



UNHCR
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La Agencia de la ONU
para los Refugiados

END OF YEAR REPORT

HONDURAS 2023





Lurdmelia and her family are resting in a temporary shelter run by the National Migration Institute (INM) and supported by UNHCR.

UNHCR/Danielle Alvarez

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PERSONALIZADOS
Diseño Gráfico - Publicidad - Impresión

Lily, Rogelio and their daughter have found hope in the protection and assistance measures that the Honduran Human Rights Secretariat is implementing to protect displaced persons. In addition, with the start-up capital they received, they have been able to restart their business in a new city.

UNHCR/Lucía Martínez

In 2023, Honduras continued to be affected by a complex humanitarian landscape, shaped by a confluence of socio-political, economic, and environmental challenges. UNHCR in Honduras, in collaboration with various partners, has remained at the forefront of addressing the multi-faceted needs of forcibly displaced people and communities within this dynamic context.

This report outlines the concerted efforts, achievements, and strategic orientations of UNHCR's operation in Honduras over the past year, reflecting UNHCR's commitment to protection, assistance, and finding durable solutions for people forcibly displaced and those at risk of forced displacement, including refugees, asylum-seekers, in mixed movements, and host communities.

OVERVIEW AND CONTEXT

Honduras faced a **multi-causal humanitarian crisis in 2023, affecting approximately 3.2 million people**, a 14% increase from the previous year.

The country grappled with a record number of people in mixed movements with limited reception capacities, persistent violence, land disputes, and the vulnerabilities of children and youth to forced recruitment. Gender-based violence reached a five-year peak, with significant challenges also posed by climate change and political uncertainty.

Honduras also remained a key country of origin for asylum-seekers and returnees, and a crucial transit point for refugees and migrants mixed movements, underscoring the urgent need to further strengthen comprehensive protection mechanisms.

The country experienced significant legal framework and contextual changes that profoundly impacted the protection landscape for forcibly displaced people. A notable positive legislative development was the enactment of the Internal Displacement Law, a landmark achievement resulting from

extensive advocacy efforts. This law established a comprehensive legal framework aimed at preventing and responding to internal displacement, marking a critical step in strengthening the national protection mechanism for displaced and at-risk Hondurans.

Furthermore, the approval of a migratory amnesty for people in mixed movements exempting them of paying an administrative fine for irregular entry, the increased registration capacities of government, the publishing of up-to-date disaggregated data on people entering the country irregularly, as well as the provision of humanitarian assistance showcased the government's commitment to a human rights based approach, addressing the complex challenges faced by refugees, migrants, and asylum-seekers transiting through or seeking refuge in Honduras.

These advancements, amid ongoing challenges of generalized violence, extortion, human trafficking, increased protection needs and the impacts of climate change, underscored a pivotal year for Honduras in enhancing the rights and protection of vulnerable populations within its borders.



According to UNHCR protection monitoring, more than 20% of the people in transit through the country are children. UNHCR and its partners provide humanitarian assistance with shelter, food and medical care, among others.

UNHCR/Gabriela Villeda

KEY FIGURES

Overall reach



- UNHCR Country Office
- UNHCR Field Office
- UNHCR Field Unit

Interventions spread across **16 departments and 48 municipalities.**



177,000 people in mixed movements, internally displaced, at risk of displacement, asylum-seekers, refugees, and host communities supported/assisted through various projects and activities.



+140,000 people in mixed movements reached with important information about how to keep safe and apply for asylum in Honduras, helping them understand their rights and what steps they can take to seek protection.



Partnerships with 26 organizations, including governmental bodies, international NGOs, and national NGOs.

Welcome to Honduras



Reception conditions and shelter support



36,500 people in mixed movements were sheltered in UNHCR-donated Refugee Housing Units at the new Comprehensive Assistance Centre in Danlí.



400 monitoring missions to borders and transit zones.



2,600 people received primary medical care and mental health support



22,000 people received hygiene and non-food items.



Support provided to **13 permanent/temporary shelters** managed by NGOs.

Humanitarian assistance



+1,000 people received multipurpose cash assistance and more than 1,400 for resettlement.

Legal assistance



486 cases of returnees with protection needs identified, providing them with legal support, information on how to stay safe, and guidance on where to find further assistance.



+440 people reached through the IDP protection mechanism of the Secretary of Human Rights.



3,000 people provided with legal services

Building the local response capacity



449 participants from partner organizations and national institutions were trained in 15 workshops aimed at improving their skills in protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), fraud, ethical violations, and other related issues affecting displaced and at-risk populations..



1,500 government officials trained on international protection.



1,073 government officials trained on internal forced displacement.



Inclusion of internal displacement-specific questions in the national household survey to enhance data and **analysis on forced displacement.**



Sensitized over **160 partners and strategic allies** from civil society, the private sector, and institutions on the protection of people forcibly displaced and international protection needs.

Local integration



Cash assistance delivered to more than **300 people** for livelihood activities.



+450 people supported with activities for self-employment, employability, and financial inclusion.



+120 people accessed technical vocational training and certification.

Durable solutions



1,100 people identified and interviewed for resettlement programs.



RESULTS

In 2023, UNHCR Honduras achieved significant milestones in addressing the complex challenges of internal forced displacement and mixed movements. The organization reached 177,000 people through diverse interventions across 16 departments and 48 municipalities, highlighting its extensive reach and impact. Collaborative efforts led to the enhancement of reception capacities, protection mechanisms and substantial training and support for government officials, partners, and communities in protection, asylum processes, and gender-based violence response, as well as the leadership of coordination mechanisms to ensure the centrality of protection in the whole response. These achievements underscore UNHCR's catalytical role to bring together diverse actors in fostering a safer, more inclusive environment for forcibly displaced people. Further results include:

Access to Territory, Registration, and Documentation

UNHCR addressed the unprecedented numbers of people in mixed movements with additional resources and activities exclusively for this situation, working closely with partners to enhance response efforts. Significant advocacy led to the extension of migratory amnesty and the establishment of the first Comprehensive Assistance Centre in Danlí in partnership with the National Institute of Migration, assisting over 36,500 people.

Protection Policy and Law

UNHCR supported the design and implementation of the IDP Law with the Secretariat of Human Rights, facilitating the establishment of the Registry of Abandoned Property (RBA) and bolstering the National Property Institute's capabilities. This progress underscores efforts towards securing Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) rights for people forcibly displaced due to generalized violence and human rights violations. UNHCR also supported the National Statistics Institute to pilot household data collection on forced displacement to build an evidence base to support addressing root causes and designing response mechanisms.

Gender-Based Violence

In partnership with various organizations and government, UNHCR addressed over 200 cases of forcibly displaced survivors of gender-based violence, creating comprehensive assistance routes and



Through UNHCR-supported art programs, children in host communities learn and promote the integration of internally displaced persons.

UNCHR/Danielle Alvarez

enhancing the capacity of officials and community leaders to prevent, mitigate risks, and respond to gender-based violence effectively.

Child Protection

UNHCR focused on enhancing the child protection system, providing technical support, and training to over 300 government officials, and assisting more than 3,000 at-risk children through coordinated efforts with government institutions, organizations, and civil society to prevent and respond to forced displacement and forced recruitment, as well as identifying and responding to separated and unaccompanied children in mixed movements.

Additionally, UNHCR supported the publication of a comprehensive guide on child protection measures. This significantly influenced national policies to strengthen the legal protection of forcibly displaced children, mainly to prevent and respond to forced recruitment by organized crime. This collaboration has marked a pivotal step towards ensuring children's rights and safety are prioritized within the country's legislative agenda.

Community Engagement and Women's

Empowerment

UNHCR strengthened the capacities of communities most impacted by generalized violence through arts, sports, tactical urbanism and other protection initiatives, and developed community self-protection strategies, engaging over 1,000 people in peaceful coexistence activities across Honduras. Efforts also included training for public officers and representatives of civil society organizations on gender-based violence and forced displacement prevention and response.

Well-Being and Basic Needs

UNHCR prioritized cash assistance for covering basic needs and non-cash assistance for emergency housing and relocation support, distributing cash assistance preferred by 99% of the recipients for its flexibility.

Self-Reliance, Economic Inclusion, and Livelihoods

UNHCR supported initiatives aimed at fostering socio-economic inclusion for people forcibly displaced or at risk, enhancing the capacity of public and private sectors to provide market-relevant training and facilitate access to dignified employment. As well as

the management of internships for young people at risk of displacement to facilitate their initial integration into the labour market and the sensitisation of the private sector for the integration of people at risk of displacement into their teams.

Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

UNHCR facilitated resettlement mechanisms and explored complementary pathways, including in-country processing programme. This culminated in more than 1,000 people submitted for resettlement to third countries, highlighting the commitment to identifying and supporting high-risk profiles through durable solutions beyond Honduras' borders.

LESSONS LEARNED AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

UNHCR is setting its sights on enhancing advanced risk management and creating a well-rounded national protection system. This effort will stress building the capabilities of local and municipal entities, securing public funding, and achieving lasting solutions. The strategy involves a holistic approach that intertwines humanitarian aid, development projects, and peacebuilding initiatives, aiming to effectively support communities by addressing immediate needs, fostering long-term development, and promoting peace and stability.

Strategic adjustments to UNHCR’s ongoing multi-year strategy include strengthening relationships with the government, civil society, and stakeholders to enhance protection mechanisms for forcibly displaced people. This approach emphasizes developing a comprehensive national protection system, integrating Age Gender Diversity (AGD) approaches, and expanding on durable solutions to navigate displacement complexities more effectively.

Read stories about forcibly displaced people:



[“We never thought we would live to see this day.” | LE DEVOIR](#)



[Honduras and migrants, for better or for worse | LE DEVOIR](#)



[Colonia Sinai, a shelter for climate displaced people in Honduras | EL PAÍS](#)



[‘Mariposas libres’: Garifuna women unite to fight gender-based violence | EL PAÍS](#)



[Report “La Tarea Pendiente” reveals recruitment of minors in Honduras by organized crime | RFI](#)



[Honduran community hit by hurricanes unites to prepare for future climate disasters | UNHCR](#)



Representatives of Mariposas Libres, a network of women from various Garifuna communities who carry out essential work in the fight for women's rights. With the support of UNHCR, they provide psychological counseling and legal accompaniment to the cases of mistreatment registered by the organization.

UNHCR/Elias Assaf



thanks to the contributions of donor countries such as



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Ireland and United States of America**

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programs with flexible funding

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