Honduras

Operational Update

N.38 | February 2025

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Population figures

Internal displacement

+247,000

people have been internally displaced in Honduras as a result of generalized violence between 2004 and 2018. Numbers could be higher in 2025, as triggers of internal displacement persist.

Return

+3.200

Hondurans were returned to the country in February 2025, marking a 28% increase compared to over 2,500 people returned in January. According to the Returned Migrant Attention System of the Secretariat of Social Development, over 5,700 people had been returned in 2025 by the end of February.

+3,400

people who arrived irregularly registered their entry with the Government in February, marking a 59% decrease compared to over 8,300 people who registered in January. Of them, 98% entered via Danlí and 2% via Choluteca. The top five nationalities were Cuban, Haitian, Venezuelan, Indian, and Chinese. Among them, 47% were men, 34% women, 11% boys, and 9% girls. According to monitoring by UNHCR and its partners, more than 15,500 refugees and migrants entered and crossed through Honduran territory in 2025 as of 28 February.

Refuge

+210

refugees currently residing in Honduras. 55 new asylum applications were registered in February (*marking the highest monthly figure recorded to date). Of them, 28 people were referred by UNHCR and partners.

Our Response

+6,200

people travelling north-south direction identified by UNHCR and partners in February.

+1,650

individuals assisted at national shelter facilities in the southeast and western borders. Marking a 7% increase compared to over 1,536 people assisted in January.

+3,100

people received protection information and services at key entry and exit points by UNHCR and partners. A 134% increase compared to 1,324 people assisted in January.

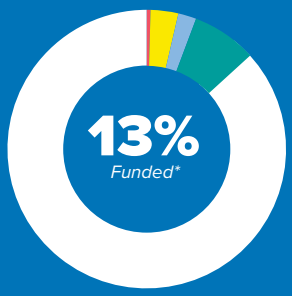
+691

individuals received medical care, mental health assistance, and information on sexual and reproductive health at key entry and exit points by UNHCR and partners.

+230

people received legal counselling and information on asylum by the Ombudsperson through its mobile units in key border areas, supported by UNHCR. A 47% increase compared to 159 people assisted in January.

Funding



As of 28 February 2025

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

*UNHCR appealed for **USD 30,7 million for its 2025** programme, of which only USD 4 million (13%) has been funded. USD 26,7 million is still needed to continue supporting people forcibly displaced, at risk of displacement, returnees with protection needs, asylum-seekers, and refugees.

Context

In February, Honduras remained one of the most violent countries in the region, with **five massacres and 41 femicides** reported since January.

In **Bajo Aguan**, a long-standing land conflict escalated into a confrontation involving farmers, business owners, and criminal groups. Gangs took control of the roads linking farms and communities, turning them into dangerous transit zones. Civil society organizations raised concerns about the **forced displacement of 150 families** and called for their safe return.

In Chamelecon, San Pedro Sula, territorial disputes between criminal gangs intensified, affecting communities where UNHCR operates.

A landslide along the road to the Las Manos border with Nicaragua disrupted connectivity and humanitarian access, forcing most partners to suspend activities. **UNHCR scaled up protection monitoring and risk analysis**, identifying threats to refugees and migrants gathering near the border or using unsafe alternative routes.

Since 1 January, UNHCR identified over **8,100 people travelling from north to south.** Most had reached Mexico but chose to return due to changes in United States migration policies, heading mostly towards Colombia, Venezuela, or Costa Rica.

Deportations of Hondurans continued to rise, with more than **5,700 returns reported since January.** UNHCR and UN agencies met with the Government's Council on Migration Governance to discuss the **"Hermana, Hermano, Vuelva a Casa"** plan. Additionally, a projected 20% drop in remittances and more than 260,000 Hondurans at risk of deportation could severely impact the country's economic and social stability.

UNHCR continues to support national and local actors in monitoring population movements, ensuring **access to protection**, and identifying people in need of international protection at key border points.

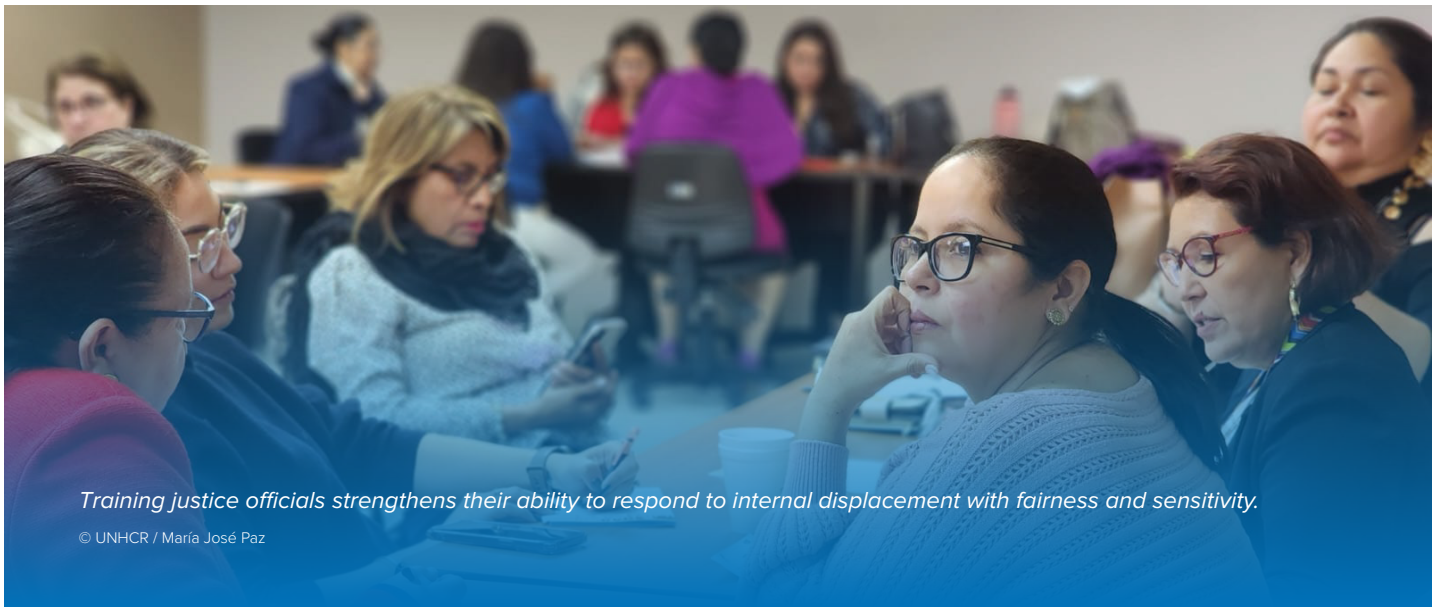
Response

Protection and Legal Assistance

In February, UNHCR trained **31 judges and public defenders** in San Pedro Sula on internal displacement, strengthening their capacity to protect internally displaced people, including returnees with international protection needs.

UNHCR, in collaboration with the National Migration Institute (INM) and the Ombudsperson, launched a virtual course on international protection, the national asylum system, human mobility, internal displacement, and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. The course is delivered biweekly to Caritas shelter staff at the national level, with more than 70 participants from **six municipalities expected to complete it.**

UNHCR and INM also conducted a monitoring mission in



Training justice officials strengthens their ability to respond to internal displacement with fairness and sensitivity.

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the western border region. During the visit, new asylum claims from Venezuelan nationals were registered in Santa Rosa de Copán, and follow-up support was provided to asylum-seekers.

Furthermore, INM—supported by UNHCR—distributed humanitarian aid kits to **135 asylum-seekers and refugees,** benefitting 70 cases across Francisco Morazán (47%), Choluteca (37%), and El Paraíso (16%).

Child, Women, and Community Protection

During the reporting period, UNHCR provided technical support to the Committee on the Rights of the Child to address forced recruitment and violence against women and girls.

UNHCR also supported a workshop led by the Secretariat of Childhood, Adolescence, and Family to update the **National Protocol for the Protection of Children in Migration Situations**, helping identify institutional gaps and improve responses for displaced and returnee children.

In the southern region, UNHCR supported community leaders in developing **local protection plans** to address risks of violence and displacement. UNHCR also coordinated with Ciudad Mujer in Choluteca to facilitate access to sexual and reproductive health services for female asylum-seekers. Meanwhile, in Tegucigalpa, recreational sessions reached **215 children and youth across six high-risk communities.**

Local Capacity Strengthening and Inclusion

UNHCR strengthened livelihoods for internally displaced people by mobilising public and private sector support for the Formal Education Programme for Adults. UNHCR secured full scholarship coverage, enabling 50 displaced individuals to complete their secondary education. In Tegucigalpa, 20 people began entrepreneurship training focused on business development and access to microcredit.

UNHCR and partners also supported 26 entrepreneurs in legalising their businesses and provided marketing training to 11 of them, facilitating their transition from informal to formal economic participation. Additionally, UNHCR developed a strategy to transfer three livelihood initiatives to local partners, ensuring sustainability and continuity.

Access to formal education is essential for displaced people to rebuild their lives and future plans.

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Strategic Coordination

In February, UNHCR supported the Inter-Institutional Commission for the Protection of Forcibly Displaced Persons in finalizing **national guidelines on the local response to internal displacement.** UNHCR also co-organized a workshop with the Ombudsperson to systematize information on human rights violations affecting displaced people.

In response to escalating violence in Bajo Aguan, UNHCR in coordination with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), contributed to an inter-agency advocacy analysis, an action plan, and a **humanitarian needs assessment.**

UNHCR also participated in the first session of the **Humanitarian Network's Accountability to Affected People Working Group** and joined the subgroup on **Life-Saving Messages.** This initiative, supported by the Central Emergency Response Fund, aims to strengthen coordinated communication across humanitarian responses.

The national local response guidelines on internal displacement strengthen the institutional commitment to protecting displaced people within the territory.

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