

# HONDURAS

November 2022

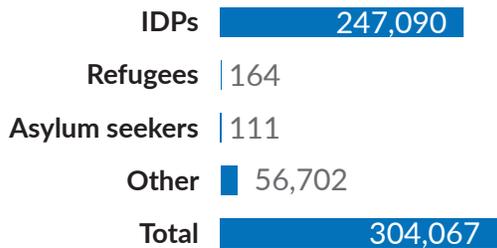
UNHCR's goal is to create a **safe protection environment** that ensures forcibly displaced people access to their rights, essential services, livelihood opportunities and durable solutions. UNHCR does so by strengthening the country's **legal framework**, as well as its presence and response to forced displacement.

As of November 2022, UNHCR has assisted **40,269** people we serve with different types of assistance, including community protection, violence-related risk mitigation, case management, shelter, legal protection, among others.

To achieve sustainable results in the **MIRPS** Regional Framework, UNHCR provides technical support to the government and supports it in its Pro-Tempore Presidency in 2022.

## THE PEOPLE WE SERVE

Honduras 2022



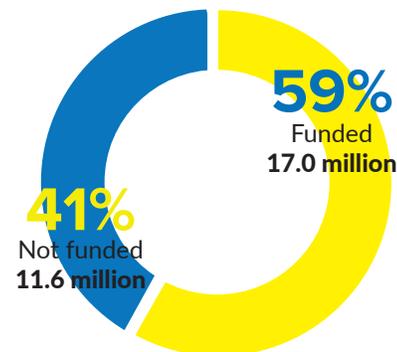
\* Fuente: UNHCR planning figures (COMPASS) para 2022.

\*\* The people we serve: includes people at risk of displacement or internally displaced, refugees, asylum seekers, returnees, people in mixed movements and other people in need of international protection, although figures are available for only part of this

## FUNDS (As of November 24, 2022)

**USD 28.6 million**

requested for the Honduras' situation



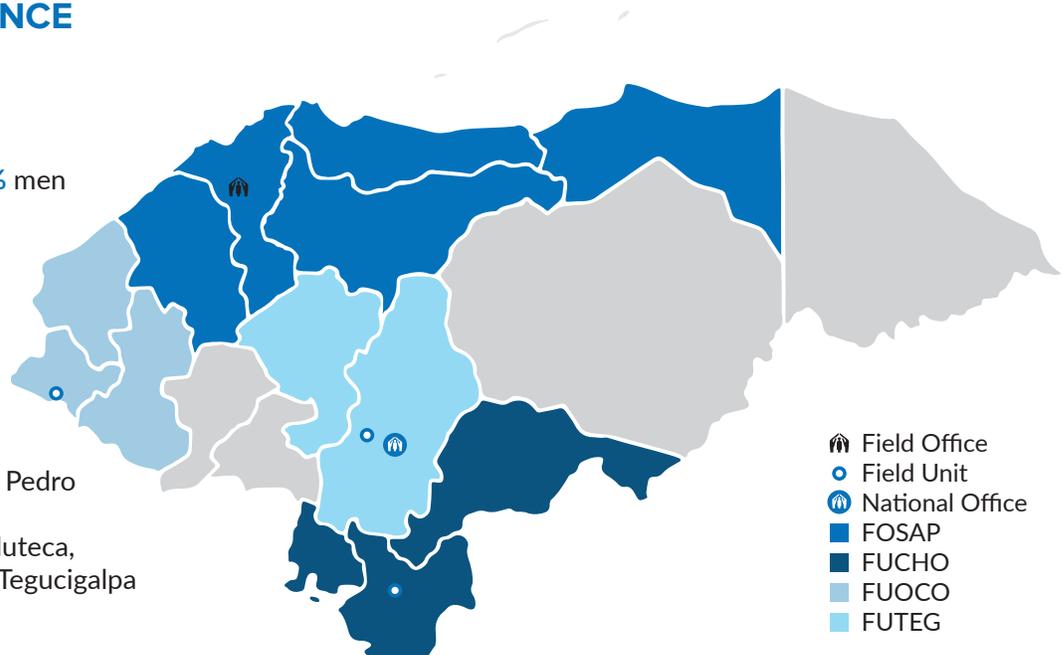
## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

**61** National staff  
**40** International staff  
**60%** women and **40%** men

### Offices:

**01** Country Office in Tegucigalpa  
**01** Field office in San Pedro Sula  
**03** Field units in Choluteca, Ocotepeque and Tegucigalpa



## Internal displacement

### CONTEXT

More than 247,000 people have been internally displaced in Honduras as a result of violence between 2004 and 2018. In addition, the Association for a More Just Society (ASJ) estimates that more than 200,000 households in Honduras or 847,154 people (9% of the population) were victims of extortion in 2022, generating up to US\$737 million in extortion payments annually. The causes that drive displacement in Honduras are (i) social and territorial control by criminal or armed groups, (ii) extortion, (iii) forced recruitment, use and association; (iv) the dispossession, usurpation and destruction of housing, land and property; (v) gender-based violence; (vi) political violence; (vii) human rights violations, as well as (viii) the effects of climate change. It has been observed that these causes persist at present, especially in urban areas such as the Central District and San Pedro Sula.

To promote policies to prevent these problems, as well as for the protection of those forcibly displaced and seek durable solutions for them, Honduras created the Inter-institutional Commission for the Protection of Persons Displaced by Violence (CIPPDV). In 2019, the commission delivered to the National Congress the bill for the prevention, care, and protection of forcibly displaced persons and recently, during the last meeting on the Declaration of Los Angeles, Honduras committed to prioritize the approval of a legislation on forced internal displacement.

### RESPONSE

UNHCR Honduras works under a comprehensive approach for the protection of internally displaced people and those at risk of displacement as a result of violence. It also provides emergency humanitarian assistance, preparedness and prevention for climate change related disasters. To this end, UNHCR directly supports and works to strengthen institutional capacities with nine government agencies, including the Secretariat for Human Rights (SEDH), CONADEH, the Directorate of Children, Adolescents and Family (DINAF), the National Institute of Migration (INM), among others.

**REGIONAL FRAMEWORK MIRPS** | As part of its displacement response efforts, Honduras adhered to the Comprehensive Regional Framework for Protection and Solutions (MIRPS) in 2017. In 2022, the country assumed the Pro-Tempore Presidency (PPT). UNHCR provides support to the PPT through technical assistance and administrative staff.

The Solidarity Event co-sponsored by Canada and the United States of America, in collaboration with Honduras and with the support of UNHCR and OAS, resulted in a total contribution of more than USD 210 million and significant expressions of technical and political support this year.

Also, during 2022, Honduras, with the collaboration of UNHCR, has expanded institutional support to MIRPS, consolidating a National Team that is made up of 13 institutions. Some of the developments and achievements are: (i) with the Property Institute, the creation of a path for the legal protection of abandoned housing, land, and property due to violence, (ii) with the SEDH, the delivery of emergency humanitarian assistance for the care of displaced persons and (iii) the creation of structured processes for the local response to internal displacement.

**PROTECTION CLUSTER** | UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster at the national level and co-leads the Southern Border and Sula Valley Local Response Teams. The cluster is made up of 32 organizations that include eight Agencies of the United Nations System, seven national and 15 international non-governmental organizations and two organizations of the Red Cross movement. Considering needs identified in 2022, the cluster has prioritized i) promoting the centrality of protection in the humanitarian response, as a result of the context of internal displacement, including the preparation of a Flood Contingency Plan by the Humanitarian Country Team, and the preparation of reports on protection and mixed movements; (ii) coordinating the response to refugees and migrants entering and transiting the country to improve reception conditions.



**ATTENTION TO CASES OF DISPLACEMENT** | In response to massive forced displacement cases in different parts of the country, such as Chamelecón in San Pedro Sula, Villa Nueva in Tegucigalpa, and including ongoing ones, UNHCR together with local institutions and partners provided humanitarian assistance to the most urgent cases. For those facing risks to their lives by remaining in national territory, UNHCR offers permanent resettlement to other countries as part of the Protection Transfer Arrangement (PTA) programme.

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE** | To assist people impacted by the effects of climate change related disasters, such as landslides in the Guillén neighbourhood of Tegucigalpa, UNHCR donated shelter kits with mattresses, sheets, towels, and other materials to the Municipality of the Central District serving more than 200 people staying in temporary shelters during September 2022. Similarly, through the Protection Cluster, led by UNHCR, and in coordination with the Humanitarian Network in Honduras and the government, a contingency plan was prepared to speed up the response during similar emergencies.

Through the signing of a collaboration agreement with the Civil Protection Honduran National Agency (COPECO), with the aim of strengthening emergency response, UNHCR formalized the donation of items valued at 450,000 dollars containing more than 44,000 basic relief items and committed the donation of 144 Refugee Housing Units to complement the institutional response.

**PREVENTION AND RESPONSE** | To prevent internal displacement and forced recruitment, mitigate risks, and strengthen protective environments in communities, UNHCR, the Municipality of San Pedro Sula and civil society organizations implemented programmes such as Tactical Urbanism, Community Art and other activities to promote social cohesion.

To strengthen prevention and response actions for women displaced by violence in Honduras, UNHCR, the Group of Migrant and Displaced Women and the Civil Society Group created a "Toolbox" containing self-care protocols, a training guide for accompaniment in self-care and psychosocial care for women victims of violence and forced displacement, as well as other useful tools that strengthen organizational processes that have a differentiated approach to women. UNHCR also supports the Technical Training Centre and the Shelter for Survivors of Gender-Based Violence in San Pedro Sula.

In the same way, with the Municipality of San Marcos in Ocotepeque, UNHCR is implementing the ComUnYcarte program, which seeks to promote the culture of peace and peaceful coexistence.

**COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION** | In addition, as a way to protect communities and strengthen the protective environment, UNHCR has engaged directly or in joint community interventions with partners and grassroots organizations in more than 24 high-risk urban and rural communities to expand humanitarian space, monitor and



Intervention of Tactical Urbanism in the Garifuna neighborhood Alfonso Lacayo.

Photo: ACNUR

address protection needs, and foster social cohesion. Despite limited access in some communities due to increased violence, more than 1,000 adolescents participated in risk prevention programs.

**INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PROTECTION** | In order to provide protection, comprehensive and specialized care for children and adolescents, UNHCR built and conditioned the Local Office of the National Directorate for Children, Adolescent and Family Affairs (DINAF) in Ocotepeque. In addition, to expand the territorial coverage of the institution, UNHCR delivered Child Protection Offices in Agua Caliente, Corinto and Guasaule border points with Guatemala.

**PROTECTION OF HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY** | UNHCR, the Human Rights Secretariat (SEDH) and civil society organizations have developed mechanisms to identify abandoned properties, with data collection tools and a virtual module installed within the information systems of the land registry, managing to identify abandoned properties in different parts of the country. The Property Institute (IP) and the SEDH also coordinate the design of a route to protect abandoned land and property of internally displaced persons connected to the SEDH protection mechanism.

In addition, UNHCR has donated four drones for the IP and has funded the diploma delivered by the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH) to train 11 pilots for drone usage in the identification of these housing, land and properties.

**LEGAL FRAMEWORK** | The UNHCR Office works with the Inter-Institutional Commission for the Protection of Persons Displaced by Violence (CIPPDV), the state body responsible for promoting the adoption of prevention, protection, and durable solutions measures, to develop advocacy actions for the adoption of the draft law on the protection of the internally displaced population, and for the design of national response mechanisms in accordance with the principles of protection. This year, within the framework of the Group of Migrant and Displaced Women, UNHCR-supported Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are working to increase awareness and strengthen the debate on the draft law for internally displaced persons, making available spaces for discussion and coordination among Honduran organizations.



**DIALOGUE TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO FORCED DISPLACEMENT** |

With the objective of promoting spaces for meeting and open dialogue between specialists in public policy, prominent members of Honduran academia, public officials, government representatives, recognized experts on forced internal displacement at the global level, and Honduran society in general, the United Nations System in Honduras and UNHCR held the first Specialized Forum on Forced Internal Displacement to exchange information, progress and challenges on the national response to internal forced displacement in Honduras, as well as to share reflections and challenges in contexts of generalized violence. The event was held on 20 October 2022 and was attended by prominent experts such as Chaloka Beyani, former United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons between 2010 and 2016, and Paula Gaviria, who occupied the same position from 1 November, 2022.



**DURABLE SOLUTIONS** | UNHCR works harmoniously and jointly with national and local authorities, NGOs, civil society, and the United Nations system to promote a comprehensive and long-term response to people who see their rights violated or who are unable to fully enjoy them. To ensure this becomes a durable and long-term solution, UNHCR works with the public and private sectors to ensure livelihoods for people at risk or internally displaced, through community entrepreneurship, seed capital and technical training centres. As of June 2022, the SEDH, with support from UNHCR, identified and disbursed seed capital to 45 internally displaced people for livelihood activities to be developed in the second half of the year.

In addition, UNHCR, with partners NRC and Human Development Centre (CDE), will support 70 families in the second half of the year with seed capital for self-employment, who are at risk of internal displacement or are refugees or returnees. UNHCR also equipped three training laboratories in community centres in high-risk areas of La Central and Rivera Hernández (San Pedro Sula) for the training of electricians, refrigerator maintenance and computers, and obtaining certification from the Vocational Training Institute (INFOP) for these courses. UNHCR also

cooperates with the Honduran Council of Private Enterprise (COHEP) and the Honduran Foundation for Corporate Social Responsibility (FUNDHARSE) in vocational training and internships for individuals and support for social enterprises for communities.

**PROMOTION OF SOCIAL PROJECTS** | To expand the spaces for coordination and synergy for resource mobilization and generation of durable solutions, UNHCR and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) signed a collaboration agreement in October 2022 to promote high-impact social programs and projects for vulnerable communities, as well as public policies for socioeconomic development prioritizing internally displaced persons, asylum seekers, refugees, migrants and the communities that host them.

## Mixed Movements

### CONTEXT

Honduras is a transit country for thousands of people in mixed movements who cross it to northern countries. According to official data from the National Institute of Migration (INM), in 2022 there have been record numbers of mixed movements and 162,789 people have entered Honduras irregularly until November 25, which has exceeded the country's response capacity and exacerbated humanitarian needs. Although there is a wide variety of nationalities that cross irregularly into Honduras, the majority are from Cuba (40%), Venezuela (32%), Ecuador (11%) and Haiti (5%). 54% are men, 27.3% are women and 18.7% are children and adolescents.

To these figures are added a significant number of people, especially of Nicaraguan nationality, who enter the country regularly. According to the INM, as of November 25, 2022, more than 165,0000 Nicaraguans have entered and transited regularly through the territory of Honduras and left for the reasons of "transit" or "tourism" to Guatemala through the borders of El Florido, El Corinto and Agua Caliente. Of these, less than 5% have re-entered Honduras. Due to the conditions in the countries of origin mentioned, a significant percentage of people could be in need of international protection and specific protection. This also underlines Honduras' position as a country of destination for some people in need of international protection.

## RESPONSE

**PROTECTION CLUSTER** | 90,631 people were assisted with humanitarian assistance so far in 2022 by the Local Response Group for the Southern Border, led by UNHCR and co-led by Action Against Hunger, in coordination with all humanitarian actors that have a presence on the southern border to provide humanitarian response to mixed movements in Danlí and Trojes.

**RECEPTION CONDITIONS** | To provide a comprehensive and humane response to people in mixed movements, UNHCR is contributing to the construction of the INM-led care centres for refugees and migrants in Danlí. The Care Center in Danlí is in the first phase (in which it is expected to house 100 people per day) and for the first quarter of next year the second phase will be consolidated with a capacity of 300 people.

Similarly, to strengthen reception mechanisms in Honduras, UNHCR supports shelters in Choluteca, Danlí, Trojes and Ocotepeque with endowments to improve infrastructure and items such as mattresses, sheets, and others, providing emergency shelter and food to people in mixed movements in vulnerable situations.



**INFORMATION SERVICES** | On the southeastern border with Nicaragua, UNHCR and World Vision have established a Mobile Information System (SIM) covering Honduras' southern border. The SIM provides general information on international protection and the asylum system, as well as rights for people entering Honduran territory. Similarly, identification and referral of cases with specific needs is carried out, as well as internet connectivity is offered to facilitate communication with relatives. On the northern border, UNHCR established with

local authorities in Ocotepeque a mobile health care system for people transiting through Honduras, providing information on the asylum and protection systems in the country for those passing through this region, as well as identifying cases of protection and monitoring flows.

## Asylum and refuge

### CONTEXT

During 2022, more than 88,000 Hondurans have been returned to the country, mainly from the United States and Mexico. These figures represent an increase of more than 60% compared to the previous year. Some of these people present protection needs, face discrimination and have other unmet needs. In addition, Honduras receives an influx of asylum-seekers and refugees.

According to INM data, in the first ten months of 2022, 120 asylum applications were made, more than the total number of applications registered in all of 2021 and the highest figure ever registered in a single year in Honduras. 76% of the requests made in 2022 correspond to Nicaraguans, 10% to Salvadorans, 4% to Venezuelans, 7.5% to Cubans and the rest to people from Ecuador and Colombia. It is estimated that many of the people in mixed movements are in need of international protection, but they have not presented an asylum request with the relevant authority.

As a country of origin, according to UNHCR's Global Trends Report, Honduras is the sixth country with the highest number of new asylum applications filed in 2021. During that year, 59,800 Hondurans applied for asylum, this represents an increase of 13% compared to 2020. These applications were filed primarily in the United States (33%) and Mexico (61%), accounting for 28% of all asylum claims in Mexico and 10% of applications filed in the United States. That reality is intrinsically related to forced displacement and the context of generalized violence associated with it, which results in many people being forced to seek protection outside Honduras.

### RESPONSE

UNHCR works for the rights of returnees in need of protection, asylum seekers and refugees; and implements this protection mandate in coordination with key partners such as state entities, NGOs, civil society organizations, and other agencies of the United Nations System through various partnership modalities.

**IDENTIFICATION OF CASES** | UNHCR supports the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through its presence in the Returned Migrant Care Centres (CAMR), to ensure identification of protection cases for returnees in need. As of November 2022, UNHCR has managed 859 cases of returnees with protection needs out of the total 2,594 people that arrived in the two CAMRs, as well as in the Care Center for Children and Migrant Families (CANFM), located in San Pedro Sula.

**ACCESS TO THE ASYLUM SYSTEM** | UNHCR supports the INM in identifying people with international protection needs, in ensuring they have access to the asylum system and strengthening the local capacity to carry on relevant procedures in cases that people require resettlement.



Mixed movements monitoring.

Photo: ACNUR

**MONITORING** | Similarly, UNHCR and INM jointly conducted six monitoring missions in 2022 to identify people in mixed movements in the country, produced information material on international protection and, with the support of UNHCR's regional office, worked to strengthen the case management and registration system.

## PARTNERS



UNHCR operational and implementing partners.

### UNHCR thanks donors providing funds to Honduras



Also thanks private donors from:



### For more information

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