UNHCR ACNUR
La Agencia de la ONU para los Refugiados

July 2024

Operational Update 31

HONDURAS

Population figures

Internal displacement

+247,000

people have been internally displaced in Honduras as a result of generalized violence between 2004 and 2018. Numbers could be higher in 2024, as triggers of internal displacement persist.

Mixed Movements

272,168

refugees and migrants in mixed movements entered Honduras irregularly from 1 January to 31 July and registered with the National Migration Institute (INM), which represents a 48% increase compared to the same period in 2023.

Asylum

19,803

Honduran nationals sought asylum in Mexico from 1 January to 31 July 2024, continuing to rank as the first nationality in the number of asylum requests to this country.

94

people sought asylum in Honduras from 1 January to 31 July 2024 and are mainly from Venezuela, Nicaragua, Colombia, El Salvador and Cuba. 48% of the applications were made by men, 20% by women, 16% by boys and 16% by girls. Compared to the same period in 2023, the asylum applications in Honduras have increased by 17%.

Return

29,872

Hondurans were returned to the country in 2024 until 31 July.

Refuge

192

recognised refugees are currently living in Honduras. Refugees are mainly from Nicaragua, El Salvador and Venezuela. 47% are men, 25% are women, 16% are boys and 12% are girls.

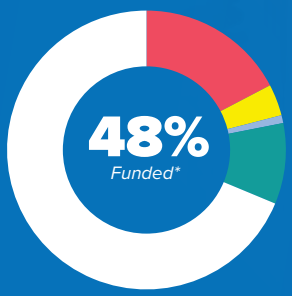
Our response

85,200 people

have been reached by July 2024 by UNHCR and its partners, mainly people in mixed movements and internally displaced persons, but also asylum-seekers, refugees, returnees, and host community members, with services such as shelter, cash and voucher assistance, case management, protection monitoring, livelihoods activities, risk mitigation and through community-based protection activities.

9,377	9,526	32,173	34,010	114
Girls	Boys	Women	Men	LGBTQI+

Funding



As of 31 July 2024

- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)

**UNHCR appealed for USD 30.8 million for its 2024 programme, of which only USD 14.8 million (48%) has been funded. USD 16 million is still needed to continue supporting people forcibly displaced, at risk of displacement, asylum-seekers, refugees, and persons in mixed movements.*

Context

In July 2024, the country continued to face violent killings, gender-based violence, environmental and land challenges, among other triggers of forced displacement.

Violence and extortion:

In early July, Honduras experienced 36 violent killings, averaging four violent killings per day.

Meanwhile, a coalition of human rights organizations emphasized the ongoing human rights violations, violence, disappearances, and extortion impacting Hondurans.

Children and youth continue to be victims of violent killings, with over 500 reported deaths of children and youth in 2024

highlighting the urgent need for protective measures and support systems within the country. Moreover, with discussions around reducing the age of criminal responsibility for some crimes from 18 to 14 years old several NGO´s argued this move would undermine children´s rights and violate international agreements.

Gender-based violence:

In 2024, over 600 adolescent abortions and nearly 7,000 adolescent births have been reported in Honduras, many which are the result of sexual violence.

These cases highlight the protection gaps and the urgent need for access to comprehensive reproductive health services and education to support survivors. Additionally, the recent violent killing of an LGBTIQ+ individual underscores the ongoing violence and impunity faced by this community.

In 2024, 127 women have been violently killed in Honduras and 120 women are currently reported missing.

The Inter-Institutional Commission for Monitoring Investigations of Violent Deaths of Women and Femicides in Honduras presented a bill called the “Purple Alert” to the Honduran Congress. This bill seeks to establish a legal framework to prevent the disappearances of girls and women and assist in the search for missing women.

Context

Human rights situation:

Over 500 indigenous people from the Lenca community travelled to the capital to expedite the titling process for over 9,000 acres of land, affecting over 852 families. The absence of land titles threatens the livelihoods and stability of these families, and increases the risk of forced displacement.

Aggravating factors of the situation

Political and Legislative Challenges:

Tensions related to the upcoming elections have increased, generating strong debates about the electoral process, budget, and candidates.

Environmental Challenges:

2024
second-highest year for dengue cases

Dengue fever cases are rapidly increasing to more than 80,000 cases in 2024, with nearly 24,000 new cases reported in July and 12 deaths, including children.

The highest number of cases in the past five years was recorded in 2019, with over 96,000 reported. 2024 is now the second-highest year for dengue cases.

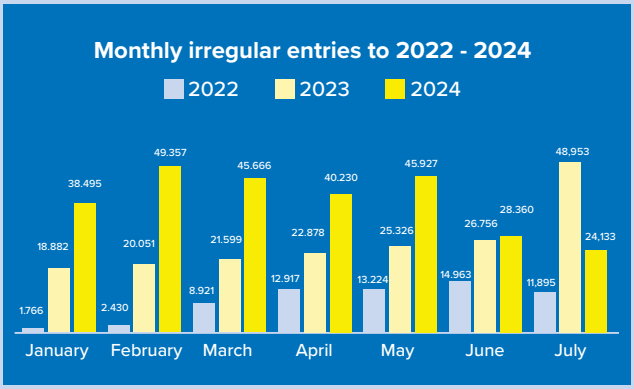
To combat the surge in dengue fever, the Secretariat of Health is piloting a program using drones to disperse insecticide in Tegucigalpa's Nueva Capital community. If successful, this approach may be expanded to other areas.

Additionally, around 57,000 dengue vaccines are expected to arrive to Honduras in October 2024 targeting children aged 5 to 16.

Context

Mixed Movements

The National Migration Institute (INM) reported that **272,168 people in mixed movements entered Honduras** irregularly from January to July, which represents a 48% increase compared to the same period in 2023.



The primary nationalities were
48% Venezuelan | 17% Cuban | 6% Ecuadorian | 6% Haitian
5% Colombian

Demographic breakdown: **26%** Female **49%** Male **11%** Girls **14%** Boys

97% entered through El Paraíso department (mainly at Las Manos border followed by Trojes). The remaining 3% entered Honduras through Choluteca department. In addition, due to the lack of shelters, people on the move are also reported to be camping in public spaces in Tegucigalpa.

According to official figures from the National Migration Institute (INM), over 130,000 Venezuelans entered the country in the first seven months of 2024, comprising 48% of the total entries (272,168).

In comparison to the previous month, entries in July from Venezuelans decreased 11% and Cuban entries decreased 45%, however Haitian entries increased 55%.

As not all persons on the move who enter Honduras irregularly register with INM, UNHCR and its partners, based on its border monitoring, **estimate that more than 340,000 persons entered and transited through the country from January to July 2024.**

There remain gaps in access to the basic services like water, food, shelter, health services and psychosocial support. There is also a lack of specialized services for persons with disabilities. Persons in mixed movements are frequently unaware of their rights which makes them more vulnerable to disinformation.

Many children arriving at the border with Guatemala **had colds, coughs, and fevers.** Additionally, several adults arrived with injuries due to the physical challenges experienced along the route.

Transportation challenges for refugees and migrants from Guasaule to Choluteca continue. In cases where the bus is not full due to low number of entries, people are often forced to pool their resources to pay USD 300 for the bus, or to walk 46 kilometres to Choluteca to obtain a transit permit or access humanitarian services.

During the reporting period more people in mixed movements reported having been robbed by men with guns on the buses in which they were travelling as they transited Honduras. UNHCR will increase access to information on how to report robberies to CONADEH.

Context

UNHCR published its newest Mixed Movements Protection Monitoring report which can be accessed in Spanish and English.

Of those interviewed, at least 34% stated leaving their country of origin due to violence and persecution and 43% of the interviewed persons indicated traveling with someone who has specific protection needs, including:

- **Survivors of violence**
- **Pregnant and/or lactating women**
- **Persons with disabilities**
- **Critical or chronic illnesses**
- **Elderly persons, among others.**

The main needs reported by refugees and migrants on the move are

Asylum:

Mexico has reported a 32% decrease in requests for refugee status in 2024 compared to the same period in 2023, however Hondurans remain the largest nationality seeking asylum.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has noted the significantly lower numbers of Hondurans arriving at the US. border. **According to official figures over 29,000 Hondurans have been returned in 2024 from the USA, Mexico, Spain, among others.**

In July, four Hondurans aged 16 and 17 years went missing in Mexico. Additionally a Honduran brother and sister, ages 2 and 4 were found unaccompanied at the Mexico-USA border. Moreover, 14 Hondurans have died on their journey north in 2024.

RESPOND

PROTECT

In July, UNHCR continued its work in protecting and supporting people forced to flee.

Through various events, capacity-building workshops, and partnerships with local and international organizations, **UNHCR continues to raise awareness on protection risks and assistance needs, enhance local capacities, and strengthen the framework for protecting forcibly displaced people in vulnerable situations.**

In the ordinary session of the Inter-institutional Commission for the Protection of Forcibly Displaced Persons (CIPPDEF), the Secretariat of Human Rights (SEDH) presented the draft Regulations of the Law for the Prevention, Assistance, and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP Protection Law), **and recommendations for the design of the policy for the prevention of forced displacement were discussed. This event was a significant step towards finalizing the Regulations.**

UNHCR also **assisted the SEDH in the design of the methodology and supporting documents for the socialization of the Regulations of the IDP Protection Law** with civil society organizations and international organizations.

UNHCR supported the Secretariat of Human Rights and the Directorate for Protection of Internally Displaced People by Violence (DIPPDIV) in conducting workshops with municipal officials from Tegucigalpa, Juticalpa, Catacamas, La Ceiba, San Pedro Sula and Choloma to socialize the draft Guidelines for the operation of the Municipal Units for the Attention and Protection of Forcibly Displaced Persons (UMAPPDEF). This is a significant positive step towards municipalities providing the first response to forced displacement.

In coordination with the Supreme Court of Justice, UNHCR facilitated a workshop on internal displacement, for 25 judges from San Pedro Sula, Choloma, and Villanueva. The workshop focused on identifying technical needs to strengthen the judicial role in enforcing the IDP Protection Law.

UNHCR and the National Autonomous University of Honduras defined their joint work plan, under the recently signed Letter of Understanding. Main activities include: the organization of academic forums on mixed movements and its impact on host communities, incorporation of International Refugee Law in postgraduate courses, academic research on mixed movements, information campaigns on the rights of people in need of international

During the month of July, the Regulations of the Law for the Prevention, Attention and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons were socialized in various forums with civil society, international organizations and displaced and at-risk persons.

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UNHCR promotes protection services for people of mixed movements through a mobile unit assigned to CONADEH in Danlí.

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protection, and provision of psychological assistance to asylum-seekers, refugees, and people in mixed movements.

INM's Human Rights Unit and UNHCR provided a workshop on International Refugee Law to 20 INM staff members who work at the international airport in San Pedro Sula.

Additionally, **UNHCR Honduras, in coordination with UNHCR Mexico, provided a training at the Centre for Returned Migrants in Omoa, Cortés, about international protection and the asylum system in Mexico to strengthen the identification of possible cases of refoulement of Hondurans returned from Mexico.** In total 24 persons working for INM, Honduran Red Cross, SEDESOL, IOM and the border police participated.

UNHCR and CONADEH facilitated workshops in DanlÍ and in Choluteca for 45 border police officers on International Refugee Protection who learned about access to territory, non-refoulement and the asylum system in Honduras.

UNHCR, in coordination with the CONAPREV and CONADEH, provided a training on the rights of people in mixed movements to 32 persons from government and civil society in Danlí.

UNHCR held a workshop on forced displacement and international protection with 30 public officials of the municipality of the Central District to strengthen their capacities for case identification and referral.

To boost protection services for people in mixed movements, **UNHCR trained staff from CONADEH´s mobile information service in Danlí to provide legal services at the main mixed movement hotspots.**

RESPOND

In July 2024, UNHCR continued its efforts to address the challenges of mixed movements and forced displacement in Honduras, effectively combining protection monitoring activities, cash assistance, and emergency response.

This month, to improve reception conditions for refugees and migrants in mixed movements **UNHCR's and World Vision´s Mobile Information Service provided information to over 13,000 persons in Choluteca, Danlí, Trojes, and Machuca, Agua Caliente** primarily reaching Venezuelans, Colombians, Ecuadorians, Haitians, Chinese and Cubans, among others. **Individuals received information about international protection, shelter locations, and internet access to facilitate communication with relatives.**

In July, through partner Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), 310 people in need of protection were attended, of which 83 were internally displaced, 15 were asylum seekers, and 212 were people at risk of internal displacement, returnees, or individuals in need of international protection **The primary protection needs identified were multiple displacements and people in hiding. The most frequently identified protection incidents were murders, forced dispossession of property, and forced recruitment of minors.**

This month UNHCR delivered cash assistance for protection reasons to 1,195 individuals, including refugees, internally displaced persons and asylum seekers for a total of more than USD 115K delivered in cash assistance.

Furthermore, in July, 3,405 Hondurans were returned to the three Centres for Returned Migrants, this is a 3% decrease compared to the same period in 2023. **UNHCR identified and registered 23 cases of 77 returnees with protection needs and 30 cases of 105 internally displaced persons at the Centres for Returned Migrants in Honduras, providing them with protection information, legal assistance, and referral to partners for cases with specific needs.**

In July, Ocotepeque's Migrant Shelter assisted 100 people. Since 1 July, the shelter has expanded its hours to 10pm to increase services for people on the move.

In the same month, the shelter managed by UNHCR's partner Caritas in Danlí assisted over 1,800 people in mixed movements, 84% of them were Venezuelans and 10% Colombians, among other nationalities. 29% of the assisted persons were women, 25% men, 24% girls and 24% boys. In Choluteca, Caritas provided temporary shelter to an additional 100 persons on the move.

Apart from direct support, **UNHCR also coordinated the Protection Cluster.** The Local Group of the Southeast Border, co-led by UNHCR and Child Fund, **engaged in three meetings with more than 17 organizations to discuss trends, gaps, and coordinate efforts to improve the humanitarian response to persons in mixed movements.**

Similarly, the Local Group at the Western Border, UNHCR together with co-leader ADRA, met four times to coordinate the response and infrastructure improvements in the Machuca humanitarian space. UNHCR is leading the infrastructure improvements to enhance the protection environment.

UNHCR´s partner Doctors of the World, assisted 70 women in transit with sexual and reproductive health needs, underscoring the need for SRH services for people in mixed movements.

UNHCR conducts protection monitoring at the entry and exit borders, as well as the main transit points to ensure regular analysis of trends, needs and protection gaps with the objective of promoting coordinated and complementary actions to improve reception conditions and promote the rights of refugees and migrants in mixed movements.

Ninety-seven percent of the people who entered Honduras in July did so through the department of El Paraíso, while 3% entered through Choluteca. UNHCR and its partners have humanitarian and informational spaces in strategic locations along the route to minimize protection risks.

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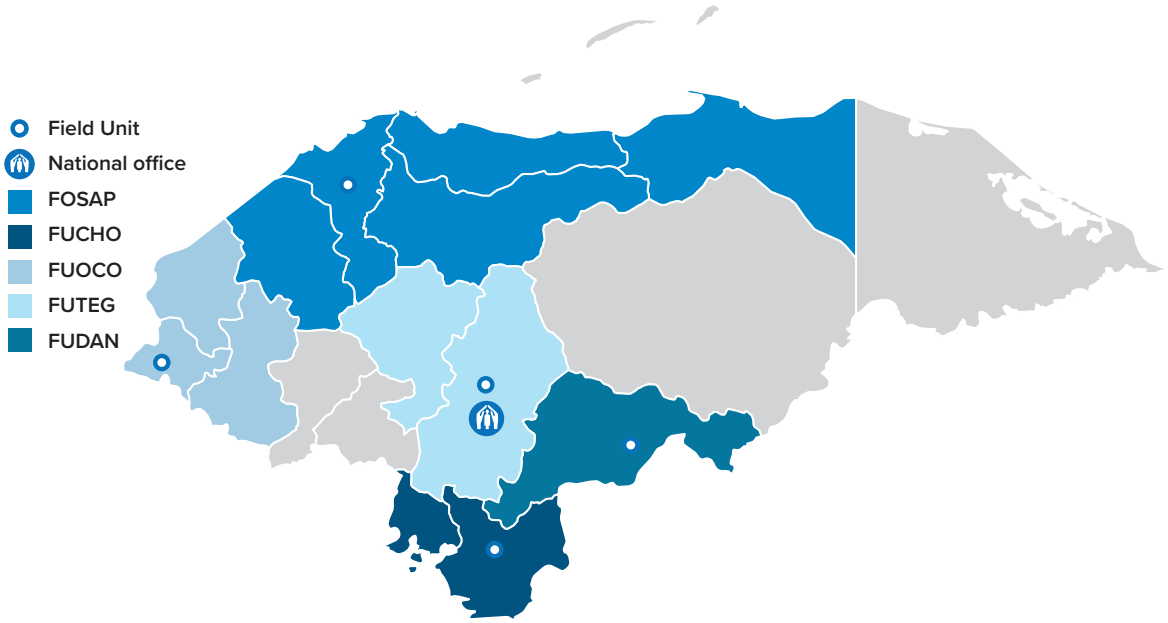
EMPOWER

In July 2024, UNHCR Honduras continued its efforts to empower people forced to flee.



From youth empowerment and community resilience building to workshops on gender-based violence and environmental sustainability, **UNHCR's efforts demonstrated a comprehensive approach to addressing the complex challenges faced by displaced populations.**

In the northern part of the country, **UNHCR and Children International held sessions with 50 community leaders and volunteers from the Rivera Hernández, Cofradia and Chamelecón Sur sectors,** to address protection processes to mitigate risks from forced displacement, forced recruitment and gender violence.

UNHCR and Children International also led trainings on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, two-way feedback mechanisms and Psychological First Aid, with 40 leaders and volunteers from the Rivera Hernandez Sector, who are continuously being affected by forced displacement and gender-based violence.

UNHCR conducted a follow-up mission to the north part of the country to meet with six Garífuna community leaders. The leaders mentioned their concerns about climate change, food insecurity, cases of disappearances and forced displacement and highlighted the value of UNHCR´s accompaniment to improve protection outcomes.

In the southeast, UNHCR and the National Committee of Teachers held a workshop with 20 teachers from the José Cecilio del Valle Institute to analyse and identify the protection risks that contribute to forced displacement and its impact on teachers in the southern region.

UNHCR held a workshop on international protection, internal displacement, and strengthening the inclusion of forcibly displaced people in education programmes for 33 staff members from the National Vocational Training Institute (INFOP) in the southern region of Honduras in Marcovia, Choluteca, Valle, and the national office.

In a Trainer-of-Trainers in Gender and Human Rights programme, 81 women were trained, these women can then replicate the knowledge within their communities. Additionally in Choluteca, UNHCR led a workshop on gender-based violence as a cause of internal displacement in the community of Las Flores, San Marcos de Colón with the participation of 20 community leaders.

Throughout the month, **UNHCR led workshops with 75 community leaders in the departments of El Paraíso and Choluteca** to strengthen their reception capacities as host communities, as part of their community protection plans.

In the western part of the country, **UNHCR implemented a mobile library in schools in El Olvidito and Agua Caliente.** During this process, 13 children and 15 adults learned about digital protection risks and risks of human smuggling, trafficking, and gender violence, which is especially prevalent in this border area where children are at risk of being forcibly recruited.

Thanks to a strategic alliance between UNHCR, the Ministry of Labor, INFOP and CDE, more than 100 young refugees and internally displaced persons are expected to obtain internship opportunities by 2024. To date, 27 young people have completed the program, and 49% of them are already in stable employment.

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Moreover, a 30-hour training process began for the Sinuapa Women's Network to prevent gender violence, identification, prevention, and mitigation of protection risks, care routes for survivors of gender violence. **The training will be delivered over eight weeks by UNHCR and the Women's Office of Sinuapa.**

In the Central District, as part of the strategy to prevent recruitment and forced displacement, UNHCR continued to strengthen the "Sports for Communities" program,ón, **working jointly with CONDEPOR and the Mayor´s Office. During July, more than 120 young people from prioritized communities such as Nueva Capital, La Era, Pedregal, Rosalinda, and San Miguel, participated in various sports and accessed psychological care.**

UNHCR conducted a menstrual hygiene workshop with 51 girls living in urban communities.

UNHCR delivered workshops on prevention of forced recruitment with 25 municipal officials, teachers, and partners who work with children at schools in the Central District.

The workshop aims to raise awareness on forced recruitment and improve institutional and civil society responses to mitigate risks and strengthen the protection environment in schools.

With the support of UNHCR, partner Jóvenes Contra la Violencia conducted a workshop on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse with 12 volunteers from the Central District and facilitated a muralism activity in high-risk communities with the Women´s Network.

Partner Save The Children (STC) held recreational activities for the prevention of child sexual abuse with 593 students from schools in the Nueva Capital neighborhood. Additionally, STC psychologists attended 16 cases from four educational centers. Moreover, UNHCR held menstrual hygiene workshops with 51 girls who live in urban communities.

In Tegucigalpa, UNHCR supported the strengthening of the Refugee Committee in various spaces for dialogue, in the construction of their statutes, and in the design of their logo which will allow them to better represent themselves with external actors.

SOLVE

UNHCR advanced education and employment opportunities for displaced persons in Honduras in July.

Through collaborations with various partners, **UNHCR facilitated scholarships, training programs, and capacity-building initiatives, contributing to durable solutions for forced displacement in the country.**

This month, UNHCR and its partner, the Property Institute (IP) continued with the informative fairs under the information campaign: **"Your Registered Home, Your Assured Right"** The campaign was launched in 2023 and is designed to inform Hondurans about their land rights, particularly for those who have been forced to abandon their land, homes, and businesses due to threats, extortion, and other human rights violations, becoming forcibly displaced. According to the IP, less than 30% of listed properties are currently registered. **The campaign aims to encourage people to register their homes, helping protect owners from fraud, theft, and dispossession by organized crime groups.**

UNHCR delivered cash assistance to 137 people for vocational training and internships with the private sector, for a total of more than USD 50K delivered in cash assistance.

In Choluteca, **the first group of 20 IDPs and refugees graduated from the three-month internship for job placement program,** implemented by UNHCR and the National Vocational Training Institute (INFOP), in collaboration with the private sector. Due to the programme, **41% of the graduates had secured full time employment.** Moreover, 16 new businesses joined the program and 75% are interested in offering employment opportunities to participants. Meanwhile, in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, a further 43 young adults started their internships.

In San Pedro Sula, UNHCR and its partner Centre for Business Development conducted a training for the leaders and volunteers of the social enterprise in the high-risk community of Alfonso Lacayo. he training modules focused on the roles of financial and marketing managers. In total, 15 training modules will be delivered to strengthen this social enterprise. Additionally, UNHCR and HUSH conducted a training on market analysis and sales strategy for La Central community leaders and their social enterprise.

27 displaced persons started the graphic design vocational training program in San Pedro Sula and in Choluteca. They are the second cohort in 2024. **The students are supported with cash assistance from UNHCR and co-sponsored by the private sector through direct scholarships for graduates.**

UNHCR gave a workshop to 30 staff from Intur Group on internal displacement and protection. This is the first of five online trainings planned for the private sector to support economic inclusion.

UNHCR and its partner, Centre for Business Development, facilitated the participation of 13 forcibly displaced entrepreneurs in the regional fair to grow their client base. The fair was organized by the Chamber of Commerce Golfo with more than 100 participants promoting their products.

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

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*As of July 2024

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