Honduras

Operational Update

N.49 | January 2026

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Population figures

Internal displacement

+247,000

people have been internally displaced in Honduras as a result of generalized violence. **Numbers could be higher in 2026**, as triggers of internal displacement persist.

Return

3,792

Hondurans were returned to the country in January 2026, according to the Returned Migrant Attention System of the Secretariat of Social Development. Marking a 51% increase compared to the 2,519 people returned in January 2025.

1,596

people who arrived irregularly registered their entry with the National Migration Institute INM) from 1 to 31 January, marking a 42% decrease compared to the 2,731 people registered in December 2025. Of those registered in January, 76% entered via Danli, 22% Trojes, and less than 2% via Choluteca. The top five nationalities were Cuba, Ecuador, China, Dominican Republic, and Brazil. **Among them, approximately 52% were women and children.**

The **1,596** refugees and migrants that entered and crossed through Honduran territory as of January 2026 represent an approximate 81% decrease compared with the 8,341 people registered during the same period in 2025.

Refuge

284

refugees are currently residing in Honduras. Between 1 and 31 January 2026, the National Migration Institute registered **29** new asylum applications, marking a **16%** increase compared to the previous month.

Our Response

989

people traveling north-south direction were identified by UNHCR and partners in January 2026, representing **20%** increase compared to 826 people recorded during December 2025.

Around **32,854** people travelling in a north–south direction were identified between January and December 2025.

+60

individuals received protection information and orientation by UNHCR and partners in January 2026, including guidance on asylum procedures, access to services, and protection pathways.

Funding

*UNHCR appealed for USD 23 million for its 2026 programme, of which only USD 3.2 million (14%) has been funded. USD 19.7 million is still needed to continue supporting people forcibly displaced, at risk of displacement, returnees with protection needs, asylum-seekers and refugees.

UNHCR supports Mariposas Libres to assist women and families affected by flooding and climate-related impacts through CERF-funded response efforts.

Context

January was characterised by continued **post-electoral tensions, persistent levels of violence and evolving displacement dynamics**, alongside climate-related impacts affecting vulnerable communities.

The post-electoral period was marked by demonstrations, institutional disputes **and reported incidents of political violence**. Public mobility was temporarily disrupted in parts of Tegucigalpa following road blockages linked to political demonstrations

Security conditions remained a protection concern. While official data confirmed a 10% reduction in homicides in 2025 compared to 2024, lethal violence persisted at the start of 2026. International assessments continued to rank Honduras' main urban centres among the **most violent globally**. Disruptions to public transport linked to insecurity and extortion were reported in San Pedro Sula.

Violence against LGBTIQ+ persons remained a significant protection concern. Civil society monitoring indicated that at least **40 violent deaths of LGBTIQ+** persons were recorded nationwide between January and November 2025, and an additional killing of an LGBTIQ+ person was reported in southern Honduras during January.

Complaints related to forced displacement registered by CONADEH indicate **that women and girls continue to be disproportionately affected**, reporting that women accounted for five out of every ten complaints. Media also reported the enforcement of a judicial eviction affecting approximately 200 families in Cortes department, raising protection concerns related to housing and access to services.

Heavy **rainfall associated with seasonal weather systems affected more than 43,000 people**, with authorities reporting over 5,400 families impacted along the Atlantic coast. The rains caused flooding, infrastructure damage, and disruptions to access to basic services in several areas of the country.

Activities

Protection and Legal Assistance

During January, UNHCR continued strengthening **access to international protection and coordination for persons with protection needs**. In coordination with the National Migration Institute (INM) convened a technical workshop to present the Manual for Determining Refugee Status in Honduras, bringing together **21 public officials and incorporating inputs on differentiated approaches**, statelessness determination, and inter-institutional coordination.

In addition, UNHCR conducted a workshop on international protection, refugee status determination, and statelessness for **18 human rights officials at the Centre for Attention to Irregular Migrants (CAMI) in Danli**, with participation from the Inter-Institutional Commission against Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons and the Secretariat of Children, Adolescents, and Family.

To strengthen access to information on asylum procedures, **UNHCR delivered informational materials to INM for nationwide distribution** through its offices. Materials included leaflets on the asylum application process, brochures on access to employment and banking services, and posters explaining documentation issued to asylum-seekers and refugees. Signage on access to asylum was also installed at the Comayagüela bus terminal and the Migrant Assistance Centre in Tegucigalpa

In support of Honduran returnees with protection needs, UNHCR convened a coordination meeting with the Secretariat of Human Rights, the Norwegian Refugee Council and the Honduran Red Cross to **review procedures for persons with protection needs at the Centres for Returned Migrants (CAMRs)** in La Lima and Omoa, clarifying assistance flows and roles and responsibilities among participating organisations.

To strengthen assistance for internally displaced persons, UNHCR, together with the Secretariat of Human Rights (SEDH), conducted a workshop with representatives from the Red Cross and Médecins Sans Frontières to socialise the **referral pathways, reinforcing coordination for the identification and response to protection needs.**

Child, Women, and Community Protection

During January, UNHCR supported community-based **protection mechanisms and targeted assistance for children, women and vulnerable communities affected by violence and climate-related impacts.**

In San Pedro Sula, UNHCR participated in the inauguration of the municipal children's dining centre Nutriendo Mi Futuro. The Municipality will provide family, psychological, and medical support, while UNHCR will continue strengthening staff capacities to **identify and refer displaced children and families with protection needs.**

In Tela, UNHCR, in collaboration with Mariposas Libres, conducted on-site community monitoring with **135 prioritised families from five Afro-Honduran communities to assess eligibility for CERF-funded cash assistance** in response to flooding and climate-related impacts. The exercise identified households most affected and/or displaced by natural disasters and violence, including extortion, who will receive cash assistance to support their recovery.

Complementing these efforts, UNHCR, together with UDIMUF, **delivered 70 CERF-funded dignity kits to the Network of Women with Disabilities of Tela** to address immediate needs arising from flooding, supporting dignity and safety during emergency situations.

To reinforce community-based protection approaches, UNHCR conducted a two-day workshop with staff and partners to plan joint activities for 2026, resulting in an agreed timeline **to update community profiles and conduct participatory assessments in prioritised communities** affected by violence and forced displacement.

UNHCR and UDIMUF delivered 70 CERF-funded dignity kits to women with disabilities in Tela, helping address immediate needs after flooding and support dignity and safety in emergencies.

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Local Capacity Strengthening and Integration

During January, UNHCR continued strengthening local coordination platforms and municipal capacities to improve **protection responses and integration pathways** for displaced and at-risk populations.

In the Sula Valley, UNHCR convened the first monthly Local Protection Team meeting of 2026, with 13 representatives from humanitarian and human rights organisations participating. The meeting **reviewed protection risks related to violence, displacement, return dynamics and disaster-related impacts** affecting women and children, and resulted in agreements to update membership, organisational coverage, and coordination modalities.

UNHCR also **facilitated coordination through the Local Border Team**, bringing together 23 participants from 16 organisations to exchange contextual information and update service mapping in border areas. The exercise confirmed the availability of services including health, WASH, food assistance, mental health and psychosocial support, cash assistance, child protection and information on access to rights and the asylum system.

Through these mechanisms, **UNHCR supported alignment among local authorities, humanitarian actors and protection partners** to enhance referral pathways and access to services at community and border levels.

Strategic Coordination

During January, UNHCR continued to support inter-agency coordination and sectoral alignment to strengthen protection responses nationwide. As part of inter-institutional coordination efforts, UNHCR supported the work of the Departmental Committee for Assistance to People in Need of International Protection (CODAPEMM-PI) in Choluteca, contributing to joint activities aimed at facilitating access to asylum-seekers and refugees, including the **distribution of school supplies to 35 children and adolescents at the start of the school year.**

UNHCR, together with local and international protection partners, convened the **first monthly Local Protection Team** meeting of 2026 in the Sula Valley, with 13 representatives from humanitarian and human rights organisations participating. The meeting reviewed protection risks related to violence, displacement, return dynamics and disaster-related impacts affecting women and children, and resulted in agreements to update membership, organisational coverage and coordination modalities

During the same period, the Local Border Team held its monthly meeting, **confirming the participation of humanitarian and human rights organisations** and updating service mapping, including health, WASH, food assistance, mental health and psychosocial support, cash assistance, child protection, accountability mechanisms and information on access to rights and the asylum system.

Through these platforms, **UNHCR contributed to reinforcing coordination between government institutions, civil society organisations and international partners** to improve coherence and complementarity in protection interventions.

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