



UNHCR implements the “Community Art” initiative, a risk mitigation community-based intervention led by San Pedro Sula Municipality to mitigate forced recruitment and GBV among youth.



UNHCR funded the construction of a medical dispensary in Chamelecón to improve community-based protection mechanisms and empowered volunteers’ capacity to identify, attend, and refer IDPs.

10 per cent of funding needs received by 1 March 2022. UNHCR is appealing for **USD 28.6 million** to support vulnerable people in need of protection in Honduras.

## Operational Context

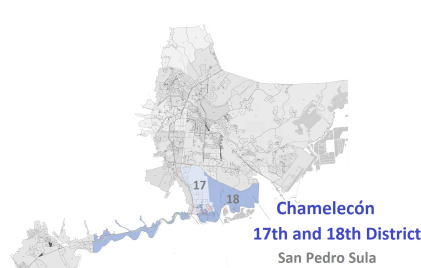
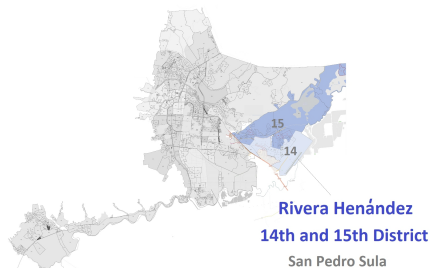
Honduras is characterized by a situation of protracted internal displacement caused mainly by organized crime. Despite the Government’s official recognition of forced displacement in 2013, the persisting protection needs within high-risk communities and the weak governance capacity constitute continuing challenges for an adequate response to human rights violations and widespread violence, mainly in urban settings. Community consultations carried out by UNHCR in Cortés Department in April 2021 revealed a perceived increase of violent incidents and a sense of hopelessness and distrust amongst community members, due to COVID-19 and Eta/Iota hurricanes emergencies. Community leaders reported incidents of housing dispossession and occupation by street gangs, resulting in the forceful displacement of families or, in the case of San Pedro Sula, preventing people affected by Eta and Iota hurricanes to return to their place of origin. In San Pedro Sula, communities stressed major loss of income, assets, community spaces, while elders and community leaders expressed unusual fear over crossing “invisible borders”.

Rivera Hernández sector is located in the eastern sub-urban sector of the San Pedro Sula Metropolitan area, and it is characterized by the presence of low-income marginalized human settlements that make up approximately 72 neighbourhoods. Since 2017, UNHCR has been working through different community-based protection interventions with partners, grassroots organizations, community leaders and the

Municipality of San Pedro Sula to ensure protection by presence, and fostering protection spaces through art and cultural initiatives, as well as the promotion of livelihoods solutions adapted to the specific needs of persons at-risk.





Chamelecón is one of the largest sectors of San Pedro Sula and is made up of 62 colonies. The sector has historically suffered from the impact of violence and territorial control of two gangs over northern and southern areas of the sector, causing many families to abandon their homes in search of safer communities. In 2020, almost the entire sector was affected by the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as Eta and Iota tropical storms, which further increased existing risks. It is also physically the southern-most entry/exit point of San Pedro Sula towards the capital.

Choloma is a municipality in the Department of Cortés, located on the outskirts of San Pedro Sula where most of the national export maquila industry is based. The situation of generalized violence is mainly caused by fragmented street gangs that frequently dispute territories to maintain strategic control over drug trade and the road to the main national port of Omoa. The violence affects disproportionately children, youth, and women, making it one of the municipalities with the highest femicide rate in Honduras. The emergency caused by Eta and Iota has mainly affected the lower sectors of Choloma boarding the Nance River slope and has exacerbated risks of GBV.



### Main Risks

### Main partners:

	Extortion	San Pedro Sula Municipality
	Forced recruitment	Médicos del Mundo
	Gender-based violence	Catholic Health Pastoral
	Gang fights	Children International
	Mobility restrictions	Warriors Zulu Nations Honduras
		Jóvenes Contra la Violencia





### Main Risks

### Main partners:

	Forced recruitment	San Pedro Sula Municipality
	Drug sales	Médicos del Mundo
	Gender-based violence	Catholic Health Pastoral
	Extortion	Children International
	Mobility Restrictions	Warriors Zulu Nations Honduras
		Jóvenes Contra la Violencia

### Main Risks

### Main partners:

	Extortion	Médicos del Mundo
	Taxi driver killing	Catholic Health Pastoral
	Gender-based violence	MOMUCLAA
	Mass murder	Jóvenes Contra la Violencia
	Gang fights	



## UNHCR Response

- UNHCR provides technical assistance since 2018 to design and implement the San Pedro Sula Municipal Art & Culture Strategy for Risk Mitigation in high-risk Communities and to mitigate youth-related risks, e.g., forced recruitment and GBV. The strategy promotes the recuperation and use of cultural spaces for social inclusion, dialogue and participation of communities affected by generalized violence through an artistic workshop programme, the reactivation of municipal libraries, tactical urbanism interventions, and the articulation of psychosocial support to participants. In 2021, UNHCR also provided technical assistance to foster dialogue and participatory capacity of 87 diverse key leaders in the formulation of the newly adopted Municipal Art & Culture for Social Inclusion Policy. This initiative provides a legal framework for the implementation of community-based cultural and artistic programmes that seek to address the root causes of internal forced displacement in Rivera Hernández, Chamelecón and Cofradía sectors.
- UNHCR initiated dialogues in 2017 in South Chamelecón with the Catholic Health Pastoral to enhance its network of community-based medical dispensaries for the safe identification, referral and assistance of IDPs. The medical dispensary strategy is aimed at strengthening the protection environments in high-risk communities through the accompaniment of community leaders, church volunteers and youth networks. UNHCR funded the construction of the Integral Care Centre (CAI or medical dispensary) in 2018 to improve IDP access to protection mechanisms and health services. Since 2020, UNHCR and partner Children International expanded community-based interventions to North Chamelecón to implement community action plans for the mitigation of risks that disproportionately affect children, youths and women, such as forced recruitment, restrictions on mobility, and gender-based violence.
- UNHCR works with the Casa Visitación medical dispensary in Choloma to improve community-based protection mechanisms by strengthening basic health services and empowering dispensary volunteers' teams' capacity to identify, attend, and refer IDPs. During 2020, Casa Visitación was one of the few local medical centres that maintained its services active, building trust within the community that appreciate its connection with grassroots organizations and local protection and assistance network.

## Community-Based Protection

- In Rivera Hernández, community-based interventions developed with Children International and Warriors Zulu Nation Honduras target seven high-risk areas in 3 different sectors of San Pedro Sula: Rivera Hernández, Chamelecón, and Cofradía. The main objectives are to contribute to San Pedro Sula Municipality comprehensive approach to protect IDPs through different work areas. UNHCR's support contributed to develop community-based methodologies that allow meaningful participation and inclusion of communities affected by violence and mobilize services to IDPs or persons at-risk of displacement.



Community artistic activity carried out in a school in Choloma, Cortés Department.

- In south Chamelecón, UNHCR's community-based interventions use the medical dispensary as a platform to secure humanitarian access to most affected communities, provide protection by presence, as well as build youth, women, and men's leaderships capacities on context/risk analysis to enhance knowledge on protection trends and situational awareness informing communities' protection and risk mitigation plans. UNHCR works with Chamelecón Positivo Nueva Generación youth group by implementing interventions through arts, culture and sports to mitigate the differentiated impact of violence and stigmatization on children and youth, as well as to promote the medical dispensary basic health services in the community.
- UNHCR's community-based intervention in Choloma is based upon alliances with grassroots organizations i.e., MOMUCLAA, Recuperando mi Comunidad and Jóvenes contra la Violencia to enhance their capacities on advocacy for the construction of local protection mechanisms for cases of GBV and forced displacement. The inclusion of these community-based organizations in a municipal working group on migration and forced displacement represents a significant dialogue space to bring forth specific protection issues affecting women and youths in Choloma.

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The best way to support UNHCR's appeal is through unearmarked contributions. Such flexible funding at global level will be key in allowing a timely response to the evolving needs wherever required.