

CHOLUTECA

The prevalent presence of people in mixed movements in the southeastern border area of Honduras as a consequence of mobility restrictions after the 2020 pandemic and internal changes in Nicaragua, as well as more recently the overflow of people in mixed movements in the region have regenerated the need to **strengthen UNHCR's field presence** in Honduras.

One of the objectives of the **Global Compact on Refugees** is to improve the conditions of access to the territory. This office seeks to support the State and contribute in particular to this objective.

UNHCR is identifying **new routes** used in mixed movements, **protection risks** en route and addressing and coordinating **humanitarian response** needs in a timely manner.

THE PEOPLE WE SERVE

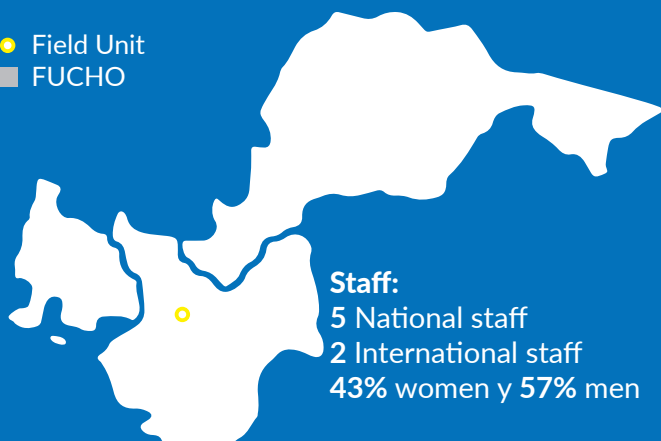
UNHCR's field unit in Choluteca was established to cover the **southeastern border** of Honduras, comprising the departments of Valle, on the border with El Salvador; Choluteca and El Paraíso, on the border with Nicaragua. UNHCR monitors regular and irregular border points on the entry spots for **people in mixed movements** seeking protection in Honduras or transiting northwards. A weekly average of **9,000 people** enter through these points in 2022 and 2023, mainly through Guasaule and Trojes. Part of this population is in need of international protection.

In addition, these departments have a presence of **people at-risk of displacement or internally displaced** due to violence and that required protection, as well as communities affected by the impact of climate change disasters.



UNHCR PRESENCE

- Field Unit
- FUCHO



Staff:
5 National staff
2 International staff
43% women y 57% men

PARTNERS

World Vision

CARITAS
de Honduras



Response

UNHCR's response integrates regional protection mechanisms and community protection mechanisms at the national level. In addition, UNHCR works with monitoring of mixed movements, identification of people with international protection needs, strengthening of the humanitarian response, amongst several other actions to prevent, care and respond to forced displacement in Honduras.

PROTECT

Ensuring centrality of protection in the response to forced displacement

PROTECTION | In order to strengthen the services provided by the state, UNHCR has trained different actors that are present at the borders of Nicaragua and El Salvador to identify cases of protection and refer these cases to UNHCR. In addition, UNHCR guarantees for people in mixed movements access to the asylum system and referral to the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) for humanitarian assistance.

PREVENT AND RESPOND TO INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT | UNHCR is the only institution of the United Nations System under the protection sector with a permanent presence in the Choluteca region. Its presence calls attention of the national and international communities to the local problem of internal displacement in this area. UNHCR identifies and refers cases to its Internal Displacement Sub-Unit, as well as refers cases to available services and resettlement when applicable.

COORDINATION | UNHCR leads the Local Southern Border Response Team, as part of the work of the Protection Cluster in the region. This Team works in coordination with all humanitarian actors that have a presence on the southern border to provide humanitarian response to people in mixed movements in Danlí and Trojes. As of the end of November 2022, 90,631 people were served in the departments of Choluteca, El Paraíso and Valle.

In addition, UNHCR actively participates in the Choluteca Departmental Committee for Attention to People in Mixed Movements and in Need of International Protection, providing technical support. UNHCR is also part of the Southern Risk Management Table, in which in 2023, thanks to the coordinated work, a Commission on Displacement due to Climate Change was created.

INFORMATION | UNHCR and its partner World Vision established a Mobile Information Service (SIM) to attend people in mixed movements in strategic areas of Choluteca (Guasaule, San Marcos de Colon and Choluteca) and El Paraíso (moving between Danlí, Las Manos and Trojes). The SIM moves between these different locations on a weekly basis to provide information about the asylum system in Honduras and serves as a mechanism to articulate different protection and case referral services.

ASYLUM | UNHCR strengthens the asylum system through support to human rights officers from the National Institute of Migration.

ASSIST

Ensure operational response capacity and lifetime support for the most vulnerable people during emergencies

BASIC NEEDS | UNHCR regularly distributes differentiated hygiene items and basic relief items to women, men, girls, and boys in mixed movements at border points, distributed by various actors in shelters, International Health Offices, Municipal Emergency Committees, among others. In 2022, more than 20,000 people were served.

TEMPORARY COLLECTIVE SHELTERS | UNHCR strengthens reception mechanisms in temporary collective shelters in Choluteca, San Marcos de Colón, Danlí and Trojes through donations, technical support and training. Some of these accommodations offer legal assistance and psychological support for different people forced to flee in connection with a Honduran university and its students.

HEALTH | Through its partner Doctors of the World, UNHCR provides emergency medical assistance for physical and mental health needs in coordination with the regional health system to provide assistance to those in need, mainly people in mixed movements.

EMPOWER

Empower communities

BORDER MONITORING | UNHCR monitors regular and irregular entry points in the three departments it has a presence along the southeastern border of Honduras. Apart from direct monitoring exercises, UNHCR counts with the support of 62 community leaders of 37 communities, as well as shelters, contact with officials from the National Institute of Migration (INM), the International Health Bureau (OSI) and other actors. At the same time, UNHCR is developing processes to identify needs and priorities for community protection. These efforts include leadership training to strengthen communities' capacity to respond to protection situations of people in mixed movements, internal displacement, climate change disasters and risk management, as well as strengthening communities in self-protection. In addition, UNHCR established relationships with women and youth networks, as well as LGBTIQ+ organizations, initiating training processes on issues of international protection, mixed movements and internal displacement.



SOLVE

Include the people we serve in national/local services with support for local capacity building

DISPLACEMENT | UNHCR has prioritized four technical-vocational training centres to generate opportunities for young people and women from communities at risk of displacement due to violence or climate change in Choluteca.

UNHCR also supports the internal forced displacement unit of the National Commissioner for Human Rights (CONADEH) in Choluteca. CONADEH identifies and refers international protection cases to UNHCR and, in turn, UNHCR refers people in mixed movements who suffered extortion to CONADEH for follow-up case management.

HEALTH | To ensure access to public health services for people in mixed movements, UNHCR advocates for their inclusion through articulation with the Migration Committee of the Department of Choluteca, as well as in meetings with government authorities. In addition, UNHCR strengthens the health infrastructure with donations and provisions for the improvement of services.

We thank the contributions of our donors

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For more information

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