

# Belize

September 2022

UNHCR and partners are supporting the Government of Belize's **Amnesty Program**, as an alternative pathway to regularize the legal status of undocumented persons.

To this date, some **7,000 individuals**, including registered and non-registered asylum-seekers, will now have an additional protection mechanism to obtain a permanent residence in Belize.

UNHCR is providing **technical support** and **capacity development** to the Government of Belize, as well as **direct assistance** to eligible

## ACHIEVEMENTS



**1300+**

people reached through information & sensitization sessions about the amnesty process



**200+**

people assisted with legal services related to the amnesty process



**200+**

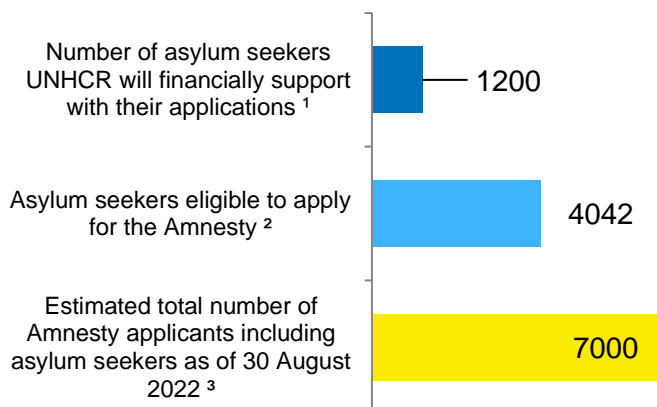
vulnerable persons assisted with cash to complete amnesty applications



**800+**

people supported to complete amnesty application documentation

## Applicants for the Amnesty Program

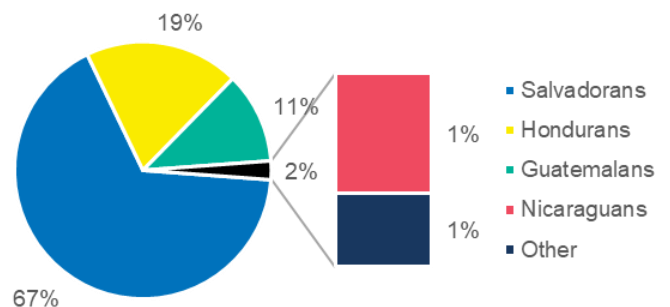


<sup>1</sup> Estimated number according to UNHCR calculations.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Refugees Department, Government of Belize.

<sup>3</sup> As of 30 August 2022, it is estimated that from the 60,000 undocumented people living in Belize, some 7,000 have applied for the Amnesty Program.

## Nationalities of asylum-seekers registered with the Government of Belize\*



\*Source: Refugees Department, Government of Belize.

## Operational Highlights



A volunteer offers advice on the Government of Belize Amnesty Program to asylum seekers in Trio Village. Photo: UNHCR/Aída Escobar

### Amnesty assistance in Trio Village

UNHCR and partner, HUMANA People to People, led a mobile amnesty support clinic in the southern village of Trio on 28 August. Over 130 people, including asylum seekers and other vulnerable groups, were assisted to complete their amnesty applications in English, and received information on the supporting documents required for the process. Photocopies were also provided free of charge. Furthermore, legal counselling on the Amnesty Program and requirements, was also provided to everyone in attendance.

### Amnesty Support Mission in Independence and Santa Cruz

On 17-18 September, UNHCR with the support of partner HUMANA People to People, brought the mobile Amnesty Support Clinic to Independence Village, Toledo and Santa Cruz, Stann Creek. In addition to assisting asylum seekers and other vulnerable groups with their application forms and photocopies, a total of 167 people received vouchers to cover the costs of medical examinations, photographs, lab tests, and translation of documents required for the amnesty application. UNHCR partner Human Rights Commission of Belize (HRCB) was also there to offer information and legal advice on the application requirements. The Government of Belize, through its Amnesty office in Dangriga, was also present during both days. In total, 210 persons received assistance at these clinics.



Volunteers from Humana People to People and Human Rights Commission of Belize, assist asylum seekers in Independence Village to complete their application forms. Photo: UNHCR/Aída Escobar

## Working in partnership

UNHCR works in partnership with the Government of Belize, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade & Immigration, with support from NGO partners Help for Progress, Humana People to People Belize and the Human Rights Commission of Belize.



UNHCR Panama MCO wishes to convey a special thank you to its donors: Canada, the European Union, France, Guyana, United States of America, and the UN Programme on HIV/AIDS. We also thank the fundamental support provided by donors who have contributed to UNHCR with unearmarked and softly earmarked funds: Belgium | Denmark | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom. Private donors in Australia | Canada | Germany | Italy | Japan | Republic of Korea | Spain | and the United States

#### For more information:

In Belize | **Shemuel London**, Associate Information Management Officer, london@unhcr.org

In MCO Panama | **Viola Eleonora Bruttomesso**, Associate Communications Officer, bruttome@unhcr.org

Follow us on [Facebook](#). Find out more about the 2022 Amnesty Exercise [here](#) and see [here](#) for UNHCR's statement on the exercise.