UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

November 2024

Operational Update 35

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

26,550

Honduran nationals sought asylum in Mexico from 1 January to 30 November 2024, continuing to rank as the first nationality of asylum requests to this country.

146

*people sought asylum in Honduras from 1 January to 30 November 2024 and are mainly from **Venezuela, Nicaragua, Colombia and El Salvador,** among 9 other nationalities. 22% of the applications were made by women, 16% by girls, 44% by men and 18% by boys. Compared to the same period in 2023, the asylum applications in Honduras have increased by 40%. This is the highest number of asylum applications Honduras has registered in a single year.*

Mixed Movements

358,682

refugees and migrants in mixed movements entered Honduras irregularly from 1 January to 30 November and registered with the National Migration Institute (INM), which represents a 29% decrease compared to the same period in 2023.

Return

42,475

Hondurans were returned to the country in 2024 until 18 November.

Refuge

196

*recognised refugees are currently living in Honduras. Refugees are mainly from **Nicaragua, El Salvador and Venezuela.** 24% are women, 47% are men, 13% are girls, and 16% are boys.*

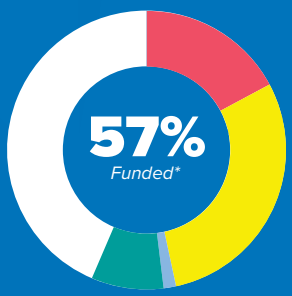
Our response

165,421 people

have been reached by November 2024 by UNHCR and its partners, mainly people in mixed movements and internally displaced individuals, 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.

18,853	18,866	62,319	65,193	190
Girls	Boys	Women	Men	LGBTQI+

Funding



As of 30 November 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 17,6 million (57%) has been funded. USD 13,2 million is still needed to continue supporting people forcibly displaced, at risk of displacement, returnees with needs of protection, asylum-seekers, refugees, and persons in mixed movements.*

Context

Violence and extortion

Violence and extortion in Honduras remain a major cause of displacement, with criminal groups heavily impacting the lives of people across the country.

Extortion has been identified as the second leading cause of forced displacement.

However, 56% of victims or people at risk do not report it due to a lack of trust.

During the year, **49 transportation workers were killed** for not complying with extortion payments imposed by criminal groups, mainly in the departments of Cortés, Francisco Morazán and Choluteca. **The transport sector pays more than 250 million lempiras a year in extortion.**

Violence also continues to affect the most vulnerable populations. Throughout 2024, **more than 500 children, adolescents and young people** have **lost their lives violently.**

Furthermore, during the last year, the ombudsman received around 1,200 cases in which children were victims or at risk of displacement due forced recruitment. NGOs reported that criminal groups are now also recruiting children in exchange for a "monthly salary".

The ongoing violence and extortion highlight the urgent need for stronger protection measures and accountability for the most vulnerable populations.

Gender-based violence

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence campaign was inaugurated in a challenging context, were **Honduras remains the most violent country in the region for women,** with a femicide rate of 7.2 cases per 100,000 women. Last month, 203 femicides were reported.

Although there has been a decrease in this cases in 2024 compared last year, women human rights defenders warn that patterns of violence against women persist, underscoring the urgent need for comprehensive efforts to address this issue.

It is important that all actors work together to protect women. Without a strong holistic response, women in Honduras will continue to face risks that threaten their safety and well-being.

Human rights situation

2025, **51 million lempiras will be cut** from the Secretariat of Childhood, Adolescence and Family (SENAF) budget, representing a 32% reduction. Child rights organisations warn that this threatens the protection of children and makes it difficult to implement effective protection policies.

Additionally, in November 2024, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development visited Honduras to assess the country's efforts to promote and fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals. During the visit, he called on the government to take urgent steps to end the criminalisation of human rights, environmental and indigenous rights defenders.

Political and legislative challenges

In the lead-up to the 2025 elections, on 18 November, a **female pre-candidate was physically attacked.**

Different actors **condemned** the political violence, particularly violence against women. This incident adds to a growing number of cases of political violence, **particularly targeting women,** in the context of the upcoming elections.

Environmental challenges

From 14 to 22 November, **Tropical Storm Sara caused flooding, landslides and river flooding in 98 municipalities in Honduras,** affecting 32% of the national territory. The storm impacted 250,900 people, leaving 80,000 individuals with material losses. Rural and Afro-Honduran communities were heavily affected with widespread damage to infrastructure, water and sewage networks, and loss of livelihoods.

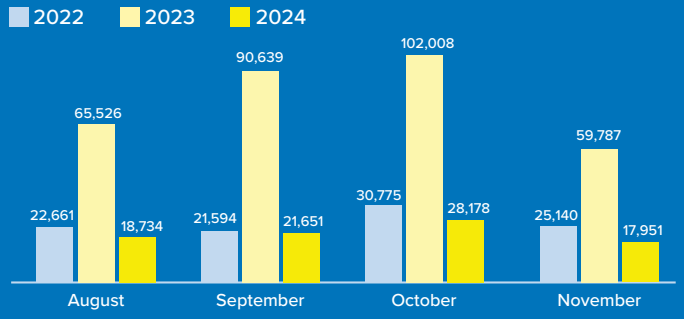
Natural disasters, such as tropical storm Sara, aggravate the internal displacement crisis in Honduras, forcing thousands of people to flee their homes and increasing social and economic vulnerability.

Context

Mixed Movements

From January to November 2024, the INM reported that **358,682 people in mixed movements** had registered for a transit permit, representing a 29% decrease compared to the same period in 2023.

Monthly irregular entries to 2022 - 2024



In November 2024, **17,951 people in mixed movements received transit permits by INM to cross Honduras**, marking a 36% decrease in comparison to October 2024.

Nationalities:
58% Venezuela | **18%** Cuba | **4%** Colombia | **3%** Ecuador | **2%** Haiti

Demographic breakdown:

29% Female | **44%** Males | **12%** Girls | **15%** Boys

99% of the people registered in mixed movements entered through El Paraíso department. The remaining 1% entered Honduras through Choluteca. El Paraíso saw a 36% decrease, while Choluteca experienced a 31% decrease compared to October 2024.

In November, UNHCR reported approximately 25,900 people in mixed movements arriving at the western border of Agua Caliente, intending to cross into Guatemala.

On 27 November, **the National Congress approved the extension of the migratory amnesty until December 31, 2025.**

Initially introduced in August 2022 and later extended, the amnesty exempts individuals in mixed movements who enter the country irregularly from paying an administrative fine of at least 250 USD per person.

The amnesty has significantly contributed to improve the protection environment of people in mixed movements and has diminished protection risks in Honduras.

A steady decline in mixed movements is anticipated during the Christmas and New Year period, with many individuals likely to wait until the new year to continue their journey.

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

Asylum

Between January and November 2024, INM registered 146 asylum applications, which is the highest number of asylum applications ever registered in Honduras, and **an increase of 40%** compared to the same period in 2023. Most asylum-seekers are from Venezuela, Nicaragua, Colombia and El Salvador, among others. 41% of the applications were filed in Tegucigalpa, 26% in Choluteca, 12% in Danlí, 6% in Santa Rosa de Copan, among other locations.

Returnees

3,424 Hondurans nationals were returned to the three Centres for Returned Migrants in Cortés. Compared to October the number increase by 19%. Of them, 1,039 were women, 2,884 were men, 558 were accompanied children in family units, and 66 were unaccompanied children. UNHCR identified 51 people in need of protection, and 53 people who had been internally displaced.

RESPONSE

PROTECT

Collaborative Efforts for Protection

On 20 November, UNHCR recognized the Central District Municipality (AMDC) as a City of Solidarity. Through this, asylum-seekers, refugees, and people in mixed movements will have **access to 20 free services and programs** aimed at enhancing their well-being.

The Property Institute and UNHCR presented the **Abandoned Property Registry** tool to justice officials, helping displaced people document and assert their housing and land rights.

UNHCR with the INM, carried out a participatory assessment with 40 asylum-seekers and refugees in Tegucigalpa. The assessment highlighted the **need for livelihood programmes to support local integration.**

Capacity Building on International Protection

UNHCR and CONADEH trained **72 police** officers on the rights of refugees and people in mixed movements in Danlí and Tegucigalpa.

Additionally, UNHCR and the INM trained **50 officers** from the Centre for Attention of Irregular Migrants and Centre for Returned Children and Families on the asylum system and the returnees reception protocol.

Furthermore, UNHCR trained **40 judges** on the causes and impacts of forced displacement. The session aimed to improve access to justice for internally displaced people.

Monitoring and Protection Missions

UNHCR conducted three **border monitoring missions** at the Machuca Humanitarian Space and the Agua Caliente border in Ocotepeque, and six protection monitoring missions in the eastern border of Las Manos, Trojes and El Pescadero Humanitarian Space, in El Paraíso.

UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF published their second joint mixed movement protection monitoring report. Main findings are: at least 35% of the interviewed people reported having international protection needs because they had to flee their country of origin due to violence or persecution; 60% of the people reported having suffered mistreatment or abuse during their journey; and the main needs identified are food, clothing, medical assistance and shelter.

Climate Action

On 27 November, the Secretariat of Social Development (SEDESOL), supported by UNHCR, CGIAR and IOM, hosted a **discussion on climate change and internal displacement.** The event brought together stakeholders to assess challenges, and opportunities in the protection of individuals displaced by disasters and climate change.

Various stakeholders engaged in a discussion about the different challenges and opportunities in the protection of displaced people by natural disasters and climate change.

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RESPOND

In November, UNHCR and its partners provided essential services to thousands of people in mixed movements in Honduras.

Caritas **provided shelter to over 2,700 people** in mixed movements in Danlí and Choluteca, representing a 28% increase compared to October. So far in 2024, Caritas has sheltered over 19,600 people, primarily from Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador.

World Vision provided **international protection information to over 11,000 people** in mixed movements through its Mobile Information Services in El Paraíso, Choluteca, and Ocotepeque. In the western border, World Vision identified 43 people with protection needs because political persecution and forced displacement by armed groups, mostly from Venezuela and Colombia.

CONADEH's mobile unit — supported by UNHCR — provided **legal counselling to 259 people** in El Paraíso. The main nationalities attended are Venezuelans, Colombians and Nicaraguans.

Doctors of the World attended to 1,228 people at Las Manos and El Pescadero borders. In Ocotepeque, Doctors of the World attended 1,491 people. People in mixed movements received individual medical attention, mental health assistance, and information on sexual and reproductive health.

Ocotepeque's Migrant Shelter provided **assistance to 421 people.** Of these 63% were from Venezuela, 31% from Honduras, and 6% from other nationalities. Out of the total 65% were on their way north and 35% were returning.

UNHCR provided **cash assistance to 1,711 people**: 1,272 people in the resettlement program, 158 internally displaced people, 18 asylum-seekers and refugees for local integration in the country, and 265 individuals for livelihoods initiatives, for a total of USD 246,000 delivered in cash assistance.

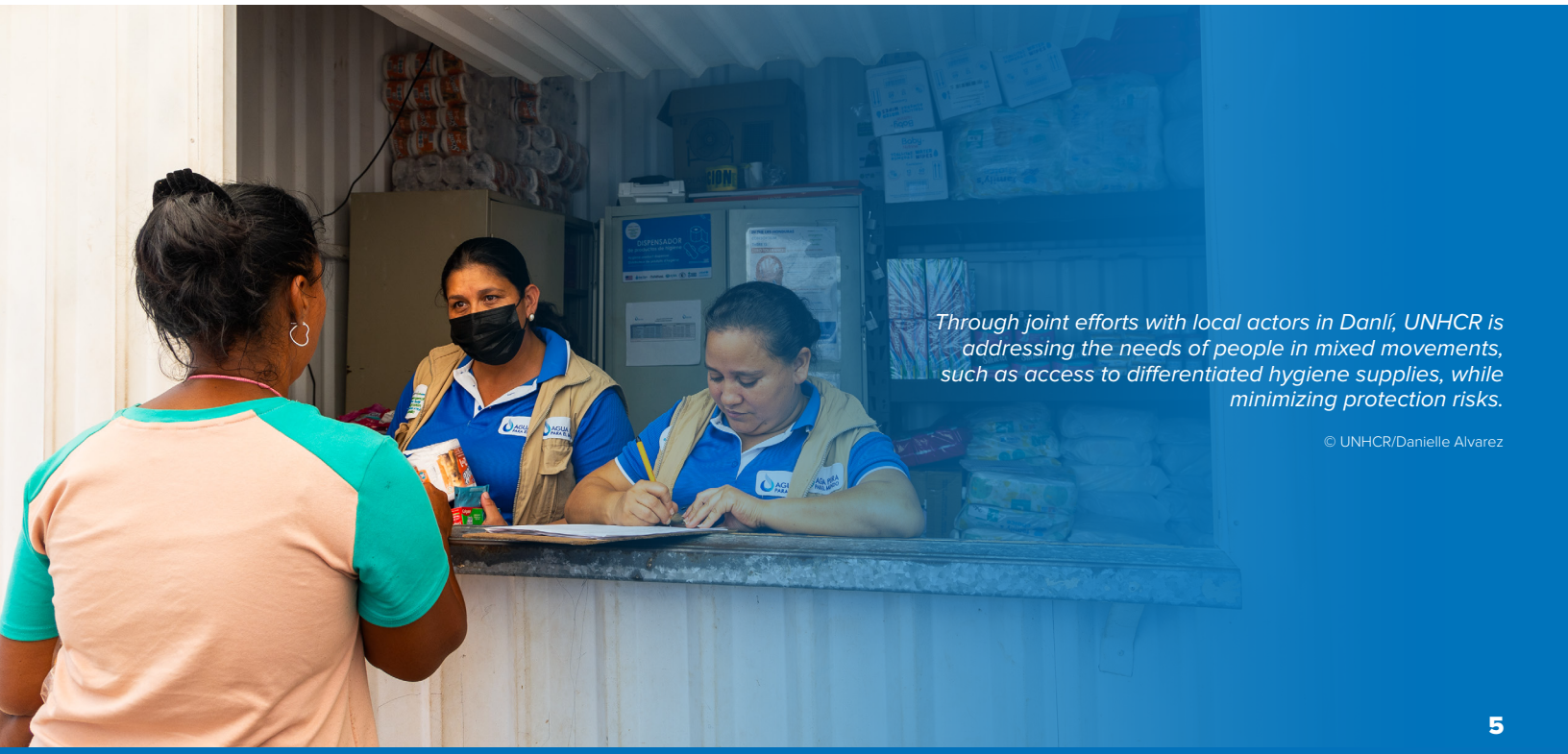
Furthermore, UNHCR, AMDC and the INM, organized a **health day offering free medical, dental, and nutritional services** to 16 people in mixed movements in Tegucigalpa.

Coordination and Response to Tropical Storm Sara

The Sula Valley Protection Team engaged with local authorities to assess protection risks in shelters. Key risks identified included gender-based violence, the compounded impact on families due to pre-existing violence, psychological effects, and emotional distress. Additionally, in the southern region, during the emergency UNHCR worked closely with community leaders.

The Government distributed in shelters and communities non-food items donated by UNHCR in 2022.

Furthermore, 11 people doubly affected by internal displacement due to violence and flooding due the Tropical Storm Sara were assisted. Six of them received individual protection; four were relocated from a high-risk flood zone, and one person will continue to meet their basic needs through UNHCR cash assistance.



Through joint efforts with local actors in Danlí, UNHCR is addressing the needs of people in mixed movements, such as access to differentiated hygiene supplies, while minimizing protection risks.

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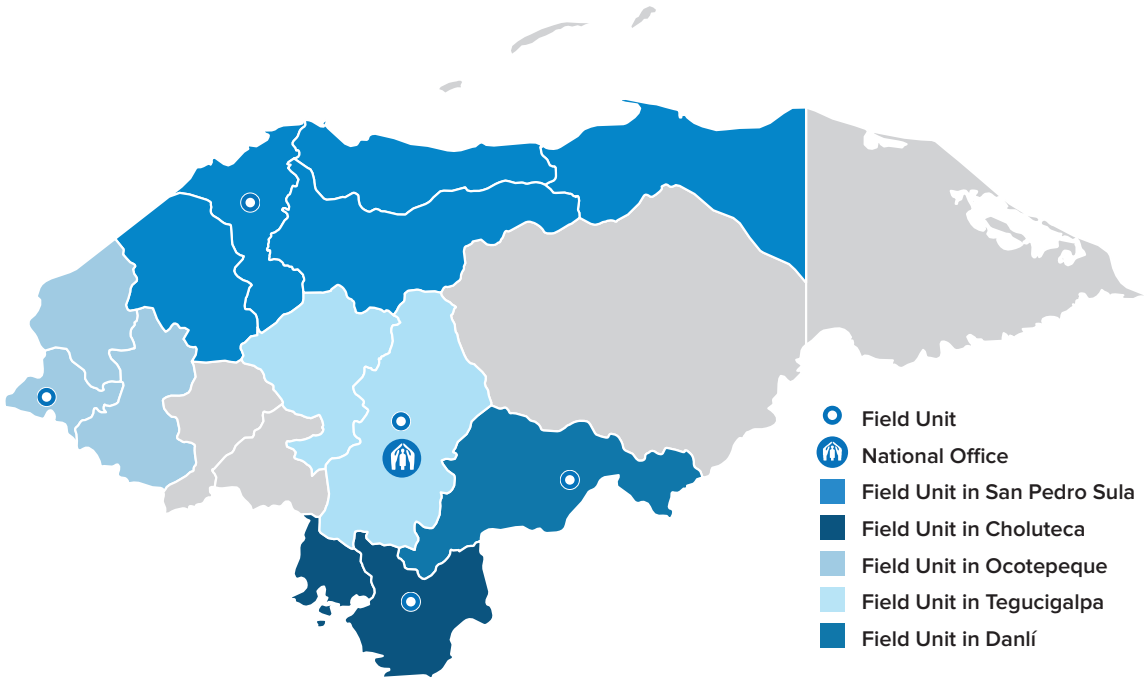
EMPOWER

Throughout November, UNHCR developed activities aimed at strengthening protection mechanisms for forcibly displaced people and communities affected by generalized violence.



Child Protection

In Tegucigalpa, **UNHCR conducted a child sexual abuse prevention workshop for 70 students,** 14 parents, and 13 teachers. UNHCR also supported the opening of a football and music academy in communities in risk of Tegucigalpa, benefiting over 50 children and youth, promoting social cohesion.

Furthermore, UNHCR organized workshops for **over 100 teachers** in Ocotepeque aimed at **strengthening digital protection capacities** among students and reducing digital protection risks.

Prevention of gender-based violence

In Valle, UNHCR with SEDESOL, held a **workshop for 28 LGTBI+ individuals on discrimination, violence, and forced displacement.**

On November 25, UNHCR participated in the **first Open Women's Forum in Ocotepeque**, with over 320 participants, focusing on gender-based violence prevention. Additionally, UNHCR organized a self-care workshop for 58 women in Santa Fe and Sinuapa, enhancing community leaders' well-being.

Mitigating the risk of forced recruitment

UNHCR and SENAF trained **15 staff members from SENAF** in Choluteca on internal displacement and forced recruitment.

Moreover, UNHCR organized a **training** on emotional expression, social skills, and leadership for **50 leaders** and volunteers from Rivera Hernández and Cofradía, affected by violence and forced displacement.

Community Empowerment

In Valle, a **peacebuilding event engaged 150 participants** to promote the rights of people in mixed movements, IDPs, returnees, and stateless individuals.

UNHCR with Children International, organized the **Community Self-Sustainability Forum** in San Pedro Sula, engaging 60 leaders to discuss self-sustainability through a community entrepreneurship program in La Central.

UNHCR also facilitated **dialogue sessions in Rivera Hernández and Chamelecón**, promoting social cohesion in revitalized community spaces, benefiting 65 leaders and volunteers.

Furthermore, UNHCR supported a community organization in Choloma with an **accountability assembly attended by 150 leaders,** while in Tegucigalpa an accountability workshop was held for refugees, asylum seekers, and members of the Refugee Committee.

Keren completed her internship at Supermercado Carbajal in Choluteca through the job placement internship programme supported by UNHCR. She has now been working at the company for a year.

© UNHCR/Lucía Martínez

Find out more about Keren's success story here

SOLVE

In November, UNHCR and its partner the Business Development Centre (CDE), concluded their **business training programme** in Ocotepeque, Tegucigalpa, and San Pedro Sula, **supporting 83 refugees**, internally displaced people, and returnees. Additionally, UNHCR and CDE conducted a financial education workshop for 26 entrepreneurs, using the International Labour Organization's methodology.

26 displaced young people graduated from the job placement internship programme in Tegucigalpa, with 38% of them securing employment in the companies where they undertook their internships.

UNHCR and INFOP organised a **workshop on interpersonal skills with a focus on protection for 26 participants from 17 organisations**, and together with the Honduran Maquila Association launched a training programme for 20 entrepreneurs in accounting and financial management.

Furthermore, UNHCR **monitored the activities of 27 private companies** involved in the job placement internship programme. Currently, more than 60 young internally displaced people are enrolled. Moreover, 130 people are expected to be beneficiaries in 2024. All these efforts are under the MIRPS framework.

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UNHCR thanks the contributions of donor countries such as

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the support of the following organizations

United Nations CERF Central Emergency Response Fund · PEACEBUILDING FUND

and contributions from our private donors in

Australia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, and Spain

We thank the fundamental support provided by donors who have contributed to UNHCR's global programs with flexible funding

*As of November 2024

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