

# Annual Results Report

**2025**

**Mexico**

## Acknowledgements

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### Note:

The baseline values presented in this document reflect previous year's progress when available. If such data is not available, strategy baseline values are used instead.

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# Section 1: Context and Overview

## 1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

Mexico has progressively consolidated its role as a destination country for refugees and asylum-seekers. While northbound movements decreased significantly in 2025, the number of asylum applications remained high, with more than 70,500 claims registered before the Mexican Commission for Refugees (COMAR), particularly of persons originally from Cuba, Venezuela, Haiti and Honduras. Slightly under half of all applications were concentrated in Chiapas, while Mexico City's share rose from 17 per cent in 2024 to 35 per cent in 2025.

These trends highlight the importance of ensuring a strong, efficient and fair asylum system capable of managing growing caseloads while guaranteeing access to documentation, rights and essential services. In this context, UNHCR continued to support the Government of Mexico in strengthening their capacity for receiving asylum seekers and improving their refugee decision-making capacities, while using its catalytic role to facilitate access to formal employment and financial inclusion, in close collaboration with the government, private sector and development actors.

The security situation in parts of the country, particularly in Michoacán and Sinaloa, deteriorated due to violence linked to organized crime, affecting humanitarian access and resulting in events of internal displacement. Working closely with local authorities, UNHCR supported the development of normative frameworks, while strengthening institutional response capacities. Community-based protection remained central to these efforts, helping to identify risks, reinforce resilience and improve access to services for affected populations.

UNHCR also played an increasing role in supporting deported Mexican nationals with protection needs, as well as responding to the situation of third-country nationals returned or deported to Mexico, ensuring that those in need of international protection are identified and assisted.

## 1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

### 1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

**Forcibly displaced people access protection according to their specific needs.**

**People with international protection needs access asylum in Mexico.**

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2025)
<b>1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	97.43%	93.87%
<b>1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	81.09%	65.45%
Stateless Persons	100.00%	100.00%

In 2025, people with international protection needs continued to access Mexican territory and the asylum system, primarily through the southern border but also from the north following deportation. While security risks linked to non-state actors persisted, access to asylum procedures remained largely safeguarded. Mexico received more than 70,500 new asylum applicants in 2025, representing an approximate 10 per cent decrease compared to 2024, although the number of asylum applications (cases) remained virtually unchanged (one per cent difference). This trend suggests a reduction in average family size rather than a decline in protection needs. In the first semester of 2025, Mexico ranked eighth worldwide in the reception of new asylum applicants, highlighting its continued relevance as a country of asylum.

Of note, 94 per cent of people seeking international protection were admitted to refugee status determination procedures, reflecting sustained access to asylum despite evolving regional human mobility dynamics. The high admission rate indicates that procedural safeguards remained functional and accessible. However, processing times, previously ranging from two to six months, increased to eight months, and in some cases, exceeded one year. These delays contribute to protection risks due to lack of issuance of documentation to asylum-seekers and consequently lack of access to formal employment during the asylum process, which is a provided for by law.

Monitoring data and the protection needs of foreign nationals to be deported by migration authorities contributed to ensuring that individuals expressing an intention to seek asylum were generally able to access procedures. Refugees and asylum-seekers largely maintained freedom of movement within the country (Indicator 1.2).

Overall, despite shifts in regional mobility patterns and external policy changes, Mexico's asylum system remained operational and continued to provide generally favourable protection conditions as a country of asylum, although processing times lengthened substantially due to the scale of applications received and reduced human resources.

### 4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

**Refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced people integrate effectively in their communities and rebuild their lives in Mexico and abroad.**

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2025)
<b>4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	165	106

In 2025, progress towards securing solutions was reflected in strengthened local integration outcomes and expanded access to socio-economic inclusion mechanisms. A total of 26,855 refugees were granted or confirmed residency status, consolidating their legal stay and enabling access to formal employment and public services. Through the Local Integration Program (PIL), more than 4,000 refugees secured employment opportunities across six cities, while more than 5,300 asylum-seekers and refugees received tailored support to advance their integration process.

Mexico City continued to emerge as a key destination, accounting for approximately 35 per cent of asylum applications nationwide. Enhanced coordination with local authorities facilitated closer accompaniment and strengthened public policy responses to integration needs. Collaboration with federal and municipal governments under a whole-of-society approach contributed to improved job placement opportunities and greater engagement of the private sector.

Interagency initiatives on socio-economic inclusion, implemented jointly with ILO and IOM, reinforced a coordinated response to labour market integration and strengthened institutional capacity to support forcibly displaced people.

Access to financial inclusion further expanded in 2025. A new partnership with Banco Dondé enabled more than 1,500 asylum-seekers and refugees to open bank accounts, complementing the existing collaboration with Banorte. In total, some 13,200 people gained access to formal banking services, enhancing their ability to participate in the formal economy and rebuild their lives with greater autonomy and stability.

Collectively, these developments contributed to tangible progress towards effective local integration as a durable solution in Mexico.

## Other Core Impact Indicators

Country	Population Type	Baseline	Actual(2025)
<b>3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work</b>			
Mexico	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
<b>3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education</b>			
Mexico	IDPs	74.17%	74.17%
Mexico	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	53.43%	53.43%
<b>3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark</b>			
Mexico	IDPs	24.91%	24.91%
Mexico	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	71.16%	71.16%

## 1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

In 2025, progress toward impact was significantly constrained by structural and resource-related barriers affecting both the asylum system and refugees' access to rights.

A major obstacle remained the continued de facto suspension of humanitarian visitor cards (TVRHs) for asylum-seekers since October 2023, which serve as documentation to demonstrate legal stay. The absence of TVRH increased risks of refoulement, restricted lawful stay, and severely limited access to formal employment and specific services. Advocacy efforts, including engagement with private sector actors keen to hire not only refugees but also asylum-seekers, sought to reposition documentation as both a protection and an economic priority.

Simultaneously, the Mexican asylum system processed more than 70,500 new applications amid a drastic reduction in staffing. The end of 88 government-seconded positions and the loss of 45 UNHCR-supported posts resulted in nearly a 50 per cent decrease in COMAR personnel between mid-2024 and mid-2025. This significantly reduced operational capacity and resulted in extended waiting periods exceeding one year in some locations.

Access to the national identification number (CURP) was also unevenly accessed in Mexican territory, limiting effective access to rights for some refugees and asylum-seekers.

Prospects for overcoming these barriers depend on sustained advocacy on documentation, renewed investment in institutional capacity, and strengthened coordination with new authorities to restore operational stability and advance rights-based solutions.

Severe funding cuts further reduced community-based protection capacity by nearly 70 per cent, decreasing partnerships and limiting engagement with refugee-led organizations. Reduced staffing of communication services increased pressure and affected timely information provision.

The internal displacement context presents significant challenges due to diverse situations and forms of violence. However, UNHCR worked with local authorities and community actors to strengthen strategies and responses that help build more sustainable protection environments.

## 1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

In 2025, UNHCR strengthened strategic partnerships with national authorities, development actors, refugee-led organizations (RLOs), the private sector, and other UN agencies, to advance protection and socioeconomic inclusion in Mexico.

COMAR remained UNHCR's primary governmental counterpart, with cooperation focused on institutional strengthening, backlog reduction and quality assurance. Mexico continued engagement in the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS) and the Regional Asylum Capacity-Building Initiative, promoting responsibility-sharing and alignment with Global Refugee Forum (GRF) pledges under the Global Compact on Refugees.

UNHCR co-led the Inter-Agency Group on Human Mobility (GIMH) and the R4V platform, while also ensuring alignment with the UN Cooperation Framework 2026–2031. Amidst a strong reduction in civil society organizations supporting people forced to flee, UNHCR enhanced coordination support to identify gaps and potential joint solutions. Key interagency initiatives included the second year of projects funded by the European Union and Canada, implemented with ILO, IOM, and UNDP, focusing on expanding access to formal employment, skills certification and labour market integration of people on the move, contributing to SDGs 8, 10 and 17.

UNHCR collaborated with UNOPS, ILO, IOM, UN Women and WHO to expand access to protection, essential services and livelihoods through the Multiservice Centres across the country, with a strong focus on Tapachula.

Progress under GRF commitments was demonstrated through strong multi-stakeholder engagement, including MERLOS Mx and other networks of refugee-led organizations (RLOs), as well as private-sector leadership working in a complementary manner with PIL on refugee employment. UNHCR supported five RLOs through Grant Agreements to implement community-based protection initiatives in northern Mexico.

Strategic NGO partnerships and cooperation with INM strengthened specialized protection, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, and child protection safeguards. On internal displacement, UNHCR worked with federal and state authorities and civil society to enhance institutional responses, contributing to a more favourable protection environment.

# Section 2: Results

## 2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

### 1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

Effective compliance with international protection standards and migratory law and policy, guarantees access to territory for people in need of international protection.

#### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
<b>1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Data not available	100.00%	100.00%
<b>1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Data not available	100.00%	97.85%
<b>1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Data not available	100.00%	75.61%

#### Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator	
	Actual (2025)	
<b>01.1.1 Number of people registered on an individual basis</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	42,303	
<b>01.2.1 Number of people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	21,403	

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Mexico continued to generally uphold access to territory and asylum procedures despite significant institutional constraints. Despite an approximate 50 per cent reduction in staff of COMAR, registration levels remained broadly comparable to 2024. As of mid-year, Mexico ranked eighth globally in new asylum applications, reflecting sustained access to procedures for people in need of international protection.

Registration continued to serve as a critical gateway to rights. Access to documentation following registration enabled asylum-seekers to obtain a national identification number (CURP), facilitating access to basic services and formal employment. However, access to documentation remained a critical challenge. Following the de facto suspension of the issuance of Temporary Visitor Cards for Humanitarian Reasons (TVRH) by the National Migration Institute (INM) in 2023, the number of documents issued dropped sharply—from over 94,000 in 2023 to just 614 in 2024. Between January and July 2025, issuance increased to 1,978 TVRHs, signaling a partial restoration of access to documentation. While still modest in relation to overall needs, this uptick represents an important step toward re-establishing access to documentation and the associated rights for asylum-seekers and refugees.

Risks of return for people with international protection needs persisted, particularly in border contexts. Although detention periods generally remained low, some instances of deportation continued to raise protection concerns. Strengthened coordination between UNHCR and the INM contributed to mitigating individual risks. In 2025, INM authorized four cases of refouled refugees or asylum-seekers to re-enter Mexico and recover documentation, reinforcing safeguards against refoulement.

UNHCR continued to support Mexico’s asylum system despite reduced resources by funding key staff, offering technical guidance, advancing digital tools, improving information services, and strengthening coordination—particularly through Multiservice Centers in Tapachula, Monterrey, and Tijuana.

Overall, access to territory and asylum were preserved in line with international protection standards.

## 2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

**People in need of international protection have access to territory, fair and efficient asylum procedures, and legal pathways for regularization, in line with international standards.**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
<b>2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	170.00	270.00	228.20
<b>2.2 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to legal representation</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
<b>2.3 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

### Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
<b>02.1.1 UNHCR has provided capacity development support to strengthen the national status determination system(s), in accordance with international standards</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Despite significant structural and resource-related constraints, the Mexican asylum system remained operational throughout 2025, registering approximately 70,500 asylum-seekers on an individual basis. Given the gap between the volume of persons seeking protection and COMAR’s operational capacity, a pre-registration mechanism continued functioning in Tapachula and Mexico City. More than 67,000 people were processed through this mechanism during the year, partially overlapping with those formally registered.

UNHCR contributed to sustaining the system’s functionality by providing technical guidance, capacity development and financial support to key positions embedded within COMAR across different stages of the

procedure, including interpretation and eligibility functions. This support helped mitigate operational gaps and maintain procedural guarantees in the context of high demand.

The continued de facto suspension of TVRHs significantly restricted options for asylum-seekers. Regularization pathways remained largely limited to judicial remedies (amparos), protection-based discretionary grounds, or family reunification with Mexican nationals. As these alternatives were not broadly accessible, refugee status determination continued to be perceived as the most viable pathway to secure permanent residence (also by those not in need of international protection), contributing to sustained pressure on the asylum system.

### 3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

**Protection systems and public policies ensure effective access to justice and comprehensive reparations for forcibly displaced people, including those with specific needs.**

#### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
<b>3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol</b>			
None	Broadly aligned	Broadly aligned	Broadly aligned
<b>3.2 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness</b>			
None	Broadly aligned	Broadly aligned	Broadly aligned

#### Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
<b>03.1.1 UNHCR has engaged in legislative and judicial processes to strengthen laws and policies for the protection of refugees, IDPs, returnees and stateless people and/or the reduction and prevention of statelessness</b>	
IDPs	Yes
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Mexico’s asylum system is grounded in a robust legal framework guaranteeing access to territory and international protection for asylum-seekers and refugees. Progress under this outcome focused on strengthening the practical implementation of existing norms and improving policy coherence.

At the subnational level, legislative initiatives on human mobility expanded across several states. Technical advocacy contributed to improved normative recognition of refugees within local legislation, including explicit reference to refugees in Chiapas’ new mobility law, strengthening alignment with international protection standards.

In the context of internal displacement, normative progress strengthened the protection environment. With UNHCR’s support, 49 normative and public policy instruments related to internal displacement were developed or strengthened. The State of Oaxaca approved specific legislation on internal displacement, and the Government of Chihuahua issued an emergency response protocol, enhancing authorities’ capacity to identify and address the needs of internally displaced persons. In addition, collaboration with the

Supreme Court of Justice and the Federal Public Defender's Office resulted in the development of guidance notes to support internally displaced people in understanding and claiming their rights.

Overall, 2025 reflected incremental but tangible advances in safeguarding access to protection and documentation for asylum-seekers, refugees, and IDPs within a stable federal protection framework.

## 4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

**Gender-based violence (GBV) survivors with international protection needs receive timely response and specialized services and communities are actively engaged in GBV prevention and risk mitigation**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
<b>4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	64.71%	71.00%	64.71%
<b>4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services</b>			
IDPs	Data not available	100.00%	100.00%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	99.34%	100.00%	100.00%

### Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
<b>04.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes</b>	
Others of Concern	858
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	271

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Between January and December 2025, 1,061 survivors of gender-based violence received specialized assistance through UNHCR-supported partners, including 294 asylum-seekers and refugees, 734 other people in need of international protection, and 53 internally displaced people. In parallel, UNHCR directly provided counselling and case management support to 763 asylum-seekers and refugees who are survivors of gender-based violence. These combined efforts contributed to improved access to survivor-centred, multi-sectoral services, reflected in strengthened referral pathways and more consistent case follow-up.

UNHCR continued to strengthen inter-agency coordination by co-leading the Gender-based Violence Sub-Working Group with UNFPA, enhancing preparedness for emergencies and harmonizing life-saving interventions in response to gender-based violence. This coordination was especially critical in a context where resources to support such cases were severely constrained. Engagement in regional policy discussions, including the XVI Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, further contributed to ensuring that the specific risks faced by forcibly displaced women and girls were reflected in broader policy and care frameworks.

Quality and coverage of gender-based violence response were further enhanced through the systematic

update of multi-sectoral gender-based violence service mappings in all operational locations. This allowed for improved identification of available services, including emerging profiles such as deportees, and helped mitigate service gaps resulting from financial constraints affecting national organizations. The updated mapping supported more timely referrals and strengthened coordination with public institutions and civil society actors.

Community engagement in gender-based violence prevention was also reinforced. A total of 1,100 people at heightened risk were sensitized on the prevention of gender-based violence and available services, contributing to increased awareness and early reporting. During the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign, 49 initiatives were implemented nationwide, reaching more than 1,000 people directly and generating more than 135,000 social media impressions. These efforts helped promote community dialogue, reduce stigma, and increase visibility of available protection mechanisms.

Capacity-building efforts targeting 1,080 individuals from NGOs, government counterparts, and humanitarian actors contributed to improved technical knowledge on survivor-centred approaches, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, and risk mitigation. This strengthened institutional capacities to deliver protection-sensitive responses and reinforced accountability mechanisms.

Overall, 2025 saw measurable improvements in access to specialized services for survivors of gender-based violence and strengthened community-level prevention and coordination mechanisms, contributing to safer environments for people with international protection needs. However, the compounded effect of reduced funding for both specialized response capacity and prevention activities, experienced by UNHCR and partner organizations, resulted in extremely limited service availability in certain locations, increased waiting times, and limited prevention activities.

## 6. Outcome Area: Safety and Access to Justice

**People have effective access to justice and comprehensive reparations**

### Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
<b>06.1.1 Number of people who received legal assistance</b>	
IDPs	213
Others of Concern	4,315
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	26,322

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, progress towards effective access to justice was sustained despite significant resource constraints. Nearly 100,000 refugees, asylum-seekers, and internally displaced people received legal assistance during the year, contributing to a cumulative total of more than 1,028,000 people supported free of charge between 2021 and 2025. Legal assistance was strongly concentrated in Chiapas (more than 21,400 people), Mexico City (more than 15,100), and Tabasco (more than 10,200), reflecting the geographic distribution of persons with international protection needs. These figures demonstrate continued demand for legal support at key entry, transit, and destination points.

However, severe funding reductions substantially affected the legal aid landscape. The network of 180 lawyers and paralegals supported in 2021 was reduced to 18 in 2025, limiting field presence and direct representation capacity. This contraction increased risks for asylum-seekers, including reliance on costly private services or exposure to fraudulent actors, potentially undermining procedural safeguards and access to rights.

To mitigate these risks and sustain progress toward the outcome, UNHCR diversified its access-to-justice strategy. Cooperation with the Federal Public Defender's Office, formalized in 2019, remained a key pillar in ensuring representation and strategic litigation. UNHCR expanded its pro bono engagement from one to more than 20 law firms nationwide. In collaboration with the Mexican Pro-Bono Centre, a network of 50 lawyers was mobilized for field engagement and outreach, reinforcing access to legal information and representation.

Capacity-building efforts further strengthened systemic access to justice. A total of 140 training sessions reached more than 4,000 participants from academia, civil society, shelters, government institutions, humanitarian actors, and refugee and displaced communities. These efforts contributed to improved knowledge of international protection standards and procedural safeguards. In addition, 470 individuals received direct legal support through pro-bono mechanisms, including complex areas such as administrative, labour, tax, and criminal law.

Strategic litigation also yielded structural impact, reinforcing access to documentation and legal status during proceedings.

Overall, despite significant operational constraints, UNHCR's adaptive approach—combining strategic litigation, institutional partnerships, and pro bono engagement—contributed to sustaining access to justice for people with international protection needs in Mexico.

In addition, together with the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation and the Federal Public defender's Office (IFDP), UNHCR developed the Notes on Internal Displacement, a tool designed to help internally displaced people understand their rights and how to seek protection.

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

**Forcibly displaced people are engaged in an inclusive and transparent communication, participate meaningfully and inform decision-making processes, engaging with local communities**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
<b>7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	65.38%	50.00%	75.00%

### Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
<b>07.1.1 Number of people consulted through Participatory Assessments</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,104
<b>07.2.1 Number of people who used UNHCR- supported feedback &amp; response mechanisms to voice their needs/ concerns/feedback</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	89
<b>07.3.1 Number of people who received protection services</b>	
IDPs	11,389
Others of Concern	5,552
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	48,900

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, significant progress was made by the Mexican Government in promoting inclusive and transparent communication with forcibly displaced persons and in advancing the empowerment of women. This includes the creation of a federal Ministry of Women, aimed at centralizing, coordinating, and overseeing public policies on substantive equality, the prevention of gender-based violence, and the establishment of a national care system. Additionally, Mexico included displaced women and Indigenous persons in the National Development Plan, and authorities in Oaxaca conducted extensive consultations with local communities on a new state law on internal displacement, which was supported by UNHCR. Also, the Regional Conference for Women, held from 11 to 15 August 2025 in Mexico City, Mexico, was promoted by the Mexican Government to uphold the right to care, be cared for, and receive care as a guiding principle, in accordance with the Declaration adopted by Latin American States at the end of the Conference.

UNHCR advanced meaningful community engagement and women's empowerment, as reflected in the strengthened presence, visibility and functionality of refugee-led and IDP-led structures across 14 states. A total of 59 community initiatives were identified and supported, including 23 Refugee-Led Organizations (RLOs) and 26 independent activists, demonstrating expanded capacity among forcibly displaced populations to organize, represent their constituencies, and influence protection spaces. Six RLOs are led by women, and women represent more than half of overall RLO membership, reflecting sustained progress toward gender-balanced leadership and participation.

The consolidation of MERLOS Mx as a structured dialogue platform for RLOs marked an important outcome-level gain in representation and participation. Members engaged in national and global fora and strengthened their role in public consultative processes, contributing to more systematic inclusion of forcibly displaced voices in policy discussions. In line with commitments on accountability to affected populations, UNHCR continued shifting away from ad hoc consultations toward more structured and evidence-based community participation in decision-making processes. As such, 66 national consultations, 40 consultations in northern Mexico, and six additional sessions in IDP-affected areas (with more than 500 internally displaced people) generated evidence that directly informed state-level protection instruments and UNHCR's 2026 planning cycle.

Capacity-building processes reached more than 150 RLO leaders and activists, enhancing governance, advocacy and legal literacy, and supporting the transition from passive consultation to structured leadership. The open call for RLO grants in northern Mexico ("Transformando Juntos") further translated participation into implementation capacity, with five RLOs selected to lead community-based protection initiatives in 2026—demonstrating increased autonomy and sustainability of community-led responses.

UNHCR made improvements to its feedback and response mechanism, which reinforced transparency and accountability, enabled adaptive programming aligned with community-identified priorities, and closed the feedback loop between affected populations and the operation. Ninety-five per cent of cases were resolved through this mechanism.

These gains were enabled by strong collaboration with national and local actors. Civil society partners, including shelters, universities and community groups, supported community mobilization and capacity strengthening processes, and facilitated safe spaces for dialogue and referrals. Pro-bono law firms provided legal guidance for RLO formalization as civil associations, strengthening their sustainability and institutional recognition. Local networks in southern Mexico contributed to large-scale community engagement and psychosocial initiatives, reinforcing social cohesion and resilience.

## 8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

The humanitarian response is well-coordinated between government, UN entities and host communities and complies with protection standards

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
<b>8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	9.90%	68.00%	11.38%

### Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
<b>08.1.1 Number of people who received cash assistance</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	7,045
<b>08.2.1 Number of people who received non-food items</b>	
Others of Concern	22,779
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	33,675

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Through coordinated interventions, UNHCR contributed to a more coherent, protection-centred humanitarian response that strengthened national and local systems while ensuring that persons with specific needs accessed timely and appropriate support. Through interagency coordination, including the UN Framework and the transversal GIMH, co-led by UNHCR, ensured a protection focused humanitarian response in support of the Government’s strategy and response. Through joint planning, shared analysis, and harmonized protection standards, UN entities collectively strengthened the quality and consistency of assistance, helping ensure that people forced to flee receive timely and principled support.

In 2025, progress toward a coordinated humanitarian response compliant with protection standards was reflected in strengthened Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD)-based case management and expanded targeted support for persons with heightened protection risks. Early identification and referral mechanisms were reinforced, enabling more timely and specialized assistance for asylum-seekers, refugees, IDPs and vulnerable members of host communities.

Institutional coordination further improved service quality and sustainability. A new collaboration with the National Institute of Psychiatry strengthened local capacities and supported more than 600 public servants and civil society actors in managing burnout and enhancing protection-sensitive responses. In Villahermosa, interinstitutional coordination mechanisms improved access for older persons to health services, documentation and urgent assistance.

UNHCR supported local governments and civil society organizations with complementary assistance to address the needs of internally displaced people, providing supplies in 2025 that assisted 3,207 people with hygiene items. In addition, through technical assistance, UNHCR strengthened the capacities of actors to respond to the needs of displaced people. For example, in Chihuahua alone, the technical support provided enabled the Government to assist 4,492 internally displaced people in 2025 through its emergency protocol.

More than 300 LGBTIQ+ individuals received specialized case management and guidance, including safe relocation for those facing acute protection risks. Coordination with civil society organizations and shelters ensured access to GBV response services, HIV treatment and inclusive health care. Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) remained a key protection pillar: six partners provided psychotherapy and specialized services to 11,748 individuals across Mexico City, Monterrey, Guanajuato, San Luis Potosí, Ciudad Juárez and Tapachula. The primary nationalities accessing MHPSS were Honduran (11 per cent), Haitian (seven per cent) and Venezuelan (seven per cent), while four per cent were members of host communities. Access was relatively balanced by sex (24 per cent women; 22 per cent men), indicating equitable outreach.

Cash-based interventions for extremely vulnerable cases complemented protection case management. Between January and December 2025, 812 asylum-seekers and refugees received cash assistance for specific protection needs, while 142 individuals accessed cash for health-related needs. While 99 per cent of cash assistance recipients used the support for food and 95 per cent for rent, only 60 per cent were able to meet all their basic needs—underscoring the urgent need for expanded support, complemented by sustained interventions to support self-reliance. All cash support was delivered within structured pathways, ensuring informed counselling, protection monitoring and accountability.

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

**Forcibly displaced people effectively access documentation, public services and programmes, formal employment, social protection and financial services.**

#### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
<b>13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider</b>			
IDPs	34.92%	40.00%	34.92%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	47.95%	55.00%	47.95%

#### Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
<b>13.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	7,502

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Despite the continued suspension by INM of documentation for asylum-seekers, UNHCR sustained progress in promoting access to formal employment and financial services for refugees and beneficiaries of complementary protection. Through the PIL, more than 4,000 refugees participated in relocation and job placement initiatives in 2025, bringing the cumulative total, since 2016, to more than 53,400 individuals. Monitoring data indicates that 86 per cent of 2025 participants accessed formal employment, reflecting sustained private sector confidence and absorptive capacity, particularly in the industrial corridors of the Bajío and northern Mexico.

UNHCR's contribution focused on strengthening employer engagement through the "Alliance for Inclusion", expanding partnerships with national and multinational companies, and promoting refugee hiring in sectors

facing labour shortages. In parallel, a joint research initiative with CIDE was launched to document good practices and lessons learned from enterprises participating in the PIL programme, contributing to evidence-based advocacy for inclusive labour markets.

Beyond employment placement, more than 5,300 asylum-seekers and refugees received support to advance local integration, including diploma recognition, skills certification, access to technical and vocational training, and referrals to public programmes and services. Additionally, 73 refugee youth were supported to continue tertiary education, reinforcing longer-term self-reliance prospects.

Progress was also observed in financial inclusion. In 2025, UNHCR established an alliance with Banco Dondé to facilitate bank account access, benefiting 1,568 refugees during the year. Combined with the ongoing partnership with Banorte, a cumulative 13,178 bank accounts have been opened for refugees through UNHCR-facilitated arrangements. While structural barriers to financial access persist, the 2025 reform to the Population Law—establishing the CURP as the national identification number and linking it to biometric data—may contribute to addressing documentation-related obstacles once operationalized in 2026.

Strategic donor support further enabled targeted outcomes. With funding from the Government of Japan, UNHCR implemented a project promoting socioeconomic integration through formal employment, including engagement with Japanese companies in key industrial states. Support from Global Affairs Canada strengthened labour inclusion and relocation mechanisms for women displaced by violence, while the second year of the EU-funded “Decent Jobs” initiative and the launch of the IRCC-supported integration project reinforced comprehensive, gender-responsive approaches to durable socioeconomic inclusion.

Collectively, these efforts contributed to measurable gains in formal employment access, financial inclusion, and integration pathways for refugees in Mexico, despite ongoing documentation constraints affecting asylum-seekers.

## 15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

**Refugees and asylum-seekers can access resettlement or complementary pathways according to their profiles and needs**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
<b>15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	401	500	93

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

While local integration remains the primary durable solution in Mexico, resettlement continued to provide a critical pathway for individuals facing specific vulnerabilities, including survivors of gender-based violence and LGBTIQ+ persons exposed to persistent protection risks.

Through strengthened case identification and referral mechanisms led by UNHCR field offices, and supported by civil society partners providing shelter and specialized protection services, individuals with urgent protection needs were systematically assessed for resettlement consideration. Specialized UNHCR staff conducted eligibility assessments and coordinated case processing in close collaboration with the Regional Bureau and resettlement country authorities, ensuring alignment with submission criteria and procedural standards.

In 2025, UNHCR Mexico submitted 93 individuals for resettlement to Canada, which maintained a quota of 90 persons. Despite the significant reduction in global resettlement opportunities, departures continued for previously submitted cases, including 103 to Canada. These figures reflect sustained engagement with available resettlement quotas and the effective progression of cases already in the pipeline.

The average processing time from submission to departure under normal priority was 336 days, consistent with standard processing timelines of resettlement countries.

Overall, resettlement opportunities in Canada continued to serve as a life-saving solution for the most vulnerable refugees, complementing local integration efforts and ensuring that those facing the most acute protection risks could access international protection in line with their profiles and needs. However, the absence of dedicated resettlement staff for 2026, resulting from budget cuts and necessary prioritization, will pose a significant challenge to sustaining this pathway.

## 16. Outcome Area: Integration and other Local Solutions

**Forcibly displaced people access rights, services and socio-economic inclusion, as well as durable solutions including family reunification and naturalization.**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
<b>16.1 Proportion of people with secure tenure rights to housing and/or land</b>			
IDPs	33.36%	33.00%	33.36%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	33.96%	34.00%	33.96%
<b>16.2 Proportion of people covered by national social protection systems</b>			
IDPs	69.71%	75.00%	69.71%

### Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
<b>16.1.1. Government Social protection system is inclusive of forcibly displaced and stateless people</b>	
IDPs	Partially
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Partially
<b>16.2.1 Number of people supported by UNHCR to acquire nationality, permanent residency status or to access naturalization procedures</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	420

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, progress was observed in facilitating refugees' access to family reunification and naturalization procedures in Mexico, despite procedural and resource constraints.

COMAR reported receiving 577 family reunification requests and resolving 86 cases during the year. While resolution rates remain modest in comparison to submissions, continued case processing demonstrates sustained institutional engagement with this protection pathway. UNHCR contributed to improved access to family reunification by strengthening coordination with legal and pro-bono partners to ensure refugees were

able to submit complete applications and follow up on pending cases. Strategic engagement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs enabled progress in complex cross-border cases, including the reunification of 18 family members of a Palestinian refugee, who arrived in Mexico after prolonged negotiations involving multiple authorities. This case illustrates enhanced inter-institutional coordination and the potential for durable solutions even in highly sensitive contexts.

Mexico resumed its participation in the Global Family Reunification Network (FRUN), with COMAR engaging in international knowledge-sharing processes. This renewed participation contributes to the strengthening of national practices in line with global standards. Engagement with the Chamber of Deputies at a national level advanced discussions on reforming the family reunification framework to facilitate access to cost-free procedures for recognized refugees and asylum-seekers, addressing structural barriers that had previously led families to rely on alternative migration pathways involving administrative costs.

Regarding naturalization, 320 refugees were supported in submitting naturalization applications, and 360 refugees obtained their naturalization letters in 2025. These figures reflect continued demand for and access to local integration as a durable solution. UNHCR's support, including legal guidance and targeted financial assistance to cover application fees, contributed to mitigating barriers, although coverage of fees was reduced compared to previous years due to budget constraints.

Overall, progress in both family reunification and naturalization demonstrates incremental advances toward durable solutions, supported by strengthened institutional coordination, legal assistance partnerships, and refugees' continued pursuit of permanent status in Mexico.

### Other Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Baseline	Target(2025)	Actual(2025)
<b>5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	88.79%	90.00%	78.82%

### Other Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Actual (2025)
<b>05.1.1 Number of children and caregivers who received child protection services</b>	
Others of Concern	1,865
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,777
<b>09.1.1 Number of people who received shelter and housing assistance</b>	
Others of Concern	9,110
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	16,256
<b>10.2.1 Number of consultations in UNHCR supported mental health and psychosocial support services</b>	
Others of Concern	939
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2,089
<b>11.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from education programming</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3,547

## 2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

In 2025, UNHCR strengthened the implementation of its Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) Policy by reinforcing inclusive programming, participation, and accountability across all areas of engagement.

AGD-inclusive programming advanced significantly. Through 66 consultations nationwide (680 participants) and 40 sessions in northern Mexico (424 participants), UNHCR ensured systematic engagement with women, girls, LGBTIQ+ persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, survivors of gender-based violence, and non-Spanish speakers. Disaggregated data and qualitative evidence highlighted differentiated barriers to asylum procedures, documentation, services, and livelihoods. Findings informed multilingual information strategies, strengthened legal and psychosocial support, reinforced referral pathways for gender-based violence support services, and improved inclusion of persons with specific needs. In six states supporting internal displacement responses, participatory processes—including 27 community-driven diagnostics in Michoacán (331 participants)—identified protection risks and local capacities, directly informing contingency planning, referrals, and state-level IDP regulations and protocols. In community consultations, displaced populations highlighted persistent structural barriers, including discrimination, insecurity, and scarce specialized services. UNHCR reinforced community-based approaches and closed the feedback loop by publicly sharing findings and 2026 priorities through a live online session on 23 December, strengthening transparency and trust.

Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls remained central pillars of programming. Community feedback guided adjustments in violence against women and girls, risk mitigation, survivor-centred referrals, and psychosocial support, contributing to safer and more responsive protection environments.

Accountability to affected populations was further strengthened through the Feedback and Response Mechanism, an operational tool designed to enable two-way communication with forcibly displaced and stateless persons. The mechanism serves as a structured system to receive, process, and respond to feedback, questions, concerns, and reports, ensuring transparency and timely follow-up. It is composed of multiple channels: physical feedback boxes installed in key locations; digital tools such as the Ayuda.ACNUR platform, email, and WhatsApp; and direct interpersonal communication through the help desk. During the year, the mechanism received 75 reports, 95 per cent of which were resolved within five days. Physical feedback boxes remained the most-used channel, particularly among persons from Honduras, Haiti, and Cuba, reflecting continued trust in accessible and low-barrier reporting systems.

## Section 3: Resources

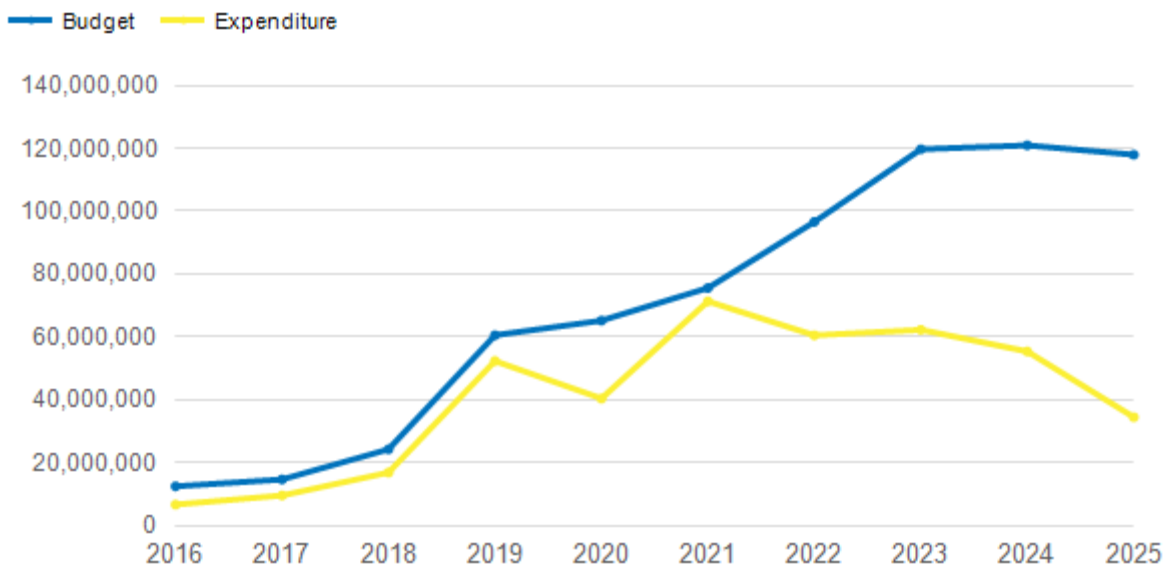
### 3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

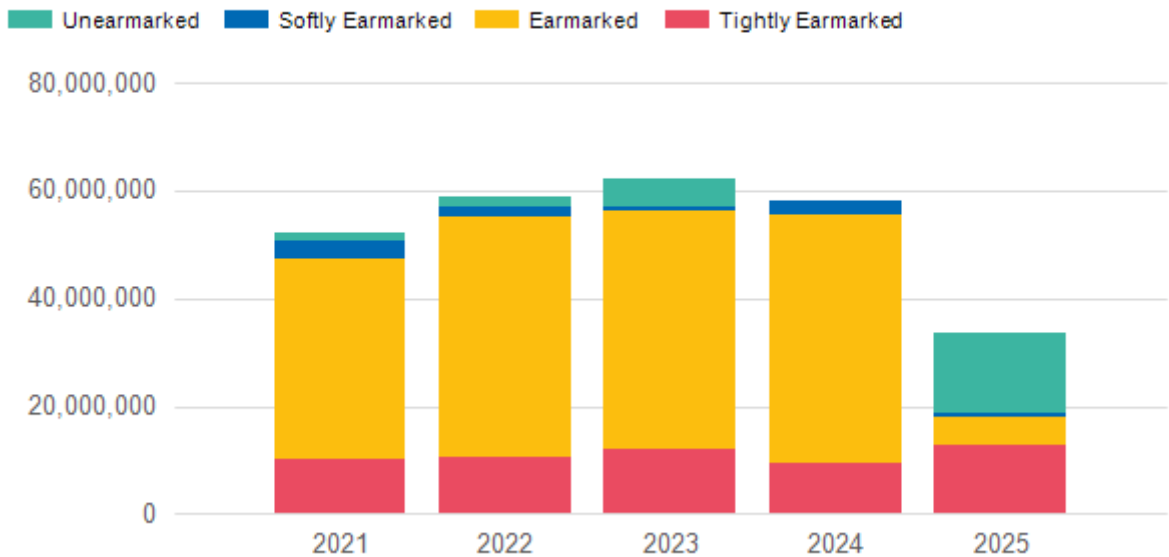
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	74,307,511	27,517,402	37.03%	27,497,496	99.93%
IA4: Solve	43,635,111	7,026,516	16.10%	7,026,516	100.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>117,942,622</b>	<b>34,543,918</b>	<b>29.29%</b>	<b>34,524,012</b>	<b>99.94%</b>

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	2,424,029	834,186	34.41%	834,186	100.00%
OA2: Status	24,240,286	10,398,584	42.90%	10,396,991	99.98%
OA3: Policy/Law	8,245,853	1,905,899	23.11%	1,905,899	100.00%
OA4: GBV	2,666,432	1,482,695	55.61%	1,482,695	100.00%
OA6: Justice	9,696,115	3,203,413	33.04%	3,203,413	100.00%
OA7: Community	2,425,326	2,313,502	95.39%	2,295,189	99.21%
OA8: Wellbeing	24,609,469	7,379,122	29.98%	7,379,122	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	24,242,883	6,791,143	28.01%	6,791,143	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	6,060,073	19,584	0.32%	19,584	100.00%
OA16: Integrate	13,332,156	215,789	1.62%	215,789	100.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>117,942,622</b>	<b>34,543,918</b>	<b>29.29%</b>	<b>34,524,012</b>	<b>99.94%</b>

### Budget and Expenditure Trend



### Contributions Trend by Type



## 3.2. Resources Overview

In 2025, UNHCR Mexico operated in an exceptionally constrained financial environment, marked by the largest budget reduction in its history. While humanitarian needs remained high, available funding decreased by nearly 65 per cent compared to the previous year, widening the gap between budgeted needs and available resources and requiring significant reprioritization.

Despite these constraints, the operation mobilized USD 21 million, thanks to sustained support from governmental and multilateral donors, including the European Union and the governments of Canada, and Japan, as well as private sector partners such as FEMSA, Islamic Relief USA and The Church of Jesus

Christ of Latter-day Saints. Approximately 85 per cent of funding originated from governmental and multilateral sources, and 15 per cent from private sector contributions. The private and individual donors in Mexico contributed MXN 59 million (approximately USD 3.4 million), providing critical flexible support to sustain protection and assistance activities.

Resource prioritization was guided by protection risk analysis, preservation of core functions, and interventions with the highest impact on access to territory, documentation, self-reliance and local integration. Flexible funding played a pivotal role in enabling the operation to absorb sudden funding shortfalls, maintain essential services, and respond to emerging protection needs. It allowed for continuity in key protection activities, targeted cash-based interventions, and support to national systems at a time when earmarked funding declined significantly.

Development-oriented funding, private sector partnerships and inter-agency mechanisms complemented humanitarian contributions and supported longer-term inclusion efforts, particularly in livelihoods and local integration. The operation strengthened its external engagement through diplomatic outreach, multi-donor briefings and public reporting to sustain visibility and mobilize additional resources.

Approximately 60 per cent of UNHCR's expenditure was channelled through partners, the majority of which were national and local organizations, reinforcing localization efforts and strengthening community-based responses.

Nevertheless, funding shortfalls resulted in reduced coverage of assistance, scaled-back activities in many locations, and postponed programmes that were designed to respond to growing needs. Looking ahead, continued diversification of funding sources, increased flexible contributions and strengthened development partnerships will be essential to progressively close remaining gaps and ensure sustainable protection and solutions for forcibly displaced and stateless people in Mexico.

## Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

### 4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

Developments in 2025 highlighted that Mexico's asylum system remains highly sensitive to regional policy shifts and institutional transitions. Pressures placed upon the asylum system underscored the need to continue enhancing efficiency through greater digitization and the continued adoption of differentiated RSD procedures, which can help improve processing capacity and strengthen overall system resilience.

Funding volatility further demonstrated that protection services are highly sensitive to reductions in specialized staffing and local partner presence. Gaps in mental health care, legal aid and gender-based violence prevention and response demonstrated that effective protection requires layered, predictable and locally-anchored capacities. Community feedback confirmed that early identification, timely referrals and tailored responses for persons with heightened risks are critical to prevent escalation of harm. As such, it remains essential to prioritize multi-year, flexible funding, strengthen localization approaches to diversify referral pathways and reinforce national systems.

Private sector engagement and refugee-led organizations proved comparatively resilient pillars of the response. While institutional capacities fluctuated, employer networks and organized community structures sustained integration pathways and local protection mechanisms. Refugee- and IDP-led groups demonstrated strong potential to drive solutions when supported with predictable accompaniment and simplified tools. The multi-year strategy will therefore reinforce partnerships with the private sector, investment in RLO governance, and approaches that enhance sustainability, autonomy and cost-effectiveness.



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