

Belize

November 2022

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

To this date, a total of **10,812 individuals**, including asylum seekers, have filed applications to obtain permanent residence in Belize.

UNHCR is providing **technical support** and **capacity development** to the Government of Belize, as well as **direct assistance** to vulnerable asylum seekers.

ACHIEVEMENTS



2169

people reached
through information &
sensitization sessions
about the amnesty
process



1054

people
assisted with legal
services related to the
amnesty process



180*

vulnerable persons
assisted with cash to
complete
amnesty applications

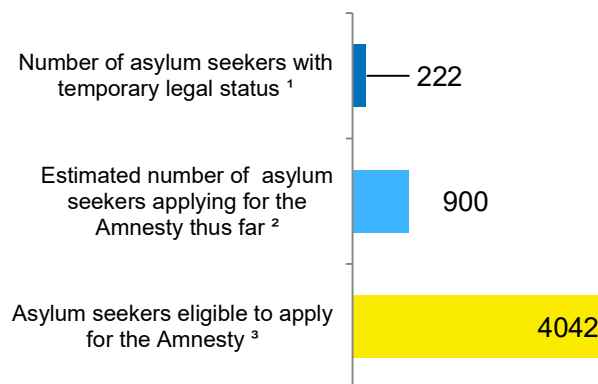
*Figures recalculated as of November 2022



889

asylum seekers
supported to
complete amnesty
application
documentation

Applicants for the Amnesty Program

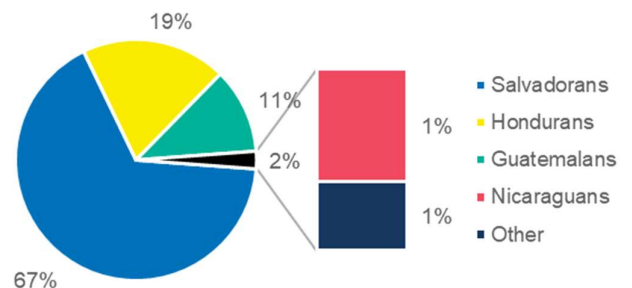


¹ Source: Refugees Department, Government of Belize – refers to asylum seekers holding temporary work permits.

² Source: Refugees Department, Government of Belize – refers to applications received under the asylum seeker category. Some may have chosen to apply under other categories.

³ Source: Refugees Department, Government of Belize – refers to total number of asylum seekers registered with the Refugees Department.

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



*Source: Refugees Department, Government of Belize.

Operational Highlights



A volunteer from UNHCR partner Humana speaks with an official from the Dangriga Belize Amnesty Registration Centre, during an Amnesty Mobile Clinic in the Santa Cruz Village.

Amnesty Mobile Clinics continue across Belize

Throughout October and November, UNHCR and partners assisted asylum seekers and other vulnerable groups to complete their Amnesty applications at mobile clinics located in Belize, Cayo, Stann Creek, and Toledo districts. Amnesty applicants received support to obtain copies and complete their forms in English. A total of 111 asylum seekers received vouchers to cover the costs of medical examinations, photographs and police records, as these documents are required for the amnesty application. Government registration officers were also present at the clinics to offer support and accept applications. In total, 301 people received assistance at the mobile clinics during the reporting period.

Government of Belize extends the Amnesty Exercise

UNHCR and other UN agencies officially welcomed, the Government of Belize announcement to extend the Amnesty application period for three additional months. The deadline, which was previously set for 30 November 2022, was extended until 28 February 2023. During the previous months, UNHCR in collaboration with UNICEF and IOM, advocated for this extension with the relevant authorities, aiming to allow agencies and government partners to reach and support prospective applicants who have not yet been able to complete their applications.



UNHCR staff assisting asylum seekers and other vulnerable groups to complete application forms in English for the Government of Belize Amnesty exercise.

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.



BELIZE IMMIGRATION



HUMANA
PEOPLE TO PEOPLE BELIZE



HUMANRIGHTS
COMMISSION OF BELIZE

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