UNHCR ACNUR
La Agencia de la ONU para los Refugiados

**FACTSHEET**
*August 2023*

# TEGUCIGALPA

Although **internal displacement** is increasing in rural areas of Honduras, cases are mainly in urban areas. Among its main causes are mobility restrictions, extortion, forced recruitment of children and youth, and gender-based violence. For this reason, UNHCR has a **presence** in the urban areas with the greatest impact of forced displacement in the metropolitan area of Tegucigalpa.

As part of the Comprehensive **Regional Framework for Protection and Solutions (MIRPS)**, UNHCR supports Honduras in the implementation of pledges made in relation to Cities of Solidarity, the protection of internally displaced people and those at-risk of forced displacement.

As violent incidents intensify in areas at high risk of forced displacement in the Central District, **UNHCR ensures that protective spaces** are not lost in these areas.

## THE PEOPLE WE SERVE
FIELD UNIT TEGUCIGALPA 2023

UNHCR's field unit in Tegucigalpa covers the municipalities of Comayagua, Juticalpa, and Central District, where it is working in the cities of Comayaguela, and Tegucigalpa, with an established presence in 24 urban communities at high risk of displacement due to violence. UNHCR strengthens the main role of the State in guaranteeing the protection and care of forcibly displaced people in the region, as well as coordinates actions with partners for this purpose. The main profile of people UNHCR serves are internally displaced persons, people at risk of displacement and returnees. Within these profiles, UNHCR especially attends to children and adolescents, the LGBTIQ+ population, teachers, people with disabilities, survivors of gender-based violence and the elderly.

Furthermore, with a greater concentration of people in mixed movements since 2022, UNHCR is monitoring fluxes and providing information on international protection and asylum, in addition to ensuring that reception conditions, provided by community organisations, civil society and public institutions meet minimum protection standards. UNHCR also continues and is increasing its involvement in the response to catastrophes connected to climate change.

## UNHCR PRESENCE

- Field Unit
- National Office
- FUTEG

**Staff:**
2 National staff
2 International staff
50% women and 50% men

## PARTNERS

CDH

Save the Children

JOVENES CONTRA LA VIOLENCIA

## Response

*UNHCR works closely with community leaderships and its members to mitigate the risk of forced displacement. This is done through a community-based protection strategy that enhances the participation of the communities in identifying and mitigating risks, reclaims public spaces through community-led tactical urbanism interventions, and improves community access to social services by bridging the gap between the communities and the local government. In 2023, UNHCR has prioritized interventions with children and youth due to the heightened risks of forced recruitment they face in the Central District.*

*UNHCR also enhances the protection environment by strengthening the state's capacity to identify and address cases of forced displacement, and responds to people who are at risk of forced displacement or who have been forced to flee their homes by guaranteeing access to legal information and services such as internal relocation and resettlement.*

## PROTECT

**Displaced persons and persons at risk of displacement benefit from a comprehensive protection mechanism.**

**TECHNICAL SUPPORT |** UNHCR supports authorities in the construction of Local Response Plans to Internal Displacement, in coordination with the Inter Institutional Commission for the protection of Internally Displaced Persons by Violence (CIPPDV) in the Central District, to ensure cases are followed up and responded to.

**TRAINING |** To strengthen services provided by the State, UNHCR conducts internal displacement and case identification trainings for government entities, as well as civil society and partners. More than 250 public servants from the national and local governments have been reached by July 2023. Furthermore, to increase communities' self-reliance, UNHCR provides training for community leaders, reaching 60 persons so far this year.

In addition to strengthening services for internally displaced persons and in response to the growing numbers of people in mixed movements who pass through the city of Tegucigalpa, UNHCR identified two civil-society-run temporary shelters and trained 48 men and women who provide humanitarian aid, building up local capacities and understanding of basic protection principles, case identification, international protection, and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

**MONITORING |** UNHCR monitors urban zones at high risk of forced displacement through community activities, participatory assessment, presence of UNHCR and partners, amongst other actions. This allows UNHCR to identify protection cases and the main needs of people forcibly displaced and at risk of displacement in different communities.

Likewise, UNHCR monitors the flows of people in mixed movements that pass through the Central District in their transit from the southeast border aiming to reach exit points at the north and northwest border of the country. During monitoring exercises, UNHCR is able to identify protection risks amongst this population. Apart from monitoring, UNHCR provides information and counselling for people in need of international protection, supports institutions in the improvement of reception conditions and advocates with local institutional for a more organised response to mixed movements.

## RESPOND

**Displaced persons and persons at risk of displacement meet their basic needs in a safe environment.**

**PROTECTION BY PRESENCE |** In order to ensure people at-risk of forced displacement have safe spaces and peaceful coexistence in communities highly affected by violence, UNHCR strengthens participation mechanisms of the communities through its presence, supporting community-led activities and protection strategies, in addition to providing complementary response to emergencies presented in the Central District. During 2023, more than 100 community accompaniments have been carried out.

**CASE MANAGEMENT |** During 2023, UNHCR registered almost 100 cases of internally displaced persons, people at risk of internal displacement, people in need of international protection, and returnees who received information on protection pathways and protection services through internal relocation alternatives and protection transfer agreement options. These are part of the efforts of UNHCR to support community protection processes and strengthen community-based protection mechanisms for the identification and referral of cases in areas with high levels of violence and therefore at high risk of forced displacement.

**HEALTH |** UNHCR, together with its partners, provides psychosocial care to the communities of La Esperanza, 30 de noviembre, El Pedregal, El Chile y Nueva Capital, which is made up of over 30 neighbourhoods with high levels of gang and drug-rated violence in the Central District. Safe spaces have been established in schools and other public spaces through the construction of psycho-pedagogical classrooms last year and training for teachers in psychological first aid, internal displacement, and forced recruitment. In 2023, over 1,700 children and youth accessed psychosocial services, which enables teachers and counsellors to identify children at risk of forced recruitment, alert parents to mitigate the risk of internal displacement, and refer cases for an early response.

**WASH |** Capacity building for temporary shelters was complemented by the delivery of shelter kits that included mattresses, blankets, sheets, towels, and hygiene items. These donations will improve reception capacity and quality for people in mixed movements.

## EMPOWER

**Displaced communities and communities at risk of displacement can mitigate the differentiated impact of violence.**

**COMMUNITY PROTECTION |** In 2023, UNHCR carried out activities within its tactical urbanism and sports for protection strategies in over 20 neighbourhoods to facilitate the reappropriation of public spaces and the consolidation of community networks. UNHCR together with Save The Children delivered educational material, and a toolbox for socio-educational care to four educational centres in the Central District highly affected by violence and gang control. The deliveries benefit over 2,000 students who are participating in UNHCR community protection activities in 2023. Through these activities, UNHCR reinforces the protection spaces in the school and the identification of protection cases.

**SPORTS FOR PROTECTION |** UNHCR and the National Commission for Sports, Physical Education and Recreation (CONDEPOR) joined forces in 2022 to promote sport as a mechanism for protection and social cohesion in six communities with a UNHCR presence in Tegucigalpa. The objective is to bring sports closer to the communities, energising public spaces and recovering them through the community protection strategy, by holding sports days with trained instructors. During 2023, the participation of 136 young people in disciplines such as boxing, taekwondo, swimming, soccer, and volleyball has been achieved.

**LEADERSHIP |** UNHCR offers technical assistance to promote dialogue, participation, and risk identification to 11 communities through workshops and communication mechanisms with local leaders. The technical capacities of leaders in 24 communities are also being strengthened in identifying cases of protection and referring them to UNHCR for subsequent assistance.

**TRAINING |** 123 teachers at public schools in high-risk neighbourhoods were trained on psychological first aid to better serve their communities. UNHCR delivered the trainings together with Save the Children.

## EMPOWER

**Displaced persons and persons at risk of displacement have access to solutions that contribute to breaking the cycle of violence and forced displacement.**

**LIVELIHOODS |** UNHCR and the Business Development Centre (CDE) delivered a two-month long workshop on entrepreneurship to people who live in high-risk communities. The eight best projects received seed capital to launch or invest in their small businesses. In coordination with the private sector (INTUR Foundation), UNHCR also provided scholarships to 13 young men and women who will complete their high school degrees.

Furthermore, UNHCR with partners of the private sector provided scholarships through the Graphic Design Academy "GraphxAcademy" to 44 youth, men and women who will obtain Adobe-certified courses on graphic design. CDE, UNHCR and the Norwegian Refugee Counsel have worked under the livelihoods strategy to strengthen and provide technical support to community entrepreneurship, especially at a gym located in a youth community centre in the community San Miguel, supporting them with equipment and technical assistance for their formalisation, promoting peaceful coexistence and fighting forced recruitment.

## We thank the contributions of our donors

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**Also, we thank the contributions of our global private donors in Australia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Spain, United Kingdom, and United States of America.**

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