MEXICO

An Emergency Preparedness Profile

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

June 1990

FOREWORD

This profile of Mexico is part of a Regional Emergency Preparedness Profile for Central America and Mexico. These profiles are designed to provide, in one accessible document, factual information on selected countries and are intended as an emergency preparedness measure in support of UNHCR planning and relief operations. The profiles are principally concerned with the kinds of information and resources needed during refugee emergencies in order to facilitate contingency planning and action along with rapid decision-making. They are designed to satisfy a number of audiences including UNHCR decision-makers, UNHCR Headquarters personnel proceeding on mission, newly-appointed UNHCR field personnel and consultants, UNHCR regional bureaux and field offices, and implementing partners. The UNHCR Handbook for Emergencies will often be able to provide complementary information.

Various sections of UNHCR have helped the Emergency Unit compile this profile. The information does not claim to be complete - indeed an effort was made to keep the profile short, readable and concise while pointing readers to additional sources containing detail they may need. The profile has been drawn up at short notice to respond to current demand and should be viewed as a draft that may still contain inconsistencies and inaccuracies. It would be appreciated if these as well as suggestions that may strengthen future editions of this profile could be brought to the Emergency Unit's attention.

Emergency Unit Technical Support Service

THE UNHCR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROFILE SERIES (as of November 1989)

AFRICA LATIN AMERICA

Ethiopia (1989)

Malawi (1989)

Mozambique (1987)

Somalia (1987)

Sudan (1987)

Mexico (1989)

Nicaragua (1989)

December (1989)

Panama (1989)

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Kampuchea (1989) Pakistan (1987)

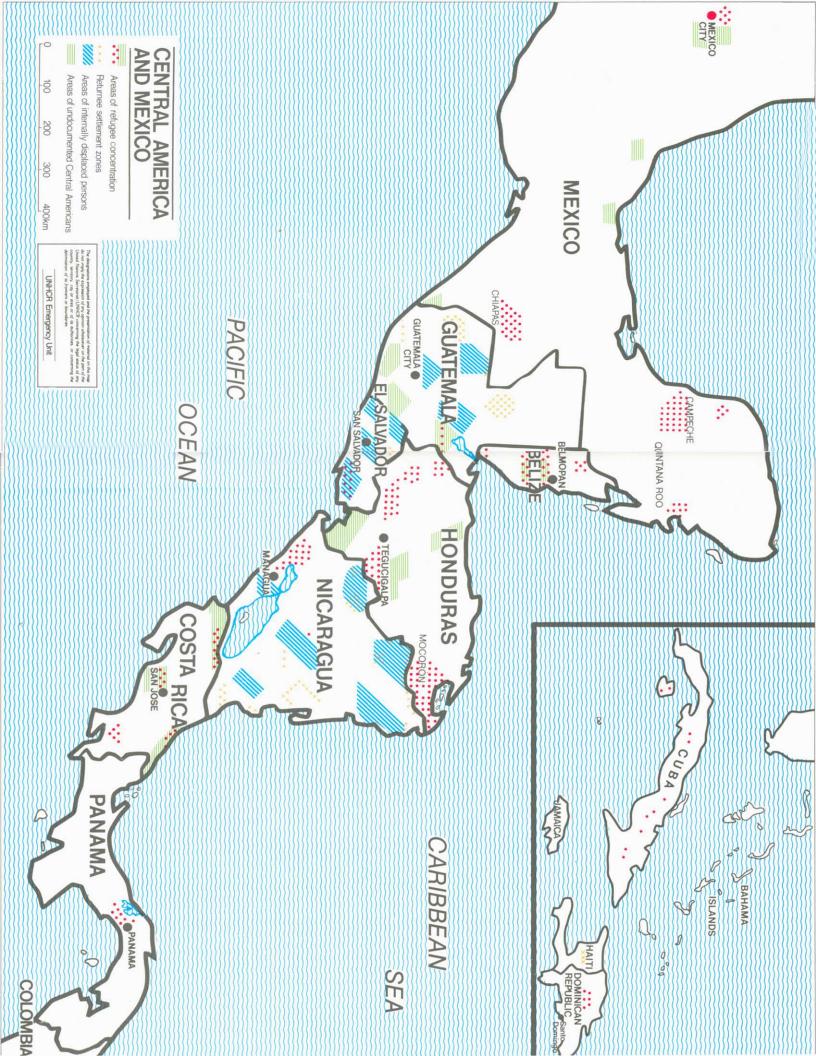


TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. BASIC FACTS

- A. Time Zones
- B. Currency
- C. Visa Information/Vaccination Requirements
- D. Calendar and Holidays
- E. History
- F. Government
- G. Language
- H. Climate and Geography
- I. Disaster Vulnerability
- J. Economy
- K. Population
- L. Health
- M. Housing
- N. Transportation
- O. Communications

II. INFRASTRUCTURAL RESOURCES OF MEXICO AS CONCERN REFUGEES

- A. Health System
 - . Structure
 - . Medical Supplies
 - . Cold Chain
 - . Major Health Problems

B. Transportation Resources

- . Road Network
- . Railway Network
- . Port Facilities
- . Airport Facilities

C. Water Resources

- . Overview
- . National Water Authority
- . Water Supplies in UNHCR Settlements

D. Storage Facilities

- . Port Storage
- . Settlement Storage

III. DESCRIPTION AND REQUIREMENTS OF AFFECTED POPULATIONS

- A. Guatemalans General
 - . Housing Customs
 - . Food Preferences
 - . Health Status
- B. Guatemalan Refugees in Mexico
 - . Refugee Population
 - . Ethnic Origin
 - . Language
 - . Religion
 - . Social Structure
 - . Previous Occupational Activities
- C. Salvadorians General
 - . Housing Customs
 - . Food Preferences
 - . Health Status
- D. Salvadorian Refugees in Mexico
 - . Refugee Population
 - . Language
 - . Religion
 - . Previous Occupational Activities

IV. INSTITUTIONAL RESOURCES/PROGRAMMES

- A. Relief Machinery of the Government of Mexico
 - . Policy towards Refugees
 - . Government Organization
 - . Relationship with UNHCR
- B. UNHCR Presence
- C. UN Agencies
 - . FAO
 - . ILO
 - . PAHO/WHO
 - . UNDP
 - . UNICEF
 - . UNFPA
 - . WFP
 - . WORLD BANK
 - . IOM
- D. Other Organizations
 - . EEC
- E. Voluntary Organizations

ANNEX I

A. UNHCR Programme