UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

November 2023

Operational Update 23

HONDURAS

Population figures

Internal displacement

+247,000

people have been internally displaced in Honduras as a result of violence between 2004 and 2018. Numbers are estimated to be much higher in 2023, as triggers of internal displacement persist.

Mixed Movements

502,406

people in mixed movements entered Honduras irregularly by the end of November 2023 and registered with the National Migration Institute (INM).

Asylum

+40,000

Honduran nationals sought asylum in Mexico, ranking as the second nationality in the number of asylum requests to this country.

104

people sought asylum in Honduras in 2023, mostly Venezuelans (41%) and Nicaraguans (26%), but also Cubans (14%), Colombians (9%), Salvadorians (4%), Ecuadorians (3%), and the remaining are from Brazil, Guatemala, and Peru.

Return

48,497

Hondurans returned in 2023, mainly from the United States of America, Mexico, Guatemala and Spain.

Refuge

183

recognised refugees are currently living in Honduras.

Our response

127,676 people

have been served until November 2023 by UNHCR and its partners, mainly internally displaced persons, but also asylum-seekers, returnees, persons in mixed movements, and host community members, with services such as shelter, cash and voucher assistance, case management, risk mitigation and through community-based protection activities.

12.037	13.030	41.620	60.728	261
Girls	Boys	Women	Men	LGBTQI+

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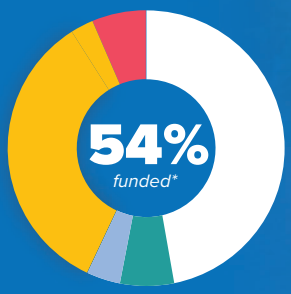
Funding



As of 31 October 2023

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

**UNHCR is appealing for USD30.1 million for its 2023 programme, of which USD16.2 million (54%) is already funded. USD13.9 million is still needed to continue supporting people forcibly displaced, at risk of displacement, asylum-seekers, refugees, and persons in mixed movements.*

Context

Honduras has a multifaceted human mobility landscape

internal displacement and people fleeing the country, with part of those being returned; it is a transit point for people in mixed movements; and Honduras is a destination for refugees and asylum seekers.

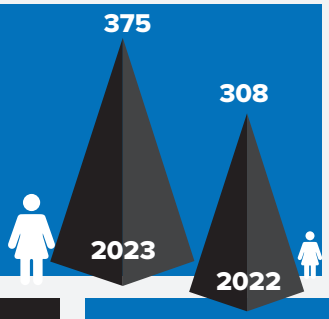
In November 2023, the country continued facing a complex protection environment, significantly impacting these various population groups and host communities.

The primary drivers of forced displacement in the country continue, namely **generalized violence,** leading the Government of Honduras to extend the partial state of exception in the national territory until 1 January 2024, more than a year after its introduction. Other drivers include **organized crime, extortion, forced recruitment, gender-based violence, political instability, and human rights violations.**

22% increase in feminicides

compared to 2022

Threats to sexual and gender diverse individuals continue.



Additionally, the effects of climate change exacerbated vulnerabilities,

+34,000 people affected by floods

+900 properties destroyed

The political and socio-economic uncertainties, highlighted by challenges in the election of the Attorney General and the influence of criminal structures, contributed to the complexity of the situation.

Amidst this context,

+40,000 Hondurans requested asylum in Mexico in 2023

Ranking Honduras as the second nationality in the number of asylum requests in this country.

Host communities grappled with the dual challenges

of accommodating increasing numbers of people in mixed movements and coping amidst political and social unrest.

The passing of the new IDP Protection Law in 2023 by the Government of Honduras is paramount in view of these challenges, creating the first legal framework in the country for the protection against internal displacement. Its implementation and regulation are swiftly advancing.

People in mixed movements also face a deteriorating protection environment.

502,406

irregular entries registered by the National Migration Institute (INM) by November 2023.

The acute increase in their numbers, more than triple compared to 2022, created a humanitarian emergency.

The increase in arrivals is leading to a collapse of reception conditions, particularly a gap in shelters and heightening protection risks such as human trafficking and xenophobia.

The main nationalities of mixed movements are **Venezuelans (38%), Cubans (19%), Ecuadorians (8%), Haitians (7%) and Colombians (4%).**

RESPONSE

PROTECT

Workshops targeting over 250 people

including 35 police officers, 35 officials in the Central District and more than 60 public officers in Choluteca, and professionals across various government and humanitarian sectors.

These workshops covered critical areas such as international refugee law, protection information for persons in mixed movements, the prevention of forced recruitment of children by criminal groups, the adaptation of assistance mechanisms for returnees, and training for eligibility officers in refugee status determination.

These trainings improve the capacity of local institutions to protect and support displaced persons, refugees, and asylum seekers, and to promote a rights-based approach.

As part of the implementation of the new IDP Protection Law, UNHCR supported the first three participatory assessments with internally displaced persons in Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, and Choluteca.

This collaboration with the Inter-Institutional Commission for the Protection of Forcibly Displaced Persons (CIPPDEF) was critical to **gather insights from 96 displaced individuals and community leaders.** The consultations focused on tailoring responses to forced displacement and shaping the regulatory aspects of the law, ensuring that the needs and rights of the displaced are central to this legislative process.

As part of strengthening justice mechanisms under the new IDP Law, UNHCR conducted a workshop and participatory assessment with judges and prosecutors, identifying a significant knowledge gap regarding the protection of internally displaced persons and those at risk of displacement. This is the groundwork for a strategic alliance between UNHCR and the Judiciary in 2024, aimed at enhancing the capacity and response of the justice system.

Additionally, UNHCR's work included the protection of housing, land, and property (HLP) rights with the Property Institute (IP). The organization provided technical assistance in establishing the Registry of Abandoned Property, as mandated by the Internal Displacement Law. This involved **revising the draft agreement for the creation of the abandoned HLP registry and conducting analytical exercises with 40 property registrars from across the country.**

UNHCR and partners also improved reception conditions for people in mixed movements. This included the installation of solar lamps at transit points near the Guatemala border, enhancing safety and visibility, and the installation of Refugee Housing Units (RHUs) for Caritas shelter in Danlí.

UNHCR also conducted border monitoring missions, with the Human Rights Secretariat and the National Migration Institute, to better understand and address the dynamics of mixed movements.

The publication of the Mixed Movements Protection Monitoring Report provided insights from 187 refugees and migrants into the reasons for leaving their country, with lack of employment and fear from violence as the leading causes of displacement, while their main needs include food, protection information, legal assistance, and medical care.

UNHCR ACNUR
La Agencia de la ONU para los Refugiados

Monitoreo de Movimientos Mixtos
Honduras

Noviembre 2023

Destacados del mes

502,406 Más de medio millón de personas refugiadas y migrantes ingresaron, se registraron y transitaron por Honduras entre enero y noviembre de 2023, según el Instituto Nacional de Migración (INM), más del triple que el año pasado y un número sin precedentes.

Con 59,787 personas, el INM registró el cuarto mayor número de personas refugiadas y migrantes en tránsito por el país en un solo mes (noviembre) y más que el doble que en noviembre de 2022.

- En noviembre, las cuatro nacionalidades principales (Venezuela, Cuba, Haití y Ecuador) representaron el 79% del flujo total de personas.
- Mientras que en noviembre en comparación con el mes anterior hubo una reducción de personas venezolanas, cubanas y haitianas, el número de personas de países de África subsahariana incrementó un 10% y de países asiáticas un 50%.
- El 52% de las personas en movimientos mixtos en noviembre eran mujeres, niñas y niños, con lo cual se confirma la tendencia de un incremento de mujeres, niñas y niños que son parte del flujo de personas en los últimos meses.
- En noviembre, más del 93% de las personas ingresaron a Honduras por el departamento de El Paraíso, mientras que el 7% ingresó por Choluteca.

Al menos 49% de las personas en movimientos mixtos entrevistadas por ACNUR y sus socios reportó tener necesidades de protección internacional debido a que tuvieron que huir de su país de origen por violencia o persecución.

El 56% de las personas reportó haber sufrido algún tipo de maltrato o abuso durante el viaje desde su país de origen o última residencia hasta Honduras. El 9% indicó que experimentó maltrato u otra forma de abuso en Honduras.

El 14% de las personas entrevistadas reportaron que en su grupo hay personas con necesidades de protección específicas incluyendo: mujeres lactantes o embarazadas, personas con una discapacidad o con enfermedades críticas o crónicas, adultos mayores, entre otros perfiles.

Las principales necesidades reportadas por las personas refugiadas y migrantes en tránsito son alimentos, asistencia legal, información sobre los servicios de protección y alternativas migratorias disponibles, asistencia médica y medicamentos, ropa y calzado, agua y alojamiento.

El 96% de las personas entrevistadas por ACNUR y sus socios, indicó que WhatsApp es el principal medio de comunicación que usan para informarse durante el viaje. Además, un 58% usa Facebook, el 11% Instagram y el 3% TikTok para obtener información.

ACNUR/Danielle Álvarez

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Mixed Movement Monitoring - November 2023, click here.

RESPOND

UNHCR and partners responded to needs of internally displaced persons and those in mixed movements through protection information dissemination, registration, and improving reception conditions.

In 2023, UNHCR, through its partner NRC, registered
3,920 individuals for case management.

97.8% of the cases are of internally displaced persons and persons at risk of displacement.

To provide emergency support to those protection cases, **UNHCR has delivered cash-based assistance** to: **2,769 individuals** | **865 families** amounting to approximately **887,251.52 USD.**

Furthermore, UNHCR has identified and registered 464 cases of 865 returnees with protection needs so far in 2023 in the Centres for Returned Migrants in Honduras. UNHCR provided them with protection information, legal assistance, and referral to partners for cases with specific needs. In addition to registration, public information initiatives from UNHCR included releasing videos and partnering with fact-checking platforms to provide accurate information and promote inclusive journalism towards forcibly displaced people and those at-risk.

To improve reception conditions for people in mixed movements, **UNHCR's Mobile Information Service reached 18,557 people in mixed movements in Choluteca, Danlí, and Trojes, and 5,879 in Machuca and Agua Caliente.** The service operated by World Vision is available in the south-east and north-west borders providing vital information about legal protection, shelter locations, and the U.S. Parole Program. Most of these individuals attended were Venezuelans, Colombians, Ecuadorians, Haitians, and Cubans.

In addition, the Comprehensive Assistance Centre for Persons in Mixed Movements (CAMI) **has provided temporary shelter to over 35,000 refugees and migrants so far in 2023, predominantly from Venezuela, Ecuador, Haiti, and Colombia.** This shelter is managed by the National Migration Institute in Danlí with the support of UNHCR.

UNHCR also supported five other shelters in Ocotepeque and Choluteca to provide emergency accommodation to 1,114 people in mixed movements in November.

The Protection Cluster, led by UNHCR, remained active with three local response teams across the country, focusing on addressing immediate needs of people in mixed movements and forcibly displaced, and coordination challenges at various locations. With teams of 10 to 40 humanitarian actors, the various Clusters tackled issues such as infrastructure and safety in humanitarian spaces, while advocating for the extension of the amnesty for irregular entries.

UNHCR and its partners provide protection information at Honduran borders through the Mobile Information Service.

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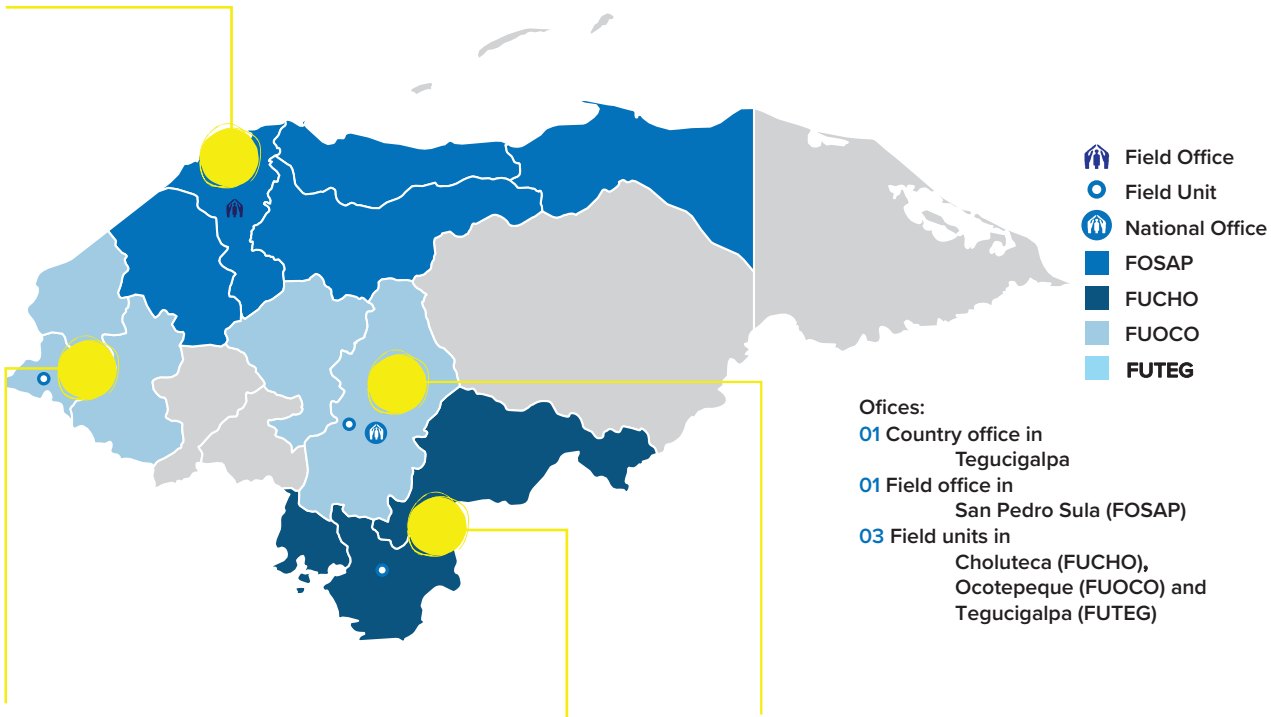
EMPOWER

UNHCR and partners undertook various community-based protection initiatives in November, focusing on promoting social cohesion and resilience in communities at high-risk of forced displacement due to violence.

North

In the North, UNHCR supported capacity-building activities with the Women's and Family Development Unit (UDIMUF) and Children International, focusing on participatory assessment methodologies and community protection processes. Activities like the "Cofrafest 2023" and workshops with community leaders in San Pedro Sula fostered unity, empowerment, and risk reduction strategies.



North-west

In the North-west, the Mobile Library project addressed protection risks and digital security, while **soft skills workshops enhanced the capabilities of 70 youth facing displacement risks, human trafficking, smuggling, and gender violence.** These activities collectively aimed to empower communities and individuals fostering resilience and social inclusion in the face of violence and forced displacement.

South-east

In the South-east, UNHCR organized events to promote peaceful coexistence and reduce xenophobia and violence. In collaboration with the community, the municipality, and Secretariat of Education, **the events took place in the communities of Liraquí, El Terrero, with 363 people, and in Cifuentes, Trojes, with 116 people, including children, youth, and adults.**

Central District

In the Central District, key activities included the "Sport for Communities" project, conducted in collaboration with the National Sports Commission (CONDEPOR) and Save the Children, which engaged more than 80 children and youth in different communities. These sports sessions aimed to provide alternatives to violence and forced recruitment. In addition, **UNHCR supported a "Community and Social Welfare Fair" at a local high school in Tegucigalpa, reaching over 500 children and families with health and psychological services, as well as recreational activities.**

UNHCR and partners conducted participatory assessments with community leaders in several urban communities to strengthen access to humanitarian services for IDPs and those at risk of displacement. Additionally, technological equipment was provided to community centres in five urban communities to enhance community-based protection activities.

Coinciding with the "16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence" campaign, UNHCR actively engaged in various activities aimed at the prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV).

Initiatives included a training session to strengthen capacities on identification and risk analysis of cases of forced displacement due to gender violence, aimed at staff from the Women's Secretariat in the module for the protection of women's rights at the national level. UNHCR also coordinated a meeting with Casa Hogar to revise attention protocols for GBV survivors and improve coordination between protection, judicial, and health institutions.

UNHCR also donated 75 hygiene kits to support a women's safe house in Puerto Cortes, reinforcing the institutional response to GBV. A self-care and healing day was organized with MOMUCLAA for 35 women, providing a safe space for expression and healing for GBV survivors.

Additionally, the Women's Networks of the South organized an information fair in Choluteca, supported by UNHCR, which saw the participation of around 1,000 women.

Efforts to include girls in sports as a preventative measure against GBV were manifested in the donation of sports equipment to two schools. The Choluteca Women's Network and UNHCR hosted a discussion on GBV as a cause of displacement, engaging 66 individuals from various sectors.

Lastly, the "Regional Women's Meeting - Raise your voice" event, organized by INJUVE and UNHCR, provided tools for young women to address GBV in their communities, drawing participation from 40 women representing various organizations.

Donation of sports equipment to girls and boys in Ocotepeque, as part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence campaign, promoting the participation of girls in sports.

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SOLVE

UNHCR Honduras focused on enhancing livelihoods as a solution to forced displacement, working closely with various partners to provide skill development and job opportunities.

A significant achievement was the selection of 15 beneficiaries in the Ocotepeque region to receive seed capital for entrepreneurship after a competitive evaluation of their business ideas.

In Choluteca, 20 interns including an asylum seeker, internally displaced and youth at risk of displacement graduated from the internship program developed by UNHCR with CDE Golfo de Fonseca and the support of the private sector. 12 interns have already received job offers in their interning companies.

dditionally, **equipment valued at around USD 10,000 was delivered to CONEANFO at the Technical Vocational Training Centre in Gracias, supporting welding and motorbike repair courses.** This initiative is part of a broader labour insertion program to equip internally displaced persons with market-relevant skills.

Furthermore, in collaboration with local businesses, the National Institute for Vocational Training (INFOP), and the Secretariat of Labour and Social Security, UNHCR facilitated various internship and job placement programs. These efforts resulted in 12 job offers for participants in Choluteca and several formal job offers in other regions.

In San Pedro Sula, a job fair for graphic design professionals led to 23 job offers, highlighting the success of these collaborations.

Additionally, financial education training for 18 persons and participation in events with the private sector contributed towards integrating displaced persons into the workforce.

These activities underscore the emphasis on building self-reliance among displaced persons through practical, skills-based interventions and partnerships with various stakeholders.

Young people at risk of displacement, displaced persons and refugees concluded their internship program in private companies in Choluteca.

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We thank the contributions of our donors

By 31 October 2023

UNHCR is grateful for the contributions of donor countries that contribute to the office in Honduras and to global programmes with flexible funding:

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

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