



## HONDURAS

### External Update 2

### September 2021

#### Key Figures

##### PROTECTION

UNHCR signed a MoU with the National Women's Institute (**INAM**) to strengthen the local response for women and adolescents at risk.

##### COVID-19

**365,994** confirmed cases  
**9,777** deaths by 30 September 2021  
**5,556,576** people vaccinated  
(3,328,762 received second dose)

**74 per cent of funding needs** received by 28 September 2021. UNHCR is **appealing for USD 26.7 million** to support vulnerable people in need of protection in Honduras.

#### Highlights

- Honduran social worker and director of Jóvenes Contra la Violencia [Jorge Santiago Ávila Corrales](#), 33, was honoured on 29 September as the winner from the Americas of the UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award for his courage and dedication in challenging gang violence that blights the lives of many young Hondurans. In 2019, Jóvenes Contra la Violencia won UNHCR's Youth Initiative Fund. Since 2020, the group has been a UNHCR partner, spearheading youth programmes in schools and communities across Honduras.
- The First Lady of Honduras welcomed the Comprehensive Development Plan for northern Central America and south and southeast Mexico prepared by the UN and presented by ECLAC. The Plan addresses the structural causes of irregular migration from a development and integration perspective and involves an investment of 44 billion dollars over five years.
- The [Report](#) of the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement to the UN Secretary-General submitted on 29 September includes Honduras' experience in integrating internal displacement in local plans and programmes in San Pedro Sula. This best practice shows how displacement should be considered in both spatial planning of cities and as an important element of sector-based systems and services.
- Honduras has the highest percentage of "informal youth" regarding employment (89.2 compared to regional average 68.5) in Latin America and the Caribbean after Bolivia, according to ECLAC's [Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean 2021](#).

#### Protection

- UNHCR, Save The Children, the Honduran Federation of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (FENOPDIH), the Honduras Deaf Association (ASH) and the Honduras Unión of the Blind (UNCIH) launched protection and disability-oriented to forced displacement products developed over the last two years. The products include a glossary of Honduran Sign Language (LESHO) on concepts of protection, forced displacement and rights, and graphic materials (digital and printed) to facilitate the dissemination of protection services and organizations. [VTV channel highlighted](#) UNHCR and Save the Children's work on strengthening capacities in protection and forced displacement of people with disabilities.
- UNHCR signed a MoU with the National Women's Institute (INAM) on 28 September to strengthen the local response for women and adolescents at risk through the support to the Women Municipal Office (OMM). The MoU will also guarantee close collaboration in the construction and implementation of public policies aimed at reducing and responding to internally displaced women, including the effects and the impact of extortion on women.

- On 29 September, UNHCR along with Save the Children continued with the distribution of water tanks in communities of Tegucigalpa as part of the strategy to gain more humanitarian access while contributing to COVID-19 related needs. Some 105 families living in Nueva Capital, a neighborhood in Tegucigalpa at high-risk of violence, will benefit from 105 water tanks of 450 liters capacity each.
- From 20 to 23 September UNHCR carried out an exercise to identify abandoned properties in urban areas of Tegucigalpa, along with the Property Institute, implementing partner Human Development Centre (CDH) and community leaders. As a result, 20 abandoned properties were registered in the neighborhoods of Ulloa, Nueva Capital and Fuerzas Unidas. Also with the Property Institute, UNHCR held a workshop with cadastral technicians and legal officers of the Institute and the Human Rights Secretariat to strengthen capacities on protection, forced displacement and protection of abandoned land and properties.
- Violence against women and girls has increased in Honduras due to the pandemic, a situation that worsened with the impact of hurricanes Eta and Iota, warned the UN Resident Coordinator in Honduras, Alice Shackelford, during a high-level forum sponsored by the “Spotlight” initiative. By 23 September, 209 femicides were registered in Honduras in 2021 (309 in 2020).

## Livelihoods and Cash Assistance

- Some 1,192 individuals from 336 households received cash assistance in August as part of UNHCR’s humanitarian response in Honduras delivered through implementing partner NRC.
- Together with strategic partner Honduran Corporate Social Responsibility Foundation (FUNDAHRSE), the Municipality of San Pedro Sula and private sector, UNHCR carried out a virtual session of the “youth employability and entrepreneurship roundtable” to share a draft proposal to implement an internship programme as a public-private agreement. The programme aims to impact on 30 young IDPs and facilitate their labour inclusion. Nineteen people and nine private companies attended the meeting.

## Government and Inter-agency Coordination

- UNHCR conducted a training session on 2 September for officials of the Directorate for Protection of Internally Displaced People by Violence (DIPPDIV) to support the participation of the Human Rights Secretariat in the Comprehensive Regional Framework for Protection and Solutions MIRPS spaces. This training is the first of several sessions that are planned for the last quarter of the year with State institutions linked to the MIRPS.
- UNHCR Representative, Andrés Celis, signed on 8 September an amendment to the Project Agreement with the National Migration Institute (INM) to strengthen biosecurity measures and institutional infrastructures.

## Public Information

- IOM and UNHCR, with the support of the European Union in Honduras, launched the campaign “[Respiramos Miskitu](#)” to raise awareness on the Miskitu community and promote peaceful coexistence in communities with high rates of Miskitu migrant population. The campaign is part of the project “Promoting peaceful coexistence in the response to COVID-19 for migrants, refugees and other vulnerable populations in Central America and the Caribbean”.
- In the frame of World Humanitarian Day, UNHCR Representative participated in Honduran TV programme “[Frente a Frente](#)” together with the UN Resident Coordinator and World Vision Honduras. Celis analyzed the challenges that the region and specifically Honduras are facing and highlighted that “those who have left everything behind to prioritize others’ lives and well-being deserve admiration and respect.”
- Time magazine included among the [100 most influential people](#) of 2021 Honduran activists Indyra Mendoza and Claudia Spellmant for spending years demanding justice for Vicky Hernández, a transgender woman murdered in 2009.

## Funding

UNHCR is appealing for USD 26.7 million to provide comprehensive solutions to forcibly displaced persons in Honduras in 2021. The best way to support UNHCR’s appeal is through unearmarked contributions. Such flexible funding at global level will be key in allowing a timely response to the evolving needs wherever required.

**UNHCR is thankful to the donors who provide funds to Honduras:**

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**For more information, please contact:**

Salvador Santiesteban, Reporting Officer, [santiest@unhcr.org](mailto:santiest@unhcr.org)

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