

# Belize

July-August 2022

Belize is home to **approximately 4,130 refugees and asylum-seekers**, mostly from El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala.

A total of **801 asylum seekers** and migrants received support with their **amnesty application** for a complementary **protection path**.

Some **149 refugees and asylum seekers** accessed **livelihoods and life skills training sessions** to enhance **their self-reliance and local integration opportunities**.

## Population of concern\*



\* Data includes registered refugees and asylum-seekers (active and non-active).  
Source: Refugees Department, as of 28 February 2022

## CONTEXT

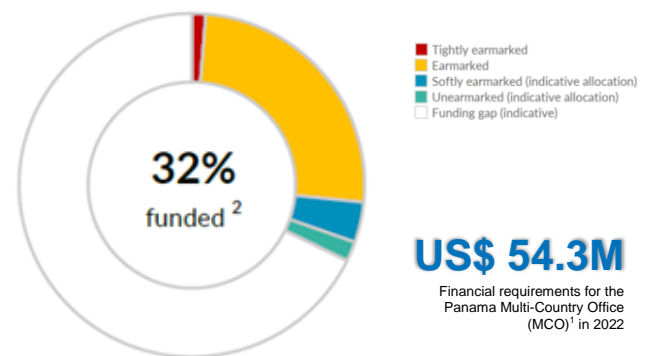
UNHCR supports the Government of Belize to **strengthen the asylum system**, establish protection policies and **facilitate durable solutions** to assist asylum seekers and refugees.

UNHCR works closely with national partners to **offer asylum seekers and refugees humanitarian aid**, including food and medical assistance, livelihoods training, psychosocial support, and English as a Second Language (ESL) courses.

The Government's **amnesty program for asylum-seekers and migrants** began on 2 August 2022. This will allow them an alternative protection path by **accessing permanent residency**, including for those who were previously denied asylum claims.

As of 30 August 2022, approximately 7,000 persons had applied for the amnesty program, **according to the CEO of Immigration**.

## STATE OF PLAY: FUNDING RECEIVED VS. FUNDING NEEDS (AS OF 30 AUGUST 2022)



<sup>1</sup> The financial requirements for the Panama MCO include requirements for the Coronavirus Emergency and the Venezuela Situation. **Belize** is part of the **Panama Multi-Country Office** since 2021 along with Panama, Nicaragua, Cuba and the Southern Caribbean.

<sup>2</sup> The percentage funded includes indicative allocations of softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions.

## UN Agencies Sign Joint Workplan



*UNHCR, IOM, and UNICEF sign a work plan to jointly support refugees, migrants, and overall children. The agencies will also support the Government with the amnesty process. Find more on the [press release](#).*

## Amnesty Support Booth in Trio Village

*UNHCR and HUMANA People to People held a mobile amnesty support booth in Trio Village, Toledo where 130 persons, including asylum seekers and migrants, were assisted.*




## UNHCR Response and Strategy


UNHCR works in close coordination with the Government, civil society, UN agencies, refugees, and asylum-seekers in Belize. A partnership with the Refugees Department helps channel support and continues strengthening the asylum system in the country. Additionally, UNHCR works in partnership with Help for Progress (HfP), HUMANA People to People Belize (Humana), and the Human Rights Commission of Belize (HRCB). UNHCR supports the government in implementing its commitments under the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS).


## Main Activities

Alongside the government, partner organizations, civil society, development actors, and UN Agencies, UNHCR undertakes protection and solutions activities, including:


 **Protection** | UNHCR and partner Human Rights Commission of Belize (HRCB) assisted **28 asylum-seekers** with **legal services**. UNHCR's national partners, HRCB, Help for Progress, and HUMANA People to People, jointly supported **801 asylum-seekers** and **other people in need** with their application for the Government's amnesty program.


 **Cash-based Interventions and Assistance** | UNHCR through Help for Progress provided **cash assistance** to **128 refugees** and **asylum-seekers** to enhance access to food, medicine, documents, education, and other basic needs.

 **Durable Solutions and Livelihoods** | UNHCR and HUMANA delivered **livelihood** and **skills training courses** to **149 asylum-seekers** to build self-reliance and skills in carpentry, sewing, mentorship, music, and English as a second language (ESL). The training seeks to promote and enhance local integration within the Belizean communities.

 **Advocacy and Public Information** | UNHCR, in partnership with the Government's Immigration and Refugees Departments, shared a **radio ad** in English and in Spanish **informing asylum seekers** that they may qualify for the **Government's amnesty program** and sharing application requirements.

 **Mental Health and Psychosocial Services** | UNHCR delivered psychosocial support through Help for Progress and HUMANA People to People to **28 refugees and asylum-seekers**. This psychosocial assistance helps them to work through the traumas faced as a result of their forced displacement, gender-based violence, and exploitation experiences.

 **Education and Training Opportunities** | With the support of UNHCR and Help for Progress, **62 asylum-seeker children** were able to **access primary and secondary school education across Belize**. Additionally, **22 asylum seekers** participated in a **small business training** led by Help for Progress and HUMANA People to People. At the end of the training, **persons received seed capital** to start their small businesses.

 **Inter-agency Coordination** | A second work plan was created and signed between UNHCR, IOM, and UNICEF **to work jointly in support of refugees, migrants, and children**. The plan focuses on five pillars including legal reform, advocacy and communication, system strengthening, capacity development, and community engagement. The three agencies will also work together to support the Government's Amnesty program.

UNHCR Panama MCO wishes to convey a special thank you to its donors: Canada, the European Union, France, Guyana, the United States of America, and the UN Programme on HIV/AIDS. We also thank the fundamental support provided by donors who have contributed to UNHCR with unearmarked and softly earmarked funds: Belgium | Denmark | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom. Private donors in Australia | Canada | Germany | Italy | Japan | the Republic of Korea | Spain | and the United States

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## UNHCR Presence In Belize

