



January 2025

Impact Update: Camino a Casa

Our first-ever international expansion, Camino a Casa in Guatemala, had a successful first year. The program helps reintegrate young people from Central America who are returned home after attempting to seek refuge in the U.S. Now, with widespread restrictions on immigration and the threat of mass deportations in the U.S., the need for our international programming is greater than ever.

Pictured: With help from Camino a Casa, Maria is on her way to becoming a cosmetologist. Learn more about her story on reverse side.

Our Impact:

**1,017
total participants**

We have served, trained, and connected over a thousand individuals—giving young people the support and resources they need to start again—and start stronger—at home.

**12
months of
individual support**

Through one-on-one care, income assistance, and community resources, each youth receives a personal plan to achieve their educational, career, family, and mental wellness goals.

**14-24
years old**

We help teens and young adults address critical challenges: trauma; lack of job prospects; difficulty returning to school; family separation; and lack of access to medical services, to name a few.

NEW: Now Serving Families in Mexico

With the success of our program in Guatemala – and with immigration restrictions that are preventing more families from finding safety in the U.S. – Global Refuge has strengthened its commitment to youth and their families by expanding Camino a Casa to Mexico.

Serving Chiapas, Mexico City, and Oaxaca, the Global Refuge team has hit the ground running assisting young people who have been returned to Mexico. We help young people with:

- Family reunification
- Individual and family counseling
- Educational and vocational training
- Job readiness
- Referrals to legal and medical services
- Transportation assistance
- Financial literacy education
- And more

To support our Camino a Casa program or to learn more, visit globalrefuge.org/CaminoACasa.

As we forge ahead with our commitment to families in Guatemala and Mexico, we need help building a wider network of support to meet the growing need. We are in urgent need of funds to provide more social workers and psychologists, train our staff, host educational events for community members, provide financial assistance, and continue programs that strengthen families economically, so they don't feel the need to migrate.

Client Story: Maria*

Building skills towards a promising future at home with her son



Maria grew up in a close-knit, traditional village in Guatemala, where girls rarely go to school. After her father migrated to the U.S., Maria's mother became the sole provider for the family. Maria attended school until third grade—a significant accomplishment in her community—married at 17 and had a child at the age of 18.

Her husband, like so many men in her community, migrated to the U.S. to work so he could send money back home. **With the desire to reunify with her husband, Maria decided to take the dangerous journey to the U.S. with her 4-year-old son in tow. But several days into her trek, Maria and her son were detained in Mexico and returned to Guatemala.**

Having experienced extreme difficulties and dangers during her migration, Maria decided not to attempt the journey again

and sought the support of Global Refuge to help build a stable life at home.

With the assistance provided through Camino a Casa, Maria was able to enroll in a vocational institute to pursue a career in cosmetology. This opportunity has given Maria a newfound sense of confidence and drive to become financially independent and successful. Camino a Casa has also offered Maria therapeutic support as she copes with the separation from her husband, raises a son, gains her independence, and figures out a plan forward. Maria remains steadfast in her determination to create a better future for herself and her son at home, and we are here to support her throughout her journey.

*Name has been changed for our client's protection.

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Global Refuge is a nonprofit serving newcomers seeking safety, support, and a share in the American dream. We have been a leader in resettlement for 85 years, dedicated to supporting immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees through advocacy, care, and empowerment to restore a sense of home.