

MEXICO OPERATION



Claims from Haitians increased dramatically, surpassing those of Hondurans in the last two months.

HIGHLIGHT



Inclusion of asylum seeking and refugee children in national education strategy “Return to classrooms” with the right of refugee children and asylum seekers to be registered in schools at any time of the year even without documents or academic records.



28,000 kits with school supplies donated to families in Chiapas and Tabasco.

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

July and August have brought new dynamics into the operational context in Mexico. With a new record high **13,071 claims lodged in August**, a total of **84,103 people have applied for asylum in Mexico in 2021 until mid of September**. The number is already higher than in 2019, previous record year.

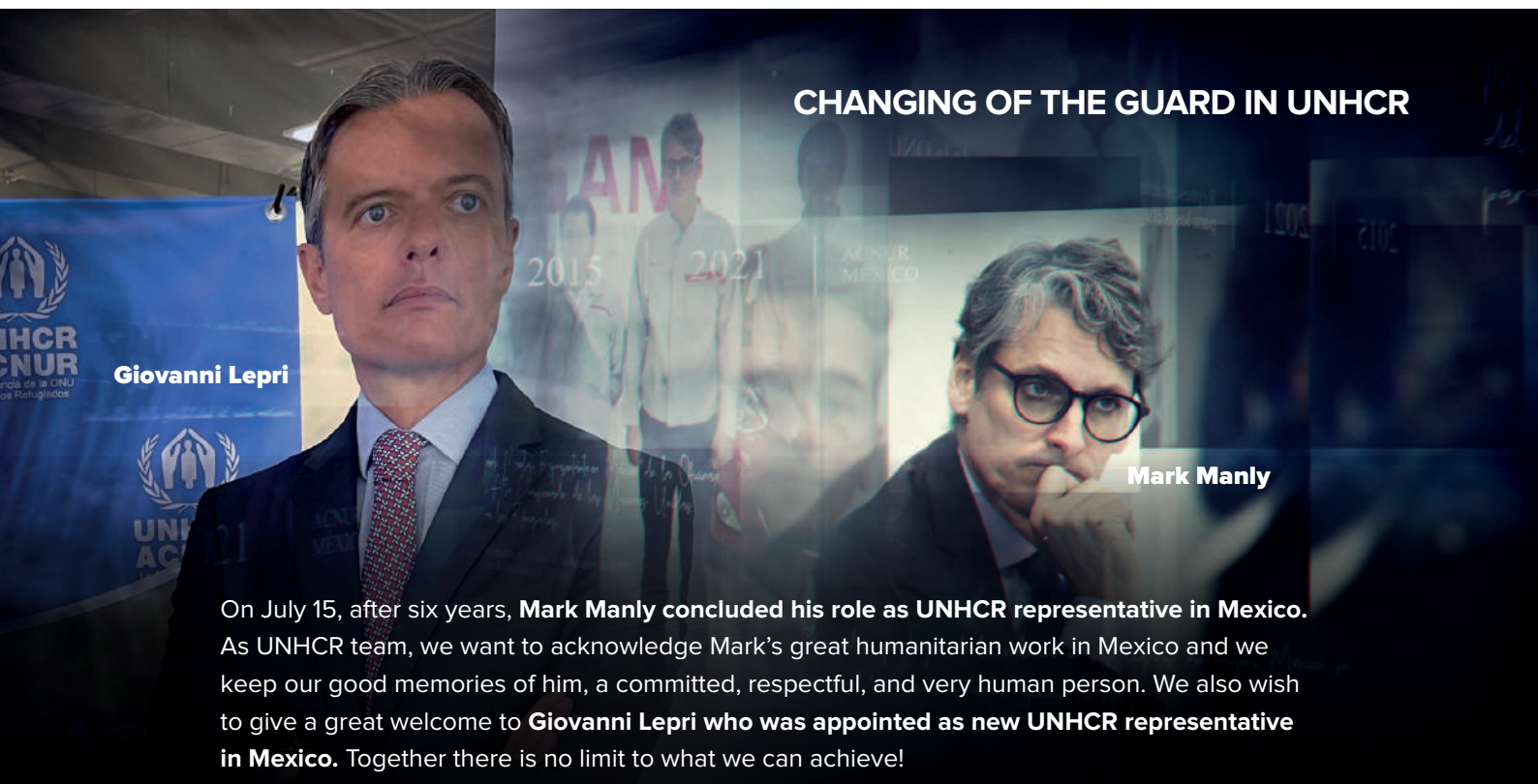
Some 800-1000 asylum claims have been lodged daily in Tapachula, in the South of Mexico. Claims from Haitians increased dramatically, surpassing those of Hondurans in the last two months. The overstretched COMAR capacity and the lack of migratory alternatives resulted in delays, raised frustration, and pushed some to leave Tapachula irregularly. Between 28 August and 4 September, four groups, the so called “caravans” with up to 500 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, departed from the city and were subsequently detained by INM and National Guard forces. Cases of deportation to Guatemala have also been reported.

In the North, the overcrowding at the border worsened with shelters reaching their maximum capacity. The public health-based Title 42 expulsions by US have continued to Tijuana, Juarez and Nogales, and

since 5 August, direct flights from the US to Southern Mexico's cities of Villahermosa and Tapachula have also been operating, followed by bus transfers to the Guatemalan border and consequent crossing by foot into Guatemala. Makeshift camps reappeared along the border; Reynosa being reported the biggest with some 2,000-2,500 people. The percentage of internally displaced Mexicans sheltered in Tijuana and Mexicali rose considerably. On 24 August the UNHCR and IOM supported MPP wind-down operation had to be brought to a halt following a ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court.

On 18 August, the Government of Mexico announced also that first refugee claims by Afghan nationals had been processed.

On August 24, the UNHCR and IOM-supported MPP end operation had to be suspended following a ruling by the United States Supreme Court.



CHANGING OF THE GUARD IN UNHCR

On July 15, after six years, **Mark Manly** concluded his role as **UNHCR representative in Mexico**. As UNHCR team, we want to acknowledge Mark's great humanitarian work in Mexico and we keep our good memories of him, a committed, respectful, and very human person. We also wish to give a great welcome to **Giovanni Lepri** who was appointed as new **UNHCR representative in Mexico**. Together there is no limit to what we can achieve!

THIS NEWSLETTER FEATURES:**HOW UNHCR CONTRIBUTES TO ADDRESSING INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN MEXICO**

Thousands of people have been victims of forced internal displacement in Mexico, caused by violence and organized crime in states such as Chihuahua, Michoacán, Guerrero and Sinaloa, and inter-community conflicts in Chiapas and Oaxaca. Although there is no official data available, according to the last annual report of the Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights (CMDPDH), some **346,945 people have been internally displaced between 2006 and 2019 in massive events caused by violence**. In August, the CMDPDH published the results of media monitoring, financially supported by UNHCR. 12 events of displacement by violence were reported leading to an internal displacement of at least **3,873 people during the first semester of 2021**.

Internal displacement represents a multidimensional situation of violation of human rights, which leaves those who suffered from it in a situation of extreme vulnerability. Until April 2019, when the federal government officially recognized internal displacement as an existing problem in Mexico and made a public commitment to address it starting with the creation of a normative framework, there wasn't any comprehensive response to the phenomenon in Mexico.

Following the announcement, UNHCR has led an initiative of collaboration by UN agencies to provide technical assistance to the Government of Mexico in the development of a legal framework on internal displacement and through the provision of training

to state and federal authorities. The draft law was unanimously approved by the Chamber of Deputies in September 2020 and awaits further discussion and approval in the Senate. UNHCR has also been supporting the analytical work of an inter-institutional Working Group composed of authorities, civil society organizations, and the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS) to gain a better understanding of the phenomenon. The first profiling exercise in Chihuahua state is currently ongoing. This September, 43 members of the Attorney General's Office of Chihuahua state completed a full-fledge training on IDPs, which was supported financially by the European Union Humanitarian Aid (ECHO).

At the request of the authorities, UNHCR works also on the implementation of 3 pilot projects for the inclusion of vulnerable displaced Mexican population in the UNHCR local integration programme, initially designed for refugees. It is expected that those pilots could provide a basis for development of public policy in this area. The events UNHCR participated in on 12 August, such as the **Seminar on Forced Internal Displacement**, organized by the Migration Policy, Registration and Identity of Persons Unit (UPMRIP) of the Ministry of Interior, are deemed important to raise awareness of this problematic in Mexico. It is our priority to continue to generate comprehensive responses to the phenomenon of internal displacement in Mexico in close coordination with other UN agencies, international and national organizations, and most importantly federal and state authorities.



OTHER TOPICS:

UNHCR SUPPORTS PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES IN THE SOUTH



Delivery of 3 ambulances to the State Health Secretariat of Tabasco by the Tenosique Community Hospital.

Confronted with the COVID-19 pandemic, UNHCR, in coordination with the Health Institute for Well-being (INSABI) and the Mexico office of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), contributed to the development of capacities of the health services of Chiapas and Tabasco, with the donation of personal protective equipment, as well as ambulances.

During the official ceremony on 18 June, UNHCR delivered three ambulances to the Tabasco State Health Secretariat to be used by the Tenosique Community Hospital. Some specialized services do not exist in Tenosique and it is necessary to transfer people to Villahermosa, so this donation seeks to benefit the wider community. Furthermore, on 27 June in Ciudad Hidalgo, UNHCR donated two more ambulances which will be used by the Sanitary

District VII of Tapachula and the Sanitary District VI of Palenque to provide better care to the local population, including refugees and asylum seekers. The donation of the five ambulances represents an investment of more than eight million pesos in support of the health sector, as well as the community.

In a year marked by the pandemic, UNHCR also focused on advocating for the inclusion of refugees in national COVID-19 response plans. Palenque was the first Mexican municipality to reach the refugee population and asylum seekers with its vaccination campaign already in March. Since then, other municipalities such as Oluta, Acayucan, Coatzacoalcos, Puebla, Monterrey, Querétaro, Guanajuato and Tapachula, among others, have followed these steps following state defined vaccination plans.

PALOMAZO FOR THE REFUGEES “REFUGIO SONORO”



In the framework of World Refugee Day, UNHCR broadcasted the JAM 2021 Festival, a series of cultural events from 17 countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region to show that only by working together can we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

UNHCR Mexico and W Radio joined the JAM 2021 Festival with the second edition of Palomazo for Refugees, this year's edition was entitled “Sound Refuge”. The audiovisual piece brought together talents of seven great artists led by **Andrea Echeverri**, singer of the Colombian rock band Aterciopelados. She was accompanied by the Peruvian-Mexican singer, **Tania Libertad**; **Yayo González**, singer of the Argentine band Pate de Fuá; **Roco Pachukote**, singer of the Mexican band Maldita Vecindad; **José Manuel Aguilera**, composer and singer of the Mexican band La Barranca; the Mexican singer **Vivir Quintana** and the Venezuelan singer-songwriter **Irina Indigo**.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Visit of the Assistant High Commissioner for Protection

Between 22 and 26 August, the **Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Mrs. Gillian Triggs**, visited **Mexico City, Ciudad Juárez and Tapachula**. During those 4.5 days, Mrs. Triggs was able to witness first-hand the challenges faced by asylum seekers and refugees and acknowledged the efforts made by Mexican authorities and civil society considering the unprecedented rise in mixed migration flows. Her visit allowed for greater visibility to the broader displacement situation in the Central America region.



ESTE EQUIPO DA LA MANO.

Este equipo se une por las personas refugiadas.



One team: the “Union Club” together with refugees

The sports clubs of Nuevo León - Fuerza Regia, Rayados, Tigres and Sultanes - got together with UNHCR to present an extraordinary campaign: A single team: *The “Union Club” together with refugees*. This awareness campaign is a first step towards better understanding of the reasons behind the arrival of people of other nationalities -

especially from Central America - to our municipalities, our neighborhoods, and our communities. The campaign tells us that a team that opens its doors is a stronger team. It is estimated that there are around seven thousand refugees, asylum seekers or beneficiaries of complementary protection in Nuevo León, who have been supported and accompanied since the establishment of the UNHCR Field Office in Monterrey in 2019.

Internet hotspots installed in shelters in the North

In July, Nethope, with UNHCR's support, installed internet hotspots in 15 shelters in Tijuana, Juárez and Mexicali. Asylum seekers and other vulnerable displaced people staying in the North of Mexico will gain direct access to information sources from UNHCR, such as the Help Desk and el Jaguar, and IRC's Infodigna website. After passing through those protection-oriented pages, they will be able to navigate the internet freely. Similar hotspots will be installed in selected shelters in the South.

Integration and tolerance through gastronomical collaborations

UNHCR launched a culinary series “Compartiendo Raíces”. On 14 June the first episode was filmed in Valle de Guadalupe in collaboration with the renowned Chef Javier Plascencia. Katherine, a refugee originating from El Salvador and living in Tijuana, and Chef Plascencia created a gastronomic fusion of the well-known Salvadorian dish “pupusas” with elements of the Baja California regional cuisine. Two more episodes will be filmed before the end of the year with an aim to sensitize the public about the richness that refugee communities contribute in Baja California.

Chef Javier Plascencia Compartiendo Raíces

El chef abre su cocina a las personas refugiadas.

Premier de compartiendo raíces, un programa en el que podrás cocinar recetas fusión con los sabores de Baja California y el sazón que aportan las personas refugiadas.

30 de junio de 2021





“With support from UNHCR, I am teaching classes as a volunteer at the Casa del Adolescente”

UNHCR HUMAN STORIES

I left Syria because of the war; but I was lucky to be able to finish my studies as assistant anesthesiologist. When the war began, my family

and I fled to Turkey. I worked hard to earn a living but there was no way for me to continue my studies. Now, I live in Aguascalientes and I've just started studying medicine at the Cuauhtémoc University thanks to a scholarship from the University. I will specialize in Integral Medicine because I want to become the best doctor and to be able to help all the people in the world. With support from UNHCR,

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