

Honduras

Operational Update

N.46 | October 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. **Numbers could be higher in 2025**, as triggers of internal displacement persist.

Return

3,895

Hondurans were returned to the country in October 2025, marking a 9% decrease compared to over 4,278 people returned in September 2025.

According to the Returned Migrant Attention System of the Secretariat of Social Development, **over 32,743 Honduran nationals had been returned in 2025 by the end of October**. Representing a 19% decrease compared to 40,431 people recorded during the same period in 2024.

4,524

people who arrived irregularly registered their entry with the National Migration Institute (INM) from 1 to 31 October, marking a 58% increase compared to 2,865 people registered in September. Of those registered in October, 93% entered via Danli, 7% Trojes and less than 1% via Choluteca. The top five nationalities were Haiti, Cuba, Ecuador, China and Venezuela. Among them, approximately **55% were women and children**.

According to INM, in 2025 around 30,844 refugees and migrants entered and crossed through Honduran territory as of 31 October 2025. This represents an approximate 91% decrease compared with 340,719 people registered during the same period in 2024.

Refuge

245

refugees & **almost 521** asylum-seekers currently residing in Honduras. Between 1 January and 31 October 2025, the National Migration Institute registered **626 new asylum applications**.

Our Response



1,763

people traveling north-south direction were identified by UNHCR and partners in October 2025, marking a 91% increase compared to the **923** people identified in September 2025.

Around **30,639** people travelling in a north-south direction were identified between January and October 2025.



1,150

individuals received protection information and orientation by UNHCR and partners in October 2025, including guidance on asylum procedures, access to services, and protection pathways.

Between 1 January and 31 October 2025, over 9,700 internally displaced people, at-risk of displacement, Honduran returnees, asylum-seekers, and refugees received this support nationwide.

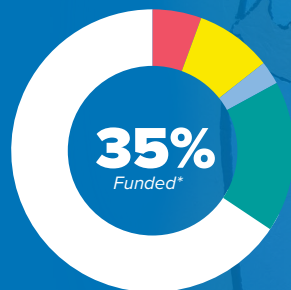


+210

individuals received medical care, mental health assistance, and information on sexual and reproductive health by UNHCR and partners in October 2025.

Between 1 January and 31 October 2025, over 6,700 internally displaced people, at-risk of displacement, Honduran returnees, asylum-seekers, and refugees received this support nationwide.

Funding »



As of 31 October 2025

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

*UNHCR appealed for USD 30.7 million for its 2025 programme, of which only USD 10.7 million (35%) has been funded. USD 20 million is still needed to continue supporting people forcibly displaced, at risk of displacement, returnees with protection needs, asylum-seekers and refugees.



UNHCR works with youth networks to recover public spaces and foster peaceful coexistence alongside the wider community.

Context

In October, Honduras continued to face severe protection risks. More than **220 women were killed** by the end of the month, with most cases concentrated in Cortes, Francisco Morazan, Olancho and Yoro departments. **Violence against children, adolescents, and youth remained critical, with around 400 of them killed this year**, and continued reports of sexual abuse and recruitment by criminal structures. Targeted attacks also persisted against LGBTIQ+ individuals, with **32 killings** between January and August 2025, highlighting ongoing patterns of impunity. Educators remained at heightened risk due to threats and extortion, driving displacement in areas under gang influence. Furthermore, **extortion continued to destabilize micro and small businesses**, affecting the financial security of around 304,000 households.

Continued and prolonged rainfall intensified vulnerabilities mostly in the Central District (Tegucigalpa and Comayagua). **Landslides, road blockages, and infrastructure damage disrupted mobility in the Central District and forced families into temporary shelters**. By mid-October, reports indicated rain-related damage in more than 600 neighborhoods, at least 15 deaths, and over 28,000 people affected. Local authorities highlighted widening gaps in urban resilience and preparedness, as

climate-related shocks increasingly intersect with pre-existing violence and poverty. The Government activated national emergency mechanisms and allocated additional resources to support the response.

Ahead of the 30 November General Elections, **political violence and institutional tensions continued to erode public trust**. Reports indicate that conflict-related incidents have nearly tripled over the past year, exceeding 700 documented cases. Questions regarding transparency and operational readiness were amplified by the extension of the State of Exception, which human rights organizations noted may restrict civic space during the electoral period.

Border municipalities such as Ocotepeque registered an increase of refugees and migrants, including families with children, individuals with mobility limitations, and people requiring assistance. This highlighted growing gaps in assistance, as hygiene support, psychosocial services, primary healthcare, and legal information remain uneven or limited due to reduced humanitarian presence.

Land-related tensions remained critical. Communities in Bajo Aguan reported ongoing security risks linked to territorial disputes and the presence of criminal groups.

Activities

Protection and Legal Assistance

In October, **Honduras reaffirmed its commitment to a rights-based response to displacement** during the Executive Committee in Geneva, Switzerland, and the Cross-Regional Forum on Internal Displacement Law and Policy in Sanremo, Italy. The Government highlighted **progress on legal frameworks and prevention strategies**, underscoring shared responsibility to address internal displacement through a people-centred approach and emphasising the implementation of the Law for the Prevention, Assistance and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons to protect the most at-risk groups.

In Cortes, **UNHCR trained 18 municipal officials in Choloma to identify and refer displacement cases** to the Municipal Unit for Returnees and Forcibly Displaced Persons, reinforcing early detection and strengthening municipal response pathways. In southern Honduras, **UNHCR supported the formalization of Municipal Units for the Protection of Forcibly Displaced Persons in Choluteca**, a priority municipality for the Secretariat of Human Rights,

consolidating local structures responsible for implementing the national legal framework.

At national level, the Judiciary, with UNHCR technical support, held its **first workshop on internal displacement under the new judicial training curriculum**. 25 officials, including judges and public defenders, strengthened their understanding of displacement dynamics and legal obligations under the national law.

Safeguarding protection standards remained a key priority. In Choloma, **UNHCR trained 20 Ciudad Mujer staff to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse**, enhancing survivor-centred service delivery across government institutions.

These actions advanced the **national protection architecture**, reinforcing Honduras's engagement with regional and international mechanisms addressing internal displacement.



The Judiciary, with UNHCR's technical support, held workshops on internal displacement to strengthen judges' and public defenders' understanding of displacement dynamics and legal obligations under national law.

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Child, Women, and Community Protection

UNHCR strengthened child protection by supporting teachers, youth groups, and community leaders to reduce the risks of child and adolescent recruitment by criminal structures and expand protective environments. In Ocotepeque, **58 educators were trained on preventing child sexual abuse, identifying risks, and guiding survivors** to support, reinforcing school-based safeguarding in areas facing increased protection concerns. In the Central District, in collaboration with the National Sports Commission, sports-for-protection activities **engaged almost 100 children and adolescents in high-risk communities**, promoting inclusion and reducing exposure to criminal groups. In San Pedro Sula, a series of **youth-led art workshops reached more than 200 children and adolescents**, building confidence, strengthening youth collectives, and reducing the risks of forced recruitment. In Choluteca, **UNHCR supported a local school attended by refugee and asylum-seeker children** to launch a student newspaper to promote inclusion, prevent xenophobia, and share clear protection messages, alongside wider efforts to improve access to trusted information channels such as UNHCR's chatbot.

UNHCR strengthened protection for women in high-risk communities by **expanding safe environments, improving early detection of violence, and connecting survivors to trusted routes for support**. In Atlantida, UNHCR collaborated with the Integral Development Unit for Women and Families (UDIMUF) to improve its ability to design and use sensitive security protocols for women and girls, **boosting the preparedness of 20 frontline staff** under the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) project. In the Central District and San Pedro Sula, women's networks

broadened safe spaces and peer-support circles through self-care and violence-prevention workshops with the participation of over 60 women, helping community leaders identify risks earlier and guide survivors to assistance.

UNHCR strengthened community protection by **expanding access to services, supporting local leadership, and revitalising public spaces in high-risk neighborhoods**. In La Lima, Cortes, a service fair connected more than **100 individuals** with health, protection, and municipal services, **improving access to support for people facing violence and displacement risks**. In the Central District, accountability sessions with eight communities and the Refugee Committee strengthened dialogue with municipal authorities and shaped a shared vision for activities in 2026. In San Pedro Sula, tactical-urbanism initiatives mobilised more than **200 leaders, volunteers, and youth to reclaim community spaces**, promote safe mobility, and strengthen links with local services through clean-up actions, green-roof installations, and the reopening of an educational centre. UNHCR also worked with host communities in southern Honduras to **strengthen understanding of what a refugee is and how to connect asylum-seekers with the support they need**, reinforcing community-level protection and reducing risks of misinformation.

UNHCR and the Secretariat of Children, Adolescents and Families (SENAF) launched the "Voy con vos" campaign in Tegucigalpa with donors, partners and key stakeholders, to **promote care as a protective factor against the forced recruitment of children and adolescents** by criminal structures. The initiative will initially be implemented in communities in Tegucigalpa, Choluteca and San Pedro Sula.



UNHCR and SENAF launched the “Voy con vos” campaign, a social and behaviour change communication initiative aimed at fostering a culture of collective care and solidarity in response to forced recruitment.

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Local Capacity Strengthening and Integration

Nearly 950 people accessed livelihood programmes in 2025, reflecting sustained collaboration with partners, private sector, and key stakeholders to expand employment pathways for at-risk and displaced individuals, Honduran returnees, refugees, and asylum-seekers. In Tegucigalpa, UNHCR and the Business Development Centre strengthened the business capacities of 18 displaced and at-risk entrepreneurs, while coordination with the National Vocational Training Institute and private companies enabled the provision of toolkits for 20 youth at risk of displacement, completing technical training in electricity, mechanics, and refrigeration.

UNHCR also reinforced climate-related preparedness in southern Honduras. A workshop held with FAO in Cedeño equipped 30 community members with knowledge on coastal ecosystem protection and adaptation to extreme weather events. In Marcovia, 30 leaders from Local Emergency Committees received the Community Risk

Management Plan, supporting coordinated response planning in areas exposed to climate-induced displacement. UNHCR also convened the “Protection and Well-being” Multi-Service Fair in Choluteca, bringing health, legal, and socio-economic services closer to around 120 refugees and asylum-seekers.

In northern Honduras, UNHCR and partners supported 47 young people to complete the school year and secured 55 scholarships for 2026. At the Cardiopulmonary Hospital, six displaced and at-risk youth completing internships repaired or maintained more than 250 equipment units and rehabilitated 17 service areas, contributing to significant operational savings. Three interns have secured formal employment at the hospital.

These efforts strengthened employability, reinforced community resilience and expanded access to integration opportunities.



Community members in Cedeño, participate in a workshop led by UNHCR and FAO to strengthen preparedness for protect coastal ecosystems.

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Strategic Coordination

UNHCR strengthened regional cooperation on asylum by **supporting a technical exchange between the Honduran National Migration Institute (INM) and Mexico's Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMAR)**, where 22 officials reviewed good practices on differentiated asylum procedures. The activity reinforced Honduras's efforts to consolidate national asylum processes within regional cooperation frameworks such as the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework and commitments made at the Global Refugee Forum.

UNHCR participated in a CERF-supported interagency mission to the Bajo Aguan region, engaging with the UN Resident Coordinator in Honduras and the Task Force led by OHCHR to reinforce a coordinated UN approach in an area with long-standing protection concerns. The mission strengthened the coordination by establishing a regular schedule of joint field visits, promoting sustained dialogue with communities, and confirming a coordinated approach between humanitarian action and advocacy efforts.

UNHCR, in coordination with the National Autonomous University of Honduras, **convened 42 public officials from the executive and judicial branches to analyse the drivers of internal displacement** and provide inputs for the development of the forthcoming National Prevention Policy under the IDP Protection Law. Additionally, sustained coordination between UNHCR, Medecins du Monde and local authorities supported the opening of a Family Counselling Centre in Ocotepeque, **expanding the State's capacity to identify and refer cases of violence against women in border areas**.

UNHCR also participated in the commemoration of the United Nations' 80th anniversary hosted by the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs, reaffirming the partnership between the UN and the Government of Honduras in advancing human rights, peace, and development.

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*As of October 2025

For more information: Danielle Álvarez / External Relations Officer alvareza@unhcr.org