



Highlights

- In the frame of the first U.S.-Honduras Strategic Dialogue held on 25 April, the U.S. Government offered help to Honduran authorities to address the root causes of migration and coordinate efforts to promote safe, orderly, and humane migration.
- The President of Honduras, Xiomara Castro, announced the transformation of the National Institute for Women (INAM) into a Secretary of State to give INAM more prominence and autonomy to drive policy development.
- On 20 April, 14 civil society organizations made a statement in front of the National Congress on the urgent discussion and adoption of the draft bill for the prevention, assistance, and protection of IDPs developed by the Inter Institutional Commission for the protection of Internally Displaced People by Violence.
- More than 2.6 million Hondurans are at risk of food insecurity in June-August according to World Food Programme.
- The government of Honduras formally acknowledged responsibility for the murder of trans activist Vicky Hernández in 2009. In June 2021, the Inter-American Court held the state of Honduras responsible for Hernández's death and issued new protections for LGBTIQ+ people across Latin America.

Protection

- On 12 March UNHCR and the Municipality of San Pedro Sula, with the support of partners Children International, Warriors Zulu Nations Honduras, Youth against Violence, and PÚCHICA, inaugurated a series of community-based interventions implemented under the pilot strategy of Tactical Urbanism, which seeks to promote the recovery and appropriation of public spaces to promote social inclusion, as well as to mitigate risks of forced recruitment and GBV as triggers of displacement in San Pedro Sula, one of the municipalities profiled as both IDPs expeller and receiver. The first Tactical Urbanism intervention aimed at boosting the newly UNHCR-refurbished Cofradía Municipal Library of San Pedro Sula, through the installation of temporary urban furniture and children playground. Murals designed by the community were inaugurated in a community festival attended by some 400 residents of the neighbourhood, including 38 artists, eight local women entrepreneurs and 42 volunteers (19 men and 23 women).
- The second pilot intervention of the tactical urbanism strategy was inaugurated on 23 April targeting the recently UNHCR-refurbished/equipped local elementary school and neighbouring football field in the Llanos de Sula community, Rivera Hernández Sector, through the installation of temporary urban furniture, children's playground, murals designed by the community, and cultural activities as artistic presentations and a gastronomic fair. These were inaugurated in the UGUNDANI Community Cultural Festival (meaning joy in garigagú – Afro Honduran language) attended by 600 residents of the neighborhood and nearby communities.
- Also with Children International, UNHCR participated with the Municipality of San Pedro Sula in a series of visits to the communities of Chamelecón and Cofradía to present the renovations that were carried-out last year by UNHCR and its partners. Spaces renovated included community libraries, parks, and sports facilities. The Municipality stated that the visits were useful to understand the Art and Culture Strategy and to identify areas of cooperation for 2022.
- In Tegucigalpa, UNHCR together with Save the Children provided students from high-risk communities of Nueval Capital, Colonia la Era, and Miguel Andonie Fernández School with 750 educational kits. Both organizations provided the Honduran Deaf Association with technological and graphic design equipment.

Key Figures

COVID-19

The Government reported 425,371 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 10,899 deaths by 31 May (458 in 2022). According to authorities, 5,194,420 people received the second dose against COVID-19 by 23 May, and 2,593,119 received the third dose.

Since March UNHCR Field Unit in Choluteca distributed 7,948 kits and hygiene items benefiting 4,898 men, women, and children in five municipalities. With World Vision, UNHCR distributed more than 2,057 kits to three informal reception centres in Danlí and Trojes.

21 per cent of funding needs received by 31 May 2022. UNHCR is appealing for **USD 28.6 million** to support vulnerable people in need of protection in Honduras.

Livelihoods

- In March UNHCR Representative held a meeting with leaders of high-risk community La Central in Rivera Hernández sector in San Pedro Sula and visited the refurbish Youth Community Centre (CCJ) supported by a comprehensive UNHCR intervention. Three equipped vocational training laboratories started in April 2022 with almost 100 enrolled people, while the micro-enterprise “Proli+cen”, promoted thanks to a collaborative work between community, UNHCR, partners and HUSH, started to produce cleaning product in March.
- UNHCR and ILO started a training on finance education, with the certified ILO methodology adapted for IDPs and at risk of displacement, in La Central high-risk community in San Pedro Sula. Sixteen people, both young and adults, attended the first session, and are expected to receive the certificate, after the completion of the twenty-seven hours duration course. This intervention is aligned with the UNHCR and ILO joint project “Promoting Employment and Social Protection under the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework in Central America and Mexico.”
- Within the framework of the Human Rights Secretariat (SEDH) and UNHCR agreement, four internally displaced families (17 people) received seed capital to start micro enterprises to advance towards economic self-reliance. The families also received support on protection issues regarding personal documents and to help children to attend school. To date 16 families, made up of 70 people located in 15 municipalities and eight departments of the country, have received support.

Government and Inter-agency Coordination

- On 12 April, the Protection Cluster participated in an inter-cluster mission with PAHO, UNFPA, IOM, UNHCR and World Vision to coordinate the provision of assistance to the active shelters in Trojes and Danlí. UNHCR in collaboration with World Vision delivered eight shelter kits, 800 hygiene kits for women, men, and children and 750 PPE kits in the two main informal reception centres of Trojes and Danlí.
- In May UNHCR held meetings in Tegucigalpa with authorities and with representatives of the World Bank (WB), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) to strengthen work relationships between the humanitarian and development world in Honduras.
- On 18 May, UNHCR and the IDB visited the Youth Community Centre in San Miguel sector of Tegucigalpa to raise awareness on protection community spaces and its critical role on generalized violence context, as well as seek for funding within development agencies, such as international banks. The same day, UNHCR held a meeting with WB officials to identify cooperation mechanisms on solutions for IDPs, violence context, public policy making, among others.
- In a meeting with the SEDH, UNHCR Representative in Honduras explained the purpose of the visit was to catalyse access to funding options of multilateral institutions to enable the inclusion of displaced populations in large development investments.
- On 18 May, UNHCR, together with UN Women and Trocaire, officially launched the PBF-funded “Pro Defensoras” project, focused on empowering the leadership of women human rights defenders. The project will promote positive narratives about their work and will address the risks they face in carrying out their work in public life. The three strategies of the project are participation, promotion, and protection.
- From 24 to 26 May, Honduras as pro tempore presidency of the MIRPS, together with the seven countries that make up the MIRPS, participated in the Signature Event on Resettlement, Complementary Pathways and Integration, organized by Canada as current president of the MIRPS Support Platform. The event was attended by officials from the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and the INM. UNHCR contributed to the participation of women’s grassroot organization MOMUCLAA.

Public Information

- To inform on the need for the National Congress to pass the Law for the Prevention, Assistance and Protection of IDPs in Honduras, UNHCR launched on Twitter the campaign “247 thousand reasons”, with the support of OHCHR, ICRC, Doctors of the World, NRC, and the Inter-institutional Commission for the Protection of People Displaced by Violence. The campaign will disseminate key concepts and information through infographics, interviews with spokespersons in the media, and audiovisual pieces.
- Honduras must legislate to prevent internal displacement, a phenomenon that has “multiple causes” and forced 250,000 people to leave their homes in recent years, said UNHCR Representative in an interview with International Media Hub EFE Agency. The interview was framed in the campaign “247 thousand reasons” and was picked up by international media La Vanguardia, renowned Honduran media outlets La Prensa and La Tribuna and eight local news websites.

Funding

- UNHCR is appealing for USD 28.6 million to provide comprehensive solutions to forcibly displaced persons in Honduras in 2022. 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.

UNHCR is thankful to the donors who provide funds to Honduras.

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