

ChildFund Humanitarian Situation Report (Sitrep)

Country: Regional, Northern Triangle Central America and Mexico

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1. Overall description of the significant change in the situation

While the number of people departing from the North of Central America (NCA) significantly decreased in the first two weeks of February, new rumours of additional groups departing from El Salvador and Honduras were spread. By the middle of the month, numbers of people moving across borders remained below the normal rate of around 300 every day.

Between 16 and 17 February, several groups from Honduras and El Salvador departed towards Guatemala, with over 500 people accumulated in Tecun Uman by the end of the weekend, and additional small groups continuing to arrive. At least half of the group was comprised of families with children, and adolescents without families, from Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua, and a few extra-continentals. By the end of February, over 13,200 people had crossed into Mexico, with no additional people in Tecun Uman.

Trends as of February 2019 indicate people are no longer moving in large numbers, with smaller groups of between 30 and 50 people being the preferred modality to enter Mexico. This has made it difficult to assess the magnitude of the movement and the needs until the smaller groups accumulate at the Guatemala-Mexico border, or cross irregularly into Mexico. This is creating significant operational challenges, as it becomes difficult to predict shelter, food, water and sanitation needs, while xenophobic attitudes continue to rise.

While some groups decided to stay within Mexico, and have been relocated to other cities across the country, small numbers continue to move onwards to Piedras Negras in the hopes of gaining access to the United States of America.

Between January and February 2019, over 15,000 humanitarian visitor cards had been delivered. To the end of February, 7,941 people had sought asylum. The Mexican government has informed people can request information on applications for Humanitarian Visitor Cards at the Mexican embassies in their countries of origin. Shelters at Tecun Uman (Guatemala) and El Palillo (Mexico) have now been dismantled.

2. Description of the current humanitarian situation in ChildFund operational areas

Our Local Partners: several geographical areas of ChildFund local partners in Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico are origin and crossing by the caravan and normal migration routes. Especially CONFIO project working on prevention of migration, works in this migration transit areas and together with key actors as migration houses (temporary shelters) and others.

3. Description of actual or possible impact on ChildFund programs and operations

An opportunity to have a more compressive and holistic intervention is identified. Actually ChildFund is working on origin and destination (CONFIO migration prevention project in Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico and ChildFund's Response to assist vulnerable immigrant children in the U.S.) Interventions with emigrants on transit can be adopted easily using the actual infrastructure.

4. Description of planned, desired or ongoing ChildFund response

The mayor needs identified are shelter and food, OCHA, Oxfam, Casa del Migrante y Corazón Migrante are still working on the field border. Operational consortium between Oxfam and ChildFund is being identified as the best way to implement our actions due the previous presence, sustainability and include ChildFund efforts in a bigger and coordination operation.

Beneficiaries:

- 499 children (less than 5 year) Kit food for 1,5 day.
- 916 beneficiaries overnight into tents family shelter.
- Aprox more than 500 beneficiaries protected from UV radiation under tarpaulins.

5. Coordination mechanisms set up by the government and/or United Nations that ChildFund has participated in:

As the lead of the Protection Working Group in the country, UNHCR has been coordinating the response from UN Agencies and NGOs, in close collaboration with the government institutions. UNHCR has been in contact with key partners, has deployed staff to the border points to assess the situation and needs, and has ensured direct and secondary monitoring at key locations.

Information about the asylum procedure in Guatemala and Mexico was provided to over 500 people, most of whom expressed having international protection needs. Moreover, UNHCR Guatemala and Mexico work closely to identify and refer cases of people with heightened protection needs for follow-up after they cross the border.

6. Actual Budget (to be extended with Mexico and Honduras operation)

- Daily Kit food: US\$ 10.6 X 499 units = US\$ 5300
 - Tents family shelter= US\$ 46.7 X 229 units = US\$ 10700
 - Tarpaulins US\$ 74.7 X 54 units = US\$ 4000
- TOTAL= US\$ 20.000**