

Key Figures

+247,000

people have been internally displaced in Honduras as a result of violence between 2004 and 2018.



572,000

Honduran nationals have been returned from 2015 until March 2023, according to data from CONMIGHO.

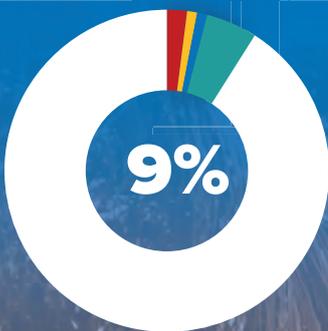
60,532

persons of different nationalities entered Honduras irregularly in the first trimester of 2023, according to the National Migration Institute (INM).

Our Response

15,225

mainly internally displaced persons, but also asylum-seekers, returnees, mixed movements, and host community members were served by UNHCR and its partners so far in 2023, with services such as shelter, cash and voucher assistance, community protection, case management and risk mitigation.

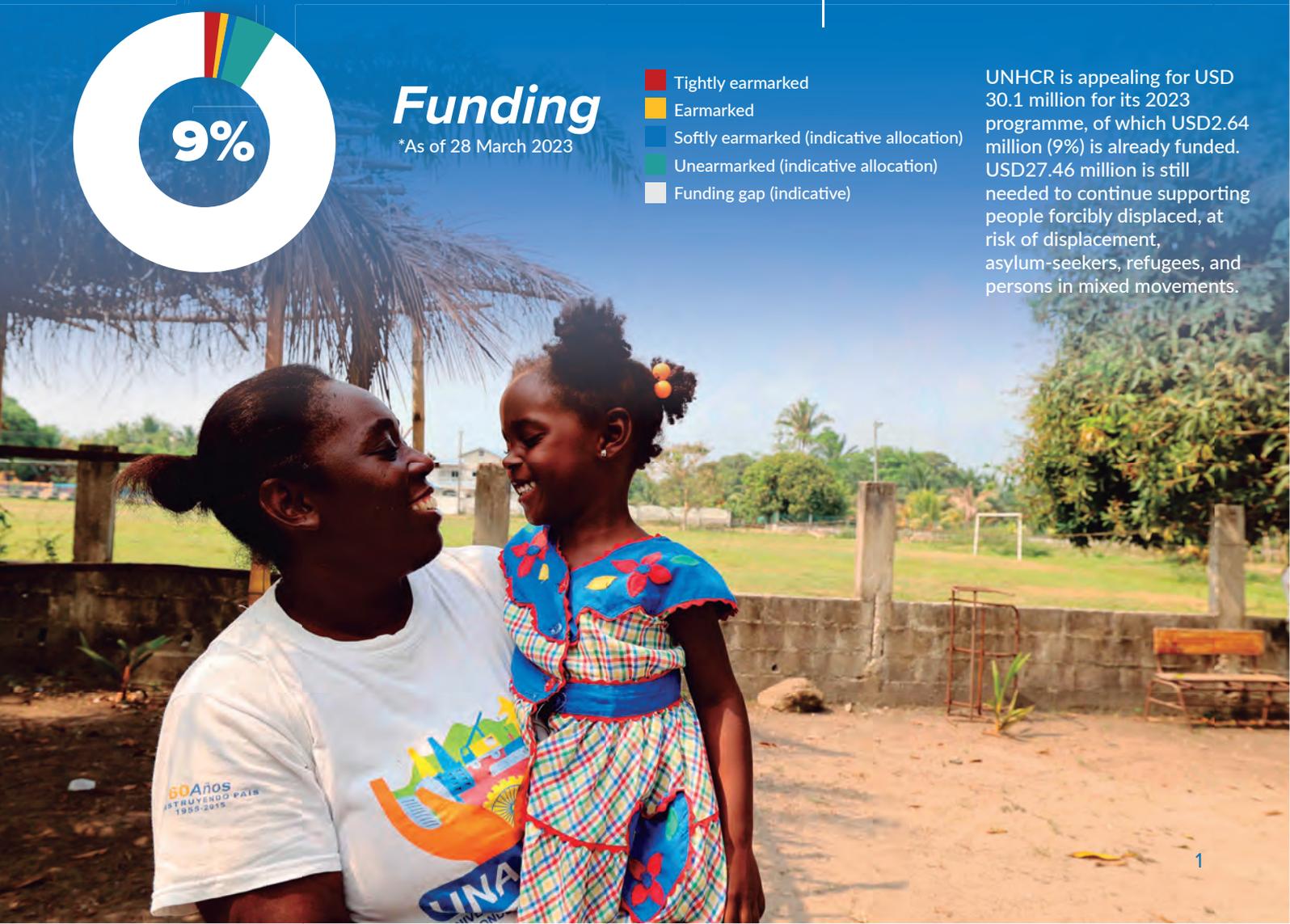


Funding

*As of 28 March 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 USD2.64 million (9%) is already funded. USD27.46 million is still needed to continue supporting people forcibly displaced, at risk of displacement, asylum-seekers, refugees, and persons in mixed movements.



HIGHLIGHTS

In March, the Law for the Prevention, Protection, and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons was sanctioned by the President of Honduras and came into force on 20 March. This legal framework recognizes the rights of victims of violence who have been forced to flee and formalizes the State's primary responsibility in prevent and protect (i) persons at risk; (ii) IDPs; (iii) returnees in need of protection.

Furthermore, the Law demonstrates a commitment by authorities to further strengthen and consolidate mechanisms for the protection of people and communities impacted by violence, such as humanitarian assistance, protection of rights and generation of data in support of future policy advances. UNHCR supported in the process of advocacy and technical support to the Honduran State for the formulation of the law. In this sense, to increase public awareness of this landmark, UNHCR published a joint press release with OACNUDH, ICRC and NRC praising this historic decision by the President of Honduras. The press release was published in national and international media.

Organizaciones internacionales aplauden la histórica decisión del Estado de Honduras de promulgar la Ley para la Prevención, Atención y Protección de las Personas Desplazadas Internamente

Tegucigalpa, 29 de marzo de 2023. La aprobación de la Ley para la Prevención, Atención y Protección de las Personas Desplazadas Internamente en Honduras, representa el más importante avance en este país para atender y proteger a las personas desplazadas internamente por la violencia. Además, reconoce los derechos de las víctimas y establece un marco jurídico para el restablecimiento de sus derechos; la ley ayudará a implementar mecanismos de prevención ante nuevos desplazamientos.

Por ello, ACNUR, la Agencia de la ONU para los Refugiados, la Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos (OACNUDH), el Comité Internacional de la Cruz Roja (CICR) y el Consejo Noroccidental para los Refugiados (NRC) celebran la sanción presidencial de esta ley, coordinada por la Comisión Interinstitucional para la Protección de las Personas Desplazadas Internamente por la Violencia (CIPDVI).

Esta Ley es el resultado de un gran compromiso de las autoridades, que con el apoyo de organizaciones de la sociedad civil y organismos internacionales, han logrado que su contenido refleje estándares internacionales de protección considerando un rol crucial en la protección de los derechos fundamentales de miles de personas hondureñas impactadas por la violencia generalizada.

La Ley fortalecerá los importantes avances alcanzados por el Estado hondureño para la protección de los derechos de las personas y comunidades impactadas por la violencia tales como los mecanismos de orientación, asistencia humanitaria y protección de derechos. Además, prevé la generación de información con la finalidad de desarrollar políticas públicas para atender las consecuencias del desplazamiento interno.

De la misma manera, la ley establece responsabilidades y mecanismos de coordinación de las instituciones del Estado para prevenir los casos de desplazamiento interno, registrar y garantizar a las víctimas, garantizar la restitución de derechos de las personas forzadas a huir; y proteger a las comunidades más afectadas por la violencia.

Las organizaciones firmantes reconocen los retos y desafíos que implica implementar este marco legal, por lo cual retoman a las autoridades, organizaciones de la sociedad civil y víctimas del desplazamiento, buscando su compromiso para apoyar al Estado en la elaboración del reglamento de la ley, organizar y fortalecer al sistema institucional responsable de su aplicación, y promover la construcción de recursos para implementar las medidas de protección y asistencia.



INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

The main causes that drive forced displacement in Honduras due to generalized violence include (i) social and territorial control by criminal or armed groups, (ii) extortion, (iii) forced recruitment, use and association; (iv) the dispossession, usurpation and destruction of housing, land, and property; (v) gender-based violence; (vi) political violence; (vii) human rights violations. Apart from these forced displacement triggers, the effects of climate change and related disasters are increasingly impacting Honduras.

The transportation sector is one of most exposed to violence and forced displacement triggers. Bus drivers operating in the route San Pedro Sula-Yojoa (one of the most important in the country) went on strike after receiving extortion threats by gang members. This happened less than a week after three bus companies resumed its activities following similar threats. In addition, the Honduran Airport Infrastructure and Services Company (Ehisa) denounced that gang members are trying to extort job applicants at the airfield demanding monetary payment to apply for job offers.

In this vein, the Government of Honduras continues to face social unrest with frequent demonstrations being held in the country. Despite these high levels of crime, femicides, and organized crime, the Public Ministry of Honduras has been on strike for 45 days. In addition, in a country classified as one of the most violent in the Americas, the Centre for Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences joined the strike and is not carrying out surveys nor autopsies related to homicides and deaths for an indefinite period.

Following the increase in protests in Honduras, on 20 March alone, teachers, prosecutors, importers of vehicles and residents of areas affected by landslides held demonstrations for different reasons. Amongst those were the residents of the Guillén neighbourhood in Tegucigalpa, who are still awaiting relocation after being forcibly displaced by landslides caused by frequent rains in October 2022. They are afraid of further tragedies occurring with the rainy season approaching.

On the other side, the north of Honduras (Department of Cortes) is facing forced displacement risks due to climate change related disasters, which caused rains to be more frequent and heavier on communities. The Civil Protection Honduran National Agency (COPECO), responsible for emergency contingency plans, alerted that 30 households and 22 families had to be evacuated by 21 March due to the heavy rains during the weekend.

Climate change effects have been severely impacting farmers in Honduras as well, with rains expected in May not happening as before in the Dry Corridor area, which presents very different weather dynamics than those on the north side. Several consecutive droughts over the past five years in Honduras coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic could cause some to be internally displaced. This can get worst with an unprecedented lack of rain announced for 2023, threatening the livelihoods of at least 1.3 million Hondurans living in the Dry Corridor.

These triggers continue to impact the country, particularly generalised violence, as seen by

10 massacres that happened so far in 2023



Specifically in March, three multiple homicides were registered, resulting in

19 deaths



Furthermore, by 31 March 2023

99 femicides were registered, according to data from the Centro de Derechos de Mujeres (CDM).



This accounts to one woman being killed every 24 hours or less.

This led President Castro to summon the Secretary of Security to deliver results for the latest killings and femicides.

RESPONSE

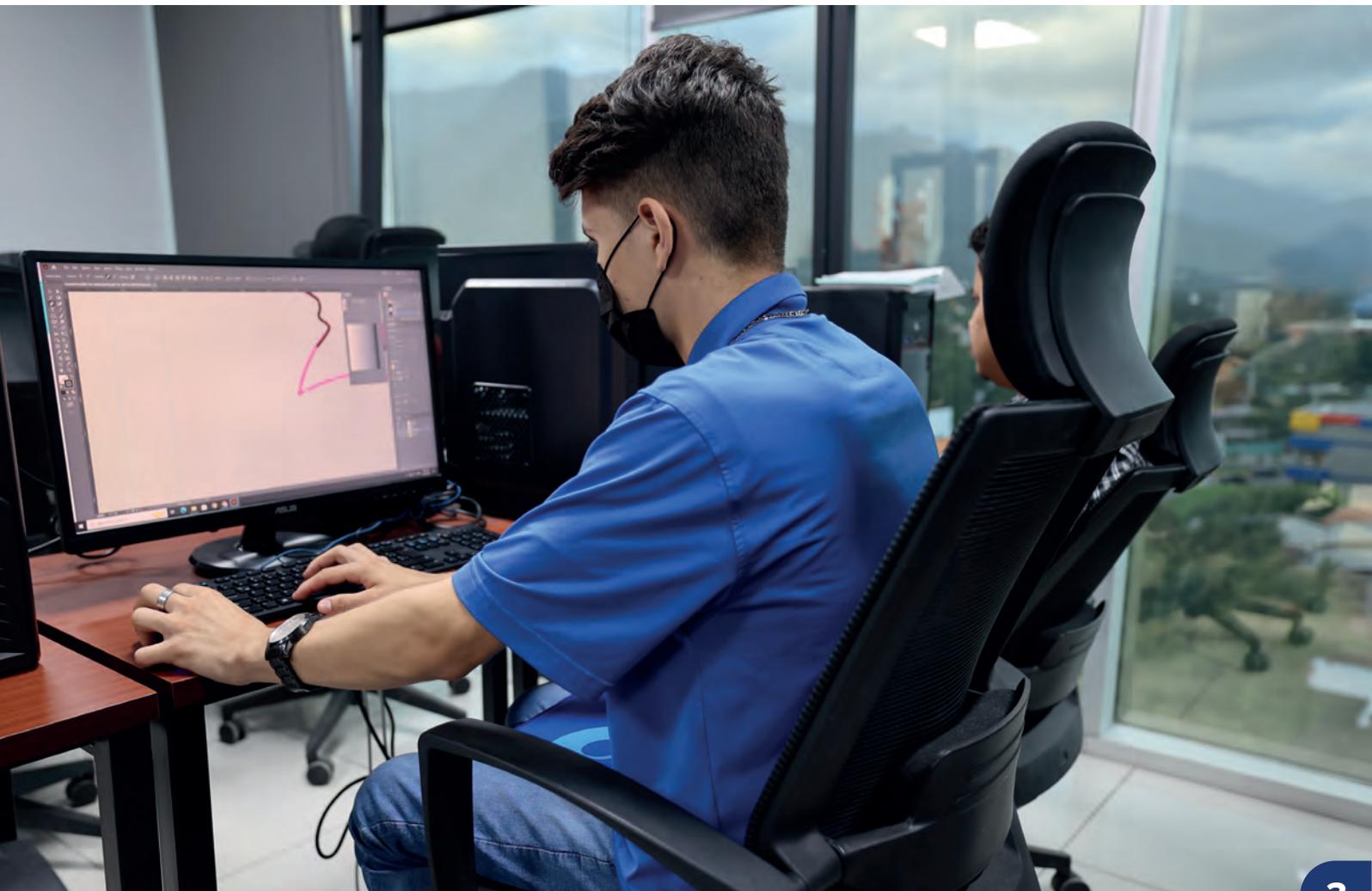
Protection

COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION I Considering that territorial disputes by organized crime and associated violence are part of the main forced displacement triggers in Honduras, UNHCR develops community-based protection programmes to (i) recover public spaces disabled by these triggers, (ii) prevent forced recruitment, (iii) foster a safe protection environment and sense of belonging of internally displaced people and at-risk of displacement with their communities and (iv) identify protection cases amongst affected population.

Communities can be the source of prevention and mitigation of risks associated with the impact of violence when strengthened, providing a safe protective environment. UNHCR works with Honduran authorities to refer internal displacement cases for attention and follow-up, as well as provides technical support to build protection routes in high-risk areas prone to forced displacement. In this sense, in March, UNHCR jointly carried out with its partner Children International, the socialization of the community-based Psycho-social support (PSS) routes to leaders and volunteers of seven communities affected by forced displacement, which articulates mental health and psychosocial services, IDPs identification, and safe referral pathways to San Pedro Sula Municipal IDP attention unit. 75 community leaders participated including 30 women, 15 men, 13 girls, 17 boys.

LIVELIHOODS | People forcibly displaced or at-risk of displacement face challenges in recovering livelihoods and meet basic needs. To provide durable solutions after the displacement and consequent loss of livelihoods, as well as mitigate forced displacement risks in communities under vulnerable situations, UNHCR cooperates with the Honduran Vocational Training Institute (INFOP). To support the Institute, UNHCR donated ICT equipment to strengthen their operational capacity and enable learning opportunities in the technical centres. With this, UNCHR aims to facilitate the ongoing process of certification and improvement of training offer in high-risk communities for people forced to flee and at-risk of displacement.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS | UNHCR carried out several activities around Honduras to celebrate the International Women's Day. Together with its partner Youth Against Violence, UNHCR painted two murals in the facilities of "Ciudad Mujer", honouring women and the 8 March celebrations. In addition, UNHCR carried out a workshop in which more than 100 women were sensitised about forced displacement triggers and higher risks associated to digital threats. Protection concerns and gender violence associated with digital risks were covered during the session. This event was held by the Women's Municipal Office of Ocotepeque, with the support of UNHCR, DINAF, the Departmental Secretary of Health and Mancomunidad Trinacional. Finally, UNHCR also released a video about the support provided to a Women's Center where forcibly displaced women find a safe place to safeguard their lives.



MIXED MOVEMENTS

Between 1 January and 31 March

60,532

persons in mixed movements have entered Honduras irregularly according to official INM statistics.

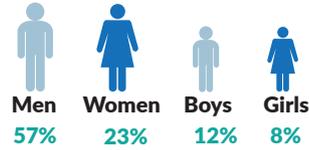


Registering their entry in the country through:

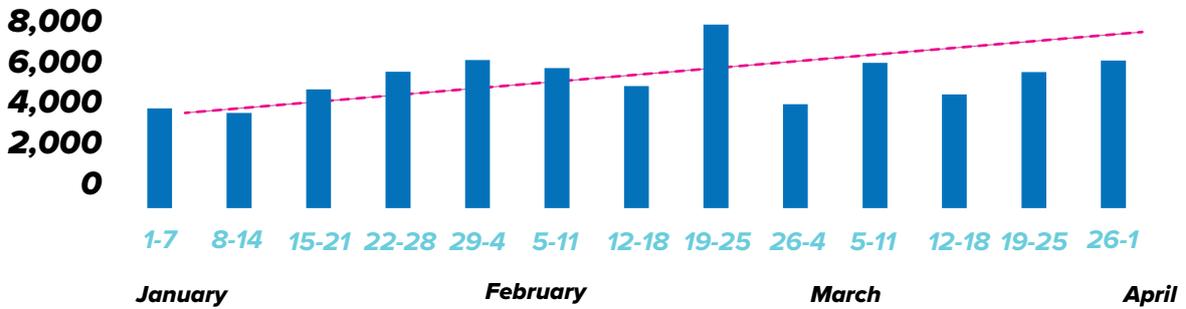


- 49%** Trojes
- 32%** Danlí
- 9%** Irregular Migrant Service Centers (CAMI)

Main nationalities were from Venezuela (25%), Haiti (21%), Ecuador (20%), Cuba (6%).



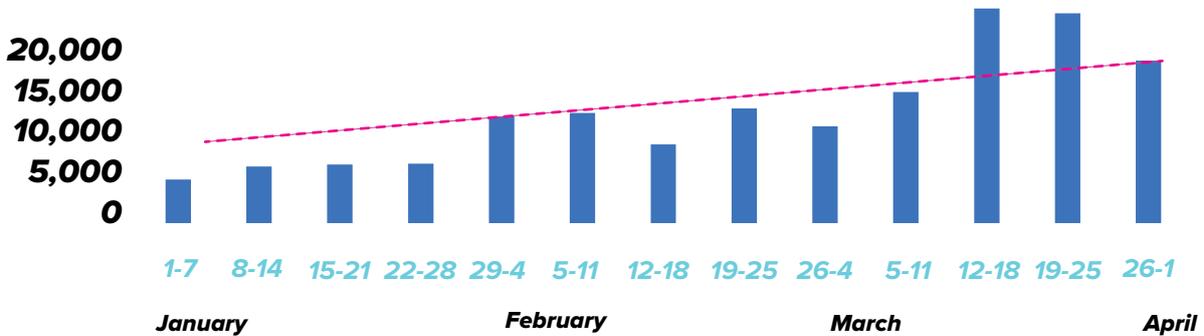
Weekly irregular entries in Honduras in 2023



Irregular entries in the first trimester of 2023 (60,532) have almost quadrupled in comparison with the same period in 2022 (13,117 entries), with an increase of 360% of persons in mixed movements observed, according to official INM data.

According to UNHCR's monitoring, the population trend of people in mixed movements crossing through Ocotepeque to exit towards Guatemala reached its all-times high in March 2023. Around 15,740 people are estimated to have crossed through irregular paths in the surroundings of Agua Caliente's border between 21 to 27 March.

Estimated weekly irregular exits through the Honduran border points El Florido and Agua Caliente, according to UNHCR's monitoring in 2023



It is worth noting that despite INM's strong efforts to register persons entering the country irregularly, its capacities are limited and due to the large numbers, some persons prefer not to pass by and wait at an official INM delegation to be issued a five-day transit permit. Instead, they prefer to transit rapidly through Honduras (some of them with smugglers). In sum, the dimension of mixed movements is even larger than the official entry statistics.

On another note, leaders from the transportation sector denounced the existence of a parallel market to transport people in mixed movements transiting through Honduras. They complained about unofficial buses that would be taking away their services when transporting people from the Tatumbula terminal (Tegucigalpa) up to people's final destinations in the north of the country on the border with Guatemala.



ASYLUM-SEEKERS

According to the Honduran National Migration Institute (INM), 12 asylum applications were filed in Honduras in March 2023 (nine Venezuelans, three Nicaraguans). So far in 2023, 32 applications were presented, almost the same number as during the same period in 2022, where 35 applications were filed. At the moment, 167 recognized refugees are living in Honduras.

RESPONSE

Protection

CLUSTER | People in mixed movements and returnees face extenuating journeys for being forcibly displaced. While transiting Honduras, many are in need of shelter, food, psychological support, amongst others. In the Machuca area (2 kms away from the Agua Caliente crossing with Guatemala) the Local Humanitarian Response Group for the Western Border led by UNHCR has provided 556 medical attentions for people in mixed movements, 45 nutritional evaluations for children, and delivered more than 400 hygiene and first aid kits to improve reception conditions.

Furthermore, in the southeast border, the Local Response Group for the Southern Border strengthened its response. This was particularly the case during 11 and 12 March. During this weekend, entries soared with more than 3,500 people in mixed movements arriving in Danli. The Group supported INM efforts to serve more than 600 individuals during the weekend with coordinated efforts to provide water, food, shelter, medical assistance and child friendly spaces. For more information, see the situation report covering the period 1 January to 22 March 2023.

In addition, in Choluteca, 62 persons were provided by shelter at Centro de Atención Caritas, supported by UNHCR. 58% were men, 22% women, 10% boys and 10% girls. Main nationality served at the shelter was Venezuelan, followed by Cuban, Nicaraguan, and Peruvian.

Movimientos mixtos en Honduras:
Ingresos de personas en movimientos mixtos por la frontera sur-oriental

Cifras clave:

- 53,349** Total de personas que ingresaron a Honduras durante el mes de marzo de 2023.
- 10,000** Personas que ingresaron a Honduras por la frontera sur-oriental durante el mes de marzo de 2023.
- 1,000** Personas que ingresaron a Honduras por la frontera sur durante el mes de marzo de 2023.

Nacionalidades: Venezuela (58%), Cuba (10%), Nicaragua (10%), Perú (10%), otros (12%).

Danli: Durante el fin de semana del 11 y 12 de marzo de 2023, se registró un aumento significativo en el número de personas que ingresaron a Honduras por la frontera sur-oriental, alcanzando un total de más de 3,500 personas.

Atención: El Grupo de Respuesta Local para el Sur-Oriente de la Frontera, liderado por UNHCR, brindó apoyo humanitario a las personas que ingresaron a Honduras por la frontera sur-oriental durante el fin de semana del 11 y 12 de marzo de 2023.

Para más información: info@unhcr.org o al teléfono +504 2222 2222.

In addition, the INM's Assistance Centre in Danlí, also supported by UNHCR, assisted 7,416 people in mixed movements by March 2023 with comprehensive services (including medical, psychological, shelter, food, legal counselling, among others), improving reception conditions for those with protection needs.

INFORMATION | People forced to flee are faced with several protection risks in their journey. One of the main difficulties they face are the lack of information or challenges in finding trusted sources. This exposes them to risks of trafficking in persons, abuse, and violence. In addition, many of those requiring international protection do not have information on asylum procedures available or the possibility to request asylum for their cases.

To tackle this, in 2023, UNHCR served over 5,000 people with information on international protection, the asylum system in Honduras and related services available in the country. UNHCR and its partner World Vision through its Mobile Information Services on the south-eastern border of Honduras provided information to 5,187 persons in mixed movements entering the country (3,022 men, 1,520 women, 645 children).

RETURNEES

In 2023, a total of 16,167 Hondurans were returned to the three Assistance Centres for Returned Migrants located in the department of Cortés. In March alone, 7,192 people were returned, a 19% increase in comparison with February.

CASE MANAGEMENT | UNHCR and partners work to strengthen institutional capacities for the care and identification of the returned population with protection needs, and to guarantee that adequate protection alternatives are in place. UNHCR works strategically in the three Centres for Returned Migrants available in Honduras to identify and refer cases of returnees in need of protection, which on average account to 5% of the total returned population. In March 2023, UNHCR attended 60 cases (100 people). The returnees received information on protection alternatives, available services for protection cases, including third country solution's programmes, psycho-social assistance and internal relocation. In addition, with the support of UNHCR, DINAF is providing some of the children returned with psychosocial support.

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, 39 cases (171 persons) were referred from KIND to UNHCR, out of which 12 cases (45 persons: eight women, 17 men, 14 girls and six boys) were eligible.



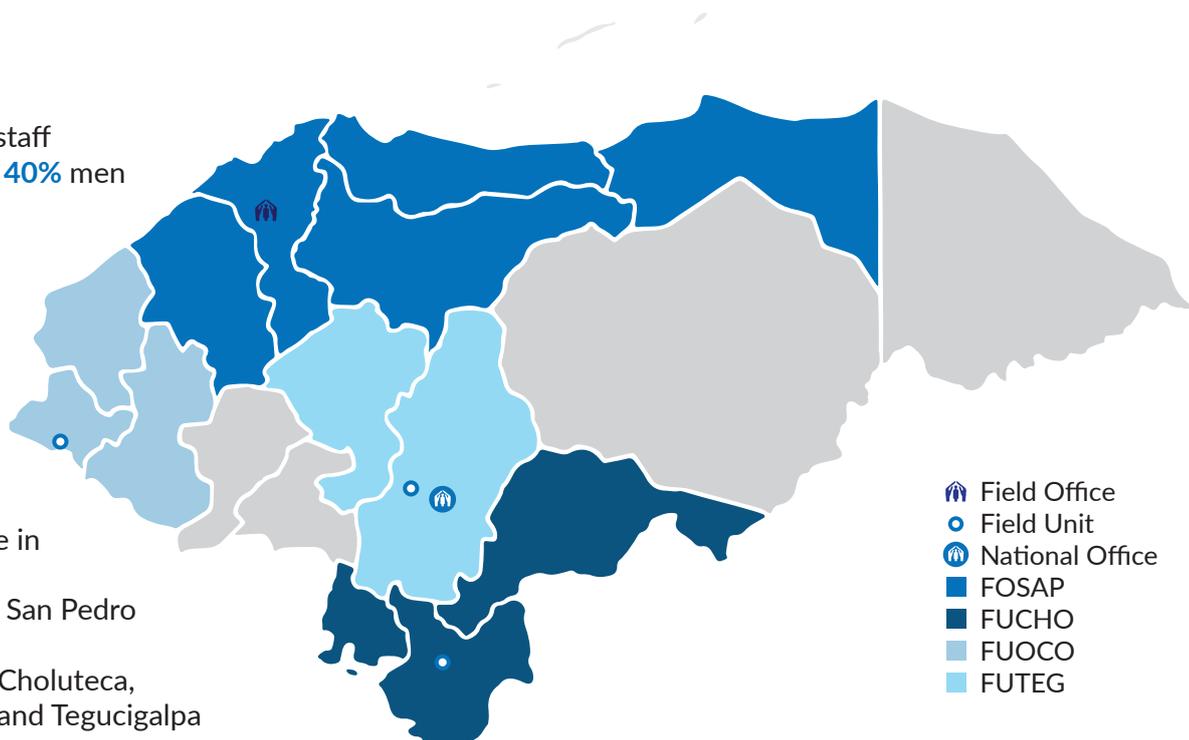
UNHCR PRESENCE

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
-  FUTEQ
-  FUOCO

We thank the contributions of our donors

By 28 March 2023

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



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