

HONDURAS

February 2023

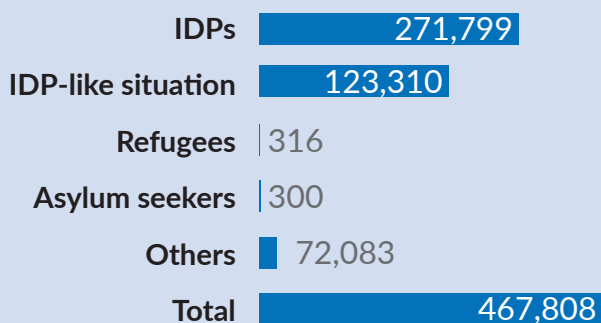
UNHCR's goal is to create a **safe protection environment** that ensures forcibly displaced people or at risk of displacement access to their rights, essential services, livelihood opportunities and durable solutions. UNHCR does so through **strengthening the legal framework**, as well as the presence and response of the State to forced displacement.

In 2022, UNHCR has assisted **44,000** people forced to flee or at risk of displacement with different types of assistance, including community protection, violence-related risk mitigation, case management, shelter, legal protection, among others.

To achieve sustainable results in the **MIRPS** Regional Framework, UNHCR provided technical support to the government in its Pro-Tempore Presidency in 2022. In 2023, under the Presidency of Panama, UNHCR will continue to support Honduras in its efforts to contribute to the MIRPS.

THE PEOPLE WE SERVE

Honduras 2023



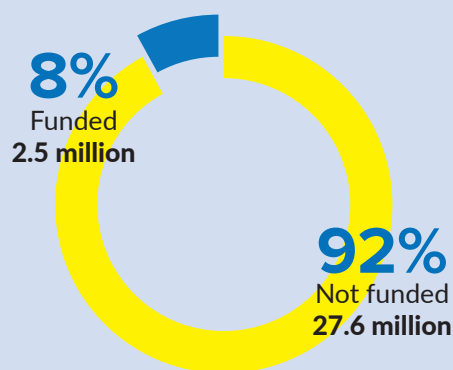
* Source: UNHCR planning figures (COMPASS) for 2023.

** The people we serve: includes people at risk of displacement or internally displaced, refugees, asylum seekers, returnees, people in mixed movements and other people in need of international protection, although figures are available for only part of this population.

FUNDS (AS OF JANUARY 31, 2023)

USD 30.1 million

requested for the Honduras' situation



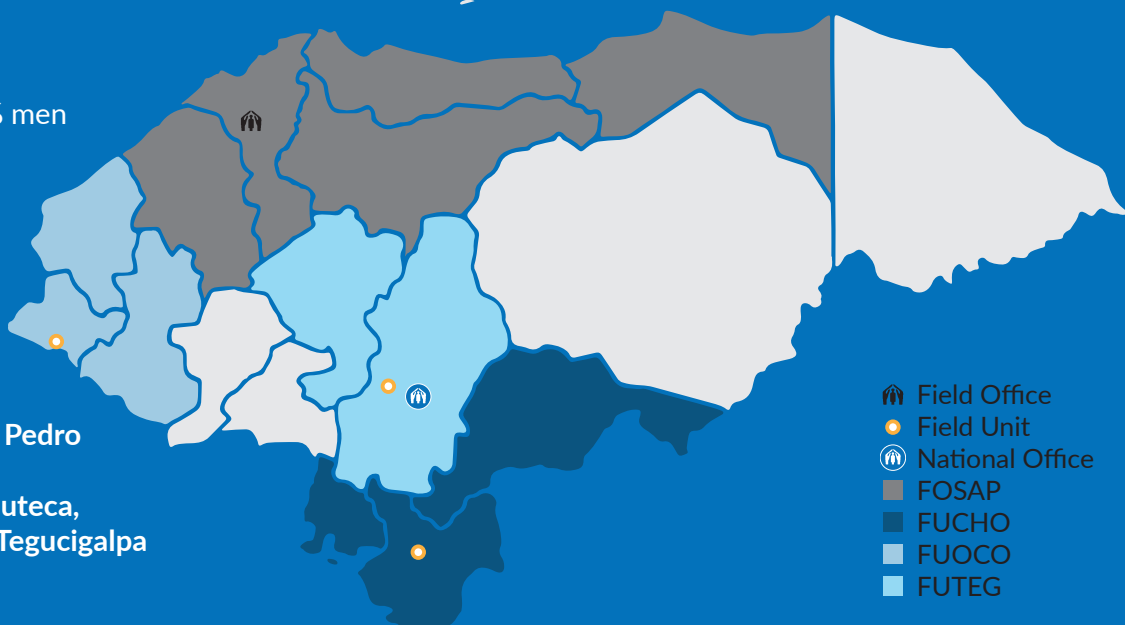
UNHCR PRESENCE

Personnel:

64 National staff
40 International staff
60% women and 40% men

Offices:

01 Country Office in Tegucigalpa
01 Field office in San Pedro Sula
03 Field units in Choluteca, Ocotepeque and Tegucigalpa



INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

CONTEXT

More than 247,000 people have been **internally displaced** in Honduras as a result of **violence** between 2004 and 2018. The causes that drive displacement in Honduras are (i) social and territorial control by criminal or armed groups, (ii) extortion, (iii) forced recruitment, use and association; (iv) the dispossession, usurpation and destruction of housing, land and property; (v) gender-based violence; (vi) political violence; (vii) human rights violations, as well as (viii) the effects of climate change. It has been observed that these **causes persist** at present, especially in urban areas such as the Central District and San Pedro Sula. Considering the internal displacement triggers mentioned before, in relation to extortion specifically, the Association for a More Just Society (ASJ) estimates that more than 200,000 households in Honduras or 847,154 people (9% of the population) were **victims of extortion** in 2022, generating up to US\$737 million in extortion payments annually. Therefore, the number of displaced people could be significantly higher.

To promote policies to prevent these problems, as well as for the protection of those forcibly displaced and seek durable solutions for them, Honduras created the Inter-institutional Commission for the Protection of Persons Displaced by Violence (CIPPDV). In 2019, the commission delivered to the National Congress the bill for the prevention, care, and protection of forcibly displaced persons. This bill was **approved** on 21 December 2022, although still pending presidential sanction. Recently, during the last meeting on the Declaration of Los Angeles, Honduras committed to prioritize the approval of a legislation on forced internal displacement.

RESPONSE

UNHCR Honduras works under a comprehensive approach for the protection of internally displaced people and those at risk of displacement as a result of violence. It also provides emergency humanitarian assistance, preparedness and prevention for climate change related disasters. To this end, UNHCR directly supports and works to strengthen institutional capacities with nine government agencies, including the Secretariat for Human Rights (SEDH), CONADEH, the Directorate of Children, Adolescents and Family (DINAF), the National Institute of Migration (INM), among others.

The response integrates regional protection mechanisms and community protection mechanisms at the national level. In addition, UNHCR works with case management, strengthening of institutional frameworks and community-based protection activities, amongst several other actions to prevent, care and respond to forced displacement in Honduras.

REGIONAL FRAMEWORK MIRPS | As part of its displacement response efforts, Honduras participated in the creation of the Comprehensive Regional Framework for Protection and Solutions (MIRPS) in 2017. In 2022, the country assumed the Pro-Tempore Presidency (PPT). UNHCR provided support to the PPT through technical assistance and administrative staff to achieve the objectives set out in this platform. Honduras delivered its PPT to Panama in December 2022. However, UNHCR will continue to support the country in its efforts to advance the work of the MIRPS.

During the PPT, Honduras, with the collaboration of UNHCR, has expanded institutional support for the MIRPS, managing to consolidate a National Team that is made up of 13 institutions. Among the advances and solutions, the following stand out: (i) the creation of a legal protection route for abandoned house, land and property due to events associated with violence together with the Property Institute, (ii) with the SEDH, UNHCR promoted the delivery of humanitarian assistance in emergency for the care of displaced persons and (iii) creation of processes for local responses to forced displacement.

PROTECTION CLUSTER | UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster at the national level and co-leads the Southern Border and Sula Valley Local Response Teams. The cluster is made up of 32 organizations that include eight Agencies of the United Nations System, seven national and 15 international non-governmental organizations and two organizations of the Red Cross movement. Considering needs identified in 2023, the cluster has prioritized i) promoting the centrality of protection in the humanitarian response, as a result of the context of internal displacement, including the preparation of a Flood Contingency Plan



by the Humanitarian Country Team, and the preparation of reports on protection and mixed movements; (ii) coordinating the response to refugees and migrants entering and transiting the country to improve reception conditions.

ATTENTION TO CASES OF DISPLACEMENT | In response to massive forced displacement cases in different parts of the country in 2022, such as Chamelecón in San Pedro Sula, Villa Nueva in Tegucigalpa, and including ongoing ones, UNHCR together with local institutions and partners provided humanitarian assistance to the most urgent cases. For those facing risks to their lives by remaining in national territory, UNHCR offers permanent resettlement to other countries as part of the Protection Transfer Arrangement (PTA) programme.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE | To assist people impacted by the effects of climate change related disasters, such as landslides in the Guillén neighbourhood of Tegucigalpa, UNHCR donated shelter kits with mattresses, sheets, towels, and other materials to the Municipality of the Central District serving more than 200 people staying in temporary shelters in 2022. Similarly, through the Protection Cluster, led by UNHCR, and in coordination with the Humanitarian Network in Honduras and the government, a contingency plan was prepared to speed up the response during similar emergencies.

Through the signing of a collaboration agreement with the Civil Protection Honduran National Agency (COPECO), with the aim of strengthening emergency response, UNHCR formalized the donation of items valued at 450,000 dollars containing more than 44,000 basic relief items and committed the donation of 144 Refugee Housing Units to complement the institutional response.

PREVENTION AND RESPONSE | UNHCR develops different programs aimed at preventing forced displacement and its triggers. For example, to address forced recruitment and mobility restrictions, UNHCR works with the Municipality of San Pedro Sula and civil society organizations on programs such as Tactical Urbanism, Community Art and other activities to promote social cohesion.

To strengthen prevention and response actions for women displaced by violence in Honduras, UNHCR, the Group of Migrant and Displaced Women and the Civil Society Group created a "Toolbox" containing self-care protocols, a training guide for accompaniment in self-care and psychosocial care for women victims of violence and forced displacement, as well as other useful tools that strengthen organizational processes that have a differentiated approach to women. UNHCR also supports the Technical Training Centre and the Shelter for Survivors of Gender-Based Violence in San Pedro Sula.

In the same way, with the Municipality of San Marcos in Ocotepeque, UNHCR is implementing the ComunYcarte program, which seeks to promote the culture of peace and peaceful coexistence.



Tactical Urbanism intervention in Chamelecón Sur

COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION | As a way to protect communities and strengthen the protective environment, UNHCR has engaged directly or in joint community interventions with partners and grassroots organizations in more than 24 high-risk urban and rural communities to expand humanitarian space, monitor and address protection needs, and foster social cohesion. Despite limited access in some communities due to increased violence, more than 1,000 adolescents participated in risk prevention programs in 2022.

INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PROTECTION | In order to provide protection, comprehensive and specialized care for children and adolescents, UNHCR built and conditioned the Local Office of the National Directorate for Children, Adolescent and Family Affairs (DINAF) in Ocotepeque. In addition, to expand the territorial coverage of the institution, UNHCR delivered Child Protection Offices in Agua Caliente, Corinto and Guasaule border points with Guatemala.

PROTECTION OF HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY | UNHCR, the Human Rights Secretariat (SEDH) and civil society organizations have developed mechanisms to identify abandoned properties, with data collection tools and a virtual module installed within the information systems of the land registry, managing to identify abandoned properties in different parts of the country. The Property Institute (IP) and the SEDH also coordinate the design of a route to protect abandoned land and property of internally displaced persons connected to the SEDH protection mechanism.

UNHCR donated equipment for the IP, such as drones, and supported the training of personnel to pilot them together with the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH) with the aim of identifying these abandoned properties.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK | The UNHCR Office works with the Inter-Institutional Commission for the Protection of Persons Displaced by Violence (CIPPDV), the state body in charge of promoting the adoption of prevention, protection, and durable solutions measures, to follow up after the approval of the law for the protection of the displaced population by the National Congress and for the design of national response mechanisms in accordance with the principles of protection.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS | UNHCR works harmoniously and jointly with national and local authorities, NGOs, civil society, and the United Nations system to promote a comprehensive and long-term response to people who see their rights violated or who are unable to fully enjoy them. To ensure this becomes a durable and long-term solution, UNHCR works with the public and private sectors to ensure livelihoods for people at risk or internally displaced, through community entrepreneurship, seed capital and technical training centres. In 2022, the SEDH, with the support of UNHCR, identified and disbursed seed capital to more than 100 internally displaced people for subsistence activities that are being developed. In January 2023, 26 people displaced or at risk of displacement supported by UNHCR with cash assistance for their studies graduated from GraphXAcademy and received an adobe certification in graphic design. GraphXAcademy is the educational arm of Graphic Source, a graphic design company with over 400 employers in Honduras. This was the first cooperative pilot with them, which turned out to be a success.

UNHCR, with partners NRC and Human Development Centre (CDE), supported more than 70 families in 2022 with seed capital for self-employment, which are at risk of internal displacement or are refugees or returnees. UNHCR also equipped three training laboratories in community centres in high-risk areas of La Central and Rivera Hernández (San Pedro Sula) for the training of electricians, refrigerator maintenance and computers, and obtaining certification from the Vocational Training Institute (INFOP) for these courses. UNHCR also cooperates with the Honduran Council of Private Enterprise (COHEP) and the Honduran Foundation for Corporate Social Responsibility (FUNDHARSE) in vocational training and internships for individuals and support for social enterprises for communities.

PROMOTION OF SOCIAL PROJECTS | To expand the spaces for coordination and synergy for resource mobilization and generation of durable solutions, UNHCR and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) have a collaboration to promote high-impact social programs and projects for vulnerable communities, as well as public policies for socioeconomic development prioritizing internally displaced persons, asylum seekers, refugees, migrants and the communities that host them.





MIXED MOVEMENTS

CONTEXT

Honduras is a **transit country** for thousands of people in mixed movements who cross it to northern countries. According to official data from the National Institute of Migration (INM), in 2022 there have been record numbers of mixed movements and 189,000 people have **entered Honduras** irregularly in this previous year, which has exceeded the country's response capacity and exacerbated humanitarian needs. Although there is a wide variety of nationalities that cross irregularly into Honduras, the majority are from Cuba (39%), Venezuela (29%), and Ecuador (13%). 53% are men, 27% are women and 20% are children and adolescents.

To these figures are added a significant number of people, especially of Nicaraguan nationality, who enter the country regularly. According to the INM, in 2022, more than 135,000 Nicaraguans have entered and transited regularly through the territory of Honduras and left for the reasons of "transit" or "tourism" to Guatemala through the borders of El Florido, El Corinto and Agua Caliente. Of these, less than five percent have re-entered Honduras. Due to the conditions in the countries of origin mentioned, a significant percentage of people could be in need of **international protection** and specific protection. This also underlines Honduras' position as a country of destination for some people in need of international protection.

RESPONSE

PROTECTION CLUSTER | 92,000 people were assisted with humanitarian assistance in 2022 by the Local Response Group for the Southern Border, led by UNHCR and co-led by Action Against Hunger, in coordination with all humanitarian actors that have a presence on the southern border to provide humanitarian response to mixed movements in Danlí and Trojes.

RECEPTION CONDITIONS | To provide a comprehensive and humane response to people in mixed movements, UNHCR contributed to the construction of care centers for refugees and migrants led by the INM in Danlí, inaugurated on January 13, 2023. The Care Center in Danlí has the capacity to accommodate 100 people per day and by the first quarter of 2023 the second phase will be consolidated with a capacity of 300 people.

Similarly, to strengthen reception mechanisms in Honduras, UNHCR supports shelters in Choluteca, Danlí, Trojes and Ocotepeque with endowments to improve infrastructure and items such as mattresses, sheets, and others, providing emergency shelter and food to people in mixed movements in vulnerable situations.



INFORMATION SERVICES | In Honduras, UNHCR has supported the establishment of mobile information mechanisms through two Mobile Information Systems (SIM) at the entry and exit points of people in mixed movements. The SIMs provide general information on international protection and the asylum system, as well as the rights of people who enter Honduran territory. In the same way, cases with protection needs are identified and referred, as well as internet connectivity is offered to facilitate communication with family members. During December 2022 alone, more than 25,000 people benefited from information on international protection, the

asylum system in Honduras, and related services available in the country. On the border with Nicaragua, UNHCR and World Vision cover entry points on the south-eastern border of Honduras. At the Sinuapa Triangle Mobile Health Point and other places such as the Casa Migrante shelter and strategic points on the northwestern border, an area of the country that receives people in mixed movements on their way north, UNHCR provides information to mitigate the risks of protection.

ASYLUM AND REFUGEE

CONTEXT

During 2022, more than 88,000 Hondurans have been returned to the country, mainly from the United States and Mexico. These figures represent an increase of more than 60% compared to the previous year. Some of these people present protection needs, face discrimination and have other unmet needs. In addition, Honduras receives an influx of **asylum-seekers and refugees**.

According to INM data, in 2022, 149 asylum applications were made, more than the total number of applications registered in all of 2021 and the highest figure ever registered in a single year in Honduras. 67% of the requests made in 2022 correspond to Nicaraguans, 15% to Venezuelans, 8% to Salvadorans, 7% to Cubans and the rest to people from Ecuador and Colombia. It is estimated that many of the people in mixed movements are in need of **international protection**, but they have not presented an asylum request with the relevant authority.

As a country of origin, according to UNHCR's Global Trends Report, Honduras is the **sixth country** with the highest number of new asylum applications filed in 2021. During that year, 59,800 Hondurans applied for asylum, this represents an increase of 13% compared to 2020. These applications were filed primarily in the United States (33%) and Mexico (61%), accounting for 28% of all asylum claims in Mexico and 10% of applications filed in the United States. That reality is intrinsically related to forced displacement and the context of generalized violence associated with it, which results in many people being forced to seek protection outside Honduras.

RESPONSE

UNHCR works for the rights of returnees in need of protection, asylum seekers and refugees; and implements this protection mandate in coordination with key partners such as state entities, NGOs, civil society organizations, and other agencies of the United Nations System through various partnership modalities.

IDENTIFICATION OF CASES | UNHCR supports the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through its presence in the Returned Migrant Care Centres (CAMR), to ensure identification of protection cases for returnees in need. In 2022, UNHCR has managed 912 cases of returnees with protection needs out of the total 3,000 people that arrived in the two CAMRs, as well as in the Care Center for Children and Migrant Families (CANFM), located in San Pedro Sula.

ACCESS TO THE ASYLUM SYSTEM | UNHCR supports the INM in identifying people with international protection needs, in ensuring they have access to the asylum system and strengthening the local capacity to carry on relevant procedures in cases that people require resettlement.



Mixed flow monitoring

MONITORING | UNHCR carries out weekly monitoring missions in the hotspots of people in mixed movements to identify those in need of international protection, risks on the route and general needs of this population. UNHCR has produced information material on international protection and worked to strengthen the case management system and registration of persons.

PARTNERS



Socios operacionales e implementadores de ACNUR.

We thank the contributions of our donors
By 31 January 2023

UNHCR Honduras is grateful for the critical and generous support provided by donors who have contributed with earmarked and unearmarked funding.



For more information

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