

HONDURAS

UNHCR Honduras works hand in hand with state institutions, civil society, private sector, learning centres, UN agencies, and development actors to promote self-reliance and economic inclusion of the people UNHCR serves.

Livelihoods programs in UNHCR Honduras target internally displaced people, persons at risk of displacement, refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees in vulnerable situations, and members of host communities. Livelihoods programs are implemented at individual and community levels.

Improving livelihoods through economic inclusion is a key component of **achieving protection and solutions** for displaced people. In the context of Honduras, UNHCR supports the government to design a holistic response to displacement and ensures protection perspective for vulnerable persons of concern in mid-term development interventions.

LIVELIHOODS 2022-26 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. Promote self-employment with the support of seed capital programs and entrepreneurship trainings.
2. Facilitate access to employment and job placement through the support to and implementation of market-oriented employment programs.
3. Promote socio-economic inclusion of vulnerable yet economically active people through social entrepreneurship.
4. Facilitate access to competitive skills training.
5. Build alliances between the private sector, academia, development actors, and public sector to promote economic inclusion, access to rights, and eventual scale-up of livelihoods interventions.
6. Strengthen a favorable environment for economic inclusion and build the capacity of state institutions to find durable solutions for the people UNHCR serves.

TARGETS 2022

1. Support with access to technical or vocational skills certifications and internships: 180 persons
2. Support training for self-employment: 330 persons
3. Support through cash assistance for livelihoods: 1,200 persons (280 families)
4. Support labour market orientation or employability trainings: 390 persons
5. Train and sensitize private sector representatives on livelihoods programs for the people UNHCR serves – 45 private sector representatives
6. Support technical and vocational education and training educational training centers (TVET) centres with market-relevant curricular design and infrastructural upgrades for competitive skills training: 12 centres
7. Support community-level social entrepreneurships at high-risk communities: 3 initiatives.
8. Support youth and women groups with trainings

Key partners working with UNHCR Honduras in livelihoods

State:



Public-private entities:



Private sector:



NGO:



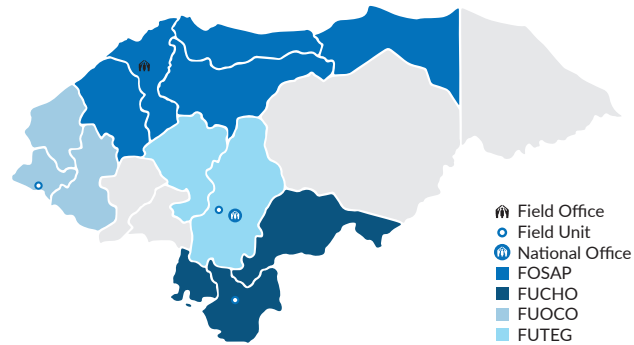
UN family:



UNHCR PRESENCE

- Atlántida
- Francisco Morazán
- El Paraíso
- Choluteca
- Valle
- Cortes
- Ocotepeque
- Intibucá

Staff:
4 Staff members



Key areas of work in 2022

Evidence-based programming

Three studies were finalized in 2022 and presented to a broad audience:

- Jointly with the Norwegian Refugee Council, UNHCR analyzed 12 value chains focused on the employment of people in vulnerable situations in Honduras.
- Together with the International Labour Organization, UNHCR researched the reality of returnees with specific protection needs and internally displaced persons face to access medical and social security services in Honduras.
- In coordination with the Norwegian Refugee Council, UNHCR studied the labor market for people in vulnerable situations in Honduras.

Strengthening state institutional capacity at national and local levels

- UNHCR provides continuous technical and financial support to the Human Rights Secretariat (SEDH) to ensure its leadership in response programs to forced displacement, including the implementation of the seed capital programs for self-reliance for internally displaced people.
- UNHCR supports the establishment of coordination between SEDH and relevant state stakeholders through the interinstitutional commission for the protection of people internally displaced by violence.
- Building on the commitments made by Honduras as part of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS, in the Spanish acronym), particularly regarding the fourth pillar on Durable Solutions, UNHCR engages with line ministries to strengthen institutional response: National Migration Institute, INFOP, SENPRENDE, Ministry for Social Development.
- Within the framework of MIRPS, UNHCR is advocating for best practices exchange in the region, including in the framework of the current implementation of a regional livelihoods project.
- UNHCR supports the municipalities with the highest number of people displaced or at risk of displacement in Honduras – municipalities of San Pedro Sula, Ocotepeque, San Marco, and La Ceiba in line with localization policy and to strengthen the local response.
- Conduct advocacy with the relevant state actors to enable access to employment and study opportunities for recognized refugees and asylum seekers.

Entrepreneurship and job placement programs

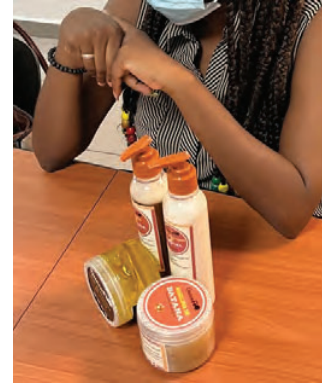
- To achieve the best result and ensure wide outreach, UNHCR supports entrepreneurship programs for persons we serve through three partners with different outreach – Human Rights Secretariat, Norwegian Refugee Council, and the network CDE MIPYME, bringing together state, protection, and business development actors. UNHCR facilitates regular best practice exchanges, to ensure synergies and complementarity in their approaches, and complementarity and to achieve capacity building in respective strengths between the actors.
- UNHCR works together with INFOP to offer quality soft skills and professional training to the people UNHCR serves in Honduras. This is aimed to ensure private sector employment needs are met and job search is facilitated.

Success story on entrepreneurship support program:

Jenny (25) is a Garifuna entrepreneur that has been forcibly displaced because of threats against her life. “I used to sell my handmade products on the streets thinking one day I would have the chance to start my own franchise. One day I received a call asking me to pay a fee to the gangs that controlled the neighborhood I worked. That’s when I knew I had to leave my home, drop my studies and move to another city”, she explains.

Amidst the fear and sadness for being forced to change her life, Jenny entered a SEDH program supported by UNHCR. She received a seed capital grant and started to work on her dream to make her business grow. “Its not easy when you suddenly have to stop your life but carry the knowledge of my [Garifuna] ancestors and I know that I produce high-quality products”, says Jenny.

Throughout 2022, the young entrepreneur received support with growing and strengthening her business, and found ways to sell her products in safer places. Jenny registered her trademark, increased the variety of products, and moved from selling only on social networks to renting a business spot in San Pedro Sula’s mall. Nowadays, Jenny employs two women who help her with sales in the mall and at the local producers’ fair. “With this business, now I’m helping my family too. Now I’m studying Marketing to have my brand in every town of my country”.



Access to competitive skills training

- ▶ In 2022, UNHCR is focused on bringing learning opportunities on competitive skills to people living in communities at high-risk of displacement due to violence.
- ▶ UNHCR supports 12 training centers with equipment and improvement of curricula, bringing on board the private sector and state TVET institutions.
- ▶ UNHCR seeks to create synergies between different types of learning institutions - community training centers, state TVET institutions (INFOP), top-notch private training institutions (GraphxAcademy) and on-line training platforms like Coursera, free of charge for the people UNHCR serves. This allows to improve the quality of the offer through adapting it to the market demand.
- ▶ UNHCR supports internship and training programs in prioritized areas in line with market demand (e.g. graphic design).
- ▶ UNHCR facilitates free of charge access to Coursera courses, including through enabling information and communications technology access for the people UNHCR serves.
- ▶ UNHCR develops certified programs with INFOP to foster individual professional certifications.

Success story on skills training program

In September, 19 Garifuna women who live in Tela were trained in financial education as part of the UNHCR and ILO project on socio-economic inclusion of vulnerable population. The women will later be included in UNHCR entrepreneurship support program, as part of the holistic approach aiming to find solutions. Similar trainings are delivered around the country.



Private Sector Partnership

- UNHCR engages with the private sector through four major areas of cooperation: job placement, social entrepreneurship, internships and sensitization campaigns.
- UNHCR conducts regular sensitization work with the private sector to combat stigmatization of people from communities at high-risk of displacement due to violence.
- UNHCR signed a memorandum of understanding with the Honduran Foundation for Corporate Social Responsibility (FUNDHARSE), the social engagement area of the private sector in Honduras. Together, UNHCR and FUNDHARSE launched subsidized internships programs with private companies. Municipalities participate in this work through employment coordination groups, most advanced in this work being municipality of SPS.
- UNHCR engages with the private sector for the development and implementation of social entrepreneurs in communities at high-risk of displacement due to violence, to develop economically sustainable protection spaces.

Creating economically sustainable protection space: success story of social entrepreneurship in La Central, sector Rivera Hernandez, SPS

Social entrepreneurship in communities at high-risk of displacement due to violence is used as a tool to mobilize community members, provide the space for hands-on skills training and for community services, as well as to expose vulnerable youth to official market opportunities.

In San Pedro Sula, UNHCR engaged a private company HUSH, local producer of self-care products, to guide local youth in developing a social entrepreneurship project to produce eco-friendly detergent. HUSH trained the community on the business project development, as well as on the technical side of the product design, and donated the equipment for the start-up. In 2022, the community launched the eco-friendly production of detergents, which are sold in the local shops on refill bases. HUSH particularly valued the innovative product sales plan developed by the community, namely the sales of detergents on refill basis, to decrease the usage of plastic. The money from the production goes for the maintenance of the community centres, which offers a protection space for community members and three different training courses for adults (refrigeration and electric systems maintenance, computer literacy). The example of HUSH is used to inspire other private sector actors to join UNHCR livelihoods and community activities, and it is a significant step in breaking stigmatization of employment of people living in communities at high-risk of displacement due to violence.



UNHCR thanks donors providing funds to implement livelihoods programs:

