

Key Figures

+247,000

people have been internally displaced in Honduras as a result of violence between 2004 and 2018. In addition, 9% of the Honduras' population, or 847,154 persons were victims of extortion in 2022, according to the Association for a More Just Society (ASJ).



2,896

Honduran nationals were returned in January 2023, according to data from CONMIGHO.

18,879

persons of different nationalities entered Honduras irregularly in January 2023. According to the INM data, 24% Ecuadorians, 28% Haitians, 11% were Cubans, and 10% Venezuelans.

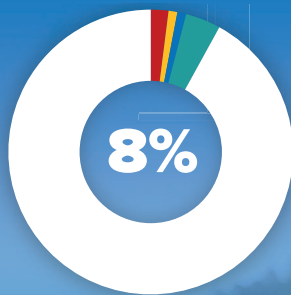
Our Response

92,000

people in mixed movements were served with humanitarian assistance in 2022 by the Local Response Group for the Southern Border, led by UNHCR and co-lead by Action Against Hunger. The response continued in January 2023. Data will be available in the next report.

44,000

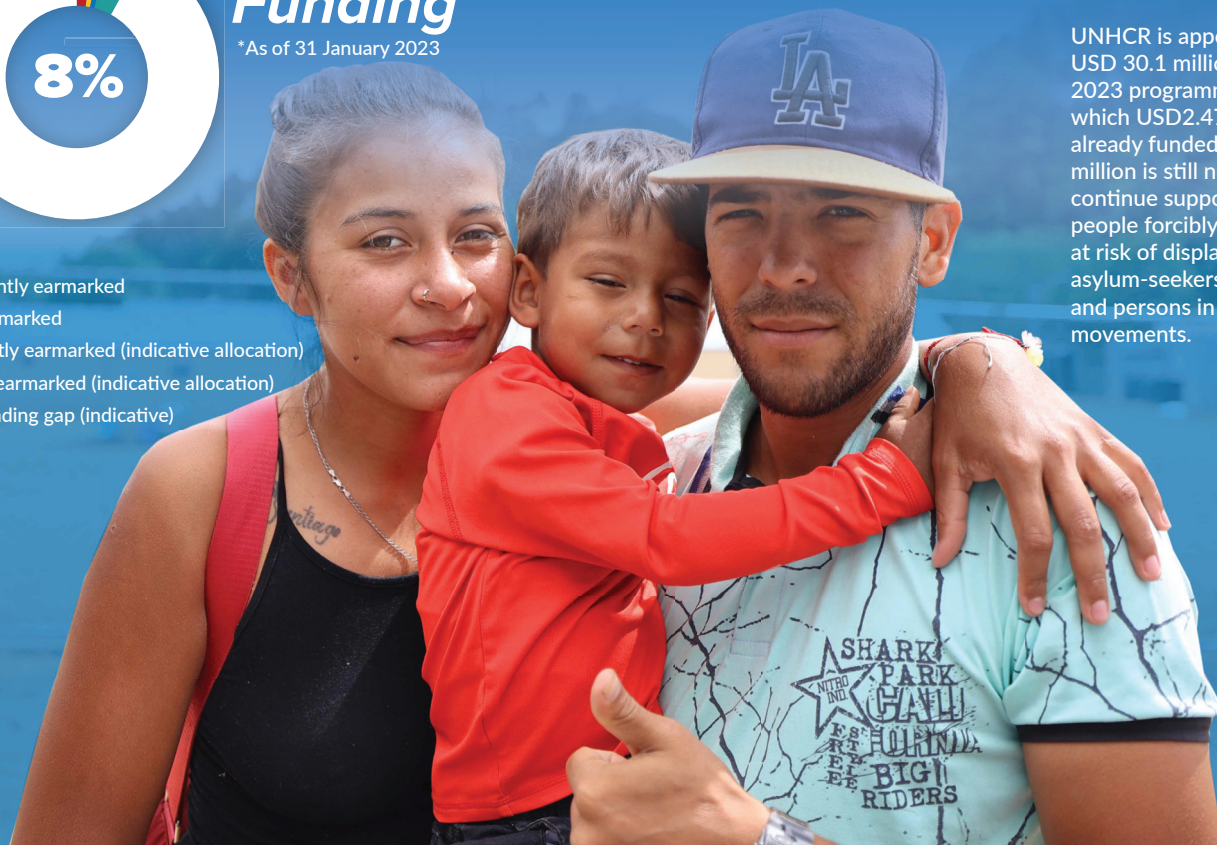
mainly internally displaced persons, but also asylum-seekers, returnees, and host community members were served by UNHCR in 2022, with services such as cash and voucher assistance, community protection, case management and risk mitigation. The response continued in January 2023. Data will be available in the next report.



Funding

* As of 31 January 2023

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



UNHCR is appealing for USD 30.1 million for its 2023 programme, of which USD2.47 million is already funded. USD27.63 million is still needed to continue supporting people forcibly displaced, at risk of displacement, asylum-seekers, refugees, and persons in mixed movements.

HIGHLIGHTS

In January 2023, after the tragic death of a person in mixed movements in the surroundings of the border of Agua Caliente in the northwest of Honduras, to promote a coordinated response that respond to these situations and other challenges of mixed movements in the region, the UN Resident Coordinator, Alice Shackelford, and the Representative of UNHCR Honduras, Andres Cellis, went on mission to Ocotepeque. The purpose of the mission was to highlight the context of the region, in particular the impact of unprecedented flows of people in mixed movements, the risks they face, host communities and returnees. The mission served to identify the challenges in the response at the Agua Caliente border, and the need to strengthen coordination mechanisms with humanitarian actors and local authorities. During the mission, local authorities, and organizations with a presence in the area acknowledged the role of UNHCR in this border where until a few months ago there was not a strong presence of humanitarian actors.



INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

The government of President Xiomara Castro extended the state of emergency in 73 municipalities of Honduras, giving continuity to the decree PCM 29-2022 initially applied in the municipalities of Tegucigalpa, Comayagüela and San Pedro Sula. The decree was extended for 45 more days and in other territories of Honduras through PCM 01-2023, which entered into force on 6 January and will remain in place until 20 February. From December 6, 2022, when the state of emergency was declared, until the end of January 2023, police authorities reported 8,155 people arrested for different offenses and crimes, but none of them due to extortion.

From those arrested, 8,050 were released in less than 24 hours. 2,100 arrests correspond to the month of January. Out of this total, 1,505 arrests occurred in Cortés, while 917 were in Francisco Morazán and 650 in Yoro. These three departments, two in the north and one in the centre of the country, have become epicentres of extortion in recent years. San Pedro Sula, the Central District, El Progreso and Siguatepeque, are the areas with the most apprehensions for various offenses and crimes, according to Police reports

The National Commissioner for Human Rights (CONADEH) is concerned with the use of force by police officers, since there is no law to regulate its proportional use. The CONADEH also expressed its doubts on the necessity and adequacy of the measure of the State of Emergency to address the extortion considering it entails restrictions on the fundamental rights of the population. According to this institution, the number of people detained is significantly different from the one portrayed in the media (159 actual incarceration vs 652 reported in local newspapers).

Following CONADEH's report, UNHCR is concerned with the weakness of the procedures and absence of clear limits to the Police to identify, apprehend and prosecute (with the Judicial operators) persons in the targeted communities, especially the youth, women, and children allegedly linked to maras and gangs who are seen as perpetrators rather than victims. In addition, the institution refers to a lack of official registry of the detentions

conducted under the state of emergency. UNHCR is concerned with the inconsistencies in the figures reported by Police forces presented as evidence of the effectiveness of the measure and will continue to engage with counterparts and civil society to monitor the evolution of the state of emergency.

Although Honduras is currently under this state of emergency to fight an extreme rise in extortion cases in the end of 2022, two transportation routes in Honduras were halted on 26 January because of extortion. Buses from the companies Expreso Caribe and Impala that provide service in the northern city of San Pedro Sula were not running on 26 January. The routes connect the municipality of Puerto Cortés, a major port city, with the latest. The stoppage aims to show solidarity after an Impala bus driver on the Choloma-San Pedro Sula route was shot dead on 25 January. The young man was forced to get off the bus and later unknown people opened fired against him. This was the third similar death in Choloma in January 2023. In addition, Juan Erazo, the owner of several transport units in high-risk sector of Rivera Hernández (San Pedro Sula), was shot dead by armed men on 30 January.

On another note, femicides showed a 12% increase in the first month of 2023, according to the National Observatory of Violence (ONV) of the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH). 29 women were murdered in this first month of the year, an average of one death every 25 and a half hours. During 2022, Honduras registered 304 feminicides, according to figures from the Women's Rights Centre of the UNAH, one every 29 hours in a country of 10 million people. That makes it the country with the highest rates of feminicides in the region.

Regarding educational rights, 47% of all government schools in Honduras (25,300 in total) were evaluated by the Ministry of Education as being in poor conditions. In addition to the lack of desks and teachers, educational centres lack the minimum requirements to carry out classes. In many of these cases, the centres in question still show the damage suffered during the passage of storms Eta and Iota in November 2020.

RESPONSE

Coordination

MIRPS | On 24 January, the first plenary meeting of the MIRPS was held and chaired by Panama as its current Pro-tempore President. The meeting was attended by seven state institutions from Honduras such as: the Secretary of Human Rights, the National Migration Institute, the Secretary of Foreign Relations, the Secretary of Social Development, the Secretary of Labour, Vocational Training Institute INFOP, among others. At the meeting, the Panamá shared its workplan for 2023. The United States followed suit with its workplan as the current Pro-tempore President of the Support Platform. It should be noted that Honduras expressed its interest in leading the Working Group on Internal Displacement, which is an opportunity for the Human Rights Secretariat (SEDH) to address in this Group the challenges of internal displacement due to violence.

PROTECTION CLUSTER | On 27 January, the Humanitarian Network published the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) 2023. The HNO, elaborated by the eight sectors that integrate the humanitarian architecture -including the Protection Cluster, led by UNHCR-, concluded that in Honduras there are at least 3.2 million people with humanitarian needs in a context of violence, forced displacement and mixed movements, climate change and food insecurity. According to the Protection Cluster, at least 1.46 million, or 45% of these people face specific protection needs. UNHCR, as leader of the Protection Cluster, conducted a comprehensive protection analysis carried out with inputs from cluster members. The analysis was acknowledged by the Humanitarian Network and reflected in the HNO.

COOPERATION | As part of the cooperation framework between UNHCR Honduras and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE), the Social Support Foundation (FAS), created by the Bank in 2021, visited communities highly affected by violence in San Pedro Sula on the week of 27 January. The aim of these visits to the second biggest city in Honduras was to foster collaboration with interventions that encourage the inclusion of people at risk of forced displacement. FAS focuses its work in promoting projects with high social impact to accelerate the region's development, including efforts that contribute to the reduction of extreme poverty.

Protection



COMMUNITY - BASED PROTECTION | UNHCR together with Save The Children delivered didactic material, medical kits, and a toolbox for socio-educational attention to four educational centres in the Central District highly affected by violence and gang control. The deliveries aim at benefiting 600 students who will be participating in UNHCR community-based protection activities to be developed during 2023. Through these activities, UNHCR will reinforce the protection spaces in the school and the identification of protection cases.

A Vida y Arte (stands for Life & Art) Tactical Urbanism Festival was held to recover public spaces around the Community Medical Dispensary and mitigate violence in Chamelecón Sur sector (San Pedro Sula), recently affected by massive internal displacements due to territorial disputes between rival street gangs. The festival was a joint effort from UNHCR, San Pedro Sula Municipality, and partners Jóvenes Contra la Violencia, Honduran Red Cross, Warriors Zulu Nation, and Parroquia Santísima Trinidad. Over 130 persons participated in artistic-cultural activities including Honduran folkloric dance, zumba classes, muralism, street painting, recreational activities for children and adolescents, and engaged with 16 local entrepreneurs stands.

As part of its community-based protection strategy, UNHCR and consultant firm Púchica, finalized the joint curricular design of a pilot Tactical Urbanism, Participatory Urban Planning and Forced Displacement Diploma in collaboration with Honduras National Autonomous University (UNAH). The four modules of this pilot diploma seek to build capacities of 60 municipal officials, civil society and grassroots organizations, and community leaders on Tactical Urbanism methodologies and tools to recover, and foster the appropriation of public spaces, as well as improve the access to services in high-risk communities affected by violence, while addressing root causes of forced displacement in Honduras. Next steps will include detailed content and methodology transfer to UNAH and planification of implementation of the diploma as of 2023 second semester.

WASH | On 4 January, UNHCR with partners Save The Children and Youth Against Violence Honduras delivered a submersible water pumping system that will contribute to the drinking water project managed by the Garífuna community board of Nueva Armenia in Jutiapa, Atlántida Department. During the community assessment carried out in December 2022, community members identified that due to the presence of criminal groups, young boys, girls, and teenagers are often at risk of experimenting forced recruitment, gender-based violence and thus, forced displacement, while on their way to collect water in communal water taps. Therefore, the pumping system will enable the families to access potable water directly from their households, improving sanitation conditions and mitigating protection risks.

LIVELIHOODS AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS | On 28 January, 26 displaced or at-risk of displacement persons supported by UNHCR with cash-based assistance for their studies graduated from GraphXAcademy and received an adobe certification in graphics design. GraphXAcademy is the educational arm of Graphic Source, a graphic design company with over 400 employees in Honduras. This was the first pilot of cooperation with them, which proved to be a success. In addition, on 28 January, four young people from high-risk communities started their studies in GraphXAcademy on scholarship, granted by the private sector.



HEALTH | UNHCR handed over ICT equipment consisting on five desktop computers to the Secretary of Health in Ocotepeque to distribute to various Health Centres in the department. The equipment will facilitate the work in digitally registering individuals benefiting from health services and a greater efficiency when identifying and addressing people with protection needs who may be internally displaced or traveling in mixed movements.

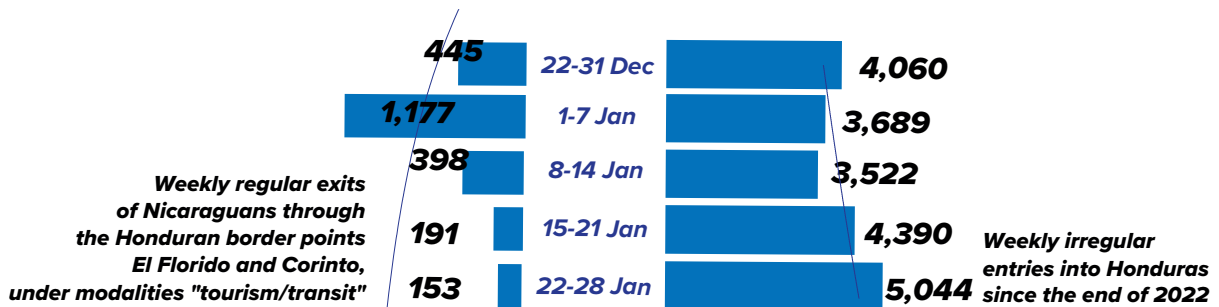
MIXED MOVEMENTS

On 5 January, the U.S. Government announced the expansion of the use of Title 42 to Cubans, Haitians, and Nicaraguans. At the same time the Parole Process for Venezuelans was expanded to Nicaraguans, Haitians and Cubans allowing each month up to 30,000 nationals of these four countries, who comply with certain requirements, to enter the U.S. legally.

According to data from the National Migration Institute, in January 2023, 18,879 people entered Honduras irregularly (89% through Danlí/Trojes and 11% through Choluteca). The top five nationalities were Haiti (28%), Ecuador (24%), Cuba (11%), Venezuela (10%), and Angola (3%). The number of people entering Honduras irregularly has increased in recent weeks (see graph).

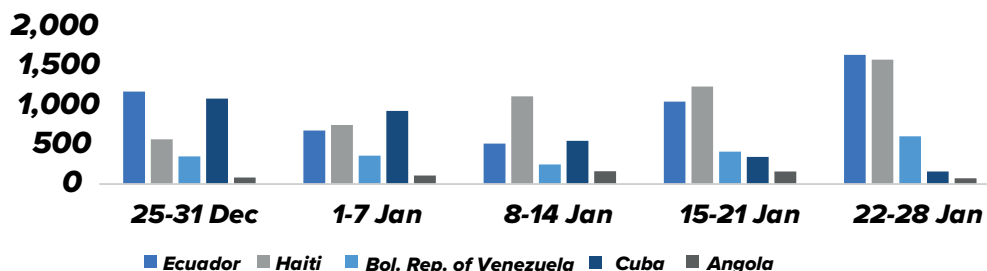


The U.S. announcement on January 5, 2023, to open the Parole program to people from Cuba, Haiti and Nicaragua has had a different impact depending on the nationality. According to official INM data, the number of Cubans is gradually decreasing (see graph). On the other hand, the number of people from Haiti has been increasing in recent weeks. As for Venezuelan people, a constant flow is maintained with an increase in the last week.



The number of Nicaraguan people who enter, transit, and leave Honduras through Guatemala on a regular basis has decreased in recent weeks. On the other hand, some movements of Nicaraguans returning from Guatemala to their country of origin were reported.

Weekly irregular entries according to nationality since the end of 2022



The number of people in mixed movements crossing regularly and irregular through towards Guatemala via the El Florido and Agua Caliente borders, according to UNHCR weekly monitoring, is steadily increasing since the beginning of January 2023. However, numbers are still a bit lower in comparison with the last week of December 2022. In the last week of January, UNHCR observed mostly Haitians passing through Agua Caliente and a drastic reduction of 91% of Nicaraguans crossing regularly through El Florido.



Weekly exits through the Honduran border points El Florido and Agua Caliente, according to UNHCR's monitoring

22-31 dic	6,444
1-7 enero	3,270
8-14 enero	4,250
15-21 enero	4,400
22-28 enero	4,469

Sua Martínez Ibarra, head of the Inter-institutional Commission against Trafficking in Persons (CICESCT), affirmed that Honduras has become a source, transit and destination nation for human trafficking. In addition, the country has been used by criminal networks to traffic minors and migrants. In 2022, there were 51 affected people freed from these networks by CICESCT. Girls and adolescents between the ages of 10 and 16 are the most vulnerable and almost 60% of the rescued victims were minors. According to the interview delivered to the Honduran newspaper Proceso Digital, criminal networks take advantage of poverty, unemployment and violence affecting young people in Honduras. The country registered the highest figures in the region and is the centre of this criminal activity, according to Sua Martínez.

Ecuador, and Haiti. Furthermore, the review of the law is also important due to the high rates of insecurity and violence along the routes taken by people in mixed movements. According to Palacios, on their journey through the country some persons were victims of homicides, harassment, extortion, and unlawful charges, the latter made even by uniformed police personnel

On 25 January, the secretary general of the National Institute of Migration (INM), Marcos Palacios, reported to a local media source in Honduras that the national immigration law of Honduras is still under revision. According to Palacios, the goal of the law's revision is to protect the rights of persons on the move. The importance of the new law was also underlined by the unprecedented influx of people in mixed movements in 2022, when more than 180,000 people crossed irregularly through Honduras, mainly nationals from Venezuela, Cuba,

ASYLUM-SEEKERS | According to the Honduran National Migration Institute (INM), nine asylum applications were filed in Honduras in January 2023 (three Nicaraguans, three Venezuelans, two Cubans and one Peruvian). Numbers are similar to those from the same period in 2022, when eight applications were filed. At the moment, 167 recognized refugees are living in Honduras.

RESPONSE

Protection

COMMUNICATION WITH COMMUNITIES | As a response to the announced policy changes at the U.S.-Mexico border and the expansion of the Humanitarian Parole Program, UNHCR jointly launched with Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) a Communication with Communities (CwC) package to address the urgent information needs, mitigate risks of human trafficking and cross-border organized crime, and strengthen the access to Honduras asylum procedure. The materials featuring key messages both available in Spanish and Créole include digital social cards, 140 posters and 4,550 flyers that will be distributed through 31 UNHCR communication channels in borders areas, Tegucigalpa, and San Pedro Sula.

Video on the Parole Program



Información importante para la población de Cuba, Haití, Nicaragua y Venezuela

El Gobierno de EE. UU. anunció el 5 de enero que adicional al proceso de ingreso bajo parole para personas venezolanas, aplicará uno similar para personas cubanas, haitianas y nicaragüenses.

¡Aquí te contamos lo que debes saber!

- Desde el 5 de enero las personas de **Cuba, Haití, Nicaragua** que ingresen de manera irregular a EE. UU. pueden ser **devueltas** a México bajo el Título 42.
- Personas de Cuba, Haití y Nicaragua que ingresen a EE. UU., México o Panamá de manera irregular después del **9 de enero NO** serán elegibles al proceso.
- La elegibilidad y requisitos del proceso para **personas venezolanas** continua vigente de acuerdo con el anuncio oficial del 19 de octubre de 2022.

Requisitos del nuevo proceso del Gobierno de EE. UU

Contar con una persona de apoyo con estatus legal en EE.UU. que te brinde respaldo financiero, quien iniciará el proceso en el sitio web www.uscis.gov/CHNV

Pasar controles biométricos y biográficos de seguridad nacional.

Tener pasaporte vigente y válido para ingresar a EE. UU. por vía aérea.

No contar con el estatus de persona refugiada o con residencia permanente de México u otro país.

¿Tienes miedo de regresar a tu país?

Tienes el derecho de solicitar **protección** como persona refugiada en Honduras.

Si necesitas apoyo o información acércate a las oficinas de ACNUR en Honduras.

Chololeca: +504 3172-1182
San Pedro Sula: +504 8992-4568
Ocotepeque: +504 3175-2065
Tegucigalpa: +504 3814-8337



Nadie puede pedirte dinero o favores de cualquier naturaleza. Todo el proceso es virtual y gratuito.



INFORMATION | In January 2023, 200 people benefitted from information on international protection, the asylum system in Honduras and related services available in the country. At the Mobile Health Spot in the Sinuapa Triangle and other locations including the shelter Casa Migrante and strategic points at the north-western border, an area of the country that receives people in mixed movements on their journey northward, people received information to mitigate protection risks.

REGISTRATION | A delegate of CONADEH denounced the municipal government of Trojes for charging 1,200 lempiras (approximately 50 US dollars) for the departure of each bus transporting people in mixed movements. This is not approved in the tax plan of Honduras and therefore, these costs are indirectly charged to people in mixed movements, a clear violation of human rights, according to CONADEH. According to this same institution, in Trojes and Danlí (south-eastern border with Nicaragua) there is an illegal network of persons who falsify and sell for 30 to 50 USD each of INM's 5-day expulsion orders, issued to persons who entered the country irregularly. In response, and as part of UNHCR's continuous technical support to INM to improve their registration procedures, INM presented their new SAAR (Sistema de Análisis y Administración de Refugiados) IT system in which also persons in mixed movements will be registered who entered the country irregularly and through which the 5-day expulsion order will be issued as a document (including QR verification code) and not anymore by hand as it is currently being done. The new system is expected to be running at the beginning of February.

ASSISTANCE | 150 returnees and persons in mixed movements with protection needs were assisted in Casa Migrante Ocotepeque, financed by UNHCR. 73% were men and boys and 27% women and girls. 34% are minors. 21% on their way back from trying to reach countries in the north. Furthermore, in Choluteca, shelter was provided at Centro de Atención Caritas, also funded by UNHCR. Venezuelans, Angolans, and Colombians were served.

SAFE SPACES | In Trojes, and Cifuentes transit cities for people in mixed movements arriving to Honduras through the south-eastern border, UNHCR has provided infrastructure, equipment, and technical support for the optimisation of two community centres. One of the spaces, located in Trojes, has been used for joint decision making between local government, civil society, and NGOs to respond to mixed movements needs. Community events and actions are being planned in this space. In the other one, which also serves as emergency shelter for persons in mixed movements, during the month of January the security protocol has been developed and the location is ready to host individuals as needed.

MONITORING | In January, UNHCR performed several monitoring missions at hotspots of people in mixed movements transiting Honduras to identify needs and required protection response. Main locations were border points in the south-eastern area, where people enter from Nicaragua and El Salvador, and in the western area, where people exit towards Guatemala. In addition, UNHCR monitored transit areas around the capital Tegucigalpa, where people pass through to exit the country.

UNHCR conducted weekly monitoring missions to key locations in Choluteca, El Paraiso and Valle departments, along the south-eastern border. UNHCR found increasing numbers of people in mixed movements entering the country. Amongst main needs, UNHCR found reliable information on the Title 42 United States policy, on the asylum systems in Honduras and Costa Rica for those willing to stay in these countries, and on other available options.

At the Tatumbula bus terminal, near the capital Tegucigalpa, the main observed needs of people in mixed movements are medical attention, access to appropriate hygienic space, information on shelters where they can have a place to rest and food. These are essential services since most of them only eat once a day or not at all, arriving in conditions of malnutrition, mostly children. Other needs are (i) correct information regarding the new migratory policies and corresponding international protection, and (ii) access to banks to reduce the possibility of being victims of robbery when making money exchanges and withdrawals of remittances sent by family members.

After weekly monitoring missions to the border point Agua Caliente, where persons in mixed movements from many nationalities cross towards Guatemala, UNHCR observed Haitians travelling as families with small children, in addition to nationals from Asian countries, Venezuela, and Ecuador. Main needs are medical treatment, food, shelter, and safe transportation. Many children who have been born on the way lack legal documents and have not had access to vaccinations or medical checks. At the El Florido border point, UNHCR observed a drastic decrease in Nicaraguans crossing towards Guatemala. In contrast, Nicaraguans who are on their way back have increased, which may entail protection risks on their return.





SHELTER | On 13 January, the National Migration Institute (INM) inaugurated the first government-led and UNHCR-supported Assistance Centre in Danlí where comprehensive services (including medical, psychological, shelter, food, legal counselling, among others) are since being provided to persons in mixed movements, constituting an important initiative to strengthen reception conditions on the southeast border. The event and UNHCR's contribution to the Centre was widely covered in the media. In addition, on UNHCR's initiative, the Humanitarian Network of Honduras published a press release, recognizing the commitment of the Honduran State to protect the rights of refugees and migrants. UNHCR continues providing technical guidance on mainstreaming a protection approach in the management of the centre/shelter. In its first month, around 1,551 persons were assisted by INM at the new Centre. Although the Centre has opened, shelter capacity in this area has not increased, as the shelter Jesus Esta Vivo managed by civil society was shut down on 15 January.



Learn more about
the Danlí Center

RETURNEES

In January 2023, a total of 2,896 Hondurans were returned to the three Assistance Centres for Returned Migrants located in the department of Cortés, representing a decrease compared to the month of December 2022.

The National Directorate for Children, Adolescents and Family (DINAF) reported that 551 children deported arrived in Honduras from 1 January to 02 February. 206 of them were deported from Mexico, 15 from Guatemala, two from Belize and 328 from the United States. Around 35 children were not allowed to leave Honduras because they lacked documentation or were traveling alone. In addition, of the 586 children screened and served by DINAF, 334 were boys and 252 girls, and 206 children were traveling alone. With the support of UNHCR, DINAF is providing some of the children with psychosocial support.

RESPONSE

CASE MANAGEMENT | UNHCR attended 35 cases (87 people) of returnees with protection needs at three Centres for Returned Migrants. The deportees received information and were provided with different protection alternatives, including referrals to the Protection Transfer Arrangement program, to Doctors of the World for psycho-social assistance and to NRC for internal relocation.

JUNTOS | UNHCR jointly with IOM and KIND manages the "Juntos" family reunification programme in Honduras that was established by the United States of America to reunite parents who were separated from their children between 20 January 2017 and 20 January 2021. As a result, in 2022 and 2023, 36 cases (158 persons) were referred from KIND to UNHCR, out of which 10 cases (34 persons) were eligible. Regarding the protection situation of the remaining 26 cases (124 persons) UNHCR managed a different solution. 14 cases (78 persons) were referred to the Protection Transfer Arrangement programme and the rest were referred to one of UNHCR's partners to support them through internal relocation in Honduras. In January 2023, with the objective to enhance the identification of eligible cases for the Juntos family reunification program, UNHCR in coordination with the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs provided three trainings to 70 staff members of different organizations and institutions working at the three Centres for the Assistance of Returned Migrants in the department of Cortés.

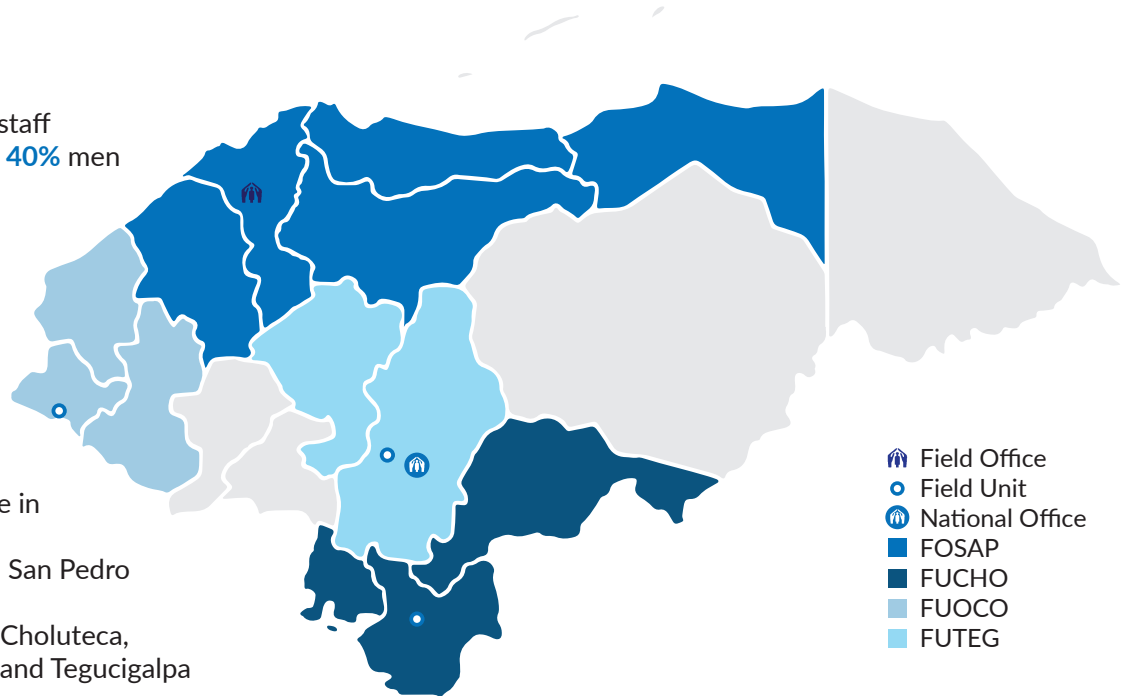
UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

64 National staff
40 International staff
60% women and 40% men

Offices

01 Country office in Tegucigalpa
01 Field office in San Pedro Sula
03 Field units in Choluteca, Ocotepeque and Tegucigalpa



- Field Office
- Field Unit
- National Office
- FOSAP
- FUCHO
- FUECO
- FUTEG

We thank the contributions of our donors
By 31 January 2023

UNHCR Honduras is grateful for the critical and generous support provided by donors who have contributed with earmarked and unearmarked funding.



For more information:

Caroline Scotti Vilain
Associate Reporting Officer, Honduras

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

- www.acnur.org/americas · Regional Portal
- www.acnur.org/honduras · ACNUR Honduras
- @ACNURhonduras
- /UNHCR