

# Choluteca

The south-eastern border of Honduras is experiencing a **significant increase in mixed movement** flows in 2024. This has led to a critical need for heightened **monitoring and humanitarian response** to ensure adequate reception conditions and support people in need of international protection.

Refugees and migrants are exposed to **heightened protection risks**, including violence, extortion, trafficking, lack of access to basic services such as mental and physical health, and specialized services for persons with disabilities. UNHCR's coordinated response effort is focused on mitigating these risks by providing **essential services and support** to people on the move through Honduras.

The situation at the south-eastern border is expected to require **ongoing adjustments** to address the dynamic and changing nature of mixed movements. Key future efforts include enhancing protection measures and scaling up humanitarian assistance.



*UNHCR enhances support in temporary shelters in the border. Families that stay in these safe places emphasize the importance of this life-saving support.*

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## Context

UNHCR has a field unit in Choluteca created to cover the **southeastern border** of Honduras, including the departments of Valle, which borders El Salvador, Choluteca and El Paraíso, which border Nicaragua. UNHCR **monitors** regular entries of Nicaraguans under transit and tourism modalities and irregular entry points for people in mixed movements seeking protection in Honduras or transiting northwards. On average, 11,000 people enter through these points every week, with most coming through Danli and Trojes, according to UNHCR's monitoring. Some of these individuals require **international**

**refugee protection**. Furthermore, these regions have a population at risk of displacement or who are **internally displaced** due to violence and require protection, as well as communities affected by the impacts of **climate change**.

## UNHCR Presence:

**Staff:**  
5 National Staff  
2 International Staff

**Presence:**  
25 Communities supported  
48 Border points monitored



## Partners:





UNHCR works with national institutions, local NGOs, and other international organizations to mitigate risks and strengthen the protection environment on the southern border of Honduras.

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## Working with Partners

UNHCR works with World Vision, NRC, CDE, Caritas, Medicos del Mundo, the Secretariat of Childhood, Adolescence and Family (SENAF), the National Commission for Human Rights (CONADEH), the National Institute for Migration (INM), and the Secretariat for Human Rights (SEDH).

Since 2021, UNHCR leads the Local Group for the South-east Border, which is part of the Protection Cluster. This team coordinates with all humanitarian actors present on the south-east border to provide humanitarian assistance to people in mixed movements. The group currently brings together 40 humanitarian organizations, national and

international. In 2023 and in the first quarter of 2024, the local group has provided assistance to more than 522,000 people.

Additionally, UNHCR participates in the Choluteca Departmental Committee for Attention to People in Mixed Movements and in Need of International Protection and in the South Migration Local Network in Valle to mainstream a protection perspective in the context analysis, identification of risks and in the response deployed by the local departments. UNHCR is also a member of the Southern Risk Management Table.

## Main Activities

### Protection

UNHCR in Honduras actively monitors mixed movement flows, collaborates with community leaders, and engages with national and international partners to enhance protection mechanisms. Efforts include training to bolster community response, advocacy for human rights, and promoting non-discrimination to foster local integration. UNHCR also focuses on ensuring access to the asylum system, safeguarding the principle of non-refoulement, and facilitating comprehensive case management. By providing training and technical support to local officials, UNHCR strengthens the asylum system and addresses human rights violations, advocating for affected people. Additionally, UNHCR monitors the impact of generalized violence and climate change on communities to identify risks of internal displacement and works with local and national authorities on its prevention. UNHCR provides training to local authorities, organizations, and civil societies on internal displacement, strengthening identification and referral

mechanisms and facilitates comprehensive case management for internally displaced persons and those at risk.

### Health

UNHCR, via Doctors of the World, provides emergency medical care and mental health support for asylum-seekers and refugees, coordinating with the national health system. Advocacy efforts with the Choluteca Migration Committee and government meetings have ensured mixed movement populations access public health services. Additionally, UNHCR enhances health infrastructure through donations and service improvements.

### Shelter and NFI

UNHCR enhances support in temporary shelters across Choluteca, San Marcos de Colón, Danlí, El Paraiso, and Trojes by donating shelter kits, hygiene, and WASH items, alongside

offering technical support, training and financing positions that provide social work, legal and psychosocial support. Between January and March 2024, 2,100 shelter items and 89,620 hygiene items were distributed to nine temporal shelters and key actors. Selected shelters also provide legal and psychological support in collaboration with a Honduran university, benefiting various displaced individuals.

### Information

UNHCR and World Vision operate three Mobile Information Services in key areas of Choluteca, El Paraíso and Trojes, offering weekly information on international protection and the Honduran asylum system. These services aim to address questions and facilitate case referrals, enhancing support for people in mixed movements. More than 300,000 people were reached in 2023, and more than 80,000 in the first quarter of 2024.

### Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

UNHCR enhances community empowerment and self-reliance by fostering organization and networking

among people forcibly displaced, at risk and mixed movements to guarantee their rights. It supports women's networks and initiatives against gender-based violence, including training and diploma programs in collaboration with Ciudad Mujer and municipal offices. Additionally, UNHCR promotes the recovery of public spaces and the organization of cultural, artistic, and sports activities to create safe spaces and support communities at risk of displacement. Furthermore, UNHCR supports prioritized communities on the elaboration of their protection plans and their linkage with development plans of the local governments.

### Durable Solutions

UNHCR focuses on enhancing vocational training in Choluteca, targeting young people, refugees, LGBTIQ+ individuals, and women from displacement-prone communities, by equipping four training centres. UNHCR and partners have launched entrepreneurship programs for small businesses of Choluteca, Valle and El Paraíso and has also launched an internship program, with a 100% employability rate in 2023.



According to UNHCR protection monitoring more than 20% of people in transit through the country are children. UNHCR and its partners provide humanitarian assistance with shelter, food, and medical care, among others.

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**UNHCR is grateful for the contributions of donor countries that contribute to the office in Honduras and to global programmes with flexible funding.**



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