



With the support of UNCHR and the provision of workshop equipment at CONEANFO's workshop school in Puerto Cortés, young people have the opportunity to participate in training programs in technical areas such as welding, metal structure, and more.

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Key figures

+120 

gained access to skill certification.

24 

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) centres received equipment and technical assistance.

260,000 **USD**

in equipment delivered to the centers to strengthen the quality of vocational training.

Enhancing Job Opportunities and Training

Overview

UNHCR in Honduras focuses its efforts to provide durable solutions to people forcibly displaced or who are at risk of displacement due to violence, persecution, or environmental factors by facilitating access to relevant market training and enhancing employability. A significant part of this endeavour involves ongoing work with vocational training institutions to improve curricula and bridge the gap between educational offering and market demand. This includes enhancement of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) centres in areas most accessible to these populations. The process that is part of UNHCR's Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion Strategy for 2022-2026 and was designed to connect people with the skills and training required for the Honduran job market, thereby improving their chances for secure and dignified employment. By closely aligning educational programs with the demands of the private sector, UNHCR's strategy aimed to pave a direct path to socioeconomic inclusion for displaced and at-risk people, in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Purpose of TVET Support

The support extended to TVET centres was tailored to elevate the quality and market relevance of educational programs offered in the most accessible centres for people forcibly displaced and at-risk of displacement. This was achieved by focusing on the occupational skills in high demand within the local economy, therefore directly addressing employment gaps in the labour market and equipping displaced and at-risk populations with the competencies needed for labour market integration.

Development Process

The programme commenced with an extensive mapping of existing TVET centres within UNHCR's areas of operation, pinpointing 53. Out of these, 12 were prioritized based on criteria such as accessibility for the target populations, alignment of training offerings with labour market demands, adaptability to labour market needs, and potential for collaboration with other stakeholders. In each of the 12 prioritized centres there was a diagnosis of the needs, and a tailored improvement plan was crafted in collaboration with TVET centre staff, UNHCR, partners and the private sector.

Labour Market Studies

To inform this initiative, UNHCR, in partnership with the International Labour Organization and the Norwegian Refugee Council, conducted studies on labour market demands and the availability of financial services for people forcibly displaced, refugees and migrants. These studies identified key economic sectors offering employment opportunities for these populations, including construction, tourism services, agriculture, and small-to-medium industries.

Results

The collaborative efforts resulted in the enhancement and adaptation of nine curricula to better serve the needs of displaced and at-risk populations, supported by UNHCR's substantial investment in equipment upgrades. The investment in CONEANFO's non-formal education schools, community training centres, INFOP technical centres, municipal centres, and workshop schools underscored a commitment to improving the quality of vocational training.

A notable outcome was the linkage of community-based TVET centres with INFOP for certification processes, and the introduction of internship programs designed to bridge the gap between training and formal employment. The collaborative approach ensures that young people are equipped with relevant market skills and have the necessary recognized certification to improve their employability. Some of the 2023 milestones are:

- 1 **24 TVET centres received equipment and technical assistance**, including certification processes.
- 2 **12 centres were supported** with diagnostic assessments and improvement plans.
- 3 **Nine curricula were adapted** to meet labour market demands.
- 4 **More than 120 people gained access to skill certification**, facilitated by INFOP linkage.
- 5 **UNHCR brought together CONEANFO, INFOP and the top graphic design private academy in Honduras, GraphXAcademy**, to revise the graphic design curricula in institutional training centres, to ensure it is up to date with market requirements.
- 6 **Equipment worth around 6,400,000 Lempiras** (approximately USD 260,000) delivered to the centres to strengthen the quality of vocational training.
- 7 **Flagship internship programs for job placement**, carried out by civil society partners, INFOP, the Secretariat of Labour and Social Security, and UNHCR **enhanced job market integration for TVET graduates**, with more than 90 students participating and half of them obtaining employment upon graduation.
- 8 **Seven trainers from government and community TVET institutions supported with full scholarships** to take graphic design advanced courses and upgrade the methodological and content of the skills courses they deliver.
- 9 **Four job fairs promoted employment integration**, engaging about 120 young participants from the TVET programs.

Find out more about our commitment here:



Future Education and Training Directions

Looking ahead to 2024, the initiative will continue to align the technical-vocational education offerings with the labour market's needs, ensuring that training programs remain relevant and effective in facilitating economic inclusion for displaced and at-risk populations in Honduras. UNHCR plans to:

- 1 Engage at least 400 young people in training programs.
- 2 Strengthen certification processes and expand soft skills training together with INFOP.
- 3 Enhance internship opportunities to facilitate entry to the job market.
- 4 Foster partnerships between private sector entities and TVET centres to increase employment opportunities.
- 5 Develop stronger collaboration between the centres for identification of forcibly displaced persons to facilitate their access.
- 6 Enhance cooperation with non-formal education centres of CONEANFO, and launch a joint training course in high-risk communities in La Ceiba.

The work with technical vocational training centres, and the specific actions planned for 2024 underscore UNHCR Honduras's comprehensive strategy to bridge the gap between displaced and at-risk populations and the broader economic opportunities within Honduras. By fostering a direct connection between technical and vocational education and the labour market demands, UNHCR aims to enhance the employability of these populations and to contribute to the wider goals of social cohesion and economic stability in the region. The ongoing commitment to expand educational offerings, improve employment pathways, and strengthen partnerships with academia and the private sector reflects a forward-looking approach to building resilient communities through sustained economic inclusion.



Students from the Refrigeration Workshop at the Youth Community Center in La Central, Rivera Hernández Sector, are part of the training programs supported by UNHCR, providing them with the opportunity to acquire technical skills and open up new opportunities for their future.