Honduras

Operational Update

N.40 | April 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

+2,100

Hondurans were returned to the country in April 2025, marking a 25% decrease compared to over 2,888 people returned in March. According to the Returned Migrant Attention System of the Secretariat of Social Development, over 10,700 Honduran nationals had been returned in 2025 by the end of April.

+2,100

people who arrived irregularly registered their entry with the Government in April, marking a 15% decrease compared to over 2,502 people registered in March. Of them, 99% entered via Danli and 1% via Choluteca. The top five nationalities were Cuban, Haitian, Chinese, Ecuadorian, and Indian. Among them, 46% were men, 36% women, 9% boys, and 9% girls. According to monitoring by UNHCR and its partners, more than 18,000 refugees and migrants entered and crossed through Honduran territory as of 30 April 2025.

Refuge

+216

refugees & **+270 asylum-seekers** currently residing in Honduras. Between 1 January and 30 April 2025, The National Migration Institute registered **151 new asylum applications**, which is almost three times more than the same period in 2024.

Our Response

+4,200

people traveling north-south direction identified by UNHCR and partners in April.

+2,100

individuals assisted at national shelter facilities in the southeast and western borders. Marking a 12% increase compared to over 1,869 people assisted in March.

+1,600

people received protection information and services at key entry and exit points by UNHCR and partners. A 38% decrease compared to 2,595 people assisted in March.

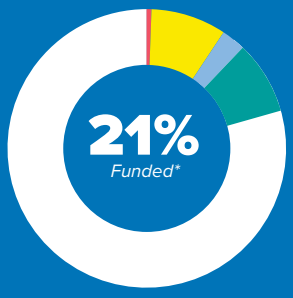
+1,200

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

+250

people received legal counselling and information on asylum by the Ombudsperson through its mobile units in key border areas, supported by UNHCR. A 43% decrease compared to 438 people assisted in March.

Funding



As of 30 April 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 6.3 million (21%) has been funded. USD 24,4 million is still needed to continue supporting people forcibly displaced, at risk of displacement, returnees with protection needs, asylum-seekers and refugees

Internships allow young people to gain experience, strengthen their skills, and build alternatives to violence in contexts where the risk of displacement is high.

Context

In April, **181 homicides were reported nationwide**, with women representing approximately 8% of victims. **95% of crimes against women** —including threats, extortion, domestic violence, and forced displacement—remain unresolved. Since January, 16 multiple homicides have been recorded, resulting in 55 deaths, the equivalent to four cases per month.

Criminal groups continued to exercise widespread control, particularly over the transportation sector, which reported advance extortion payments during Easter week. In 2024, this sector paid around **USD 48 million in extortion**, with 49 transportation workers killed.

Under the "Plan Vuelta a la Patria", a collaborative effort between the governments of Venezuela, Honduras, and the United States, multiple deportation flights have facilitated the return of Venezuelan nationals from the U.S. to Venezuela via Honduras. By the end of April, 18 flights had taken place, returning more than **700 Venezuelans.**

On 8 April, the results of the primary election were published without incident. The Institute for Democracy, Peace and Security recorded **307 political conflicts and 79 cases of political violence** during the 2024–2025 primary elections campaign, with women disproportionately affected—accounting for 35% of conflict-related incidents and 28% of violence cases.

Response

Protection and Legal Assistance

In April, UNHCR provided technical support to the Interinstitutional Commission for the Protection of Forcibly Displaced Persons (CIPPDEF) to organize the first **Protection Services Fair in Tegucigalpa**. Over 200 people—including internally displaced people, returnees with protection needs, and individuals at risk of displacement—received legal orientation, identification and referrals to protection services, health assistance and livelihood support from **12 national institutions.**

The National Migration Institute (INM), in collaboration with UNHCR, launched the 2024Participatory Assessment Report conducted with **71 asylum-seekers and refugees**, providing key recommendations to strengthen the national protection and integration framework. Additionally, UNHCR held a workshop for 55 Caritas staff and volunteers, focusing on safe disclosure of violence cases requiring specialized services, and providing **training on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.**

On 16 April, the report "Strengthening the Participation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)" was launched during the commemoration of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. The Asociación Honduras Diversa, representing Honduran civil society, emphasized the importance of **IDP participation in public policy**, the need to approve the IDP Law Regulations, and challenges faced by LGBTIQ+ individuals.

The Protection Services Fair provided access to medical, legal, psychosocial care and protection guidance for displaced people or those at risk of displacement.

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Child, Women, and Community Protection

In Choluteca and Tegucigalpa, UNHCR worked with local authorities to expand child protection mechanisms through the presentation of the Shooting Stars of Miska methodology. These efforts enhanced municipal coordination to prevent child forced recruitment and displacement through storytelling and cultural engagement, reaching nearly **500 children and adolescents.**

In Tegucigalpa, Sports for Protection activities engaged **180 children and youth** from eight communities affected by violence, promoting social cohesion and access to services. In San Pedro Sula, 25 members of the Municipal Council for the Guarantee of Children's Rights were trained on the impact of internal displacement on children.

UNHCR coordinated with the Secretariat of Education to advance **inclusive education for asylum-seeking and refugee children** and participated in the Technical Roundtable on Children in Conflict with the Law, led by the National Institute for the Care of Juvenile Offenders (INAMI).

To **strengthen institutional coordination on women's protection**, UNHCR facilitated an agreement between the National Migration Institute and the Secretariat of Women's Affairs to improve case management for asylum-seekers, refugees, and migrant women and girls who are survivors of violence. The agreement includes the referral of cases to Ciudad Mujer. In line with this effort, UNHCR also supported a training session for 20 officials from Ciudad Mujer in Choloma, San Pedro Sula.

Local Capacity Strengthening and Inclusion

During the first quarter of 2025, UNHCR and the Business Development Centre supported 232 families through livelihoods programmes, **79% of which are headed by women.** Monitoring of 35 previously supported businesses confirmed that six expanded and created eight new jobs within their communities.

In San Pedro Sula, 19 individuals—**14 of whom are displaced or returnees**—completed a 96-hour certified barista training facilitated by UNHCR, CDE and Libre Expresion. Participants will now begin internships to apply their skills, improve employment opportunities, and foster social integration.

In Tegucigalpa, UNHCR and CDE secured financial support from **12 private companies** for young participants of the Internship Programme for Labour Insertion, enabling **54 displaced and at-risk of displacement youth** to access food and transportation assistance during their internships.

UNHCR signed an agreement with the UNICOMER Group to implement a **technical training and internship programme** in partnership with the National Vocational Training Institute and CDE. Additionally, UNHCR and the Kafie Foundation agreed to support **20 women entrepreneurs** in violence-affected communities in Tegucigalpa with business supplies.

UNHCR and its partners support ventures that generate income, build capacities, and offer alternatives to violence.

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Strategic Coordination

In April, UNHCR strengthened strategic coordination across operational and institutional levels to adapt responses and reinforce protection efforts.

On 30 April, UNHCR joined the Vaccination Day of the Americas in Ocotepeque alongside national and regional health authorities from Guatemala and El Salvador, reinforcing coordination with the Secretariat of Health to **strengthen epidemiological surveillance in border areas.**

In Choluteca, UNHCR played a catalytic role in connecting the municipality of Marcovia with key stakeholders to support a social enterprise led by Community Radio Cholula Triunfeña, aiming to promote **collaborative protection responses.**

UNHCR and the Southern Border Local Team, in coordination with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), initiated a training on **security in the field** to build the capacity of local NGOs.

As part of inter-agency coordination efforts, UNHCR participated in a capacity-building session for the **Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)** focal points, supporting the establishment of a case reporting mechanism under the Humanitarian Network in Honduras.

UNHCR supported the vaccination campaign in Ocotepeque to ensure access to vaccines for people moving between countries and to protect the health of the communities living in these areas.
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*As of April 2025

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