

# HONDURAS ANNUAL REPORT



2023





# ABOUT THE ANNUAL REPORT IN HONDURAS FOR 2023

In 2023 great challenges were faced in the context of migration in Honduras, but significant progress was also made in the effective response to migrants who transited or returned to the country.

For the International Organization for Migration (IOM) it was a year in which different milestones were achieved in humanitarian assistance and actions in the country.

This annual report summarizes the main activities and results achieved by the various initiatives implemented by IOM projects and programs under four strategic priorities: saving lives and protecting people on the move; driving solutions to displacement; facilitating pathways for regular migration; and responding to the complex intersection between migration and

climate change. It also provides a look at the migration challenges and trends projected for 2024.

These priorities emerge in the face of today's global approach to migration, which will allow us to realize its promising potential and solve mobility crises without leaving anyone behind.

It is important to highlight that all actions were possible thanks to the trust and coordination with local actors, government institutions, and international organizations under the same premise: to generate a safe, orderly, and regular migration for the benefit of migrants and the communities of origin, transit, and destination.



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF MISSION



**H**onduras is a country of origin, return, transit, and, to a lesser extent, destination of migrants. In addition, since 2022 there has been an exponential increase in the number of irregular migrants transiting the country. In 2023 alone, according to official data, more than 500,000 people entered the country on their way to North America.

For this reason, IOM's work in the country is based on the implementation of projects and programs that can address the root causes of irregular migration by promoting sustainable development and the well-being of individuals and their communities.

In 2024, our work will continue to promote safe, orderly, and regular migration. This will be achieved hand in hand with the IOM Strategy for Honduras 2024-2026, the United Nations Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026, the Honduran Government Plan, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration, of which Honduras is a champion country.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the cooperation agencies, donors, implementing partners, government institutions, agencies of the United Nations System, entities of the Humanitarian Network of Honduras, civil society organizations, and the population in general for supporting an approach to migration in Honduras based on human rights, sustainability, and inclusion.



**Nicola Graviano**  
IOM Chief of Mission  
in Honduras

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF OFFICE



IOM approaches migration with a humane perspective that benefits all people and societies. It is crucial to understand that behind every person there is a story, family, dreams, and aspirations, despite all the challenges they face day after day.

In November 2023, I had the honor of starting as Head of Office for IOM Honduras. Since my arrival, I have seen the remarkable work of the mission to respond to the challenges that migration and displacement pose in the country.

In the last year, different actions and initiatives have been implemented in the country to respond to migration management in the best possible way. This Annual Report highlights the main achievements in 2023.

During 2024, we will continue to implement our work with an innovative, equitable, and inclusive vision to strengthen humanitarian action, social cohesion, and sustainable development.

As IOM's new Director General, Amy Pope, who took office in October 2023, said, "Migration can be a powerful force for positive change," and for that reason, we appreciate everyone's work to continue to make a real impact on Honduran society.



**Paola Zepeda**  
Head of the IOM Office  
in Honduras



# 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

## +23,000

Returned migrants to Honduras received humanitarian assistance.



## 2,568

Humanitarian assistance kits were delivered to people affected by floods.



# +3,200

People were supported with economic reintegration initiatives.



# +70,000

People benefited from comprehensive temporary shelter services, adequate food, transportation, and access to shower and hygiene facilities.



# +18 MILLION

Impressions were obtained through communication campaigns on social networks and other channels.



# 125

Migrants were able to return to their place of origin.





# SAVING LIVES AND PROTECTING PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

IOM puts safety, dignity, and protection of people first in the most challenging contexts of crisis response in the world. As displacements rise to record levels, IOM will increase its own capacity, and that of other humanitarian actors, to reach and sustain access to communities in need of life-saving humanitarian and protection assistance.

## RESULTS OBTAINED

In response to the constant increase in migrants transiting through Honduran territory, **more than 90,000** comprehensive temporary accommodation services, adequate food, transportation, and access to essential shower and hygiene services were provided to around **70,000 migrants in transit** and/or displaced for environmental reasons. Temporary shelter infrastructure was strengthened, and food and personal care kits were delivered.

Also, **21,373 humanitarian assistance** kits were delivered, distributed as follows: **10,973** hygiene kits, **3,200** kitchen kits to prepare food, and **7,200** kits with household items to facilitate accommodation in shelters in the municipalities of Danlí and Trojes (department of El Paraíso).

**More than 23,000** returned migrants to Honduras received humanitarian assistance and more than 3,200 were supported with economic reintegration and livelihood initiatives.



You can learn about some of these stories in the Storyteller [Sustainable Reintegration: The Light at the End of the Tunnel](#) for returnees to Honduras.

The podcast [#Let'sTalkWithTheUN](#) was produced on the importance of contributing to the sustainable reintegration of returning migrants to Honduras and thereby addressing the factors that motivate them to migrate.

Listen to it on: [Spotify](#) [Youtube](#)

**More than 546 persons** with refugee status were resettled in the United States through IOM-led resettlement programs.



Different workshops were held on awareness-raising on migration, human rights, gender and protection, in which **more than 260 officials** belonging to Honduran institutions such as the National Police, the Border Police and the National Institute of Migration, among others, were trained.



In coordination with the Inter-Institutional Commission against Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons (CICESCT), **four new routes of action** were developed for the municipalities of La Ceiba (Atlántida), Puerto Lempira (Gracias a Dios), Tela (Atlántida) and Trujillo (Colón) for the identification, assistance and protection of victims of trafficking in persons.

Together with the Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Ministry (SRECI), IOM provided training on Guidelines to Protect Migrants in Countries Experiencing Conflict or Natural Disaster, also known as the Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) to the consular corps accredited in Honduras.



IOM supported the response capacity of the three migrant reception centers in the country, coordinating actions with the Government of Honduras and agencies present in these spaces.





# DRIVING SOLUTIONS TO DISPLACEMENT

IOM reduces the risks and impacts of climate change, environmental degradation, conflict and instability for communities affected by or at risk of displacement. It also builds resilience and self-reliance by enabling people to access livelihoods.

## RESULTS OBTAINED

The *IOM Strategy for Honduras 2024 – 2026* was presented to government personnel, international cooperation, civil society and counterparts. This aims to respond, in a comprehensive manner, to the challenges that migration and displacement face in the country. You can access the document [here](#).

**316 people** were trained: **250 women** strengthened their knowledge on issues of self-esteem and prevention of irregular migration, **25 women** took part in entrepreneurship trainings and **41 returned migrant** entrepreneurs were instructed in areas of branding and visibility for their ventures.



Under the leadership of the Risk Management and National Contingencies Ministry (COPECO), the *First Institutional Contingency Plan* was developed to strengthen response actions to increased flows of migrants in transit.

In coordination with the United Nations Network on Migration, the peer learning exchange was held with countries in North and Central America on return, readmission and sustainable reintegration, positioning Honduras as a reference in assistance to returning migrants.



Together with the National Statistics Institute (INE), the *National Survey on Migration and Remittances in Honduras* was presented to support evidence-based decision-making by different government institutions, humanitarian actors, cooperation agencies, and civil society on the dynamics of migration and the receipt of remittances in the country's households.

You can access more information about the results [here](#).

As part of this initiative, the storyteller Family Remittances: support and livelihoods for migrants, find out more [here](#).



Three studies on human mobility were conducted, detailing the main needs, trends and migration history of migrants in transit through Honduras.

You can access the complete results below:

- [DTM - Migration Tracking Flow: Department of El Paraíso, Honduras. January - March, 2023.](#)
- [Socioeconomic Survey of Migrants in Transit through Danlí and Trojes, El Paraíso. November 2022 - January 2023.](#)
- [Human Mobility Household Survey on unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents returning to Honduras. July - December 2022.](#)

During 2023, the technical knowledge of all inter-institutional teams working in each Returned Migrant Assistance Center (CAMR) was strengthened on issues such as dignified return, referral mechanisms, and reintegration.

Two fairs were held with the participation of more than **170 women and children**, in which they were given access to health services and information on the prevention of Gender-Based Violence (GBV).



We aired on the #Let'sTalkWithTheUN podcast about the 16 Days of Activism, a global movement that addresses the prevention of gender-based violence and promotes equality.

Listen it on: [Spotify](#) [Youtube](#)

Through IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return Program (AVR), **125 people** of different nationalities were able to return to their countries, mainly from Venezuela, Colombia, and Ecuador.

**More than 30** professionals from the areas of communication and journalism were trained in coverage and ethical production, in an objective and contextualized approach, on migration with a focus on human rights, gender and multiculturalism.



To facilitate the referral of the migrant population to the institutional offer of the Government of Honduras, the Observatory of Social Development of Honduras website was redesigned and launched, which is in charge of the Information System of the Returned Migrant Assistance Registry (SIAMIR), where the Registration Form for Returned Migrant Assistance is applied in the CAMRs at the national level.



# FACILITATING PATHWAYS FOR REGULAR MIGRATION

IOM prioritizes whole-of-government, whole-of-society approaches to safely connect people, goods, services, knowledge and innovation. Therefore, it is committed to materializing the potential of migration by helping States to establish, expand and optimize regular migration pathways, while reducing irregular migration.

## RESULTS OBTAINED

Together with the Government of Honduras, the Legal Identity Fair 2023 was held, where **1,400 Hondurans** residing in Mexico processed their National Identification Document (DNI) and passports. This process was accompanied by a communication campaign, which reached more than 10 million impressions, on the importance of having valid documents as a way to access formal employment and regularization.



**12,900 young people** and teachers were positively impacted by the Think Twice initiative through capacity building and community participation processes.



**More than 10,000 people** were assisted at the Canada Visa Application Centre (CVAC) as part of the efforts to facilitate regular migration channels.

With IOM's support, the Government of Honduras provided assistance to Honduran seafarers in their post-hire migration process to work on foreign vessels through the Individual Boarding Pass Information System for Honduran Seafarers (BIEMARH).

The first cross-border carnetization pilot program was launched for more than **100 coffee** producers in the labor migration area.

IOM and the Government of Honduras were able to involve the Honduran diaspora in the United States to develop community projects in vulnerable municipalities. Through this initiative, schools, health centers, and dining halls are being built and improved in Chinacla (La Paz), Aguas Preciosas (Olancho), Guajiquiro (La Paz), and San Miguelito (Francisco Morazán).

As part of this initiative, the storyteller Lending a Hand Back Home: How the Honduran Diaspora is Contributing to Their Communities was produced, find out more [here](#).

# MIGRATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**M**igration and climate change are intricately linked, forming a complex interplay that significantly impacts individuals, communities and societies worldwide. For this reason, IOM plays a crucial role in addressing the complex intersection between migration and climate change.

## RESULTS OBTAINED

With the support of the local governments of La Lima, Villanueva, and Omoa, and the Municipal Emergency Committee (CODEM), **2,568 humanitarian assistance** kits were provided to people affected by floods.

As part of this initiative, the storyteller Honduras: Stories of Hope in the Face of Climate Change, find out more [here](#).





# COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGNS

## THINK TWICE

It is a campaign built using the Communication for Development (C4D) methodology to promote appropriate decision-making on migration among youth.

 VIEWS ON SOCIAL NETWORKS  
**+900,000**

 PEOPLE REACHED DIRECTLY THROUGH  
COMMUNITY-BASED ACTIVITIES  
**+12,900**



## IT'S IN YOU

This campaign, developed with students from the Bachelor's Degree in Communications at the Central American Technological University (UNITEC), highlights the contributions that returned migrants make in their communities.

 VIEWS ON SOCIAL NETWORKS  
**+2.5 MILLIONS**

 IMPACTS IN NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY  
RADIO STATIONS  
**+664**



## FOR MY MENTAL HEALTH

During 2023, we continued collaborating with teachers and students of the Psychology program from UNITEC to provide free psychosocial care services, directed mainly to returned migrants.

 VIEWS ON SOCIAL NETWORKS  
**+12,000**

 PEOPLE REACHED BY THIS INITIATIVE  
**+60**



# PHOTO GALLERY 2023



IOM and the local government of Santa Barbara inaugurated the Municipal Unit for Attention to Returned Migrants and Displaced by Violence (UMAM-RDV) to provide care to returnees through access to services, economic reintegration opportunities and psychosocial support.



Shelter kits were delivered to Nueva Florida (Yoro) in response to the effects of the 2022 rainy season.





Women's networks from Sambo Creek, Corozal, Peru and Satuyé participated in the workshop on migration, mental health and gender-based violence prevention.



Entrepreneurship led by Omer Reyes, a migrant who returned to San Pedro Sula (Cortés) and now manages his own makeup business, supported by IOM's sustainable reintegration initiatives.





In response to the increase in the transit of migrants through the eastern part of the country, support for the Delegation of the National Migration Institute in Danlí was given.



Women from the municipality of Choloma (Cortés) participated in the Mental Health and Psycho-social Support training through the Wellness Club methodology.





Through a day full of fun, the *Think Twice* Color Run took place in El Progreso (Yoro).



The Expo Feria del Emprendedor y Artesanos was held to celebrate the talents of migrant entrepreneurs in Santa Barbara.



# 2024 PROJECTIONS

**M**igratory flows reached record levels in the Americas during 2023. According to statistics from the National Institute of Migration (INM), the number of reported cases of migrants in transit crossing Honduran territory reached 545,043. This is almost three times the number of people who entered in 2022, which was 188,858 people. As in previous years, the origin of these migrants is mainly reported from the countries of Venezuela, Cuba, Haiti, Ecuador and to a lesser extent from other countries in South America, Africa and Asia.

Regarding projections for Honduras and the Northern Central American region in 2024, although it is always uncertain due to changing dynamics and other political and contextual factors that may impact migratory dynamics, it is expected that the transit of migrants will remain at similar figures or may even increase progressively to last year's figures.

Currently, Honduras's political agenda has been focused and will work on prioritizing migration issues to ensure a human rights approach where it is expected to address the structural causes and manage migration jointly between the countries of origin, transit, destination, and return. This will be implemented through an action plan by the 12 countries that attended the Regional Summit on Migration held in Mexico in October 2023.

Additionally, the National Congress has again approved the immigration amnesty until December 31st, 2024, which exempts the payment of the administrative penalty established in Art. 104 of the Immigration Law for irregular entry of migrants transiting through the country.

As for the number of returning migrants to Honduras, according to official figures, 56,172 people were returned to the country, of which 70.05% were from the United States and 26.90% from Mexico. Although it is important to note that this number was reduced by 40.41% with respect to 2022, there are many life stories behind these figures and, therefore, it is important to continue strengthening sustainable reintegration mechanisms.

In 2024, IOM will continue to implement actions through different programs and projects to benefit all migrants: returnees, those in transit and also members of the community. The objective is to achieve substantive improvements in psychosocial and economic issues while continuing to strengthen and accompany the Honduran Government to enhance migration governance to ensure that humanitarian response capacities are effective, accurate and reach those most in need promptly.

Together we can achieve a better Honduras where no one is left behind.



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

All the actions reflected in the 2023 Honduran Annual Report have been possible thanks to the valuable support of cooperation agencies and donors who trust in the work of IOM's mission in the country and who are highly committed to promote orderly, safe and regular migration for the benefit of all people.





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