



SITUATION REPORT

SITUATION REPORT N° 4 - MIGRATORY SITUATION, HONDURAS

EVENT	Irregular migratory situation, South border, Honduras
LOCATION (COUNTRY, REGION, AREA AFFECTED)	Municipalities of Trojes, Danlí, department of El Paraíso, and Choluteca, department of Choluteca, Honduras
DELIVERY DATE	29/08/2022



1. CONTEXT



Honduras has become a transit territory for migrants coming from other continents and/or mainly from South America or the Caribbean, who decide to venture on a migratory route that exposes them to numerous risks along their journey north. According to the [National Migration Institute](#) (INM), between January 1 and August 25, 2022, **the irregular entry of 84,762 people was registered.**



Of the total number of people reported by the INM, 83,623 entered through unauthorized points in Danlí (40,100) and Trojes (25,474), better known as blind spots, located in the border department of El Paraíso, in the south of the country. Similarly, some 18,049 people entered through Choluteca, department of the same name. Of the total number of irregular migrants, **28% are women, 55% are men and 17% are children.**



INM statistics show that **the largest number of irregular migrants who entered between August 1 and 25 came from Venezuela (8,588)**, Cuba (5,839), Ecuador (1,304) and Haiti (683), followed by India (336), Colombia (246), Dominican Republic (221), Nepal (190), Bangladesh (143) and Brazil (112).



Between August 1 and 25, 18,592 migrants entered irregularly through Danlí, Trojes and Choluteca, an average of 978 people per day, who must be managed through three overflowing immigration offices. **If this trend continues in the remainder of 2022, the number of people in irregular transit through Honduras could exceed half a million.**



To enter Honduras regularly, nationals from Caribbean, South American, African or Asian countries **require a previously processed consular visa, which is beyond the reach or knowledge of most irregular migrants arriving** in Honduras. Faced with this impediment, **they resort to the service of Nicaraguan or Honduran intermediaries or “coyotes”** who take them through the so-called blind spots.



Because they enter the country in violation of immigration regulations, they are subject to **a fine of approximately US\$236, although there is the possibility of not paying it in those cases where it can be demonstrated that they do not have the resources to do so.**



Given the accumulation of people in this situation of legal insecurity and inability to pay, **last August 3, the legislative decree that exempts the payment of the administrative fine to migrants who enter Honduras irregularly came into force.** Despite this, **there continue to be reports of illegal charges.**



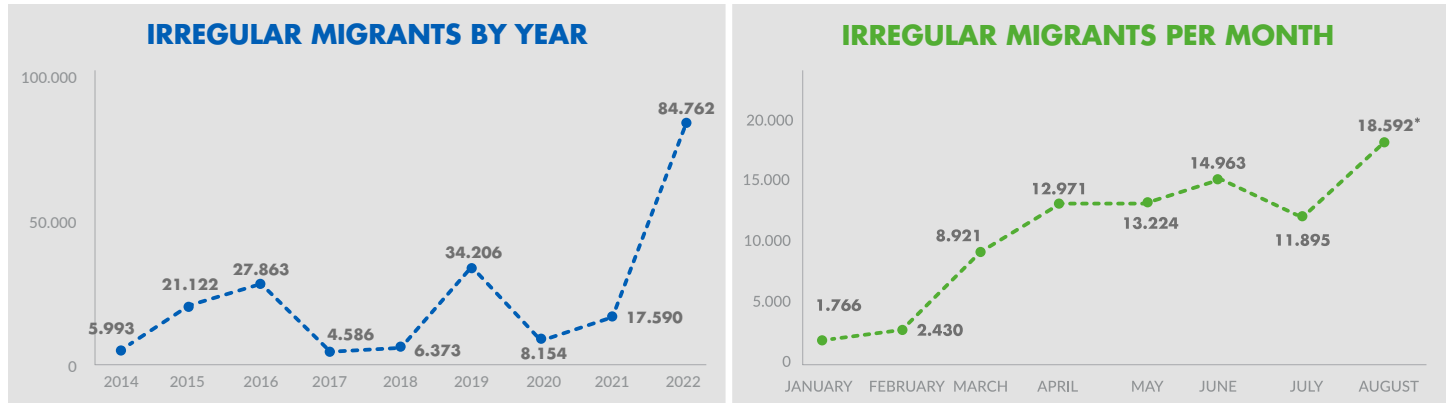
However, **the amnesty benefited thousands of migrants who were placed in a situation of greater vulnerability**, especially those traveling in extremely precarious economic conditions, which forced them to initiate a procedure with the INM to demonstrate their vulnerability and thus be exempted from payment of the fine, even if this meant remaining in the country for a longer period of time until the Honduran institutions resolved the case.



In this context, **humanitarian aid actions aimed at the migrant population in transit entering through the southern border of Honduras acquire enormous importance, as they contribute to cover basic needs**, including protection risks during their migratory route through Honduran lands.

2. WORSENING OF THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

The migration crisis at the southern border of Honduras reaches numbers never recorded since its beginning in 2018. **The number of irregular entries to Honduras reported between January 1 and August 25, 2022 by migration authorities exceed by 8 times the amount recorded in the same period last year.**



*Report date: August 25th, 2022



The irregular entries recorded by the INM from August 1 to 25 (18,592) are also a record number since 2018. The main cause of this increase in the migratory flow in August, in part is due to the limitations of movement that have affected in previous months migrants trying to cross Panama, which triggered protests and road closures in this Central American country. At the end of July the situation began to normalize, which has resulted in a greater migratory flow.



Also noteworthy is the exodus of Cubans, facilitated by the existence of direct flights between Cuba and Nicaragua and the absence of visa requirements to enter this country. **So far this year, 178,000 Cubans have entered the United States, many of whom began their journey in Nicaragua.**

INM data also show that the migrant population is also more diverse in terms of **the variety of nationalities, with 69 different nationalities.** The most frequent is Venezuelan (approximately 46%) followed by Cuban (31%).



The case of Nicaraguan migrants requires specific monitoring, since their entry into neighboring Honduras is regular in the context of the migratory agreements between the countries of the so-called CA4, however, in an increasing number of cases it is only a first step in the migratory route to the US; only between January and July 2022, **95,761 Nicaraguans have been detained at the U.S.-Mexico border**, a rate of detentions relative to Nicaragua's population that would be hypothetically equivalent to 1.9 million Mexicans detained during that same period, compared to the 502,263 apprehensions of Mexican citizens that actually took place.



With the coming into force of the of the amnesty to the administrative sanction to irregular migrants, these only require a safe-conduct officially called "migratory sanction" which is given to them in the migration offices (Trojes, Danlí, Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula and Choluteca) to advance on their way with freedom of movement for 5 days. Due to the high number of migrants in this situation at crossing points such as Trojes, **the INM is facilitating their daily transfer in buses, reaching 10 daily trips between this point and the departmental capital of Danlí, from where migrants resume their journey by their own means.**



In the department of El Paraíso it is common to see groups of migrants in transit, mostly walking in the towns and cities, in front of the migration offices in Trojes and Danlí or at the doors of the few temporary rest centers (CDT). **Most irregular migrants have traveled long distances of weeks and months in very harsh conditions.**

¹ <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/nationwide-encounters>



Migrants in Trojes, El Paraíso.

3. IMPACT AND GAPS



TEMPORARY RESTING SPACES

The four shelters monitored by the LIFE Consortium led by **Action Against Hunger and UNICEF** and integrated by 4 other NGOs, have doubled their capacity in order not to leave migrants in transit outside of them and without attention, however, in the month of August, the number of migrants sleeping on the street has increased.

Considering the daily average of 955 people entering Honduras irregularly through the southern border in recent weeks, there are only temporary centers to cover the rest of 370 people. In August, two more centers will open with capacity for another 110 people, but they do not have all the services.

Danlí's capacity to receive migrants free of charge in Temporary Rest Centers (TRC) is for a maximum of 200 people and this will end with the closing of the Jesus is Alive Center on December 31, which will leave this municipality without shelter spaces.

In the municipality of Trojes only the Social Pastoral operates with a capacity for 70 people, being open only from Sunday to Wednesday, prioritizing families with children. Recently, the Temporary Rest Center for Migrant Families was opened with the support of the LIFE-Honduras Consortium. This space will accommodate 70 people.

Finally, among the humanitarian actors present in the municipality of Trojes, another temporary shelter space is being prepared, provided by the mayor's office, which will be called the Carlos Roberto Reina Shelter and will accommodate another 40 migrants. Even so, given the growing and sustained demand, more spaces with basic services will be necessary.



PROTECTION

Difficulties persist in the collection of information and diagnosis at the entry and exit points of the countries, and there is little information on protection risks during the transit and stay of migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and returnees.²

The protection situation is also of concern, as **no humanitarian corridor has been defined to guarantee the safety and integrity of migrants on the route to the northern countries**; therefore, migrants remain subject to the risks of extortion and human trafficking along their journey through Honduras, the country. Established procedures for identifying and referring victims of abuse, sexual harassment, violence, human trafficking or sexual exploitation to appropriate services are still not clearly established and disseminated among migrants. In the municipality of Trojes there is no information mechanism for migrants to guide or orient them on the institutional procedures they must follow to resolve their migratory status.

² Protection Gap Analysis - Northern Triangle Subregion (Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador) of Danish Refugee Council (DRC)

 **FOOD SECURITY**

Food kit distributions in shelters have had to be doubled to cover needs. Centers such as the Carlos Roberto Reina still do not have food service. In addition, given the restrictions on food service provisions under the funding available so far, there are great challenges in meeting these needs in the temporary rest centers. In addition, **Action Against Hunger is the only agency providing food assistance on a regular basis in Frontera Sur.** 100-150 kits are delivered daily in Danlí, although there are days when up to 250 are provided. In Trojes, the demand in the Pastoral's rest center has also reached up to 125 people when its capacity is 70.

 **NUTRITION**

Nutritional care has doubled in August and cases of nutritional risk continue to increase. The number of pregnant women and their specific unattended needs is also of concern.

In August alone, 4 cases of moderate acute malnutrition and 21 cases of children under 5 years of age in transit with nutritional risk have been identified and treated. From a daily attention of between 15 and 10 children in Danlí and Trojes, up to 34 children per day are being nutritionally evaluated in each place. The increase in the number of pregnant women that the team attends to on a daily basis is also significant, reaching up to 10 cases.

 **HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL CARE**

The need for increased medical care with basic medicines becomes evident in the month of August.

A large increase in migrants with infectious, gastrointestinal and dermatological diseases has been detected. Likewise, an increase in the demand for pregnancy tests has been reported. There has been a serious case of leptospirosis that resulted in the death of a migrant and a case of Hepatitis A has appeared inside a rest center. Severe cases of post-traumatic disorders are also being diagnosed in migrants.

 **WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE**

An increase in waste generation and open defecation has been detected in cities of first arrival and transit. The focus of the migratory emergency is expanding to places that were not previously considered, and there has been an accelerated growth in the number of migrants seeking attention.

The delivery of water in shelters and hydration points (near migration offices) **has doubled.** From a consumption of 30 bottles of water per week, it went to 60, and from 2 cisterns to 3 for general use in the Danlí CDT. In Migration, from 300 bottles of water, 600 have been required daily. The CDT Monseñor Guido Charbonneau, in Choluteca, has increased its water supply to migrants by 90%. The shelters have required more cleaning and maintenance of their sanitary facilities.

 **CAPACITIES STRENGTHENING**

Capacity building activities in humanitarian response are required for government institutions and other actors involved in meeting and monitoring the needs caused by the migration crisis. This includes capacities to monitor the context, plan and coordinate among actors.

4. HUMANITARIAN ACTORS RESPONDING TO MIGRATION CRISIS

- Humanitarian actors on the southern border of Honduras have so far focused on **covering needs mostly in Trojes and Danlí where the greatest need is**. To a lesser extent, support and services are provided to centers in Choluteca.
- The coordination of this crisis is carried out under the **sub-cluster of Response in the Southern and Eastern Border, which is being led by UNHCR and co-led by Action Against Hunger**.
- In this context, it is worth highlighting **the contribution to the humanitarian response provided by the LIFE-Honduras Consortium**, formed in June of this year **with financial support from the BPRM**, which includes the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Action Against Hunger, Pure Water for the World, ChildFund, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and the Relief from Suffering Foundation (FAS). The consortium has initiated its emergency response activities covering Protection, Education, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Nutrition and Health.
- **Action Against Hunger and Pure Water for the World are supporting the only two temporary rest centers that have existed until August in Danlí and in Trojes**, providing permanent support in food and WASH assistance, delivery of food kits, hygiene kits, water supplies, cleaning and sanitation crews. In addition, both organizations have provided similar assistance at the border offices where every morning a large number of migrants accumulate waiting for their immigration sanction. Likewise, at these points, **World Vision offers legal advice**.
- Within the center in Danlí, **protection actions are carried out** which have been covered by organizations such as **ADRA and Fundación Alivio para el Sufrimiento, who provide psychosocial support and psychological care**.
- With respect to the **health component, MSF and ChildFund provide care in migration centers in both cities**, but not in the rest centers, demonstrating a recurrent need for the people who are housed in these facilities.
- Both Danlí and Trojes are **covered by shelter kits and hygiene kits provided by UNHCR, IOM and World Vision**.
- Finally, in Choluteca, **ADRA is the main representative with protection activities**.





5. ACTION AGAINST HUNGER CAPACITIES

Action Against Hunger has been present in Honduras since 2020, with bases in San Pedro de Sula, Danlí and Trojes. In addition, we have offices and activities in Guatemala and Nicaragua since 1998. In Honduras, we have experience in coordination and implementation of humanitarian projects in partnership with UNICEF and other international agencies such as ECHO, BHA, SIDA or AECID.

We have been chosen by the humanitarian network as Co-Coordinator of the South and East Border Response sub-cluster, a working group that is being led by UNHCR in the area of migration response.



Our intervention areas in Honduras so far have focused on **activities of Nutritional Care, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) assistance, Food Security, Cash Transfers, Disaster Risk Management and coordination in response to Emergencies and Crises.**

6. STRATEGIC LINES FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE

In view of the worsening of the migratory crisis, Action Against Hunger has established strategic lines in order to cover the immediate needs of the most vulnerable population in their migratory transit through Honduras, also in accordance with the premise that **affected populations are at the center of humanitarian action**, which means that the strategy will guarantee people's access to assistance according to their needs, prioritizing safety and dignity, respecting their rights and culture. The lines in question are detailed below:

- **Strengthening the context monitoring and response capacities of organizations responding to the crisis.** This consists, on the one hand, of improving capacities for monitoring the situation in the context of the migratory emergency on the southern border, including mapping needs and protection of affected populations. On the other hand, training and standardization of teams from different organizations will be facilitated in accordance with international standards, with an emphasis on shelter management.
- **Support to the coordination of response** through the co-leadership of the South and East Border Response sub-cluster and the coordination of the LIFE Consortium made up of the most representative organizations in the field.
- **Provision of nutritional care services and strengthening of the sector's technical** capacity through the following components:
 1. **Identification of acute malnutrition** (health workers, key actors and volunteers) by taking PB, P/T, nutritional edema and clinical signs.
 2. **Nutritional supplementation** to children, pregnant women and infants.
 3. **Management of acute malnutrition** (health personnel, partners), following the protocol in force in the country.
 4. **Capacity building and knowledge reinforcement** on infant and young children feeding to improve their nutrition.
- **Provision of humanitarian assistance in WASH** according the identified gaps: water trucking, provision of drinking water, provision of hygiene inputs and promotion of healthy habits in WASH including hygiene kits, improvement and maintenance of washing facilities in shelters, washing facilities in shelters and provision of cleaning materials and supplies for shelters among others.
- **In-kind food assistance** through the distribution of food rations that meet caloric and nutritional standards differentiated by age. The supply will be carried out in the shelters.
- **Equipment and improvement of kitchens in shelters** to ensure the preparation of food into shelters by the staff and the migrant population itself, thus responding to the dynamics that are taking place. This takes into account the fact that some of the migrants, for cultural reasons, do not accept Honduran food, preferring to cook their own food.
- **Monetary assistance** to provide financial assistance in the form of cash transfers to vulnerable migrant households in transit, so that beneficiary households can have purchasing power to cover basic needs (food, medicines, personal items, transportation costs, clothing or others as needed) and improve their access to health services, education, protection, nutrition and WASH (cash plus) during their journey through the country. Action Against Hunger is implementing an innovative cash transfer modality in the context of migrants in transit, which involves different and faster processes than usual.

7. INTERVENTION AREAS

Given that the main entries of irregular migrants into the country are through Trojes and Danlí, Acción contra el hambre will focus on these municipalities in the province of El Paraíso. However, it is worth mentioning other municipalities that have been identified and are being monitored as critical in the migrant route:

The department of Choluteca, in its headwaters, is receiving a considerable number of migrants on a daily basis and it's therefore an area of intervention that Action Against Hunger is monitoring with consortium partners and it's assessing for intervention, based on ongoing needs assessments.

Groups of migrants have also recently been identified in the department of Olancho, specifically in the city of Catacamas.

Finally, Tegucigalpa is also being evaluated and is expected to require greater coverage in terms of humanitarian assistance following the recent streamlining of immigration procedures being carried out by the Trojes immigration office. This may mean that migrants who complete their daily immigration clearance in Trojes will stop in Tegucigalpa on their way to the northern border.



Side view of the new CDT in Trojes, El Paraíso

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