Honduras

Operational Update

N.48 | December 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. **Numbers could be higher in 2025**, as triggers of internal displacement persist.

Return

4,124

Hondurans were returned to the country in December 2025, according to the Returned Migrant Attention System of the Secretariat of Social Development. Marking a 3% decrease compared to the **4,243** people returned in November 2025.

Overall, 41,110 Honduran nationals had been returned in 2025 by the end of December. Representing an **8%** decrease compared to 44,549 people recorded during the same period in 2024.

2,731

people who arrived irregularly registered their entry with the National Migration Institute INM) from 1 to 31 December, marking a 53% decrease compared to the **5,809** people registered in November. Of those registered in December, 82% entered via Danli, 17% Trojes and less than 1% via Choluteca. The top five nationalities were Haiti, Cuba, Ecuador, China, and Venezuela. **Among them, approximately 52% were women and children.**

According to INM, around **39,384** refugees and migrants entered and crossed through Honduran territory as of 31 December 2025. Representing an approximate **90%** decrease compared with **374,959** people registered during the same period in 2024.

Refuge

270

refugees currently residing in Honduras. Between 1 January and 31 December 2025, the National Migration Institute registered **716** new asylum applications, marking a **314%** increase in applications compared to 2024 (173 applications).

Our Response

820

people traveling north-south direction were identified by UNHCR and partners in December 2025, representing a **31%** decrease compared to 1,187 people recorded during November 2025.

Around **32,854** people travelling in a north–south direction were identified between January and December 2025.

+255

individuals received protection information and orientation by UNHCR and partners in December 2025, including guidance on asylum procedures, access to services, and protection pathways.

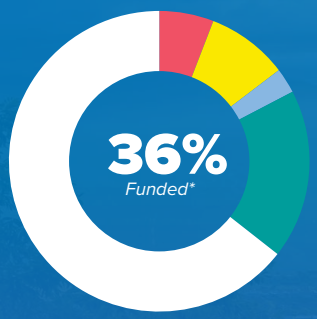
Between 1 January and 31 December 2025, over **11,000** internally displaced people, at-risk of displacement, Honduran returnees, asylum-seekers, and refugees received this support nationwide.

+240

consultations on medical care, mental health assistance, and information on sexual and reproductive health were provided by UNHCR and partners in December 2025.

Between 1 January and 31 December 2025, over **8,700** consultations were provided to internally displaced people, at-risk of displacement, Honduran returnees, asylum-seekers, and refugees received this support nationwide.

Funding



As of 31 December 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 10.7 million (36%) has been funded. USD 20 million is still needed to continue supporting people forcibly displaced, at risk of displacement, returnees with protection needs, asylum-seekers and refugees.

Entrepreneurs seeking asylum in Choluteca received equipment to boost their businesses and bring them one step closer to building their life projects in their hosting communities.

Context

In December, **Honduras experienced heightened political tension** following the general elections on 30 November, as the National Electoral Council (CNE) continued the verification and special tallying of electoral records due to reported inconsistencies. Allegations of irregularities were raised by political actors, while national institutions and international observers—including the United States, the European Union and the Organization of American States—called for respect for institutional procedures and patience as the vote-counting process continued. Civil society organisations documented **67 incidents of violence** linked to the electoral process, recorded before, during and after election day.

Political uncertainty coincided with sustained levels of generalized violence. Forensic authorities reported spikes in lethal violence during the post-electoral period, including **11 deaths within a 24-hour period** in early December. By mid-December, the Violence Observatory of the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH) recorded **32 massacres with 109 victims nationwide in 2025**.

Violent incidents continued through the end of the month, including an **explosive attack near the Congreso Nacional** premises that **injured a congresswoman** and additional reports of **multiple violent deaths** within short timeframes across the country.

Violence against women remained a critical concern. Women's organisations reported that **over 265 women were killed nationwide in 2025**, with several incidents involving multiple killings within 24-hour periods reported during December. These trends prompted renewed calls from women's rights organisations for strengthened institutional responses and prevention measures.

In late December, one Honduran **returnee was assassinated in Atlántida**, bringing the total number of assassinated returnees recorded by UNHCR to **36** in 2025. December concluded with the CNE issuing the official declaration recognising the president-elect, amid continued calls from national and international actors to prioritise stability and peaceful transition.

Activities

Protection and Legal Assistance

UNHCR **strengthened refugee status determination procedures** through technical coordination with the National Migration Institute (INM), reviewing key tools used by eligibility officers to streamline case management and incorporate differentiated approaches for applicants with specific needs. This work was further advanced through a technical working session with INM Human Rights Officers to **review and validate updates to the Protection Toolkit**, including the vulnerability interview, refugee status interview, case assessment form, and asylum request determination template.

Child, Women, and Community Protection

UNHCR, in coordination with UDIMUF, conducted educational workshops for **50 public officials from the health, education, justice, security, and labour sectors** in La Ceiba as part of the 16 Days of Activism, strengthening institutional responses to violence against women and girls.

Complementing these efforts, a workshop with the municipal women's network of La Ceiba **reached over 100 women**, strengthening local capacities on forced displacement and protection routes, while a **self-care session reinforced psychological first aid skills** among women from 35 communities.

With CERF funding, UNHCR strengthened community-level responses through the organisation of a **protection and health fair in the community** of Corozal, La Ceiba. Implemented with the participation of local authorities and partners, **the activity reached 320 people**, including children, and facilitated access to protection, health, and referral services. In parallel, **approximately 1,860 CERF-funded hygiene and dignity kits were distributed** to Casa Refugio Lucecitas, Casa Guadalupe in La Lima, and Mariposas Libres in Tela, supporting women, men, children, and babies.

Strengthening child-focused municipal services, UNHCR, in coordination with the Municipal Committee for Response to Internal Displacement in San Pedro Sula, conducted a training for nine municipal staff assigned to the municipal children's dining facility, reinforcing **capacities on child protection, forced displacement, and referral mechanisms** ahead of its opening.

Women and children participated in a protection and health fair in the community of Corozal, La Ceiba, where they learned about their rights, available protection mechanisms, received health assistance, and accessed information on referral services.

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Local Capacity Strengthening and Integration

UNHCR played a catalytic role in promoting youth economic inclusion and livelihood opportunities by enabling the participation of asylum-seekers in economic initiatives. Under the RED project implemented by the Lutheran World Federation and World Vision, UNHCR participated in the closing ceremony of a training process for **22 young entrepreneurs**, facilitating access to seed capital and community-based integration opportunities for asylum-seekers. Building on this approach, in Choluteca, UNHCR accompanied the Lutheran World Federation in the delivery of equipment and supplies as seed capital to support the livelihoods of **five asylum-seeking families, strengthening pathways toward self-reliance.**

Strategic Coordination

As Protection Sector lead, UNHCR convened a coordination meeting with the local border team, with the participation of OCHA and UNICEF, to review the **humanitarian coordination structure planned for 2026**, including the prioritisation of 33 municipalities for humanitarian presence and coordination.

In Choluteca, UNHCR participated in the meeting of the Departmental Committee on Mixed Movements and Persons with International Protection Needs (CODAPEMM-PI) to review 2025 actions and identify **opportunities to strengthen local integration and protection responses**.

UNHCR supports asylum-seekers in their integration process by facilitating access to opportunities that strengthen their livelihoods.

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UNHCR thanks the contributions of donor countries such as

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PEACEBUILDING FUND

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*As of December 2025

For more information: Danielle Álvarez / External Relations Officer alvareza@unhcr.org