

Belize

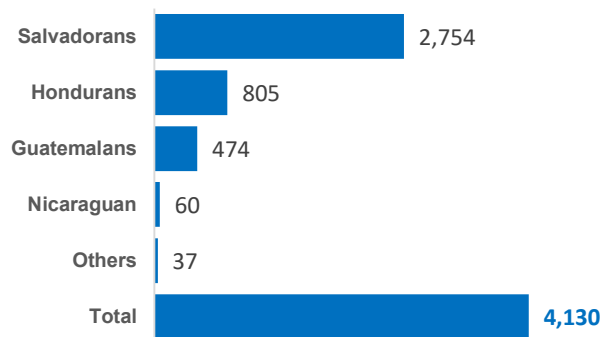
November-December 2022

Belize is home to **approximately 4,130 refugees** and **asylum-seekers**, mostly from El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala.

During November and December, **289 asylum seekers** received support with completing their **Amnesty application**, a complementary **protection path**.

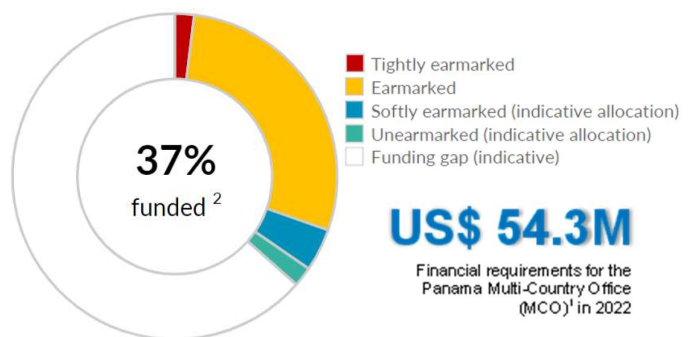
184 refugees and **asylum seekers** received **cash assistance** to enhance their access to **food, education, documentation, medicine** and other **basic needs**.

People UNHCR protects



* Data includes registered refugees and asylum-seekers (active and non-active).
 Source: Refugees Department, as of 28 February 2022

STATE OF PLAY: FUNDING RECEIVED VS. FUNDING NEEDS (AS OF 29 DECEMBER 2022)



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** since 2021 along with Panama, Nicaragua, Cuba and the Southern Caribbean.

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

CONTEXT

UNHCR supports the Government of Belize to **strengthen the asylum system**, establish protection policies and **facilitate durable solutions** to assist asylum seekers and refugees.

UNHCR works closely with national partners to **offer asylum seekers and refugees humanitarian aid**, including food and medical assistance, livelihoods training, legal assistance and psychosocial support.

The Government's **Amnesty programme for asylum seekers and migrants** began on 2 August 2022. This will allow them an alternative protection path by **accessing permanent residency**, including for those who were previously denied asylum claims.

UNHCR and other UN agencies officially **welcomed** the Government of Belize's announcement of an extension period for the Amnesty exercise until 28 February 2023.

UNHCR donates post-hurricane relief support items




As part of the UN response to Hurricane Lisa, UNHCR **donated construction materials and tools** to local government authorities, assisting approximately 100 refugee and local community members.

UNHCR Response and Strategy


UNHCR works in close coordination with the Government, civil society, UN agencies, refugees, and asylum-seekers in Belize. A partnership with the Refugees Department helps channel support to strengthen 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). 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 and partner Human Rights Commission of Belize (HRCB) assisted **45 asylum-seekers** with **legal services**. UNHCR's national partners, HRCB, Help for Progress, and HUMANA People to People, jointly supported **289 asylum seekers** and **other people in need** with their application for the Government's Amnesty program.

 **Cash-based Interventions and Assistance** | UNHCR through Help for Progress and HUMANA People to People provided **cash assistance** to **184 refugees** and **asylum seekers** to enhance access to food, medicine, documents, education, and other basic needs.

 **Durable Solutions and Livelihoods** | UNHCR and HUMANA delivered **livelihood** and **skills training courses** to **127 asylum seekers** to build skills in carpentry, sewing, mentorship, music, and English as a second language (ESL) classes. The training seeks to promote and enhance local integration within the Belizean communities. **Four asylum seekers** were supported with seed capital grants and materials to start their businesses and enhance their self-reliance.

 **Advocacy and Public Information** | UNHCR together with other UN agencies, advocated with the Government of Belize to extend the Amnesty exercise, and allow those who were unable to meet the original 30 November 2022 deadline to apply. UNHCR also worked with the Refugees Department to produce radio advertisements in Spanish and English, announcing the extension of Amnesty until 28 February 2023.

 **Gender-Based Violence (GBV) support** | UNHCR in collaboration with the refugee-led organization 'I HOPE', hosted a GBV support session for 14 asylum seekers and Belizeans women. The participants engaged in conversations with specialists on how to identify gender-based violence and the local services available for survivors. The session also included self-defence training with Ms. Renee Wentz, from the organization "SHE Thing".

 **Mental Health and Psychosocial Services** | UNHCR delivered psychosocial support through Help for Progress and HUMANA People to People to **26 refugees and asylum-seekers**. This psychosocial assistance helps them to work through the traumas faced as a result of their forced displacement, GBV, and exploitation experiences.

UNHCR Panama MCO wishes to convey a special thank you to its donors: Canada, the European Union, France, Guyana, the United States of America, and the UN Programme on HIV/AIDS. We also thank the fundamental support provided by donors who have contributed to UNHCR with unearmarked and softly earmarked funds: Belgium | Denmark | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Sweden | Switzerland | the United Kingdom. Private donors in Australia | Canada | Germany | Italy | Japan | the Republic of Korea | Spain | Sweden | and the United States

For more information:

In Belize | **Myrat Myradov**, Head of National Office, muradov@unhcr.org, Tel: +501 822 2399

In Belize | **Shemuel London**, Associate Information Management Officer, london@unhcr.org, Tel: +501 672 2395

In MCO Panama | **Viola Eleonora Bruttomesso**, Associate Communications Officer, bruttome@unhcr.org

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UNHCR Presence In Belize

