

Belize

June 2023

UNHCR and partners support the Government's **Amnesty Programme**, an alternative legal pathway to regularize asylum-seekers in the country.

During registration, **12,765 individuals**, including asylum-seekers, applied to permanent residence in Belize.

UNHCR provides **technical support** and capacity development to Government officials, and **direct assistance** to asylum-seekers.

ACHIEVEMENTS



2,646

people reached out with information¹



1,549

people assisted with legal counselling



353

vulnerable people assisted financially²



1,061

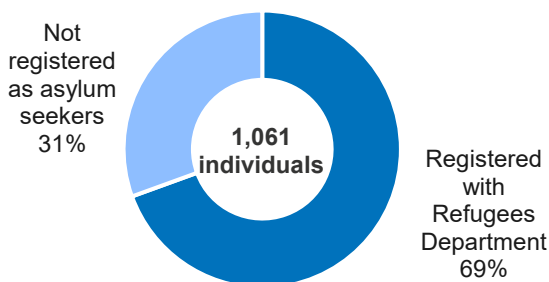
asylum seekers supported in completing documentation

¹Refers to the total number of asylum-seekers and other vulnerable groups assisted by UNHCR with information on the Amnesty Programme at partners' locations and mobile clinics nationwide. ²Total number of individuals supported by UNHCR to cover the costs of documentation, transportation, police records, and medical examinations.

Asylum-seeking applicants to the Government's Amnesty

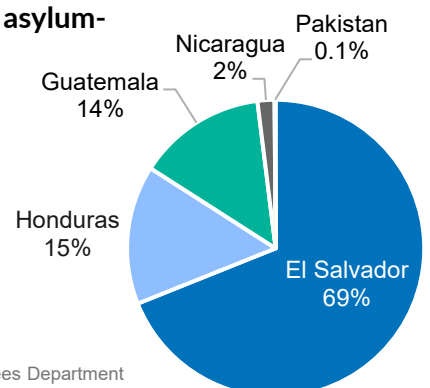
Amnesty's registration phase ended on 31 March 2023. The Refugees Department reported that 737 registered asylum-seekers obtained status letters to complete their applications. UNHCR partners also identified and assisted 324 individuals who sought asylum in Belize but could not successfully lodge their claims.

Asylum-seekers applying for Amnesty



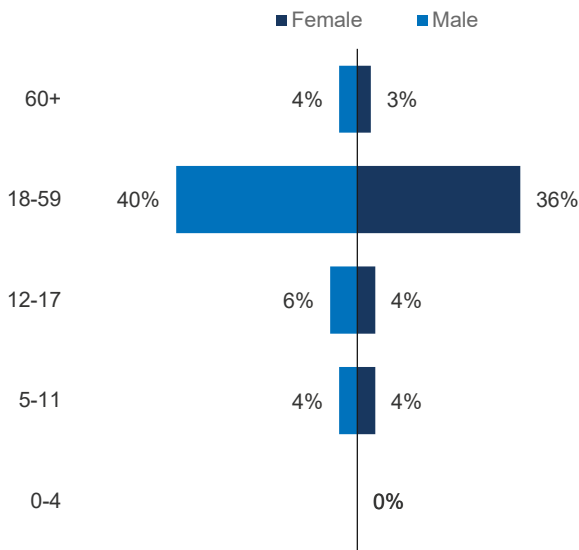
Source: UNHCR, Belize Refugees Department
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Country of origin of asylum-seeking applicants



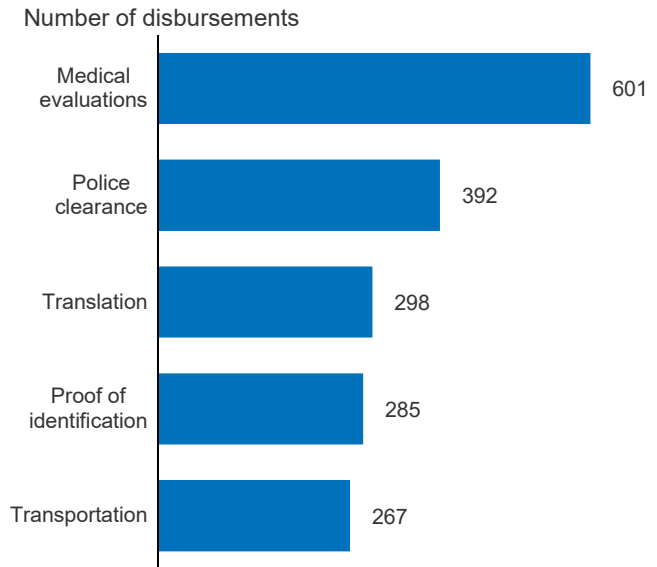
Source: UNHCR, Belize Refugees Department
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Asylum-seekers supported



Source: UNHCR proGres
 © UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency

Cash and in-kind assistance to asylum-seekers



Source: UNHCR proGres
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Post-Application Phase

Following the conclusion of the Amnesty's registration phase, authorities are revising the submitted applications before screening. This process might last up to six-months and includes the assessment of a multisectoral vetting committee which will confirm a final decision. Updates on the status of Amnesty applications are expected to be available in the coming months through an online platform set up by the Ministry of Immigration. Official responses on approving Amnesty applications are expected by September 2023. After this phase, people who received a positive response on their applications can obtain a permanent residency card. UNHCR will support some asylum-seekers with specific needs to cover the costs of acquiring the required documentation.



Working in partnership

UNHCR works in partnership with the Government, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade & Immigration – Refugees Department, 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: the European Union, the 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 | Canada | Denmark | Germany | Ireland | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | private donors in Australia.

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