Honduras

Operational Update

N.37 | January 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

+2,500

Hondurans were returned to the country in January 2025.

Asylum

35

new asylum applications were registered (*marking the highest monthly figure recorded to date).

8,300

people who arrived irregularly registered in Honduras in January, 98% entering via Danlí and 2% via Choluteca. The top five nationalities were Cuban, Venezuelan, Haitian, Indian, and Chinese. Among them, 47% were men, 31% women, 12% boys, and 10% girls. According to monitoring by UNHCR and its partners, approximately 10,000 refugees and migrants entered and crossed through Honduran territory in January 2025.

Refuge

+200

refugees currently residing in Honduras.

Our Response

+780
people travelling north-south direction according to figures from UNHCR and partners.

+1,450
individuals assisted at national shelter facilities in the southeast and western borders.

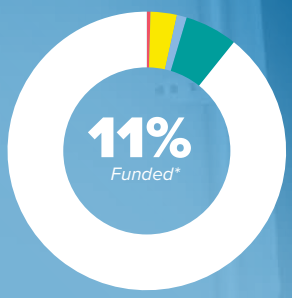
+1,500
people received protection information and services at key entry and exit points by UNHCR and partners.

+300
people received specialized protection services through a national institution.

+200
individuals received medical care and mental health assistance by UNHCR and partners.

+150
people received legal counselling on access to asylum and rights by the Ombudsperson through its mobile units in key border areas, supported by UNHCR.

Funding



As of 31 January 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 3,3 million (11%) has been funded. USD 27 million is still needed to continue supporting people forcibly displaced, at risk of displacement, returnees with needs of protection, asylum-seekers, refugees, and migrants.

Context

Honduras remains one of the most violent countries in the region. In January 2025, the country recorded three massacres involving ten people and **25 femicides**. In Tegucigalpa alone, **62 cases of violence against women** were reported, **77%** of which involved domestic or sexual violence. Additionally, land-related tensions triggered new displacement risks in the northern region.

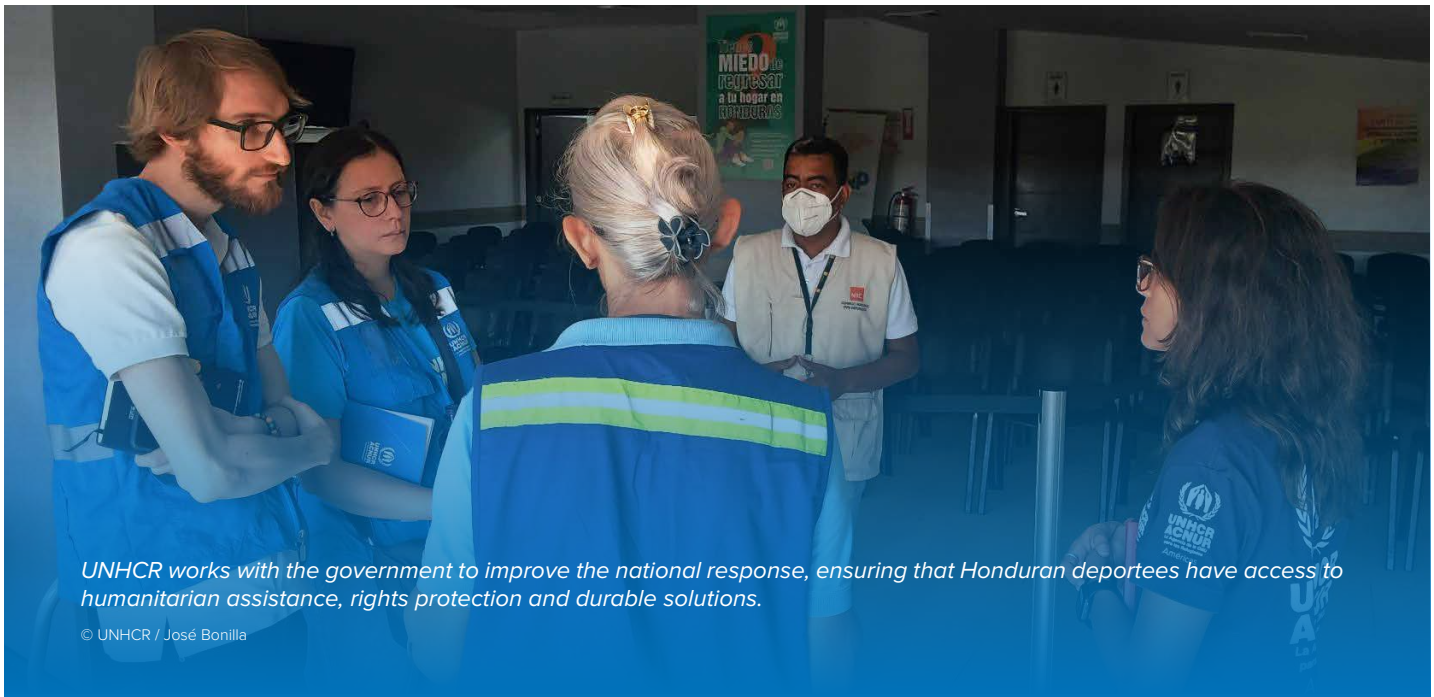
Amid changes in United States migration policies, the Government intensified efforts to support returned nationals through the **"Hermana, Hermano, Vuelve a Casa Programme"**, which provides economic assistance, food and reintegration support to facilitate dignified returns. Government actors, in coordination with UNHCR, reinforced protection responses to ensure that individuals with protection needs are referred to the national social protection system, run by the Secretariat of Human Rights in line with the Internally Displaced Persons Protection Law.

Changes in United States migration policies also contributed to an increase in the number of individuals irregularly entering Honduras and heading south towards Costa Rica, Colombia or Venezuela. UNHCR continues to support national authorities in providing information on access to asylum, humanitarian assistance, and protection to forcibly displaced people and those at risk of displacement.

Response

Protection and Legal Assistance

UNHCR provided technical support to the National Migration Institute (INM) in strengthening national asylum procedures by improving documentation, referral systems, and how to start to issue Convention Travel Documents. In January 2025, INM registered **35 new asylum applications**, representing a 250% increase compared to the same period in 2024. During the same month, INM also recognised **13 individuals as refugees**. Additionally, UNHCR also assisted over **1,300 peop**le to access protection services and coordinated emergency shelter responses with Caritas and the Norwegian Refugee Council. Furthermore, UNHCR and partners have assisted an increasing number of people moving southbound in January 2025, reflecting the impact of the change in United States migration policies.



UNHCR works with the government to improve the national response, ensuring that Honduran deportees have access to humanitarian assistance, rights protection and durable solutions.

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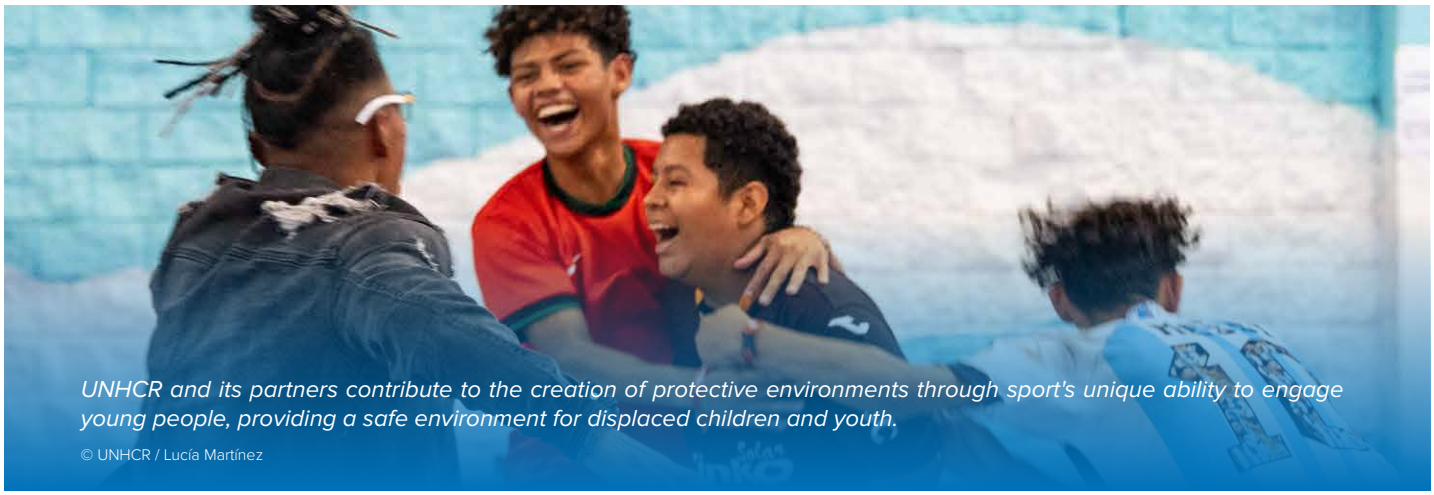
Child, Women, and Community Protection

UNHCR collaborated with the Secretariat of Childhood, Adolescence, and Family on a national campaign to prevent sexual abuse against children and adolescents. UNHCR donated educational materials to Child-Friendly Spaces in border areas to improve safer environments for refugee and migrant children entering the country. UNHCR also organised sports activities, reaching over **115 children and youth** from communities at high risk of displacement due to violence. In addition, UNHCR engaged with municipal leaders across the country to address local protection needs and co-develop community-based protection strategies, strengthening community resilience in collaboration with local organisations and government actors. In San Pedro Sula, UNHCR prioritised humanitarian access in communities that are doubly affected by forced displacement linked to violence and weather-related disasters, such as flooding.



UNHCR and its partners contribute to the creation of protective environments through sport's unique ability to engage young people, providing a safe environment for displaced children and youth.

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Local Capacity Strengthening and Integration

UNHCR collaborated with national and local actors to expand livelihood opportunities and improve access to skills development for forcibly displaced people. In Choluteca, UNHCR supported a programme designed to strengthen the skills of refugees, internally displaced people, and returnees with protection needs, and to facilitate their entry into the labour market. As a result, **nine young participants** graduated from a technical course in graphic design. UNHCR also worked with stakeholders such as the National Commission for the Development of Alternative Non-Formal Education and the Chamber of Commerce of Cortés to open new pathways for the economic inclusion of displaced people, asylum-seekers, refugees, and communities at risk. In addition, UNHCR and Ciudad Mujer held a national self-care workshop in Comayagua, bringing together **50 officials** responsible for supporting women and girl survivors of violence. The initiative aimed to raise awareness on the importance of prioritising the mental health of frontline responders and to provide practical tools for self-care that strengthen their ability to support survivors.

Thanks to the skills training and job opportunities provided by GraphX Academy with the support of UNHCR, the lives of young people at risk of displacement are being transformed.

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Strategic Coordination

UNHCR provided technical support to the **Inter-Institutional Commission for the Protection of Forcibly Displaced Persons (CIPPDEF)** to establish three sub-commissions, strengthening institutional coordination on national response systems, protection financing, and public policy, within the framework of the Law for the Prevention, Assistance and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons.

Additionally, CIPPDEF decided to create an ad hoc sub-commission to address mass deportations and the assistance and protection of returnees with protection needs. Other stakeholders, such as the National Migration Institute, International Organization for Migration, the Honduran Red Cross, and Pastoral de Movilidad Humana, will participate in this sub-commission.

To strengthen inter-institutional coordination on national response systems, within the framework of the Law for the Prevention, Attention and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons, UNHCR provides technical support to the CIPPDEF.

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UNHCR thanks the contributions of donor countries such as

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*As of January 2025

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