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HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO PEOPLE IN GUATEMALA AND MEXICO

In response to the displacement crisis in Latin America, the IRC provides integrated protection services as part of a regional project funded by the European Union (EU). In Guatemala and Mexico, the services are tailored to the context and have included:

- ✓ Access to reliable information ([Signpost](#))
- ✓ Safe spaces and protection services
- ✓ Psychosocial support
- ✓ Multi-purpose cash assistance
- ✓ Case management
- ✓ Women's protection and empowerment

OUR IMPACT

As part of the regional response funded by the European Union, the IRC has assisted 66,095 people in Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela (May 2022 to May 2023).

GUATEMALA

In Guatemala, 7,347 people participated in this IRC program, including individuals and families who have been returned, have been internally displaced or are still on the move. Based on information shared by 347 surveyed people, the IRC identified three main needs:

- **Safety.** Almost 60% of the households that participated in the IRC's program reported they had been forcibly displaced from different countries after experiencing acts of sexual or physical violence, threats, or being expelled from their homes by organized crime groups.
- **Housing.** At least 53% of the people shared that they needed safe and decent housing.
- **Food.** Half of surveyed participants reported they resorted to negative coping strategies (such as only eating twice a day) to make the available food last long enough.

MEXICO

In Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, 4,758 people have joined the IRC programs, also funded by the EU. Here, the IRC has identified needs based on information provided by people who have participated in different components of the response:

- After surveying 343 participants in the protection program about their top 3 needs, employment and access to information were the most reported, with almost 37% each. Health care or access to medicines, as well as food, were also highlighted (almost 34% each).
- Requests for support and orientation on asylum issues represented 75% of all 3,661 cases managed by [InfoDigna](#) moderators since August 2022, covering aspects such as information on how to apply for asylum in the U.S., eligibility criteria, authorized ports of entry, and issues with the CBP One application. Inquiries related to legal services and documentation were the second most common reason (12%), followed by information on safety and security (almost 3%).



VOICES OF DISPLACEMENT



NATALIA*

Natalia and her family were forced to leave Honduras due to threats from gang members. After leaving the country, they tried to apply for asylum in Mexico, but things got complicated and they decided to try to go to the United States. While waiting for an opportunity, Natalia joined the women's protection and empowerment program that the IRC is implementing in Ciudad Juárez, with support from the European Union.

"We are looking for security. What I want is a safe country. Our dream is that our children study, we get a job and see them succeed. Our hope is that our children are well."



RUDDY

Ruddy is a Venezuelan mother who has been living in Peru since 2019. She earns a living by providing hairstyling and manicure services at her customers' homes, while her family still awaits their Temporary Residence Permits. This limitation restricts their possibilities, including finding formal sector employment or accessing public services. Ruddy has participated in activities of the women's protection and empowerment program implemented by the IRC in the city of Piura, with support from the European Union. She learned about the program's safe space and decided to join as she is usually interested in such activities. Through this program, women have access to case management and psychosocial support services and can participate in workshops focused on preventing gender-based violence.

"I really like these kinds of workshops, but I had only joined online workshops, never in person. These sessions [are important] because we, women, sometimes, are silenced. Well, and here I am. I have to keep going for my four children."



JOSÉ*

José* (51), worked in a banana field in his home country, Honduras, where he earned approximately US\$ 6 per day. The high cost of living, coupled with the country's economic crisis, didn't allow him to cover his most basic needs. He was forced to leave.

Traveling North alone, José encountered a series of obstacles along the route: insecurity, lack of food, and trouble finding shelter. A month later, he finally made it to the Guatemala-Mexico border, he had to go back to Honduras. Once in Guatemala, he accessed the IRC's safe space, which is funded by the European Union. There, José accessed case management services and multi-purpose cash assistance.

**The name has been changed for privacy purposes.*