



## Belize

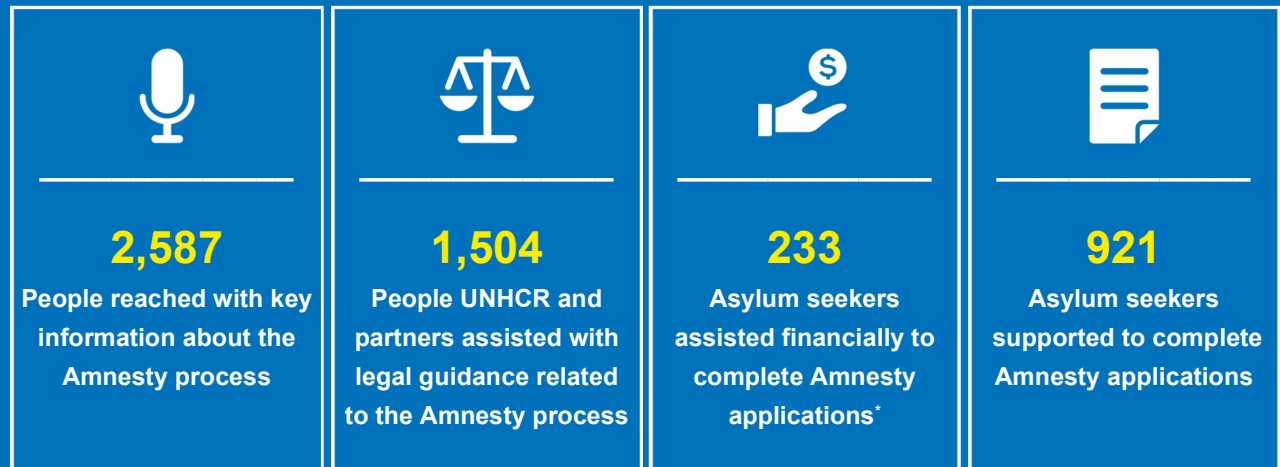
January 2023

UNHCR and partners support the Government's **Amnesty Programme**, as an alternative pathway to regularize the legal status of asylum seekers in the country.

As of 31 January 2023, a total of **11,352 individuals**, including 900 asylum-seekers, have filed their applications to obtain permanent residence in Belize.

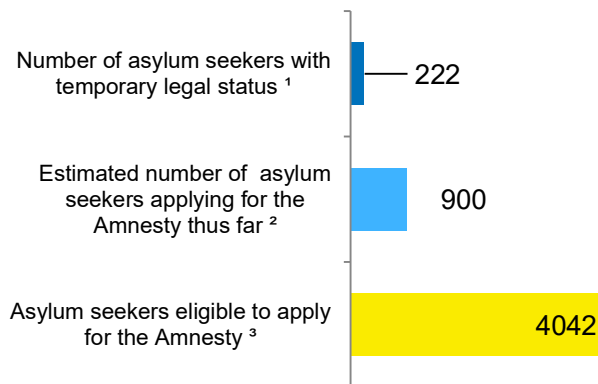
UNHCR provides **technical support** and **capacity development** to Government officials, as well as **direct assistance** to vulnerable asylum seekers.

### ACHIEVEMENTS



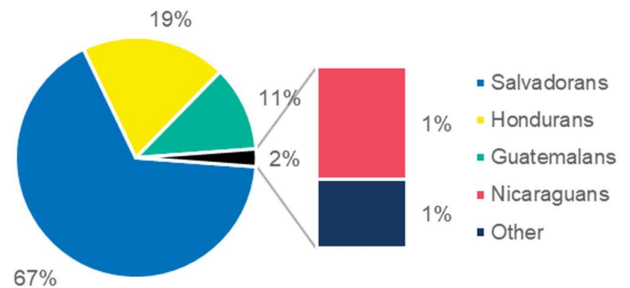
\*Total number of disbursements made to cover the costs of documentation, transportation, police records and medical examinations for asylum-seekers. In total, 504 individuals indirectly benefitted from this support.

### Amnesty Exercise Highlights



<sup>1</sup> Refers to asylum-seekers holding temporary work permits. <sup>2</sup> Applications received under the asylum-seeker category and others UNHCR partners have assisted to apply. <sup>3</sup> Refers to the total number of asylum-seekers registered with the Refugees Department.

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



\*Source: Refugees Department, Government of Belize.

Sources: Refugees Department, Government of Belize; UNHCR and partners.

## Operational Highlights



*UNHCR staff assist applicants to complete their documentation during an Amnesty Mobile Clinic at Trio Village.*

UNHCR and partner Human Rights Commission of Belize, conducted a verification and follow-up exercise, contacting eligible asylum-seekers to confirm they were able to complete and submit their Amnesty applications. UNHCR referred several asylum-seekers who required further assistance to complete their submissions to partners and other relevant institutions.



*Amnesty Mobile Clinic in Trio Village.*

## UNHCR Amnesty outreach activities across Belize

On 1 December 2022, the Government announced a three-month [extension period](#) for the registration phase of the Amnesty exercise, aiming to reach eligible people who have not been able to complete their applications. UNHCR continues providing guidance and support to asylum seekers and other vulnerable people who qualify for the program. The Agency worked with the Immigration Department on a radio advertisement to inform about the extension of the Amnesty. The ads were recorded in Spanish and English and will be aired nationally until the end of February 2023.



*UNHCR assists asylum-seekers and other vulnerable individuals to complete Amnesty application forms in English*

UNHCR and partners coordinate with other UN Agencies in the support to applicants at the Amnesty mobile clinics. These activities, which aim to reach those eligible in hard-to-reach communities, will be held nationwide until the end of the Amnesty exercise. To support the clinics, UNHCR is procuring stationery and other supplies and is providing in-person guidance and counselling to all the applicants.

## Working in partnership

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



**BELIZE IMMIGRATION**



**HUMANA**  
PEOPLE TO PEOPLE **BELIZE**



**HUMANRIGHTS**  
COMMISSION OF BELIZE

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Follow us on [Facebook](#). Find out more about the 2022-2023 Amnesty Exercise [here](#) and see [here](#) for UNHCR's statement on the exercise.