Honduras

Operational Update

N.44 | August 2025

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Population figures

Internal displacement

+247,000

people have been internally displaced in Honduras as a result of generalized violence. **Numbers could be higher in 2025**, as triggers of internal displacement persist.

Return

3,652

Hondurans were returned to the country in August 2025, marking a 12% increase compared to over **3,256** people returned in July.

According to the Returned Migrant Attention System of the Secretariat of Social Development, **over 24,569 Honduran nationals had been returned in 2025 by the end of August.** A 28% decrease compared to 34,331 people recorded during the same period in 2024.

+1,830

people who arrived irregularly registered their entry with the National Migration Institute (INM) from 1 to 31 August, marking a 5% decrease compared to over 1,919 people registered in July. Of those registered in August, 59% entered via Danli, 40% Trojes and 1% via Choluteca. The top five nationalities were Cuban, Ecuadorian, Chinese, Venezuelan, and Uzbekistani. **Among them, 50% were women and children and 50% were men.**

According INM, more than 23,450 refugees and migrants entered and crossed through Honduran territory as of 31 August 2025. An approximately 92% decrease compared with 290,902 people registered during the same period in 2024.

Refuge

232

refugees & **almost 460** asylum-seekers currently residing in Honduras. Between 1 January and 31 August 2025, the National Migration Institute registered **452 new asylum applications.**

Our Response

+1,420

people traveling north-south direction were identified by UNHCR and partners in August 2025.

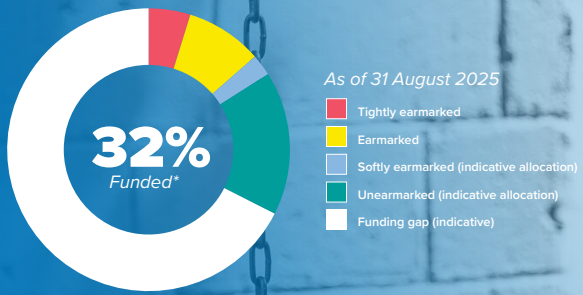
+740

individuals received protection information and orientation by UNHCR and partners in August 2025, including guidance on asylum procedures, access to services, and protection pathways. Between 1 January and 31 August 2025, over 7,960 internally displaced people, at-risk of displacement, Honduran returnees, asylum-seekers, and refugees received this support nationwide.

+150

individuals received medical care, mental health assistance, and information on sexual and reproductive health by UNHCR and partners in August 2025.

Funding



*UNHCR appealed for USD 30,7 million for its 2025 programme, of which only USD 10 million (32%) has been funded. USD 20,7 million is still needed to continue supporting people forcibly displaced, at risk of displacement, returnees with protection needs, asylum-seekers and refugees

UNHCR supports community plans that foster social cohesion and help communities revitalize their public spaces.

Context

In August, the National Electoral Council (CNE) **advanced preparations** for the General Elections on 30 November. However, reforms to the transmission system and delays in selecting service providers **heightened uncertainty.** Civil society organizations, religious groups, and communities **participated in marches** to demand guarantees of transparency.

Generalised violence remained critical. Between January and July 2025, at least **321 children and youth were killed,** with 80% aged between 18 and 30. **Femicides cases reached 156**, mostly affecting women aged 20–29. **Reports of domestic violence surpassed 26,000,** nearly half concentrated in Cortes and Francisco Morazan departments.

The state of exception **was extended for the twenty-third time** without congressional approval, drawing criticism over legality and its **impact on human rights.** Human rights institutions **reported** persistent impunity, widespread violations, and intimidation under the extended measure. **Garifuna communities continued to face violence and land dispossession.** Civil society also denounced increasing **intimidation, threats and harassment against journalists and media outlets.**

In the first seven months of 2025 **Honduras recorded the return of 377 unaccompanied and separated children and adolescents** deported from the United States, Mexico, Guatemala and Belize. Meanwhile, **the National Congress voted against Honduras' accession to the Third Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child,** which would have enabled Honduran children and adolescents to submit complaints directly to the UN Committee when domestic mechanisms fail. These developments underscored institutional challenges in safeguarding the rights of children.

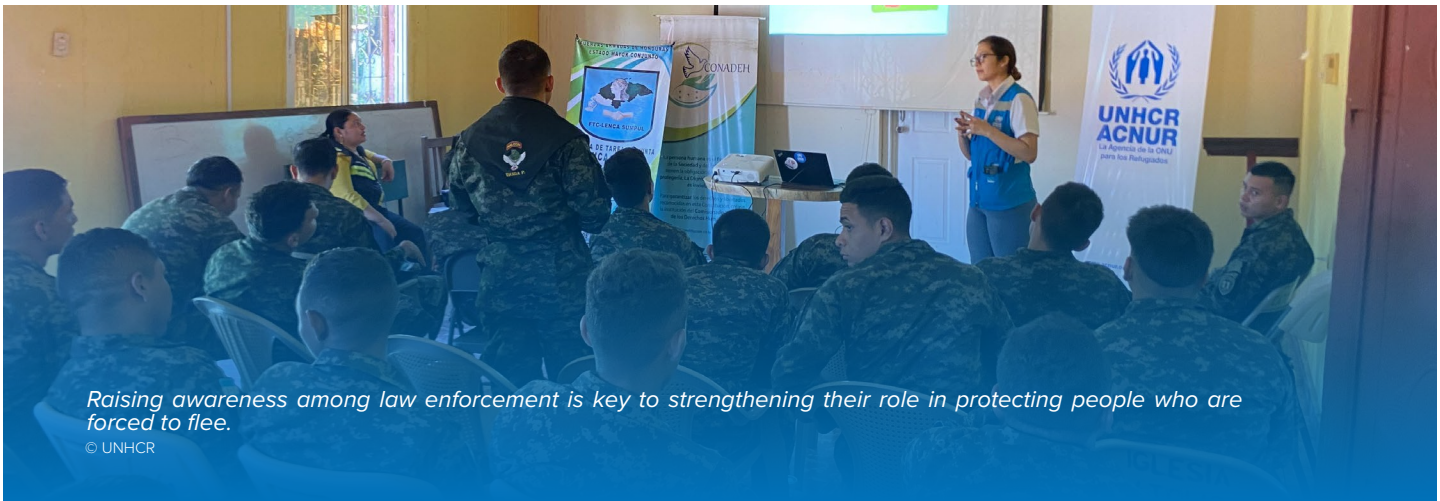
Activities

Protection and Legal Assistance

UNHCR supported the Inter-institutional Commission for the Protection of Forcibly Displaced Persons (CIPPDEF) in **finalising its 2026 plan, prioritising actions to enhance access to justice and response to displacement.**

UNHCR conducted multiple trainings to strengthen protection capacities. In Valle department, **31 members of the police and armed forces** received guidance on the Law for the prevention, assistance and protection of internally displaced persons. In La Ceiba city, 28 municipal staff received **training on protection concepts and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.** UNHCR also supported the Secretariat of Childhood, Adolescence and Family (SENAF) in a specialised workshop for 30 participants from Municipal Councils for the Guarantee of Rights and civil society in Choluteca on **child protection in mobility contexts,** reinforcing the principle of the best interests of the child.

Additionally, UNHCR advanced legal collaboration on housing, land, and property rights, contributing to a Control of Conventionality document to **protect displaced families against dispossession.** These initiatives demonstrate progress in building institutional knowledge and response pathways, critical for addressing the persistent protection gaps affecting displaced and at-risk populations in Honduras.



Raising awareness among law enforcement is key to strengthening their role in protecting people who are forced to flee.

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Child, Women, and Community Protection

In San Pedro Sula, UNHCR joined Family Day celebrations organised by the Municipal Council for Children's Rights, engaging 54 parents and children in **awareness-raising on positive parenting using UNHCR's Estrellas Fugaces de Miska methodology.**

UNHCR participated in the inaugural meeting of the **Special Commission on Shelters for women survivors of violence** to advance the **regulatory process of the Shelter's Law,** acknowledging the leadership of the Secretariat of Women's Affairs (SEMUJER) and pledging support for the process.

Additionally, UNHCR and SEMUJER delivered a training in Choluteca on **discrimination and violence against women** as drivers of displacement, attended by 15 community leaders from at-risk areas.

Broader community protection was reinforced in Marcovia, Choluteca where **35 leaders updated protection maps to reflect current risks,** and in El Progreso, Yoro where a municipal response route for at-risk populations was established.

UNHCR also **facilitated discussions with Garifuna leaders** from six communities in Atlantida department on **humanitarian access and protection risks,** underscoring the compounded vulnerabilities faced by Afro-descendant communities.

UNHCR strengthens communities to identify risks and create maps, supporting their organization to prevent displacement.

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Local Capacity Strengthening and Integration

In Ocotepeque and Francisco Morazan, UNHCR and the Business Development Centre (CDE) **launched entrepreneurship training** for 39 at-risk and displaced people, refugees and Honduran returnees. Complementing these efforts, UNHCR, the National Vocational Training Institute (INFOP) and CDE **advanced vocational opportunities, including mechanics and cybersecurity courses** for over 40 youth people, enabling access to formal labour markets.

In San Pedro Sula, UNHCR set up an information stand at an Opportunities Fair organised by IOM in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Cortes (CCIC), CDE, and INFOP, where 92 companies offered 1,300 positions, **with the participation of displaced persons, at-risk individuals, and Honduran returnees.** Coordination with the Azteca Foundation opened internship opportunities in the private sector, bridging and at-risk youth with sustainable employment.

UNHCR and the Municipality of the Central District (AMDC) also promoted **municipal engagement** by launching a six-week candle-making workshop in two communities in Tegucigalpa. The livelihoods and protection initiative **empowered women by providing safe spaces** to share information, discuss displacement-related issues, and access referral pathways.

Strategic Coordination

On 4 August, UNHCR, together with the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) in Honduras, **launched the Diploma in International Cooperation, Development, and Human Mobility** to strengthen institutional capacities in protecting forcibly displaced persons. Over **50 government staff from 25 institutions** are expected to present project proposals aimed at mobilising funding from diverse sources.

In Choluteca, UNHCR co-led the Departmental Committee on Mixed Movements and International Protection, **ensuring the integration of asylum-seekers in health and education services.** In El Paraiso department, joint monitoring with the National Commissioner for Human Rights (CONADEH) enabled the **identification of protection risks at border points and shelters,** generating evidence for improved referral pathways.

At the inter-agency level, UNHCR engaged with UN agencies and NGOs to **develop referral mechanisms for women and girls survivors of violence**, fostering harmonised standards. UNHCR also coordinated with other UN agencies to strengthen the convergence of interventions, particularly in food security and protection in Bajo Aguan as part of the CERF initiative.

In San Pedro Sula, UNHCR presented at the 7th Migration Colloquium with Central American Technological University (UNITEC), **raising awareness on displacement among 85 students.**

These efforts underscored **UNHCR's catalytic and convening role** in uniting government, civil society, and international actors to sustain **collective responses and address forced displacement risks** across Honduras.

The diploma program developed together with FLACSO and the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperationstrengthens the State's technical capacities to prevent and address the structural causes of forced displacement, with a sustainable development approach.

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*As of August 2025

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