



ANNUAL REPORT

MIRPS 2024

Comprehensive
Regional Protection
and Solutions
Framework



Honduras





NATIONAL CONTEXT

Indicators



322

NUMBER OF DISPLACED PEOPLE or people at risk of displacement supported by state protection mechanisms



16

NUMBER OF SUSPECTED ABANDONED PROPERTIES identified through community activities



350

NUMBER OF RETURNEES in priority intervention municipalities who have access to programmes that support safe, dignified conditions



121

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN NEED OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION who have been identified, supported and referred to in border/transit areas

Through the ground-breaking Law for the Prevention, Care and Protection of Internally Displaced People, which became effective in April 2023, Honduras has set an example in preventing and responding to internal displacement.

Honduras faces complex challenges related to human mobility. It has historically been a country of origin, transit, and destination, where the number of people moving within and across its borders has increased significantly. Since 2015, a total of 599,702 Hondurans have returned, a situation that has put the response capacity of the national system to the test. The national system has faced difficulties in providing comprehensive care adapted to the reintegration and protection needs of these people. The demand exceeds current resources and operational capacity, hindering the implementation of an approach focused on assistance and reintegration that is sustainable and effective over time.

There is a constant flow of people in transit in Honduras. As of 30 September 2024, the National Migration Institute (Instituto Nacional de Migración, INM) registered the irregular entry of more than 319,318 people – that is, 21,293 fewer arrivals than those registered in 2023, as of the same date. This trend reflects the persistence of structural inequality factors that drive vulnerable population sectors towards migration routes. The State's capacity to manage this influx has been exceeded, intensifying humanitarian needs in various regions of the country.

Through the ground-breaking Law for the Prevention, Care and Protection of Internally Displaced People (*Ley para la Prevención, Atención y Protección de las Personas Desplazadas Internamente*), which became effective in April 2023, Honduras has set an example in preventing and responding to internal displacement. Following the adoption of this law (through Legislative Decree No. 154-2022), significant progress has been made, such as the drafting of the law's regulations. To this end, a five-day consultation was held, called "The Voices of Forced Displacement in Honduras," in Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, Choluteca, La Esperanza and La Ceiba. A total of 170 people – including women, men, girls, boys, adolescents, young people, indigenous peoples, Afro-Hondurans, LGBTIQ+ people, civil society organisations and community leaders – participated in these consultations. In addition, six workshops were held with 25 public institutions that are part of the Inter-Institutional Commission for the Protection of Forcibly Displaced People (CIPPDEF, in Spanish). In September 2024, the CIPPDEF held an extraordinary meeting to review the regulations before they were officially adopted by the Honduran Congress.

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Despite these efforts, internal displacement due to violence remains a serious problem in Honduras. Between 2004 and 2018, more than 247,090 people were internally displaced due to various factors, including territorial control by criminal groups, extortion, forced recruitment, dispossession, gender-based violence, political violence, human rights violations, and the effects of climate change. This phenomenon is particularly visible in urban areas such as the Central District and San Pedro Sula, where insecurity and a lack of opportunities aggravate the situation.

Aware of the seriousness of internal displacement, Honduras has taken various actions to address

the phenomenon. At the municipal level, initiatives such as “Cities of Solidarity” seek to offer essential services and support the integration of displaced people, thus strengthening social cohesion. In addition, in collaboration with international organisations such as UNHCR, Honduras continues to work on preventive measures, including capacity building and the improvement of livelihood opportunities in impacted communities. These actions seek not only to mitigate the impact of displacement, but also to address the root causes behind it, fostering development and peace in the country.

PROGRESS

Protection



Through the Directorate for the Protection of People Internally Displaced by Violence (DIPPDIV, in Spanish), the Ministry of Human Rights has provided protection measures and humanitarian assistance to those internally displaced due to violence and/or at risk of displacement, as well as returnees with protection needs. The Ministry has done so through emergency relocation transfers, temporary hotel accommodation, shelter kits, cash assistance for relocation leases, food, early childhood kits, personal hygiene and cleanliness kits, clothing, emergency transfers, cash assistance, and relocation rent money through the Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Mechanism (MAHE, in Spanish). In 2024, 93 cases were attended to, forming a total of 332 people (specifically, 80 girls, 105 women, 53 boys and 84 men). These cases have been tracked and monitored through home visits and telephone calls.

As part of the humanitarian assistance components, seed funding for livelihoods was also delivered to 15 cases in 2024, benefiting a total of 40 people (5 girls, 9 boys, 17 women and 9 men). This initiative aims to support beneficiaries in developing a productive activity with the help of a durable solutions officer. Once emergency humanitarian assistance has been delivered,

these actions allow that beneficiaries' basic needs be met.

In order to strengthen the capacity to respond to forced displacement at the local level, eight workshops were held with the municipalities of Distrito Central, Choluteca, Juticalpa, Catacamas, San Pedro Sula, El Progreso, Choloma and La Ceiba within the framework of the guidelines for the municipal response to internal displacement in Honduras. The aim of these guidelines is to put legal provisions into operation and advise municipal governments to keep moving forward with the implementation of the displacement law. A total of 106 municipal officials participated in these workshops.

In turn, the INM has implemented several measures to improve the protection of refugees, asylum-seekers and those in need of international protection, thereby guaranteeing their rights. Some notable measures include the strengthening of the legal framework by creating and amending laws that are in line with international standards. This, in turn, will facilitate clear processes to seek asylum and protection. The INM also works closely with international organisations such as UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to improve safety conditions and ensure access to basic and legal services. Likewise,

it has developed training programmes for its staff focused on human rights and international protection, ensuring adequate and sensitive treatment of these vulnerable populations. Similarly, the INM has created safe spaces to receive people in mixed movements, where they can access medical, psychological and legal assistance. It has also launched awareness-raising campaigns to inform refugees about their rights and available resources, helping to prevent abuses and guarantee their access to assistance. These initiatives seek to ensure the dignity, safety, and integration of refugees in Honduras.

Through the General Directorate for the Protection of Honduran Migrants (*Dirección General de Protección al Hondureño Migrante*) and the Office of Care for Returned Migrants (*Oficina de Atención al Migrante Retornado*), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (SRECI, in Spanish) has identified and attended to 350 returnees in need of international protection (as of 30 September 2024). These people have been referred to competent institutions to ensure a timely and adequate response, in coordination with the Returnee Attention Centres (*Centros de Atención al Migrante Retornado*). These centres have received 25,161 returnees, 1.39% of which is vulnerable and has required special care.

The General Directorate for the Protection of Honduran Migrants has finished developing a

Protocol on Support to Returnees with Protection Needs, which is currently being approved by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. This protocol is the result of collaboration with various national and international entities, including the Ministry for Childhood, Adolescence and Family (SENAF, in Spanish), the INM, the Ministry of Social Development (SDS, in Spanish) through the Office of Social Development (ODS, in Spanish), UNHCR, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), the Honduran Red Cross (HRC) and the staff assigned to returnee attention centres.

This protocol will significantly strengthen the identification and assistance provided to vulnerable returnees with protection needs. In addition, the already implemented care card will be integrated into the Social Development Observatory, guaranteeing the generation of reliable and updated data, which will be essential for the State of Honduras' policies regarding protection and comprehensive assistance.

This inter-institutional effort not only optimises immediate response capacity, but also supports the development of public policies based on solid data, and, in turn, the safety and protection of returned migrants.

Education



In order to improve the educational integration of refugees, the INM has implemented various initiatives to support their access to education in more inclusive and equitable conditions. The main actions include:

Facilitation of Documentation: The INM helps refugees obtain the required documentation to enrol in schools, ensuring that their migration status is not an obstacle.

Recognition of Previous Studies: In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the INM facilitates the process for validating previous studies conducted in the country of origin, allowing refugees to continue their education without losing the progress they have made.

Accelerated Education Programmes: In conjunction with agencies such as UNHCR, the INM promotes alternative and accelerated education programmes for those whose education has been interrupted due to displacement.

Access to Scholarships and Support: The INM has worked with international organizations to provide scholarships and financial support to cover school expenditures and ensure that refugee students have access to education.

These measures aim to reduce barriers to accessing education and support integration of refugees into the Honduran education system.

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Healthcare



Over the past year, significant progress was made in the healthcare sector for refugees and migrants. The most notable milestones include the implementation of individualised healthcare and the launch of a public tender for medicines, ensuring wider and more equitable access. Vaccination programmes were also integrated into the Migrant Attention Centres (*Centros de Atención al Migrante, CAMI*) and equipped clinics

in these centres, improving the quality of service. Likewise, relationships were strengthened with the Ministry of Health, and dental brigades have been set up to provide dental care to refugees. Agreements were established with various partner organisations in the healthcare sector, therefore strengthening the support and collaboration network in order to continue providing quality services.

Housing, Land and Property Protection



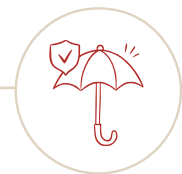
Based on available information, less than 30% of properties in Honduras are currently duly registered with the *Instituto de la Propiedad* (Property Institute). In response, supported by UNHCR, the Property Institute has launched the campaign “*Tu hogar registrado, tu derecho asegurado*” (“Your home registered, your right secured”), with the aim of raising awareness on the importance, benefits and protective impact of registering property and regularising ownership. This campaign aims to prevent arbitrary dispossession and protect the housing, land and property (HLP) rights of displaced populations by providing legal guidance on property registration procedures and mechanisms. Throughout 2024, four information fairs have been organised in Tegucigalpa, Juticalpa, San Pedro Sula and La

Esperanza, providing specialised legal advice to more than 200 people.

In addition, the legal protection mechanism for housing, land and property rights, established by the Displacement Law, is currently in the process of being legally adopted by the Property Institute. The registry and legal directorates of the Institute, with the support of UNHCR, have drafted the Executive Agreement for the Creation of the Registry of Abandoned and Dispossessed Property (*Registro de Bienes Abandonados y Despojados*, RBA) and the Claims Registry (*Registro de Pretensiones*, REP). This key tool for the protection of internally displaced people in the country is expected to be operational from 2025.

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Social Protection



The INM has implemented various actions to improve the social protection of refugees, facilitating their integration and access to essential services. Measures include collaborating with the healthcare system and other institutions to ensure equal access to healthcare, education and social support services. In addition, with the support of international organisations, psychosocial support programmes have been launched to help refugees cope with the trauma of displacement.

In partnership with UNHCR, the Honduran Red Cross and the Norwegian Refugee Council, the INM provides temporary economic support and food aid to cover basic needs while refugees settle in the country. In addition, it has also been providing legal guidance and assistance to ensure that refugees understand their rights, access social protection and address potential discrimination. These actions reflect INM's commitment to the protection and dignity of refugees in Honduras.

Inclusion of Forcibly Displaced People in Statistical Systems



Since 2023, the National Institute of Statistics (*Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas*, INE), in coordination with the Ministry of Human Rights and with the support of UNHCR, has been producing statistical information on forced displacement in the country.

The institute is currently compiling its 2023 report, which will present findings on the causes of forced displacement, such as crime and violence, and climate change (natural disasters or catastrophes), among other variables related to living conditions. The report will also include maps showing the origin and return of internal displacement in Honduras.

The module on forced displacement is included in the Permanent Multipurpose Household Survey (*Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples*, EPHPM), which is conducted through four annual surveys and by drawing on an estimated sample of 7,428 households per survey, covering the country's 18 departments. The survey is designed in such a way as to allow for an analysis at the national level, as well as in the Distrito Central, San Pedro Sula, urban and rural areas and at the department level, by integrating the four surveys, with an estimated 28,800 households studied.



Jobs and Livelihoods



Supported by UNHCR, throughout 2024, the Ministry of Labour and the Institute for Vocational Training (*Instituto de Formación Profesional, INFOP*) implemented the Labour Relations Internships project, financially supported by the United States as part of the MIRPS Support Platform. This programme has benefited 92 young interns in five departments of the country (Francisco Morazán, Cortés, Choluteca, El Paraíso and Ocotepeque), covering a total of 17 municipalities.

Of the 92 participants, 73 are internally displaced young people, 13 are people at risk of displacement and 6 belong to other forcibly displaced groups. It is also worth noting that 47% of participants are women. The interns carried out their internships in 68 companies, 41% of which provide additional support, either financial or in kind. The job profiles most in demand include electrical technicians, mechanics, refrigeration experts, office automation and systems personnel, administrative staff and customer service and sales professionals.

The beneficiaries have undergone registration and workspace identification processes within

the business sector, seeking and identifying spaces where they have opportunities to continue working once they complete their internship. While following up on beneficiaries, it was found that 61% of the interns have received or have a high probability of receiving a job offer from the companies involved. Of those who have already received an offer, 87% have accepted it and joined these companies.

In implementing these actions, the Honduran Government aims to help vulnerable young people enter the job market, especially internally displaced people, returnees with protection needs, and people at risk of displacement. Through the Labour Relations Internships project, the State seeks to facilitate the socio-economic integration of these groups, providing them with training and employment opportunities that allow them to improve their quality of life and help develop the country. By collaborating with the business sector and providing training for in-demand job profiles, the State also seeks to foster long-term employment stability, increase the employability of participants and reduce social exclusion, while also strengthening social cohesion in the affected communities.





I have shared my entire story because I don't want anyone to go through the same as me. My dream is for my story to be the last, to never be afraid again."

Inclusion is key to enabling internally displaced people to rekindle hope

BY DANIELLE ÁLVAREZ

The room begins to fill with people united by the same story: having to leave everything behind to protect their lives. Some have travelled for hours to get here, driven by a sprinkle of hope. Here, their voices will be heard, helping them address and overcome their problems.

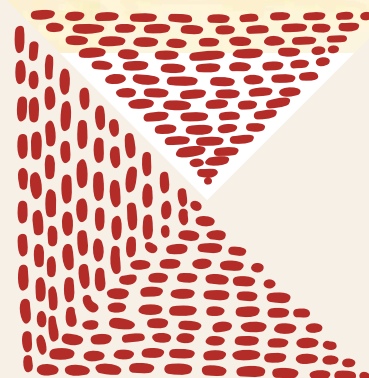
Jimena* notices a sign on the wall: "Your voice is important." She repeats it in a whisper, surprised. "I've never heard that before, [I've] never thought that what I had to say would matter to anyone." She takes a seat and starts to gradually recognise her own story in the testimonies of others. As others speak, she feels as though she is starting to heal. It seems that the fear that still keeps her up at night is becoming less lonely.

During 2023 and 2024, the Ministry of Human Rights, in coordination with the 18 institutions and

organisations of the Inter-Institutional Commission for the Protection of Forcibly Displaced People, began the consultation process with women, men, LGBTIQ+ people and children in the cities most affected by forced displacement.

In these participatory sessions, attendees shared their experiences before and after their displacement in order to adapt the regulation and implementation of the Law for the Prevention, Care and Protection of Internally Displaced People to their actual needs.

"I have shared my entire story because I don't want anyone to go through the same as me. My dream is for my story to be the last, to never be afraid again," says Jimena, who had to flee her home after being threatened.



Although the Honduran Government was already responding to these needs through different assistance and protection programmes, the new legal framework establishes key measures, such as the National System of Response to Forced Displacement, the development of a national policy to prevent it, and the allocation of a budget to provide humanitarian assistance.

As the day comes to an end, Jimena leaves full of hope. “This process makes me think that the State can really be that entity that protects us, that allows us to feel safe in our country. And, most importantly, we can trust them again,” she concludes.



