Honduras

Operational Update

N.54 | June 2026

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Population figures

Internal displacement

At least 423,845

people have been internally displaced in Honduras as a result of generalized violence. **Numbers could be higher in 2026**, as triggers of internal displacement persist.

Return

4,183

Hondurans were returned to the country in June 2026, according to the Returned Migrant Attention System of the Secretariat of Social Development. Marking a **7% decrease** compared to the previous month (4,493) and a **20%** increase compared to the **3,500** people returned in June 2025.

Refuge

298

refugees are currently residing in Honduras. Between 1 and 31 May 2026, the National Migration Institute registered **13 new asylum** applications, marking a **58% decrease** compared to the previous month.

806

people who arrived irregularly registered their entry with the National Migration Institute INM) from 1 to 30 June, marking an approximately **4% increase** compared to the **775** people registered in May.Of those registered in June, 78% entered via Danli, 18% Trojes and 4% via Choluteca. The top five nationalities were Ecuador, Venezuela, China, Cuba, and Dominican Republic. **Among them, approximately 37% were women and children.**

5,087 refugees and migrants that entered and crossed through Honduran territory as of June 2026 represent an approximate **74%** decrease compared with the **19,698 people** registered during the same period in 2025.

172 people traveling north-south direction were identified by UNHCR and partners in June, representing a **40% decrease** compared to **287** people recorded during May.

Around **2,912** people travelling in a north–south direction were identified between January and June 2026.

Our Response

+2,000

consultations on medical care, mental health assistance, and information on sexual and reproductive health were provided by UNHCR and partners in June 2026.

Between 1 January and 30 June 2026, **2,967 consultations** were provided to internally displaced people, at-risk of displacement, Honduran returnees, asylum-seekers, and refugees received this support nationwide.

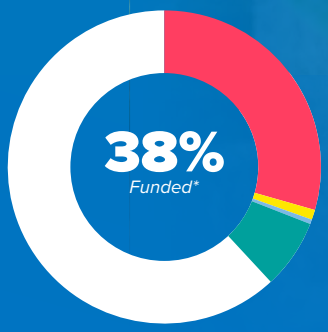
Around 1,656

individuals **received protection information and orientation** by UNHCR and partners in June 2026, including guidance on asylum procedures, access to services, and protection pathways.

Between 1 January and 30 June 2026, **5,151** internally displaced people, at-risk of displacement, Honduran returnees, asylum-seekers, and refugees received this support nationwide.

UNHCR supports women's leadership and community protection in areas affected by violence and displacement.

Funding



As of 30 June 2026

- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)

UNHCR appealed for USD 23 million for its 2026 programme, of which only USD 8.7 million (38%) has been funded. USD 15.7 million is still needed to continue supporting people forcibly displaced, at risk of displacement, returnees with protection needs, asylum-seekers and refugees.

Context

June was marked by continued violence, insecurity, forced displacement risks and legal developments affecting the protection environment in Honduras.

Reports during the month highlighted the **persistence of organized criminal activity, extortion, violence against women, land-related conflicts, risks affecting children and adolescents, and climate-related pressures** on communities with limited livelihood opportunities.

Forced displacement remained a key concern. The Norwegian Refugee Council ranked **Honduras among the world's ten most neglected displacement crises**, citing limited international attention, insufficient humanitarian funding and reduced political engagement. **National human rights institutions also warned that violence continues to drive displacement**, with many families facing insecurity and limited access to protection before leaving their communities or the country.

Violence continued to affect community safety and mobility. The Violence Observatory of the National Autonomous University of Honduras reported that some smaller municipalities are recording higher homicide rates than major urban centres, linking these trends to the expansion of organized crime and drug trafficking outside the country's largest cities. **Authorities also reported increasingly fragmented extortion dynamics**, with independent criminal actors accounting for a large share of complaints in recent years.

Women, children and adolescents remained exposed to heightened protection risks. Civil society organizations reported at least **135 femicides** so far in 2026, while child protection actors documented a **12 per cent increase in violent deaths of children, adolescents and young people** compared to the same period in 2025. During the reporting period, the National Congress approved legal reforms to increase penalties for femicide and strengthen sanctions under the Law against Domestic Violence.

The National Congress approved the Agro-industrial, Energy and Tourism Promotion Law and related reforms regulating evictions from occupied agricultural land. Indigenous, campesino and human rights organizations expressed concerns that the measures could increase risks of criminalization, displacement and tensions around longstanding land disputes.

Climate-related shocks added pressure to communities already affected by violence. National authorities warned that a prolonged dry spell could reduce basic grain production and affect food security for thousands of families. In southern Honduras, coastal communities in Cedeño, experienced **impacts from storm surges associated with Tropical Storm Cristina**, while human rights organizations called for a rights-based approach to the planned relocation of Cedeño.

Activities

Protection and Legal Assistance

During June, UNHCR continued supporting national and local institutions to **strengthen access to justice, asylum coordination, case management, housing, land and property protection, and institutional responses** for internally displaced people, asylum-seekers, refugees, returnees with protection needs and people at risk of displacement.

UNHCR supported implementation of the Internal Displacement Law through **technical and high-level sessions of the Interinstitutional Commission for the Protection of Persons Internally Displaced by Force**. Discussions focused on the draft regulations of the Law, municipal response guidelines, the Public Policy on Prevention and priority actions to strengthen national and local responses to internal forced displacement.

UNHCR **strengthened access to justice by training legal practitioners, justice facilitators and justices of pe**ace in Tegucigalpa, northern Honduras and eastern Honduras. The sessions aimed to **improve identification, orientation and referral** of internally displaced people, refugees, asylum-seekers and returnees with protection needs.

In border areas, UNHCR strengthened protection-sensitive coordination through an **exchange between UNHCR Honduras and UNHCR Guatemala at the Agua Caliente border crossing**. The meeting reviewed mixed movement trends, returns, registration and orientation gaps, protection risks, asylum procedures and local coordination mechanisms.

UNHCR also **advanced housing, land and property protection through engagement with the Property Institute**, including discussions on land survey processes, the Registry of Abandoned Property and coordination for upcoming property registration fairs.

Child, Women, and Community Protection

UNHCR continued strengthening community-based protection mechanisms to prevent displacement, mitigate protection risks and reinforce community resilience in areas affected by violence, insecurity, climate-related risks and limited access to services.

In San Pedro Sula, UNHCR and partners conducted participatory assessments with community leaders and members to **update protection analysis and identify risks, needs, capacities and community priorities**. UNHCR also supported community-led initiatives in Rivera Hernández, including youth-led artistic proposals to help prevent child recruitment and strengthen local protection networks.

UNHCR continued supporting child protection and prevention of forced recruitment. In Choluteca, UNHCR **trained teachers using the "Voy con Vos" methodology**, while in Tegucigalpa it trained National Library staff on forced displacement, child recruitment and storytelling tools to support prevention and awareness-raising with children and adolescents.

UNHCR reinforced protection mechanisms for women and community leaders in northern Honduras. Activities with women's networks in Tela, San Juan, Choloma and Garífuna communities **strengthened knowledge of women's rights, gender-sensitive community action, prevention of violence against women and local organizational capacities**.

UNHCR and partners **expanded access to protection information and services in communities affected by violence and displacement risks**. Activities in El Triunfo and La Ceiba connected community members with information on available services, health care, psychosocial support, sexual and reproductive health awareness and child-friendly spaces.

In southern Honduras, UNHCR supported emergency protection responses in Marcovia, Choluteca, following storm surge impacts. UNHCR **coordinated with municipal authorities and community leaders to analyse displacement risks and provided cash assistance for protection purposes to people with urgent needs**.

Local Capacity Strengthening and Integration

UNHCR continued supporting local institutions, communities and partners to **strengthen inclusion, municipal planning, livelihoods and self-reliance opportunities** for forcibly displaced people, asylum-seekers, refugees and people at risk of displacement.

In Choluteca, UNHCR **supported the establishment and consolidation of the Municipal Unit for the Assistance and Protection of Forcibly Displaced Persons**. UNHCR trained municipal authorities on internal displacement and supported the inclusion of displacement-related priorities in the Municipal Development Plan through 2030.

UNHCR also advanced **municipal engagement under the Cities of Solidarity framework** with the Municipality of the Central District and supported capacity-building efforts with the Human Mobility Table in San Pedro Sula, in coordination with IOM, Swisscontact and CASM.

UNHCR **promoted economic inclusion through coordination with public institutions, private sector actors and technical partners**. In Tegucigalpa, UNHCR worked with SENPRENDE, Caritas, the Business Development Centre and Asociación Libre Expresión to **strengthen referral pathways, entrepreneurship support and technical training opportunities** for displaced people, refugees and asylum-seekers.

Through a barista training initiative linked to private sector engagement, three participants were placed in formal employment. In Choluteca, UNHCR also coordinated with INFOP, Ciudad Mujer and CDE MiPymes to **connect members of the Refugee Committee with vocational training, entrepreneurship support and information on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse**.

In northern Honduras, UNHCR continued **supporting income-generating opportunities with Afro-Honduran women**. In collaboration with Molino Harinero Sula, UNHCR held an exchange with the Mariposas Libres Women's Network to strengthen skills, promote traditional bread-making practices and discuss the impact of forced displacement linked to violence and extreme weather events.

Women from Tela participated in a strengthening module supported by UNHCR to enhance knowledge on forced displacement, gender-based violence, women's rights and gender-sensitive community action.

©UNHCR Honduras

Strategic Coordination

As lead of the Protection Sector, UNHCR continued supporting inter-agency coordination to strengthen protection analysis, humanitarian access, case management, service mapping and operational coherence.

UNHCR coordinated with NRC to prepare a **humanitarian access workshop for Regional Humanitarian Pooled Fund partners**, aiming to identify access barriers and promote common measures for safe and timely protection responses.

UNHCR also supported the **harmonization of inter-agency case management tools**, including draft guidelines, referral guidance and a common service mapping matrix to update service pathways, reduce duplication and strengthen coordination among partners.

At field level, UNHCR coordinated with IOM, ADRA, UNICEF, UNOPS, WFP and other partners to **support the rollout of the new humanitarian coordination structure, update referral routes and align actions** within local coordination teams.

UNHCR and NRC, as co-leads, convened the monthly meeting of the Valle de Sula Local Coordination Team, with participation from 16 organizations. Partners **reviewed operational updates, agreed to update service mapping and planned the socialization of municipal humanitarian response plans** in priority municipalities.

UNHCR, in coordination with UNDP and IOM, advanced **strategic engagement under the Internal Displacement Solutions Fund project** by presenting the initiative to key public institutions to foster institutional alignment and coordination for its implementation, strengthening the national response to internal forced displacement.

World Refugee Day 2026: Promoting solidarity and protection

UNHCR, together with government institutions, partners and communities, commemorated World Refugee Day 2026 through cultural, community and awareness-raising activities across Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula and Choluteca. Through art, public spaces, sports, media engagement and digital platforms, these initiatives created opportunities to promote solidarity, empathy and greater understanding of the experiences of refugees, asylum-seekers and forcibly displaced people in Honduras.

In Tegucigalpa, the **theatre performance "Amanecer: Historia de una refugiada en Honduras"**, organized with the National Institute of Migration, brought attention to the experiences, challenges and hopes of people forced to flee. The performance was also **broadcast through Televisión Nacional de Honduras (TNH), while the city joined the global Blue Night initiative through the illumination of the Torre del Boulevard Centroamérica**, transforming a public space into a symbol of solidarity. Community activities, including a **Protection Fair** and wellbeing initiatives, also connected refugees, asylum-seekers and host communities with opportunities for information, dialogue and integration.

As part of World Refugee Day engagements, UNHCR also supported the strengthening of the national asylum system through a **high-level dialogue with government institutions, held in coordination with the National Institute of Migration**. The dialogue promoted commitments to advance access to rights, protection and integration for refugees and asylum-seekers, while follow-up on individual cases supported access to asylum procedures, reactivation of expired files and referrals to protection services.

+5,000 households watched the play during its premiere on Honduran National Television

Promoted commitments to advance access to rights, protection and integration for refugees and asylum-seekers

A light kindled by resilience, inclusion, and a commitment to building a city where everyone can feel at home.

In Choluteca and San Pedro Sula, **cultural and community activities strengthened social cohesion** and highlighted the role of host communities in creating environments where **people seeking protection can rebuild their lives**.

Media coverage and digital outreach amplified World Refugee Day messages nationwide, **reaching an estimated 1 million people and bringing greater visibility to the realities of forced displacement in Honduras**, as well as the importance of protection and solidarity.

Through collaboration with government institutions, partners, communities and the media, World Refugee Day 2026 demonstrated how collective action can help build more inclusive and protective communities for refugees, asylum-seekers and forcibly displaced people.

UNHCR thanks the contributions of donor countries such as

Australian Aid

Belgium partner in development

In partnership with Canada

german humanitarian assistance DEUTSCHE HUMANITÄRE HILFE

Irish Aid An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha Department of Foreign Affairs

From the People of Japan

KOREA Sharing Hope Sharing Future

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft Confédération suisse Confederazione Svizzera Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

UKaid from the British people

the support of the following funds

United Nations CERF Central Emergency Response Fund

PEACEBUILDING FUND

RHPF LAC Regional Humanitarian Pooled Fund for Latin America and the Caribbean Honduras

and contributions from our private donors in
Australia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, and Spain

We thank the fundamental support provided by donors who have contributed to UNHCR's global programs with flexible funding.

*As of June 2026

For more information: Danielle Álvarez / External Relations Officer alvareza@unhcr.org