UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

FACT SHEET

Belize

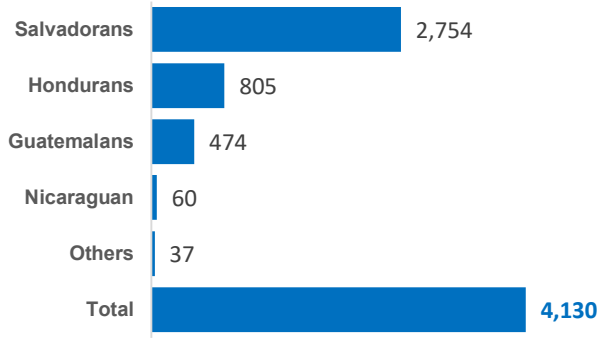
September-October 2022

Belize is home to **approximately 4,130 refugees** and **asylum-seekers**, mostly from El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala.

A total of **834 asylum seekers** received information and support with completing their **amnesty application** for a complementary **protection path.**

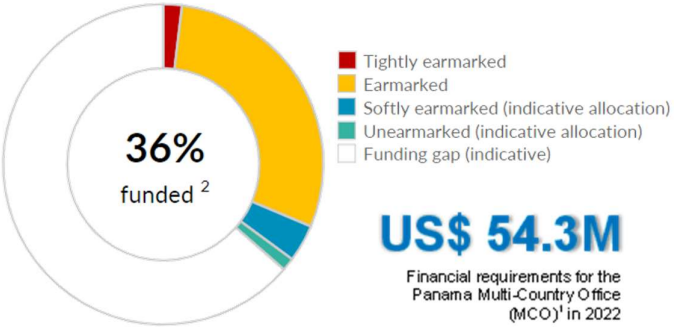
Some **241 refugees** and **asylum seekers** were provided with **cash assistance** to enhance their access to **food, education, documentation, medicine** and other **basic needs.**

People UNHCR protects



** Data includes registered refugees and asylum-seekers (active and non-active).*
Source: Refugees Department, as of 28 February 2022

STATE OF PLAY: FUNDING RECEIVED VS. FUNDING NEEDS (AS OF 25 OCTOBER 2022)



[1] The financial requirements for the Panama MCO include requirements for the Coronavirus Emergency and the Venezuela Situation. **Belize** is part of the **Panama Multi-Country Office** since 2021 along with Panama, Nicaragua, Cuba and the Southern Caribbean.

[2] The percentage funded includes indicative allocations of softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions.

CONTEXT

UNHCR supports the Government of Belize to strengthen the asylum system, establish protection policies and facilitate durable solutions to assist asylum seekers and refugees.

UNHCR works closely with national partners to offer asylum seekers and refugees humanitarian aid, including food and medical assistance, livelihoods training, psychosocial support, and English as a Second Language (ESL) courses.

The Government's amnesty program for asylum-seekers and migrants began on 2 August 2022. This will allow them an alternative protection path by accessing permanent residency, including for those who were previously denied asylum claims.

As of 30 August 2022, approximately 7,000 persons had applied for the amnesty program, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade & Immigration.

Amnesty Support Mobile Clinics

UNHCR continued to support asylum seekers and other vulnerable groups with information and assistance to complete applications for the Government of Belize Amnesty program. Through partners, 360 individuals were supported at mobile clinics in different locations across Belize.

Public Information Sessions at University of Belize

UNHCR delivered two public information sessions for 70 students at the University of Belize. The sessions included presentations and discussions on refugees, their rights and the work UNHCR is doing around the world.

UNHCR Response and Strategy

UNHCR works in close coordination with the Government, civil society, UN agencies, refugees, and asylum-seekers in Belize. A partnership with the Refugees Department helps channel support and continues strengthening the asylum system in the country. Additionally, UNHCR works in partnership with Help for Progress (HfP), HUMANA People to People Belize (Humana), and the Human Rights Commission of Belize (HRCB). UNHCR supports the government in implementing its commitments under the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS).

Main Activities

Alongside the government, partner organizations, civil society, development actors, and UN Agencies, UNHCR undertakes protection and solutions activities, including:

Protection | UNHCR and partner Human Rights Commission of Belize (HRCB) assisted 13 asylum-seekers with legal services. UNHCR's national partners, HRCB, Help for Progress, and HUMANA People to People, jointly supported 391 asylum seekers and other people in need with their application for the Government's amnesty program.

Cash-based Interventions and Assistance | UNHCR through Help for Progress and HUMANA People to People provided cash assistance to 241 (HfP) refugees and asylum seekers to enhance access to food, medicine, documents, education, and other basic needs.

Durable Solutions and Livelihoods | UNHCR and HUMANA delivered livelihood and skills training courses to 22 asylum seekers to build skills in carpentry, sewing, mentorship, music, and English as a second language (ESL). The training seeks to promote and enhance local integration within the Belizean communities. In addition, four asylum seekers were supported with seed capital grants and materials to start their businesses and enhance their self reliance.

Advocacy and Public Information | UNHCR produced and published a webstory highlighting the bravery of an asylum seeker who spoke out against xenophobia at a health clinic in Bella Vista, Belize. The story was published in both English and Spanish. UNHCR also produced and published a video in English and Spanish, which tells the story of young asylum seekers who had the opportunity to further their studies at a technical/vocational institution and graduated with a certificate equivalent to a high school diploma.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Services | UNHCR delivered psychosocial support through Help for Progress and HUMANA People to People to 15 refugees and asylum-seekers. This psychosocial assistance helps them to work through the traumas faced as a result of their forced displacement, gender-based violence, and exploitation experiences.

UNHCR Panama MCO wishes to convey a special thank you to its donors: Canada, the European Union, France, Guyana, the United States of America, and the UN Programme on HIV/AIDS. We also thank the fundamental support provided by donors who have contributed to UNHCR with unearmarked and softly earmarked funds: Australia | Austria | Belgium | Denmark | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom. Private donors in Australia | Canada | Germany | Italy | Japan | the Republic of Korea | Spain | Sweden| and the United States.

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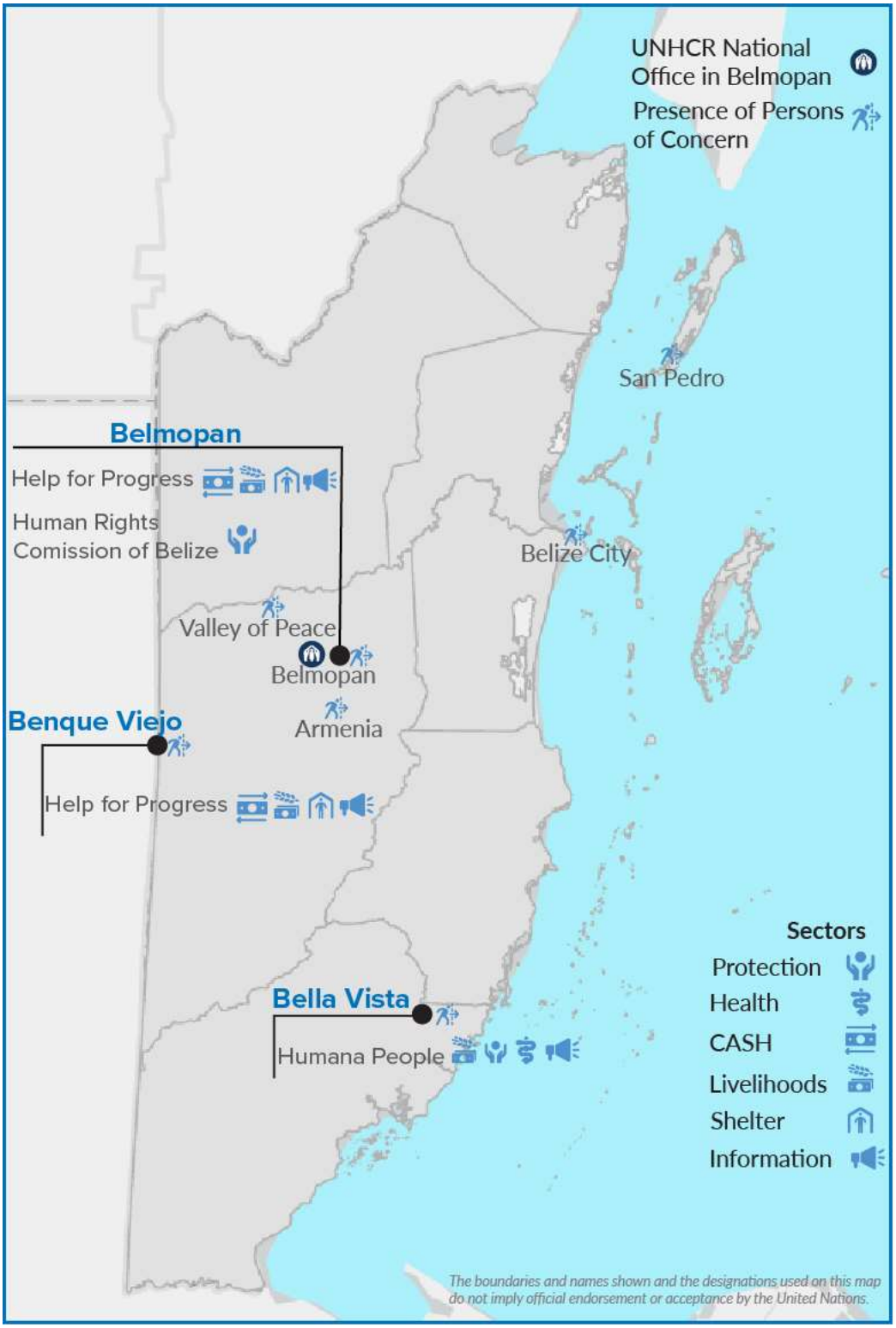
UNHCR Presence In Belize