

Consortium LIFE-Honduras SITUATION REPORT

emergency
THAT NOBODY
migration
BE LEFT BEHIND
family

COVERAGE PERIOD
FROM AUGUST 7TH
TO SEPTEMBER 30TH 2023

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information
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QR code



EVENT

Irregular migration situation in the departments of El Paraíso and Ocotepeque, Honduras.

LOCALIZATION (COUNTRY, REGION, AREA AFFECTED):

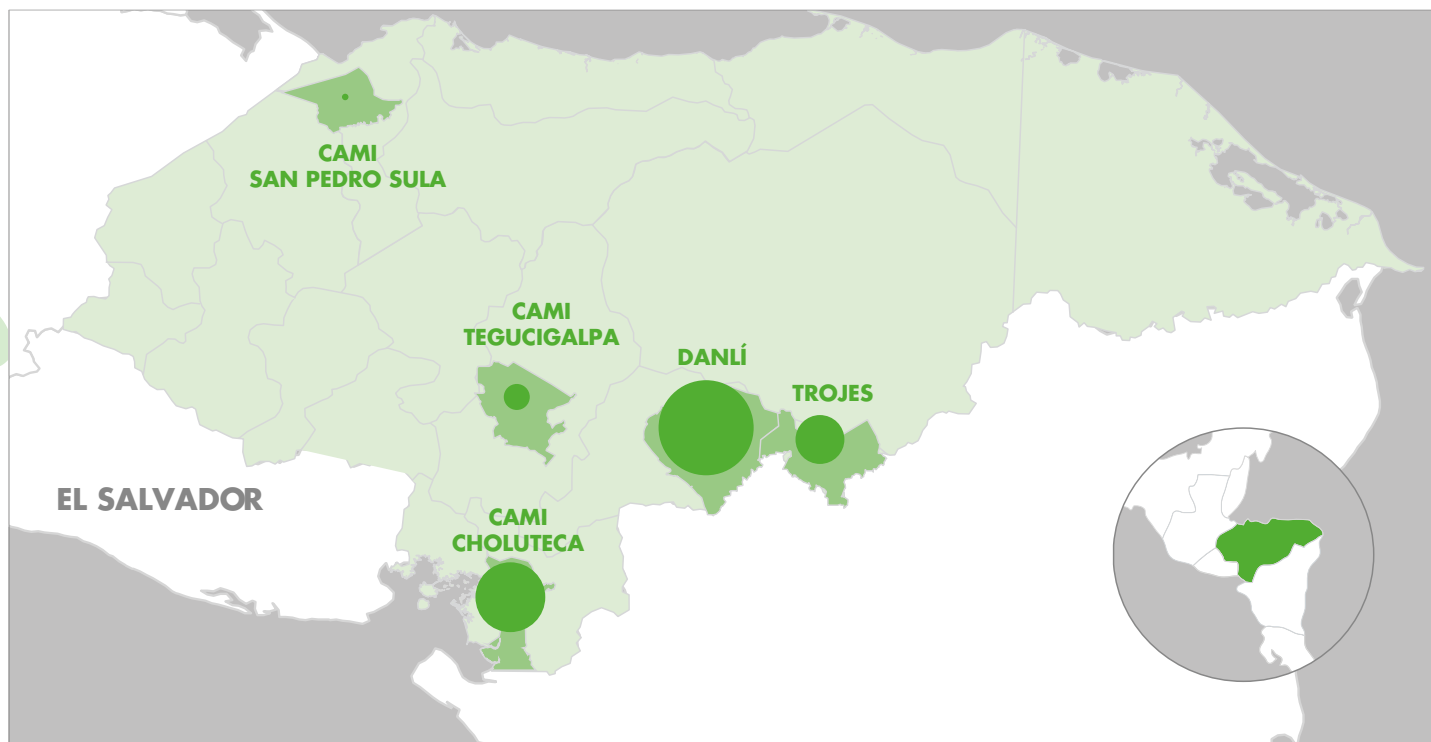
Municipalities of Trojes, Danlí, El Paraíso, in the department of El Paraíso; La Machuca in Santa Fe, department of Ocotepeque.

DELIVERY DATE

October
15th, 2023

MAP

IRREGULAR MIGRATION TRANSIT MAP BY DISTRICT



340,611

IRREGULAR MIGRANTS
(FROM 01.01.2023 to 30.09.2023)



1,247

MIGRANTS PER DAY

4

MUNICIPALITIES



123

NACIONALITIES



56%

MEN



25%

WOMEN



19%

BOYS AND GIRLS





CONTEXT

The movement of migrants crossing Central America towards Mexico's border with the United States has experienced a rapid increase in the last five months. According to official Honduran government figures, between January 1 and September 30, 2023, 340,611 people entered the country without formal documentation, representing a 308% increase compared to the same period last year.

This situation is having a significant impact on all countries in the Central American region, leading to the adoption of various measures by the region's governments. In this context, on September 26, 2023 Costa Rica issued a declaration of [national emergency](#) in response to the increased movement of people through its territory. According to Costa Rican authorities, this action is intended to provide additional resources to strengthen the operational capacity of the institutions providing assistance, which are currently overwhelmed.

In Guatemala, in recent weeks there has also been a considerable increase in the number of people on the move at the country's main border points. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) indicates that migrants find it very difficult to continue their journey due to lack of economic resources, lack of transportation or excessive charges from bus companies. In addition to this, there are strikes and blockades on the main Guatemalan highways due to the political conflict in the country. Under these circumstances, the Guatemalan migration route to the north of the continent can now take up to 15 days, compared to the maximum of a couple of days it took just a few weeks ago. The increase in the number of migrants and the longer duration of their stay pose a major challenge for the entities providing humanitarian assistance.

The continuous flow of people on the move is expected to continue increasing, as we have mentioned in [previous reports](#). This is due to the political crises affecting different countries in the region, as well as increasing violence and the rising cost of living. These factors collectively drive the emigration of thousands of people every day.



People in mobility charge their cell phones and stock up on drinking water as they wait to enter the LIFE-Honduras Consortium's humanitarian assistance tents.

The magnitude of this migratory phenomenon is also evident in [figures from Panama's National Migration Service](#), which report that as of September 25, 2023, 399,606 migrants have entered the country through the Darien jungle so far this year. This averages out to approximately, 1,491 people per day, setting an unprecedented record.

In Honduras, the large number of migrants congregating around the offices of the National Migration Institute in Danlí, located in a residential area of the city, has caused inconvenience among the neighborhood, which is now pressuring local authorities to relocate the migration facilities. This has led the Mayor's Office and the National Migration Institute (NMI) to plan the [relocation of the offices](#) to a site located 8 kilometers south of Danlí, in the El Pescadero sector, along the Pan-American Highway.



According to the NMI, this new site is expected to become operational in early October, providing more space to accommodate the increasing number of people on the move. In addition, authorities aim to help mitigate the impact of criminal networks that defraud migrants by charging them for services that are either free of charge or offered by humanitarian organizations working in the area.

"Currently, we are observing a transit through Honduras as never seen before, with thousands of migrants in vulnerable situations, lack of hydration, children with malnutrition, acute diarrheal diseases or unaccompanied adolescents, as well as increased risks linked to irregular migration, people victims of scams and traffickers," said Nicola Graviano, IOM chief of mission for Honduras and El Salvador.¹

Danlí has become an essential crossing point for thousands of migrants passing through Honduran territory on their way north. However, the available places of refuge are insufficient, and the authorities lack the necessary capacity to provide adequate conditions and care for this exodus of people from up to 123 countries around the world. Many of them are forced to sleep in the streets and parks, leaving them exposed to inclement weather and significant protection risks. Of every 100 migrants who passed through the country during this period, 50 are Venezuelans (154,099), followed by people from Cuba (47,788), Ecuador (38,281), Haiti (35,456), Colombia

(7,651), China (6,857), Senegal (6,338), Mauritania (5,625), Uzbekistan (4,597) and Guinea (3,897).

As the numbers of irregular migrants continue to grow, the need for care continues to increase, presenting considerable challenges. INM statistics for this reporting period record 144,491 individuals in irregular transit, at a rate of 2,627 persons daily. Most admissions occur through Danlí (Center for Attention to Irregular Migrants, CAMI, 59,696 and Interior Control Center 33,718), followed by Trojes (42,429), Choluteca (CAMI, 8,427), CAMI Tegucigalpa and CAMI San Pedro Sula (17 and 4, respectively). Of these, 51% are men, 27% are women and 22% are children.

As we have noted in previous SitReps, many more people enter the country without being recorded in official migration statistics, so the true magnitude of the displacement of people is not fully known.

One positive aspect to highlight regarding the humanitarian response capacity is that on September 25, the Catholic Church of Danlí and Caritas Honduras [inaugurated the "Sagrada Familia" temporary rest center](#), located in El Arenal, 4 km west of Danlí. This rest center can serve up to 50 people per night, in family units, especially prioritizing vulnerable people, such as pregnant women, elderly, people with disabilities and families headed by women.

123 nationalities, migrant INFLOWS are dominated by:



¹ <https://www.latribuna.hn/2023/09/22/honduras-bajo-la-lupa-de-oim-ante-aumento-de-300-en-flujo-migratorio/>





MIGRANT POPULATION MONITORING

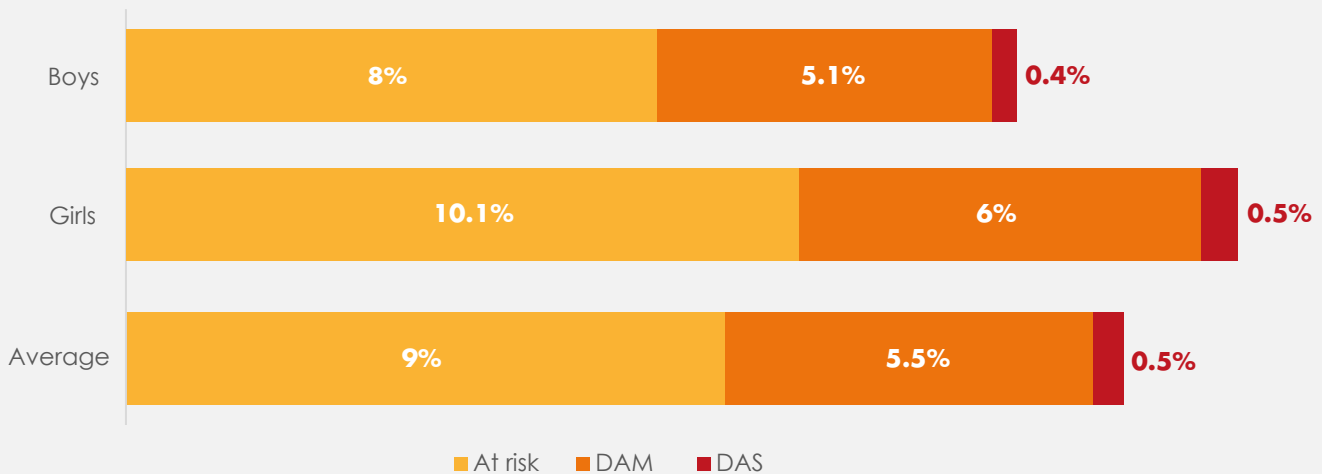
Data observed in recent months show a high number of children suffering from malnutrition. The figures presented below correspond to the anthropometric diagnoses carried out on 2,639 children in the Southern Border during the months of July to September, coinciding with the significant increase in the number of people in transit. In only four months, more than 150 children were identified as malnourished, and almost 250 at nutritional risk.

The main nationalities of analysis do not correspond to the figures observed in official statistics. Our nutrition interventions are carried out without exclusion of nationality, origin or situation, however, most of the caregivers who come with their children for anthropometric evaluation are Venezuelan (35%) and Colombian (34%). They are followed by Ecuadorian children (15%) and Peruvians (10%). The remaining 6% corresponds to children of Venezuelan or Haitian families or other

nationalities who emigrated to Chile or Brazil and then traveled through northern countries to the United States.

The situation observed in recent months shows that 6% of the children evaluated have some degree of malnutrition, and an additional 9% are at risk of malnutrition. In order to perform this type of analysis, the anthropometry team of Frontera Sur performs two measurements. On the one hand, it analyzes the ratio between the weight and height of the child and compares it with the curves of the World Health Organization (WHO), and on the other hand, it uses the Mean Arm Circumference method to determine the risk category².

FIGURE 01. NUTRITIONAL STATUS DIFFERENTIATED BY SEX, IN CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE IN TRANSIT IN THE SOUTHERN BORDER OF HONDURAS (JULY - SEPTEMBER 2023 N=2638).



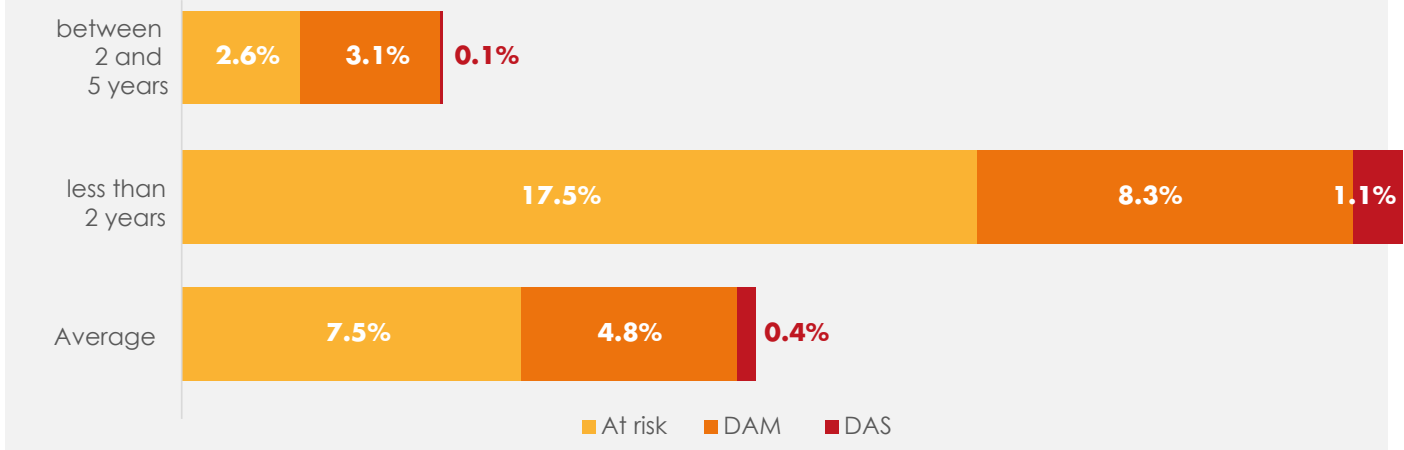
The graph above shows that the situation is worse in the case of girls, since they are the ones who show a higher percentage in all three categories.

² <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/272262/9789243513607-spa.pdf?sequence=1>



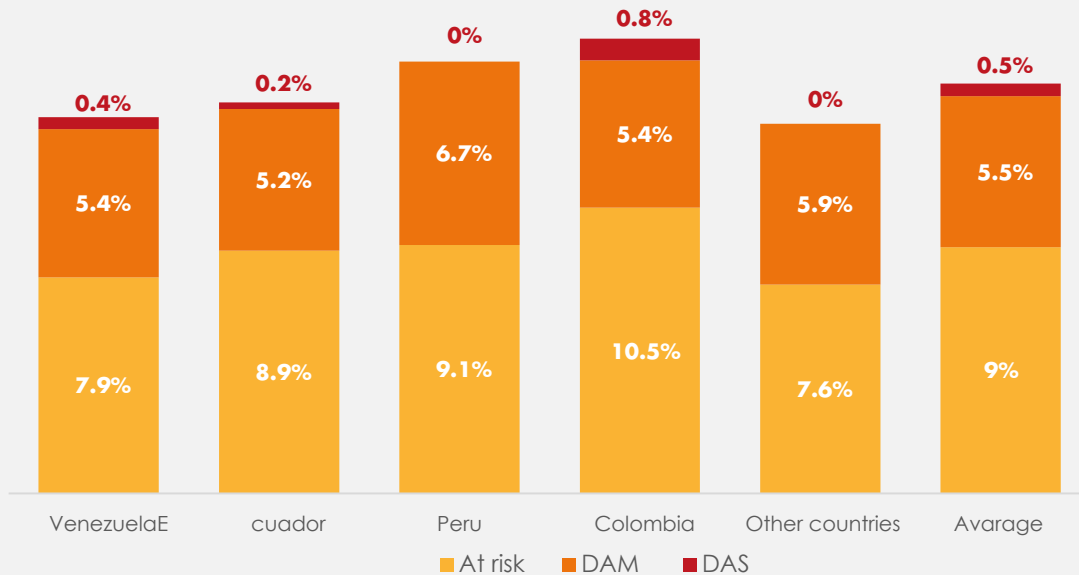
In the case of the age analysis, the difference is more pronounced: girls and boys under 2 years of age not only have the highest level of malnutrition in the sample but are also at a higher risk of malnutrition.

FIGURE 02. NUTRITIONAL STATUS DIFFERENTIATED BY AGE, IN CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OLD IN TRANSIT IN THE SOUTHERN BORDER OF HONDURAS (JULY - SEPTEMBER 2023 N=2638).



Regarding differences by nationality, it is evident that children of Colombian origin are the most vulnerable concerning the nutritional situation of their children. However, it's important to note that the percentage of children with moderate acute malnutrition is much higher among Peruvian children.

NUTRITIONAL STATUS DIFFERENTIATED BY NATIONALITY, IN CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE IN TRANSIT IN THE SOUTHERN BORDER OF HONDURAS (JULY-SEPTEMBER 2023 N=2638).



The general increase in the prevalence of children with malnutrition has been observed since August 2023, coinciding with the rise in the number of people crossing the border. Many caregivers have commented that the nutritional posts in Danlí and Trojes are the first ones they encounter on their journey. Therefore, even if they notice that the children have diarrhea or other gastrointestinal diseases, they do not find anyone along the way who can diagnose them or provide them with nutritional supplements. As a result, they arrive at the Honduran border in the situation described above.



CONSORTIUM'S RESPONSE

The LIFE-Honduras Consortium formed by the United mobility in Danlí, Trojes, El Paraíso, and La Machuca, Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Action Against Hunger, Pure Water for the World, ChildFund, education, water, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) health and social protection through Multipurpose and the Relief from Suffering Foundation (FAS), Cash Transfers (TMM). continues its emergency response to people in

In the last month, we have assisted more than 5,800 people in our Rest Centers in El Paraíso and Trojes, providing multi-sectoral care, food, internet connection for communication with family members, hygiene spaces and clothing for children. At the Relief from Suffering Foundation (FAS) Temporary Rest Center in El Paraíso, we also offer transportation to Danlí. All our centers are provided with a secure and sensitive access channel for reporting sexual exploitation and abuse, and a feedback system for sharing complaints and concerns.

The rest centers are equipped with differentiated places for **psychosocial support activities, reaching more than 2,600 people**, in addition to primary health and nutrition care spaces, and educational spaces for children, parents and caregivers.

The multisectoral teams of the Temporary Rest Centers identify those families with a higher degree of vulnerability due to health, nutrition, or travel conditions, in addition to verifying the presence of older adults in the groups, or people with some degree of disability. These families are prioritized for the provision of a multipurpose cash transfer: in September, **127 families** in any of the above situations **had access to a cash transfer** to meet basic humanitarian needs in addition to mitigating protection risks.



The mobile teams on the southern border **attended more than 1,800 women and children in transit** and implemented family counseling processes to promote the developmental care of children to more than 200 primary caregivers. The teams in Ocotepeque reached **more than 900 people in primary care services** before crossing the border into Guatemala.



EDUCATION



The spaces established for formal and non-formal education have reached almost 1,200 children during this period. Within this framework, **we are implementing actions that engage primary caregivers in alternative learning methods during transit**, reaching 857 people through these methodologies. Additionally, almost 700 people have gained access to psychosocial support in their educational centers or learning programs.



NUTRITION



As noted in previous sections of this SITREP, in recent months we are finding a greater number of children making the journey with some degree of acute malnutrition. **Our teams in the Southern Border evaluated a total of 782 children under 5 years of age, finding 54 in a situation of acute malnutrition (7%).** These children are referred directly to primary health processes, and their families can be supported with multipurpose cash transfers. In the case of Ocotepeque, the number of malnourished children is lower: 4% of the total evaluated are in some degree of acute malnutrition. In both cases, nutritional supplements are being delivered to children under 5 years of age, but also to children up to 9 years of age, reaching almost 1,000 children during the period. In the case of pregnant or breastfeeding women, more than 350 were reached this month.

WATER,
SANITATION
AND HYGIENE
(WASH)

The hydration points located in Ocotepeque and the Southern Border exceeded 42,000 services during this period. These people have access to safe drinking water and an adequate sanitation system, although the demand is so high that the meeting points have sanitation and environmental hygiene problems. We have delivered **more than 2,600 hygiene kits differentiated by sex and age**, at the border points and at the Temporary Rest Centers. In the former, we give the option of choosing the supplies that people can take with them on the road, ensuring hand soap, childcare kits, while in the Rest Centers, we make available the full range of products to make use of them.

TESTIMONIAL



Dayana Abreu (Ven) with her husband and 8 children, at the Temporary Rest Center in El Paraíso.

Dayana Carolina Abreu Lara: "In the Darien we were very hungry, and we cried with my husband and children".

The family of Venezuelan Dayana Carolina Abreu Lara, 34, easily attracts attention, as it was the case when they arrived at the Temporary Rest Center located in El Paraíso. Her 37-year-old husband and their eight children, six girls and two boys ranging in age from 6 months to 17 years, did not go unnoticed at the center, as it is possibly the largest family to have ever passed through.

The Abreu's began their immigration adventure on September 5 from Barranquilla, Colombia and their goal is "to reach the United States to provide a better life for my children". Dayana begins her story by thanking the LIFE Consortium for the invaluable help they are receiving to continue their journey towards their longed-for goal. "There are ten of us traveling together, and I thank everyone who has supported us along the way," she says. Dayana's testimony reflects the difficult reality faced by many people who, due to different crises, decide to leave their countries of origin. She points out that during the journey they have always looked for ways to protect and feed their children. "Sometimes we had enough for two meals a day, although there were days

when we had enough for only our youngest children to eat... and there were even days when we didn't have enough for them," says Dayana.

Dayana and her family's journey have been a continuous challenge. They experienced hunger and tears, especially during their journey through the Darien, one of the most difficult parts of their odyssey. "The Darien passage was the hardest part. We never thought the crossing would be so hard, especially the Darien. We thought we wouldn't make it," he says. "We were very hungry, and we cried with my husband and children," she says. Along the way they have received help from compassionate people who have provided them with food, clothing and temporary shelter. "A church offered us three days of lodging, even our children had to sell lollipops and candy in the streets to raise the money needed to keep moving. It's amazing how everything revolves around money," says Dayana.

Dayana also expresses her gratitude to the organizations in Honduras that have supported them in this difficult journey. "The Consortium's financial help was a blessing. We no longer had food or strength, but this revitalized us and gave us hope. Many thanks to the Consorcio," she says.



A child in mobility receives psycho-emotional care at ChildFund's children's educational space in Danlí, Honduras.



A mobile mother receives a sling and nutritional care inside the Action Against Hunger tent.



Nutrition specialist performs MUAC tape measurement on a mobile mother.



Measurement of arm circumference of children aged 6-59 months at INM's point of care, accompanied by counseling on complementary feeding and the importance of breastfeeding.



Child-friendly space in the Rest Center Temporary, in Trojes.



Girls and boys access to education alternatives, in El Zarzal, Danlí.