

# HONDURAS EXTERNAL UPDATE 11

September 2022

## KEY FIGURES

**67,000+**

individuals were affected by climate change related disasters in Honduras as of 27 September 2022 due to the hurricane season's effects

**9,043**

individuals remain sheltered in Honduras after being similarly affected by the heavy rains in Honduras, as of 27 September 2022

**480**

IDPs, asylum-seekers, returnees, and Hondurans assisted with cash and vouchers by UNHCR in September 2022

**19,396**

people in mixed movements from Venezuela, Cuba, Ecuador, Haiti, and Colombia entered Honduras through irregular points in the southern-east border in September 2022, according to the INM

**111**

new asylum applications were filed in Honduras so far in 2022, what is more than in the whole year of 2021, according to the INM. 77% of the requests are from Nicaraguans

## HIGHLIGHTS

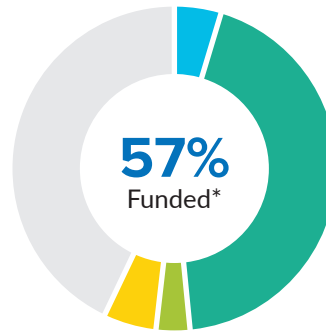
On September 20, 2022, due to the high flows and possible new floods of the Ulúa and Chamelecón rivers, the Standing Committee on Contingencies (COPECO) of Honduras raised a Yellow and Red Alert to several parts of the country. Because of the recent frequent rains, there have been landslides, road collapses and floodings across the country. In accordance with an Inter-cluster Contingency plan for the rainy season, UNHCR donated to the Municipality of Tegucigalpa shelter kits that will benefit over 200 persons hosted in solidary and temporary shelters. In Ocotepeque, UNHCR met with COPECO to discuss the intensive rainy season crisis and with support of World Vision has delivered 100 shelter kits.



To kick off the National Coordination Groups of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (MIRPS, in the Spanish acronym) in Honduras, on 29 September the government of the country held its first MIRPS related donor event with G-16 members. It aimed at forging synergies with the international community in advancing its national plan and explore potential areas for collaboration. This event facilitated a space for the presentation of the support requirements identified by the Government of Honduras for the implementation of the MIRPS National Plan, explore opportunities for joint work, engage with key actors to assess, and explore opportunities and operational priorities for MIRPS.

## FUNDING

UNHCR is appealing for USD 28.6 million for its 2022 programme, of which USD16.3 million is already funded. USD12.3 million is still needed to continue supporting people forcibly displaced, at risk of displacement, asylum-seekers, refugees and persons in mixed movements.



\*as of 29 September 2022

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

## CONTEXT

**INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT** The frequent rains in September 2022 left a strong impact in Honduras, with landslides, floodings and road collapses all around the country. In San Pedro Sula, UNHCR postponed several community-based interventions. Its partner Children International has also reported suspension of activities and evacuated its community centre in Rivera Hernández sector.

In relation to forced displacement, Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, met with the President of Honduras, Xiomara Castro, during the 77th session of the UN General Assembly and discussed how to address the causes of [displacement](#), for Honduras, for the region and for the world.

Honduras continues to discuss the draft Bill for the Prevention, Care and Protection of Forcibly Displaced Persons to ensure a legal framework for the protection of this population. To present the key elements of the draft Bill and express support to its approval, UNHCR Representative in Honduras, Andres Celis, participated in a press conference organized by the Security and Migration commissions of the National Congress to discuss the construction of the [Law](#). The Representative advocated with the Congress to adopt a legal framework to protect forcibly displaced persons' rights. In his intervention, he highlighted how the lack of a legal framework impedes the coordination of an interinstitutional response, limiting the complementary intervention of humanitarian agencies. The congresspersons expressed their aim to support the bill and requested UNHCR to provide an urgent opinion on it, at the end of the meeting, to enlighten the deliberation and analysis by Congress.

**RETURNS** Some [4,325 Hondurans](#) were returned in September 2022, a similar number to the same period in 2021, but a 38% decrease in relation to the previous month. In relation to the reception mechanisms to the children that are returned to Honduras, UNHCR and the Directorate for Children, Adolescents and Family (DINAF) are working together to finalize the case management procedures for Children with Protection Needs returned to Honduras. The procedures will be revised and socialized with all relevant actors in the country. This will be an important step to further strength the reception Honduran children.

**MIXED MOVEMENTS** September was marked by tragedies in Honduras related to the climate change related disasters caused by the hurricane season. On the 28th, a 2-year-old Brazilian of Haitian descentance [died](#) trying to cross the country, when a speedboat crossing Guayambre river between Nicaragua and Honduras sank. On another note, people in mixed movements are facing ever more deteriorating conditions to cross Honduras due to the heavy rains, whose impacts are heightening risks and putting additional strains on existing reception conditions.

**ASYLUM** 27% of the 86,621 [asylum](#) applications received in Mexico by September 2022 were from Honduran nationals, being the top nationality to request asylum in Mexico so far this year. 54% of Honduran nationals want to [leave](#) the country because of violence, lack of access to education, the lack of livelihoods options, and other reasons.

# UNHCR RESPONSE

## PROTECTION

**LEGAL FRAMEWORK** | On 20 September, UNHCR facilitated a workshop for 20 young leaders belonging to the National Movement of Honduran Youth (MONJUH) in Choluteca, with the aim of socializing the content of the draft Law for the protection of Internally Displaced Persons and establishing joint advocacy plans to promote its adoption. Similarly, on 27 September, UNHCR facilitated an equal workshop in La Paz for 25 young leaders that will advocate the adoption of the Internal Displacement Law currently being discussed in Congress.

**CASE MANAGEMENT** | UNHCR directly attended several internally displaced persons or at risk of displacement, providing information and referring to protection services such as psychological health and internal relocation. UNHCR also assisted those with protection needs in the three Centres for Returned Migrants (CAMRs) in the Cortes Department. In total, 87 protection cases of 265 individuals were managed.

**REUNIFICATION & PUBLIC INFORMATION** | To raise awareness on the United States family reunification programme “Juntos”, for parents who were separated from their children at the border between 20 January 2017 and 20 January 2021, 2,730 radio spots have been broadcasted on three national radio stations, reaching an estimated audience of eight million people. Nine twitter posts have been made since the launch of the campaign, reaching 5,924 people. In addition, 6,000 flyers have been distributed.

**INFORMATION** | UNHCR and World Vision through its Mobile Information System on the southeast border of Honduras provided information to 2,563 persons in mixed movements on international protection and the asylum system to persons that enter Honduran territory and identified cases of persons at risk of internal displacement conducting appropriate referrals.

**BASIC NEEDS** | UNHCR in the Francisco Morazán department focused in delivering shelter, hygiene, and biosafety kits to those neighbourhoods highly vulnerable to climate change related disasters. Due to the heavy rains, more than 200 persons affected by the frequent rains received these kits. In San Pedro Sula, on 28 September, 450 emergency kits were delivered to medical dispensaries to support the response to people affected by the floodings and violence and that need medical services. Similarly, on 22 September, UNHCR carried out the prepositioning of ten shelter kits in strategic points of the Central District for the care of people affected by natural disasters and climate change in the capital. This is part of UNHCR's work in communities and in the construction of prevention mechanisms, with the objective of strengthening the shelter centers used during the rainy season.

**HELP** | UNHCR, Honduras' Property Institute and Human Development Centre (CDH) identified eight abandoned properties in communities with high rates of violence of Buenos Aires, Generación 2000 and Mary de Flores in the Central District. Those properties were abandoned due to incidents associated with social and territorial control exerted by criminal structures, extortion, and dispossession of access to housing, land, and property for criminal use.

**COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION** | To mitigate the risk of forced recruitment in high-risk communities of San Pedro Sula, UNHCR and Children International adapted a space for recreational activities to promote social cohesion between 240 girls, boys, youth, and adults. On 1 and 2 September, UNHCR held workshops to strengthen its partners' response to forced displacement, implementation of community-based protection and the Sports for Protection strategy in the Central District. A total of 15 people from the staff of Youth Against Violence, Human Development Centre (CDH), Save the Children, Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos and Asociación Colaboración y Esfuerzo were trained.

**PROTECTION COORDINATION** | UNHCR held its fourth bi-national encounter with Guatemala to strengthen the protection network in Ocotepeque and Esquipulas. After analysing the latest mixed movement trends and protection concerns, UNHCR and the other actors agreed upon designing and publishing informative materials on access to services and rights for persons in mixed movements. Similarly, three protection routes for survivors of gender-based violence were approved for Ocotepeque after UNHCR met with the Municipal Committee on Violence Prevention (CMPV). This aims to strengthen coordination between local authorities and prevent re-victimization, providing a more integral approach when dealing with identified cases.

**FORCED DISPLACEMENT** | UNHCR in coordination with the Coalition against the involvement of boys, girls, and youth in the armed conflict in Colombia (COALICO), carried out a series of visits with Honduran authorities to prepare a legal analysis on forced recruitment in the country, coordinate capacity-building activities for civil society organizations and State institutions, and advance in the creation of educational materials for the prevention and protection of children at risk of forced displacement.

**TRAINING** | In San Pedro Sula and Ocotepeque, the Human Rights Unit of the Honduran National Migration Institute (INM) and UNHCR jointly provided two trainings for more than 30 INM's border delegates and some border police officers on international protection and the identification and referral pathways of refugees. In addition, for the first time UNHCR visited the Centre for Attention to the Irregular Migrant (CAMI) in San Pedro Sula managed by INM. As a result, clear local communication lines were established between the focal points of the CAMI and UNHCR local team.

**REFUGEE STATUS DETERMINATION** | With the objective to strengthen the Refugee Status Determination procedure in Honduras, UNHCR provided an interactive two-day training on 8 and 9 September in Tegucigalpa together with UNHCR Bureau Officer and the Norwegian Refugee Council. The training focused on the refugee definition, complementary protection, interviewing techniques and the appeal process. 25 INM officials were trained from the Human Rights Unit, Legal Unit and General Secretariat.

## LIVELIHOODS AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS

**SKILLS TRAINING** | As part of the joint UNHCR-ILO project to promote employment and social protection in the context of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework in Central America and Mexico, UNHCR conducted a training on financial literacy for 20 women entrepreneurs from the traditional Afro Honduran Garifuna community of San Juan, in the north of Honduras. The training of 40 hours is carried out with the certified methodology of the International Labour Organization (ILO), which was adapted for Honduras' context. In 2022, this course on financial education will be replicated with different networks of beneficiaries of UNHCR Honduras Livelihoods programs in San Pedro Sula, Ocotepeque and La Ceiba.





## COORDINATION - MIRPS AND CLUSTER

**CLUSTER** | The Global Protection Cluster published a [Protection Analysis Update](#) for Honduras. This report addresses the multiplicity of factors that condition the protection space and that influence the guarantee of the population's rights. Specifically, Honduras is impacted by poverty, inequality, discrimination, widespread violence, impunity, climate change, the consequences of hurricanes and drought, as well as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**MIRPS** | On 1 and 2 September, in the framework of the MIRPS, the International Protection and Borders Unit together with two officers of the Human Rights Unit of INM attended the regional workshop in Mexico City on [Country of Origin Information](#) (COI). INM gave a presentation on the work carried out by its internal COI Unit. In addition, best practices about researching and using COI during the Refugee Status Determination procedures were shared among Government representatives of over 15 participating nations.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

See UNHCR's social media publications in September:



UNHCR launched two videos about its activities in [Tegucigalpa](#) and [San Pedro Sula](#).

UNHCR launched a [video](#) to sensitive the population on the risks taxi drivers face at work.



UNHCR launched a [video](#) on twitter to increase awareness about social inclusion through sign language.

UNHCR launched a twitter [video](#) on the delivery of shelter kits to families affected by recent landslides in Honduras



UNHCR launched a [video](#) on twitter on child protection activities related to prevention of forced displacement in San Pedro Sula.

UNHCR launched a [video](#) on twitter to create awareness about peace building through the points of view of girls with hearing disability.



## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

62 National staff

39 International staff

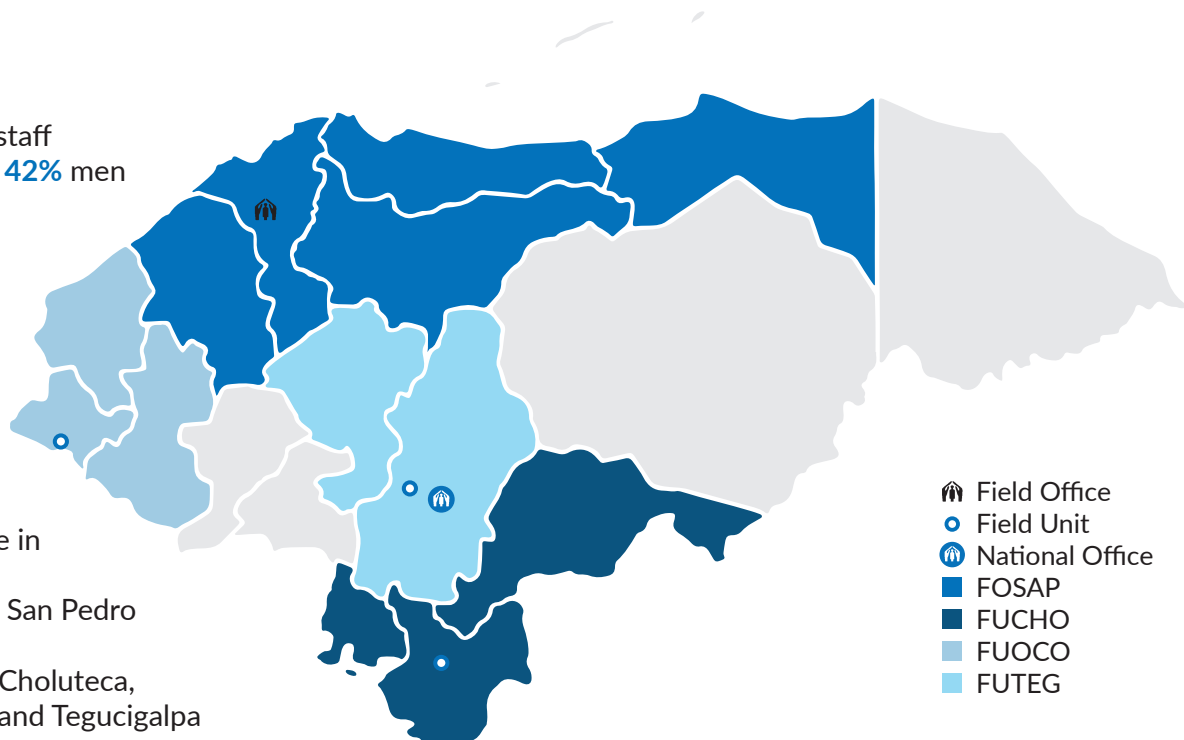
58% women and 42% men








### Offices

01 Country office in Tegucigalpa

01 Field office in San Pedro Sula

03 Field units in Choluteca, Ocotepeque and Tegucigalpa



-  Field Office
-  Field Unit
-  National Office
-  FOSAP
-  FUCHO
-  FUOCO
-  FUTEG

### UNHCR thanks donors providing funds to Honduras



UNHCR also thanks private donors and private donors from:




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