UNHCR ACNUR
La Agencia de la ONU para los Refugiados

Honduras Best Practices

Livelihood Programmes

 # 2 / March 2024

With the support of UNHCR, private companies and GraphXAcademy, it has been possible to provide displaced people with the necessary tools to pursue a career in graphic design and facilitate their inclusion in the labor market.

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Key figures

46
displaced persons or at risk of displacement received full or partial scholarships

12
displaced persons were hired by GraphxSource

3
job fairs focused on the employability of displaced people

Empowering Displaced Communities via Graphic Design Training

Overview

UNHCR Honduras forged an alliance with GraphxSource in 2023 to boost access to training and employment in graphic design for forcibly displaced youth. This partnership promotes skills and competency development, fights discrimination, and integrates displaced persons into the labour market. GraphxSource is a private enterprise specializing in graphic design services and training through its Adobe-certified academy, GraphxAcademy. Top of Form The alliance with UNHCR is a step in the journey towards lasting solutions for internally displaced, refugee, and returned families in need of protection.

UNHCR's Multi-Year Livelihood and Economic Inclusion Strategy paints a vibrant picture of empowerment and opportunity. It sets forth objectives to enable access to competitive skills training, employment through market-oriented training programs, and to promote the socioeconomic inclusion of forcibly displaced and at-risk populations, aligning with Sustainable Development Goals 1, 8, and 10.

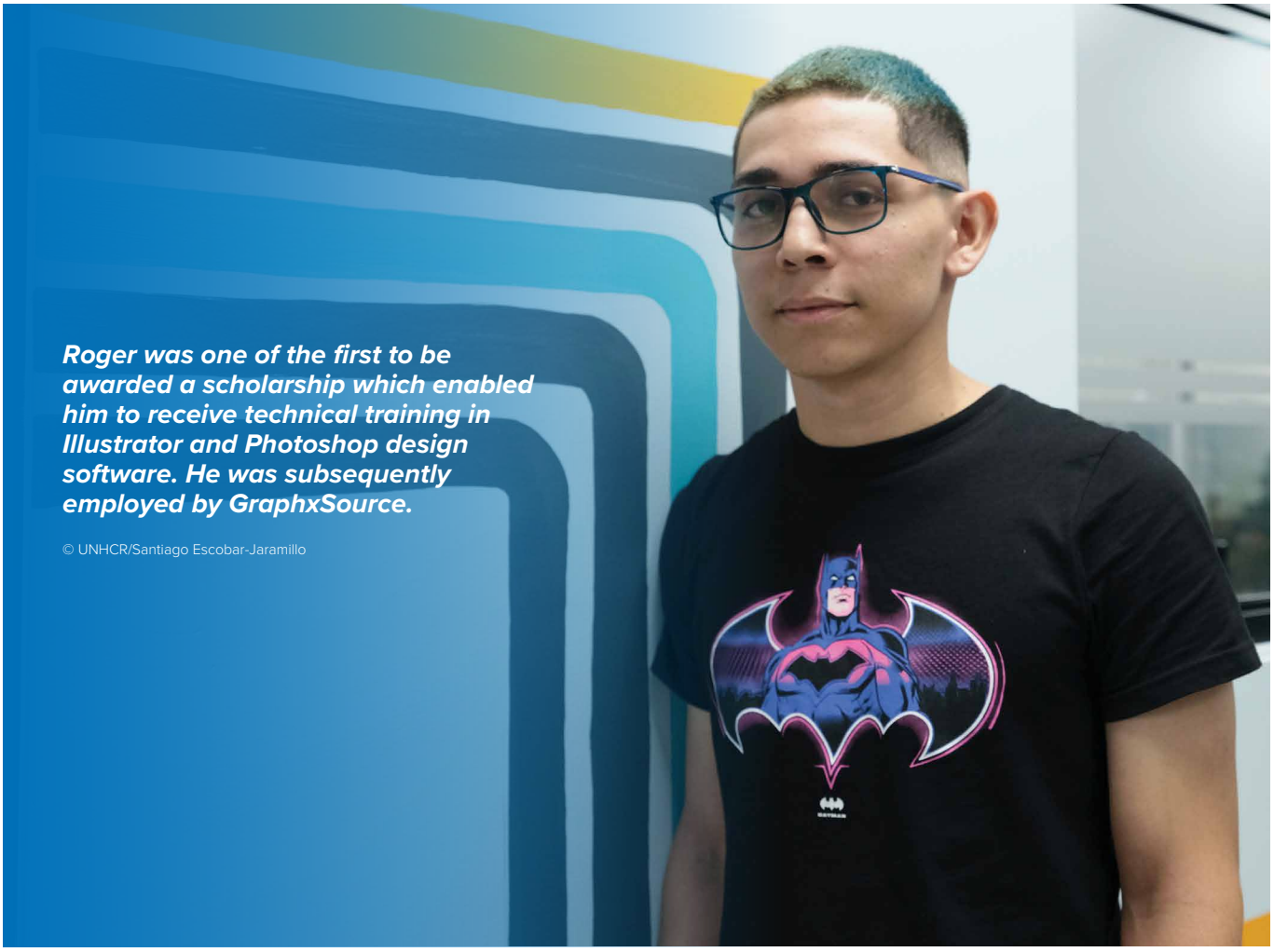
Objective

The joint initiative between UNHCR and GraphxSource facilitates access to competitive skills training and dignified jobs. The programme provides market-relevant education in graphic design - a rapidly developing sector in Honduras. GraphxAcademy offers certified courses in Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop, providing displaced, returned, and refugee populations with dignified opportunities for labour market integration.

Programme Details

The activities being implemented in 2024 include:

Professional Training Services	Trainings are both online and in-person, tailored to the specific needs of displaced, returned, and refugee populations in Honduras. This aims to promote socioeconomic inclusion with a protection focus.
Certification in Adobe Software	Facilitating access to certified Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop training for youth and adults, partially or fully funded by scholarships provided by UNHCR for displaced, returned, and refugee populations.
Labour Market Integration Mechanisms	Organizing job fairs, labour market orientation workshops, and mock interview processes to facilitate the entry of displaced populations into the labour market and employing the graduates from the programme.
Institutional Strengthening	Training and certifying graphic design instructors in technical-vocational and community centres in UNHCR operational areas, introducing novel pedagogical methods. Also, revision of graphic design courses delivered in the state and community training centres, to increase market relevant and competitiveness for a higher number of graduates.
Anti-Stigmatization Promotion	Working with the private sector to promote socio-economic inclusion and break down barriers faced by displaced populations or persons from high-risk communities.



Roger was one of the first to be awarded a scholarship which enabled him to receive technical training in Illustrator and Photoshop design software. He was subsequently employed by GraphxSource.

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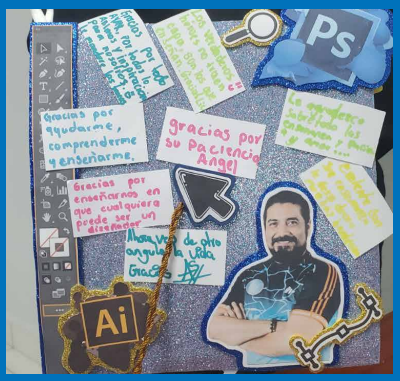
Key Achievements in 2023

Employment Outcomes	**GraphxSource provided four full scholarships and 42 partial scholarships** at GraphxAcademy for displaced and at-risk individuals.
Instructor Training	**Seven of the 42 scholarship recipients** were graphic design **instructors in high-risk communities,** receiving updated market-focused training.
Employment Fairs	**Three job fairs** were organized by GraphxSource, focusing on **employability for displaced persons.**
Employment Opportunities	GraphxSource offered employment to 12 displaced individuals.
Youth Motivation Visits	Organized visits to GraphxSource facilities for at-risk youth, demonstrating career opportunities in graphic design.
Leadership and Soft Skills	Conducted in high-risk communities, including interview simulation sessions.
Workshops Advocacy and Pledging	GraphxSource participated in World Refugee Day and pledged support for multi-stakeholder initiatives on economic inclusion.
Curricular Support	UNHCR facilitated dialogue between GraphXAcademy and centres that provide graphic design training, including the National Vocational Training Institute (INFOP), assisting them in updating graphic design curricula to enhance market relevance, indirectly benefiting hundreds of young learners and employers.
Global Refugee Forum Pledge	GraphxSource committed to improve access to training and wage employment in the area of graphic design for 400 displaced persons and host community members in 2024.

Impact and Future Outlook

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) has recognized the cooperation between GraphxSource, GraphxAcademy and UNHCR as a best practice in the humanitarian response to internal displacement in Honduras. This partnership has significantly contributed to strengthening the skills and competencies of displaced populations, combating stigma, and facilitating their inclusion in the labour market. Moving forward, this initiative serves as a model for expanding and replicating in other livelihood programs for displaced communities.



"Now I see life from a different angle. Thank you."

A group of GraphxAcademy students, internally displaced and at-risk youth, made a thank you album for their course teacher in this training program.

Learn more about the experience of youth in this process here: