

Key Figures

+247,000

people have been internally displaced in Honduras as a result of violence between 2004 and 2018.



560,000

Honduran nationals have been returned from 2015 until 5 February 2023, according to data from CONMIGHO.

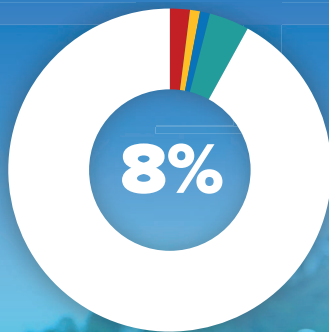
38,900

persons of different nationalities entered Honduras irregularly between January and February 2023, according to data from the National Migration Institute (INM).

Our Response

8,600

mainly internally displaced persons, but also asylum-seekers, returnees, mixed movements, and host community members were served by UNHCR and its partners so far in 2023, with services such as shelter, cash and voucher assistance, community protection, case management and risk mitigation.



Funding

*As of 28 February 2023

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

UNHCR is appealing for USD 30.1 million for its 2023 programme, of which USD2.52 million is already funded. USD27.58 million is still needed to continue supporting people forcibly displaced, at risk of displacement, asylum-seekers, refugees, and persons in mixed movements.



HIGHLIGHTS

UNHCR inaugurated a Youth Community Centre in the community of Nueva Capital (Tegucigalpa), highly affected by violence, to provide a safe and inclusive space for young people to develop their activities. This aims to strengthen protection mechanisms, preventing forced recruitment of youth, rebuilding trust in their communities and enabling the local protective environment.



INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

The main causes that drive forced displacement in Honduras due to generalized violence include (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. Apart from these forced displacement triggers, the effects of climate change and related disasters are increasingly impacting Honduras. Such is the case of the hurricane season in 2022 which left more than 88,000 people affected (according to COPECO) and some internal displacement cases.

In this vein, violent deaths continue in Honduras even though 123 municipalities nationwide (41% of the country's territory) are under a state of emergency. The measure was established by the president of Honduras to counteract crime and extortion. Despite lower homicide rates achieved, Honduras remains among the most violent countries in Latin America, according to research from InSight Crime.

On another note, enjoyment of human rights continues to be hindered by multiple causes linked to challenges in (i) guaranteeing safety and security, (ii) mitigating violence exerted by criminal organizations, and (iii) providing effective access to justice and reduce impunity in gross human rights violations. This situation is portrayed by the 10,350 human rights complaints registered by the National Commissioner for Human Rights (CONADEH) in 2022, that represents a 6% increase in comparison with 2021. 14% of all complaints in the country were due to forced displacement. In January 2023, CONADEH has registered the double amount forced displacement complaints due to extortion, compared to January 2022.

In this sense, a UN Women study called Central American migration: factors of expulsion and attraction of the Guatemalan, Salvadoran and Honduran population from the gender perspective, showed that the number of women forcibly displaced due to gender-based violence is on the rise in this region. Similarly, a total of eight environment and land defender advocates were murdered in Honduras in the first two months of this year. According to media outlets, these cases go unpunished. All of them, except one, had protection measures in place against threats from armed groups by the national protection system. However, it did not work, exposing the fragility of the protection environment in Honduras.

By the end of February 2023

Women are amongst the population most impacted by violence and forced displacement triggers in Honduras.



74 femicides were registered

One woman being killed every 24 hours or less.

According to data from the Centro de Derechos de Mujeres (CDM).



16 employees of the transportation sector have been killed.

The main problem this sector faces continues to be extortion.

According to its leaders.

Which led once more to the closure of the Ojojona-Tegucigalpa route in February. This is a crucial route in the country for business and transportation of people.

RESPONSE

Coordination

PROTECTION CLUSTER | The response for humanitarian emergencies needs to be planned and coordinated with several actors to guarantee its efficacy. To ensure early preparedness and the development of an efficient response plan in Honduras, the country's Humanitarian Response Plan 2023 (HRP) was published. The HRP presents the financial needs identified in the sectors of food security and nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene in emergencies, protection, camp coordination and camp management, education, emergency shelter, health, early recovery, and coordination. In total, the national requirement is for US\$280 million to benefit more than 2 million people. The Protection Cluster, led by UNHCR, submitted a total request for US\$35 million concentrated in 11 projects that aim to impact the protection environment in the country, guarantee assistance to those in need, empower communities to tackle the causes and effects of forced displacement and to provide livelihoods and durable solutions.

With a similar objective, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) defined its humanitarian strategy response for 2023-2026. The HCT prioritized for its context analysis the impact of violence and human mobility (including forced displacement, return of Hondurans and mixed movements), aiming to enhance knowledge of the situation and ensure decision-making based on evidence. Additionally, the HCT prioritized five areas of work: (i) management and performance; (ii) advocacy; (iii) training and knowledge generation; (iv) implementation of the non-negotiables - centralization of protection, accountability to affected populations and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse; (v) governance, participation, and leadership of civil society.

Protection

COMMUNITY - BASED PROTECTION | Considering that territorial disputes by organized crime and associated violence are part of the main forced displacement triggers in Honduras, UNHCR develops community-based protection programmes to (i) recover public spaces disabled by these triggers, (ii) prevent forced recruitment, (iii) foster a safe protection environment and sense of belonging of internally displaced people and at-risk of displacement with their communities and (iv) identify protection cases amongst affected population.

As part of these programmes, UNHCR started the rehabilitation of classrooms in four educational centres in the Central District highly affected by violence and gang control to ensure education for children and youth. Previously, UNHCR had finished the delivery of the materials to be used in these spaces. Teachers will be trained by the partner Save The Children and approximately 2,700 children will be served in these spaces.

Furthermore, UNHCR promoted programmes to mitigate the risks of forced recruitment and gender-based violence in urban communities affected by violence and forced displacement through art activities, generating collective spaces for socialization. To evaluate and improve a local Community Art program implemented since 2022 in San Pedro Sula and that will benefit over 450 children this year, UNHCR, the Municipality of San Pedro Sula and partner Children International consulted four communities at high-risk of displacement. 65 people (27 girls and 14 boys) participated, as well as 24 adult community leaders (14 women and 10 men).

As part of programmes developed with local authorities, UNHCR delivered a recreational park in the community of Las Lajitas in San Marcos (Ocotepeque) which is at-risk of social exclusion. The park will serve as a space where more than 100 children will be able to engage with each other and play in a safe environment, promoting peaceful coexistence between host communities and people forcibly displaced.

LIVELIHOODS | People forcibly displaced or at-risk of displacement face challenges in recovering livelihoods and meet basic needs. The development of professional capacities is crucial to provide durable solutions in these cases. UNHCR and its partners finalized a robust assessment and improvement plan for 12 community training centres in high-risk communities where UNHCR works. The implementation of the improvement plans aims to ensure access to market-relevant skills training opportunities. Improvement plans are market-specific and envisage support with workshop equipment, curricula improvement, and private-sector engagement for internships for the people UNHCR serves.

RAISING AWARENESS | UNHCR aims to raise awareness on forced displacement amongst State actors, leaders, and partners to strengthen the protection response in Honduras. In this sense, UNHCR and World Vision supported the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) in the delivery of a non-formal education programme, the "Internal Displacement, Human Rights, Gender and Diversity" course, for 37 community leaders and municipal officials who graduated in February 2023.



MIXED MOVEMENTS

Between 1 January and 24 February

38,600 persons in mixed movements have entered Honduras irregularly according to official INM statistics.



Registering their entry in the country through:

90% Trojes/Danlí
10% Irregular Migrant Service Centers (CAMI)

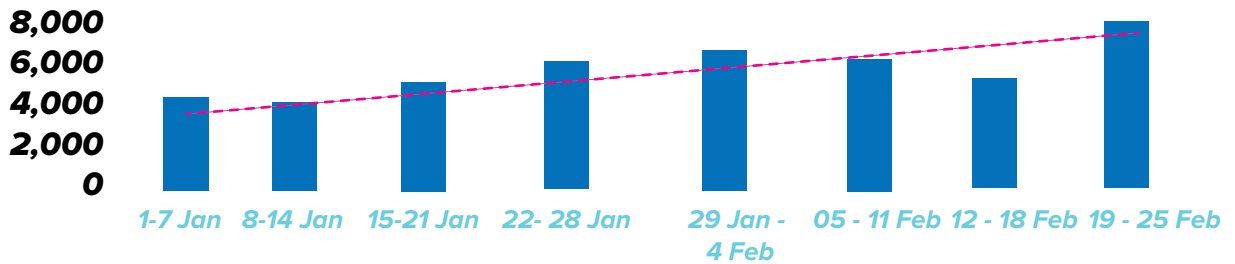
Men 54%
Women 24%
Boys 12%
Girls 10%

Of the total number of persons in transit in 2023, **25%** correspond to persons from Ecuador, **24%** to Haitians, **17%** to Venezuelans, **7%** Cubans, among other nationalities.

When comparing the first 24 days of January (13,420 irregular entries) with the same period in February (19,710 entries)

an increase of 47% of persons in mixed movements can be observed.

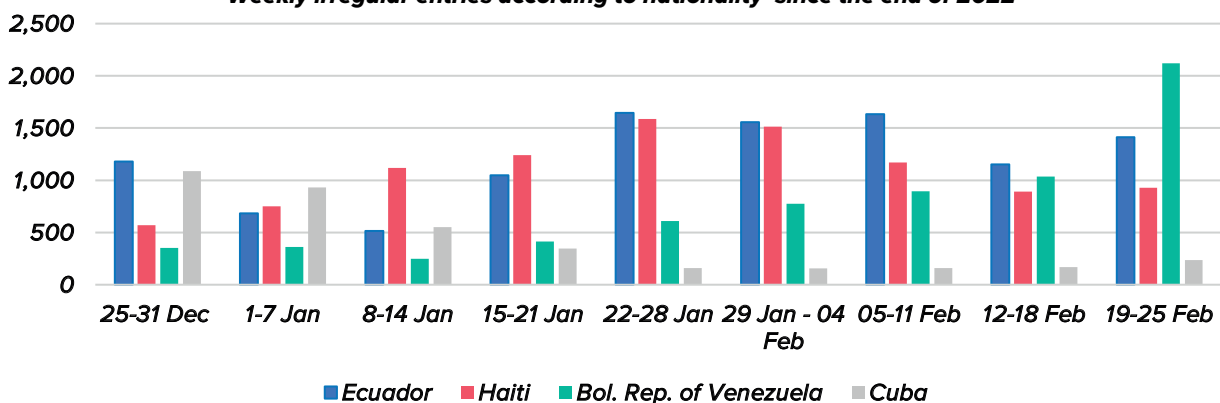
Weekly irregular entries in Honduras in 2023



The U.S. announcement on 5 January 2023, to open the Parole program to people from Cuba, Haiti and Nicaragua (combined with an expansion of Title 42) has had a different impact on entries of people in mixed movements depending on the nationality (see graph):

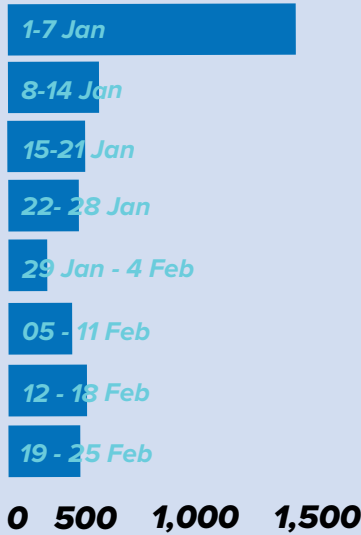
- According to official INM data, the number of people from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has drastically increased since the first week of January, jumping from 350 to 2,100 in the last week of February.
- Regarding Haitians, the number of irregular entries continued increasing until half February. In the last two weeks of the month, however, the average decreased from 1,500 in the end of January to a weekly average of 900 persons.
- On the other hand, the number of Cubans entering the country irregularly has strongly decreased since the first weeks of January and remains at an average of 175 persons each week.
- Ecuador remains mostly as the nationality number two, after Venezuela.

Weekly irregular entries according to nationality since the end of 2022



The number of Nicaraguans who enter, transit, and leave Honduras through Guatemala on a regular basis has considerably decreased in the last two months, remaining roughly at an average of 100 persons per week lately (see graph).

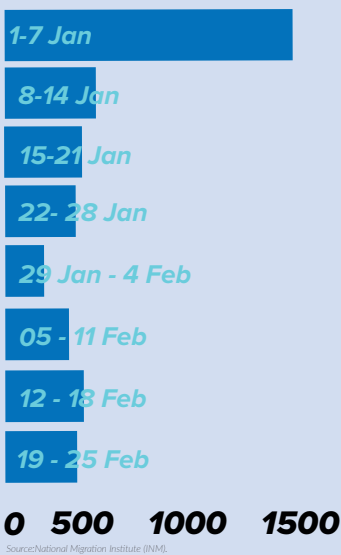
Weekly regular exits of Nicaraguans through the Honduran border points El Florido and Corinto, under modalities "tourism/transit"



Source: National Migration Institute (INM).

On the other hand, the fluxes of people exiting Honduras irregularly through El Florido and Agua Caliente border points, according to UNHCR observation, has increased, being at its all-time high (see graph below).

Weekly irregular exits through the Honduran border points El Florido and Agua Caliente, according to UNHCR's monitoring in 2023



Source: National Migration Institute (INM).

ASYLUM-SEEKERS

According to the Honduran National Migration Institute (INM), 11 asylum applications were filed in Honduras in February 2023 (eight Venezuelans and three Cubans). So far in 2023, 20 applications were presented, a slightly higher number than during the same period in 2022, where 12 applications were filed. At the moment, 167 recognized refugees are living in Honduras.

RESPONSE

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Protection

INFORMATION | People forced to flee are faced with several protection risks in their journey. One of the main difficulties they face are the lack of information or challenges in finding trusted sources. This exposes them to risks of trafficking in persons, abuse, and violence. In addition, many of those requiring international protection do not have information on asylum procedures available or the possibility to request asylum for their cases.

To tackle this, in 2023, UNHCR served over 1,000 people with information on international protection, the asylum system in Honduras and related services available in the country. These services were provided through different mechanisms. At the Mobile Health Spot in the Sinuapa Triangle and other locations including the shelter Casa Migrante and strategic points at the north-western border, an area of the country that receives people in mixed movements on their journey northward, 250 people received information to mitigate protection risks. Similarly, UNHCR and its partner World Vision through its Mobile Information Services on the south-eastern border of Honduras provided information to 860 (300 women, 420 men, 140 children) persons in mixed movements entering the country.

COMMUNICATION WITH COMMUNITIES | To address the most urgent information needs of people in mixed movements, mitigate risks of human trafficking and cross-border organized crime, and strengthen the access to Honduras asylum procedure, UNHCR jointly launched with the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) a communication package. The materials featuring key messages both available in Spanish and Créole include digital cards for social medias, 140 posters and 4,550 flyers that will be distributed through 31 UNHCR communication channels in borders areas, Tegucigalpa, and San Pedro Sula. This response is also directed to tackle the information related to the policy changes of the United States of America and the expansion of the Humanitarian Parole Program.

ASSISTANCE | People in mixed movements and returnees with protection needs face extenuating journeys for being forcibly displaced. While transiting Honduras, many are in need of shelter, food, psychological support, amongst others.

UNHCR supported the Casa Migrante shelter in Ocotepeque, an exit point in Honduras for people in mixed movements, in providing assistance to 124 returnees and persons in mixed movements with protection needs to ensure sufficient reception conditions. 70% were men and boys and 30% women and girls. 16% are minors. 8% were on their way back from trying to reach countries in the north. Furthermore, in Choluteca, 41 persons were provided by shelter at Centro de Atención Caritas, also funded by UNHCR.

In addition, the National Migration Institute (INM) Assistance Centre in Danlí, supported by UNHCR, assisted 2,700 people in mixed movements so far in 2023 with comprehensive services (including medical, psychological, shelter, food, legal counselling, among others), improving reception conditions for those with protection needs. In Choluteca, UNHCR delivered to a Youth Network (RAMUMCH) two new spaces that will be used for capacity-building activities, and a temporal accommodation space in case there is a demand for shelter for people forced to flee in the south-eastern border of Honduras.

RETURNEES

In 2023, a total of 3,666 Hondurans were returned to the three Assistance Centres for Returned Migrants located in the department of Cortés, representing a 75% decrease compared to the first two months of 2022.

RESPONSE

CASE MANAGEMENT | UNHCR and partners work to strengthen institutional capacities for the care and identification of the returned population with protection needs, and to guarantee that adequate protection alternatives are in place. UNHCR works strategically in the three Centres for Returned Migrants available in Honduras to identify and refer cases of returnees in need of protection, which on average account to 5% of the total returned population. In February 2023, UNHCR attended 71 cases (103 people). The returnees received information on protection alternatives, available services for protection cases, including third country solution's programmes, psycho-social assistance and internal relocation. In addition, with the support of UNHCR, DINAF is providing some of the children returned with psychosocial support.

JUNTOS | UNHCR jointly with IOM and KIND manages the "Juntos" family reunification programme in Honduras that was established by the United States of America to reunite parents who were separated from their children between 20 January 2017 and 20 January 2021. As a result, in 2022 and 2023, 38 cases (166 persons) were referred from KIND to UNHCR, out of which 11 cases (40 persons: 7 women, 16 men, 11 girls and 6 boys) were eligible.



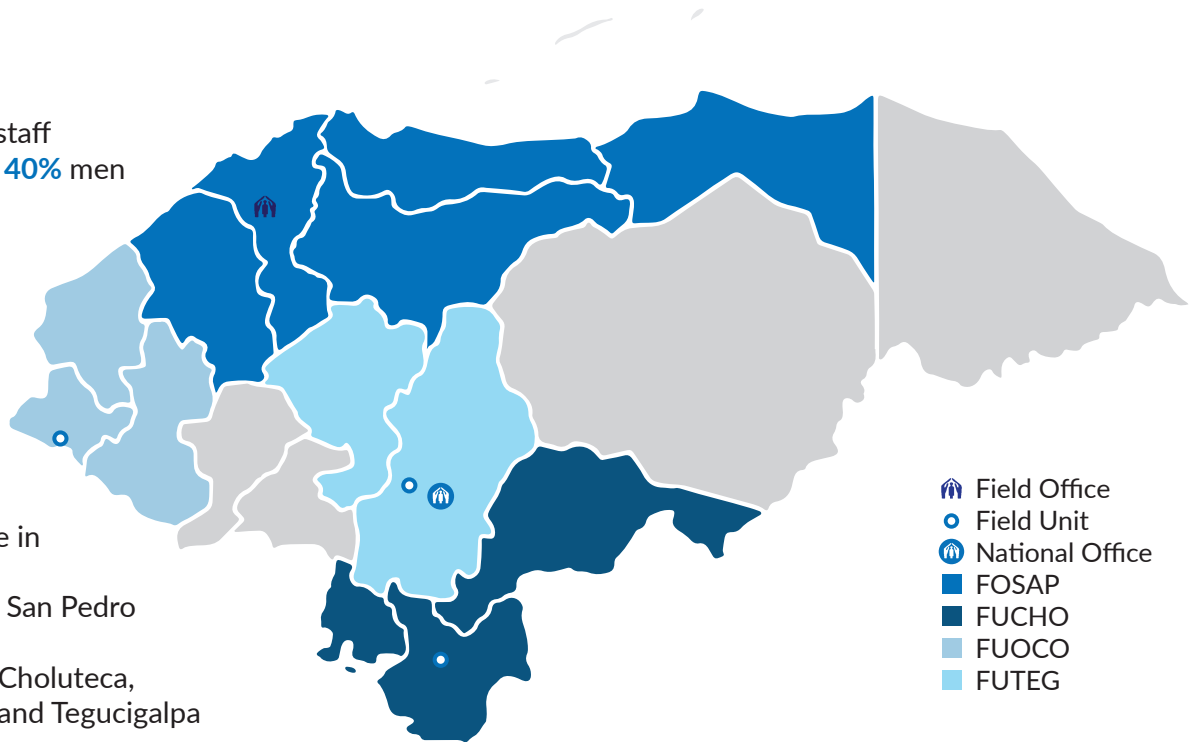
UNHCR PRESENCE








Staff:

- 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



-  Field Office
-  Field Unit
-  National Office
-  FOSAP
-  FUCHO
-  FUTEQ
-  FUOCO

We thank the contributions of our donors




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