BELIZE AMNESTY OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Belize
September 2022

UNHCR and partners are supporting the Government of Belize’s Amnest Program, as an alternative pathway to regularize the legal status of undocumented persons.

To this date, some **7,000 individuals**, including registered and non-registered asylum-seekers, will now have an additional protection mechanism to obtain a permanent residence in Belize.

UNHCR is providing **technical support and capacity development** to the Government of Belize, as well as **direct assistance** to eligible candidates.

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Achievement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1300+</strong></td>
<td>People reached through information &amp; sensitization sessions about the amnesty process</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>200+</strong></td>
<td>People assisted with legal services related to the amnesty process</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>200+</strong></td>
<td>Vulnerable persons assisted with cash to complete amnesty applications</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>800+</strong></td>
<td>People supported to complete amnesty application documentation</td>
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**Applicants for the Amnesty Program**

- **Number of asylum seekers UNHCR will financially support with their applications**: 1200
- **Asylum seekers eligible to apply for the Amn**: 4042
- **Estimated total number of Amnesty applicants including asylum seekers as of 30 August 2022**: 7000

**Nationalities of asylum-seekers registered with the Government of Belize**

- **Salvadorans**: 19%
- **Hondurans**: 11%
- **Guatemalans**: 2%
- **Nicaraguans**: 1%
- **Others**: 67%

*Source: Refugees Department, Government of Belize.*

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1 Estimated number according to UNHCR calculations.
2 Source: Refugees Department, Government of Belize.
3 As of 30 August 2022, it is estimated that from the 60,000 undocumented people living in Belize, some 7,000 have applied for the Amnesty Program.
Operational Highlights

Amnesty assistance in Trio Village
UNHCR and partner, HUMANA People to People, led a mobile amnesty support clinic in the southern village of Trio on 28 August. Over 130 people, including asylum seekers and other vulnerable groups, were assisted to complete their amnesty applications in English, and received information on the supporting documents required for the process. Photocopies were also provided free of charge. Furthermore, legal counselling on the Amnesty Program and requirements, was also provided to everyone in attendance.

Amnesty Support Mission in Independence and Santa Cruz
On 17-18 September, UNHCR with the support of partner HUMANA People to People, brought the mobile Amnesty Support Clinic to Independence Village, Toledo and Santa Cruz, Stann Creek. In addition to assisting asylum seekers and other vulnerable groups with their application forms and photocopies, a total of 167 people received vouchers to cover the costs of medical examinations, photographs, lab tests, and translation of documents required for the amnesty application. UNHCR partner Human Rights Commission of Belize (HRCB) was also there to offer information and legal advice on the application requirements. The Government of Belize, through its Amnesty office in Dangriga, was also present during both days. In total, 210 persons received assistance at these clinics.

Working in partnership
UNHCR works in partnership with the Government of Belize, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade & Immigration, with support from NGO partners Help for Progress, Humana People to People Belize and the Human Rights Commission of Belize.

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