



Reporting Period: September 2023

Guatemala

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 1 Children on the move

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for every child

Highlights

- During August, the humanitarian situation at the Agua Caliente border, located in the municipality of Esquipulas (Chiquimula department), has worsened due to the increasing flow of population in transit, linked to the human mobility crisis across Central America and Mexico, reaching historic peaks in September 2023.
- Between January and 17th September, over 297,000 migrants in irregular transit have been reported, among them 31,120 were boys, 22,598 girls, and 73,038 women. Compared to the same period in 2022 (with 101,464 persons reported), there is a 293% increase in the flow of migrants. The number of migrant children has also increased from 37,469 reported during 2022, and 53,718 as of 17 September 2023 (143% increase).
- Children on the move through Guatemala are exposed to multiple hazards including crime, abuse and exploitation, lack of shelter, care or legal representation, lack of access to basic services. With local capacities and services overstretched, urgent support is needed to scale up services in key locations, particularly for children and family groups.
- To ensure timely support to local services and partners for the provision of humanitarian assistance over the next 3 months, aiming at reaching around 65,000 people on the move in Guatemala, UNICEF requires an additional US\$5.1 million to scale up programmes in the field.

Situation in Numbers

 **25,505**
children in need of humanitarian assistance*

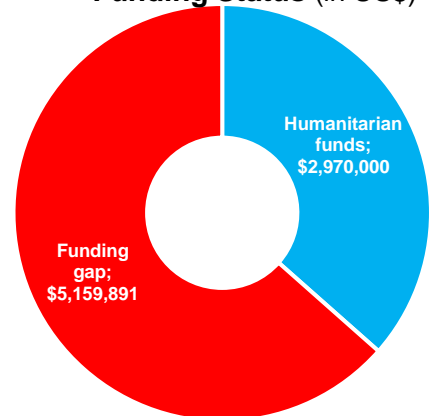
 **65,525**
people in need of humanitarian assistance*

* Estimated by UNICEF, based on information from the field on migration flows during September on the Guatemala-Honduras border.

UNICEF Guatemala Appeal

US\$ 8.1 million*

Funding Status (in US\$)

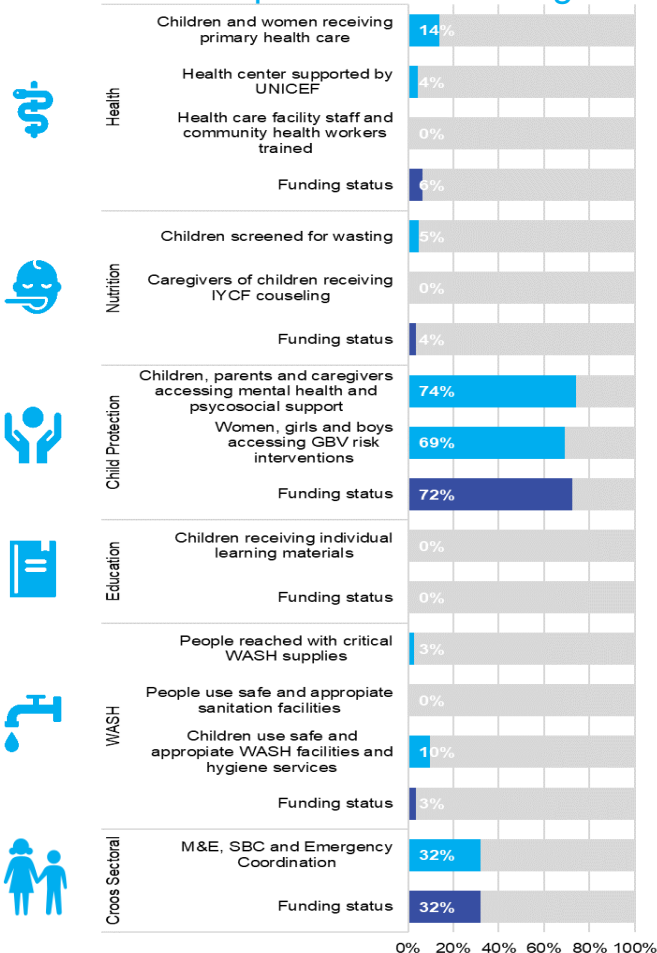


*Corresponds to UNICEF Guatemala funding ask for migration-specific response, under the multi-country HAC for Mexico and Central America.



UNICEF Guatemala technical team working with migrant children in Esquipulas, Chiquimula.

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



* UNICEF response % is only for the indicator, the funding status is for the entire sector.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF Guatemala has updated its HAC (Humanitarian Appeal for Children) 2023 request to US\$ 34 million,¹ including \$8.1 million to address the humanitarian needs of around 1,650,000 people in the context of migration. During the current year, US\$ 2.97 million have been raised to address the crisis, especially in the areas of Child Protection, Health, Nutrition, WASH and Emergency Coordination. UNICEF expresses its sincere appreciation to all public and private donors for the contributions received. Nevertheless, UNICEF's funding asks for migration-related response in 2023 remains 63% underfunded. Without sufficient funds to address the humanitarian situation at the Agua Caliente border in Esquipulas Chiquimula for the next quarter, over 65,000 people and over 25,000 children will not have access to adequate water, sanitation and hygiene, access to health and nutrition services, and will not receive the psychosocial support and educational materials that they need. To meet immediate response needs, UNICEF requires additional resources to procure urgent emergency supplies and support the government to facilitate access to services.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Guatemala is a country of origin, transit, return and destination of people in the context of mobility, including children, adolescents and their families, the latter mainly composed of young women accompanied by their children. The journey begins in the countries of origin, where several factors lead children to migrate to the U.S. and Mexico. These children go alone, accompanied by their parents, or other relatives and friends. They may travel with smugglers called "coyotes," or they may travel alone. Travel routes vary seasonally and respond to changing migration patterns.

In the period from May to August 2023, a total of 25,505 children in transit migration context are reported, showing an increase of 258% compared to 2022 (9,879 children). In this same period, the flow of women in migratory contexts has reflected an increase of 232% in 2023 (41,609), compared to 2022 (17,404). From September 1 to 17 alone, 47,623 persons in irregular transit were registered, of which 12,120 are children.

In addition, it is estimated that at least 105,270 children have transited through Guatemalan territory so far in 2023. A daily average of at least 400 children. These figures include people mainly of Venezuelan, Cuban, Ecuadorian, Haitian and Colombian nationality.

During transit, children are exposed to multiple hazards and vulnerabilities, including dangerous terrain, crime, abuse and exploitation, and lack of shelter, care or legal representation, lack of access to nutritious and age-appropriate food, as well as lack of health, water and sanitation, information and/or protection services. Given the increased mobility of people in transit through Guatemalan territory, government and civil society services in Guatemala, already weak and insufficient, suffer a collapse, especially in relation to care for children and family groups.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

The following section presents an overview of priority actions needed to scale up services for migrants in transit across Guatemalan borders, for the next 3 months, to support at least 65,000 people on the move. While UNICEF and partners are already providing support to this population, additional efforts are needed to ensure a response at-scale, given the increased demand for services.

Health

The need to provide access to health services has been mapped, especially targeting 3,000 people, prioritizing children, adolescents, and women. Focus is on timely medical attention in the migrant reception facilities supported by UNICEF, as well as in the facilities of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance, where medical treatment can be provided to reduce the risk of mortality and complications associated with diarrheal and respiratory diseases, dehydration, mycosis, and vaginal infections in women. It is necessary to increase the number of medical personnel available, as currently between 75 and 125 medical consultations are performed per day, and there is only one nurse at each of the points of care (Center for Attention to Migrants and Refugees -CAPMIR, Casa del Migrante and Mobile Units).

In addition, it has been identified that it is necessary to provide first aid care in case of injuries; and there is also a clear need for prenatal and postnatal care for mothers and newborns and treatment for people with chronic non-communicable diseases and medicines such as antibiotics, since the staff currently available does not have the credentials to administer medicines.

Nutrition

The need has been identified to facilitate access to nutritional services, through health and nutrition brigades, in the migrant population attention posts and transit shelters, through the support of integrated nutrition and health teams (brigades). These nutritional services will focus especially on 2,500 children under 5 years of age, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and children under 5 years of age. The needs covered by these teams will be screening to identify acute malnutrition and provision of treatment if necessary, micronutrient supplementation and complementary feeding, deworming, vaccination, nutritional counselling (infant and young child feeding, danger signs of acute malnutrition and pregnancy), as well as promoting the protection and support of appropriate infant feeding practices, such as breastfeeding, complementary feeding and micronutrient supplementation for 2,000 caregivers. It is

Map of services provided and organizations working on the issue of human mobility in Guatemala throughout the migratory route.



¹ Guatemala is part of the 2023 multi-country HAC appeal 'Mexico and Central America: Children on the move and other crises.'

necessary to implement actions for the detection and timely treatment of acute malnutrition in mobile children. Adequate nutritional status is especially important for people in mobility and especially in these vulnerable groups.

Child Protection

Access to services should be available in the field, so that children and adolescents exposed to sexual violence, human trafficking and/or family separation can have recourse. In the absence of safe places, these vulnerable groups roam the streets in makeshift shelters without any kind of security, it is necessary to expand the coverage of mobile units with psychosocial teams to bring services closer to the migrant population. It is necessary to expand and facilitating access to differentiated care with a psychosocial and victimological approach, and provide information on risks, rights, and protection mechanisms against violence, as well as care allows children to express their emotions and externalize their migratory experience, which has been difficult and risky, mainly in transit, this intervention also allows detecting protection needs.

UNICEF has deployed six mobile units for the provision of psychosocial support for people on the move transiting the Agua Caliente border.

Education

The Education in Emergencies sector has identified the need for educational materials (play kits for early childhood, reading and story books, puppets, bond paper, crayons, pencils, notebooks, educational games: puzzles, ladders, memories); as well as establishing the Educational Passport "I write my dreams" which consists of a light book that can be placed around the neck as a badge containing educational messages and space for adolescents in transit to write down their dreams and goals. In addition, it is necessary to consider technical and didactic support in situ with trained personnel (tutors, teachers, psychologists).

WASH

One of the main needs expressed by migrants is the limited access to drinking water at the reception and care points for migrants, both in facilities and in mobile units. In addition, it is important to have water purification kits, since the water sources along the route are not potable, and care and sanitary facilities are needed and should be provided through access to free toilets and showers (public or subsidized).

In Casa del Migrante, the septic tank needs to be rehabilitated, in addition the number of toilets and sinks needs to be increased. Two more water bottle filling stations are needed. In the Agua Caliente CAPMiR, additional toilets, water bottle filling stations and sinks, are needed. Distribution of dignity/hygiene kits is needed, as these are currently being rationed due to the high flow of people.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

At the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) level, UNICEF leads the Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR); the Education Sector with Save the Children, the Nutrition Sector with Action Against Hunger (ACF); and the WASH Sector. An agreement has been established between UNICEF and the lead agency for disaster reduction and response (CONRED) at the country level to guide effective and efficient coordination and ensure clarity of roles and responsibilities of each party. UNICEF is also co-leader of the Specialized Group on Migration (GEMIG) together with UNHCR and IOM, which is the working space for inter-agency coordination on migration in the country.

At the territorial level, UNICEF has a consortium of humanitarian action for migrant children, composed of eight civil society organizations; specifically, in Esquipulas, Chiquimula there is the intervention of three partners: Doctors of the World in the Centres for Attention to Migrants and Refugees -CAPMiR- and Casa del Migrante San José; Pastoral de Movilidad Humana, in the Casa del Migrante San José; and Refugio de la Niñez through the mobile units of psychosocial care. UNICEF and its partners currently have six mobile psychosocial and primary health care units deployed in Esquipulas, Chiquimula.

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Annex A Summary of Programme Results (as of June 2023)

Sector Indicator	HAC 2023 Total Target (specific for migration-related response) **	Girls	Boys	Women	Men	People reached (Across the country for migration-related response)	% Of Progress
Health							
# Children and women receiving primary healthcare in UNICEF supported facilities	1,098	366	366	366		153	14%
# Health centres supported by UNICEF providing maternal, child and adolescent health services	5					0	4%
# Healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in infection prevention and control (IPC)	36			18	18	0	0%
Nutrition							
# Children 6-59 months screened for wasting	2,500	1,255	1,245			125	5%
# Primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving with IYCF counselling	2,000			1,685	315	0	0%
Child Protection							
# Children, parents, and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support	6,600	1,925	1,925	2,750		4,880	74%
# Women, girls, and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention, or response interventions	11,000	2,750	2,750	5,000		7,590	69%
Education							
# Children receiving individual learning materials	12,514	5,932	6,582			0	0%
WASH							
# People reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items)	24,200	6,600	6,600	5,500	5,500	725	3%
# People use safe and appropriate sanitation facilities	80,000	19,144	18,016	22,080	20,760	0	0%
# Children use safe and appropriate WASH facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities and safe spaces	2,750	1,375	1,375			275	10%
Cross Sectoral							
# of people reached with social behavioural change activities	1,650,000	310,494	310,494	620,986	620,986	552,261	33%

Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements	Funds available	Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2023	\$	%
Health	US\$ 806,431.29	US\$ 50,000.00	US\$ 756,431.29	94%
Nutrition	US\$ 1,403,600.00	US\$ 50,000.00	US\$ 1,353,600.00	96%
Child Protection	US\$ 3,744,120.40	US\$ 2,710,000.00	US\$ 1,034,120.40	28%
Education	US\$ 345,610.40	-	US\$ 345,610.40	100%
WASH	US\$ 1,484,526.24	US\$ 50,000.00	US\$ 1,434,526.24	97%
Cross Sectoral	US\$ 345,603.44	US\$ 110,000.00	US\$ 235,603.44	68%
Total	US\$ 8,129,891.77	US\$ 2,970,000.00	US\$ 5,159,891.77	63%

*As of September 2023. Corresponds to UNICEF Guatemala funding ask for migration-specific response, under the multi-country HAC for Mexico and Central America.