

CHOLUTECA

November 2022

UNHCR in Choluteca is mainly focused on responding to the situation of mixed movements and addressing forced internal displacement in the **South-Eastern Border** of Honduras.

One of the objectives of the **Global Compact on Refugees** is to improve the conditions of access to the territory. This office seeks to support the State and contribute in particular to this objective.

UNHCR is identifying **new routes** used in mixed movements, **protection risks** in route and addressing and coordinating **humanitarian response** needs in a timely manner.

THE PEOPLE WE SERVE

Field Unit Choluteca 2022

UNHCR's field unit in Choluteca covers approximately 850 kilometers of the **southeastern** border of Honduras, comprising the departments of Valle, on the border with El Salvador; Choluteca and El Paraíso, on the border with Nicaragua. UNHCR monitors regular and irregular border points on the entry spots for **people in mixed movements** seeking protection in Honduras or transiting northwards. A weekly average of 9,000 people enter through these points, mainly through Guasale and Trojes. Part of this population is in need of international protection. In addition, these departments have a presence of **people at-risk of displacement or internally displaced** due to violence and that required protection, as well as communities affected by the impact of climate change disasters.



UNHCR and its partners provided seed capital and training to improve access to employment and entrepreneurship for returnees with protection needs, internally displaced persons, survivors of violence and asylum seekers.

UNHCR PRESENCE

- Field Unit
- FUCHO



Staff:
5 National staff
1 International staff
34% women and **66%** men

PARTNERS



STRATEGY

PROTECT

Ensuring centrality of protection in the response to forced displacement

PROTECTION | In order to strengthen the services provided by the state, UNHCR has trained different actors that are present at the borders of Nicaragua and El Salvador to identify cases of protection and refer these cases to UNHCR. In addition, UNHCR guarantees for people in mixed movements access to the asylum system and referral to the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) for humanitarian assistance.



PREVENT AND RESPOND TO INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT | UNHCR is the only institution of the United Nations System under the protection sector with a permanent presence in the Choluteca region. Its presence calls attention of the national and international communities to the local problem of internal displacement in this area. UNHCR identifies and refers cases to its Internal Displacement Sub-Unit, as well as refers cases to available services and resettlement when applicable.

COORDINATION | UNHCR leads the Local Southern Border Response Team, as part of the work of the Protection Cluster in the region. This Team works in coordination with all humanitarian actors that have a presence on the southern border to provide humanitarian response to people in mixed movements in Danlí and Trojes. As of the end of November 2022, 90,631 people were served in the departments of Choluteca, El Paraíso and Valle.

INFORMATION | UNHCR and its partner World Vision established a Mobile Information Service (SIM) to attend people in mixed movements in strategic areas of Choluteca (Guasaule, San Marcos de Colon and Choluteca) and El Paraíso (moving between Danlí and Trojes). The SIM moves between these different locations on a weekly basis to provide information about the asylum system in Honduras and serves as a mechanism to articulate different protection and case referral services.

ASYLUM | UNHCR strengthens the asylum system through support to human rights officers from the National Institute of Migration.

ASSIST

Ensure operational response capacity and lifetime support for the most vulnerable people during emergencies

BASIC NEEDS | As of 28 November 2022, UNHCR distributed differentiated hygiene kits and basic relief items to 18,542 women, men, girls, and boys in mixed movements at border points. These kits and items are distributed by various actors in schools, International Health Offices, Municipal Emergency Committees, among others.

TEMPORARY COLLECTIVE ACCOMMODATION | UNHCR strengthens local reception conditions in three shelters through donations, technical support, and training to its staff. The three shelters are located in Choluteca, in Danlí (shelter Jesus está Vivo) and a temporary one in Trojes. Some of these shelters offer legal assistance for different people in mixed movements with international protection needs in connection with law university students.

SALUD | Through its partner Doctors of the World, UNHCR provides emergency medical assistance for physical and mental health needs in coordination with the regional health system to provide assistance to those in need, mainly people in mixed movements.

EMPOWER

BORDER MONITORING | UNHCR monitors regular and irregular entry points in the three departments it has a presence along the southeastern border of Honduras. Apart from direct monitoring exercises, UNHCR counts with the support of 62 community leaders of 37 communities, as well as shelters, contact with officials from the National Institute of Migration (INM), the International Health Bureau (OSI) and other actors. At the same time, UNHCR is developing processes to identify needs and priorities for community protection. These efforts include leadership training to strengthen communities' capacity to respond to protection situations of people in mixed movements, internal displacement, climate change disasters and risk management, as well as strengthening communities in self-protection. In addition, UNHCR established relationships with women and youth networks, as well as LGBTIQ+ organizations, initiating training processes on issues of international protection, mixed movements and internal displacement.

SOLVE

Include the people we serve in national/local services with support for local capacity building

DISPLACEMENT | UNHCR has prioritized four technical-vocational training centres to generate opportunities for young people and women from communities at risk of displacement due to violence or climate change in Choluteca. UNHCR also supports the internal forced displacement unit of the National Commissioner for Human Rights (CONADEH) in Choluteca. CONADEH identifies and refers international protection cases to UNHCR and, in turn, UNHCR refers people in mixed movements who suffered extortion to CONADEH for follow-up case management.

HEALTH | To ensure access to public health services for people in mixed movements, UNHCR advocates for their inclusion through articulation with the Migration Committee of the Department of Choluteca, as well as in meetings with government authorities. In addition, UNHCR strengthens the health infrastructure with donations and provisions for the improvement of services.

UNHCR thanks donors providing funds to Honduras



Also thanks private donors from:



For more information

Caroline Scotti Vilain
Associate Reporting Officer, Honduras

✉ scottivi@unhcr.org
☎ +504 2270-7155
☎ +504 3174 3122

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