

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN GUATEMALA

Asylum-seekers, Refugees and Children in transit with international protection needs

ASYLUM IN GUATEMALA

694 asylum claims registered from 2002 to 2016, **13%** submitted by children

300 refugees recognized in Guatemala, of which **21%** are children

PROFILES

Asylum-seekers

 **89** asylum-seeking children

 **70%** Salvadorian

 **20%** Honduran

 **52%** girls

Refugees

 **64** refugee children

 **75%** Salvadorian

 **19%** Honduran

 **58%** girls



Of the total number of asylum-seekers who were children, **79%** were recognized as refugees, while **17%** abandoned their asylum claim and **4%** had their asylum claim rejected

100% of asylum-seeking children from Honduras and El Salvador had their refugee status recognized since 2015

In 2002 the State of Guatemala registered **5** asylum claims submitted by **unaccompanied children**. To date, **3** of them are currently protected as refugees in Guatemala

GUATEMALA'S NATIONAL SAFE SPACES NETWORK



Guatemala's National Safe Spaces Network works through **7 safe spaces and 10 protection focal points** based in the main transit routes. All teams working in safe spaces were trained to provide humanitarian assistance in a sensitive manner regarding the specific needs and vulnerabilities of children.

De los 7 espacios de protección existentes, dos cuentan con **espacios amigables para niños y niñas**, y uno es un **albergue integralmente dedicado a la niñez refugiada y en tránsito** con necesidades de protección internacional.

4,445 persons in transit assisted by the National Safe Spaces Network since its establishment, of which **12% were children**



In 2016, the number of children in transit travelling with their families or unaccompanied increased **745%** in comparison to the previous year. Of all children in transit, **36% travelled unaccompanied**



Of all persons identified by the National Safe Spaces Network as having fled their countries of origin due to violence perpetrated by criminal gangs, domestic violence and sexual and gender-based violence, **21% were children**.



The shelter Raíces de Amor was established in 2016 and is the **first safe space of Central America specialized in the protection and assistance of refugee children**. This safe space is managed by El Refugio de la Niñez, a civil society partner organization supported by UNHCR.



160 children seeking asylum, recognized as refugees and/or in transit assisted by the shelter Raíces de Amor since 2016



15% identified with international protection needs for being victims or having fled violence, threats of forced recruitment, sexual exploitation and human trafficking perpetrated by criminal gangs



Profiles of children with international protection needs

63% Salvadorian
33% Honduran
38% girls

3 cases referred to Guatemala's national asylum system