

Honduras

Operational Update

N.41 | May 2025



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Population figures >>>

Internal displacement

+247,000

people have been internally displaced in Honduras as a result of generalized violence between 2004 and 2018. Numbers could be higher in 2025, as triggers of internal displacement persist.

Return

+3,370

Hondurans were returned to the country in May 2025, marking a 55% increase compared to over **2,171** people returned in April. According to the Returned Migrant Attention System of the Secretariat of Social Development, over **14,100 Honduran nationals** had been returned in **2025** by the end of May, a 35% decrease compared to 21,756 people recorded during the same period in 2024.

+2,130

people who arrived irregularly registered their entry with the Government from 1 to 31 May, marking a 1% increase compared to over 2,100 people registered during the same period in April. Of them, 99% entered via Danlí and 1% via Choluteca. The top five nationalities were Cuban, Haitian, Ecuadorian, Chinese, and Venezuelan. Among them, 49% were men, 34% women, 9% boys, and 8% girls. According to the National Migration Institute, more than 18,517 refugees and migrants entered and crossed through Honduran territory as of 31 May 2025, a 92% decrease compared to 219,675 people registered during the same period in 2024.

Refugee

+217

refugees & **+309** asylum-seekers currently residing in Honduras. Between 1 January and 31 May 2025, the National Migration Institute registered 224 new asylum applications, which is almost three times more than the same period in 2024.

Our Response >>>



+3,240

people traveling north-south direction were identified by UNHCR and partners in May.



+770

individuals assisted at national shelter facilities in the southeast and western borders. Marking a 64% decrease compared to over 2,134 people assisted in April.



+2,000

people received protection information and services at key entry and exit points by UNHCR and partners. A 25% increase compared to **1,600** people assisted in April.



+850

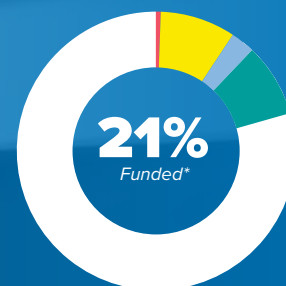
individuals received medical care, mental health assistance, and information on sexual and reproductive health at key entry and exit points by UNHCR and partners.



+300

people received legal counselling and information on asylum by the Ombudsperson through its mobile units in key border areas, supported by UNHCR. A 20% increase compared to 250 people assisted in April.

Funding >>>



As of 31 May 2025

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

The high school graduation of displaced youth and adults and those at risk of displacement, demonstrates their resilience and determination to transform their lives, underscoring how investment in education prevents violence and promotes peace.



*UNHCR appealed for **USD 30,7 million** for its 2025 programme, of which only USD 6.5 million (21%) has been funded. USD 24,2 million is still needed to continue supporting people forcibly displaced, at risk of displacement, returnees with protection needs, asylum-seekers and refugees.

Context

Between 1 January to 31 May, over 900 people have been **killed**, averaging six deaths per day. Of these, more than 90 were **femicides**, with **many** killings occurring within family settings, reflecting the continued risk of violence against women and girls.

108 children, adolescents, and young people were killed as of 31 May 2025. Schools across the country face high levels of **insecurity**, including the sale of drugs. Honduran children remain exposed to risks both inside and outside school premises, particularly in areas affected by gang control. As of mid-May 2025, a total of 1,388 Honduran adolescents have been **deported**, many of them victims of sexual abuse, human smuggling, and labour exploitation. As of May 2025, more than 90 femicides have been registered in the country, with approximately 90% of cases remaining in impunity. Many deaths occurred within family settings, reflecting the continued risk of violence against women and girls.

The Ombudsperson reported that 101 journalists have been **killed** since 2001, with 88% of the cases still unsolved.

Eleven of them occurred between 2022 and 2025, alongside threats, harassment, and forced displacement.

In **Choluteca**, a state of **emergency** was declared following heavy rains that **affected** over 800 people and damaged more than 400 homes. Several communities were temporarily cut off. Some communities lost the entire stock of medicines in their health units, and schools were damaged resulting in class suspensions.

The KAI Observatory on **violent deaths of LGBTQ+** persons published its quarterly report, highlighting that 14 individuals have been killed from January to April of 2025. In 20 years, 565 violent deaths of LGBTQ+ persons have been documented. The observatory has also documented 703 LGBTQ+ persons who experienced some form of generalized violence, and 113 Honduran LGBTQ+ asylum seekers.

From 1 January to 31 May 2025, **14 Honduran returnees have been killed**—all men—across more than 10 municipalities, underscoring the importance of tailored protection responses.

Activities

In May, UNHCR strengthened protection systems, trained key actors, enhanced border coordination, supported communities at-risk of displacement through education and livelihoods, and increased inter-agency efforts.

Protection and Legal Assistance

Over 200 government officials, security forces, and civil society actors were **trained in international protection, human rights**, and the **national asylum system** across six municipalities. This included 24 staff from the national 911 hotline trained on non-refoulement, and 20 humanitarian actors engaged in a workshop led by the Ombudsperson on preventing discrimination against refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced people.

UNHCR coordinated **border monitoring** with national authorities in the southern region, identifying protection

risks and strengthening referral pathways and access to information for refugees and migrants. To improve outreach, information panels on asylum and protection rights were installed in three municipalities.

UNHCR also **supported** the Directorate for the Prevention and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons in training the National System for Responding to Internal Forced Displacement actors and local authorities in La Ceiba. El Progreso and Choloma reinforcing municipal coordination.



UNHCR trained border officials in Ocotepeque to improve the identification of people in need of international protection and strengthen inter-institutional coordination.

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UNHCR trained 13 officials from CONADEH's Forced Displacement Unit to improve their capacity to analyze complaints related to human rights violations and forced displacement. The staff received training designed to enhance their ability to identify patterns, root causes, and risk profiles. These efforts focused on equipping frontline staff nationwide with the necessary tools to provide accurate guidance and identify cases of displacement at an early stage.

Child, Women, and Community Protection

UNHCR trained over 340 individuals, including children, parents, and educators, through **workshops on forced recruitment, sexual abuse, early pregnancy prevention, school dropout, and integrative education** for refugee and asylum-seekers children. To prevent forced recruitment of children, UNHCR implemented the board game “Voy con vos” in several activities with parents, caretakers and schoolteachers to raise awareness on the importance of care networks and community support to prevent the forced recruitment of children. In Copan, UNHCR also joined a binational workshop with over 60 Guatemalan and Honduran officials to strengthen protocols for unaccompanied children.

Around 50 staff from Ciudad Mujer were trained on **referral pathways, prevention and response in displacement contexts** for women survivors of violence and emotional

self-care for frontline personnel. In Ocotepeque, UNHCR and the Secretariats of Health and Women's Affairs provided training for 28 justice officials on support for women survivors of violence, including LGBTIQ+ individuals. Since 2023, over 540 individuals survivors of violence have been assisted in the border department with UNHCR's support.

UNHCR supported more than 150 community leaders from high-risk areas in Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, and Ocotepeque through **training on protection planning, participatory risk assessments, and social cohesion events**. Additionally, three municipal and community protection fairs in Tegucigalpa and Choluteca, facilitated access to health care, legal counselling, recreational activities, and protection services for over 570 people, enhancing local integration and protection mechanisms.

Local Capacity Strengthening and Inclusion

UNHCR supported nearly 50 people, including refugees, internally displaced people, and vulnerable persons at-risk of displacement, in completing **formal education, entrepreneurship training, and internships** in Choluteca, Ocotepeque, San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa. Additionally, 40 internally displaced people took part in workshops on business models, sanitary licences, and artisanal baking, promoting income generation and formalisation of livelihoods.

In Choluteca, UNHCR **strengthened local emergency preparedness** by supporting coordination among 13

institutions and training 35 members of the Municipal Emergency Committee (ODEM) and the Local Emergency Committee (CODEL). As a result, preparedness plans were updated to respond to displacement and extreme weather events.

In San Pedro Sula, UNHCR and civil society actors organized the **Migrant and Displaced Women's Table**, introducing a practical response toolbox to enhance the leadership and self-protection of women, girls, and LGBTIQ+ individuals.



UNHCR, in partnership with CDE Mipyme Valle de Sula and Molino Harinero Sula, supported a bakery workshop for women in communities at risk of displacement, aiming to build autonomy, support networks, and sustainable livelihoods.

Strategic Coordination

In Tegucigalpa, UNHCR, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross launched the **first coordination platform for internally displaced people**, initiating the development of term of reference and operational guidelines for their structured participation in decisions affecting their lives.

In Choluteca, UNHCR and the Secretariat for Risk Management and National Emergencies (COPECO) delivered prepositioned **relief items in response to flooding**, highlighting the importance local preparedness in regions affected by extreme weather events. UNHCR also **partnered with local radio station** Cholula Triunfeña to broadcast daily protection messages, raising awareness on

displacement, asylum, environmental risks, and xenophobia.

UNHCR, the National Migration Institute, the Attorney General's Office, and the Protection Sector **trained humanitarian actors** in El Paraíso on protection responses for refugees and migrants, ensuring timely and coordinated protection in the border department during the second half of 2025.

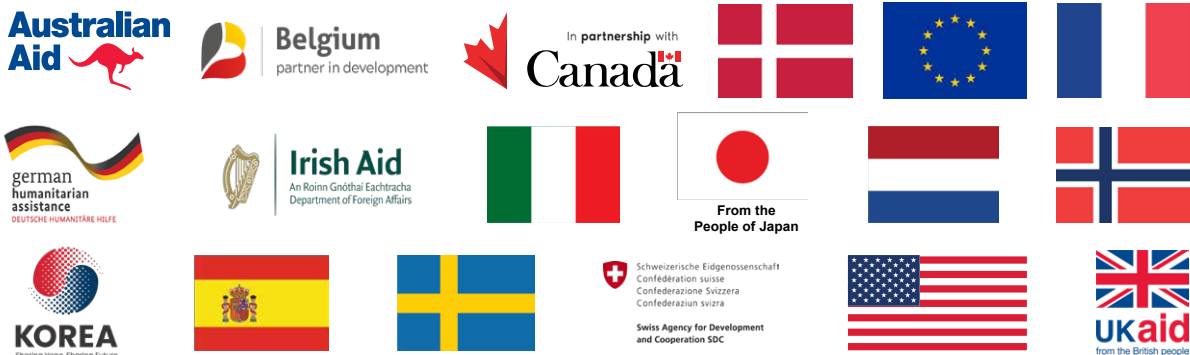
Furthermore, UNHCR contributed to **inter-agency efforts in Bajo Aguan** by participating in a joint assessment of humanitarian capacity and stakeholder presence, aimed to strengthen long-term support and coordination in the region.



Through the partnership between UNHCR and the local radio station Cholula Triunfeña, daily protection messages were broadcast that raised awareness on displacement, asylum, environmental risks and xenophobia.

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*As of May 2025

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