

Belize

July - August 2023

Key Figures

Some **4,130** Refugees and asylum-seekers in Belize are mainly from El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala.

158 Asylum-seekers received humanitarian assistance to enhance access to food, shelter, health, and other basic

75 Refugees and asylum-seeking children received support to access education.

Context

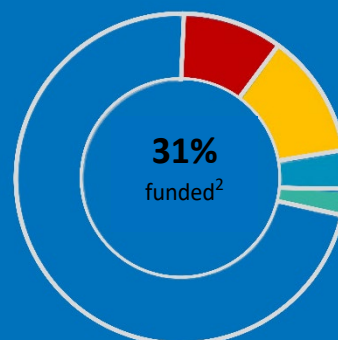
During the Forty-Fifth Heads of Government meeting, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Chairman announced that by March 2024, its members would have freedom of movement within their borders. Belize confirmed its support, with exceptions that include visa requirements for Haitian nationals.

The Cabinet approved a joint plan to strengthen the Civil Registry by establishing a legal policy framework, simplified procedures, and an inclusive and accessible online service. The plan seeks to modernize and improve all services of the Vital Statistics Unit.

The United Nations Country Team submitted Belize's Common Pledge 2.0. As part of the pledge, UN Agencies in Belize committed to working with the government to promote the integration of asylum-seekers, refugees, and persons at risk of statelessness in national development plans. The pledge also aims to enhance dignified living standards for refugees and host communities.

UNHCR conducted a border monitoring mission in southern Belize and met with national security and border management officials. The Agency also visited the Jalacte border town and met with host community members and military agents who requested UNHCR's support with information on refugee cards.

Regional funding Overview as of 31 August 2023



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

\$55.4 million
UNHCR's financial requirements 2023

¹ Financial requirement for the Panama MCO in 2023 including requirements for the operations and activities in Aruba, Belize, Cuba, Curaçao, Guyana, Nicaragua, Panama, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

² The percentage funded is indicative.

UNHCR RESPONSE

UNHCR collaborates closely with the Government, civil society, UN agencies, refugees, and asylum-seekers in Belize. A partnership with the Refugees Department helps channel support and continues strengthening the asylum system in the country. Additionally, UNHCR works in partnership with Help for Progress (HfP), HUMANA People to People Belize (HUMANA), and the Human Rights Commission of Belize (HRCB).



Protection | UNHCR trained 18 Refugee Eligibility Committee members on refugee status determination (RSD) procedure. UNHCR, HRCB, and HfP provided information to 93 asylum-seekers on asylum processes and basic rights. UNHCR and HRCB provided legal assistance to 13 asylum-seekers to access documentation.



Humanitarian Assistance | UNHCR with HfP provided humanitarian assistance to 158 refugees and asylum-seekers. Fifty-five asylum-seekers received vouchers to enhance access to food; 38 were supported with temporary shelter; 12 were assisted in accessing documentation; and 12 with in-kind assistance to cover their basic needs. Additionally, UNHCR provided mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to 41 asylum-seekers and provided primary healthcare for two individuals with protection needs.



Livelihoods | UNHCR, HUMANA, and HfP delivered English as a second language (ESL) classes for 31 asylum-seekers to enhance their access to livelihood opportunities. UNHCR also provided 24 asylum-seekers with tools and materials to support the start-up of their small businesses.



Education | UNHCR, through HfP, assisted 76 asylum-seeking children to access education, covering the costs of their tuition, uniforms, and school supplies. HfP also conducted a Remedial English Reading summer program for 16 refugee and asylum-seeking children.



UNHCR's 2023 Participatory Assessment

UNHCR completed its 2023 participatory assessment, reaching 48 refugees and asylum-seekers nationwide. The Agency conducted interviews and focus group discussions with women, men, adolescents, and people with disabilities. UNHCR will use the findings for its 2024-2026 multi-year Protection and Solutions Plan.

UNHCR Panama MCO wishes to convey a special thank you to its donors: the United States of America, the European Union, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Guyana, and the UN Programme on HIV/AIDS. We also thank the fundamental support provided by donors who have contributed to UNHCR with unearmarked and softly earmarked funds: Belgium | Canada | Denmark | France | Germany | Ireland | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | private donors in Australia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

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UNHCR's presence in Belize

