

Annual Results Report

2023

Mexico

Acknowledgements

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Table of Contents

Section 1: Context and Overview

- 1.1 - Changes to the Operational Context
- 1.2 - Progress Against the Desired Impact
- 1.3 - Challenges to Achieving Impacts
- 1.4 - Collaboration and Partnerships

Section 2: Results

- 2.1 - Outcomes and Achievements
- 2.2 - Age, Gender and Diversity

Section 3: Resources

- 3.1 - Financial Data
- 3.2 - Resources Overview

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

- 4.1 - Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

Mexico received hundreds of thousands of people on the move, including those in transit to the United States, while also evidencing its growing role as a destination country for people in need of international protection, Mexico was among the top five countries worldwide with the highest numbers of new asylum claims. Over 140,000 people filed new asylum claims in 2023, marking a third year of record numbers after 2022 and 2021 when over 119,000 and 130,000 applications were received respectively. The primary nationalities of asylum-seekers were from Haiti (31%), Honduras (30%), Cuba (13%), Guatemala (4%), and El Salvador (4%).

The surge in the number of asylum applications in Mexico posed multiple challenges to its already overstretched asylum system. In response, UNHCR worked with the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMAR) to enhance its capacity and streamline processes. Further efforts were required to enhance its budget, operational capacity and infrastructure nationwide. To mitigate the pressures on the asylum system, UNHCR promoted alternative legal stay arrangements for those not requiring international protection.

With growing numbers of people on the move, UNHCR increased support to shelters, and strengthened its communication and awareness-raising campaigns to ensure that accurate information on asylum procedures reached its target audiences. Through capacity development workshops, partners had the tools to provide legal guidance and information. In 2023, UNHCR's local integration programme (PIL) successfully relocated over 7,700 refugees. UNHCR increased cooperation with federal, state and municipal authorities, employment agencies and over 600 private sector companies to provide them with a comprehensive integration opportunity. Over 680 refugees applied for naturalisation in 2023, in addition to 600 people, who finalized their process and were issued the Mexican nationality.

1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

People UNHCR serves access comprehensive protection in policy, law and/or practice, with adequate consideration of their specific needs and their age, gender, and diversity.

People UNHCR serves access the territory without being detained and can satisfy their basic needs and access their rights upon arrival and during the asylum process in Mexico with an age, gender and diversity perspective.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	67.59%
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	31.85%	32.65%
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence	Stateless Persons	Unknown	100.00%

While the asylum system was overstretched by the 140,000 people seeking international protection, COMAR was able to process many cases, by increasing its capacity, digitalizing its system and improving processes with UNHCR’s support.

The National Migration Institute reported over 782,000 interceptions of persons on the move, including some 4,000 asylum-seekers. In some cases, individuals are not provided with adequate information or directed to the competent authority to initiate procedures. In response, UNHCR and partners scaled up the communication campaigns and legal orientation. Following an amparo filed by an ally, the Supreme Court of Justice ruled that the detention of more than 36 hours of people on the move was unconstitutional, reducing the detention times.

INM recorded more than 53,000 returns to countries of origin, The new case management system adopted by COMAR with our support, will allow for interoperability between institutions, which should prevent refoulement cases in the future.

Through UNHCR’s protection monitoring, we identified that many were not able to access documentation in Mexico, including asylum-seekers, during the last quarter of 2023. UNHCR is working with authorities to find solutions to help ensure their safety.

UNHCR provided technical assistance for the development of more than 20 tools to respond to internal displacement at federal and state levels. Together with authorities, we developed a guide for the registration of internally displaced persons aiming for the restitution of rights and durable solutions. UNHCR also advocated for the inclusion of internal displacement in public data collection efforts, collaborating with the National Population Council.

At state level, UNHCR supported Chihuahua, Michoacán, Sinaloa, Guerrero, and Chiapas with technical assistance for the development of legal and public policy instruments, as well as training and capacity building in collaboration with governmental agencies and NGOs.

3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

People UNHCR serves are empowered, informed and participate in key decisions that affect them, and are organized into self-identified community initiatives.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work	Stateless Persons	Unknown	100.00%
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education	IDPs	Unknown	74.17%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education	IDPs	Unknown	66.15%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark	IDPs	Unknown	24.91%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	75.01%

UNHCR intensified its efforts to foster meaningful participation of refugees and asylum-seekers and enhanced engagement with host communities. Central to this were consultations with refugee-led organizations (RLO) as well as activities to build their capacity.

A significant achievement was the establishment of a Dialogue Mechanism between RLOs and UNHCR, which facilitated ongoing, two-way communication and collaboration with forcibly displaced and stateless people. Five RLOs based in Mexico City participated in this platform, through which various initiatives were discussed, designed and implemented with UNHCR's support. These included training programmes facilitated by RLOs aimed to bolster the organizational structure and operational capacity of newly formed RLOs in Guadalajara, Guanajuato, Saltillo and one nationwide network of refugee students. Furthermore, RLOs produced and presented communication materials aimed at preventing misinformation and misuse of the asylum system, and conducted awareness sessions on opportunities for meaningful participation for refugees at the Global Refugee Forum.

UNHCR mainstreamed gender equality into its Community-based Protection strategy, including refugee women as representatives in global and local fora representing their communities, raising their voices to advocate for the inclusion of refugees into strategies that advance tertiary education opportunities and strengthening asylum capacities.

UNHCR efforts for achieving community empowerment also translated into supporting COMAR in implementing one of its GRF Pledges, namely its "Quadripartite Mechanism (COMAR – UNHCR – civil society organizations – refugees) for consultation and coordination for protection and integration" where UNHCR facilitated initial meetings between RLOs.

4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

People UNHCR serves in Mexico achieve effective local integration, self-reliance, and peaceful coexistence with host communities, including through complementary pathways to Mexico.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	35	41
4.3a Number of stateless people for whom nationality is granted or confirmed	Stateless Persons	Unknown	0
4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	21,296

The Local Integration Programme entered its seventh year and so far, 35,000 people have relocated to access formal employment, and basic services such as health and education, with 7,700 people in 2023 alone. The programme strengthened its age, gender and diversity approach, and created integration pathways for people with specific needs within the #TuSiPuedes Initiative, serving more than 5,500 people, such as single-parents, LGBTQ+, older people, and persons with disabilities. UNHCR's network of private sector partners increased by 25 per cent to 600 companies recruiting refugees by the end of 2023.

UNHCR mapped available services to foster favourable integration opportunities, together with state authorities, civil society, academia and the private sector. Also, integration pathways were established with the Family Welfare Agency (DIF), state institutions working for persons with disabilities, and shelters for gender-based violence survivors. As single-headed families account for 22% of programme participants, integration pathways with day-care services were enhanced. Alliances with football teams and music schools increased access to sports and culture promoting further integration opportunities for refugees.

600 refugees received their naturalization certificate in 2023, up from 200 in 2022. 50 per cent were women. This was a result of the MoU signed with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) to establish a coordination mechanism. UNHCR supported also with human resources to enhance its operational capacity, and an online preregistration procedure, to improve and streamline the reception of naturalisation applications. The MoFA also decentralised the procedure.

Other Core Impact Indicators

Country	Indicator	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
Mexico	2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	90.48%
Mexico	2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	IDPs	Unknown	92.98%

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

One of the challenges encountered in the last quarter of 2023 regarding access to asylum and associated rights was the scarce access to documentation for asylum-seekers in the form of the Temporary Humanitarian Visitors Cards (TVRH), limiting their access to basic services and increasing their protection risks. Some may have abandoned their cases to search for safety further north following these measures. UNHCR worked with government authorities to implement a fast and efficient use of differentiated case processing modalities, aimed at accelerating decision-making processes and prioritize people with specific needs. UNHCR continues to strongly advocate with authorities to provide documentation for all persons in need of international protection.

In 2023, two issues impacted the PIL participants' ability to access formal employment: delays in obtaining residence permits and in acquiring taxpayer identification numbers (RFC). Regarding the latter, UNHCR has been advocating with authorities to streamline its issuance in southern Mexico. Despite these efforts, authorities have yet to open a branch in Palenque and Tenosique. A breakthrough was achieved when UNHCR negotiated an agreement for asylum-seekers holding a TVRH to be prioritized.

Financial inclusion of refugees remained another important challenge. While progress was made with three private banks in providing asylum-seekers and refugees with bank accounts, others are not yet complying with applicable regulations. UNHCR partnered with over 600 companies that facilitated the opening of bank accounts for employed refugees. However, refugees seeking employment independently or with smaller companies were likely to encounter barriers to recruitment, as most banks are not yet accepting documents

issued by INM. UNHCR and the “Asociación de Bancos de México” are planning to organize meetings with the most relevant banks. UNHCR also partners with law firms, implementing a joint compliance-oriented advocacy strategy.

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

UNHCR collaborated extensively with governmental bodies at all levels, civil society groups, and faith-based organizations. Key partnerships included a consolidated agreement with COMAR and close cooperation with various government entities and agencies, such as MoFA, the Ministry of Interior, and INM. In the run-up to the GRF, UNHCR in Mexico worked closely with the Government at federal, state and municipal level, which resulted in eight new pledges. Furthermore, UNHCR worked closely with NGOs and international organizations to establish 40 partnership agreements aimed at providing comprehensive support to asylum-seekers, including legal guidance and integration assistance.

The Interagency Group on Human Mobility (GIMH) jointly led by UNHCR and IOM served as a vital platform for information exchange and joint advocacy efforts among UN agencies. Efforts to strengthen coordination included the addition of NGOs as co-leaders in the National Protection Working Group and the appointment of UNFPA as co-lead of the gender-based violence sub-working group. UNHCR also bolstered strategic partnerships with key UN agencies through various agreements and discussions, including UN Women, UNFPA, UNEP, UNICEF and OHCHR.

In the regional response to the Venezuela crisis, UNHCR continued its coordination role alongside IOM through Mexico's R4V platform. Inter-agency coordination groups were established in both northern and southern regions, with a focus on addressing priority issues such as health, education, and labor integration.

In Tapachula, an interagency coordination scheme known as ABA Tapachula was set up, led by the UN Resident Coordinator Office with technical support from UNHCR, to address humanitarian and development concerns and promote peaceful coexistence.

Section 2: Results

2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

Institutional and operational capacity strengthened to have adequate preparedness plans, identify people in need of international protection and refer to appropriate referral pathways.

Technical and financial capacity of the Government is increased, and the asylum procedure is further simplified and efficient.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	90.00	848.00
2.2 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to legal representation	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	95.00%	95.00%
2.3 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMAR) processed 51,468 individual claims (24,769 substantive resolutions and 26,699 administrative closures) this year, equating an average of 4,289 monthly claims at national level. COMAR's processing capacity improved significantly in comparison to previous years, closing the year with 140,982 new asylum claims and 51,468 cases closed. This represented a doubling of its registration and a tripling of its resolution rate compared to 2019. When comparing with 2022, there was an 18% increase in registrations and a 20% decrease in the number of individual closures. The adoption of differentiated case processing modalities also enabled accelerated resolution timeframes for specific cases.

UNHCR supported the renovation of COMAR offices in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, and Villahermosa, Tabasco. These interventions will also support COMAR's capacity to respond to the needs of asylum-seekers and refugees in the state capitals of these Southern states, while ensuring closer case monitoring and enabling swifter integration processes for refugees.

UNHCR, COMAR and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs worked in close coordination on the concept of the multi services centres for refugees and asylum-seekers in the south, and with gradual expansion of certain services to other people in mobility. To this effect, UNHCR, through a private company, developed the broader project design as well as the detailed design for construction of the first phase of the centre in Tapachula. Also, UNHCR conducted the formal bidding process as per its internal policies and thus the company for the construction was selected. UNHCR negotiated and obtained the respective permits with Municipality authorities. The construction phase will be continued and finalized in 2024, as well as the design and construction of phase 2. Simultaneously, routes of attention within the centre are being discussed with state and municipality entities and organizations.

3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

There is a legal framework and public policy, and international conventions are fully applied to ensure protection and solutions for internally displaced people and stateless individuals in Mexico.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Broadly aligned: ≥90 points	Broadly aligned: ≥90 points	Progressing towards alignment: 70-89 points
3.2 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness	Stateless Persons	Progressing towards alignment: 70-89 points	Progressing towards alignment: 70-89 points	Broadly aligned: ≥90 points

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

At the local level, in the State of Querétaro, UNHCR conducted advocacy for the new Law for the attention of persons in mobility, focused on the protection of refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced people (IDP).

Through inter-agency coordination, legal reforms to the national Migration Law were promoted. UNHCR participated in the process regarding the detention of people in the context of human mobility, alternatives to detention, and the differences between refugees and migrants.

COMAR implemented faster and accelerated procedures for certain nationalities, due to their specific characteristics, a positive development which can deliver faster recognition of refugee status for asylum-seekers of nationalities with a high recognition rate. The refugee status determinations were more focused on the Cartagena Declaration definition, a factor that guarantees international protection for certain profiles from specific countries.

UNHCR continues to advocate with Mexico to accede to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, as this was a State pledge at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum.

4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

Risk of gender-based violence is reduced for all people UNHCR serves and all survivors have adequate and timely access to services.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	71.00%	64.99%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	87.00%	97.73%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

A GBV service mapping was conducted by UNHCR, its partners and key counterparts in 13 states, including both public and NGO services. UNHCR and four specialized GBV partners in key locations – Tapachula and Tenosique in the south, and Tijuana, Mexicali, Ciudad Juarez, Piedras Negras and Matamoros in the north – assisted 1,528 GBV survivors to access multi-sectoral GBV response services. 98

percent of survivors expressed satisfaction with GBV services.

UNHCR trained 740 people (85% women, 15% men) on GBV risks and principles. Over 440 UNHCR staff, partners and key counterparts were trained on GBV issues such as safe disclosure, interview techniques and case management while 750 staff members, partner staff and counterparts were trained on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). UNHCR conducted 351 GBV risk mitigation activities, including the delivery of core relief items, training on sexual and reproductive rights, and support groups on prevention and risk mitigation in shelters. UNHCR delivered 1,012 dignity kits and created six people-centered communication materials to strengthen people's access to information on prevention and response to GBV, and three of them were translated into Creole.

In Southern Mexico, progress was achieved in the safe handling and management of GBV disclosure and assistance, in partnership with "Medicos del Mundo", and the establishment of an ad-hoc referral pathway. In Tabasco, a GBV sub-working group was created, and UNHCR assisted 181 GBV survivors.

UNHCR signed an agreement with CEJUM (Justice Centre for Women), a state institution working to support in the prevention and eradication of GBV. Asylum-seekers and refugees were included in the registration forms of CEJUM in Tijuana and CAVIM (Domestic Violence Care Centre in Mexicali) to provide statistical data on the access to services. UNHCR, COMAR and partner DHIA organized a workshop in Ciudad Juarez, to raise awareness and mitigate protection risks of LGBTIQ+ people.

5. Outcome Area: Child Protection

Child protection system strengthened, and children's well-being ensured

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	69.84%	86.00%	89.58%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	35.00%	37.38%
5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	75.00%	89.93%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR focused its efforts on strengthening the national child protection system to address the specific needs of refugee children and ensure timely and comprehensive protection responses, improving reception conditions and access to asylum. UNHCR advocated for the eradication of immigration detention of children.

UNHCR provided temporary staffing support and technical assistance to Child Protection authorities, trained 1168 people (staff, partners, government officials) on refugee child protection and partnered with Save the Children to provide specialized case management services for 1,298 asylum-seeking and refugee children at heightened risk. Over 500 children were assisted between January and April through the multidisciplinary teams seconded by UNHCR to Child Protection Authorities, 37% of whom were referred to asylum procedures or temporary immigration statuses to prevent refoulement.

UNHCR provided support to Child Protection Authorities for the implementation of a cross-border mechanism in Tijuana for unaccompanied children and led interagency advocacy efforts that translated into the expansion of the mechanism to Ciudad Juárez in December. UNHCR also collaborated with the Family Welfare Agency in capacity building activities and participated in National Child Protection Authorities Conferences.

UNHCR partnered with three NGOs to provide alternative care for 66 refugee children for whom family reunification was not possible. In coordination with Save the Children initiatives were implemented to provide child-friendly information on asylum, promote school enrolment, foster peaceful coexistence and implement psychosocial activities for 9,378 children in 12 child-friendly safe spaces in the country.

UNHCR implemented an annual work plan with UNICEF in line with the global UNHCR-UNICEF Strategic Collaboration Framework signed in February to promote the inclusion of refugee children and their families in national systems.

6. Outcome Area: Safety and Access to Justice

Refoulement is effectively prevented, legal reform ensures immigration detention is used as last resource, children are no longer detained and adult asylum-seekers benefit from alternatives to detention.

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The network of legal partners consisted of 89 lawyers and 54 paralegals. More than 238,000 legal services were provided to people in need of international protection, including 113,000 legal orientations, 118,000 legal advice, 7,000 legal representations, and more than 500 cases for strategic litigation. Legal partners submitted cases of arbitrary detention to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD), which issued an opinion stating that immigration detention in Mexico was arbitrary. Legal partners utilized the case as evidence and achieved monetary reparations of 600,000 Mexican pesos for the asylum-seekers recognized as victims of arbitrary detention.

UNHCR conducted 100 visits to migratory centres. UNHCR obtained, through INM the authorization of re-entry of five refugees and asylum-seekers that were found to have been refouled.

In 2023, the network of pro-bono partners consisted of 12 law firms. They provided workshops on legal procedures such as amparo trials, support on legal issues related to health, livelihood, finance, and alternatives for regularization. UNHCR formed new partnerships with 17 legal clinics of universities. The first annual meeting of legal clinics was held in which administrative, academic and sustainability practices were discussed. The Federal Institute on Public Defense provided support through 43 lawyers in 26 cities across the country, covering places where there is no presence of UNHCR or its partners.

UNHCR filed an amicus curiae brief in relation to international standards related to dual nationality, in the case of an applicant, who was denied recognition of refugee status, solely because he or she had two nationalities. The Mexican Supreme Court ruled that asylum applications from refugees with two nationalities must be assessed considering (1) the human rights situation in the country from which the applicant fled, as well as (2) the risks the applicant would face if fleeing to the second country of nationality.

7. Outcome Area: Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment

Refugees and host community networks are consolidated and strengthened for people UNHCR serves to identify risks and organize through community initiatives and leaderships.

There is an effective two-way communication between people UNHCR serves and UNHCR; the community is fully engaged into programme design, monitoring and evaluation; and people UNHCR serves are able to make informed decisions.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	50.00%	55.56%
7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	Extensive: ≥ 70 points	Moderate: 40-69 points

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR prioritized promoting meaningful refugee participation to ensure their perspectives influenced programming, as part of our Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) responsibility. In 2023, we actively supported community-based initiatives and Refugee-led Organizations (RLO), facilitating refugee engagement in strategic forums with authorities, academia, and civil society. Training and technical guidance were provided to 14 refugees from nine RLOs, including two Women Lead Organizations. Through a Dialogue Mechanism, five RLOs engaged with U.S. Government officials and COMAR to improve initiatives like the CBPOne App and coordination efforts. The community-based complaint mechanism was enhanced, with procedures to include RLOs perspectives and 206 reports were received and resolved.

Participatory assessments engaged over 1,000 refugees, asylum-seekers, and host community members, including people with specific needs. Their input shaped UNHCR's 2024 strategy through local feedback sessions and online forums.

A Refugee Grant Agreement supported initiatives like mapping refugee organizations nationwide and enhancing networks in Mexico. Women's participation was emphasized, with 10 community initiatives developed involving women in leadership roles.

In Coahuila, "Las Nanaxhi Monarcas" supported GBV prevention and local participation. In Monterrey, refugees collaborated with UNHCR and partners like Vía Educación, involving over 2,900 individuals. Empowering internally displaced communities was crucial, with UNHCR supporting community consultations in Sinaloa.

UNHCR launched the "Sports for Protection and Integration" strategy, engaging 8,351 individuals in sports activities. Support was also provided to two refugee athletes aiming to join the refugee team at the 2024 Olympics.

8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

People UNHCR serves have access to information, comprehensive assistance (including through more sustainable shelter options) and case management.

People with specific needs are supported, through adequate and timely identification as well as effective and specialized response.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	IDPs	Unknown	20.00%	0.58%
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	68.13%	68.00%	11.59%
8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology	IDPs	Unknown	90.00%	88.67%
8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	60.00%	90.84%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Shelters play a central role in the response, including the provision of comprehensive protection services such as safe accommodation, information, food, assistance to people with specific needs, legal counselling, medical support, and psychosocial assistance. UNHCR strengthened the protection space in shelters with the introduction of the "Traffic Light Tool," that assesses compliance with minimum standards of prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, GBV, and child protection. It also provides a baseline to tailor an appropriate response. UNHCR conducted over 1,800 monitoring visits to 127 shelters, implementing close to 300 informative sessions and benefiting more than 10,900 individuals. Additionally, 247 individual consultations in 46 shelters addressed the needs of more than 1,300 people.

Ten shelters benefited from infrastructure improvement. UNHCR financed personnel and operating expenses in 38 shelters, benefiting 181,400 people with comprehensive services. Donations to 89 shelters included more than 128,00 cleaning items; 9,000 mattresses and bunk beds, 500,000 personal hygiene items; 5,000 kitchen and office supplies, and 1,500 clothing items.

UNHCR developed access to information as part of the Communication with Communities strategy. The digital approach was implemented through the Facebook page Confía en El Jaguar and the HELP.org website, with around 250,000 and 412,000 people interacting respectively. Furthermore, the Helpdesk answered more than 35,000 queries by telephone, WhatsApp, e-mail, chatbot and in person.

A Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) confirmed that 80% of the people supported with CBI being able to cover all or most of their basic needs with 90% accessing the required goods and services. The Cash Working Group led by UNHCR starting the year with six members and closing with eleven organizations. A key outcome was the harmonization of the methodology for the calculation of MPG amounts among cash actors with basic needs programmes.

13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

People UNHCR serves in Mexico access the formal labour market, including through the adoption of related public policy.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	20.00%	50.47%
13.3 Proportion of people (working age) who are unemployed	IDPs	Unknown	2.00%	3.17%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Georgetown University conducted an external evaluation of UNHCR's Local Integration Program (PIL), utilizing monitoring data and interviews with local authorities, private sector companies, and focus groups. Positive developments observed included: 75 per cent of households reported at least one adult accessing employment within the first month of arrival at the destination, increasing to 90 per cent within six months.

88 per cent of surveyed households reported satisfaction with their job after one month, with 50 per cent registered with the Mexican Social Security Institute. The percentage of households with no members working in the formal economy decreased from 92% before accessing the program to 13 per cent after six months.

After one month, 31 per cent of households had all children enrolled in school, increasing to 82 per cent

after six months. Before relocation, 92 per cent of households had children out of school, decreasing to 13 per cent after six months. The percentage of households living in poverty decreased by 25 within the first month after relocation, with an additional 15 per cent exiting poverty within six months. Six months after relocation, 37 per cent of households reported a monthly income between 4,000 and 7,999 Mexican pesos, with 33 per cent reporting an income between 8,000 and 11,300 Mexican pesos, and 20 per cent reporting an income above 11,300 Mexican pesos.

15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

Asylum-seekers and refugees with serious protection risks have access to internal relocation for local integration in Mexico or are resettled to third countries where they can benefit from protection and a durable solution.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	220	700	480
15.2 Average processing time from resettlement submission to departure under normal priority	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	250.00	304.00

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The UNHCR Local Integration Program (PIL) entered its seventh year of operation with a strengthened age, gender and diversity approach and the #TuSiPuedes Initiative. Since the initiative was launched, over 35,000 participants were supported (7,790 in 2023). Also, more than 5,600 persons with specific needs, such as single-parent households, LGBTIQ+ participants, elderly people, and persons with disabilities. All UNHCR integration cities developed a mapping for the services to promote favourable integration opportunities in collaboration with state authorities, civil society actors, academia, private sector, and business partners. UNHCR established integration pathways partnering with the DIF, the Center for persons with disabilities in Guanajuato (INGUDIS), and shelters for gender-based violence survivors.

Given that single-headed families account for 22% of all programme participants, UNHCR and partner “Casa de Cuidado Diario” in Guanajuato developed an integration pathway that included daycare services. In Saltillo, UNHCR collaborated with CANACINTRA to establish a daycare facility with the capacity to attend more than 250 children. In Aguascalientes, UNHCR supported Japanese private companies in analyzing the possibility to add childcare services to the workplace design to target single headed households within their recruitment strategy.

During 2023, UNHCR identified, interviewed, and submitted for consideration by resettlement countries a total of 480 individuals based on very specific protection criteria of the individuals referred for consideration (53% were girls, boys, and adolescents, 32% women, and 13% men). In terms of protection needs, 54% were women and girls at risk, 22% were survivors of violence or torture, and 27% were individuals with other legal or physical protection needs. Most refugees considered for resettlement were from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.

16. Outcome Area: Integration and other Local Solutions

Naturalization and family reunification are accessible for people UNHCR serves based on their interest and eligibility.

Opportunities for people in need of international protection UNHCR serves are expanded through complementary pathways.

People UNHCR serves in Mexico have access to public and private services including health, education, social security, housing, and financial services.

People UNHCR serves manage to integrate socially and culturally into the host community, and host community is receptive of the people UNHCR serves.

Refugees and asylum-seekers have access to relevant documentation recognized by public and private actors.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
16.1 Proportion of people with secure tenure rights to housing and/or land	IDPs	Unknown	35.00%	33.36%
16.1 Proportion of people with secure tenure rights to housing and/or land	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	66.00%	37.87%
16.2 Proportion of people covered by national social protection systems	IDPs	Unknown	75.00%	69.71%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

A total of 665 people were able to initiate the naturalization procedure with support from UNHCR in 2023 and 470 received their naturalization certificate by the end of 2023, compared to 211 in 2022. Sixty-five per cent were from Venezuela, 16 per cent from El Salvador, 11 per cent from Honduras, 2 per cent from Guatemala, 2 per cent from Cuba, 1 per cent from Nicaragua, and 3 per cent from other nationalities.

Based on an impact survey applied by UNHCR, on access to education, six months into the relocation programme, 82 per cent of surveyed households indicated that all school age children were enrolled in school.

During 2023, four families (14 people in total) arrived in Mexico through the family reunification process supported by UNHCR and its partners. UNHCR has implemented a strategy to follow-up on these families and provided assistance during their integration process, specifically to find employment, education opportunities, and to motivate social integration.

On access to the social protection system, after one month, 50 per cent of surveyed households were registered with the Mexican Social Security Institute. This percentage increased to 67 per cent after six months. This improvement was most likely closely connected to the early issuance of relevant documentation prior to relocation. The percentage of participants who indicated that none of the household members were working in the formal economy shrank from 92 per cent to 13 per cent six months into the integration process.

A National Employment Service office was established at the Multiservice Centre in Tijuana CMS, offering various employment services and connecting individuals with job opportunities in Baja California. UNHCR provided training to over 200 companies on hiring asylum-seekers and refugees, fostering labor entrepreneurship in Tijuana with over 20 individuals achieving self-employment.

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

UNHCR achieved relevant results to advance inclusive programming, including capacity building sessions on age, gender and diversity (AGD) for 100 staff and strategic stakeholders nationwide, including COMAR, local governments, shelter staff and volunteers. Additionally, UNHCR facilitated awareness sessions to authorities, academia and civil society actors on challenges and responses for working with forcibly displaced elderly people, and people with critical health needs.

Moreover, UNHCR mainstreamed the AGD policy through program, shelter and solutions strategies. Partnership Agreements incorporated mandatory actions for prevention of Gender-based Violence (GBV) and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), as well as Child Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) standards. Regarding Shelter, the national strategy oversaw the inclusion of Child Protection (CP), protection from Gender-based Violence (GBV) and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) standards. The Program for Local Integration (PIL) relocated 28 persons (46% women) with disabilities (physical, sensorial, behavioral, and psychosocial) and elderly people to strategic locations in Central Mexico, where specialized services are available. UNHCR also maintained the strategic collaboration with the Mexico Coalition for the Rights of People with Disabilities (COAMEX) which undertook 3 training sessions aimed at UNHCR staff on how to work with people with physical, psychosocial, or sensory disabilities.

As part of a broader AAP strategic, UNHCR implemented meaningful participation and inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless people considering a commitment to women and girls and gender equality. As a result, UNHCR installed the Dialogue Mechanism between Refugee Lead Organizations (RLO) with the active involvement of five women; and supported eight community initiatives where 18 refugee and asylum seekers participated and 56% of them were women. Furthermore, UNHCR supported the preparation and participation of two women refugee leaders to the GRF.

Section 3: Resources

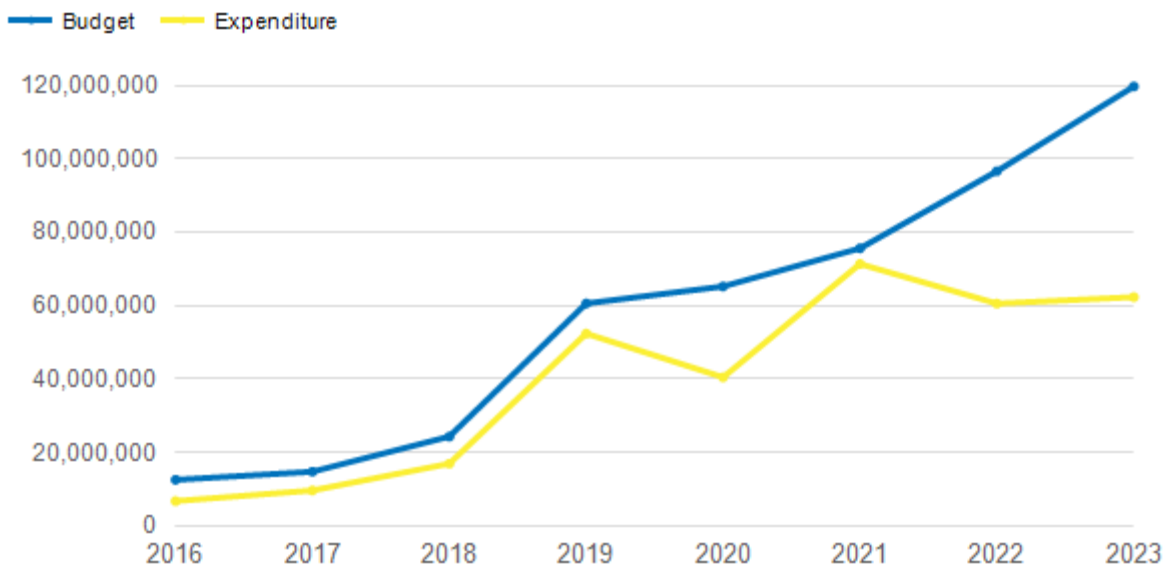
3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

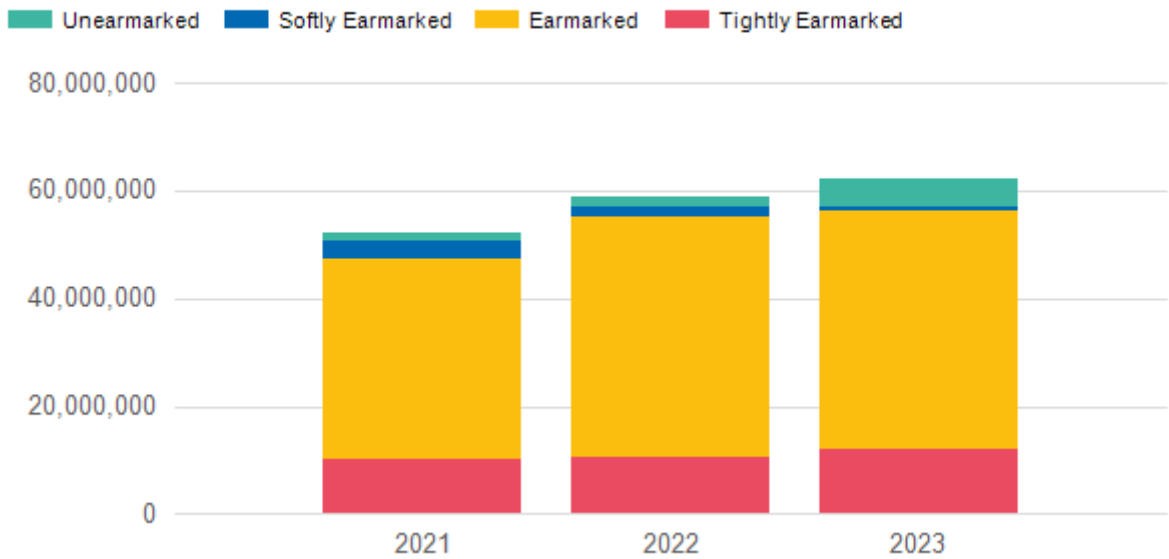
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	73,570,059	43,854,429	59.61%	43,854,429	100.00%
IA3: Empower	2,121,606	815,433	38.43%	815,433	100.00%
IA4: Solve	44,000,957	17,623,472	40.05%	17,623,472	100.00%
All Impact Areas		5,864			
Total	119,692,622	62,299,197	52.05%	62,293,334	99.99%

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA2: Status	22,074,699	17,674,291	80.07%	17,674,291	100.00%
OA3: Policy/Law	8,624,699	3,156,208	36.59%	3,156,208	100.00%
OA4: GBV	3,824,699	2,662,168	69.60%	2,662,168	100.00%
OA5: Children	5,224,699	3,006,806	57.55%	3,006,806	100.00%
OA6: Justice	550,000	113,389	20.62%	113,389	100.00%
OA7: Community	2,121,606	815,433	38.43%	815,433	100.00%
OA8: Well-being	31,133,132	15,943,379	51.21%	15,943,379	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	24,244,941	9,422,110	38.86%	9,422,110	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	1,983,132	1,258,505	63.46%	1,258,505	100.00%
OA16: Integrate	17,474,824	6,822,823	39.04%	6,822,823	100.00%
EA17: Systems	155,000	39,682	25.60%	39,682	100.00%
EA20: External	2,281,191	1,378,538	60.43%	1,378,538	100.00%
All Outcome Areas		5,864			
Total	119,692,622	62,299,197	52.05%	62,293,334	99.99%

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

In line with a whole-of-society approach to end displacement cycles, UNHCR’s targeted funding from its generous donors provided much needed support to asylum-seekers and refugees from the moment they entered Mexico to their integration process. UNHCR’s specialized staff and partners contributed to enable the people we serve to access basic services and rights.

The strategic presence at the borders allowed to respond to immediate humanitarian needs such as shelter, information, and health, of an oscillating number of people entering or transiting through Mexico. Predictable funding resulted in targeted responses to the needs of the most at-risk population, such as single mothers, people with disabilities, and children. Additionally, central offices and units allowed the support for people’s

integration process, including relocation, access to education, formal employment, and health. The vast network of allies, including paralegals, legal clinics, and pro-bono law firms, allowed to enhance our support for people with complex legal needs across Mexico. As part of our commitment to the Government of Mexico, UNHCR was able to allocate funding to strengthen the response from federal and local authorities, to help ensure access to the territory and an efficient asylum system to those in need of international protection. Specialists focusing on internal displacement in key states provided the requested support to local governments to assist internally displaced persons and enhance the legal framework to warrant their protection.

Sustained funding in 2024 will be crucial to address the evolving needs of displaced people, especially considering that Mexico has been one of the top five countries receiving new asylum claims worldwide since 2021, making it one of the top five countries. In addition to the changing demographics from young men in working age to more and more families, the specific needs will only continue to grow, along with the associated protection risks.

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

Significant progress obtained in strengthening the asylum system, with COMAR implementing differentiated/accelerated procedures, setting a benchmark for the region. The need to consolidate the digitalization process and reinforce inter-institutional coordination is required. The establishment of multi-service centres (Tapachula, Monterrey and Tijuana) will be a priority for 2024.

Within the exponential increase in asylum-seekers in Mexico City, UNHCR created a field unit (within COMEX) dedicated to work with COMAR, partners, shelters and RLOs as of 2024.

To enhance participation of refugees during all stages of the programming cycle remains an outstanding recommendation. Specific session with RLOs will be held to formally establish a dialogue on priorities for the new upcoming multi-year strategy. Also, tripartite dialogues, including the COMAR will be held in 2024, as part of a formal pledge by the Mexican government during the GRF.

Regarding the Local Integration Programme (PIL), a progressive transfer to the government should be planned to ensure sustainability. UNHCR is analysing the transfer of certain components of the PIL to COMAR in the upcoming months. However, this could prove challenging considering it is an election year. The humanitarian/development nexus Area Based Approach (ABA) was launched for Tapachula, and a portfolio of specific project interventions developed. There is still a need to enhance engagement with development actors/ financial entities (ongoing), to hopefully channel support to these initiatives.

On IDPs UNHCR has become a very relevant actor in Mexico, offering technical support and assistance, but also gradually supporting a more operational response. Although internal displacement is more openly addressed in the public agenda, the dynamics causing displacement are more complex and require continuous advocacy at national/state levels as well as strengthening our teams in prioritized regions of the country for 2024 (e.g., Michoacan, Sinaloa).



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