UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

June 2024
Fact Sheet

Choluteca

The south-eastern border of Honduras is experiencing a **significant increase in mixed movement** flows in 2024. This has led to a critical need for heightened **monitoring and humanitarian response** to ensure adequate reception conditions and support people in need of international protection.

Refugees and migrants are exposed to **heightened protection risks,** including violence, extorsion, trafficking, lack of access to basic services such as shelter, food, water, mental and physical health, and specialized services for gender-based violence survivors, persons with disabilities and LGBTIQ+ persons. UNHCR's coordinated response effort is focused on mitigating these risks by providing **essential services and support** to people on the move through Honduras.

The situation at the south-eastern border is expected to require **ongoing adjustments** to address the dynamic and changing nature of mixed movements. Key future efforts include enhancing protection measures and scaling up humanitarian assistance.

In the scope of World Refugee Day, we carried out the "Theater of Emotions" for children who are in transit through Honduras. When children identify their emotions they can express their needs, better manage stress and improve their self-esteem.

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Context

UNHCR has a field unit in Choluteca created to cover the **southeastern border** of Honduras, including the departments of Valle, which borders El Salvador, and Choluteca and El Paraíso, which border Nicaragua. UNHCR **monitors** regular entries of Nicaraguans under transit and tourism modalities as well as irregular entry points for people in mixed movements seeking protection in Honduras or transiting northwards.

On average, 11,000 people enter through these points every week, with most coming through Danli and Trojes, according to UNHCR's monitoring. Some of these individuals require **international protection.** Similarly, border communities need support to identify and mitigate risks associated with border dynamics, such as the presence of human smuggling and trafficking networks, criminal groups and others. Furthermore, these regions have a population at risk of displacement or who are **internally displaced** due to violence and require protection, as well as communities affected by the impact of **climate change.**

UNHCR Presence

Staff:
5 National Staff
2 International Staff

Presence:
25 communities supported
48 border points monitored

Partners:
7 partners

Partners:

World Vision
CARITAS de Honduras
Médicos del Mundo
International Rescue Committee
CONADEH
NRC Consejo Noruego para Refugiados
CDE MIPYME Golfo de Fonseca

Together with local NGOs and other international organizations, UNHCR works to mitigate risks and strengthen the protection environment on the southern border of Honduras.

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Working with Partners

UNHCR works with the Business Development Centre (CDE), Caritas, Médecins du Monde (MDM), the Municipal Office for Women's Affairs, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), the National Commission for Human Rights (CONADEH), the National institute for Migration (INM), the Secretariat of Childhood, Adolescence and Family (SENAF), the Secretariat for Cultures, Arts and Heritage (SECAPPH), the Secretariat for Human Rights (SEDH), the Secretariat of Women's Affairs, and World Vision.

Since 2021, UNHCR leads the South-Eastern Border Local Team, which is part of the Protection Cluster. This team coordinates with all humanitarian actors present on the south-east border to provide humanitarian assistance to people in mixed movements. The group currently brings together 40 UN Agencies, Funds and Programs, national and international humanitarian organizations, civil society organizations, PROCAP and GENCAPinter-agency programmes. By May 2024, the Local Group has provided assistance to more than 38,101 people.

Additionally, UNHCR participates in the Choluteca Departmental Committee for Attention to People in Mixed Movements and in Need of International Protection and in the South Migration Local Network in Valle to mainstream a protection perspective in the context analysis, identification of risks and in the response deployed by the local departments. UNHCR is also a member of the Southern Risk Management Table.

Main Activities

Protection

UNHCR in Honduras actively monitors mixed movement flows, collaborates with community leaders, and engages with national and international partners to enhance protection mechanisms. Efforts include training to bolster community response, advocacy for human rights, and promoting non-discrimination to foster local integration. UNHCR also focuses on ensuring access to the asylum system, safeguarding the principle of non-refoulement, and facilitating comprehensive case management. By providing training and technical support to local officials, UNHCR strengthens the asylum system and addresses human rights violations, advocating for affected people. Additionally, UNHCR monitors the impact of generalized violence and climate change on communities to identify risks of internal displacement and works with local and national authorities on its prevention. UNHCR provides training to local authorities, organizations, and civil societies on internal displacement, strengthening identification and referral mechanisms and facilitates comprehensive case management for internally displaced persons and those at risk.

Health

UNHCR, via Doctors of the World, provides emergency medical care and mental health support for asylum-seekers and refugees, coordinating with the national health system. Additionally, UNHCR enhances health infrastructure through donations and service improvements.

Shelter and NFIs

UNHCR enhances support in temporary shelters across Choluteca, San Marcos de Colón, Danlí, El Paraiso, and Trojes by donating shelter kits, hygiene, and WASH items, alongside offering technical support, training and financing positions that provide social work, legal and psychosocial support. From January to May 2024, 2,100 shelter items and 89,620 hygiene items were distributed to nine temporal shelters and key actors. Selected shelters also provide legal and psychological support in collaboration with a Honduran university, benefiting various displaced individuals.

Information

UNHCR and World Vision operate three Mobile Information Services in key areas of Choluteca, Danli, Las Manos and Trojes, offering weekly information on international protection and the Honduran asylum system. These services aim to address questions and facilitate case referrals, enhancing support for people in mixed movements. More than 300,000 people were reached in 2023, and more than 80,000 by May 2024.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

UNHCR enhances community empowerment and self-reliance by fostering organization and networking among people forcibly displaced, at risk and mixed movements to guarantee their rights. It supports women's networks and initiatives against gender-based violence, including training and diploma programs in collaboration with Ciudad Mujer and municipal offices. Additionally, UNHCR promotes the recovery of public spaces and the organization of cultural, artistic, and sports activities to create safe spaces and support communities at risk of displacement. Furthermore, UNHCR supports prioritized communities on the elaboration of their protection plans and their linkage with development plans of the local governments.

Durable solutions

UNHCR focuses on enhancing vocational training in Choluteca, targeting young people, refugees, LGBTIQ+ individuals, and women from displacement-prone communities, by equipping four training centres. UNHCR and partners have launched entrepreneurship programs for small businesses of Choluteca, Valle and El Paraiso and has also launched an internship program, with a 100% employability rate in 2023.

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