Honduras

Operational Update

N.50 | February 2026

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 2026**, as triggers of internal displacement persist.

Return

3,906

Hondurans were returned to the country in February 2026, according to the Returned Migrant Attention System of the Secretariat of Social Development. Marking a 22% increase compared to the 3,206 people returned in February 2025.

Refuge

284

Refugees are currently residing in Honduras. Between 1 and 28 February 2026, the National Migration Institute registered **19** new asylum applications, marking a **35% decrease** compared to the previous month.

609

people who arrived irregularly registered their entry with the National Migration Institute INM) from 1 to 28 February, marking a 62% decrease compared to the 1,596 people registered in January. Of those registered in February, 77% entered via Danli, 21% Trojes and 2% via Choluteca. The top five nationalities were Cuba, Ecuador, Venezuela, China, and Haiti. **Among them, approximately 47% were women and children.**

2,205 refugees and migrants that entered and crossed through Honduran territory as of February 2026 represent an approximate **81%** decrease compared with the 11,768 people registered during the same period in 2025.

Our Response

501

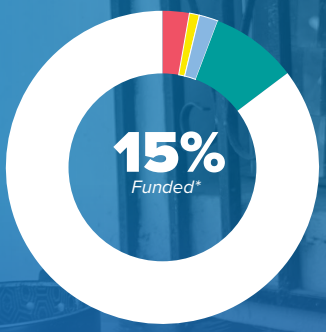
people traveling north-south direction were identified by UNHCR and partners in February 2026, representing **92%** decrease compared to 6,216 people recorded during February 2025.

Around **1,490** people travelling in a north–south direction were identified between January and February 2026.

1,800

individuals received protection information and orientation by UNHCR and partners in February 2026, including guidance on asylum procedures, access to services, and protection pathways.

Funding



As of 28 February 2026

- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)

*UNHCR appealed for USD 23 million for its 2026 programme, of which only USD 3.3 million (15%) has been funded. USD 19.6 million is still needed to continue supporting people forcibly displaced, at risk of displacement, returnees with protection needs, asylum-seekers and refugees.

UNHCR leverages its catalytic role to support asylum-seekers in building sustainable livelihoods through entrepreneurship.

Context

February was marked by **political and institutional developments with implications for protection and displacement dynamics.** The Governments of Honduras and the United States reported economic cooperation agreements aimed at facilitating bilateral trade, while authorities from the National Migration Institute and the United States Embassy strengthened technical cooperation on migration management and border security.

During the month, the United States **ended Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Honduran nationals**, which the National Autonomous University of Honduras estimated **could reduce remittances by up to USD 170 million**, affecting approximately 30,000 beneficiaries. At the regional level, Nicaragua reinstated visa requirements for Cuban nationals, potentially affecting movements through Honduras.

Institutional discussions on internal displacement and security frameworks continued. The National Commissioner for Human Rights (CONADEH) **urged the approval of the Regulation of the Law on Internal Displacement and the allocation of financial resources** for its implementation, underscoring the need to operationalise the legal framework. The Government also announced the development of a **new Anti-Extortion Law as part of broader measures to address extortion nationwide**, while civil society and official sources reported that over 300,000 households are affected by this crime. In parallel, a State Modernisation Decree aimed at restructuring public institutions was announced.

Violence and insecurity remained key protection concerns. **Reports indicated increasing illicit crop activity following the seizure of coca plants in northern Honduras**, alongside continued forced recruitment in educational settings and land disputes in northern coastal areas, contributing to internal displacement.

Weather-related events also affected vulnerable populations. **Authorities issued alerts in northern departments due to cold fronts and heavy rainfall**, while climate variability continued to impact food security and livelihoods, particularly among small-scale farmers.

Women, children and LGBTIQ+ persons continued to face elevated protection risks. **Official sources reported 36 violent deaths of women since the beginning of the year**, while civil society organisations highlighted high levels of violence and underreporting. Child protection actors reported over **50 children and adolescents killed during the first 50 days of the year**, with forced recruitment identified as a key driver of displacement. Organisations also reported **increased stigmatisation of LGBTIQ+ persons**, alongside documented cases of violence and human rights violations.

Activities

Protection and Legal Assistance

During February, UNHCR continued strengthening national capacities and coordination mechanisms to **improve access to international protection and legal assistance**.

UNHCR held technical meetings with the National Migration Institute (INM), including its Directorates of External Cooperation, Modernisation and Human Rights, to **strengthen coordination on asylum procedures**. Discussions focused on the implementation of the National Asylum System Strengthening Plan, including the issuance of Special Stay Permits, case review processes, staff training and updates to the Refugee Status Determination Manual.

At policy level, UNHCR supported the Inter-Institutional Commission for the Protection of Persons Displaced by Violence (CIPPDEF), where members agreed on next steps for the **adoption of the Regulation of the Internal Displacement Law**, the activation of technical sub-commissions and the development of a multiannual report on the progress of its implementation.

UNHCR engaged with the judiciary through the National Service of Judicial Facilitators, providing a **capacity-building session to 39 justices of the peace to enhance identification and referral of internally displaced persons and individuals with protection needs.**

In Choluteca, UNHCR, in coordination with CONADEH, conducted workshops on international protection and the asylum system for **60 law students**, strengthening the sustainable provision of free legal assistance through university legal clinics supporting asylum-seekers.

Child, Women, and Community Protection

During February, **UNHCR strengthened community-based protection mechanisms and supported targeted interventions** for children, women and communities affected by violence, displacement and climate-related risks.

UNHCR engaged with community structures across multiple locations **to update protection priorities and strengthen local coordination**. In San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa, meetings were held with over **60 community leaders from prioritised neighbourhoods** to update community profiles, agree on protection activities for 2026 and reinforce coordination with local authorities and community actors.

To prevent forced recruitment and strengthen youth engagement, UNHCR, together with Jóvenes contra la Violencia (JCV), conducted community activities under the Voy con Vos campaign in San Pedro Sula, **engaging 130 community leaders and volunteers, as well as 30 children and youth through community assessments to identify protection risks and priorities**. Complementing these efforts, UNHCR conducted two training sessions for staff from Casa Alianza and Save the Children to strengthen capacities on forced recruitment, campaign messaging and community-based methodologies. As a result, partners will implement community-based tools, including a story exhibit and a board game, as part of prevention activities.

UNHCR also supported child protection coordination mechanisms. In Choluteca, **UNHCR participated in the Municipal Council for the Guarantee of the Rights of Children and Adolescents**, contributing to the development of its Annual Operational Plan and promoting the inclusion of child protection priorities within local coordination frameworks.

In response to climate-related risks, UNHCR conducted protection monitoring in **communities exposed to drought and forest fires to assess potential displacement risks** and identify prevention measures.

Complementing these efforts, UNHCR supported targeted assistance for women and vulnerable groups. In La Ceiba, **70 women affected by violence and flooding received CERF-funded hygiene and dignity kits** to address urgent protection needs.

Youth Against Violence (JCV) implements the Voy con Vos campaign to promote collective care actions that help prevent forced recruitment.
©JCV

Local Capacity Strengthening and Integration

During February, UNHCR continued **strengthening local capacities and promoting socio-economic inclusion** for displaced and at-risk populations through partnerships with public, private and civil society actors.

UNHCR, in collaboration with ADRA and the Centre for Business Development (CDE), **delivered entrepreneurship training to 18 displaced, refugee and at-risk individuals**. In 2026, more than 50 people have participated in the programme, with an initial group of approximately **30 individuals scheduled to receive in-kind seed capital support from ADRA.**

UNHCR also coordinated with the INTUR Foundation and CDE **to facilitate the inclusion of young people in the Reintegration into Formal Education programme** by securing 20 additional places in San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa. **More than 30 young people** are expected to begin the programme in the coming months.

In addition, UNHCR, together with CDE, visited Molino Harinero Sula to **review ongoing bakery and pastry workshops supporting displaced populations**, exploring opportunities to expand these initiatives and strengthen community-based livelihoods in San Pedro Sula, Tegucigalpa and Choluteca.

UNHCR provides spaces for exchange among asylum-seeker entrepreneurs to share experiences, strengthen skills, and grow their initiatives.
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Strategic Coordination

During February, UNHCR, as co-lead of the Protection Sector, convened and participated in inter-agency coordination mechanisms at national and subnational levels to **align responses to displacement and protection risks.**

UNHCR led a meeting of the Local Border Team with the participation of 15 organisations to **exchange contextual updates on cross-border movements, review service mapping results and identify coordination challenges at the borders.** In the Sula Valley, the Local Protection Team met with seven organisations, including NRC, MSF, Swisscontact, CONADEH and FUNADEH, to analyse trends in recruitment, extortion and displacement and agree on joint follow-up actions.

Inter-agency coordination was further strengthened through joint missions and planning exercises. UNHCR, together with IOM, UNICEF, the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and ProCap/GenCap advisers, **conducted the first inter-agency mission of 2026 to Tocoa under the CERF UFE allocation**, engaging with community networks, local authorities and the Municipal Emergency Committee

(CODEM) in Trujillo to identify priority needs related to violence and flood impacts. Follow-up coordination meetings were held to advance planning for a service fair, including a preparatory mission with PAHO, UNFPA and partners to support implementation.

At the national level, **UNHCR contributed to regional and inter-agency processes**, including the REDLAC-R4V Protection Sector planning for 2026–2027 and a MIRPS focal point meeting to review coordination structures and next steps under the Regional Action Plan.

UNHCR also strengthened external engagement with government and development partners. Meetings were held with the National Migration Institute (INM), the National Institute of Statistics (INE) and the Property Institute (IP) to **advance technical cooperation on asylum, data and housing, land and property rights.** Additional discussions with CABEI, CATIE and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) explored opportunities for collaboration on climate action, financing and support for returnees with protection needs.

UNHCR thanks the contributions of donor countries such as

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*As of February 2026

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