Honduras

Operational Update

N.51 | March 2026

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Population figures

Internal displacement

At least 423,845

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

4,257

Hondurans were returned to the country in March 2026, according to the Returned Migrant Attention System of the Secretariat of Social Development. Marking a **9%** increase compared to the previous month (3,906) and a **47%** increase compared to the 2,888 people returned in March 2025.

Refuge

284

Refugees are currently residing in Honduras. Between 1 and 31 March 2026, the National Migration Institute registered **32 new asylum applications**, marking a **68% increase** compared to the previous month.

534

people who arrived irregularly registered their entry with the National Migration Institute INM) from 1 to 31 March, marking a **12% decrease** compared to the **609** people registered in February. Of those registered in March, 79% entered via Danli, 19% Trojes and 2% via Choluteca. The top five nationalities were Ecuador, Cuba, Venezuela, China, and Peru. **Among them, approximately 40% were women and children.**

2,739 refugees and migrants that entered and crossed through Honduran territory as of March 2026 represent an approximate **81%** decrease compared with the **14,270** people registered during the same period in 2025.

Our Response

507

people traveling north-south direction were identified by UNHCR and partners in March 2026, representing **90%** decrease compared to 5,287people recorded during February 2025.

Around **1,997** people travelling in a north–south direction were identified between January and March 2026.

207

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

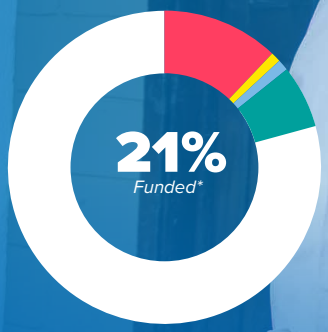
- Between 1 January and 31 March 2026, **around 2,090** internally displaced people, at-risk of displacement, Honduran returnees, asylum-seekers, and refugees received this support nationwide.

+180

consultations on medical care, mental health assistance, and information on sexual and reproductive health were provided by UNHCR and partners in March 2026.

Between 1 January and 31 March 2026, over **265 consultations** were provided to internally displaced people, at-risk of displacement, Honduran returnees, asylum-seekers, and refugees received this support nationwide.

Funding



As of 31 March 2026

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

UNHCR appealed for USD 23 million for its 2026 programme, of which only USD 4.7 million (21%) has been funded. USD 18.2 million is still needed to continue supporting people forcibly displaced, at risk of displacement, returnees with protection needs, asylum-seekers and refugees.

UNHCR, in coordination with partners, strengthens reception and protection conditions for Honduran returnees, in La Lima at Casa del Migrante Guadalupe, to ensure safer and more dignified temporary assistance.

Context

March was marked by continued violence, the Violence Observatory of the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH) reported an average of **six homicides per day during the first quarter of 2026**, alongside five multiple homicides and more than **40 violent deaths of women**. The Observatory also reported that extortion continued affecting around 300,000 households nationwide, particularly transport operators.

Protection concerns affecting children and adolescents remained significant. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and national child protection organisations warned about the **exposure of children to organised crime and forced recruitment by criminal groups**, noting that children and adolescents who refuse to join or attempt to leave such groups may be forced to flee to protect their lives and those of their families.

Women continued to face elevated protection risks. CONADEH reported receiving **4,743 complaints related to internal displacement affecting women** between 2016 and 2025. Civil society organisations and observatories continued documenting **violent deaths affecting LGBTIQ+** persons nationwide, including reports indicating more than 560 killings since 2008 and continued cases registered during 2026.

Humanitarian needs and displacement-related vulnerabilities also remained significant during the month. Honduras presented its 2026 Humanitarian Action Plan, which **seeks to support more than 825,000 people across 33 prioritised municipalities** affected by violence, climate-related shocks and other humanitarian needs.

Activities

Protection and Legal Assistance

During March, **UNHCR continued strengthening national capacities and legal frameworks to improve access to protection and assistance for persons with protection needs.** UNHCR provided technical support to advance the Regulation of the Internal Displacement Law, sharing comments on substantive provisions related to the Assistance and Protection Fund for Forcibly Displaced Persons, the administrative process for assistance requests, DIPPDIV's structure, and key principles and definitions.

UNHCR met with the new Minister of Human Rights to **coordinate actions related to the Law's implementation, approval of the Regulation, municipal coordination mechanisms and support to strengthen DIPPDIV's identification, assistance and case follow-up capacity**. To strengthen access to justice and referral pathways, UNHCR also delivered a capacity-building session under the Justice Strategy for 38 Justices of the Peace from Atlantida, Colon and Cortes on the protection of internally displaced persons, asylum-seekers and refugees.

UNHCR also worked closely with the National Migration Institute (INM) to **strengthen the national asylum system through technical assistance, training and procedural development**. Activities included training 10 newly appointed members of the Refugee Commission on Refugee Status Determination procedures.

UNHCR **advanced the Refugee Status Determination Procedures Manual, and continued the National Training Programme** on fair, efficient and international standards-based asylum procedures, reaching **53 INM officials** through workshops on refugee status determination, credibility assessment, workflows, interview techniques, exclusion criteria, complementary protection, administrative remedies and digitalisation.

In parallel, UNHCR delivered training to CONADEH officials on international protection, refugee rights legislation and alignment with international standards.

UNHCR and the Honduran Minister of Human Rights held a meeting to continue their work on behalf of internally displaced persons and returnees in need of protection in the country.

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Child, Women, and Community Protection

UNHCR and Youth Against Violence (JCV) continued implementing the Voy con Vos campaign to prevent the forced recruitment of children and adolescents through community-based activities in San Pedro Sula, Choloma and La Ceiba. Activities **engaged more than 300 people**, including community leaders, women, youth, teachers and caregivers, through awareness sessions, mural painting, community film screenings and information sessions promoting collective prevention actions and the Ala Segura information chat.

UNHCR also strengthened partnerships with Casa Alianza and community actors to **reinforce prevention and protection responses related to forced recruitment.** Activities included technical working sessions to systematise good practices on prevention and family reintegration, training for 20 Casa Alianza staff members on displacement affecting children, and sessions with 30 parents and caregivers to strengthen the identification and prevention of protection risks affecting children and adolescents.

UNHCR further strengthened community protection capacities through training and participatory approaches. In Choluteca, **UNHCR trained 20 members of the Youth Associations Network (RAJUMCH) on the application of the Voy con Vos methodology**, while in Tegucigalpa UNHCR **trained 20 staff members and partners** from Jovenes contra la Violencia, Save the Children, Casa Alianza and Medicos del Mundo to prepare the 2026 participatory assessment process.

To strengthen community protection and support women at risk, UNHCR conducted **self-care workshops with more than 140 women, including community leaders, public officials, refugees and municipal staff**, as part of the commemoration of International Women's Day. Activities promoted wellbeing, self-care tools and community-based protection capacities for women involved in protection and response efforts.

UNHCR also strengthened reception and protection conditions for Honduran returnees with protection needs. In La Lima, IOM and UNHCR, in coordination with the Scalabrinian Sisters Association, inaugurated CERF-funded improvements at Casa del Migrante Guadalupe, including infrastructure, sanitation, signage and accessibility upgrades to support safer and more dignified temporary assistance for people and families returning in vulnerable conditions.

UNHCR and partners also **strengthened access to protection services and community support mechanisms through CERF-funded interventions**. UNHCR and CONADEH organised protection service fairs in Choloma, La Ceiba and Tornabe, Tela, reaching **more than 1,200 people** with information on protection pathways, legal assistance, health, vaccination, nutrition and sexual and reproductive health services. In La Ceiba and Bajo Aguan, UNHCR supported **improvements to protection spaces for women at risk**, including Casa Refugio Ixchel and the Bajo Aguan Rural Women's Network, strengthening referral pathways and operational conditions for women survivors of violence and forcibly displaced women.

With support from CERF, UNHCR improved protection spaces for women leaders in the Bajo Aguán, strengthening their organizational capacity, leadership, and community support.

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Local Capacity Strengthening and Integration

UNHCR strengthened coordination with local education and municipal actors to support inclusion and protection at community level. In Choluteca, UNHCR met with the Departmental Directorate of Education to follow up on actions supporting the integration of asylum-seeking and refugee children and adolescents in schools. UNHCR also supported the swearing-in of the new Board of Directors of the Municipal Council for the Guarantee of the Rights of Children and Adolescents and participated in the Education Partners' Working Group meeting to strengthen coordination and promote inclusive access to education for displaced people and those with international protection needs.

UNHCR also **strengthened municipal capacities and local coordination mechanisms**. In Tegucigalpa, UNHCR delivered a workshop for 25 newly appointed Central District Municipality staff members on the Solidarity Cities strategy to support the development of the 2026 action plan.

To promote economic inclusion and self-reliance, UNHCR **supported entrepreneurship and labour market inclusion initiatives for asylum-seekers, refugees and displaced people**. During the month, 59 displaced and refugee people were selected to receive in-kind seed capital through collaboration between UNHCR, ADRA and the Centre for Business Development (CDE). UNHCR also participated in an **employability fair in San Pedro Sula** attended by approximately **900 people** and supported **sessions with asylum-seekers and refugees** on entrepreneurship, business development and labour inclusion opportunities in coordination with Caritas, CDE, INM, local authorities and private sector actors.

Building on these efforts, **FUNDAHRSE and UNHCR renewed their letter of understanding** in San Pedro Sula, reinforcing collaboration with the private sector to expand employment opportunities for people affected by forced displacement in Honduras.

In Choluteca, **UNHCR and the Lutheran World Federation identified asylum-seekers and refugees to participate in entrepreneurship and business model development training** processes aimed at strengthening skills and income-generation opportunities as part of local integration efforts.

In Choluteca, UNHCR and the Lutheran World Federation are working to strengthen the local integration of refugees and asylum seekers by promoting entrepreneurship and employment opportunities in partnership with local stakeholders.

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Strategic Coordination

At national level, **UNHCR, as co-lead of the Protection Sector, convened coordination meetings with humanitarian and protection actors to share contextual updates, review protection risks and strengthen coordination mechanisms**. During the month, the Protection Sector held its monthly meeting with 30 representatives from 23 organisations and agencies, while the Local Border Team convened coordination meetings with more than 20 participants from humanitarian and human rights organisations to review service mapping, border dynamics and coordination challenges.

UNHCR also strengthened inter-agency coordination through joint field missions and humanitarian planning processes. During March, **UNHCR participated in and led inter-agency missions to Bajo Aguan** together with IOM, PAHO/WHO, UNFPA, Save the Children, ProCap and GENCAP to coordinate humanitarian interventions, support service fairs and strengthen coordination with local authorities, community networks and the Agrarian Platform.

UNHCR further strengthened coordination with government institutions to advance protection and displacement-related priorities. During the month, UNHCR held meetings with the new Ministers of Children, Adolescents and Families, Women, and Human Rights to coordinate future collaboration on forced displacement prevention, violence prevention, institutional strengthening and implementation of the Internal Displacement Law. UNHCR additionally coordinated with the National Statistics Institute (INE) on preparations for the launch of the report on the characteristics of the internally displaced population in Honduras based on the 2024 household survey.

UNHCR also supported inter-agency protection coordination mechanisms on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). In coordination with the inter-agency PSEA group, UNHCR convened a meeting with 25 representatives from UN agencies and humanitarian organisations to present the inter-agency Protocol for the management of SEA reports.

UNHCR thanks the contributions of donor countries such as

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*As of March 2026

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