safety and security team. HIAS Mexico will continue to adapt programming and procedures to mitigate against COVID-19. HIAS Mexico will need to adapt its security programs and training according to the different security settings and contexts in Mexico.

Globally, HIAS is rolling out a **Digital Transformation Strategy** to ensure that program participants' personal information is digitally secured and protected. The strategy will also create one universal source of information and collaboration; ensure all organizational knowledge is standardized, digitized, organized, and discoverable; ensure data around inputs, outcomes, and impact is readily accessible; help employees collaborate on gathering and building resources on this information platform; and easily share and leverage data from partners and affiliates. HIAS will be providing annual refresher training to all country offices on IT tools and procedures. HIAS Mexico will seek additional resources for dedicated IT support in country, as well as larger physical office spaces.

With support from headquarters (including the regional office), HIAS Mexico will also continue to review and strengthen procedures and tools related to data and reporting as well as finance and compliance, in line with donor requirements and international standards. HIAS Mexico will work with headquarters to establish an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. The ERP system will improve alignment of operations, finance, programs, and human resources, allowing for more efficient and cost-effective country operations.

Donors and Development

HIAS is committed to growing and diversifying its donor base in each country of operation. With support from the LAC regional office and headquarters, HIAS Mexico is developing a strategy to sustain, increase, and diversify funding sources, building on its reputation for flexible programming responses to meet the most urgent needs of vulnerable asylum seekers and migrants, particularly women and girls and LGBTQ persons. HIAS Mexico will continue to build its capacity and reputation as an organization uniquely positioned to interpret and respond to relevant U.S. policy shifts and their effects on both sides of the border, while building the capacity of the wider community of stakeholders in Mexico. A potential area of expansion would be working with internally displaced persons in Mexico. HIAS Mexico will also work to secure more resources to expand critically needed GBV programming in underserved locations as well as launch economic inclusion initiatives. HIAS Mexico will continue to seek opportunities to work through partnerships and consortiums, building on synergies and maximizing available resources.

HIAS Mexico gratefully acknowledges support from UNHCR, U.S. Department of State/PRM, and the European Union (ECHO). Moving forward, HIAS Mexico will work on identifying additional core grants by building partnerships with new institutional and individual donors and by expanding into new core programs, new locations, and new populations.

Communications, Policy, and Advocacy

HIAS Mexico's advocacy targets decision-makers at the country, regional, and international level to advance protection and rights for refugees and asylum seekers in Mexico. The aim is to comprehensively address protection gaps and implement long-term change through policy, funding, and services. Current **advocacy priorities** include due process, alternatives

to detention, non-discrimination, durable solutions for refugees, solutions for IDPs, GBV and gender equity, and the need for specialized mental health programs for displaced populations.

HIAS Mexico will continue to seek ways to leverage its unique combination of direct service programs with national, regional, and global advocacy work. At a global level, HIAS has been clear, urgent, and consistent in its advocacy against harmful U.S. policies like Title 42 and MPP. HIAS will continue to deploy its expertise, resources, partnerships, and communication tools to serve as a force for legal, safe, and humane pathways for those seeking protection in the U.S. In the coming year, HIAS Mexico will collaborate closely with headquarters and regional teams to advance a comprehensive advocacy strategy and adapt as needed to changing policies and political developments. To coordinate on shared advocacy objectives at the country level, HIAS Mexico participates in immigration and security working groups in Mexico comprised of national organizations, and plans to join the Grupo de Trabajo de Política Migratoria (GTPM), a coordination network supported by different funders.

HIAS Mexico currently uses **traditional and social media** to share critical information and messages with beneficiaries and national, regional, and global audiences. Key audiences include those seeking information about asylum in the U.S., especially women. HIAS Mexico prioritizes maintaining a strong presence on social media networks such as Facebook and Twitter with messaging that addresses needs and communicates updates in a timely and accurate manner. Going forward, HIAS Mexico will leverage new resources to support communication around programmatic and advocacy objectives. Regionally, HIAS will work to ensure that people traveling across Latin America are aware of HIAS services and locations and other available resources across different countries through digital and other information tools.

Cover Photo: HIAS Mexico
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