UNHCR ACNUR
La Agencia de la ONU para los Refugiados

April 2024
Fact Sheet

Economic Inclusion and Livelihood Initiatives in Honduras

- Honduras faces multiple causes of forced displacement due to violence and other triggers. UNHCR's response includes **livelihood programmes**, fostering **economic inclusion** through competitive skills training, and private sector partnerships for job placement.
- Forced displacement in Honduras exacerbates **economic hardships**, limiting access to employment and education for people forced to flee. UNHCR's response aims to **foster self-reliance** and **inclusion** in the local economy.
- With continued UNHCR efforts and partnerships, the economic and social inclusion of forcibly displaced people and those at-risk is expected to improve, leading to **enhanced livelihoods** and **community resilience.**

Dario Castro, a 19-year-old resident of La Central in San Pedro Sula, is an exceptional leader within his community. Through the guidance provided by UNHCR, he has transformed into a successful entrepreneur, playing a vital role in advancing the community's prosperity and progress.

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Strategic Objectives

Entrepreneurial Empowerment

Provides forcibly displaced people and those facing displacement risks with seed capital and entrepreneurship training, empowering them to build self-reliant and economically independent futures.

Access to Employment Opportunities

Creates employment opportunities for people displaced or at risk by matching market needs with focused internship programmes, fostering their potential to contribute and thrive.

Socio-Economic Integration through Social Entrepreneurship

Facilitates the socio-economic integration of people in challenging situations through social entrepreneurship, highlighting their capacity to drive positive community changes and breaking stigmatization of people from high-risk communities.

Skills Training for Market Competitiveness

Offers people at risk of displacement access to competitive skills training, supporting their determination to adapt and succeed in the modern workforce.

Collaborative Partnerships for Inclusive Growth

Forms strategic alliances with various sectors to foster the economic inclusion of people navigating displacement risks, showcasing their abilities and potential to enhance diverse workplaces.

Creación de un entorno económico favorable

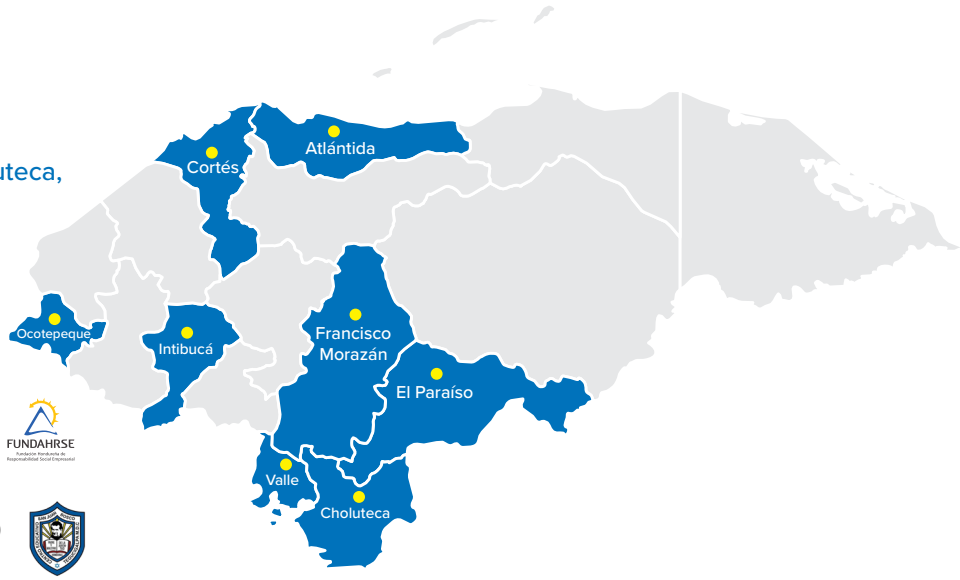
Pretende cultivar un entorno favorable para la inclusión económica de las personas desplazadas o en situación de riesgo, mejorando la capacidad de las instituciones estatales para reconocer y aprovechar la resistencia y los puntos fuertes inherentes a estas comunidades a la hora de encontrar soluciones duraderas.

UNHCR Presence

Regions of intervention of UNHCR:
Atlántida, Francisco Morazán, El Paraíso, Choluteca, Valle, Cortés, Ocotepeque, and Intibucá.

Staff:
4 people

Partners:



Working with Partners

UNHCR Honduras is part of coordinating mechanisms to bolster economic self-reliance among displaced populations. This includes playing a pivotal role in sector working groups, and clusters. A significant part of this coordination involves technical and financial support to the Secretariat of Human Rights (SEDH), supporting its leadership in designing response programmes.

By establishing coordination lines with SEDH and key state stakeholders such as Secretariat of Labour and Social Security (SETRASS) and the National Vocational Training Institute (INFOP), UNHCR facilitates a holistic approach to addressing forced displacement. Advocacy within the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS) further enhances regional best practices exchanges. UNHCR's efforts extend to the municipalities of La Ceiba, Choluteca, Ocotepeque, San Marco, and San Pedro Sula, focusing on strengthening local NGOs and stakeholders.

Main Activities

UNHCR's initiatives in Honduras aim to boost economic resilience and inclusion for those affected by forced displacement. Focusing on essential needs, UNHCR's efforts include enhancing institutional support, providing education and training, encouraging entrepreneurship, and partnering with the private sector. These actions help include forcibly displaced people into society and prevent forced displacement in at-risk communities, contributing to Honduras' sustainable development and unity.

Strengthening State Institutional Capacity

Continuous support is offered to the SEDH, enhancing its capacity to lead effective displacement response programmes. This is complemented by strengthening technical vocational and community training institutions, thereby improving education offerings, and facilitating skills certification through CONEANFO, INFOP, and other training institutions.

Entrepreneurship and Job Placement

UNHCR champions entrepreneurship by supporting programmes through partners like the Secretariat of Human Rights and the Business Development Centre (CDE MIPYME) network. Collaboration with CONEANFO, GraphXAcademy and INFOP delivers quality training and professional certification, addressing private sector employment needs, and simplifying the job search for forcibly displaced populations. Initiatives focus on building capacities, ensuring synergy among stakeholders, and facilitating job placement through targeted referral systems.

Access to Competitive Skills Training

A concerted effort between INFOP, UNHCR, UNHCR's partners and the private sector brought competitive skills training to communities at high risk of displacement. This involved equipping 28 training centres and improving curricula and job placement programmes. Partnerships with a range of educational institutions and training platforms ensure high-quality, market-relevant training courses free of charge for displaced people and those at risk, fostering market-driven skills development.

Ana Cristina (54) was the only woman to graduate from the refrigeration workshop at the community training center. Currently, in addition to dedicating herself to her business, she knows about repair and maintenance services for air conditioners and refrigerators.

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Private Sector Engagement

Collaboration with the private sector is multifaceted, addressing job placement, social entrepreneurship, internships, and sensitization to combat stigmatization. Working alongside entities like the Honduran Corporate Social Responsibility Foundation (FUNDHARSE), various Chambers of Commerce and private companies, UNHCR promotes integration and economic opportunities for displaced communities. Success stories include internships for on-the-job training, scholarship programmes and pledges for job market integration, showcasing the private sector's critical role in creating solutions.

Promoting Social Entrepreneurship

UNHCR supports seven community social enterprises, providing technical guidance, equipment, and business plans to ensure viability. This approach not only mobilizes community members, but also offers practical skills training, community services, and exposure to formal market opportunities, illustrating UNHCR's innovative strategies for creating economically sustainable protection spaces. It also facilitates the access to diverse actors to the high-risk communities, gradually contributing to changing the community dynamics.

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