UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

June 2024

Fact Sheet

Tegucigalpa

The Central District is mostly impacted by **forced displacement** due to generalized violence, territorial control, extortion, forced recruitment of children and youth, and gender-based violence, among others.

The impact on people forcibly displaced, at risk and in mixed movements in Tegucigalpa is substantial, with **increased vulnerabilities** among adolescents, children, the elderly, the LGBTIQ+ community, persons with disabilities, survivors of gender-based violence and teachers.

Current strategies include **enhancing community-based protective mechanisms** in high-risk communities, broadening support for people in mixed movements, and increasing resilience against climate change-related disasters.

"My work highlights the importance of solidarity networks. Those who flee feel that they are drowning, but for solidarity networks it is also difficult because they are also in need; that is why on land you can see what we all need to be well: rights and hope." - Alejandro Triminio, 19 years old

© UNHCR/Artwork by Alejandro Triminio

Context

UNHCR's Field Unit in Tegucigalpa has presence in 26 urban communities in Comayagüela and Tegucigalpa (Central District), and in two communities in Comayagua at high risk of displacement due to violence. UNHCR serves internally displaced persons, people at risk of displacement, refugees and asylum-seekers, and returnees with international protection needs, **prioritizing** vulnerable groups. Moreover, since 2022, with an increase of people in mixed movements transiting through the area, UNHCR is monitoring flows and providing information on international protection and asylum. UNHCR is also **expanding its involvement** in the response to climate change-related disasters.

UNHCR Presence

Staff:
2 National Staff
2 International Staff

Presence:
26 communities supported

Partner:
6 partners

Together with its partners, UNHCR raises awareness about forced internal displacement through art with the campaign "Protecting Lives, building hope we displace fear".

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Working with Partners

UNHCR works with Casa Alianza Honduras, Business Development Centre (CDE), Civil Society Group, Jóvenes Contra la Violencia, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Save the Children. Strategic partnerships have been established with several organizations through Letters of Understanding (LoUs) and other collaborative frameworks.

Notable collaborations include the Asociación Colaboración y Esfuerzo (ACOES), the Central District Municipality (AMDC), and the National Commission for Sports, Physical Education, and Recreation (CONDEPOR), enhancing community engagement and participation in sports and civic activities. Support for shelter services has been provided in conjunction with Caritas, ensuring essential services and support for vulnerable populations. Furthermore, joint initiatives with LGBTIQ+ organizations, including Honduras Diversa, have promoted rights and inclusivity.

Main Activities

Protection

As part of its core work with refugees and asylum-seekers in Honduras, UNHCR has designed and developed a strategy for host communities in the Central District. This strategy involves working and liaising with state institutions and with communities to ensure protection, assistance, respect for the rights and inclusion of asylum-seekers and refugees, helping to improve their integration in the capital city and within the country. To improve the local institutional response to internally displaced persons and mixed movements, UNHCR provides training to municipal officials on internal displacement, its causes, affected populations and characteristics, international protection, protection pathways and referral services. UNHCR also coordinates mobile municipal service fairs, which bring local public services closer to communities at risk of displacement.

Health and Education

UNHCR, in collaboration with its partners, regularly delivers psychosocial services in eight neighbourhoods in the Central District, in areas notably affected by gang and drug-related violence. In collaboration with Save the Children, through the establishment of safe areas in schools (e.g., psycho-pedagogical classrooms) and improvement of public spaces (e.g., community centres, sports facilities), UNHCR enhances community resilience, identification of individuals with health or education needs and referral capacities. Teachers and parents receive training in psychological first aid, and risks related to internal displacement, helping them recognize signs of forced recruitment to ensure timely referral and response to those at risk.

Shelter and NFIs

UNHCR supports temporary shelters and civil-society actors in the response to people in mixed movements through training on protection concepts and non-food item provision including mattresses, blankets, sheets, towels, and hygiene items. To mitigate the risk of forced displacement due to climate-change related disasters, UNHCR strengthens local emergency committees (CODELES), enhancing community self-reliance and participation in high-risk areas.

UNHCR has strengthened its response to mixed movements through civil society organisations such as the Asociación para una vida mejor Honduras (APUVIMEH) and Árboles de Justicia. To this end, their staff have received training on international protection and reception conditions in the two shelters run by these organisations have been improved through the provision of items such as beds and kitchen utensils.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

UNHCR actively strengthens community structures and leadership in 11 neighbourhoods, empowering them to design and implement self-protection strategies that develop into peaceful coexistence initiatives, such as community cinemas, workshops, the recovery of public spaces through tactical urbanism and recreational activities through UNHCR's Sports for Protection strategy. In partnership with the National Commission for Sports, Physical Education, and Recreation (CONDEPOR), UNHCR facilitates the participation of at-risk youth from six urban communities in sports training in at Tegucigalpa's Olympic Villa complex. These efforts are complemented by technical assistance programmes and capacity building for local leaders in 26 communities to better identify and refer individuals with protection needs.

UNHCR works closely with community leaders and community members through a participatory community-based protection strategy that enhances the identification and mitigation of risks that cause forced displacement, empowers communities to reclaim public spaces through community-led tactical urbanism interventions, peaceful coexistence activities, sports for protection strategies, and improves access to social services by bridging the gap between the communities and the local government.

Durable Solutions

Through regular consultations with at-risk communities, UNHCR and partners are implementing a comprehensive livelihoods strategy including entrepreneurship workshops that offer seed capital to the most promising projects, scholarships for adults who wish to complete their high school education, training for youth who wish to specialize in graphic design, and paid internships for youth who need support to access their first employment opportunity. The National Vocational Training Institute (INFOP) and UNHCR have also provided training and courses in barbering, computers, English, electricity, and cleaning products. These programmes help combat the social stigmatization faced by people who live in communities affected by violence, and support people who have been forcibly displaced to rebuild their life projects.

To ensure financial sustainability of community centres, UNHCR also supports community social enterprises, such as a gym in San Miguel, providing equipment and technical assistance. These initiatives foster economic empowerment and self-reliance as well as creating safe environments to combat forced recruitment by providing alternative pathways for personal and professional development.

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