

# HONDURAS

## Key Figures

**+247,000**

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

**588,557**

Honduran nationals have been returned between January 2015 and 31 July 2023, according to data from [CONMIGHO](#).

**184,446**

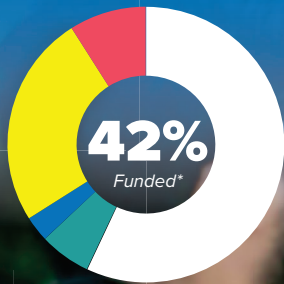
persons of different nationalities entered Honduras irregularly by end of July 2023, according to the National Migration Institute (INM).

## Our Response

**40,202**

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

## Funding



\*As of 20 July 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 USD 12.6 million (42%) is already funded. USD 17.5 million is still needed to continue supporting people forcibly displaced, at risk of displacement, asylum-seekers, refugees, and persons in mixed movements.



## Highlights

Honduras **continues to face high levels of violence in 2023**, the main cause of forced displacement in the country. The Government sanctioned the Law for the Prevention, Assistance and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons in March 2023, assuming its primary responsibility in addressing the context of forced displacement. As a milestone in the beginning of the implementation of the Law, the Inter-Institutional Commission for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons (CIPPDEF) was formally installed. The event on 14 July counted with the presence of high-level representatives from 13 institutions, two civil society organisations, NRC, ICRC, OHCHR, and UNHCR.



After the first regular meeting of the Commission, UNHCR is actively supporting its strategic planning that will happen in August. In addition, its members agreed to conduct socialisations of the IDP protection law

with public institutions grouped by sector of competencies (protection, justice, durable solutions, prevention, financial institutions, and programmatic response). The socialisation will be carried out between August and September 2023, and aims to increase the knowledge and understanding of the law among institutions. UNHCR is engaged in the methodological design and facilitation of the workshops for this process together with all other actors.

## INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

### Context

Violence is the main cause of forced displacement in Honduras. Furthermore, forced recruitment, gender-based violence and climate change related disasters are amongst its main triggers. In this sense, during July 2023, the Honduran government extended its State of Exception until 19 August. Children and youth, apart from being vulnerable to forced recruitment by organised crime, are also increasingly being victims of violent deaths. Aggravating the situation of generalised violence, the arrival of El Nino phenomenon left different zones with either severe draught or non-stop rain. As a result, the country faces rising food insecurity and severe malnutrition cases amongst children. The main events in July 2023 related to this context are described below.

The level of violence in Honduras has been such that the Government decreed a State of Exception in December 2022 and has already extended it five times, also expanding it to a total of 123 municipalities. The Decree is now valid until 19 August. Raids, curfews, thorough prison searches, investigations into corrupt officials and seizures of weapons and ammunition are part of the measures to control the situation.

The number of massacres in the country continues to increase.

The National Violence Observatory of the University Institute for Democracy, Peace, and Security (ONV-IUDPAS) indicated that in 2023

a total of

**31 multiple homicides**

have already been recorded



with

**163 people killed**

This represents a

**13% increase**

in comparison with the previous year.

The number of victims in multiple killings

**increased by 72%**

according to a ONV-IUDPAS report.



Furthermore, children are exposed to forced recruitment due to the generalised violence context. According to a [statement](#) made by the National Police of Honduras, members of organised crime use social media to forcibly recruit the country's youth through platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Tiktok. Women and girls are also impacted by violence.

## RESPONSE

### RESPOND

**UNHCR seeks that forcibly displaced people and those at risk of displacement have clear and effective responses to protect their lives, safety, liberty and integrity and access to humanitarian assistance.**

**CLUSTER I** Through the protection cluster, UNHCR works to sensitise and inform humanitarian and development actors, government institutions and the private sector to strengthen the response for forcibly displaced people and those at risk of displacement.

In July 2023, the Humanitarian Country Team in Honduras held a workshop on preparedness for the cyclone season and the effects of the El Niño in 2023. COPECO reported that the country is highly vulnerable to a multi-threat context that includes the effects of drought, and at the same time, the impacts of the cyclonic season that began in June. During this period, which ends in November, there could be 12 to 17 storms, five to nine of which could be hurricanes, and one to four of which could be intense hurricanes. In this context, the Humanitarian Country Team is updating the Contingency Plan for rains and is developing a specific Plan focused on drought. UNHCR, through the coordination of the Protection Cluster, is participating in the drafting of these instruments, ensuring a comprehensive context analysis that integrates the impacts of violence and the causes of forced displacement.

**CASE MANAGEMENT** | UNHCR and partners work to strengthen institutional capacities for the care and identification of returnees with protection needs, and to guarantee that adequate protection alternatives are in place. In this sense, UNHCR has a strategic presence in the three Centres for Returned Migrants available in Honduras to identify and refer cases of returnees in need of protection. In July 2023, UNHCR attended 23 cases (43 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, the Directorate for Children, Adolescent and Family (DINAF) is providing some of the children returned with psychosocial support.



**Every 18 hours**

**a girl or a woman is killed**

**and the crime remains unpunished.**

The Women's Rights Centre of Honduras reported

**274 feminicides**  
until July 2023.

Part of the Hondurans who are forcibly displaced due to violence flee the country to safeguard their lives. However, part of them is returned. By July 2023, a total of 32,727 Hondurans were returned to the three Assistance Centres for Returned Migrants located in the department of Cortes, 4,976 in the last month. UNHCR estimates that 5% of them could be in need of international protection.

On another note, the impacts of [climate change](#) are becoming ever more severe in Honduras. Droughts caused by the El Niño phenomenon are being increasingly felt since the beginning of July in the Dry Corridor. Most people in this area that depend on subsistence agriculture for survival are running out of basic items for survival, mainly food. In addition, at least 3,000 children are in a critical [malnutrition situation](#) according to official data.

**EMPOWER**

UNHCR supports displaced communities and communities at risk of displacement to mitigate the differentiated impact of violence.

**COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION** | Considering that territorial disputes by organised crime and associated violence are part of the main forced displacement triggers in Honduras, UNHCR works with communities and people at risk to develop community self-protection strategies and access to inclusive and effective participation mechanisms.

UNHCR carried out different activities throughout the country in July 2023 to (i) contribute to individuals and community structures to have better capacities to identify and mitigate forced displacement risks and increase knowledge about their rights; (ii) ensure that displaced children and adolescents at risk of displacement have access to a child protection system and are safe in the place where they live, learn and play; (iii) institutions, local authorities and partners have better technical capacities to prevent risks and address needs related to displacement triggers, including recruitment and use of children and youth; (iv) and that communities and people at risk, including children and youth, have access to protection mechanisms and safe spaces for risk prevention and mitigation.



**San Pedro Sula**

In San Pedro Sula, partners Children International and Municipality of San Pedro Sula held an enrolment day for young people from high-risk communities Chamelecón, Rivera Hernández and Cofradía to attend several education courses, as plastic and visual art, breakdance among others, as part of the joint community art program. In addition, the same partners and UNHCR carried out an initiative called “traditional games day” for 70 children and youth in the Rivera Hernández sector as a part of the strategy to prevent forced recruitment providing alternative activities in communities.



**Tegucigalpa**

In Tegucigalpa, weekly sessions of a Sport for Protection strategy were delivered with the National Commissioner of Sports, Physical Education and Recreation (CONDEPOR) and Save the Children. More than 130 members of several communities around the capital participated in these weekly events.



**Ocatepeque**

In Ocatepeque, northwest Honduras, UNHCR and the local Secretariat of Education started a community mobile library and delivered digital literacy workshops during July 2023 to prevent digital protection risks in children, adolescents, and young people, such as forced recruitment and smuggling. The mobile library is developed in rural communities and urban schools in border areas and benefited 42 people from the communities Agua Caliente and Piedras Bonitas.



**Choluteca**

In Choluteca, southeast Honduras, UNHCR delivered equipment and elements to the Fuente de Luz Community Centre in Trojes and the Community Centre in Cifuentes, with the aim of strengthening their organisational and community capacities for the development of actions focused on the protection of forcibly displaced persons and those at-risk of displacement, as well as livelihoods activities. Similarly, UNHCR delivered equipment to the Centre for Integral Attention to Women (CAIM) and to the Network of Youth Associations of the Municipality of Choluteca (RAJUMCH), to strengthen the capacity of these spaces and improve their services to the forcibly displaced population and those at-risk of displacement.



**SOLVE**

UNHCR works for forcibly displaced persons and persons at risk of displacement to have access to solutions that contribute to breaking the cycle of violence and forced displacement.

**RESETTLEMENT** | During July 2023, UNHCR identified, interviewed, and referred cases for third country solutions to ensure that displaced persons and persons at risk of displacement have better access to resettlement mechanisms and complementary pathways.

**HLP** | UNHCR in Honduras works with the State to establish an operational and effective mechanism for the protection of housing, land, and property abandoned or dispossessed due to violence and human rights violations. Together with the Government of Honduras through the Property Institute (IP), activities are developed to strengthen the operational and technical capacities to identify and register these properties.

In 2023, the Secretariat of Human Rights (SEDH) has identified new HLPs that have been abandoned by the IDPs they have protected. These, added to other properties in 2022, account for HLPs that would possibly enter the protection mechanism established by the new Law on Internal Displacement. For this purpose, UNHCR has collaborated with the IP in the analysis of the documentary and registry information related to each property, as well as the establishment of the administrative and coordination procedures that both entities must follow for the operation of the Register of Abandoned Property.

**GBV** | In relation to gender-based violence (GBV), UNHCR works to ensure protection mechanisms and safe spaces for prevention, risk mitigation and care for people at risk and/or victims of GBV are strengthened, as well as community organisations and local protection networks.

In July 2023, Ciudad Mujer and UNHCR prepared a Diploma in gender and human rights that was delivered by the Municipal Women's Office in Choluteca, south-east of Honduras, in July 2023. The three-weeks course was attended by 15 municipal women's representatives.

To address similar problems in the north-western area of Honduras, in July 2023, 102 women from the communities of Santa Fe, Ocotepeque, Los Morros and Antigua Ocotepeque attended workshop sessions on Digital Literacy conducted by UNHCR. The initiative aims to help them strengthen their capacities to identify and avoid possible misuse of new digital technologies, such as human trafficking and smuggling which can exacerbate situations of gender-based violence.



Training course for trainers with Ciudad Mujer in Choluteca.



Also, exercises with community leaders to identify abandoned HLP in their communities continue with the support of partners such as Human Development Centre (CDH). As a result, houses were identified in June and July 2023 in the neighbourhoods of Buenos Aires, Villa Vieja, and Altos de los Pinos in Tegucigalpa. In addition, a tool was applied to deepen the context of each community to understand their risks and protective factors.

**LIVELIHOODS** | People forcibly displaced or at-risk of displacement face challenges in recovering livelihoods and meet basic needs. To tackle this, UNHCR fosters coordination between public and private actors to promote socio-economic inclusion and provide information and opportunities to this population related to the labour market, self-employment and/or financial inclusion.

In this sense, in July 2023, UNHCR and partner Business Development Centre (CDE) carried out a selection process of 35 entrepreneurs from Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, Choluteca, and Intibucá, who started to receive seed capital this month to allow them to begin or escalate their businesses. These entrepreneurs had already finished a training phase where they learned how to develop and manage a business plan and will now continue to a phase of mentoring/follow-up.

Furthermore, UNHCR and the Municipality of San Pedro Sula finished its first financial education training with a group of 30 persons from high-risk communities from San Pedro Sula. This group continued afterwards with entrepreneurship trainings to develop and strengthen their entrepreneurial skills.

Similarly, 30 forcibly displaced persons or persons at-risk of displaced started a five-month long course in graphic design with Graphx Academy, in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula. The participants will receive full scholarships covering tuition fees and travel expenses for the duration of their studies. Graphx Academy is the training arm of Graphx Source, one of the biggest graphic design companies in Honduras.

On another note, to ensure authorities and the private sector have capacities for socio-economic inclusion of forcibly displaced people, UNHCR delivered training equipment to four technical-vocational and community training centres. In total, eight centres are benefitting from this type of support in 2023. In addition, UNHCR also supports these prioritised centres with revision of curricula for relevant courses and with an internship programme, which links graduates with private sector to promote their labour inclusion. The internship program will start in August, aiming to support 80 graduates in total.



Jeany Canales has benefited from training and employment in graphic design through the job opportunities program between UNHCR and Graphx Academy.

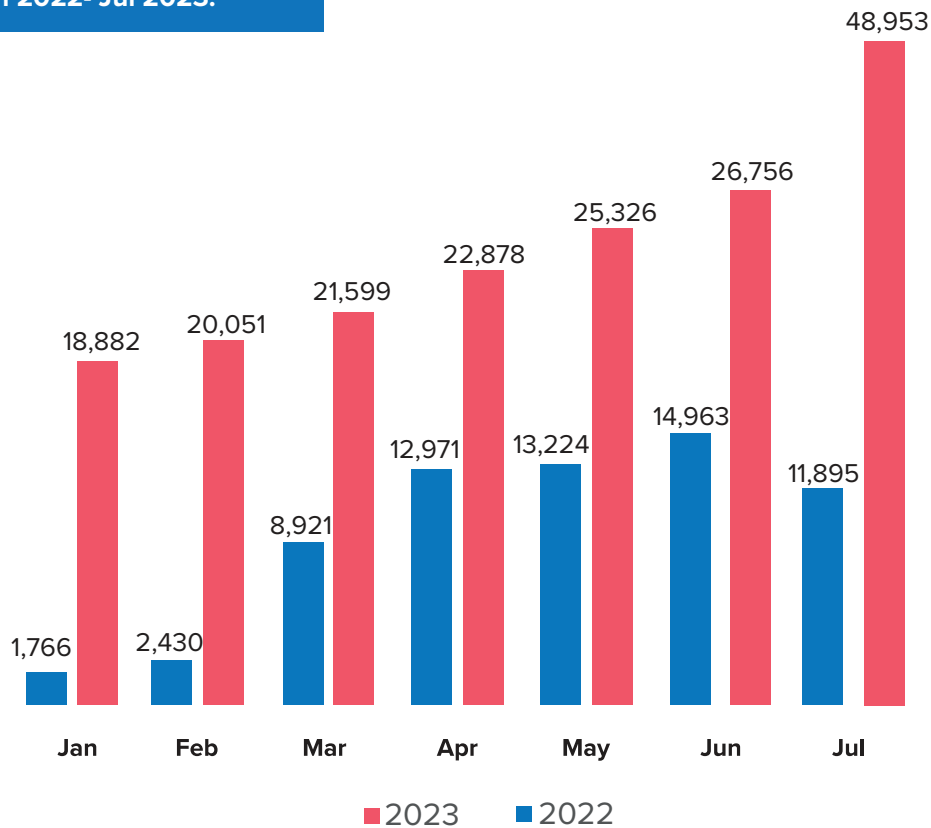
## MIXED MOVEMENTS

### Context

Between 1 January and 31 July 2023, 184,446 persons in mixed movements have entered Honduras irregularly and registered themselves at a delegation of the National Migration Institute (INM), which is **almost three times as many than during the same period in 2022** when 66,170 persons entered Honduras irregularly. 92% of the persons in 2023 were registered at an INM delegation in Danlí or Trojes. 60% are men, 23% women, 10% boys and 7% girls. The following chart, based on official INM data, shows the strong increase of persons in mixed movements in the first seven months of 2023 in comparison to the same period in 2022.



Irregular entries Jan 2022- Jul 2023:





## ASYLUM-SEEKERS

In relation to asylum applications, according to INM, 80 new applications were filed in Honduras by July 2023. 38% of the persons are Venezuelans, 31% from Nicaragua, 14% from Cuba, 5% from El Salvador, 5% from Colombia, 4% from Ecuador, and the remaining from Brazil, Guatemala, and Peru. This is the first time in Honduras that the number of asylum-claims of Venezuelans exceeds the number of applications registered from Nicaraguans. There are currently 183 refugees and 104 asylum-seekers residing in Honduras.

Between 1 and 31 July 2023, 48,953 persons who entered Honduras irregularly have been registered at an INM delegation, **which is the highest number ever registered in Honduras in one single month** and almost double the previous one. When comparing July 2022 with July 2023 the number has **more than quadrupled**, reaching a record. While this development is partially due to an increased capacity by INM to register persons also at the weekends, it also reflects a continuous increase of the number of persons in mixed movements.

In relation to exits, according to UNHCR's monitoring, the population trend of people in mixed movements crossing through Ocotepeque to exit towards Guatemala significantly increased in the second semester, reaching 17,000 persons in the last week of July, which is significantly higher than during the same period in 2022. Venezuela is the country of origin of most people, followed by Ecuador and Haiti.

The main needs reported to UNHCR by persons in mixed movements are economic resources, health attention, shelter, food, and clothing. In addition, there is a constant need for information on the right to seek asylum, safe spaces available along the route, the U.S. Parole Program as well as the CBP One App.

## RESPONSE

### PROTECT

Persons in need of international protection and mixed movements have access to the territory under conditions of dignified reception, fair and efficient refugee status determination procedures and facilitated documentation.

**MONITORING |** To review the protection situation and identify populations in need of protection, UNHCR and INM carried out a joint mixed movements monitoring mission to Las Manos border, El Paraíso and Danlí. Among the preliminary findings are: 1) the vast majority of persons currently enter Honduras irregularly at Las Manos border; 2) on average around 200 persons overnight in the streets at Las Manos border waiting for the first bus to Danlí; 3) CAMI Danlí operates daily at full capacity.



UNHCR delivers shelter kits to people in mixed movements.





**RESPOND**

People in mixed movements, refugees and asylum-seekers have clear and effective responses to protect their lives, safety, liberty and integrity and access to humanitarian assistance.

**AWARENESS** | To increase availability of information on the context and needs of people in mixed movements in Honduras, UNHCR published its fourth High Frequency Report in [Spanish](#) and [English](#). The 172 refugees and migrants on the move interviewed by UNHCR in July indicated that the main reasons for having left their country of origin were related to: limited access to employment (81%); generalized violence and insecurity (26%); lack of food (19%); threats or intimidation (8%); lack of access to healthcare and medicines (8%), among others. Some persons indicated various reasons for leaving their country of origin. At least every third person on the move indicated to be in need of international protection as they were forced to leave their country of origin due to violence or persecution.

**SHELTER AND INFORMATION** | People forced to flee are faced with several protection risks in their journey. To ensure they have clear and effective response, UNHCR provides services in the main hotspots of people in mixed movements in Honduras, namely the entry points along the south-east border, transit areas near the capital Tegucigalpa, and exit points along the north and northwest areas.

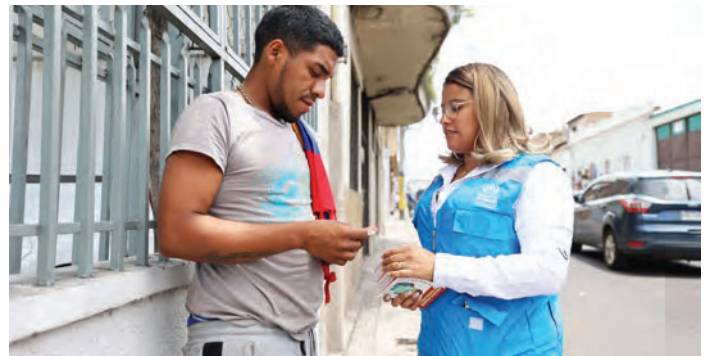
During July 2023, in the southeast border, 287 persons were sheltered at Centro de Atención Caritas, and others 506 were served by Hogar Esperanza, mainly from Venezuela, Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, Colombia, and Peru. Both shelters are supported by UNHCR. In the northwest area, at the shelter Casa Migrante of Ocotepeque and strategic points at the border, more than 225 people received information to mitigate protection risks.

Furthermore, since the opening of the first INM-led and UNHCR-supported Comprehensive Assistance Centre for Persons in Mixed Movements (CAMI) in Danlí in mid-January this year until July 2023, 24,595 refugees and migrants were hosted in the centre. 46% were men, 27% women, 14% boys and 13% girls. Venezuela (66%), Ecuador (13%), Haiti (9%) and Colombia (6%) were the most represented nationalities. The set-up of the Centre was supported by Refugee Housing Units (RHUs) donated by UNHCR to the Government of Honduras, which now serve as a temporary shelter to persons in mixed movements in a vulnerable situation. Among the services provided are information, food, medical and psychological assistance, WASH facilities.

In July 2023,  
UNHCR served over  
**+12,000**  
people



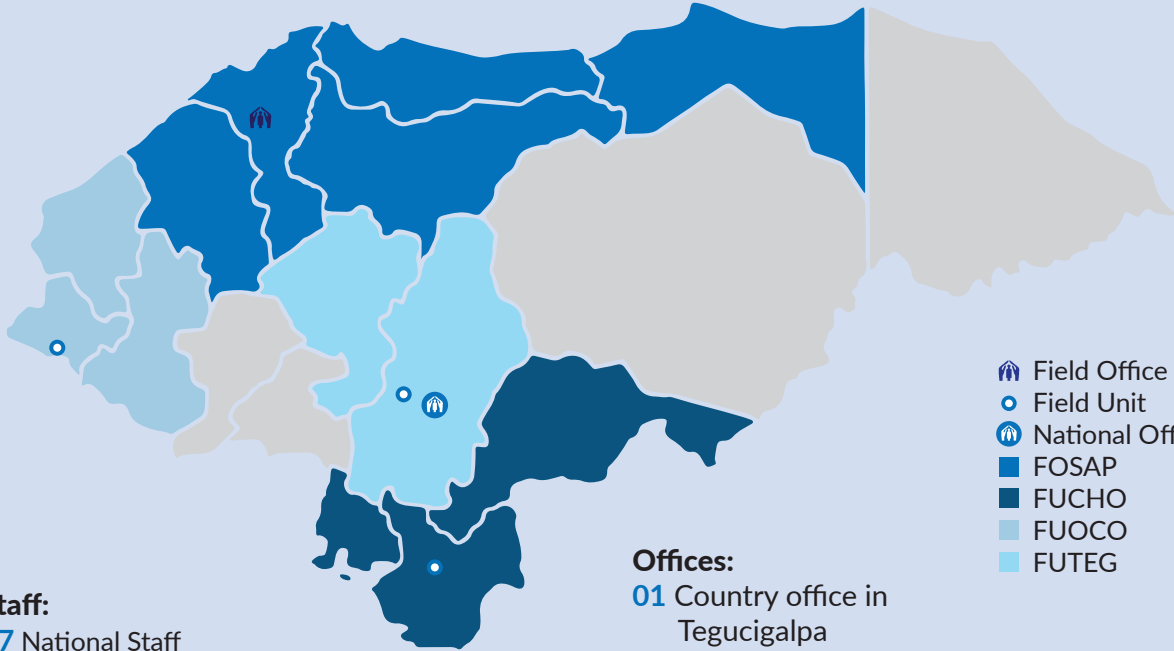
with information on international protection, the asylum system in Honduras and related services available in the country.



These services were provided through Mobile Information Service (SIM), which is implemented with UNHCR's partner World Vision. In the south-eastern border of Honduras, UNHCR provided information to over 11,190 persons in mixed movements entering the country. Furthermore, to cover exit flows of people in mixed movements in the north-western area, UNHCR established a SIM in the Machuca border point with Guatemala which attended 1,010 people since the start of operation on 24 July. Apart from information services, persons also received internet to facilitate communication with relatives.

**MIRPS** | In order to follow up on the MIRPS commitment expressed by Honduras related to asylum systems, UNHCR and INM participated in a regional MIRPS event of the Working Group on the Reception, Admission and Processing of asylum cases. The General Directorate for Human Rights and Democracy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico and the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMAR) shared good practices on researching, systematising, and presenting Country-of-Origin (COI) information to the respective eligibility officers. Specific training sessions on COI from the main countries of origin of refugees in the region will be coordinated on the request of the MIRPS countries, including Honduras.

# UNHCR PRESENCE



**Staff:**

67 National Staff  
40 International Staff  
64% women and 43% men

**Offices:**

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

## We thank the contributions of our donors

By 20 July 2023

UNHCR is grateful for the contributions of donor countries that contribute to the office in Honduras and to global programmes with flexible funding:



Also, we thank the contributions of our global private donors in Australia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Spain and United States of America.

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