

Belize

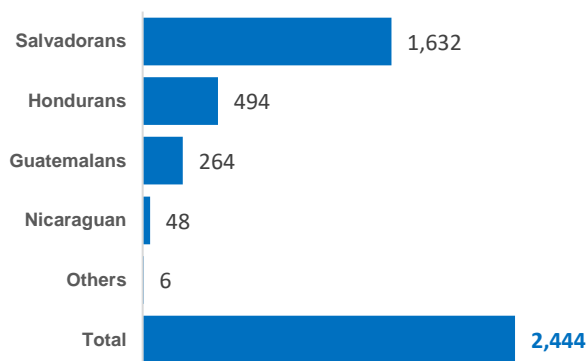
November - December 2021

Belize is home to **roughly 2,500** refugees and asylum-seekers, the majority from El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala.

459 persons of concern benefitted from **community engagement** and **protection** activities, including healthcare and legal services.

88 refugees and **asylum-seekers** benefitted from **livelihoods** and **skill training** to enhance **their self-reliance** and **integration** into local communities.

Population of concern*



* Data includes registered refugees and asylum-seekers.
 Source: Refugees Department, as of June 2021

CONTEXT

Although land borders remained closed – except for tourists with visas who wish to visit Belize for a short stay – movements of people seeking international protection continued. However, due to health concerns, the Refugees Department has halted asylum claims until further notice.

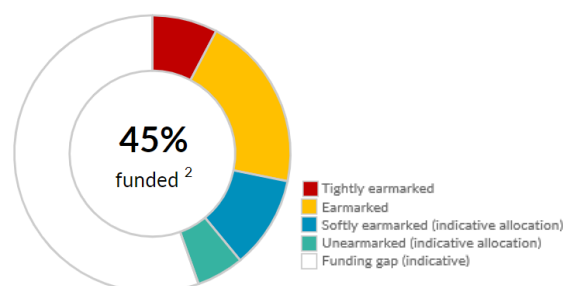
As of 31 December, Belize has registered a cumulative number of 34,628 COVID-19 cases – 3,206 still active – and 605 COVID-19 related deaths. COVID-19 vaccines are being administered to everyone age 12 and over, including refugees and asylum-seekers. By the end of December, 49% of the population had received at least one dose, and 46.5% is fully vaccinated.

The Government of Belize has announced an amnesty program for asylum-seekers and migrants beginning in April 2022. This will allow registered asylum-seekers to apply for permanent residency, while unregistered or denied asylum-seekers will have the opportunity to apply as migrants.

STATE OF PLAY: FUNDING RECEIVED VS. FUNDING NEEDS (AS OF 29 DECEMBER 2021)

US\$ 48.7 M

requested for the Panama Multi-Country Office¹ for 2021



¹ The financial requirements for the Panama MCO include requirements for the Coronavirus Emergency and the Venezuela Situation. Belize is part of the Panama Multi-Country Office in 2021 along with Panama, Nicaragua, Cuba and the Southern Caribbean

² The percentage funded includes indicative allocations of softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions



UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, Spotlight Initiative, and local partners, such as the Human Rights Commission of Belize, Belize Family Life Association, and the Ministry of Human Development provided different services to persons living in San Pedro Town, including refugees and asylum-seekers. Legal, health, counseling, early childhood education, and sexual and reproductive health services were offered to all. A total of 181 households were assisted, including asylum-seekers and refugees. Seven of these mobile clinics took place across Belize in 2021; [this video](#) highlights them.

UNHCR Response and Strategy

UNHCR works in close coordination with the Government, civil society, UN agencies, and refugees and asylum-seekers in Belize. A partnership with the Refugees Department helps channel support and continues strengthening the asylum system in the country. Additionally, UNHCR works in partnership with Help for Progress (HfP), HUMANA People to People Belize (Humana), and the Human Rights Commission of Belize (HRCB). Furthermore, UNHCR supports the government in implementing its commitments under the [Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework \(MIRPS\)](#).

Main Activities

Alongside the government, partner organizations, civil society, development actors, and UN Agencies, UNHCR undertakes protection and solutions activities, including:



Protection

UNHCR through partner HRCB assisted **109 asylum-seekers and other persons of concern with legal services**. UNHCR and HRCB continue to train **25 community leaders** on refugee and human rights as part of the community-based protection activities in Belama Phase 4, a neighborhood that hosts approximately 37% of all refugees and asylum-seekers in Belize City. Moreover, UNHCR and HRCB took part in joint UN mobile services, where **87 persons**, including refugees and asylum-seekers, were provided with legal services.



Advocacy and peaceful coexistence

UNHCR and partner HRCB **distributed information on the asylum procedure and human rights** across three villages – Armenia, St. Matthews, and San Pedro – which benefitted **more than 350** members in these communities.

UNHCR and Sabreena Daly, a UNHCR High Profile Supporter, **created a video** for World Children's Day that highlighted the hopes and dreams of refugee children who live in Belize.



Cash-based interventions and assistance

Between November and December, UNHCR through partners provided **cash assistance to 47 refugees and asylum-seekers**, for food, medicine, education, gas, documents, rent, and other basic items. Additionally, UNHCR through partner Help for Progress distributed educational toys to **600 refugee children across Belize** during the Christmas holidays. These toys helped them practice their spelling, reading, mathematics, and motor skills.



Health

UNHCR and Help for Progress supported *Grupo de Mujeres Unidas Refugiadas* (GMUR) with an **arts programme** for **13 youths**, including member of host communities, to help them **cope with the effects of COVID-19**. The course teacher was a registered asylum-seeker.



Durable solutions and livelihoods

Through HUMANA and Help for Progress, UNHCR delivered **livelihood and skill training courses to 88 asylum-seekers** to enhance their self-reliance and skills on electricity work, woodwork, cosmetology, sewing, entrepreneurship, and English as a second language, which aim at supporting local integration into Belizean communities.

The UNHCR Panama MCO wishes to convey a special thank you to its donors: United States of America, Spain, European Union, France, United Kingdom, and the UN Programme On HIV/AIDS, as well as to the following donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked funds: Algeria | Armenia | Australia | Austria | Belgium | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Cyprus | Denmark | Estonia | Finland | France | Germany | Holy See | Iceland | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Latvia | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | Morocco | Netherlands | New Zealand | Norway | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Slovakia | South Africa | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | Thailand | Turkey | United Kingdom | United States of America | Uruguay | Private donors, including Australia, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Spain, Sweden, and United States of America.

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