

Tegucigalpa

The Central District is mostly impacted by **forced displacement** due to mobility restrictions, territorial control, extortion, forced recruitment of children and youth, and gender-based violence, among others.

The impact on people forcibly displaced, at risk and in mixed movements in Tegucigalpa is substantial, with **increased vulnerabilities** among adolescents, children, the elderly, the LGBTIQ+ community, persons with disabilities, survivors of gender-based violence and teachers.

Current strategies include **enhancing protective mechanisms** in high-risk communities, broadening support for people in mixed movements, and increasing resilience against climate change-related disasters.

Lily, Rogelio and their daughter have found hope in the protection and assistance measures that the Honduran Human Rights Secretariat is implementing to protect those who are forcibly displaced. In addition, with the seed capital they received, they have been able to restart their business in a new city.

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Context

UNHCR's Field Unit in Tegucigalpa has **presence in 26 urban communities in Comayagüela and Tegucigalpa (Central District)**, and in two communities in Comayagua at high risk of displacement due to violence. UNHCR serves internally displaced persons, people at risk of displacement, and returnees, prioritizing groups in vulnerable situations such as children, adolescents, the LGBTIQ+ population, teachers, people with disabilities, survivors of gender-based violence, and the elderly. Moreover, since 2022, with an increase of people in mixed movements transiting through the area, UNHCR is monitoring flows and providing information on international protection and asylum. UNHCR is also **expanding its involvement** in the response to climate change-related impacts.

UNHCR Presence

Staff:
2 National Staff
2 International Staff

Presence:
26 Communities supported

Partners:
3 Partners





UNHCR provides access to information to people with international protection needs in a temporary shelter in Tegucigalpa.

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Working with Partners

UNHCR works with Casa Alianza Honduras, Centro de Desarrollo Humano, Grupo Sociedad Civil, Jovenes Contra la Violencia, NRC, Save the Children, the Secretariat of Childhood, Adolescence and Family (SENAF), the National Commission for Human Rights (CONADEH), the National Institute for Migration (INM), and the Secretariat for Human Rights (SEDH).

Strategic Partnership with National Sports Commission –CONDEPOR-, Asociación Colaboración y Esfuerzo

–ACOES-, Central District Municipality –AMDC-, National Youth Institute –INJUVE- through LoUs, as well as Coordination and close support for shelter services with Arboles de Justicia, Asociación para una Vida Mejor –APUVIMEH-, Manantial de Vida and Caritas. Support and joint work with LGTBQ+ organizations through Red Lésbica Cattrachas and Honduras Diversa. Other actions to prevent recruitment and strengthen community networks with Secretariat of Social Development SEDESOL and the Secretariat of Education –SEDEC-.

Main Activities

Protection

To improve the local institutional response to internally displaced persons and people in mixed movements, UNHCR provides training to municipal public officials in internal displacement, its causes, affected populations, and characteristics; international protection; protection pathways and services for referrals. UNHCR also coordinates mobile municipal service fairs bringing local public services closer to communities at risk of forced displacement. UNHCR works closely with community leaders and community members through a participatory community-based protection strategy that enhances the identification and mitigation of risks that cause forced displacement, empowers communities to reclaim public spaces through community-led tactical urbanism interventions, sports for protection strategies, and improves access to social services by bridging the gap between the communities and the local government.

Health and Education

UNHCR, in collaboration with its partners, regularly delivers psychosocial services in eight neighbourhoods in the Central District, in areas notably affected by gang and drug-related

violence. In collaboration with Save the Children, through the establishment of safe areas in schools (e.g., psycho-pedagogical classrooms) and other public spaces (e.g., community centres, sports facilities), UNHCR enhances community resilience, identification of individuals with health or education needs and referral capacities. Teachers and parents receive training in psychological first aid, and risks related to internal displacement, helping them recognize signs of forced recruitment of girls, boys or adolescents, and empowering them to ensure timely referral and response to those at risk.

Shelter and NFIs

UNHCR supports temporary shelters and civil-society actors in the response to people in mixed movements through training on protection concepts and non-food item provision including mattresses, blankets, sheets, towels, and hygiene items. To mitigate the risk of forced displacement due to climate-change related disasters, UNHCR strengthens local emergency committees (CODELES), enhancing community self-reliance and participation in high-risk areas.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

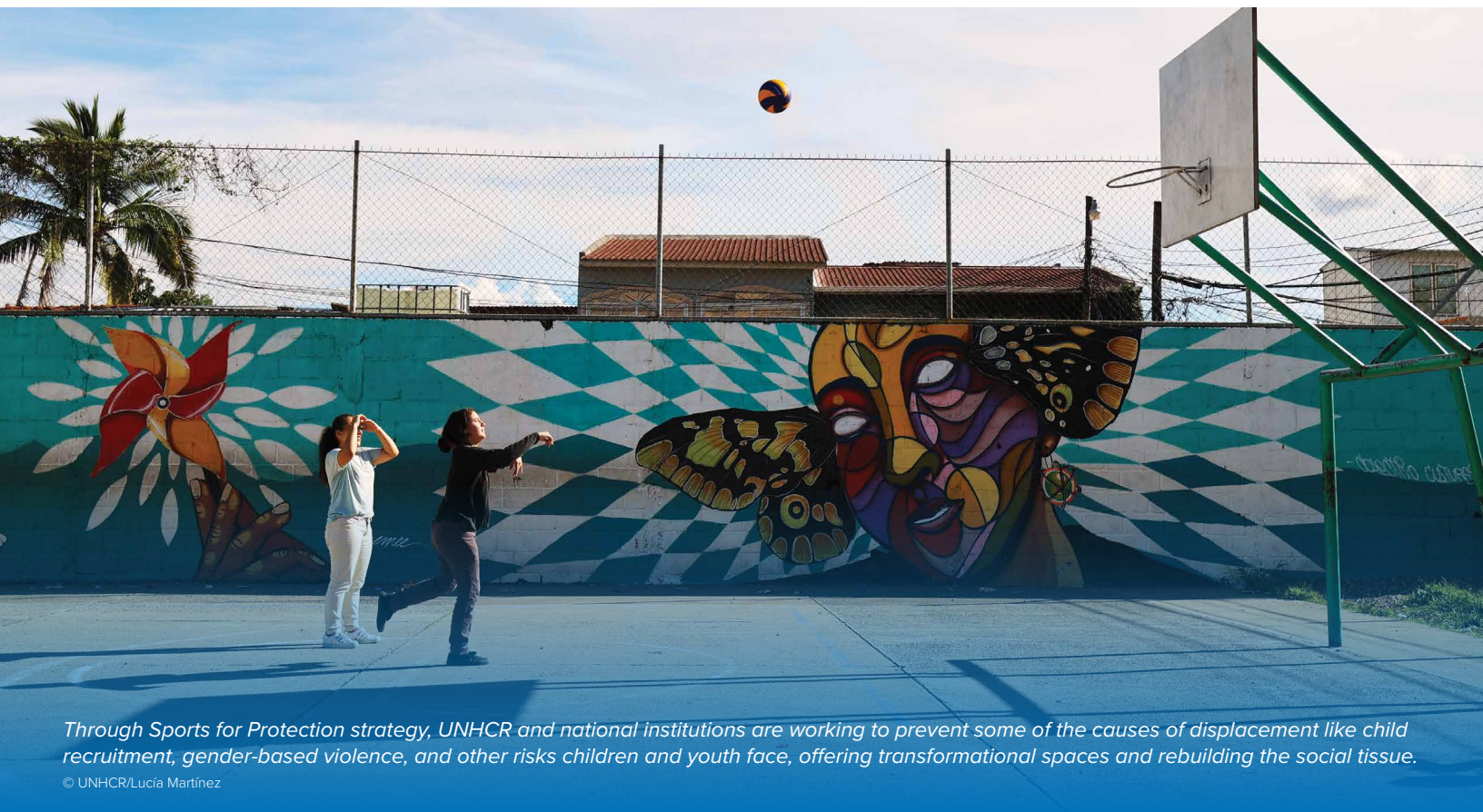
UNHCR actively strengthens community structures and leadership in 11 neighbourhoods, empowering them to design and implement self-protection strategies that develop into peaceful coexistence initiatives, such as the recovery of public spaces through tactical urbanism and recreational activities through UNHCR's Sports for Protection strategy. In partnership with the National Commission for Sports, Physical Education, and Recreation (CONDEPOR), UNHCR facilitates the participation of at-risk youth from six urban communities in sports training in at Tegucigalpa's Olympic Villa complex. These efforts are complemented by technical assistance programmes and capacity building for local leaders in 26 communities to better identify and refer protection cases.

Durable Solutions

Through regular consultations with at-risk communities,

UNHCR and partners are implementing a comprehensive livelihoods strategy including entrepreneurship workshops that offer seed capital to the most promising projects, scholarships for adults who wish to complete their high school education, training for youth who wish to specialize in graphic design, and paid internships for youth who need support to access their first employment opportunity. These programmes help combat the social stigmatization faced by people who live in communities affected by violence, and support individuals who have been forcibly displaced to rebuild their life projects.

To ensure financial sustainability of community centres, UNHCR also supports community social enterprises, such as a gym in San Miguel, providing equipment and technical assistance. These initiatives foster economic empowerment and self-reliance as well as creating safe environments to combat forced recruitment by providing alternative pathways for personal and professional development.



Through Sports for Protection strategy, UNHCR and national institutions are working to prevent some of the causes of displacement like child recruitment, gender-based violence, and other risks children and youth face, offering transformational spaces and rebuilding the social tissue.

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