

# Belize

September - October 2023

## Key Figures



**4,130**

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



**116**

Disbursements of humanitarian assistance were made to asylum seekers to enhance access to food, shelter, health, and other basic needs.



**59**

Refugees and asylum seekers received livelihoods support to improve their access to basic needs and enhance their self-reliance.

## Context

The Government **extended** the Amnesty's vetting process for applicants until 31 March 2024. The programme will provide successful candidates with the opportunity to receive permanent residence. Applicants can use claim receipts as legal documents, providing them with the right to remain and work in Belize until a final decision is made on their applications.

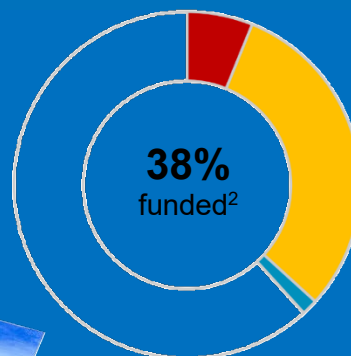
UNHCR participated in a three-day **mission** of the US government. Officials met with Belize government authorities on critical issues, including displacement and Amnesty, which they described as a 'model' solution for regional integration.

According to the **Statistical Institute of Belize**, general inflation rose 3.4 per cent in the first eight months of 2023 compared to the same period in 2022. Notably, food and non-alcoholic beverage inflation rose 13.2 per cent in the first eight months of 2023, as opposed to figures registered last year.

UNHCR, Help for Progress, and the refugee-led organization *I Hope* hosted a three-week art course for 14 asylum-seekers. An art teacher, who is an asylum-seeker, facilitated the workshop.



## Regional funding Overview as of 31 October 2023



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

**\$55.4 million<sup>1</sup>**

UNHCR's financial requirements 2023

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> The percentage funded is indicative.

## UNHCR RESPONSE

UNHCR collaborates 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, HRCB, and HfP provided information to 72 asylum-seekers on asylum processes and basic rights. UNHCR and HRCB provided legal assistance to 14 asylum-seekers. UNHCR trained 18 Refugee Eligibility Committee members and Refugee Department staff on refugee status determination (RSD) procedures in relation to cases of Haitian nationals. UNHCR and partners also completed border monitoring missions to the Western and Southern borders, securing additional safe spaces and livelihood support opportunities for refugees and asylum-seekers living in those areas.



**Humanitarian Assistance** | UNHCR with HfP provided over 116 disbursements of humanitarian assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers. Fifty-four asylum-seekers received vouchers to enhance access to food; 34 were supported with temporary shelter; 21 with in-kind assistance to cover their basic needs; and 7 were assisted in accessing documentation.



**Livelihoods** | UNHCR, HUMANA, and HfP delivered vocational training, entrepreneurship training and English as a second language (ESL) classes for 41 asylum-seekers to enhance their access to livelihood opportunities. UNHCR also provided 18 asylum-seekers with tools and materials to support the start-up of their small businesses.



**Education** | UNHCR, through HfP, assisted 16 asylum-seeking children in accessing education and covering tuition, uniforms, and school supplies.



### 'Clean-Up' activity in Jalacte

UNHCR and the Bella Vista High School environmental club visited the southern border community of Jalacte for a clean-up activity. Participants collected 25 large bags of trash. UNHCR donated large trash bins to support the community in keeping their area trash-free.

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, Spain 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 | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | private donors in Australia, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

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# UNHCR's presence in Belize

