UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

August 2024

Operational Update 32

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.

Asylum

21,529

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.

104

people sought asylum in Honduras from 1 January to 31 August 2024 and are mainly from Venezuela, Nicaragua, Colombia, Cuba and El Salvador. 64% of the applications were made by men, 36% by women. Compared to the same period in 2023, the asylum applications in Honduras have increased by 28%.

Mixed Movements

290,902

refugees and migrants in mixed movements entered Honduras irregularly from 1 January to 31 August and registered with the National Migration Institute (INM), which represents a 16% increase compared to the same period in 2023. As not all persons register with INM, UNHCR and its partners estimate that over 370,000 people on the move have entered and transited through Honduras in 2024.

Return

32,975

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

Refuge

194

recognised refugees are currently living in Honduras. Refugees are mainly from Nicaragua, El Salvador and Venezuela. 47% are men, 25% are women, 15% are boys and 13% are girls.

Our response

107,686 people

have been reached by August 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.

11,770	11,759	41,416	42,576	165
Girls	Boys	Women	Men	LGBTQI+

Funding

As of 31 August 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 14.9 million (48%) has been funded. USD 15.8 million is still needed to continue supporting people forcibly displaced, at risk of displacement, asylum-seekers, refugees, and persons in mixed movements.*

Context

In August 2024, violence, and human rights violations in Honduras, coupled with environmental challenges underscore the critical need for comprehensive and sustained interventions to address immediate and long-term systemic issues.

Violence and extortion

From January - August 2024, **20 multiple killings have been recorded, leaving 61 victims** highlighting the significant challenges Honduras is facing in maintaining public safety and safeguarding the human right to life.

Violence within the transportation sector continued with **28 bus drivers and their assistants killed** due to extortion-related attacks this year.

Criminal groups that target these sectors not only exploit businesses but also routinely victimize the general population through robberies and assaults. This situation underscores the ongoing challenges to security and human rights in Honduras that undermine public safety and threaten the livelihoods of vulnerable populations and highlights the urgent need for protection mechanisms.

Ongoing violence poses a substantial threat to the stability of communities, particularly vulnerable populations and underscores the necessity of legal and protective frameworks. Security conditions exacerbate the risk of displacement.

Gender-based violence

Discrimination and violence against LGBTIQ+ individuals remain prevalent with 25 violent deaths reported in 2024.

Additionally, the country has seen 139 violent deaths of women in 2024. August has been the deadliest month in terms of femicides, with 28 reported violent killings this month alone.

The persistent violence against women and LGBTIQ+ individuals underscore the **societal issues that remain unresolved in the country.**

Human rights advocates call on the state to implement more effective protective measures to safeguard these populations.

Moreover, a survey conducted by the Observatory of Violence of the National Autonomous University of Honduras (OV-UNAH) reveals that **90% of the Honduran population feels fearful and insecure about the ongoing crime and violence.** These findings reflect the challenges in achieving long-term security for the population and emphasize the need for sustained, inclusive protective measures that restore public confidence and address the root causes of violence.

Political and Legislative Challenges

On 28 August, the President of Honduras ordered **the termination of the extradition treaty with the United States.** Despite the termination, Honduras´s Foreign Minister **has reassured that diplomatic relations with the United States will remain intact.**

Environmental Challenges

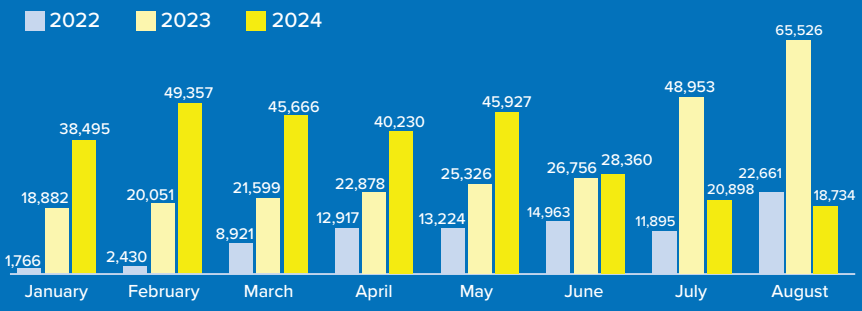
In 2024, **Honduras has recorded over 115,000 cases of dengue, and 137 dengue related suspected deaths; in August alone there were 22 deaths of children.** This positions Honduras as ranking first in Central America and seventh in the Americas for suspected dengue cases. The rapid spread of the virus highlights an urgent need for enhanced public health strategies and community engagement to mitigate the impact of the outbreak.

Context

Mixed Movements

The National Migration Institute (INM) reported that **290,902 people in mixed movements entered Honduras** irregularly from January to August, which represents a 16% increase compared to the same period in 2023.

Monthly irregular entries to 2022 - 2024



Nationalities:
48% Venezuela | **16%** Cuba | **6%** Ecuador | **6%** Haiti | **5%** Colombia

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 the Choluteca department. Most of the people in mixed movements then exit through the Agua Caliente border towards Guatemala. It has been noted that smaller groups of people also head towards San Pedro Sula from where they take buses to Choloma, Puerto Cortés and then to El Corinto border with Guatemala.

According to official figures, in August, **18,734 people in mixed movements entered the country, which is a 22% decrease from the previous month and a 71% decrease compared to the same period in 2023.**

The decrease might be attributed to technical difficulties with the registration systems, as well as broader government actions across the entire region.

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 370,000 persons entered and transited through the country between January and August 2024.**

Moreover, UNHCR and its partner World Vision carried out its mixed movement monitoring. Among the main findings of the 148 individual interviews conducted with people on the move are: **39% reported to need international protection** because they had to flee their country of origin due to violence or persecution; **53% reported having suffered mistreatment or abuse during their journey.**

For more information access here the newest report on mixed movements in english and spanish.

Asylum

In August, **UNHCR provided protection information to individuals from Venezuela and Nicaragua who applied for asylum in Honduras.** The families were also referred to partners for consideration for humanitarian assistance.

Returnees

This month, **3,989 Hondurans were returned to the three Centres for Returned Migrants,** this is a 49% decrease compared to the same period in 2023. UNHCR identified and registered 26 cases of 70 returnees with protection needs and 35 cases of 110 internally displaced persons at the Centre for Returned Migrants in Honduras, providing them with protection information, legal assistance, and referral to partners for cases with specific needs.

RESPONSE

PROTECT

UNHCR remained actively involved in strengthening support for displaced individuals and ensuring humanitarian coordination across various regions in Honduras.

As the El Paraíso department receives the majority of people mixed movements, **UNHCR opened its new Field Unit in Danlí, El Paraiso** to enhance support in the region allowing more direct access to vulnerable populations and improving effectiveness of humanitarian assistance efforts.

With UNHCR´s support, the Drafting Committee for the Regulation of the Law for the Prevention, Assistance, and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons, coordinated by the Secretariat of Human Rights held key meetings to **review the Preliminary Draft of the Regulation.** The sessions focused on incorporating inputs obtained through the document's extensive consultation process with displaced persons, government institutions, civil society organizations, and international agencies.

In the framework of MIRPS, with the technical support of UNHCR, a **session was held with the planning analysts from the Secretariat of Strategic Planning where the Annual Operational Plans for 2025 of 29 prioritized institutions were reviewed and verified,** ensuring that each of the institutions has incorporated into their annual plan activities that address the needs of internally displaced persons, refugees, and returnees.

UNHCR joined the Judiciary for a workshop on internal displacement, which included the participation of 15 judicial actors from Choluteca and Valle. The session was part of a strategic joint plan between UNHCR and the Supreme Court of Justice and focused on identifying technical needs to strengthen the judicial role in protecting internally displaced persons and ensuring the effective implementation of relevant legal protection frameworks.

UNHCR, in coordination with the Secretariat of Human Rights (SEDH) and the Municipality of Choluteca, supported the establishment of the **Municipal Unit for the Attention and Protection of Forcibly Displaced Persons (UMAPPDEF) in Choluteca where 15 officials from different units of the Municipality participated.** The new Unit will further operationalization of the IDP Law.

UNHCR and The National Commissioner for Human Rights (CONADEH) conducted a **training on international protection and the principle of non-refoulement for members of the National Police, Border Police, GOET and the Direction of National Investigation (DPI).** The training was developed in Choluteca with the participation of 25 people.

UNHCR held a **training session on Justice and Internal Displacement for 16 judicial officials from La Ceiba**; they were trained on the Law for the Prevention, Care and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons in Honduras. The session's aim was to ensure that internally displaced people have safe and effective access to national and local justice mechanisms.

In August, **UNHCR and INM carried out a joint monitoring mission to Juticalpa, Olancho, where also a training on international protection was provided to 10 staff members of CONADEH.**

Additionally, **UNHCR and INM, attended the regional MIRPS meeting, Working Group on Reception, Admission and Case Processing.** This session focused on the theory of change for asylum systems improvement. As part of the session, the challenges of the asylum systems in the region were analysed, including RSD procedures, staff capacity, and barriers to information on the right to seek asylum.

In collaboration with local and national authorities, **UNHCR continues to play a vital role in enhancing legal frameworks, operational capacity, and humanitarian assistance for displaced persons throughout the country.**

Together with the Supreme Court of Justice, UNHCR held a workshop on internal displacement with the participation of 15 judicial actors from Choluteca and Valle to strengthen the role of the Judiciary in the protection of internally displaced persons.

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RESPOND

UNHCR continued to collaborate with various institutions to strengthen support mechanisms for mixed movements and displaced people.

UNHCR's partner World Vision through its **four mobile information services located in Trojes, Las Manos border, Choluteca and in Machuca provided information to over 14,000 people in mixed movements** on their rights, including the right to seek asylum in Honduras, and the humanitarian services available in Honduras.

During the reporting period, UNHCR´s partner Caritas in **Danlí provided shelter to over 2,000 people (all family units) in mixed movements. These families spent the night in the UNHCR donated Refugee Housing Units (RHUs).** Additionally, in Choluteca, Caritas provided shelter to 50 people in mixed movements.

Partner Doctors of the World **provided medical attention to 496 persons in mixed movements, together with 468 instances of mental health services; 1,496 people received general orientation and 201 received information on sexual and reproductive health.** Moreover, the Ocotepeque Migrant Shelter gave assistance to more than 100 people.

UNHCR delivered **cash assistance to 1,474 individuals:** 1,325 persons at risk in the resettlement program, 125 internally displaced persons and 24 asylum seekers/refugees for a total of **USD 170k delivered in cash assistance this month.**

To strengthen the response time and medical attention at the southeast and western borders for people in mixed movements, as well as for host communities, **UNHCR donated two ambulances to the Secretariat of Health.**

UNHCR held a meeting with the Secretariat of Women (SEMUJER) and HIAS to coordinate the management of the space in the Humanitarian Space of El Pescadero and methodological transfer of attention to survivors of gender-based violence in mixed movements to SEMUJER on behalf of HIAS, as part of institutional strengthening to improve prevention and response to gender-based violence in El Paraíso Department.

UNHCR accompanied the Secretary of Social Development (SEDESOL) to conduct consultations for the Public Policy on the Management of Displacement due to Climate Change and Disasters in five municipalities, with the participation of 80 municipal officials. The consultations focused on health, education, land use, planning and the integration of people displaced by climate change.

In addition to direct support, **UNHCR co-led several meetings of the Local Group of the Southeast Border, structured under the Protection Cluster** and co-led by UNHCR and Child Fund, with more than 30 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, co-led by UNHCR and ADRA, met four times to **coordinate actions to address the response in Machuca´s Humanitarian Space.**

Throughout August, the **infrastructure work for the installation of refugee housing units at Machuca was carried out.** UNHCR consistently followed up with the construction company and all local actors involved to ensure a smooth transition from the tents to the RHUs where all humanitarian services for people in mixed movements will be provided. The space is expected to be finalized by late September.

Through coordinated efforts and direct assistance, **UNHCR is making significant strides in addressing the needs of displaced populations and improving protection services.**

In August, 97% of people in mixed movements entered through the department of El Paraíso, mainly through Las Manos border. Thanks to Caritas, a UNHCR partner, more than 2,000 people in mixed movements received refuge in Danlí, El Paraíso.

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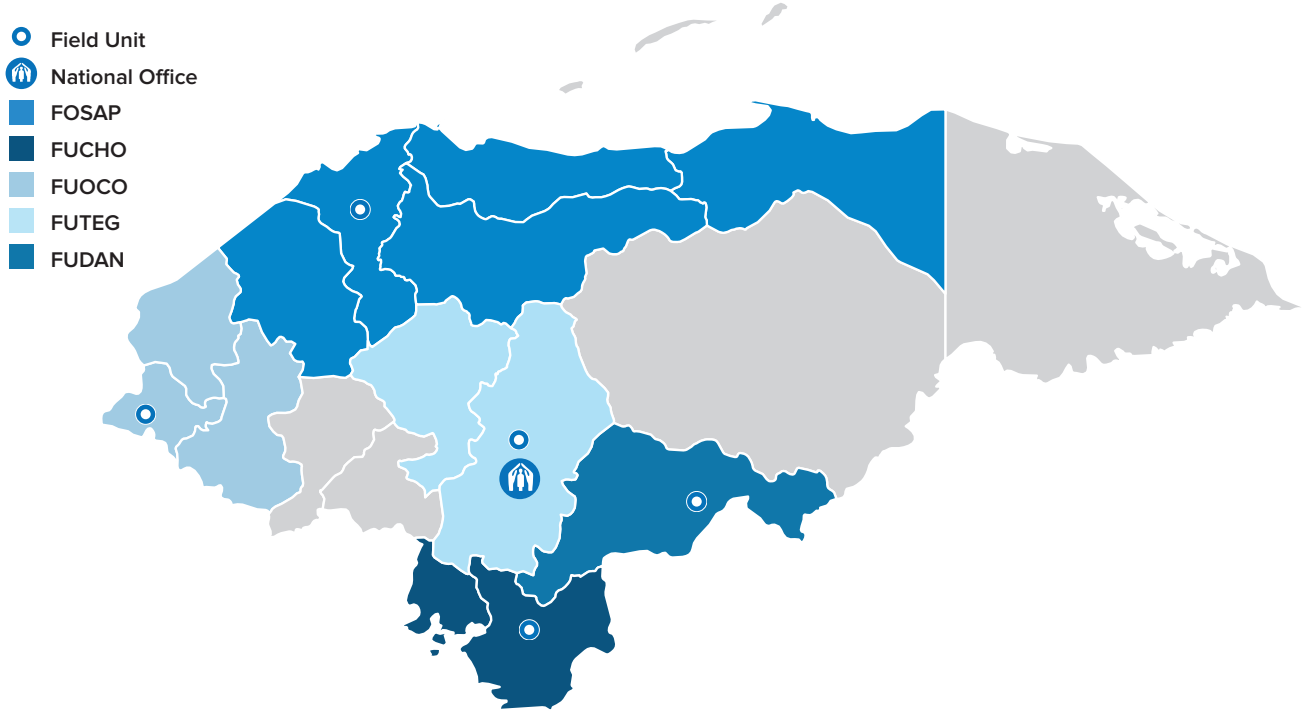
EMPOWER

This month, UNHCR Honduras actively engaged with local communities and organizations to enhance local empowerment and social cohesion.



UNHCR and Children International held **tactical urbanism and youth empowerment strategic planning sessions with leaders and volunteers from the Chamelecon, Cofradia and Rivera Hernández sectors** with the participation of **335 people** throughout August.

To empower community members and establish feedback mechanisms for community leaders to improve support for communities affected by forced displacement, UNHCR and Children International held **training sessions on Psychological First Aid, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and Child Protection.** Approximately 70 community leaders and volunteers participated in these sessions.

Additionally, UNHCR and Children International **facilitated dialogues between CONADEH and five communities in which 45 community leaders participated to strengthen leadership skills.**

UNHCR and partner Casa Alianza conducted a **training for 75 officials in Tegucigalpa, who work directly with children, adolescents, and their families.** The training was focused on forced recruitment, gender-based violence and PSEA, aiming to boost capacities and knowledge of the participants for prevention and response to forced displacement of children and adolescents. UNHCR collaborates closely with Casa Alianza to deliver protection services and to raise awareness on the impact of forced recruitment of children and adolescents as one of the main causes of forced displacement in Honduras.

Under the strategy to promote social cohesion and access to public services, in cooperation with Honduras' National Commission for Sports, Physical Education and Recreation (CONDEPOR), **UNHCR held sports activities in the Villa Olímpica where over 140 children and young adults participated this month.**

To improve the protection environment in a high-risk community in the Central District, UNHCR donated 30 streetlights. The donation was coordinated with the National Electric Company and was the result of consultations with a wide range of community leaders, including a youth network, that identified key sites to intervene to improve the protection environment at night.

To contribute to the prevention of xenophobia and to promote the rights of people in mixed movements, internally displaced persons, vulnerable returnees, and stateless persons, **UNHCR together with the local government and community leaders of the municipality of Duyure, Choluteca, organized a peaceful coexistence activity which included artistic and traditional cultural activities where 300 people participated.**

UNHCR held two Communicating with Communities activities in the Central District with 27 community leaders, members of a women group, and the youth network to follow up the implementation of the community's protection plan, address protection concerns, and receive feedback on activities organized by UNHCR and its partners in San Miguel and San Buenaventura.

UNHCR, in coordination with the Civil Society Group, conducted an **exchange session between the Cattrachas Lesbian Network and the Table of Migrant and Displaced Women with the aim of presenting the report "The**

This month, more than 140 children and youth at risk of displacement participated in sports activities at the Villa Olimpica, as part of UNHCR's strategy to promote social cohesion and facilitate access to public services. These initiatives seek to provide a safe space for young people in vulnerable situations.

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Intersectionality of Femicide in Honduras", emphasizing the context that has led to an increase in violence against women. Here, 35 women from the Table of Migrant and Displaced Women participated, representing different groups of women, including women displaced by violence, elderly women, trans women, sex workers, lesbian women, rural and urban women. The diversity of women allowed for an in-depth analysis of protection risks.

Additionally, three of eight 30-hour training process for the Sinuapa Women's Network continued with the participation of 25 women. Delivered over eight weeks by UNHCR and the Women´s Office of Sinuapa, the **training focuses on preventing gender-based violence, identifying and mitigation protection risks, and providing care routes for survivors.** Additionally, awareness was raised on digital protection risks and conflict resolution, with the aim of preventing violence and forced displacement.

Through a wide range of capacity building initiatives, training programs, and community-focused activities, **UNHCR continues to strengthen communities affected by displacement and violence.**

SOLVE

UNHCR, in collaboration with local partners, continues to promote employment and economic inclusion initiatives to support displaced persons and those at risk of displacement in Honduras.

UNHCR and partner Centre for Business Development (CDE) organized an employment fair, with the participation of 14 private sector companies: La Paz Investments, DIANA Industries, UNICOMER, MB Textiles, Espresso Americano, Grupo MISOL, Florida Industries, Caribe Distributions, CISA, Megapaca, Grupo AJE, Grupo Bimbo, K&B, INTUR and others. As a result, 190 people participated and 100 managed to secure employment, among them were displaced persons and persons at risk of displacement.

Additionally, to increase efficiency of cash management and enterprise management skills, **UNHCR and CDE conducted a workshop with 15 people on purchase and supply processes for small and micro entrepreneurs** who recently were selected for seed capital grants.

Furthermore, **UNHCR and CDE held two workshops for social enterprises:** an entrepreneurial and leadership skills workshop for the managers of the social enterprise in La Alfonso Lacayo community, as well as a sales and accounting workshop for Proli+cen social enterprise.

In Choluteca, **UNHCR facilitated a training-of-trainers in Soft Skills with a Protection Lens, delivered by INFOP for the staff of technical-vocational education centres;** 15 people completed the program and received their certification. This training is part of the UNHCR-INFOP-SETRASS (Ministry of Labour) joint program financed under MIRPS and aims to facilitate access to employment for forcibly displaced persons.

UNHCR and partner Fe y Alegria, in cooperation with INFOP (national TVET Institution) **assisted 23 displaced persons with skills certification in refrigeration maintenance.** These young people receive their training in the community TVET centre in La Central community in San Pedro Sula; however, official certification from INFOP allows better access to a wider spectrum of jobs and economic inclusion opportunities.

By facilitating job fairs, skills training, and certifications, **UNHCR is helping to improve access to employment opportunities and strengthening the economic resilience of displaced populations and vulnerable communities.**

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*As of August 2024

For more information: Johana Canales / Senior Executive Support Assistant canales@unhcr.org