

HONDURAS EXTERNAL UPDATE 12

October 2022

KEY FIGURES

80,000+

individuals were affected by climate change related disasters in Honduras by October 2022 due to the hurricane season's effects.

10

people per day lose their lives due to violence in Honduras, according to the Observatory of Violence of UNAH.

732

mainly internally displaced persons, but also asylum-seekers, returnees, and Hondurans assisted with cash and vouchers by UNHCR in October 2022, almost double the in comparison with the previous month.

483

children and youth have died in Honduras during 2022, according to statistics from COIPRODEN.

Every 24 hours

at least one woman died violently in Honduras, with an estimated 95% of cases going unpunished for the lack of investigation, according to CONADEH.

31,775

people in mixed movements entered Honduras through irregular points in the southern-east border in October 2022, an increase of almost **60%** in comparison with the previous month. According to the INM data, **45%** were Venezuelans.

HIGHLIGHTS

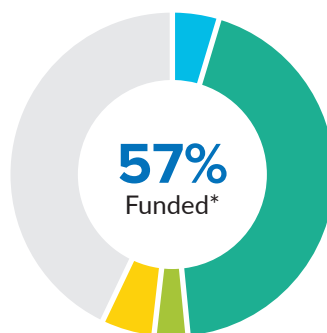
In October 2022, Honduras received a week-long mission of the IDP Protection Expert Group (IPEG) to discuss Internal Displacement in the country. The group met with authorities from several Ministries; the National Congress who is currently discussing the draft bill on internal displacement; and different Secretariats. In addition, IPEG experts visited communities at-risk of displacement in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula that are currently served by UNHCR, and participated in group discussions with high-risk profiles, including bus and taxi drivers and the LGBTIQ+ Committee of San Pedro Sula.



In the context of this mission, UNHCR organized the first Honduras National Forum on Internal Displacement due to Violence on 20 October, together with the UN System. The event counted with the participation of prominent experts such as Chaloka Beyani, former United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons between 2010 and 2016, and Paula Gaviria, who will hold the same position as of November 1, 2022. The event promoted an open dialogue between IPEG experts and specialists in public policies, prominent members of the Honduran academy, public officials, government representatives, recognized experts on forced internal displacement at a global level and Honduran society in general.

FUNDING

UNHCR is appealing for USD 28.6 million for its 2022 programme, of which USD16.4 million is already funded. USD12.2 million is still needed to continue supporting people forcibly displaced, at risk of displacement, asylum-seekers, refugees and persons in mixed movements.



*as of 25 October 2022

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

CONTEXT

INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT October was marked by a strong deterioration of the protection environment in Honduras, with cases of massive displacement; an increase in criminal activity; massacres by death squads; increase in feminicides; a LGBTIQ+ member killed; threats to bus and taxi drivers' life who stopped working for fear of persecution; worsening of the freedom of expression; and landslides, floodings and road collapses that caused more than 80 thousand people to be affected and more than 20 deaths.

In recent months, criminal activity has increased in several municipalities of Francisco Morazán, where the capital of Honduras is located, according to police reports. The area has been named "Corridor of death", due to the expansion of gangs' operations. A sign of this is the recent events in neighbourhood Villa Nueva. Apart from massacres, an average of five violent deaths per week, an increase in extortion charges all happening since the beginning of the year, on 26 October, at least 20 families were forcibly displaced by members of the street gang Pandilla 18 and had to escape death. UNHCR's representative in the country, Andres Celis, delivered an interview to the TV show Diálogo de Impacto addressing the impact of forced displacement in this community.

Similarly, the small neighbourhood Chamelecón, in San Pedro Sula, north of the country, has seen five violent deaths in just one day, on 30 October. This event happened less than four months after a massive displacement in this community due to gang control and violence.

On another note, since the death of five young people in Tegucigalpa in July 2022 in an ambush that included Said Lobo, son of former Honduran President Porfirio Lobo Sosa, the Honduran police has been investigating the presence of death squads in the country. In this context, Ramón Sabillón, Minister of the Honduran Security Secretariat, reported on 1 October to be looking into various crimes in several regions of the country whose responsibility has been claimed by those groups.

In relation to women's rights, the Police Directorate of Anti-Maras, Gangs and Organized Crime (DIPAMPCO) said that 70 percent of the feminicides that happened in Honduras this year were due to organized crime's violence, using women as a product of fights for territory, sale of drugs, extortion, and other illicit activities. Some of the cases are also related to settling scores amongst criminal groups. By October, 240 women were killed violently in Honduras, according to the National Commissioner for Human Rights (CONADEH).

The LGBTIQ+ community, and particularly transgender women, are also extremely vulnerable in the country, with 34 people killed so far in 2022. Impunity reaches more than 90% of those cases, according to figures from human rights organizations. Recently, there was the violent death of the activist and transgender woman Melissa Núñez, 42 years old, becoming the sixth transgender person killed during this year, according to data from the Catrachas Observatory.

On another note, Honduras is amongst the countries that saw its ranking on freedom of expression worsened the most, according to the the Chapultepec Index 2022 presented during the 78th General Assembly of the Inter-American Society (IAPA). Between January and October 2022, five people that worked for the media have died violently by unknown perpetrators. The cases continued unpunished.

Apart from journalists, bus and taxi drivers are facing a dire protection situation in Honduras. According to the Observatory of Violence of the National Autonomous University of Honduras (OV-UNAH), 498 people linked to the public transportation services have died violently in the last three years in the country, with a strong lack of criminal investigation of the cases. In October, several bus points were not operating nearby Tegucigalpa, as drivers claim to be afraid of suffering attacks or even losing their lives at the hands of criminals due to extortion.

Finally, Honduras has been hit this month by the second hurricane of the season, called Julia. The Governments of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador decreed red alert and ordered the evacuation of those sectors considered high risk. The month has seen floodings, property damage and power and drinking water outages all over the country, as well as deaths, people forcibly displacement due to these effects and several problems.

UNHCR RESPONSE

COORDINATION

MIRPS | The Secretary of Foreign Affairs, together with the Secretary of Human Rights and the UNHCR, explored joint actions with the municipality of Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras, to address the challenges faced by the population internally displaced by violence. The meeting strengthened the cognizance about the support that the MIRPS can promote to the role of local governments to respond to the challenges of internal displacement due to violence in the urban context.

PROTECTION CLUSTER | UNHCR signed an agreement with the Civil Protection Honduran National Agency (COPECO) of Honduras, to strengthen the response to emergencies by the country's humanitarian network. This agreement includes support in the development of response plans and protocols, the donation of basic relief items, assistance in processes of establishing temporary housing units. A press release on the signature was released and reached 16 media outlets. As part of this agreement, in October UNHCR formalized the donation of almost 44,000 basic relief items and agreed to donate 144 refugee house units that will complement the institutional response.

SOCIAL PROTECTION | UNHCR and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) signed a collaboration agreement in October 2022 to promote high-impact social programs and projects for vulnerable communities, as well as public policies for socioeconomic development prioritizing internally displaced persons, asylum seekers, refugees, migrants, and host communities. This will facilitate the preparation of programs and projects standardized with the Central American Integration System region (SICA by its acronym in Spanish) and Mexico. UNHCR published a press release and a media advisory about this event, reaching over 13 national and international media outlets.

SPORTS | UNHCR Honduras published a press release about a common agreement to work in synergy signed with the National Commission of Sports, Physical Education and Recreation reaching six relevant media outlets. As part of these efforts, UNHCR together with the San Pedro Sula Municipality and partners Children International and Warriors Zulu Nation Honduras carried out a Sports Festival in Chamelecón high-risk area. Over 120 youth community leaders and volunteers participated in football, volley, traditional games, self-care, and psychosocial activities. The festival is also part of a comprehensive Sports for Protection (S4P) strategy, that seeks to promote peaceful coexistence in the high-risk sector of Chamelecón profiled as both an IDPs expeller and receiver area.

PROTECTION

FORCED DISPLACEMENT LAW | The president of the Honduran Congress, Luis Redondo, and the Migration and Human Rights Commissions, received, among other representatives, that of UNHCR Honduras, Andres Celis, to provide support in the drafting of the opinion on the Law for the Prevention, Care and Protection of Displaced Persons, currently being discussed by the Congress.

PREVENTION OF FORCED DISPLACEMENT | UNHCR and the Coalition against the involvement of children and young people in the armed conflict in Colombia (COALICO) held three educational workshops for the presentation of the Educational Material "Las Estrellas de Miska" in Honduras. The material is intended to raise awareness and make visible the Forced Recruitment of children and youth

TACTICAL URBANISM | UNHCR, partners Foro de Mujeres Por la Vida, and Mariposas Libres jointly held a Tactical Urbanism Festival, attended by more than 300 people from the high-risk San Juan community, in Tela (Atlántida Department). Its members participated in Garífuna afro-descendent artistic-cultural activities, including, muralism, street painting, traditional games for children and adolescents and a talent show. This festival focused on strengthening the access to gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, protection services as well as safe space for GBV survivors, raise awareness and engage community at-large about GBV issues, and foster reactivation of recreational public spaces for boys and girls.

RAISING AWARENESS | With support of UNHCR, Honduras National Commissioner for Human Rights (CONADEH) published an infographic revealing that 282 schoolteachers were displaced or at risk of displacement from 2016 to 2021 due to extortion and threats to their life and safety. Three out of ten schoolteachers requested a transfer as a self-protection mechanism.

TRAINING | With support of UNHCR and World Vision, on 11 October the Latin-American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) launched the second cohort of the Certificate on Internal Displacement, Human Rights, Gender, and Diversity, where 38 community leaders and municipal officials of Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, Choluteca, Danlí and Ocotepeque will strengthen their knowledge and capacities on protection, internal displacement, and advocacy.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS | 41 young persons from high-risk communities in San Pedro Sula and Francisco Morazan started their graphic design studies in the GraphXAcademy, a lead employer of graphic design specialists in Honduras, with cash assistance from UNHCR. As part of the collaborative work between UNHCR and the Honduran Foundation for Corporate Social Responsibility (FUNDHARSE), the Foundation facilitated the studies with stationary and studying materials. The cooperation with GraphXAcademy is part of UNHCR's engagement work with the private sector in Honduras.

LGBTIQ+ | UNHCR held a workshop with 18 participants to support the Valle de Sula LGBTIQ+ Committee in building an awareness campaign on gender-based violence affecting diverse women, as part of the 16 days of activism to end violence against women and girls. The participants, mainly lesbian and transgender women, prioritized making it visible the sexual violence committed against women with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC), and its impacts such as displacement and hate crimes. They planned to advocate to respond to some of its contributing factors such as the lack of safe spaces for LGBTIQ+ people, limited access to differentiated comprehensive services and/or lack of access to information

CONTEXT

MIXED MOVEMENTS Following the announcement by the United States of America of the new Parole Program for Venezuelans, Honduras saw an increase in people in mixed movements entering the country, as well as being returned from Guatemala and getting stranded in main cities such as Ocotepeque, in the northern border; Choluteca, Danlí and Trojes, in the south-eastern border; Tegucigalpa, the capital; and San Pedro Sula, the second largest city in the country. In the month of October, 30,775 persons in mixed movements entered Honduras irregularly, the highest number reported in one single month in 2022, also a 43% increase in comparison with September. Out of the total number, almost half were Venezuelans (14,027 or 46% of the total). Part of the Venezuelans stranded in the country expressed their intention to either seek asylum in Honduras, return to their country of origin, settle down in the country or go to a third country. Because of this context, the already very limited reception capacities of Honduras got overstretched, with all available shelters overcrowded and working above capacity. Apart from shelter, this population was in need of food, hygiene, psychological and medical services, legal counselling, safe spaces for LGBTIQ+ persons, and specialized services for SGBV survivors and persons with disabilities.

ASYLUM According to the Honduran National Migration Institute (INM), nine new asylum applications were filed in Honduras in October (five Venezuelans and four Nicaraguans). In the first ten months of 2022, 120 asylum applications were made, more than the total number of applications registered in the whole year of 2021 and the highest number ever registered in a single year in Honduras. 76% of the applications made in 2022 correspond to

UNHCR RESPONSE

PROTECTION CLUSTER | The Local Response Group for the Southern Border led by UNHCR and co-lead by Action Against Hunger, continues being the space where the humanitarian response implemented by 19 humanitarian organizations in the southern border is being coordinated for new arrivals of persons in mixed movements as well as for the situation of Venezuelans that have being impacted changes in migration policies. By October 2022, the Local Response Group served 69,320 persons with humanitarian assistance.

UNHCR and World Vision through its Mobile Information System on the southeast border of Honduras provided information to 3,064 persons in mixed movements on international protection and the asylum system to persons that enter Honduran territory.

ASSISTANCE | 926 returnees and persons in mixed movements with protection needs were assisted in Casa Migrante Ocotepeque, financed by UNHCR.

TRAINING | In October, 114 persons (56 men / 58 women) were trained on topics such as international protection, refugees' rights, and referral pathways of identified cases. 66 of them are INM delegates working in El Paraíso and Choluteca, hotspots of persons in mixed movements. 18 of them correspond to Officials from different CONADEH delegation and 30 correspond to civil society actors.

UNHCR held a workshop, together with the National Directorate for Children, Adolescent and Family Affairs (DINAF) and Help in Action where 25 judicial facilitators in Ocotepeque were capacitated on internal displacement and protection risks that specially affect children with the aim to improve their protection and access to legal justice.

INFORMATION | UNHCR provided information on international protection, the asylum-system in Honduras and on available services in Ocotepeque to 150 people to mitigate protection risks through the Mobile Health Spot in the Sinuapa Triangle, an area of Honduras that receives people in mixed movements aiming to leave Honduras to continue their journey northward.

CONTEXT

RETURNS | During the month of October, a total of 4,472 people were returned to the three Centres for Returned Migrants of Honduras, representing a significant decrease by 25% in returns compared to previous months. On another note, Honduras still has 963 children separated from their parents, according to reports from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided on 24 October, 2022.

UNHCR RESPONSE

CASE MANAGEMENT | UNHCR attended 33 cases (73 people) of returnees with protection needs at three Centres for Returned Migrants. The deportees received information and were provided with different protection alternatives, including referrals to the Protection Transfer Arrangement program, to Doctors of the World for psycho-social assistance and to Foro de Mujeres por la Vida for gender-based violence cases.

JUNTOS | UNHCR in Honduras manages a family reunification programme called "Juntos", for parents who were separated from their children. As a result, so far in 2022, 34 cases (153 persons) were referred from KIND to UNHCR, out of which eight cases (29 persons) were eligible. The protection situation of the remaining 26 cases (124 persons) is currently being analysed by UNHCR to provide them with a different durable solution, including joining the Protection Transfer Arrangement program.

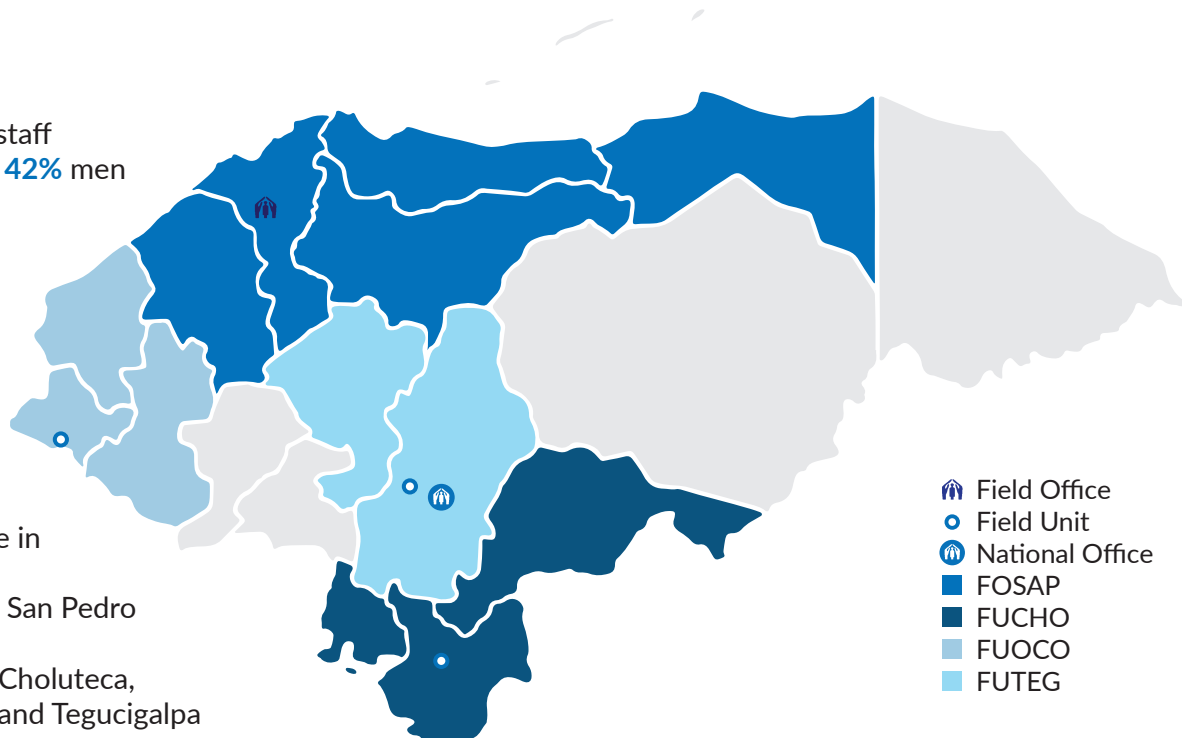
UNHCR PRESENCE








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

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