

Honduras

Fact Sheet

January - July 2025



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

- Honduras faces **persistent protection risks** linked to violence perpetrated by gangs, manifested through **extortion, forced recruitment of children, violence against women and girls, territorial control, and the dispossession of housing, land, and property (HLP)**, compounded by poverty and extreme weather events.

- More than **247,000 people** were internally displaced by generalised violence between 2004 and 2018, and numbers are likely higher today as causes of displacement persist.

By mid-2025, **over 24,000 Honduran nationals had been returned**, with some individuals facing life-threatening risks.

- In 2024, **369,258 refugees and migrants entered irregularly, moving northwards**. In 2025, changes in United States migration policies led to new dynamics, including an increase in the number of individuals irregularly entering the country and heading south, towards Costa Rica or Colombia.

In 2025, the **asylum claims quadrupled compared to 2024**, further straining limited national capacities. As of July 2025, **232 individuals had been recognised as refugees by the State**.

Population figures »»

Internally Displaced

247,090

Others of concern

70,000

Refugees

270

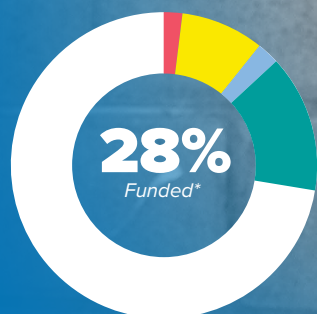
Asylum-seekers

500

Total

317,860

Funding »»



As of 31 July 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 8,5 million (28%) has been funded. USD 22,2 million is still needed to continue supporting people forcibly displaced, at risk of displacement, returnees with protection needs, asylum-seekers and refugees.



Scan the QR code to learn more about Belky's story.

She fled her country with her family to protect them. Now, with her talent in beauty and cooking, she is starting her own business and building a new beginning for all of them.



UNHCR maintains field presence to monitor risks, support grassroots organizations, and ensure protection services reach people in need.

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UNHCR Presence

Staff:

56 National Staff

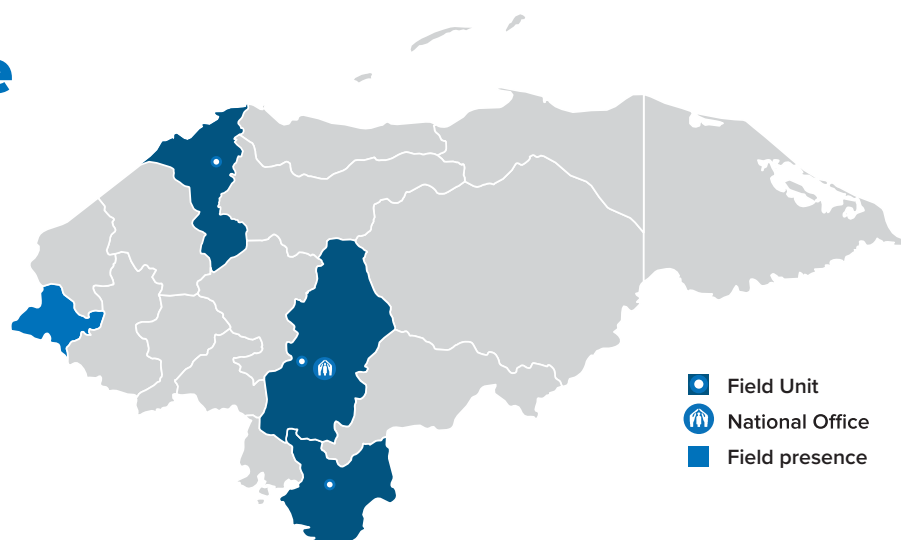
10 International Staff

Offices:

1 Branch Office in Tegucigalpa

3 Field Units in San Pedro Sula,
Choluteca and Tegucigalpa.

+ Field presence in Ocotepeque



Working with Partners

As co-leader of the Protection Sector within the Humanitarian Response Plan, UNHCR works closely with partners to strengthen reception for asylum-seekers, promote durable solutions, and empower communities.

In Central District (Tegucigalpa and Comayagua), Choluteca, Ocotepeque, and San Pedro Sula **UNHCR maintains field presence to monitor risks, support grassroots organizations, and ensure protection services reach people in need.** Community engagement, including work with women, youth, and indigenous leaders, is central to reducing exposure to violence and strengthening resilience.

Key stakeholders include the Secretariat of Human Rights (SEDH), which leads the IDPs response; the National Migration Institute (INM), responsible for asylum applications and border management; the National Commissioner for Human

Rights (CONADEH), which provides oversight; the Secretariat of Childhood, Adolescence and Family (SENAF), responsible for child protection; the State Secretariat for Risk Management and National Emergencies (COPECO), which coordinates disaster response and preparedness; and municipal governments, which **play a growing role in prevention and local solutions.** Civil society and faith-based organizations provide shelters and advocacy, while the private sector and development banks contribute to socio-economic inclusion. **International partners such as IOM, OCHA, UNICEF, and WFP collaborate within the UN system.**

These efforts are guided by **Honduras' commitments under the Comprehensive Regional Framework for Protection and Solutions (MIRPS)**, pledges at the Global Refugee Forum, and the UNSDCF 2022–2026, particularly outcomes on governance, access to justice, and violence reduction.

Main Activities

Protection and Legal Assistance

In 2025, UNHCR and partners **strengthened national asylum and protection systems in Honduras**, providing technical support to the National Migration Institute (INM) for the issuance of documentation for asylum-seekers, the establishment of referral mechanisms, and the issuance of Convention Travel Documents. UNHCR and partners **assisted more than 26,650 people, including internally displaced persons, Honduran returnees with protection needs, asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants**, who received protection information and orientation through guidance on asylum procedures, access to services, and safe protection pathways.

UNHCR trained over 1,200 officials, nationwide on the Law for the Prevention, Assistance and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons, including judges, justice officials, and emergency service personnel. Furthermore, outreach materials were installed in three municipalities in border areas to expand access to information to refugees and migrants. Additionally, UNHCR supported the Secretariat for Human Rights (SEDH) and the Property Institute (IP) in launching a housing, land, and property intervention in Tegucigalpa, **enabling 350 people to obtain legal tenure documents**, mitigating the risk of displacement.

UNHCR contributed to the adoption of the **Protocol for the Protection of Honduran Returnees with Protection Needs**, that outlines the institutional roles within the Centres for the Attention of Returned Migrants (CAMR) and the Centre for Returned Children and Families (CANFM-Belen) to ensure coordinated identification and assistance of Honduran returnees in need of protection, focusing on children and adolescents.

Child, Women and Community Protection

UNHCR with SENAF, supported a **national campaign to prevent child sexual abuse** and donated educational materials to Child-Friendly Spaces at border areas, ensuring safer environments for refugee and migrant children. In collaboration with the National Sports Commission (CONDEPOR) over **1,180 children and youth people** from high-risk communities in Tegucigalpa participated in sports for protection activities through recreational sessions. In Ocotepeque, more than 90 children and adolescents joined digital safety workshops to prevent forced recruitment and online exploitation. In Choluteca and Tegucigalpa, **nearly 500 children participated in activities using UNHCR's methodology "Las Estrellas Fugaces de Miska"**, which builds municipal capacity to prevent forced recruitment and child displacement.



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UNHCR advanced women's protection by facilitating an agreement between the INM and the Secretariat of Women's Affairs (SEMUJER) to **strengthen case management and referral for refugee and asylum-seekers women survivors of violence**. As part of this effort, staff from Ciudad Mujer in Choloma and San Pedro Sula were trained on protection mechanisms, while justice officials in Ocotepeque received guidance on survivor-centred responses. **Since 2023, more than 540 survivors of violence have received direct assistance in Ocotepeque**, reflecting stronger institutional pathways for protection in border regions.

Local capacity strengthening and integration

UNHCR and partners **expanded livelihood and inclusion opportunities for displaced and at-risk communities by linking training, entrepreneurship support, and institutional coordination**. In Choluteca, young people graduated from a graphic design course, while entrepreneurs in Cedeño received tailored training to adapt their businesses to consumer demand. In Tegucigalpa, people at-risk of displacement and displaced individuals initiated entrepreneurship workshops, while many other entrepreneurs formalised their businesses. **Monitoring of 35 enterprises supported in 2024 confirmed that 29 were formalised, 12 obtained Government**

food safety certificates, and 20 secured bank accounts or digital services.

To expand access to education, **UNHCR mobilised public and private partners to provide full scholarships for 50 displaced individuals to complete secondary education**, while 54 youth people in Tegucigalpa accessed food and transportation support during internships through contributions from 12 private companies. In San Pedro Sula, **many people, including displaced and Honduran returnees, completed a 96-hour barista training**, and others received occupational certifications through the National Vocational Training Institute (INFOP).

UNHCR also supported **women's economic inclusion by partnering with Fundacion Kafie to equip women entrepreneurs in Tegucigalpa** and by convening the Migrant and Displaced Women's Roundtable in San Pedro Sula to strengthen leadership and self-protection. **232 families, 79% female-headed, benefited from livelihood initiatives in the first quarter of 2025**. These combined efforts generated income, strengthened self-reliance, and reinforced municipal capacities to address displacement and climate risks.

Strategic Coordination

UNHCR provided technical support to the Inter-institutional Commission for the Protection of Forcibly Displaced Persons (CIPPDEF), **enabling the creation of three permanent sub-commissions on national response systems, protection financing, and public policy.** In addition, CIPPDEF established an ad-hoc sub-commission **to address mass deportations and the protection needs of returnees,** with the participation of the INM, the Honduran Red Cross, and the Pastoral for Human Mobility.

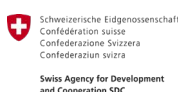
UNHCR supported the Secretariat of Social Development (SEDESOL) in **advancing Honduras' Adaptive Social Protection Policy,** ensuring that the needs of forcibly displaced people are reflected in national strategies. In coordination with SEDESOL, CIAT-CGIAR, and the Bioversity International Alliance, **UNHCR took part in consultations with local authorities, NGOs, and communities affected by extreme weather events.** Representatives from local governments and civil society were briefed on measures to address climate-related risks and climate-induced displacement.

At local level, UNHCR and the Association of Municipalities of Honduras **promoted municipal engagement in displacement responses,** while in Bajo Aguan **UNHCR joined inter-agency missions with OHCHR, UNICEF, and OCHA to assess humanitarian needs and strengthen advocacy.** Furthermore, UNHCR as co-leader of the Protection Sector, **assisted 79,782 people nationwide, 55% of whom were displaced or at risk of displacement,** through case management, specialised services, and legal and humanitarian support.

UNHCR strengthened operational efficiency and inter-agency complementarity through the **inauguration of a shared office in San Pedro Sula with IOM, UNICEF, and WFP, and a shared office with FAO in Choluteca.** This will facilitate the coordination and joint efforts in northern and southern Honduras in 2025–2026, **enhancing protection for Honduran returnees, internally displaced people, those at risk of displacement, refugees, asylum-seekers, and migrants.**



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*As of July 2025

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