HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OVERVIEW

GUATEMALA

PEOPLE IN NEED

1.6M

NOV 2017

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This document was produced on behalf of the Humanitarian Country Team of Guatemala with the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED).

This document provides the Humanitarian Country Team’s shared understanding of the humanitarian crisis and high vulnerability within the framework of the "New Way of Working", including the most pressing humanitarian need and the estimated number of people assistance.

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PART I: SUMMARY

- Humanitarian situation and key figures
- Impact of the Crisis
- Breakdown of people with humanitarian needs
- Severity of needs
Areas where more than 50% of children under 5 have chronic malnutrition

Areas with high homicide rates

People in need: 1.6M

Dry Corridor

Migrant and Returnee Corridor

Areas with high homicide rates

PACIFIC OCEAN

MEXICO

BELIZE

Gulf of Honduras

HONDURAS

EL SALVADOR

PEOPLE IN NEED

1.6 M
However, it is affected by structural problems of inequality, exclusion and extreme poverty. Indigenous communities, rural populations, women and girls in particular suffer from this vulnerability, which is enhanced by the country’s exposure to frequent socio-natural disasters and the impact of non-conventional violence, defined as violence against the general population.

Over the last four years, Guatemala has faced a humanitarian crisis brought on by the country’s worst drought in decades. Chronic malnutrition affects one out of two children under five. Furthermore, events related to violence, organized crime and consequent displacements are reported daily. Large-scale hydroelectric, extractive and agro-industrial projects deny the most vulnerable populations from their rights and increase the risk of socio-environmental disasters, food insecurity, migration and lack of land-access.

The complexity of threats and vulnerabilities throughout the country requires coordinated response efforts between the Government of Guatemala and the humanitarian actors. For this reason, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, in the framework of the “New Way of Working” and in partnership with the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED), the Secretariat for Food and Nutritional Security (SESAN) and other humanitarian actors in the country, took into account both vulnerable populations and people in need in this analysis. This approach will allow humanitarian and development organizations to work together to create short and long term strategies to meet humanitarian needs.

This analysis of needs is the result of the Guatemala humanitarian community’s assessment of situations requiring immediate response and measures that will help to advance issues of human rights and to mitigating the underlying causes, with the aim of ending repetitive cycles and improving the lives of vulnerable populations.

In their analysis, the HCT concluded that there are four main vulnerable groups:

i) subsistence farmers (especially corn and bean), small-scale coffee producers and labourers
ii) children suffering from chronic malnutrition
iii) migrants
iv) people affected by non-conventional violence

Many of the factors that increase the vulnerability and reduce resilience of these groups overlap. While the structural causes of the country’s main problems affect the entire population, the impacts of these effects are differentiated between indigenous and non-indigenous populations, women, persons with disabilities, boys or girls, elderly persons and urban and rural areas.

For each vulnerable group, the HCT undertook a comprehensive analysis that included a review of existing secondary information such as studies from governmental and university institutions, research from specialized agencies, on-site work by NGOs, and Index Risk Management indicators (InFoRM). This review re-adjusted the prioritization process to meet the critical needs of the vulnerable population in Guatemala, highlighting urgent critical needs (lifesaving) and people who have problems meeting their basic needs: subsistence farmers (maize and bean), small coffee producers, seasonal farm labourers, migrants and displaced people, chronically malnourished children. Among the basic needs identified are education, health, access to water, food security, access to land, the right to decent housing, indigenous peoples’ rights over their territory and natural resources, and local development planning. The lack of these factors undermines the human rights of the population.

To determine the number of people with short-term, critical needs, several assessments and extrapolations of official data was required. Most of the official data was last updated in 2014.

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1 This report will use the term non-conventional violence to refer to the phenomenon of organised and unorganised violence in the hands of different actors, criminal and state, which gives rise to humanitarian consequences similar to those of an armed conflict. This has been the term used by the Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum (CPPF) where the delineation between violent political actors and violent criminal actors is increasingly blurred.
Limited food sovereignty for indigenous peoples, subsistence farmers (corn and beans), small-scale coffee producers and labourers. In 2017, despite a good recovery of food security throughout the country following a good harvest cycle, there is still a large number of farmers, small producers and labourers with significant humanitarian needs. These are people who suffered considerable losses and lacked well-paid employment over the past four years. The Food Security Working Group has identified the following needs: ongoing in-kind or cash-based food assistance, improving access to water, health and education services, support or assistance to households with children under the age of two suffering from acute malnutrition, incentives to restore productive systems and livelihoods, and reinforcing early-warning mechanisms.

The extended dry corridor covers 17 of Guatemala’s 22 departments, overlapping with the poverty belt, and includes the large majority of subsistence farmers, small-scale coffee producers, labourers and children with chronic and acute malnutrition.
The four departments with the highest percentages of chronically malnourished children under five are Totonicapán (70%), Quiché (69%), Huehuetenango (68%) and Sololá (66%). In these four departments, the level of severe chronic malnutrition is between 25 and 34 per cent. In the departments of Chimaltenango (57%), Chiquimula (56%), San Marcos (55%), Jalapa (54%), Alta Verapaz (50%) and Baja Verapaz (50%), more than half of the children are suffering chronic malnutrition, bringing the total to 10 out of 22 departments in the country. The departments with the lowest levels of malnutrition still have a significant rate of more than ¼ of the children suffering chronic malnutrition. These include Guatemala (25%), Izabal (26%) and Escuintla (27%).

Migrant population without access to basic services and protection mechanisms. In 2017, some 450,000 people entered Mexico after transiting Guatemala. The number of Guatemalans seeking asylum and refuge in the U.S. and Mexico has increased significantly by 661% between 2012 and 2016. The United Nations Human Rights Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has identified 20,900 people in transit through Guatemala (January to June 2017) with protection needs. Since the creation of the Protection Network in 2014 about 4,500 people in transit have been attended.

Due to this increase in cross border movement, access to safe spaces that provide basic services, legal assistance and access to protection mechanisms for migrants is essential. Moreover, there are specific needs for the various vulnerable groups that are displaced: unaccompanied children and adolescents, stateless people, LGBTI population (Lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender and intersex population), survivors of sexual and gender-based violence and people fleeing widespread violence. Since the creation of the National Safe Spaces Network in 2014, some 6,100 people in transit have been attended.

In this context of mixed migration flows, it is necessary to distinguish people having international protection needs, whether in transit, asylum-seekers, refugees or people deported by land from Mexico or by air from the United States, who cannot return to their places of origin. Likewise, there is a lack of recognition, state response and public policies regarding internally displaced people.

IOM reports 28,876 people deported from Mexico and the United States between January and June 2017. Of these, 3,714 women and 11,059 men returned by land from Mexico, while 1,446 women and 12,657 men returned by air from the United States.

The migration corridor includes the transit of people from Honduras and El Salvador to Mexico and the United States and deportation stations on the border with Mexico.
Lack of protection for people affected by non-conventional violence. Studies from different organizations and institutions show that people, especially women and children in Central America and Mexico, face alarming rates of escalating violence caused by organized crime and maras, including assassinations, extortion, disappearances, assaults, rape and child recruitment. The escalation of violence from criminal organizations in the region has exceeded the capacity of governments to respond. Other than homicide and violent death rates, it is difficult to find data on the number of people affected by impacts of non-conventional violence. This analysis relied on surveys, interviews and estimates to capture the magnitude of this problem.

NUMBER OF HOMICIDES 2016

44% OF HOMICIDES ARE COMMITTED IN 13 MUNICIPALITIES:

1. GUATEMALA
2. VILLA NUEVA
3. MIXCO
4. PUERTO BARRIOS
5. ESCUINTLA
6. VILLA CANALES
7. SAN JUAN SACATEPEQUEZ
8. NUEVA CONCEPCIÓN
9. CHINAUTLA
10. MORALES
11. JALAPA
12. LA LIBERTAD
13. ZACAPA

Source: 2016 Policía Nacional Civil data, in validation process by the INE.
Prepared by: UNDP, Infosegura

There are 72 municipalities with 0 homicides

The most violent areas, in respect of homicides and extortion, are located in the metropolitan area of Guatemala covering at least 6 municipalities (1,2,3,6,7 and 9 on the map).
Children with chronic malnutrition.

Attending the needs of chronically malnourished children is the most urgent priority within vulnerable groups suffering from food and nutritional insecurity. Chronic malnutrition is a silent emergency that deteriorates children’s living conditions and compromises their long-term development and productivity.

**Chronic malnutrition**

About 400,000 children are born each year in Guatemala. At the current rate, some 200,000 of these children will be condemned to the irreversible impacts of chronic malnutrition. Children with chronic malnutrition are at increased risk of becoming severely malnourished during periods of seasonal hunger or extensive food insecurity. About 15 per cent of births of underweight children (less than five pounds) are also reported, which is also a factor related to chronic malnutrition. As well, the prevalence of anaemia is alarming, affecting 48 per cent of children under five and more than 70 per cent of children aged 6-11 months.

Malnutrition is usually caused by insufficient diet or illness. However, lack of food is not usually the main cause of child malnutrition in Guatemala, it is influenced by eating habits, hygienic practices and lack of access to health care services. The link between malnutrition with eating habits and hygiene practices reveal the living conditions of families, who, are living in situations of poverty and are unable to meet their basic needs.

It is important to mention other factors that cause malnutrition among indigenous communities, especially due to their living conditions: polluted water for consumption, no access to food due to lack of income related to labour exploitation, incomes that are much lower than the cost of the basic basket, lack of decent housing, access to land, facilities for food processing, etc.

Guatemala ranks sixth in the world for chronic malnutrition and has the highest prevalence in the Americas.

**Health impact**

- Malnutrition is the underlying cause of up to 49% of child deaths in Guatemala.
- Children with malnutrition are more likely to suffer and die from prevalent childhood illnesses such as diarrhoea and pneumonia, and are more likely to develop chronic illnesses such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes in adulthood.
- Anaemia in young children increases the risk of infectious disease and affects cognitive development.
- Anaemia during pregnancy is associated with maternal and neonatal deaths.
- Undernourished mothers are a major cause of low birth weight.
- Compared to normal birth weight infants, low birth weight births are five times more likely to die during the first month of life.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL POPULATION</th>
<th>16.5 M</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH NO ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER IN THE “DRY CORRIDOR”</td>
<td>2.8 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN HIGH-RISK AREAS OF GANG VIOLENCE</td>
<td>2.1 M</td>
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<tr>
<td>NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO FEEL THEY HAVE BEEN VICTIM OF A CRIME</td>
<td>1.9 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUMBER OF PEOPLE AT RISK OF BEING AFFECTED BY SOCIO-NATURAL DISASTERS</td>
<td>1.1 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUMBER OF PEOPLE FACING FOOD INSECURITY CAUSED BY DROUGHT</td>
<td>890 K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN TRANSIT TO MEXICO VIA GUATEMALA - 2017</td>
<td>450 K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHILDREN UNDER 5 WITH NO ACCESS TO BASIC SANITATION</td>
<td>51 K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN NEED OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (VULNERABLE GROUPS)</td>
<td>366 K</td>
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</tbody>
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PART I: HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND KEY FIGURES

NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 SUFFERING FROM CHRONIC MALNUTRITION

200 K

NUMBER OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN SCHOOLS SITUATED IN HIGH RISK AREAS OF GANG VIOLENCE (GUATEMALA CITY)

50 K

NUMBER OF VIOLENCE CASES REPORTS

66 K

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN TRANSIT

21 K

NUMBER OF RETURNEES

29 K

CHILDREN (<18 YEARS)

252 K

ADULTS (>18 YEARS)

144 K

TOTAL MEN

156 K

TOTAL WOMEN

210 K

128K Girls
124K Boys
81K Women
33K Men
Subsistence farmers (corn and beans), small-scale coffee producers and labourers.

Approximately 7 million people live along 100 municipalities in Guatemala’s extended dry corridor, one of the poorest areas of the country. This is a rural area with a primarily agricultural economy for self-consumption or subsistence (there is not always a surplus to be sold on the market). Extreme poverty in rural areas reached 35.3 per cent in 2014 and, according to studies undertaken to assess progress on the Millennium Development Goals in 2015, there has been no reduction in poverty and may have worsened in some regions of the country.

In Guatemala, 61% of basic grains producers are indigenous from the altiplano with a very small cultivation area, average of 1.3 ha. The incomes of small basic grain producers are low (US$92/month). With the contribution of other family members (wife and children), they may manage to reach an income of 177 USD/month.

El Niño

The impact of the 2014 - 2016 “El Niño” was devastating for the most vulnerable groups, with loss of livelihoods, the decapitalization of small family economies, impoverishment and migration to overcrowded urban centers of the Central American dry corridor, particularly Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador (FAO).

In this period, in one of the most severe droughts of the last 10 years, 1.5 million people were in need of food assistance and treatment of acute malnutrition. In 2017, despite a good first-class harvest, families that were forced to develop strategies, such as selling agricultural assets to survive the years of drought, are still in a highly vulnerable situation. In the second half of 2017, damages and losses to crops were reported due to strong winds, floods, landslides, and irregular rainfall.

In September 2017, the World Food Programme (WFP) launched a study on food security and migration in families living in the Central American dry corridor (El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras). This study reveals that 47 per cent of the families interviewed in Guatemala suffered from food insecurity, a rate that was above the assessments carried-out in the past three years. About 72 per cent of the families interviewed said they were using “emergency” measures to deal with their situation, such as selling land, animals and tools to buy food. Meanwhile, 78 per cent of the families receive a monthly remittance and 42 per cent of these families report that remittances were their only source of fixed income.

Coffee leaf rust (Hemileia vastatrix)

People living in coffee-growing areas are particularly affected by crop losses as a result of drought and coffee rust. For smallholder farmers this means loss of family income and reduction of temporary work on the farms of large producers. The coffee industry represents about 400,000 direct or indirect jobs. Due to the possibilities of a new impact of coffee rust, there could be a reduction of 30,000 permanent jobs and about 70,000 temporary jobs, which would further decrease the possibility of additional income for day laborers and subsistence farmers. (WFP).
Ruth is 13 years old. This year Ruth’s family has been particularly affected by rust in coffee crops and drought in the fields. Her family lives in house made of brick walls and sheets on the ceiling. They have access to electricity but no drinking water.

Her father, Rubén, has not been able to find a job in the plantations and drought has reduced his small corn crops from 40 quintals to only 5 this year. His family is in crisis as they don’t have money or food. Three children have died in the community this year from food shortages. Ruth suffers from stunting and was hospitalized when she was five years old. She is below her weight and height. She also suffers from headaches when there is not enough food. Ruth has trouble concentrating in school. She has been told at the Health Center that her brain has been affected by malnutrition. Her family members live in the same situation, there is no food at home. They live in Chiquimula, a department in Guatemala that is part of the "Dry Corridor".

Every year, between April and August, drought and food shortages lead to an increase of acute malnutrition among children under five. Ruth is a fun girl, she likes playing hide-and-seek with her friends. Sometimes they laugh because her headaches make her unable to join the game. They don’t always get enough food at school, and some days they only eat two or three tortillas. This reduces her concentration and makes her forget things easily. At school, she has to repeat lessons several times. The school is 7 minutes walking, but she doesn’t know if she will be able to go to high school. It is difficult to study when you don’t have enough money.

“I’m worried because next week I have exams and I have to get good grades. My hardest class is math, and the teacher said that it is very important to have good grades in math to stay in school. My parents say that I don’t have enough height to go to high school. At the Health Center I have been told that I suffer from malnutrition and that is why I am very small for my age. I barely grow. Everybody’s taller than me. I don’t like that. Even the youngest are taller. I’m ashamed.”

From Save the Children page, 2015
Victims of non-conventional violence.

The impact of violence has dramatic consequences for the population such as: forced displacements, sexual violence against women and girls, families torn apart, recruitment of children and adolescents, lack of access to medical care and basic education, attacks against health facilities, etc.

In previous decades, violence was mainly associated with the dynamics and consequences of internal armed conflicts. Current violence, however, no longer responds to the same historical configuration and is more difficult to characterize. In general terms, it is feasible to propose that Guatemala’s high rates of violence and insecurity are related to two main causes: social exclusion and absence of law enforcement. Clandestine groups are still operating with violence in the interests of networks of powerful people engaged in illicit activities such as smuggling, kidnapping, human trafficking, arms, ammunition and drug trafficking. High levels of impunity and weak state institutions in charge of justice and public security are fostered by these criminal networks through corrupt and coercive actions (UNDP, 2007).

Furthermore, criminal structures, “maras” (gangs), working for drug cartels or operating independently, have gained a level of power that challenges national authorities’ ability to provide security, enforce the rule of law and ensure access to basic services in some areas of the country. The “modus operandi” of these groups is based on controlling territory through the use of threats, extortion and reprisals, sometimes bloody, against other rival groups and community members.

In 2017, violence in Guatemala caused the death of 4,553 people. This represents a 2.6 per cent reduction in the number of homicides compared to 2016. About 85 per cent of homicides occurred in 11 of the 22 departments and 50 per cent were in Guatemala and Escuintla. The national homicide rate is six times higher than the global average and mostly affected minors. Psycho-social care provided by the state is limited, which is a constraint on the recovery of victims of violence.

Symptoms of humanitarian crisis

The impact of violence is significant, particularly in relation to criminal structures and gangs. Gangs control territories and people through a culture of violence that affects entire communities, their economic activities, freedom of movement and daily interactions. There is an estimated 22,000 gang members in Guatemala (UNODC, 2012). Salvatrucha and Barrio 18 gangs are concentrated mainly in 11 municipalities in the department of Guatemala with the highest concentration in Guatemala City, Mixco and Villanueva where they fight for control of territory. An estimated 2.5 million people live in slums and more than 1 million in urban areas of Guatemala City, considered high-risk due to the presence of these pandillas.

Homicides have become commonplace and extortion of individuals and small businesses from gangs is widespread in local communities. Children and adolescents dropping out of school is used as a mechanism to avoid the influence or threats from gang members. Many people threatened by gangs choose to “disappear” for fear of reprisals, leaving their homes or selling them at very low prices. Although there are no official statistics, a Latinobarómetro survey in 2015 shows that 12 per cent of people interviewed considered themselves to be a victim of crime and rank security is the main problem in the country.

Adolescents are most at risk of violence. Gang-control of territories is well defined and free access between territories is limited or conditional. In many cases community members employ survival strategies in leaving their homes, moving to other areas or departments and/or emigrating to the US. In recent months, countless bodies of young men and women have been found dismembered, presumably killed by internal conflict or gang accounting.

Women and young girls are particularly vulnerable to threats of intimidation and violence, including rape and high levels of femicide. Members of the LGBTI community, especially transgender women, are also highly vulnerable to violence, including murder, extortion and other assaults.

Access to health and education has been limited in areas affected by violence. There are media reports of gang attacks in public hospitals and an escalating fear from doctors regarding gang member interventions. Some schools are used as recruitment centres for armed gangs, with students and staff under threat. A survey in Guatemala shows that 37 per cent of the parent interviewed stopped sending their children to public school at some point in the year due to violence in 2015. Between 2009-2014, more than 246 students (18 at the primary level and 136 in secondary school) and 92 teachers died.

2 http://areadetransparencia.blogspot.com/2014/05/informe-de-evaluacion-del-programa.html
Underlying factors

Poverty

The Multidimensional Poverty Index and inequality have been escalating in the last decade along with a lack of development of accessible basic services. This lack of access to services represents a violation of human rights to life, physical integrity, an adequate standard of living, adequate food and nutrition, water and sanitation, decent housing, security of land holdings and education, among other factors. The most affected people are indigenous people, women and girls, children and adolescents, and senior citizens. It is estimated that two thirds of the population live in multidimensional poverty.

The 2011 Human Development Index (HDI) for Guatemala had a poverty index of 90.6 per cent - 62.4 per cent of the population lives in average poverty; 29.6 per cent in extreme poverty, and 3.6 per cent in severe poverty. The basis for this calculation is that people require US$2 a day to cover their basic needs (Source: 2011 Human Development Report, UNDP 2011).

The 2014 National Survey on Living Conditions (Encuesta Nacional sobre Condiciones de Vida, ENCOVI) reveals that 39.8 per cent of the indigenous population lives in poverty. This represents a 12 per cent increase between 2000 (7.8%) and 2014 (12.8%).

Corruption

In 2015, corruption cases involving senior officials and members of political parties shook government structures and created widespread social demand for deep political reform. Corruption scandals have led to a loss of credibility among national and municipal authorities.

One impact on humanitarian response that has come to light with the corruption investigations is the need to strengthen procedures for purchasing resources due to slow mobilization of resources to respond to humanitarian crises.

An example of this is the stalled reconstruction of houses in San Marcos and Huehuetenango affected by the September 2017 earthquake. Reconstruction has not begun due to complications in budget procedures in state resources. The local governments declared a state of public calamity to access emergency funds, however, the declaration was not approved in Congress as these areas were implicated in the misuse of use of emergency funds in previous occasions. Also, when funds are available, the procurement of services is too bureaucratic and slow to be effective.

The noncompliance in relocating families affected by landslide two years after the event is another example institutional vulnerability in the response emergencies.

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*UNDP defines multidimensional poverty as identifying multiple gaps at the household and individual levels in the areas of health, education and living standards. This index provides a valuable complement to income-based poverty measurement tools.*
"Do you want to hear my story? Unfortunately, it's an interesting one".

This is how Iván begins the conversation about the horrible events that forced him and his family to flee Guatemala and seek protection in Mexico. They live in a small hotel in Tapachula, Mexico, which has been rented by UNHCR and is being used as a shelter for refugees. At the hotel entrance, Ivan sits beside the altar. His wife is beside him, her eyes are already filled with tears, anticipating the story that Iván will tell.

"We had many children," he started. As they grew older, the Mara Salvatrucha and Mara 18 started harassing us. One day, our oldest son, who was 19 years old, was leaving from work at 6:30 a.m., after the night shift. He worked in a paper factory, the employees were very qualified and my son was one of them. At 8:00 am, he arrived at the last station and the mara was waiting for him. He was killed in a couple of seconds with ten bullets”.

Ivan's wife starts crying in silence. He cuddles her, and continues the story.

"Then they started harassing our next son. He was 18 years old. He was an athlete and was training to become a professional football player. That Sunday we saw him playing in several matches. Then he was invited to an event in the capital. As soon as he arrived home, around 7.30 pm, he received a phone call. When he hung up the phone, he told us that he had to leave. I was worried, I didn’t want him to go out so late. He said he’d be back very soon. I told him to at least take a shower, since he came from playing football all day. But he said he had to leave, and he’d be back in ten minutes”.

Iván stops talking and wipes the tears from his face. He tries to continue, but no words come out. After a while, he recovers and finds the strength to continue speaking.

"He didn’t come back. They killed him. Two bullets. He probably thought we would be in danger if he didn’t leave right away, so he didn’t even take a shower. We don’t know why it happened. We had stability, we had a house, a car, and some motorcycles. Maybe that’s why they attacked him, because of our “wealth”. But we will never know the truth, because the police never investigated”.

“Another young man was injured when our son was killed, and he reported everything, including the names of the killers. No action was taken. The next day, they burned down his house. And the next week he was dead”.

Iván extends his hands, showing his helplessness. "We thought they were done with us, but we were wrong. Our next oldest son was 13 but he never turned 14. The maras again. Some of them started harassing him when he was on a bus. The police said it was an accident. Of course it wasn’t."
He was on the bus. We heard from witnesses that the mara members pushed him off the bus, and a truck hit him”.

Iván and his wife never planned to leave Guatemala. They loved their country and had established a good life there. Iván had worked very hard to buy a house for his family to make them feel safe. He just wanted to live in peace. But after three of his children murdered, how could they stay?

His youngest son, Andrés, was now in extreme and imminent danger. The maras tried to recruit him, and they left a very clear message: If he did not accept, he would follow the same path as his three brothers. If he didn’t join the gang, they would kill him. And if he joined, the rival gang would try to kill him. Iván wasn’t going to take the risk with his only surviving son. They left that day. They left in a hurry without even packing.

They planned to head directly to Mexico City. But they were robbed on the way, and they only had enough money to get to Tapachula, near the border with Guatemala. Upon arrival, they were taken to a detention centre for migrants.

“The arrest was torture,” said Iván, raising his voice passionately. “We were fleeing the maras, but they had access to the place we were. It was dangerous. I was there not only with my children, but also with my grandchildren. The youngest, Pablo, is also in danger. He could be recruited as a maras informant at the detention center. Children are considered perfect drug messengers because the law can’t do anything to them. Gangs force them to leave school and work for them. To avoid this, parents are forced to keep their children at home”.

When UNHCR discovered this family in the detention centre, it negotiated with local authorities for their release and put them up in the hotel where they are now. UNHCR supports them through the cash-based assistance programme, which allows them to pay for the hotel room and buy food until they can find a house or apartment to rent.

TAPACHULA, Mexico, 30 May, 2017 (UNHCR)
Factors that raise the vulnerability of migrant groups.

Migrant population

Guatemala is bordered by Mexico and consequently not far from the southern border of the United States. Therefore, it has the highest migratory flow in Central America, a transit country for more than 90 per cent of migrants from other countries who travel by land to Mexico and the United States. Every day, more than 300 migrants leave or transit the country in search of opportunities in multiple directions. On average, more than 200 are forced daily to return from the United States and Mexico. Remittances sent by Guatemalan migrants in the United States are the mainstay of the Guatemalan economy and benefit more than 1.5 million people. The Bank of Guatemala reports that in 2016 income from remittances reached a record of US$ 1 billion. The impact of migration on families and communities is an issue that requires an institutional and legal framework to adequately respond to these trends, impacts and needs.

UNHCR and the 2004 "Mexico Declaration and Plan of Action to Strengthen the International Protection of Refugees in Latin America", adopted by 20 Latin American countries, recognized the issue of mixed migratory flows in the continent.

Irregular migration occurs place outside the framework of legal protection systems and public institutions, exposing migrants to significant dangers and high risks (e.g. the train referred to as "the beast" in Mexico). These migrants also travel through territories controlled by organized crime and widespread violence. (IOM)

A UNHCR study reveals how women and children in Central America and Mexico face alarming rates of violence and are persecuted by maras, including killings, disappearances, assaults, rapes and child recruitment.

Returnees

The IOM 2004 Glossary of Migration defines forced return as: "the compulsory return of an individual to the country of origin, transit or third country (country of return), on the basis of an administrative or juridical act."

Forced returns have humanitarian or livelihood implications. In 2016, nearly 95,000 Guatemalans were returned from the United States and Mexico.

Unaccompanied children and adolescents

At least 15,847 unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents were repatriated to Guatemala from the United States and Mexico in 2016. This number has decreased significantly to 3,496 between January and June 2017.

According to UNHCR research in 2015, based on interviews with children born in Guatemala, the reasons for traveling to the north were identified as: related to violence (20%); domestic abuse (23%); depravity (29%); reuniting with family or opportunities to study or work (84%). These trends are confirmed in a survey conducted in 2017 with children who have fled to find refuge at the reception center in Quetzaltenango.

Migrant children are very vulnerable to exploitation, trafficking and crime. In their attempt to cross the border, migrant children may suffer accidents (asphyxia, dehydration, injuries); be recruited into organized crime networks; be subjected to sexual or labour exploitation; suffer institutional abuse at the time of repatriation; or lose their lives during transit and crossing, among other incidents. (UNICEF)

Factors that raise the vulnerability of migrant groups.
Remittances

The increase in remittances reveals an escalation in outward migration from Guatemala. Surveys on remittances, show that between 2002 and 2016 there was a 37.8 per cent increase in the number of people receiving remittances. In 2016, approximately US$7.2 million was received as remittance and from January 2017 to October 2017, US$6.82 million were reported.

Push-pull factors

Multi-causal migration

IOM’s 2016 Survey on Migration and Remittances shows that the main reasons for emigrating are employment (31%), economic reasons (24%) and family reunification (19%), among others.

Violence is another reason for migration, both domestic violence (physical and sexual violence, forced marriages) and violence caused by criminal structures (gangs, drug trafficking). These causes are highlighted during interviews with returnees carried out by the Secretariat of Social Welfare (Secretaría de Bienestar Social -SBS- in Spanish) and the First Lady’s Secretariat of Social Works (Secretaría de Obras Sociales de la Esposa del Presidente -SOSEP- in Spanish)

Migration due to food insecurity

According to a study by WFP, adverse weather conditions in the dry corridor leads to food insecurity due to shortages in subsistence and commercial agricultural production. There is a significant correlation between precipitation shortfalls since 2014 caused by El Niño and the increase in irregular migration to the US.

Socio-natural disasters as an underlying factor for vulnerable groups

In the analysis of vulnerable groups, priority was given to people exposed to floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, volcanic activity and landslides.

Historical records from The National Coordination for Disaster Reduction of Guatemala (CONRED) show that in the last 10 years, about 11.3 million people have been affected by disasters. The government assists an average of 535,000 people affected by extreme flooding each year. More than 355,000 people live in areas vulnerable to landslides (steep slopes, ravines, precarious conditions and poverty); and 220,000 people live in proximity to volcanoes and are often affected by ash falls, lava flows and pyroclastic falls, which affect crops, water sources, housing and community infrastructure. It is important to note that the seismic area overlaps the dry corridor areas and hillsides prone to landslides. As well, a large part of the migratory corridors are vulnerable to hurricanes, tropical storms and extensive flooding.
### PEOPLE AFFECTED BY DISASTERS (IN THOUSANDS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Sep</td>
<td>Earthquake magnitude 7.7 with epicenter in Chiapas coast, Mexico. 7 departments of the country were affected, more than 2,800 victims and 2,570 damaged households.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Jun</td>
<td>Earthquake magnitude 6.6 in the department of San Marcos, bordering Mexico. 3 people dead and more than 40 homes damaged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>“Volcano of Fire” eruption. Nearby communities by ash fall were affected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Sep</td>
<td>Landslide caused by water accumulation in the soil. Severe damage and human losses in housing located in the Santa Isabel II sector -municipality of Villa Nueva- in the department of Guatemala, leaving 9 people dead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>Severe drought caused by El Niño since 2014 continues affecting the country. $16M projects are implemented for the care of people affected ($4.8M of CERF funds).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>HCT launches a Humanitarian Response Plan giving priority attention to 500,000 people affected by drought for $48.1M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>“Volcano of Fire” eruption. departments of Sacatepéquez, Escuintla and Chimaltenango affected with ash rain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>Plan of the Alliance for Prosperity in the Northern Triangle of Central America (2015-2020). In Guatemala, it is executed in 51 municipalities in the departments of Zacapa, Chiquimula, Alta Verapaz, Quiché, San Marcos, Huehuetenango and Totonicapán with a cooperation funding of $209.4 million.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>The Government of Guatemala launches an international appeal for drought in the Dry Corridor for US$23.8 million. Additional CERF funds approved for $2.5M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Jul</td>
<td>6.9 earthquake on the Pacific coast of Mexico, bordering Guatemala. The departments of San Marcos, Huehuetenango and Suchitepéquez were affected. Two people were killed and about 10,000 were left homeless.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Drought and coffee leaf rust. More than 145,700 families in 20 departments affected, 26 children dead due to acute malnutrition. $2.5M CERF funds were approved to respond to food and nutrition insecurity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Rainy season nationwide between May and October.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Rainy season nationwide between May and October.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>Coffee rust fungus. The Government of Guatemala declares a state of emergency for the spread of the rust fungus, which affected 70% of coffee production.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>Earthquake of 7.4, department of Retalhuleu. 44 people dead, more than 22 thousand homeless and damaged in 127 municipalities of 11 departments. UNDAC mission was implemented to support coordination actions and $1.6 million CERF funds were approved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>Tropical Depression No. 12-E. 181 municipalities, mainly in the coastal zone of the country, affected, leaving 51 people dead. (CERF 2.2 M).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>Tropical Storm Agatha. Damages were caused in 21 departments, 142 thousand people sheltered 235 people dead. The situation was aggravated by the eruption a few days before of the Pacaya volcano. CERF $3.3M funds were approved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Volcano Pacaya. Volcano Pacaya made a strong eruption causing more than 2 thousand evacuees, thousands of victims with damages reported in 3 departments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>Drought in the Dry Corridor. 7 departments affected, the government declared a state of public calamity. CERF funds were approved for $5.5M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Jul</td>
<td>Government of Guatemala launched a programme entitled “Safe Schools” to prevent criminal acts generated by people outside of educational centers, gang members, common and organized crime inside and outside of educational areas, or those marked as red areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>Tropical Depression No. 16. Damages caused in 27 municipalities in 4 departments and the government declared a state of public calamity. The United Nations System supported response actions through the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for $1.4M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Jul</td>
<td>Rainy season 20 municipalities in 9 departments strongly affected.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The number of people with humanitarian needs in Guatemala in 2017 is an estimation of the number of humanitarian events, which includes people from vulnerable groups detailed in previous sections.

For subsistence farmers, small-scale coffee producers and laborers, data from the food security cluster, especially studies and surveys carried out in the dry corridor, were used. The number of chronically malnourished children aged 0-59 months is an estimate based on the rate reported by nutrition cluster partners. There is a double impact in rural areas in dry corridor.

**SUBSISTENCE FARMERS (CORN AND BEANS), SMALL COFFEE PRODUCERS AND LABORERS**

- 1.1M affected by marginal food insecurity
- 0.9M in need

**CHILDREN AGED 0-59 MONTHS WITH CHRONIC MALNUTRITION**

- 0.2M affected and in need

**MIGRATION**

For the migration group, there is no official information on the number of people moving or migrating within the country or abroad. The numbers used were collected by the protection cluster when interviewing people arriving at the protection spaces.

- 21K affected and in need
VIOLENCE

For people affected by non-conventional violence, estimates based on surveys of perceived violence (info-barometer) and estimates based on the number of people living in the most violent areas were used.

VOLUNTEERS

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{1.9M} & \quad \text{CONSIDER THEMSELVES A VICTIM OF CRIME} \\
\text{0.5M} & \quad \text{IN NEED (POPULATION LIVING IN AREAS WITH GANGS)}
\end{align*}
\]

HIGH VULNERABILITY TO SOCIO-NATURAL DISASTERS

Historical information collected by CONRED through its management system, SISMICEDE, was used to calculate people at risk.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{11.3M} & \quad \text{AFFECTED IN (2008 - 2017)} \\
\text{0.3M} & \quad \text{AFFECTED IN 2017}
\end{align*}
\]

PEOPLE LIVING IN AREAS HIGHLY VULNERABLE TO SOCIO-NATURAL DISASTERS

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{3M} & \quad \text{PEOPLE LIVING IN DROUGHT AREAS} \\
\text{1.1M} & \quad \text{PEOPLE LIVING IN VULNERABLE AREAS} \\
\text{525K} & \quad \text{FLOODS} \\
\text{500K} & \quad \text{EARTHQUAKES} \\
\text{110K} & \quad \text{VOLCANOES} \\
\text{24K} & \quad \text{LANDSLIDES}
\end{align*}
\]
### Part I: Breakdown of People with Humanitarian Needs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Droughts</th>
<th>Floods</th>
<th>Earthquakes</th>
<th>Volcanoes</th>
<th>Landslides</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baja Verapaz</td>
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<td>•</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chiquimula</td>
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<tr>
<td>El Progreso</td>
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<tr>
<td>Escuintla</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Huehuetenango</td>
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<tr>
<td>Izabal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jalapa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jutiapa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peten</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quetzaltenango</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quiche</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>San Marcos</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Santa Rosa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zacapa</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Population:** 16.5M

- **7M** Farmers in the Dry Corridor
- **2.5M** People living in areas with gangs
- **450K** People in transit

**Areas with Urban Violence:**
- Baja Verapaz
- Chiquimula
- El Progreso
- Guatemala
- Huehuetenango
- Izabal
- Jalapa
- Jutiapa
- Peten
- Quetzaltenango
- Quiche
- San Marcos
- Santa Rosa
- Zacapa

**Areas Receiving Migrants in Transit:**
- Baja Verapaz
- Chiquimula
- Guatemala
- Huehuetenango
- Izabal
- Jalapa
- Jutiapa
- Peten
- Quetzaltenango
- Quiche
- San Marcos

**Vulnerable Groups:**
- Subsistence farmers with food needs
- Children with chronic malnutrition
- Children exposed to violence in schools
- Victims of extortion
- People returning from USA and Mexico
- Violence against women
- People with protection needs
PART I: SEVERITY OF NEEDS

SEVERITY OF NEEDS

The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance in Guatemala for 2017 is an estimation based on the number of people with the most urgent humanitarian needs in each of the highly vulnerable groups.

Within the subsistence farmers group, the HCT prioritized people with urgent short-term needs. This group is unable to meet their basic needs and is highly exposed to the effects of climate change such as another El Niño period or flooding.

For groups that are highly vulnerable to non-conventional violence, the HCT estimated the number of school-age children living in areas exposed to criminal structures and women reporting gender based violence with urgent protection needs.

The severeness of humanitarian crises in Guatemala depends not only on the geographic location of the disasters but also on the seasonality with which they occur. In addition, there is a relationship between the geographical area and levels of poverty and vulnerability of the communities, since the western highland area, mainly occupied by indigenous people, is the poorest, most excluded and unequal in the country. Some affected areas overlap with each other, for example, part of the dry corridor is part of the seismic belt and part of the migratory corridor is affected by hurricanes and floods, among others.

The dry corridor, mainly eastern departments, have the highest levels of chronic and acute malnutrition and urgent needs for basic sanitation, hygiene and safe water supplies.

Information gaps

Sources for the Humanitarian Needs Overview were taken from inputs and information managed by the different clusters of the Humanitarian Country Team as well as:

- Population projections.
- Key indicators from official government sources.
- Extrapolations from surveys conducted by organizations and institutions (especially for violence data).
- Results of surveys and studies by humanitarian stakeholders.
- Surveys by humanitarian partners in the country or from other sources.
- INdex For Risk Management (InFoRM).

One of the biggest challenges is that much of the official data is updated only until 2014. The latest official population census is from 2002.
Data availability for rural areas is limited and often needs to be extrapolated from studies and surveys. Internal migration and displacement are particularly difficult to track as there is no system for registering migrants. There are no explicit sources or indicators for analysing the impact of violence on basic services such as education, health or number of families displaced from their homes and communities due to extortion or harassment.

For the 2017 NHO, a consultation was held with humanitarian partners in the country whereby each sector analyzed the priorities based on the trends of the last three years (2014-2016) and emergency responses from CONRED with the support of the HCT. Sectors do not have all data or indicators across the territory. Much information on rural areas was taken from InfoRM Guatemala, which was adapted as a national tool in 2015.

Other data sources that were considered were from foundations or organizations, with the caveat that their findings are not verified or validated by government institutions or official sources.

A lack of information and data was shown on the following topics:

- Disaster recovery initiatives. It is difficult to assess the follow-up of post-disaster rehabilitation and reconstruction plans.
- Data on populations at risk/vulnerable to violence in urban areas.
- Lack of data on humanitarian access to schools or medical facilities due to the presence of gangs.

Recommendations for next steps

Addressing chronic malnutrition in children under five is the most urgent humanitarian need. At least 200,000 children are currently suffering from chronic malnutrition and could face irreversible damage to their mental, physical and cognitive development.

Chronic malnutrition is closely related to food insecurity occurring along the extended dry corridor, in areas of extreme poverty in the eastern region, the western highlands and coastal area of Escuintla. The precarious living conditions of some 1.1 million marginally food insecure people include very low levels of access to basic services (education, health and water & basic sanitation), minimum sanitation infrastructure, safe water and hygiene. In most of these households, families with up to 10 or 12 children are suffering from malnourishment and conditions that impact sexual and reproductive health, extreme poverty and generates conditions that favor domestic violence, alcoholism, disabilities and sexual abuse.

The Food Security & Agriculture, Health, Nutrition and WASH sectors will plan a joint strategy to support families with humanitarian needs related to food insecurity, chronic malnutrition and deprivation (890 people and 220,000 children). Guatemala is already implementing a Strategy for the Reduction of Chronic Malnutrition, therefore the actions contemplated from the sectors will complement this strategy.

These humanitarian response actions need to be include strategies for long-term economic recovery, livelihood diversification and integrated development, as outlined in the New Way of Working. Regarding the humanitarian needs of migrant groups and people affected by non-conventional violence, these should be analyzed in greater depth within the protection cluster to continue to strengthen the protection network, improve care in shelters and promote cross-border and multi-actor efforts. The in-depth analysis should look at ways to ensure support for migrants from a more comprehensive perspective that differentiates the abuses committed against women, girls, boys and men.

Considering the humanitarian needs and type of crisis, the HCT decided not to create a Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) but to strengthen existing mechanisms to address 1) food and nutrition insecurity in combination with economic recovery; and 2) the protection needs of migrants, displaced persons and families affected by non-conventional violence.
Humanitarian needs of migrant groups and people affected by non conventional violence, requires a further in-depth analysis within the Protection sector to continue strengthening the protection network, improve services in shelters and refuge centres, strengthen trans-border and multi-organization efforts and provide holistic support to migrants taking into account the different forms of abuse that is committed against women, girls, boys and men.

Court-ordered forced displacements of people living in environmentally protected areas of Peten and people living on private lands is an emerging issue that should also be considered in planning. At the publication of this document, some 200 families were newly displaced in the areas of Petén, Alta Verapaz and Izabal.
Map of Vulnerabilities in Guatemala (based on INFoRM indexes)

Map of Humanitarian Interventions
The analysis prepared using indicators from the INFoRM platform (http://www.inform-index.org/Subnational/LAC) shows high levels of vulnerability in the western highlands, areas with a majority indigenous population in the Verapaces and southern Petén, marginal agricultural areas along the south coast and in excluded regions of eastern Guatemala and the Caribbean. Priority has been given to those municipalities with vulnerability indexes higher than 5 on a maximum scale of 10 in INFoRM.

Underlying risk factors have historically been present in these regions, including inequality and exclusion, poverty and extreme poverty, making social and economic development the lowest in the country. In addition, the capacity of institutions and local governments to respond to the demands of these vulnerable populations is limited by weaknesses in the management and administration of insufficient resources, governance is diffuse and poorly coordinated, and basic services and critical infrastructure, such as roads, do not reach these territories. In many of these regions, levels of exposure to natural disasters and hazards are among the highest since they are in mountain areas, with high seismic and volcanic activity, pronounced environmental degradation and the path of climatic events such as hurricanes and tropical storms. In recent years, the most remote areas of the country have become corridors for drug trafficking and organized crime, as well as for migrants and displaced persons.

Many of the areas identified as most vulnerable correspond to the dry corridor, which repeatedly shows humanitarian needs related to food insecurity, non-access to vital basic services such as water, sanitation and hygiene, and low coverage of essential medical services. Although INFoRM does not include specific indicators on the conditions of food and nutrition insecurity, it can be indirectly estimated using the variables of poverty and extreme poverty, inequality and exclusion, among others.
This map was built by comparing the level of prioritization of interventions by humanitarian sector versus vulnerability identified by INFoRM. The darker colours correspond to municipalities with high vulnerability and few or no humanitarian interventions. In these areas, there is a need to strengthen institutional presence and provide greater support to vulnerable populations.

In the north and northeast regions, including Petén, Las Verapaces and Izabal, the needs of migrants and displaced people must be addressed. Chronic and acute malnutrition levels among children under five have escalated in some peri-urban municipalities and on the south and south-west coast of the country. A significant part of this area, due to changes in local weather patterns, appears to be part of the extended dry corridor that includes food-insecure poor families. The western highlands area, mainly San Marcos and Huehuetenango, in addition to their historical structural vulnerabilities, have been affected by strong earthquakes in recent years that have impacted the social structure, housing and emotional stability among a large part of the population.