

**HONDURAS**

**Population figures**

**Internal displacement**

**+247,000**

people have been internally displaced in Honduras as a result of violence between 2004 and 2018. Numbers are estimated to be much higher in 2023, as triggers of internal displacement persist.

**Mixed Movements**

**545,043**

refugees and migrants in mixed movements entered Honduras irregularly from January to December 2023 and registered with the National Migration Institute (INM), which is an increase of 189% in comparison to 2022.

**Asylum**

**41,935**

Honduran nationals sought asylum in Mexico, ranking as the second nationality in the number of asylum requests to this country.

**105**

people sought asylum in Honduras in 2023, mostly Venezuelans (40%) and Nicaraguans (27%), but also Cubans (14%), Colombians (10%), Salvadorians (4%), Ecuadorians (3%), and the remaining are from Brazil, Guatemala, and Peru.

**Return**

**48,497**

Hondurans returned between January and October 2023, mainly from the United States of America, Mexico, Guatemala and Spain.

**Refuge**

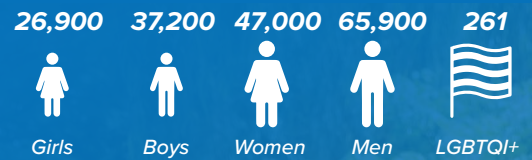
**183**

recognised refugees are currently living in Honduras.

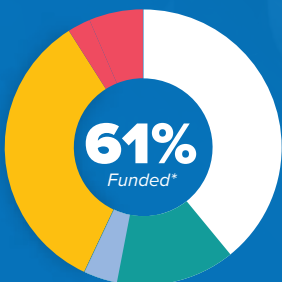
**Our response**

**177,000 people**






have been reached in 2023 by UNHCR and its partners, mainly people in mixed movements and internally displaced persons, but also asylum-seekers, refugees, returnees, and host community members, with services such as shelter, cash and voucher assistance, case management, protection monitoring, livelihoods activities, risk mitigation and through community-based protection activities.



**Funding**



As of 15 December 2023

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

\*UNHCR appealed for USD 30.1 million for its 2023 programme, of which only USD 18.3 million (61%) was funded. USD 11.8 million was still needed to continue supporting people forcibly displaced, at risk of displacement, asylum-seekers, refugees, and persons in mixed movements.



# Context

## Forced displacement triggers persisted in December 2023.

The summary below shows the significant challenges Honduras faced, from generalized violence and human rights issues to political instability and environmental threats:



### Violence and Extortion

**3,030 homicides in 2023.**

205 deaths in 43 multiple killings.

The transport sector was extorted for about USD 24 million.



### Gender-Based Violence



**One woman killed every 21 hours.**

Femicides reached a five-year peak.

The **LGBTIQ+** community faced danger, with 42 members being killed.

The increase in violence was due to the enduring influence of independent criminal groups controlling territories and extortion threats.

### Human rights violations:

**+15 journalists and human rights defenders were killed**, including Francisco Ramírez on 22 December.

The Garífuna community's right to collective property was violated. Crimes led to the violation of housing, land, and property rights, leading to forced sales and abandonment of properties.

### Forced Recruitment of Children:

**Criminal groups are forcibly recruiting children and youth.**



UNHCR and COALICO presented a study on this severe situation, which potentially leads them to flee the country seeking protection.

## Aggravating factors:

### Political and Legislative Challenges:

**Legislative inactivity,**

the National Congress did not meet for 100 days. Political instability and governance challenges increased as two major political parties ended their alliance.

### Environmental Challenges:



**Critical droughts and rising temperatures are worsening the situation for people.**

Climate change is affecting people's livelihoods and increasing poverty.

### Livelihoods:

**Honduras needs a 7% annual economic growth to fight poverty.**

## Results:

### Internal Displacement:

The National Human Rights Commissioner (CONADEH) reported an **increase in internal displacement.**

13.4% of 10,556 complaints handled were about internal displacement.



### Asylum Seekers and Refugees:

**41,935 Hondurans sought asylum in Mexico in 2023.**

Honduras is one of the top countries for asylum requests in Mexico since 2021.



## Context

### Humanitarian Needs Overview for 2024:

**2.8 million people in Honduras need humanitarian help.**



**The funding needed is USD 205 million.**

### Global Refugee Forum:

**Honduras made commitments to address the challenges of forced displacement in all its complexity,**

emphasizing protection, socio-economic inclusion, and data-driven responses.



**The UN in Honduras made two Common Pledges**

to help include refugees in social systems and support the IDP Protection Law, with UNHCR facilitating these efforts.

Honduras also committed to continue strengthening national institutions responsible for refugee status determination processes under the MIRPS framework.

### Mixed Movements:

**In 2023, Honduras registered a record in refugees and migrants entering and transiting through the country,** severely affecting the already very limited reception conditions.

**545,043 people in transit**

registered with the National Institute of Migration (INM) after entering irregularly, a 189% increase from 2022.

Main nationalities were Venezuelans, Cubans, Haitians, Ecuadorians, and Colombians.



UNHCR estimates through border monitoring that more than **850,000 people transited Honduras,** as not all of them registered with INM.

### New Humanitarian Entry Permits:

Starting 1 January 2024, **Honduras will issue 10-day special humanitarian permits for people in mixed movements entering the country irregularly,** in place of the migration amnesty, which expired on 31 December and exempted irregular entries from a USD 260 fine and granted a five-day transit permit.

### Protection risks for mixed movements:

People on the move through Honduras face risks like **extortion, theft, high transport prices, misinformation, and health issues.**



Dozens end up sleeping on the streets every night, especially in Tegucigalpa and Danlí, including women and children.

# RESPONSE

## PROTECT

### UNHCR Honduras undertook a series of activities to enhance institutional capacities, legal frameworks, and public awareness.

UNHCR's latest **Mixed Movements Protection Monitoring report**, available in Spanish and in English, provides **insights from 187 refugees and migrants on why they left their country** with lack of employment and fear from violence reported as the leading causes of displacement, while their main needs include food, protection information, legal assistance, and medical care.

UNHCR's response to the humanitarian situation at the entry and exit border points in Honduras included site visits to assess the specific needs and monitor services provided for people in mixed movements. The **Friendly Space for Mothers and Children in Agua Caliente provided essential support to 49 mothers and children on the move.**

UNHCR, through its co-leadership of the Protection Cluster's local coordination teams, **carried out continuous analysis of the entry of people in mixed movements**, identified protection gaps on the ground, coordinated the response of local actors and continued advocacy to improve access to rights and services.

Meanwhile, the **National Commissioner for Human Rights** (CONADEH), utilizing a UNHCR-donated mobile unit, **provided protection information to people in mixed movements**, including the right to seek-asylum, and gathered reports on human rights violations in the south-east.

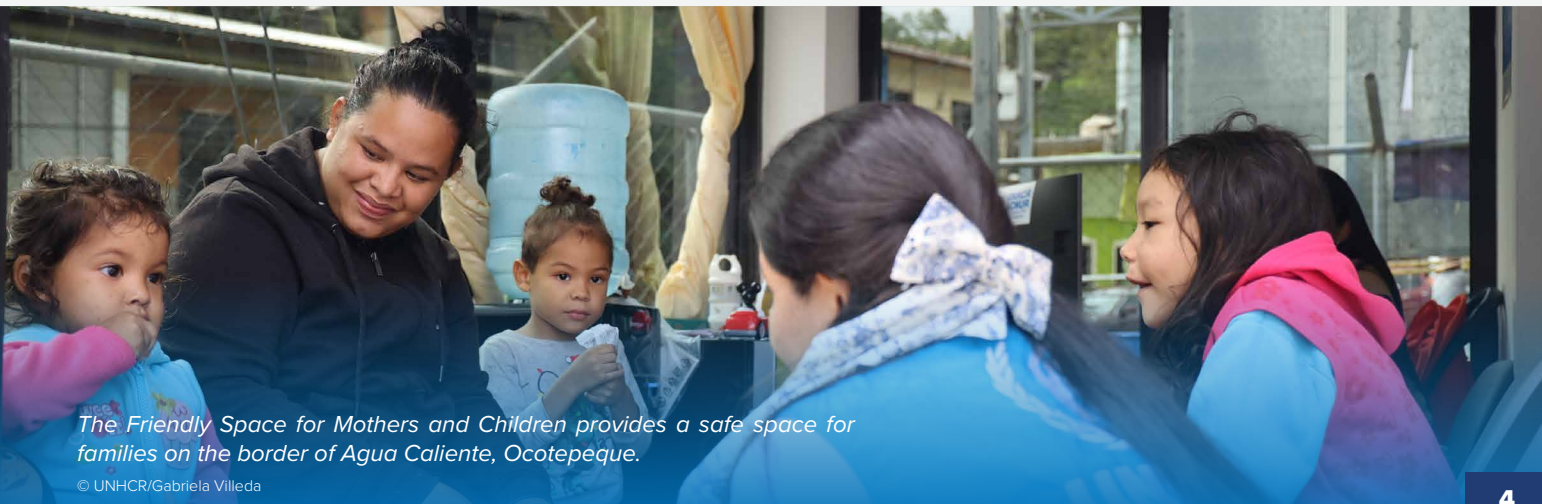
**UNHCR enhanced coordination efforts through strategic meetings with local authorities, participation in workshops and technical support to State institutions.** UNHCR conducted training for 80 members of women's networks and public officials, focusing on gender perspectives in risk analysis and case assessments. This effort was complemented by UNHCR's participation in a legal workshop with the

Human Rights Secretariat (SEDH) and the National Commissioner for Human Rights (CONADEH), to identify and analyse criminal offenses used to prosecute land defenders. The ongoing analysis will be used to present in 2024 a draft decree to prevent their criminalization.

**UNHCR provided technical assistance to the SEDH to develop a 2024 work plan for drafting the Internal Displacement Law regulations**, which will define the coordination mechanisms and roles of different institutions. SEDH, with support of UNHCR, also presented results from consultations with internally displaced people to inform this public policy.

The Property Institute (IP) and UNHCR conducted a training for SEDH to enhance its technical capacities in identifying and characterizing housing, land, and property (HLP) of internally displaced persons.

Our **public awareness campaigns highlighted community resilience against violence and climate change**, the Mariposas Libres Network's efforts, and the risks children face in forced displacement. During the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, UNHCR released a video and created content linking GBV with forced displacement in schools. Coverage in "La Prensa" illustrated the impacts of violence and the Displacement Law's protective role. To inform French-speaking audiences, the newspaper "Le Devoir" shed light on Honduras' response to people in mixed movements and the underlying reasons for the significant increase in flows. UNHCR used various media platforms, including "El Pais" and "NTN24", to disseminate this information, contributing to change the narrative around forcibly displaced people and fostering a culture of human rights and peaceful coexistence in Honduras.



*The Friendly Space for Mothers and Children provides a safe space for families on the border of Agua Caliente, Ocotepeque.*

## RESPOND

Registering people forcibly displaced or at risk is essential for an effective response, in line with UNHCR's mandate to provide comprehensive protection and assistance, ensuring access to vital services and support.

In 2023, UNHCR, through its partner NRC, registered

**4,034 individuals for case management.**



**97.7% of the cases**

focused on internally displaced persons and those at risk of displacement.

A notable portion of these cases (20%) involved serious risks to physical safety and security, such as murder and assault. **204** of those cases were registered in December alone.

To address these urgent protection needs throughout the year, **UNHCR provided cash-based assistance to:**

**2,792 individuals**

**1,037 families** amounting **USD 2,182,645.**

UNHCR has also identified and registered **486 cases of 924 returnees with protection needs in the Centres for Returned Migrants in Honduras.** UNHCR provided them with protection information, legal assistance, and referral to partners for cases with specific needs.

To improve reception conditions for refugees and migrants, in December 2023 **UNHCR's Mobile Information Service reached 6,755 people in mixed movements in Choluteca, Danlí, and Trojes, as well as 3,183 people in Machuca, Agua Caliente.** The service operated by World Vision is available in the south-east and north-west borders providing vital information about legal protection, shelter locations, and the U.S. Parole Program. Most of these individuals attended were Venezuelans, Colombians, Ecuadorians, Haitians, and Cubans.

Other key initiatives to improve reception conditions for people in mixed movements included distributing 100 mattresses and blankets with World Vision in Santa Fe and nearby regions, providing shelter kits and cleaning materials in the Machuca humanitarian space near the border with Guatemala, and donating streetlamps to safeguard women and children.

**UNHCR donated IT equipment to the National Migration Institute (INM),** including 20 uninterruptible power supplies, four multifunction printers and 32

toners. The equipment will be used by the INM in Tegucigalpa and in the department of El Paraíso to improve the registration of asylum claims and the issuance of the new 10-day special humanitarian stay permit for people in mixed movements who enter Honduras irregularly.

At the Caritas-run temporary shelter Sagrada Familia in Danlí, UNHCR distributed hygiene and sanitation items, and materials for the shelter's administrative area. In addition, UNHCR has deployed 10 refugee housing units to improve sleeping facilities for refugees and migrants.

The INM distributed 71 humanitarian aid kits to 118 asylum-seekers and refugees with support of UNHCR. These kits contained food, clothing, and hygiene and household items.

In December 2023, **UNHCR and its partners across seven shelters also provided temporary shelter to over 1,150 people in mixed movements in vulnerable situations who were transiting through Honduras.** The Centre for Attention of Irregular Migrants (CAMI) in Danlí, managed by INM, assisted 1,488 refugees and migrants. UNHCR had previously donated Refugee Housing Units to this Centre to facilitate its operation and is providing ongoing technical support.



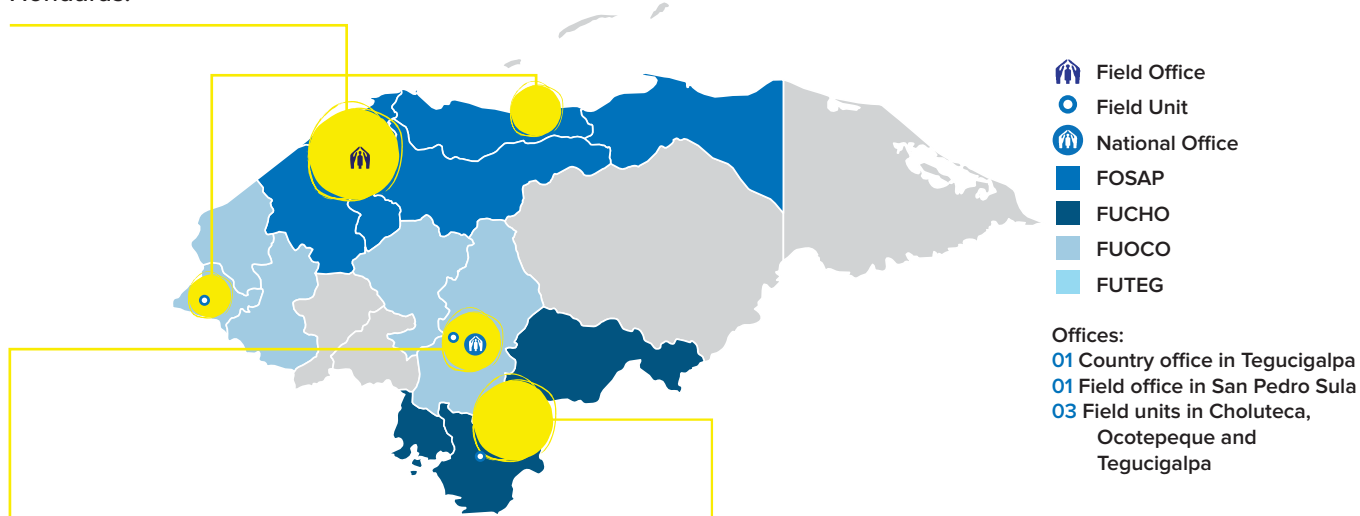
UNHCR and its partners distribute hygiene and sanitation items to people in mixed movements.

## EMPOWER

The UNHCR has implemented community-based protection activities with the aim of empowering local communities, building resilience, and fostering social cohesion, to prevent forced displacement.

### North and north-west

In the north and north-west, UNHCR delivered sports equipment to a rural school in Ocotepeque, promoting girls' inclusion in sports and empowerment. In San Pedro Sula, Children International and UNHCR celebrated the results of their protection plans implemented across eight communities with 85 community leaders from high-risk communities. This initiative fostered community resilience and protection. The Unit for the Comprehensive Development of Women and Family (UDIMUF)'s presentation of community consultation results in Los Tarros and Las Delicias communities of La Ceiba was supported by UNHCR. The event aimed to highlight the voices and leadership of community women, emphasizing community-driven approaches to address GBV in northern Honduras.



### Central District

**13 women community leaders from El Pedregal participated in a four-day workshop in the central district.** The workshop aimed to strengthen psychosocial resilience in collaboration with GIZ as part of the CaPAZ project. The initiative equips leaders with tools to support children and youth at risk of internal displacement, promoting community responses.

Concurrently, the National Commission for Sports, Physical Education and Recreation (CONDEPOR), Save the Children, and UNHCR organized 'Sport for Communities' sessions at Villa Olímpica. The **Sports for Protection project involves 100 youths from at-risk communities**, such as San Buenaventura, El Pedregal, Rosalinda, and Nueva Capital. UNHCR's goal with this project is to **improve access to state services and create social inclusion opportunities, reducing the risk of forced recruitment.**

**UNHCR's strategy of tactical urbanism transformed a previously dangerous alley in the community of La Izaguirre into a safe public space, promoting social cohesion.** Likewise, communication activities in four high-risk urban communities have led to an improvement in the protection knowledge of 62 community leaders, including children. As a result, they are now better equipped to identify risks, prioritize protection activities, and understand protection services and responses.

### South-east

In south-east Honduras, **UNHCR implemented various activities aimed at enhancing community-based protection.** A yearly meeting was held with community leaders from Las Manos, Danlí, and Valle de Jamastrán to create community protection plans, monitor mixed movements, and reinforce roles at the border. Additionally, a meeting was held in Cifuentes to validate the community protection plan for presentation to municipal authorities in 2024.

On 7 December, Casa de la Cultura reopened after being closed for over three years. **Thanks to a donation from UNHCR, the cultural centre now offers a range of artistic and cultural activities for children and young people.** The initiative aims to provide public theatre and music classes, creating a safe and creative environment for those at risk of displacement due to violence. UNHCR facilitated sessions in the communities of La Guaruma, El Anonal, and Santa Rosa. The sessions aimed to validate community protection plans and define operational strategies for 2024, taking into account the perspectives and needs of all stakeholders involved.

In an additional effort to promote peaceful coexistence and combat xenophobia and discrimination, UNHCR collaborated with the Santa Martha community to organize sports activities. The event brought together approximately 150 individuals, including both Hondurans and Nicaraguans.

## As part of the "16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence" campaign, UNHCR actively engaged in various activities aimed at the prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV).

UNHCR collaborated with local organizations in Sinuapa for the COMUNYCARTE project. The project aimed to address self-care, gender violence, and **survivor support through artistic activities** for a diverse group of participants, including women, men, and children.

UNHCR supported the organization of the **third edition of a sports event in Ocotepeque** with over 250 participants, promoting the campaign "UNITE! Activism to end violence against women and girls" with the local

motto "I raise my voice against gender violence". UNHCR also supported a mural campaign to raise awareness about gender-based violence.

In Choluteca, **UNHCR and UNFPA collaborated with civil society and state institutions to develop and socialise a protection route for gender-based violence cases**. The initiative involved 36 representatives from various state institutions, women's networks, and other organizations.

## SOLVE

### In Honduras, UNHCR is working towards preventing forced displacement and supporting the recovery of livelihoods.

In December 2023, key activities included training sessions for entrepreneurs, technical courses, employability support, and infrastructure improvement for social enterprises.

UNHCR, in partnership with Fe y Alegría and La Central Youth Community Centre (CCJ), celebrated the **graduation of 38 youth and adults from the high-risk Rivera Hernandez sector**. These graduates completed five-month technical courses on electricity, computing, and refrigeration. Private sector actors expressed interest in supporting the CCJ to expand and sustain its services. In 2023, a group of 84 individuals completed a program at the CCJ that provided them with additional training in soft skills and employability. This program was supported by UNHCR.

**26 students, supported by UNHCR, graduated from a five-month graphic design course at GraphsAcademy in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula**. 12 of them were offered jobs at GraphxSource. Building on this, GraphsAcademy and GraphXsource pledged at the Global Refugee Forum to facilitate training and employment in graphic design for 400 displaced persons and host community members in 2024.

Fe y Alegría and UNHCR have recently provided the final part of a donation of equipment to the Hemenigui Sun Mutu ("Fortaleza para todos") social enterprise in the Garifuna community of Alfonso Lacayo, in San Pedro Sula. The equipment, which is valued at around USD 5,000, will enable the community to open its administrative services shop. The profits generated from the shop will be used to support community events, including educational activities.

The Property Institute and UNHCR have jointly launched an **information campaign named 'Tu Hogar Registrado, Tu Derecho Asegurado'** (Your Home Registered, Your Right Secured). The campaign seeks to educate the public about their housing, land, and property rights, including the mechanisms and requirements for regularizing tenure. It highlights the long-term benefits and protection that come with property registration. The final stage of this four-phase campaign involves disseminating information about the legal protection mechanisms outlined in the Internal Displacement Law. This serves to underscore the importance of safeguarding property rights for the sustained and lasting protection of internally displaced persons.

## We thank the contributions of our donors

as of 15 December 2023

UNHCR is grateful for the contributions of donor countries that contribute to the office in Honduras and to global programmes with flexible funding:



Also, UNHCR thank the contributions of our global private donors in Australia, China, Germany, Japan, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, and United States of America.

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