

# Honduras

## Operational Update

N.42 | June 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

**+3,500**

Hondurans were returned to the country in June 2025, marking a 4% increase compared to over **3,370** people returned in May. According to the Returned Migrant Attention System of the Secretariat of Social Development, **over 17,600 Honduran nationals had been returned in 2025 by the end of June**, a 33% decrease compared to 26,132 people recorded during the same period in 2024.

**+1,181**

people who arrived irregularly registered their entry with the Government from 1 to 30 June, marking a 45% decrease compared to over 2,130 people registered in May. Of them, 96% entered via Danli and 4% via Choluteca. The top five nationalities were Cuban, Ecuadorian, Chinese, Venezuelan, and Haitian. Among them, **47% were men, 35% women, 10% boys, and 8% girls.**

According to the National Migration Institute, more than 19,698 refugees and migrants entered and crossed through Honduran territory as of 30 June 2025, a 92% decrease compared to 248,035 people registered during the same period in 2024.

#### Refugee

**+219**

refugees & **+359** asylum-seekers currently residing in Honduras. Between 1 January and 30 June 2025, the National Migration Institute registered **303 new asylum applications.**

### Our Response



**+2,050**

people traveling north-south direction were identified by UNHCR and partners in June 2025.



**+600**

individuals assisted at national shelter facilities. Marking a 20% decrease compared to over 770 people assisted in May.



**+3,900**

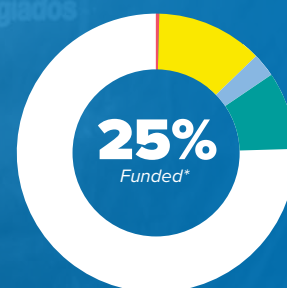
individuals received protection information and orientation by UNHCR and partners in June 2025, including guidance on asylum procedures, access to services, and protection pathways. Between 1 January and 30 June 2025, over 6,000 internally displaced people, at-risk of displacement, Honduran returnees, asylum-seekers, and refugees received this support nationwide.



**+790**

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

### Funding >>>



As of 30 June 2025

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

Refugees, asylum seekers, and the Honduran community in Choluteca came together at a fair filled with flavors, art, and empathy. A space to strengthen peaceful coexistence and highlight the resilience of those who are building a home in Honduras.

\*UNHCR appealed for **USD 30,7 million** for its 2025 programme, of which only USD 7,5 million (25%) has been funded. USD 23,2 million is still needed to continue supporting people forcibly displaced, at risk of displacement, returnees with protection needs, asylum-seekers and refugees.

# Context

In June, Honduras remained one of the **most violent countries in the region**. From January to June 2025, at least 113 women were killed, with impunity exceeding 90%, according to the National Violence Observatory of the National Autonomous University of Honduras (OVN-UNAH). During the same period, **148 children and young people** were also killed—75 under the age of 19 and 73 between 19 and 21—mainly in Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula and Olancho.

The Ombudsperson registered 133 cases of internal displacement affecting **media workers** between 2016 and 2024. Civil society organizations **raised concerns** about the implementation of the Protection Mechanism for journalists and human rights defenders. In June, two journalists were killed within 24 hours in Olancho and Copan.

Civil society organisations continued to call attention to **persistence extortion and homicides**, despite the State of Exception remaining in effect across 75% of the national territory. As of June 2025, 18 massacres were reported involving 64 individuals. Between 2019 and 2024, more than 2,000 people were reported missing, underscoring the growing protection and justice gap.

Severe flooding and landslides caused by **Hurricane Erick** significantly affected rural communities and urban areas

in **Ocatepeque**, isolating over 20,000 people and leaving 25,000 without access to water. 190 homes were affected, 20% of them destroyed. In the Central District (Tegucigalpa and Comayagua), heavy rainfall and infrastructure damage prompted a weather alert and the activation of emergency shelters. **Over 600,000 people in Central District** live in zones exposed to landslides or floods due to unregulated urban expansion. The 2025 hurricane season began on 1 June and will last until 30 November.

On 25 June, the Governments of Honduras and the United States **announced a bilateral agreement for Cooperation in the Examination of Protection Requests**. The agreement establishes a framework for the monthly transfer of up to 10 individuals from the United States to Honduras, whose asylum claims will be assessed by Honduran authorities. If recognized, they would be granted refugee status in Honduras. Concurrently, the National Migration Institute reported a **significant increase in asylum applications**, with more than 300 claims filed between January and June 2025—surpassing the historical annual average. Honduras was also ranked among the ten most neglected displacement crises globally by the Norwegian Refugee Council, citing reduced humanitarian funding and limited access to asylum.

# Activities

In June, **in commemoration of World Refugee Day**, UNHCR expanded protection efforts, strengthened integration actions with key stakeholders, supported community resilience focusing on women, girls, and youth and enhanced inter-agency collaboration across the country.

## Protection and Legal Assistance

**UNHCR trained over 200 government officials, security forces, and civil society actors** across the country on international protection, human rights, and the implementation of the Law for the Prevention, Assistance and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP Protection Law). This included a collaboration with the Judicial School of Honduras, through which 22 justice officials were trained on the IDP Protection Law, leading to the establishment of five working groups to conduct legal analysis and strengthen judicial protection mechanisms for forcibly displaced people.

To complement efforts on the IDP response, **UNHCR provided technical support to the Secretariat of Human Rights to develop municipal protection routes for internally displaced people** in Olancho (Catacamas and Juticalpa). In Tegucigalpa, UNHCR and the Property Institute selected a community, affected by violence and

gang control for a Housing, Land and Property (HLP) intervention aimed at strengthening security of tenure and preventing forced displacement. Around 350 community members will receive their first official document certifying possession of the land they occupy—an essential step towards acquiring legal ownership.

During the reporting period, UNHCR in collaboration with CIAT-CGIAR **supported the Secretariat of Social Development (SEDESOL) in advancing the Adaptive Social Protection Policy** through consultations and presentations across the country. Representatives from local governments and civil society engaged in discussions aimed at addressing extreme weather events risks and related displacement, contributing to the development of inclusive strategies to mitigate extreme weather induced vulnerabilities.



## Child, Women, and Community Protection

UNHCR strengthened community-based protection capacities by **training around 250 individuals**, including **youth, women, educators, and governmental officials** across Choluteca, El Paraiso, Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, and La Ceiba. Sessions focused on the prevention of forced recruitment, violence against women and women's empowerment, internal displacement response, and community integration.

UNHCR also facilitated **participatory protection dialogues by engaging over 120 community leaders** in sessions, protection monitoring, and thematic consultations across the country. Activities included meetings on community protection plans and evaluations of access to protection and health services in areas with limited humanitarian presence. In Cedeño, 29 community leaders engaged in dialogue on extreme weather events risks and related

displacement, while youth groups and women's networks contributed to strengthening local protection strategies and referral pathways. These efforts helped communities close gaps in early warning and referral systems.

UNHCR **strengthened child protection and violence prevention efforts** through sports-based activities and digital literacy sessions with communities at risk of displacement. Over 400 children and adolescents participated. In El Paraiso, UNHCR and Children International held a methodology transfer session with 12 community leaders in Cofradia, El Paraiso, under the Sports for Protection strategy, allowing communities to take ownership of violence prevention strategies.

## Local Capacity Strengthening and Inclusion

UNHCR and its partners supported over **90 internally displaced and at-risk of displacement individuals to complete certified workshops** aimed at enhancing their entrepreneurial, business, and soft skills. In collaboration with the partner Business Development Centre, these included training on emotional intelligence and resilience in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, the completion of an entrepreneurship development program in Tegucigalpa, and technical training in Cedeño, Choluteca. Furthermore,

19 forcibly displaced women finalised a specialised bakery and pastry course, enhancing their selfreliance and incomegeneration capacities.

**By mid-June 2025, UNHCR had supported over 50 refugees and asylum-seekers across the country through education, job readiness, entrepreneurship training, and seed capital for small businesses.**

## Strategic Coordination

As part of UNHCR coordination with key stakeholder, **UNHCR and the National Vocational Training Institute (INFOP) launched a cybersecurity course for 20 INFOP instructors**, in collaboration with International Business Machines Corporation (IBM).

UNHCR presented the **Protection Strategy of the Honduran Humanitarian Network 2025-2026**, highlighting the intersectoral efforts to analyze the humanitarian context

and protection risks, prioritize the critical risks, and define action plans and monitoring routes.

On 24 June, **UNHCR in collaboration with the National Autonomous University of Honduras**, presented the **guide for journalists and communicators on ethical coverage of internal displacement**, focused on reducing the risks faced by internally displaced people when their situation is exposed publicly and those reporting.



UNHCR, in collaboration with the National Autonomous University of Honduras, presented a guide on the ethical media coverage of internal displacement, aiming to support broader efforts to protect those forced to flee.

# World Refugee Day 2025

UNHCR and its partners reached over 38,000 people nationwide through World Refugee Day activities that promoted empathy, inclusion, and solidarity with forcibly displaced people. In San Pedro Sula, UNHCR and nine partner organisations launched the awareness circuit “You Don’t Walk Alone, I’m With You”, attracting 730 visitors. In Tegucigalpa, activities included sports games for 60 children, the Blue Nights lighting ceremony, photo exhibitions, podcast and video releases, and the distribution of 5,000 solidarity table mats at La Creperia Restaurant, which also donated 15% of its earnings during WRD week.

Across cinemas UNHCR’s campaigns reached over 31,500 people. In Choluteca, Danli and Ocotepeque, over 600 participants joined local commemorations, including dialogue events and peaceful coexistence initiatives with children and local authorities. A special event at El Picacho Park, Tegucigalpa brought together 43 refugees and the National Migration Institute to reaffirm commitments to protection and local integration.

## Tegucigalpa



A light shining for resilience, inclusion, and commitment to building a city where everyone can feel at home.

## Ocotepeque



## San Pedro Sula



## Danli



Communities joined forces to protect the right to live in peace and to integrate those fleeing violence with dignity.

## UNHCR thanks the contributions of donor countries such as



## the support of the following funds



and contributions from our private donors in  
Australia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, and Spain

We thank the fundamental support provided by donors who have contributed to UNHCR’s global programs with flexible funding.

\*As of June 2025

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