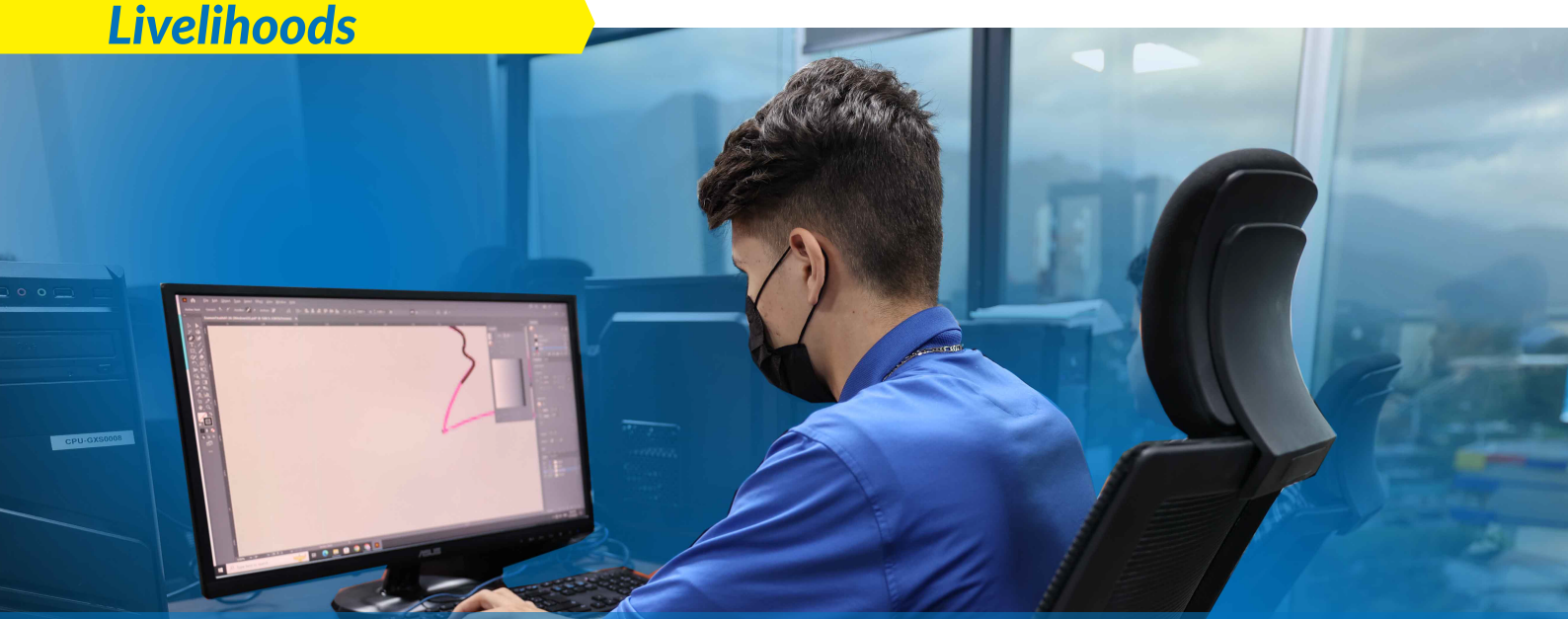
UNHCR ACNUR
La Agencia de la ONU para los Refugiados

FACTSHEET
April 2023

Livelihoods



UNHCR Honduras works hand in hand with state institutions, civil society, private sector, learning centres, UN agencies, and development actors to promote self-reliance and economic inclusion of people forced to flee and at-risk of displacement.

Livelihoods programs in UNHCR Honduras target internally displaced people, persons at risk of displacement, refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees in vulnerable situations, and members of host communities. Livelihoods programs are implemented at individual and community levels.

Improving livelihoods through economic inclusion is a key component of achieving protection and solutions for forcibly displaced people. In the context of Honduras, UNHCR supports the government to design a holistic response to displacement and ensures protection perspective for people forced to flee and at-risk of displacement in mid-term development interventions.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. Promote self-employment with the support of seed capital programs and
2. entrepreneurship trainings.
3. Facilitate access to employment and job placement through the support to and
4. implementation of market-oriented employment programs.
5. Promote socio-economic inclusion of vulnerable yet economically active people
6. through social entrepreneurship.
Facilitate access to competitive skills training.
Build alliances between the private sector, academia, development actors, and public
sector to promote economic inclusion, access to rights, and eventual scale-up of livelihoods interventions.
Strengthen a favorable environment for economic inclusion and build the capacity of
state institutions to find durable solutions for the people forced to flee and at-risk of displacement .

Key areas of work in 2023
Evidence based

Three studies were finalized in 2022 and presented to a broad audience:

- Jointly with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), UNHCR analyzed 12 value chains focused on the employment of people in vulnerable situations in Honduras.
- Together with the ILO, UNHCR researched the reality of returnees with specific protection needs and internally displaced persons face to access medical and social security services in Honduras.
- In coordination with the NRC, UNHCR studied the labor market for people in vulnerable situations in Honduras.

Results 2022

1. 500 people benefited directly from UNHCR livelihoods interventions (70% women), with 2,200 indirect beneficiaries.
2. Supported with access to technical and vocational skills training and certifications: 140 persons.
3. Supported training for self-employment: 330 persons.
4. Supported through cash assistance for business start-ups: 1,100 persons (250 families).
5. Provided labour market orientation or employability trainings: 390 persons.
6. Trained and sensitize private sector representatives on constrains that displaced people face with access to livelihoods - 45 private sector representatives.
7. Supported technical and vocational education centers and training centers (TVET institutions) with market-relevant curricular designs and infrastructure improvements for competitive skills training: 12 centres.
8. Supported community-level social entrepreneurships at high-risk communities: one initiative implemented and two started.
9. Supported seven youth and women groups with livelihoods-related trainings.

Key partners

State

Instituto Nacional de Formación Profesional

Derechos Humanos

PRIVATE SECTOR

FUNDAHRSE

PUBLIC ENTITIE

CDE MIPYME

NGO

children international

Save the Children

NRC

UN

Strengthening state institutional capacity at national and local levels

- UNHCR provides continuous technical and financial support to the Human Rights Secretariat (SEDH) to ensure its leadership in response programs to forced displacement, including the implementation of the seed capital for livelihoods pilot program for internally displaced people.
- UNHCR supports the establishment of coordination between SEDH and relevant state stakeholders through the interinstitutional commission for the protection of people internally displaced by violence and line Ministries, responsible for implementation of the IDP Law (recently approved by the National Congress, pending Presidential sanction).
- Building on the commitments made by Honduras as part of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS, in the Spanish acronym), particularly regarding the fourth pillar on Durable Solutions, UNHCR engages with line ministries to strengthen institutional response: National Migration Institute, INFOP, SENPRENDE, Ministry of Labour and Municipality of San Pedro Sula.

- Within the framework of MIRPS, UNHCR is advocating for best practices exchange in the region.
- UNHCR supports the municipalities with the highest number of people forcibly displaced or at risk of displacement in Honduras - municipalities of San Pedro Sula, Ocotepeque, San Marco, and La Ceiba in line with localization policy and to strengthen the local response. UNHCR implements a joint project with Municipality of San Pedro Sula, which among other things includes support to business start-up HUB Casa de Emprendedores.
- Conduct advocacy with the relevant state actors to enable access to employment and study opportunities for recognized refugees and asylum seekers.

Entrepreneurship and job placement

- To achieve the best result and ensure wide outreach, UNHCR supports entrepreneurship programs for people forced to flee and at-risk of displacement through several partners with different outreach - Human Rights Secretariat, Norwegian Refugee Council, and the network CDE MIPYME, bringing together state, protection, and business development actors. UNCHR facilitates regular best practice exchanges, to ensure synergies and complementarity in their approaches, and to achieve capacity building in respective strengths between the actors.
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- UNHCR works together with INFOP to offer quality soft skills and professional training certification to the people forced to flee and at-risk of displacement in Honduras. This is aimed to ensure private sector employment needs are met and job search is facilitated.

HUMAN STORIES

behind entrepreneurship support program

Maria (36), single mother of three, has been forcibly displaced several times because of threats against her life and for the fear that her teenage son could be recruited by the maras, operating in the sector of the city where the family lived. Upon relocation from San Pedro Sula (one of the biggest expulsion areas in the country according to 2018 IDP profiling), Maria step by step re-established her life. Her children go to school, and she enrolled in the cooking learning course.

Being passionate about food, she was on top of her class during the studies. Later, Maria was referred to UNHCR program that supports entrepreneurship for displaced persons, implemented by CDE MYPYME. "I had many small business ideas related to food production, but startup capital seemed unachievable through bank loans. Through UNHCR program, I received 1,000 USD in cash and was able to set up my small business. I received also training on business management, market assessment and marketing strategies and I think this is the part of the program that ensured the success".

Currently, with the income from her business, Maria sustains her family, covers her rent and makes small savings for the future. Living in the small community, she won the hearts of local people, who really like her meals. She also contributes to her community by paying taxes, renting the space of her business. “With this business, I can assure that my children can get a good education. I am happy I do not have to return to the horrors and fears of my previous life.”

In 2022, UNHCR provided financial education as part of the UNHCR and ILO project on socio-economic inclusion of people in vulnerable situations. 40 persons benefited from the course (including 20 Garifuna women in Tela). The graduates are later included in UNHCR entrepreneurship support program, as part of the holistic approach aiming to find durable solutions. Four financial inclusion courses are planned in 2023.

Access to competitive skills training

- In 2023, UNHCR is focused on bringing learning opportunities on competitive skills to people living in communities at high-risk of displacement due to violence.
- UNHCR supports 12 training centers with equipment and improvement of curricula, skills certification processes and job placement programs, including paid internships.
- UNHCR seeks to create synergies between different types of learning institutions - community training centers, state TVET institutions (INFOP), top-notch private training institutions (GraphxAcademy) and on-line training platforms like Coursera, free of charge for people forced to flee and at-risk of displacement . This allows to improve the quality of the offer through adapting it to the market demand.
- UNHCR supports internship and training programs in prioritized areas in line with market demand.
- UNHCR facilitates free of charge access to Coursera courses, including through enabling information and communications technology access for people forced to flee and at-risk of displacement .
- UNHCR develops certified programs with INFOP to foster individual professional certifications.

Entrepreneurship and job placement

- UNHCR engages with the private sector through four major areas of cooperation: job placement, social entrepreneurship, internships and sensitization campaigns.
- UNHCR conducts regular sensitization work with the private sector to combat stigmatization of people from communities at high-risk of displacement due to violence.
- UNHCR cooperates with the Honduran Foundation for Corporate Social Responsibility (FUNDHARSE), the social engagement area of the private sector in Honduras, Chambers of Commerce of Tegucigalpa, Chamber of Commerce of Atlántida on the topics of internships and job placements.
- UNHCR engages with the private sector for the development and implementation of social entrepreneurships in communities at high-risk of displacement due to violence, to develop economically sustainable protection spaces.

Creating economically sustainable protection space through supporting social entrepreneurship.

Social entrepreneurship in communities at high-risk of forced displacement due to violence is used as a tool to mobilize community members, provide the space for hands-on skills training and for community services, as well as to expose youth in vulnerable situation to official market opportunities. Scan the code to see the success story of La Central, community in the sector Rivera Hernandez, San Pedro Sula.

UNHCR thanks donors providing funds to implement livelihoods programs: