Honduras

Operational Update

N.39 | March 2025

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

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 2025, as triggers of internal displacement persist.

Return

+2,850

Hondurans were returned to the country in March 2025, marking a 11% decrease compared to over 3,200 people returned in February. According to the Returned Migrant Attention System of the Secretariat of Social Development, over 8,600 Honduran nationals had been returned in 2025 by the end of March.

+2,500

people who arrived irregularly registered their entry with the Government in March, marking a 26% decrease compared to over 3,400 people registered in February. Of them, 99% entered via Danli and 1% via Choluteca. The top five nationalities were Cuban, Haitian, Chinese, Iranian, and Vietnamese. Among them, 46% were men, 37% women, 9% boys, and 8% girls. According to monitoring by UNHCR and its partners, more than 16,000 refugees and migrants entered and crossed through Honduran territory as of 31 March 2025.

Refuge

+215

refugees currently residing in Honduras. Between 1 January and 31 March 2025, INM registered 126 asylum applications, which is an increase of 334% in comparison to the same period in 2024.

Our Response

+5,200

people traveling north-south direction identified by UNHCR and partners in March.

+1,860

individuals assisted at national shelter facilities in the southeast and western borders. Marking a 13% increase compared to over 1,650 people assisted in February.

+2,595

people received protection information and services at key entry and exit points by UNHCR and partners. A 17% decrease compared to 3,116 people assisted in February.

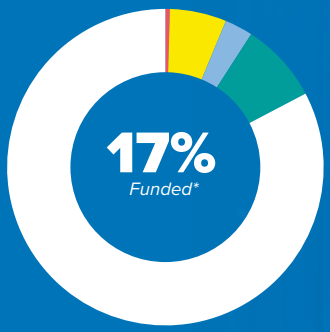
+1,697

individuals received medical care, mental health assistance, and information on sexual and reproductive health at key entry and exit points by UNHCR and partners.

+438

people received legal counselling and information on asylum by the Ombudsperson through its mobile units in key border areas, supported by UNHCR. A 90% increase compared to 230 people assisted in February.

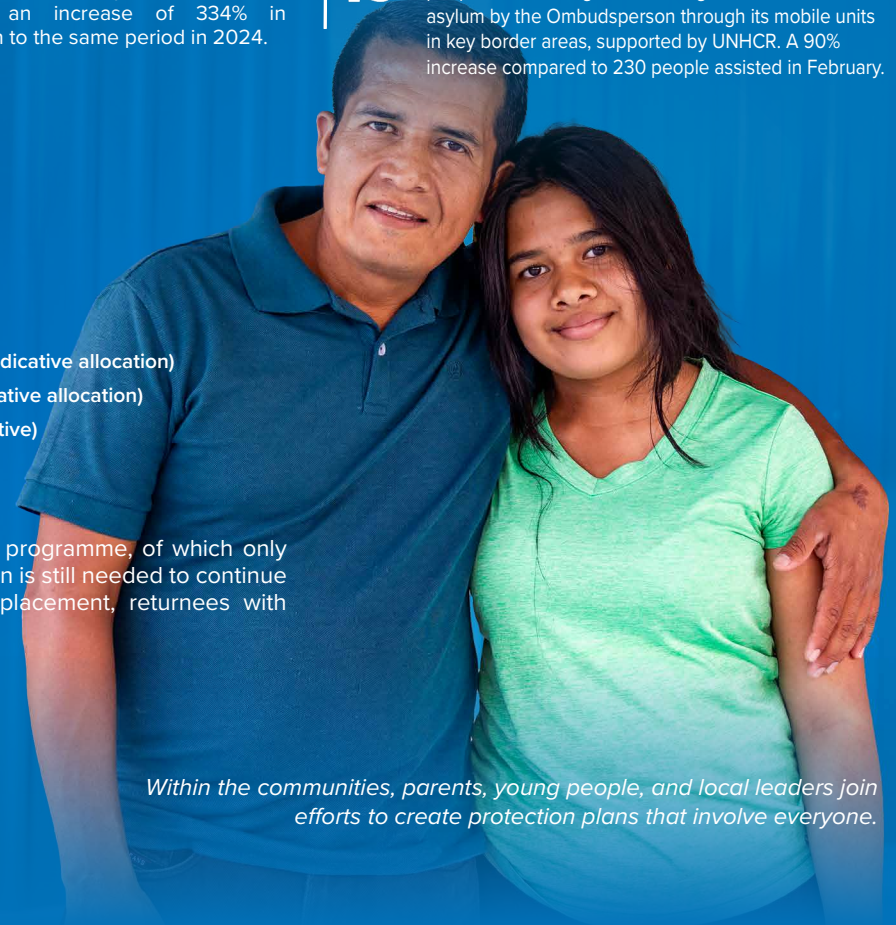
Funding



As of 31 March 2025

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

*UNHCR appealed for **USD 30,7 million** for its 2025 programme, of which only USD 5.3 million (17%) has been funded. USD 25,4 million is still needed to continue supporting people forcibly displaced, at risk of displacement, returnees with protection needs, asylum-seekers and refugees.



Within the communities, parents, young people, and local leaders join efforts to create protection plans that involve everyone.

Context

In March 2025, Honduras held **primary elections** marked by irregularities, including the late arrival of voting materials, protests in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, and reports of multiple voting incidents. Civil society organizations denounced **political violence** throughout the electoral process, particularly targeting women in leadership roles.

Violence against women and girls remained widespread. By the end of March, **53 femicides** had been recorded, mostly affecting young women aged 18 and 29. Two femicides occurred within 24 hours in Choluteca and El Paraiso—both areas where UNHCR maintains an operational presence.

Delays in approving the **Purple Alert Law**, aimed at preventing the disappearance of women, triggered nationwide protests and road blockades. The national domestic violence hotline registered over 5,000 calls during the first quarter, resulting in 122 detentions.

According to the Ombudsperson, more than **1,400 women** were forcibly displaced by violence in 2024.

Security concerns escalated, with **six massacres** reported in March alone—bringing the annual total to **12 incidents and 42 victims.** In Rivera Hernandez, San Pedro Sula, four individuals were assassinated by armed men dressed in military-style uniforms. Additionally, extortion continued to affect the public transportation sector, with criminal groups reportedly collecting up to USD 2,000,000 monthly.

Land-related conflicts occurred in the Bay Islands and Lempira, meanwhile dialogue has resumed among authorities, the private sector, and rural organizations to address disputes in Bajo Aguán. Concerns about press freedom also persisted, with **75 journalists** under state protection. A recent crime index placed **Honduras** among the three **most dangerous countries in the region.**

Response

Protection and Legal Assistance

UNHCR trained **14 staff** from the Directorate for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons by Violence on administrative and legal procedures under the Law for the Prevention, Assistance and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP Protection Law). UNHCR also trained **31 humanitarian workers** from the Western Border Local Team on security awareness to enhance the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance. Additionally, UNHCR supported **10 Ombudsperson staff** in analyzing the root causes of displacement to strengthen institutional complaint mechanisms.

In Tegucigalpa, UNHCR conducted protection monitoring at the Red Cross assistance point, where over **300 refugees and migrants** transit each week, and installed information materials to improve access to protection services.

Furthermore, UNHCR collaborated with the UNHCR office in Izabal, Guatemala, to deliver a training session for partner organizations at the El Corinto border point. The session aimed to improve knowledge of the **Honduran asylum system, key protection messages, and referral pathways** for refugees and migrants crossing from Guatemala into Honduras.

31 humanitarian workers from the Western Border Local Team were trained in risk management, ensuring that every delivery of assistance reaches those who need it most safely.

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Child, Women, and Community Protection

In March, UNHCR and partners strengthened child protection, prevention of violence against women, and community empowerment across Honduras.

In Ocotepeque, over **80 children from host communities** participated in digital safety sessions focused on preventing recruitment, online exploitation, and other digital protection risks. UNHCR also facilitated COMUNYCARTE art-based workshops, where **60 children** explored peaceful coexistence and social cohesion through creative expression.

In San Pedro Sula, UNHCR supported more than **130 community leaders, women, and youth** to lead protection planning, implement risk mitigation strategies, and coordinate humanitarian access in areas affected by violence.

To mark International Women's Day, **88 women and girls**—including refugees and asylum-seekers—joined awareness-raising activities on self-care, resilience, and sexual and reproductive rights.

Local Capacity Strengthening and Inclusion

UNHCR and partners enhanced livelihoods and economic inclusion for displaced people and those at risk of displacement through training, entrepreneurship support, and institutional coordination.

In Danlí and San Pedro Sula, **38 individuals** completed technical and soft skills training to support their integration into the labour market. UNHCR and Business Development Centre (CDE) launched a capacity-building process for **20 entrepreneurs** in Cedeño, Choluteca, enabling them to identify consumer needs and develop tailored solutions.

UNHCR monitored 35 enterprises supported in 2024 and documented the following **achievements as of March 2025**: seven obtained personal or business National Tax Registration, 29 formalised their enterprises, 12 received food safety certificates by the Government, and 20 secured bank accounts or digital services. Additional support included sanitary registration, branding, and financial tools. These efforts helped displaced and at-risk of displacement individuals to strengthen their businesses, generate income, and expand their customer base.

Women from communities affected by violence took part in a poetry and self-care session to strengthen their well-being, resilience, and leadership.

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Strategic Coordination

UNHCR provided technical support for the approval of the **Protocol for the Attention of Returnees in Need of Protection**, endorsed by the Secretariats of Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, and Protection of Children and Families. The protocol clarifies inter-agency roles within the Centres for the Attention of Returned Migrants to ensure coordinated identification and assistance under the framework of the **Law for the Prevention, Assistance and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons.**

UNHCR also contributed to the development of Honduras' **first public policy for the prevention of internal displacement** by supporting the Inter-Institutional Commission for the Protection of Forcibly Displaced Persons in preparing a conceptual and methodological proposal.

Additionally, UNHCR joined the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Children's Fund, and the Protection Advisor of the Protection Standby Capacity Project (ProCap) on an inter-agency mission to Bajo Aguan to **assess humanitarian needs** in areas affected by displacement.

Finally, UNHCR collaborated with the Association of Municipalities of Honduras (AMHON) and the UN Country Team to promote local government engagement in the response of **internal displacement at the municipal level** in coordination with national institutions.

UNHCR signed the Protocol for the Attention of Returnees in Need of Protection, aiming to strengthen identification and assistance in the CAMRs, ensuring that those in need receive protection from the very first moment.

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UNHCR thanks the contributions of donor countries such as

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*As of March 2025

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