Mixed Movements Monitoring

Honduras | April - June 2025

Highlighted figures | Only northbound transit

19,698
Total Irregular Entries January to June 2025

248,035
Total Irregular Entries January to June 2024

78
Total number of different nationalities who entered Honduras irregularly in 2025

Irregular Entries April to June 2025

43% Women and girls

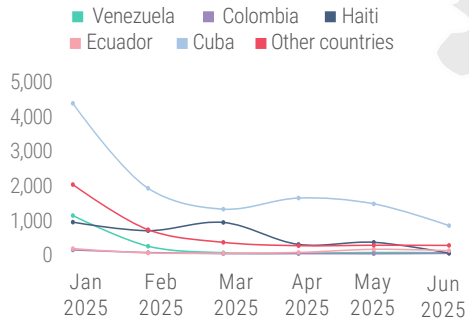
57% Men and boys

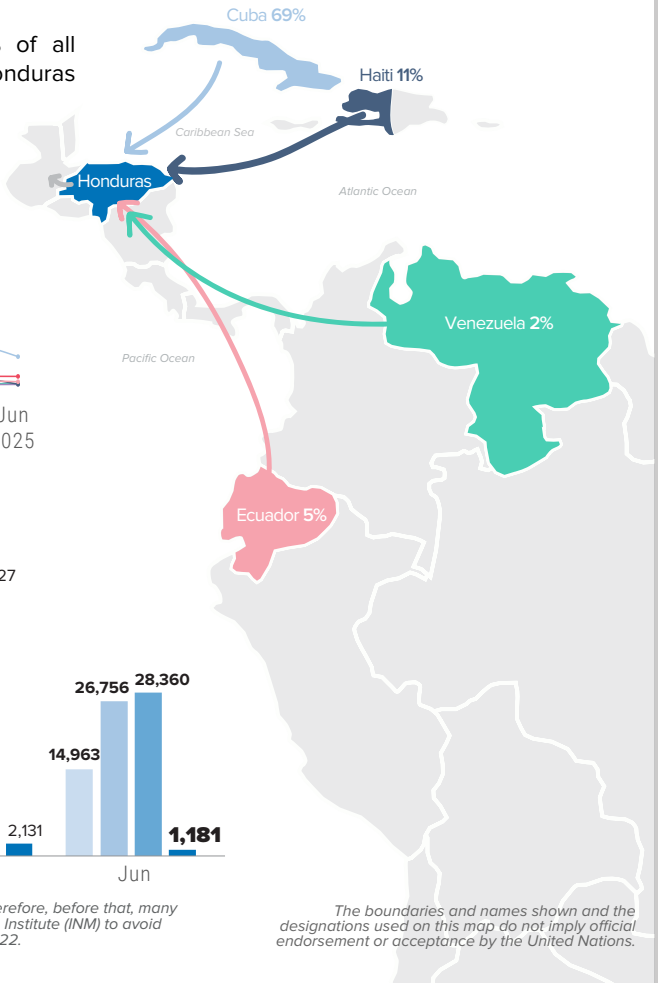
82% Adults

18% Children and adolescents (under 18 years)

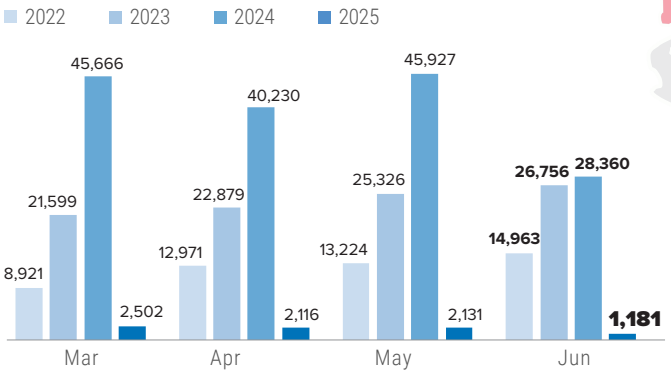
Nationalities

These **5 nationalities represent 87%** of all refugees and migrants who entered Honduras irregularly in the second quarter of 2025.





Irregular entries March - June



The migration amnesty was introduced in August 2022, and therefore, before that, many people on the move did not register with the National Migration Institute (INM) to avoid paying the fine for irregular entry, so the figures are lower in 2022.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Highlights

1. In the second quarter of 2025, **5,428 refugees and migrants on the move** entered Honduras according to INM, which is a **decrease of 54%** compared **to the previous quarter.**

2. Additionally, during this quarter, there have been continued **decreases in the usual top nationalities entering Honduras**. In comparison to the previous quarter, **there were decreases of 93% in the number of people from Venezuela, 83% from Colombia, 75% from Haiti, and 49% from Cuba.**

3. **39%** of the interviewed individuals reported **heading to the south of the region instead of the north,** which is a **notable 56% increase** of people heading south in comparison to the last quarter.

4. **At least 34%** of the individuals in mixed movements interviewed reported having **international protection needs** because they had to flee their country of origin due to violence or persecution.

5. **90%** of refugee and migrant children and adolescents **did not have access to education for at least seven months or more**. In addition, **19% of children were separated from their parents or legal guardian during the journey.**

Mixed Movements Protection Monitoring Results

UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF collect monthly information on the **profiles and vulnerabilities, as well as humanitarian and protection needs** of refugees and migrants who enter Honduras through the border with Nicaragua and transit through the country towards the border with Guatemala. The information is compiled through individual interviews conducted at the main hotspots throughout Honduras, with a focus on the entry and exit borders. **The preliminary results presented here are indicative only and should not be interpreted as representative of the total population of refugees and migrants who are part of mixed movements.**

62 Interviewed people

Interviewed Individuals by Gender:

42% Women

58% Men

Travel Group Composition:

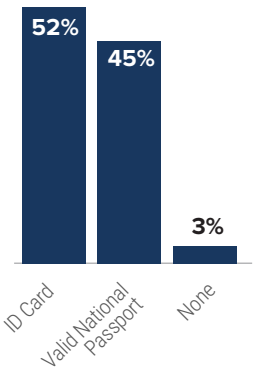
67% Adults

33% Children and adolescents (under 18 years)

Average age:

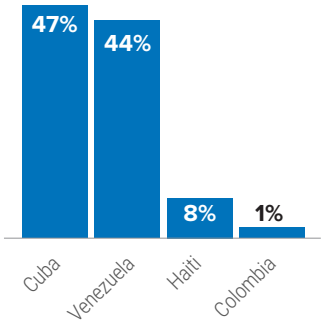
34 Years

Documents Carried



Some people indicated carrying more than one document.

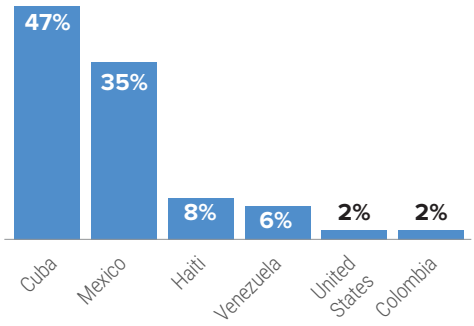
Nationality



Since 47% of the respondents are from Cuba and 44% from Venezuela, the report's results will be weighed by answers from Venezuelans and Cubans, as well as by Spanish-speakers as they represent 92% of the respondents. Speakers of other languages were interviewed in smaller numbers due to their lower numbers, language barriers, and in some places, due to the presence of smugglers.

Country of residence in the past year

All interviewed individuals were asked where they lived in the last year to include persons who were residing in their country of origin as well as those living elsewhere.



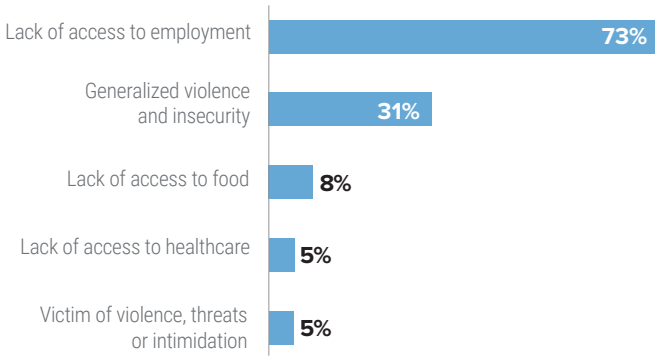
39% of the interviewees lived outside of their country of origin and mainly resided in Mexico (92%), United States (4%), and Colombia (4%).

During their journey, people in mixed movements reported difficulties in meeting basic needs such as accommodation, food, medical care, and legal advice. Although they sometimes received support from organizations or individuals, this was insufficient to cover all their needs.

© UNHCR/Lucía Martínez

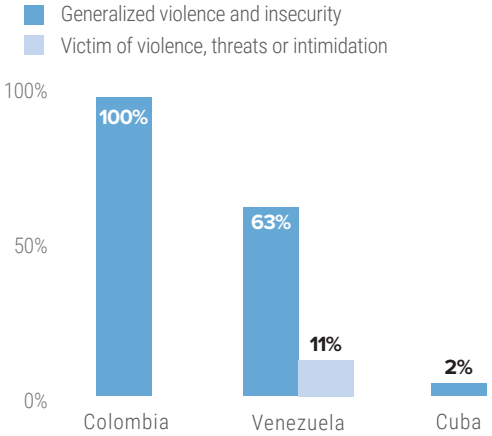
Push factors

Reasons for leaving country of origin



Some people indicated various reasons for leaving their country of origin.

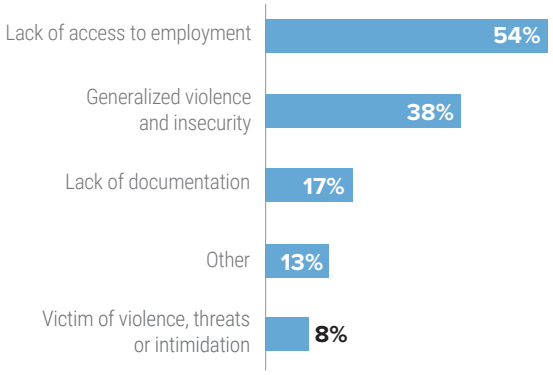
Violence-related reasons for leaving country of origin by nationality



As evidenced in the previous graph, there are several reasons why the persons left their countries of origin, including those related to violence and economic opportunities. This graph only shows the percentage of individuals by nationality who indicated fleeing their country due to violence-related incidents. Only one person was interviewed from Colombia.

Reasons for leaving country of habitual residence

(only includes those who were living outside their country of origin in the past year)



Other reasons include cancellation of their application to enter the United States.

Some people indicated various reasons for leaving their country of residence.

89%

of the interviewed individuals left their country of origin/residence less than four weeks ago.

92%

reported an intention to stay in Honduras for less than a month (usually less than a week) to continue their journey to their destination.

↑ 56% Northbound **↓ 39%** Southbound **• 5%** Settled

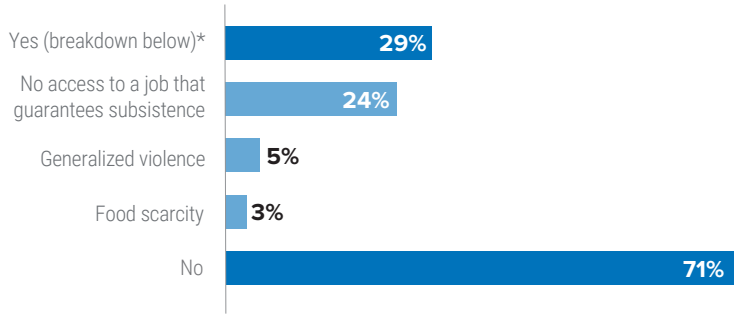
52% of the interviewed individuals reported the United States as their intended final destination. Additionally, 24% indicated Venezuela as their intended final destination, 8% Colombia, 5% Mexico, 5% Honduras, 3% Chile, and 3% Costa Rica.

People in mixed movements expressed their intention to seek asylum in Honduras, highlighting that, due to the violence in their countries and the risks of the journey, this was the most viable alternative, valuing the treatment received, access to basic services, and the possibility of starting the asylum process.

© UNHCR/Lucía Martínez

Return risks

Would you encounter any risks if you had to return to your country of origin?



Some persons indicated that they would face several risks if they had to return to their country of origin. The majority of respondents reported limited access to employment as the main reason for leaving their country of origin (see page 3).

At the same time a significant percentage of people indicated that they would encounter risks if they had to return to their country, including generalized violence. In other words, even if people left their country for employment reasons, it does not mean that they would not face other risks if they had to return to their country of origin.

Another important factor to take into account is that people in mixed movements with protection needs tend to not disclose a lot of information about the reasons that forced them to flee their country of origin.

Did you experience any mistreatment or abuse during the journey?

60% answered **yes.**

Of these persons, 46% reported fraud, and 16% theft.

Did you experience any mistreatment or other forms of abuse at the border or within Honduras?

24% answered **yes.**

Of these persons, 22% denial of entry, 13% reported theft, and 13% fraud.

Some persons indicated various forms of mistreatment during the journey and in Honduras.

Protection concerns

1% of the individuals or families were observed as having specific protection needs. Of these:

33%
Survivors of violence in their group (sexual, physical, or psychological).

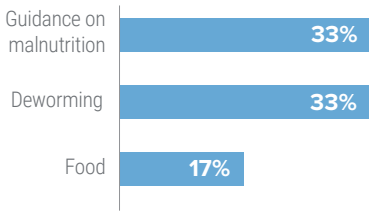
33%
Pregnant and/or lactating women.

33%
Critical or chronic medical condition.

Children and adolescents on the move

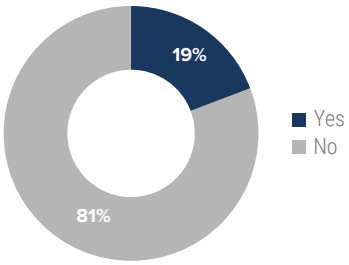
Since the start of your journey:

Which humanitarian aid services has the child under 5 years traveling with you received?



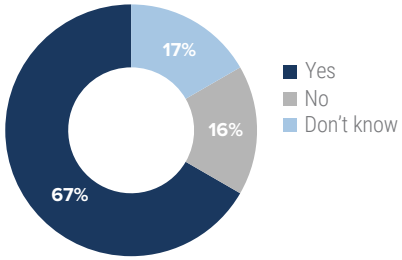
**Ages 0 months to 5 years*

Has any child or adolescent in your group been separated from their parents or legal guardian?



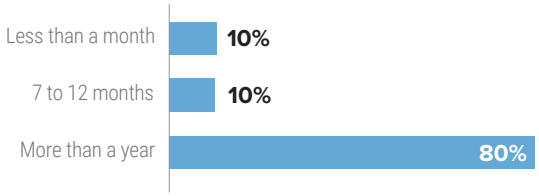
**Ages 0 months to 17 years*

Do the children under 5 years traveling with you have a complete vaccination schedule?



**Ages 0 months to 5 years*

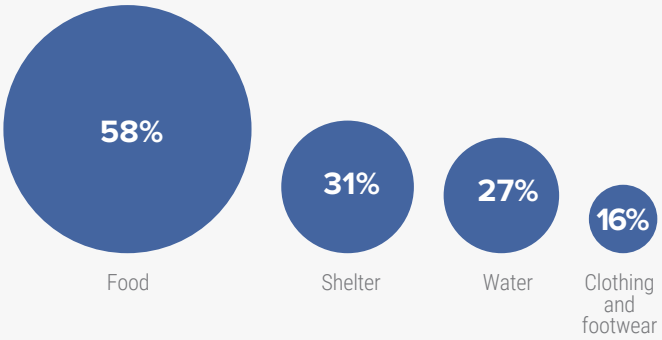
How long has the child or adolescent not received an education?



**Ages 6 to 17 years*

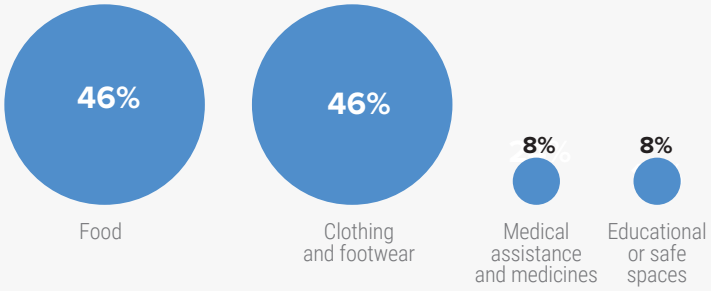
Main needs

Travel Group's Main Needs



Other main needs reported by persons on the move include: medical assistance and medicines, information on protection and migratory alternatives, internet and telephone access, and legal assistance.

Childrens' and Adolescents' Main Needs According to Their Caretakers

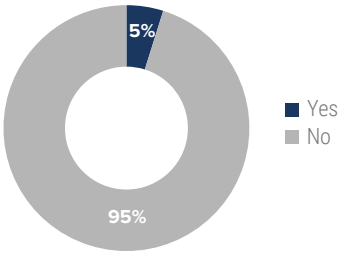


**Ages 0 months to 17 years*

Other main needs reported: food supplements and vitamins, psychological support, weight and height assessment, and recommendations on child or adolescent feeding.

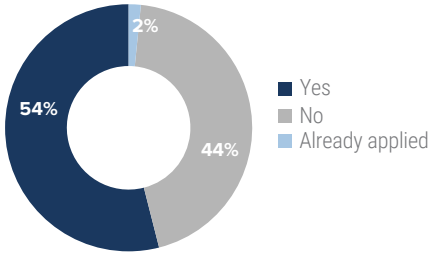
Access to asylum

Have you previously applied for asylum?



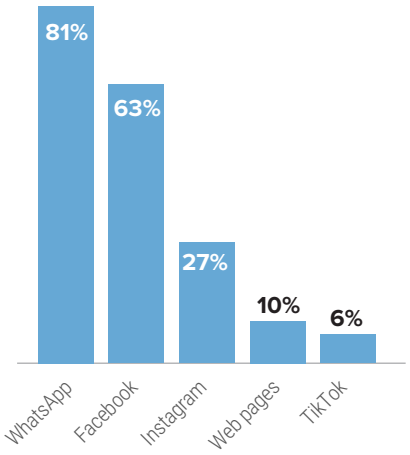
The individuals previously applied in Mexico and Honduras.

Have you been informed of the opportunity to seek asylum in Honduras?



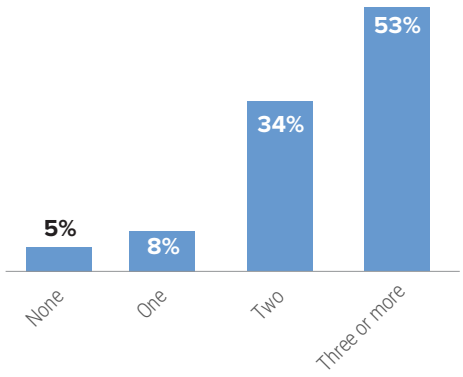
Access to information and food

Which digital platforms do you use to get information during the trip?



Many people indicated using various digital platforms.

How many meals did you eat yesterday?



People in mixed movements rely on the support of humanitarian organizations and local communities to cover their basic needs, including access to food.

© UNHCR/Lucía Martínez

Main findings of the Focus Group Discussions with people on the move

To complement the information gathered through individual interviews (previous section), a focus group discussion was conducted in Choluteca, with male participants from Venezuela and Colombia in mixed movements. The main findings are:

1 Group composition

The participants were predominantly of Venezuelan nationality, travelling with their spouses and children, and one Colombian national travelling alone. Although their children were not separated from them during the journey, they reported observing other adolescents aged 16 and 17 travelling alone. Participants reported engaging in informal employment during their journey, including construction, street vending, and recycling. They also reported facing unequal pay or were prevented from working by local authorities.

2 The route and reasons for leaving country of origin or host country

The northbound route was determined by smugglers and was mostly travelled on foot, with some segments by bus. A few individuals were able to reach the United States. On the way back south, some returned from the United States to Mexico. From there, all participants returned from Mexico on their own after facing violence and a lack of resources. They reported multiple displacements in search of stability for their families, and recounted experiences of kidnapping, detention without due process, and family separation during their journeys.

Regarding the reasons for leaving their countries of origin, participants cited severe food shortages in Venezuela, including the distribution of unsafe products that harmed people's health. Venezuelan participants also reported high levels of violence, drug trafficking, police repression, and forced recruitment. In Colombia, recruitment attempts by armed groups were also faced.

3 Protection

Participants reported experiencing significant insecurity and extortion along their route, particularly in Mexico. Some were victims or witnesses of theft and kidnapping, with release only possible after paying extortion fees.

In Panama, they officially reported abuse, including extortion and discriminatory treatment, to migration and border authorities but remain unaware of any subsequent action. They also noted the lack of safe and accessible mechanisms for lodging complaints, even in areas with humanitarian presence.

Upon re-entering Honduras, participants did not receive any documentation, unlike their initial entry when they were granted a transit permit. Only Mexico provided a 15-day temporary permit, limited to the state of Chiapas. In other countries, some participants entered irregularly while others held temporary residence permits. All expressed an interest in seeking asylum in Honduras.

4 Food security

Throughout the route, participants resorted to informal work to secure meals. They noted that purchasing food was particularly difficult in Panama and Nicaragua due to high costs, despite some support from locals. The most severe challenges were faced in the Darien jungle, especially food scarcity and dire conditions.

Access to safe drinking water was very limited, and participants had no choice but to consume untreated water from natural springs. This posed health risks due to contamination and lack of sanitation infrastructures.

5 Main needs

Participants highlighted employment and stable housing as their most pressing needs. Several mentioned the desire to work to leave the shelter system, support relatives back home, and enroll their children in school. Stability and security for their families were also recurring priorities.

During their journey, many struggled to meet basic needs such as shelter, food, health services, and legal guidance. While some received occasional support from organizations or individuals, it was often insufficient to cover all essential needs.

Access to reliable information was a persistent challenge. Participants primarily relied on WhatsApp, Facebook, TikTok, and internet searches to receive updates or guidance. However, lack of connectivity, particularly in remote areas, limited their ability to access timely and accurate information. They expressed interest in understanding how to regularize their status in Honduras and access livelihood support.

During the route, only a few participants reported receiving institutional support, specifically in Honduras and Panama. Most participants, however, did not receive formal assistance during their transit.

6 Intentions

All participants expressed their intention to seek asylum in Honduras, stating that returning to their countries was not an option due to the violence mentioned previously. Honduras became the most viable alternative after facing many risks during the journey, the reluctance to cross the Darien again and limited opportunities elsewhere. They highlighted the supportive treatment received, access to basic services, and the possibility of initiating an asylum process as key reasons for staying in Honduras.

Main findings of the interviews carried out with key informants

In addition to the individual interviews conducted with refugees and migrants on the move and the focus group discussions, an interview was also carried out with a humanitarian actor located in Tegucigalpa. The main findings are summarized as follows:

1 Profiles of people on the move

In recent months, most people observed have been Venezuelan families, often with several children. Many are returning from the United States, Mexico, or Guatemala, but some are unable to go back to Venezuela due to safety concerns and high travel costs, hence why some are seeking the Assisted Voluntary Return. Honduras is seen as a more welcoming alternative, though the lack of economic opportunities poses challenges. Most lack migration permits beyond transit status, and many have applied for asylum.

All children were accompanied by their families, with no reported cases of unaccompanied minors. Pregnant and lactating women are seen less frequently but can access local health services if their children are born in Honduras. There is limited information on assistance services, especially for child nutrition and care. The needs of LGBTIQ+ individuals are not addressed due to lack of knowledge or available services.

2 Route and motives

People on the move often follow various routes, with some entering the United States through Texas before returning to Mexico or Guatemala. In Honduras, refugees and migrants typically travel through Ocotepeque or Corinto toward Tegucigalpa and Danli, though high transportation costs remain a major barrier, as some families have been left on the roadside after being unable to pay.

Most people cover travel costs themselves and receive little public support. Shelters offer temporary support during transit. The shelter in Danli, for example, provides limited assistance to around 50 to 150 people daily. Many people rely on informal work to continue their journey. The key motives for leaving their countries of origin, especially Venezuela, include poverty and human rights violations, as well as rising costs and restrictive policies in former host countries.

3 Protection

People on the move generally do not carry valid migration documents and have not applied for asylum in other countries along the route. In the case of people returning from the north, organizations such as Caritas provide transportation and temporary shelter for returnees. Protection risks are primarily associated with the Darien crossing, while later stages of the journey are marked by high transportation costs and lack of resources.

4 Food security and basic services

The key informant reported that people on the move remain largely unprotected in terms of food access, water, shelter, and healthcare. Access to food is limited and typically available only in temporary shelters like Ocotepeque, Danli, and Choluteca. Access to safe water for drinking and hygiene is scarce along the route. Also, prolonged exposure to the elements while working informally contributes to additional health issues. Many refugees and migrants must search independently for shelter and medical care upon arrival, often relying on word-of-mouth and peer support.

5 Main needs

The most urgent needs for people in mixed movements include access to dignified shelter, food, legal guidance, and educational support of children and adolescents. High rental costs are a significant barrier, particularly for those returning from the north without resources or proper documentation. Most people rely on informal channels for information, highlighting the need for clear guidance on available public services, as well as stronger institutional capacity to promote inclusion and awareness. Families with school-aged children require targeted support to ensure their enrollment, as they often lack educational records and face disruptions in their schooling.

6 Intentions

According to the key informant, most assisted individuals expressed their intention to stay in Honduras and apply for asylum. Many seek to relocate to more affordable cities near Tegucigalpa, such as Comayagua and other cities, where living costs are lower and greater opportunities exist to engage in informal work or to start small businesses, as formal employment remains largely inaccessible for most. Intercity buses are primarily used to continue the journey within the country, and there is no institutional or governmental support to assist refugees and migrants in continuing their transit.

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | WFP World Food Programme | unicef for every child

In collaboration with: World Vision

Data Sources: *UNHCR Protection Monitoring, carried out between 4 April and 30 June 2025.*
Feedback: *Sara Naama, Associate Information Management Officer, naama@unhcr.org*
Marcela Carranza, Protection Associate, carranza@unhcr.org

UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF publish a quarterly ***regional mixed movement monitoring report*** *covering the route from Panama to Mexico.* ***Click here*** *to access the latest report.*

For up-to-date information on the situation of mixed movements in the Darien crossing that impacts flows in Honduras, ***please click here.***