

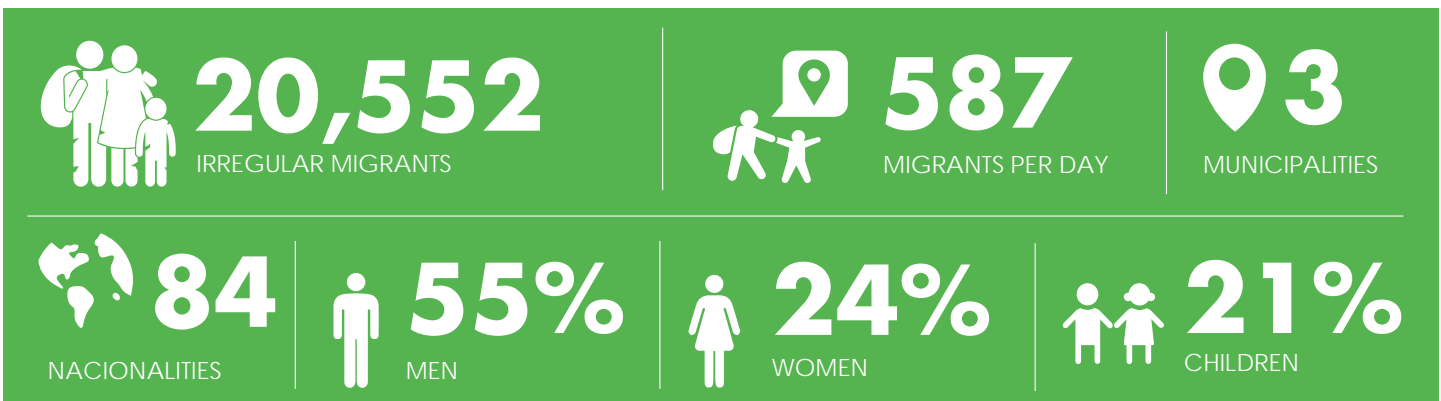
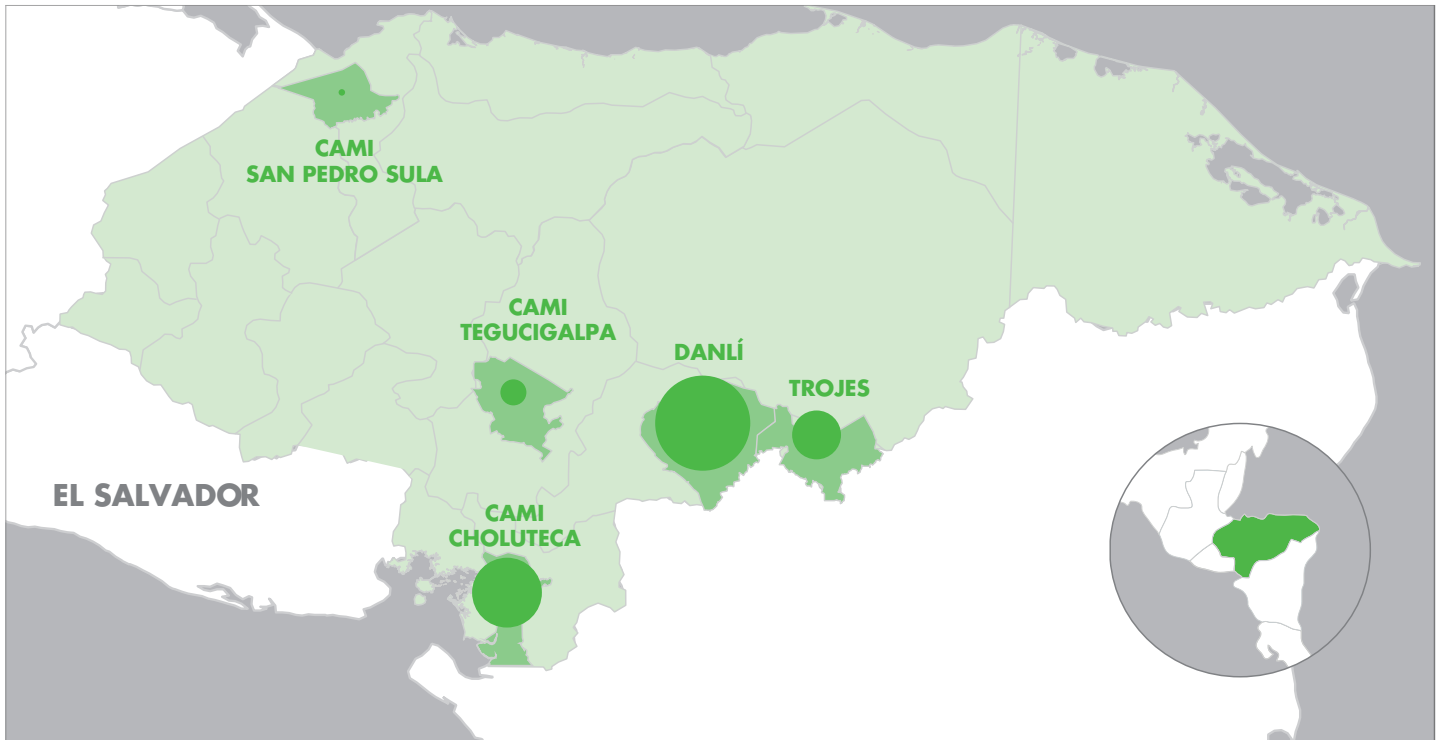
emergencia
QUE NADIE
migración
SE QUEDE ATRÁS
familia

SITUATION REPORT

SITREP N°	6
EVENT	Irregular migratory status on the southern border Honduras
LOCATION (COUNTRY, REGION, AFFECTED AREA)	Municipalities of Trojes, Danlí, Departament El Paraíso, Choluteca, Departament of Choluteca and Central District, Departament Francisco Morazán, Honduras.
COVERAGE TIME	From January 7th to February 7th 2023
DELIVERY DATE	02/15/2023

MAP

IRREGULAR MIGRATORY FLOW BY DELEGATION



CONTEXT



Migrants line up in search of shelter.



More than 7,500 migrants from Cuba, Nicaragua and Haiti have been authorized to enter the United States under the recent program established by the Biden Administration. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) attributes these new control measures to a decrease in the flow at the borders, since they require the application for entry to be requests be made from the countries of origin.



Nonetheless, the entry of irregular migrants into Honduras has remained constant. In the last month and despite the U.S. DHS immigration measures for Haitians, Cubans and Nicaraguans, **there has been increase in the passage of migrants of Haitian origin applying to enter Honduras, requesting humanitarian attention.** The numbers of Ecuadorian, Angolan, Indian and Chinese migrants are also considerable.



Authorities in the municipality of El Paraíso have **identified a new irregular migrant access route to the municipality of Danlí**, through which an estimated 400 to 500 people are entering. At this point, buses can be seen making direct trips from the entry place in Las Manos and the National Migration Institute (NMI).



According to figures from the National Migration Institute,¹ between January 7 -one day after our last report- and February 7, **the number of irregular migrants was 20,552 people.** Of these, entered through Trojes (11,764), through Danlí (6,892), through Choluteca (1,833) and 63 between Tegucigalpa (55) and San Pedro Sula (8).



Most of the irregular entries registered in the period in question were of Haitians (5,941), which confirms that despite the approval in the United States of the migratory parole for migrants of this nationality, **the number of people who continue to try to reach that country has not decreased.**



In second place, in the NMI figures, were the irregular entries of Ecuadorians (5,508), followed by Venezuelans (2,364) for whom there is also an immigration parole in the U.S., Cubans (1,276), Angolans (567), Chinese (533), Brazilians (506), Chileans (460), Indians (381) and Colombians (379), among other nationalities. Of the total number of migrants who entered during this period, **55% are men, 24% are women and 21% are children.**



The number reported by the INM during this period shows that **the circulation of irregular migrants traveling in precarious situations and in need of attention continues**, so that humanitarian aid actions continue to be essential to help address the countless limitations they face in their journey.

¹ <http://inm.gob.hn/estadisticas.html>

MONITORING OF THE POPULATION IN TRANSIT

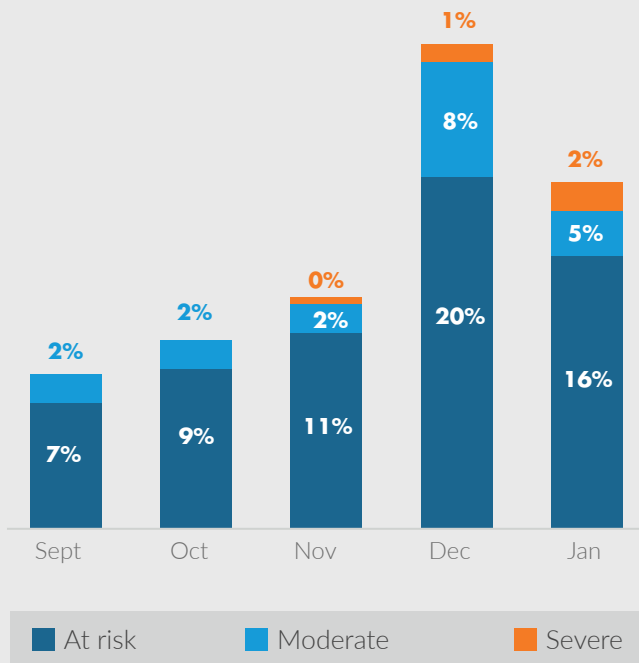
Since September, we have nutritionally evaluated almost **2,400 children under five years of age** in the municipalities of Danlí and Trojes. The malnutrition figures found in the months of December and January show a worsening of the situation since the project began, and directly related to the severity of the conditions during the journey.

 The percentage of children showing **signs of malnutrition** increased to **36% in December**.

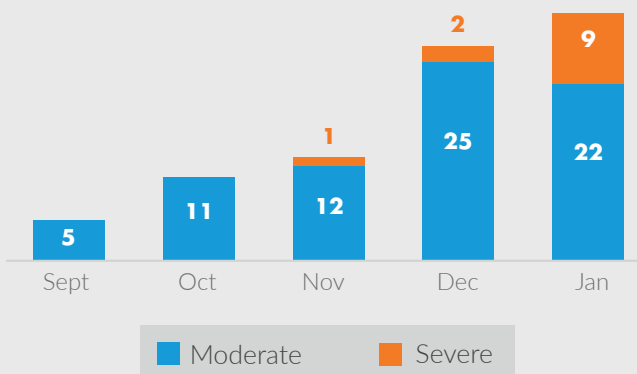


After the first nutritional assessment (MUAC, weight/height), nutritional supplements are given and an **appetite test is performed to determine the number of children in a serious situation.**

NUTRITIONAL EVALUATION CARRIED OUT BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 2022 AND JANUARY 2023, IN DANLÍ AND TROJES



CHILDREN DETECTED WITH SOME DEGREE OF MALNUTRITION BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 2022 AND JANUARY 2023 IN DANLÍ AND TROJES

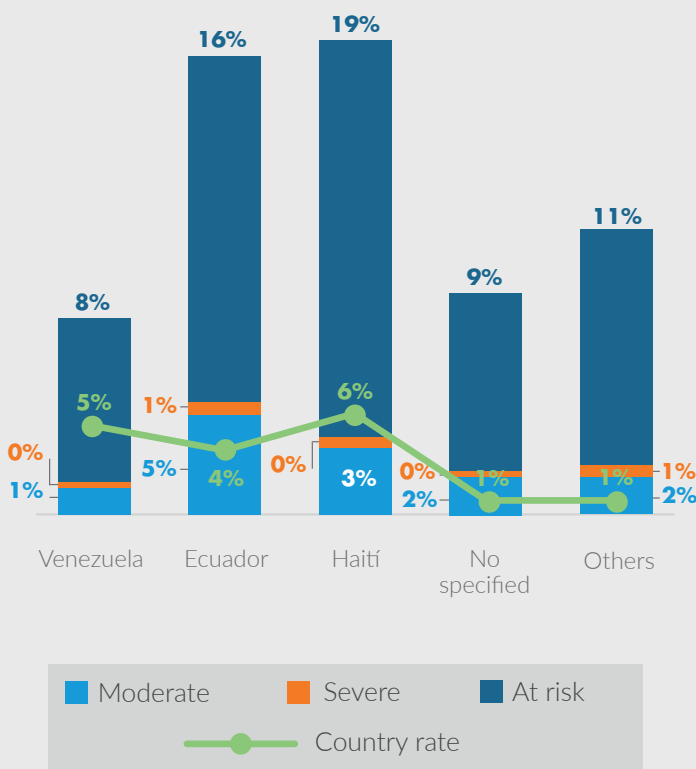


Data obtained from the application of MUAC tapes show that **the number of malnourished children has increased in recent months:**



The acute malnutrition rate in children under 5 years of age in Latin America reached 1.3%² in 2020. The following graph shows the averages reported by each country in the last 10 years, and the averages observed upon arrival at the Temporary Rest Centers, where it is observed that a high number of **children will present some degree of acute malnutrition** if a nutritional intervention is not carried out in time:

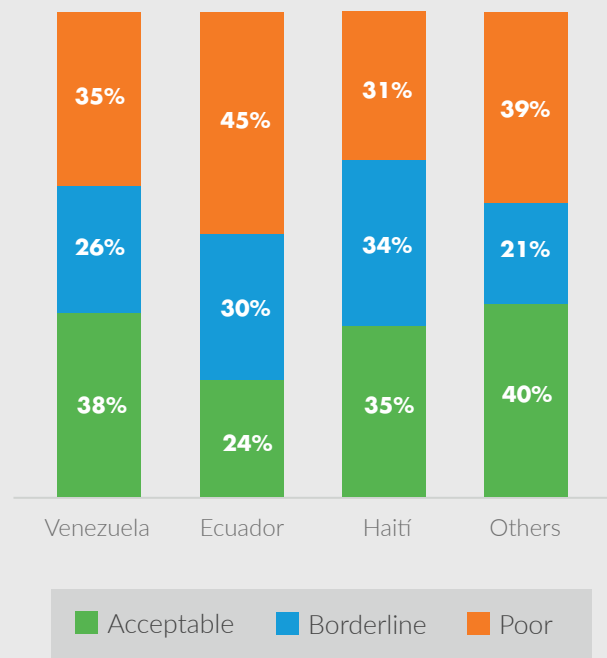
PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN DETECTED WITH SOME DEGREE OF ACUTE MALNUTRITION, BY NATIONALITY



The harsh conditions during the journey are also directly related to food.

In the monitoring survey of the migrant population conducted between October and November to more than 1,600 people, it was observed **that most of the population is not receiving the necessary amounts of food on a daily basis**³ (FCS - Food Consumption Score), and that situation is more serious among Ecuadorians, who together with Haitians, have a higher prevalence of Acute Malnutrition on the journey:

POPULATION SURVEYED IN DANLÍ AND TROJES, ACCORDING TO THEIR WEEKLY FOOD CONSUMPTION ON THE ROAD



The response must be immediate. In December and January, **more than a quarter of children showed signs of malnutrition**. Children with acute malnutrition are being given a dose of RUTF (ready-to-use therapeutic food), with sufficient protein of dairy origin to be able to continue the journey, and micronutrient powder in case of children at risk in order to improve the absorption of vitamins, and prepared Incaparin.



The quality of the family diet during the journey showed that most of population is fed carbohydrates (cereals, tubers) and sugars during the journey. **The delivery of these supplements can improve the nutritional status of child**, preventing him/her from reaching a serious state during the rest of journey.

² FAO, IFAD, PAHO, WFP and UNICEF. 2021. Latin America and the Caribbean - Regional overview of food and nutrition security 2021: statistics and trends. Santiago de Chile, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb7497es>

³ WFP - The Food Consumption Score (FCS) is the food security indicator most commonly used by WFP and its partners. This indicator is a composite score based on household dietary diversity, food frequency and the relative nutritional importance of different food groups.



CONSORTIUM RESPONSE

The **LIFE-Honduras Consortium** formed by Action Against Hunger, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Pure Water for the World, ChildFund, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and the Relief from Suffering Foundation (FAS), continues to provide emergency response to these populations in Danlí, Trojes and Choluteca, focusing on sectors of child protection, education, water, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition and health.



CHILD PROTECTION

In January, we have provided shelter to more than 1,600 people in the municipality of Trojes, and 800 people in the municipality of Danlí. In addition, **we have provided food to more than 4,500 people in the two municipalities.** In January, we supported 205 families with monetary transfers so that they can continue their journey.

The supply of shelter for migrants continues to be limited for the existing demand. On January 24, the Francisco Paz Irregular Migrant Attention Center located in Danlí was overwhelmed in its capacity, so it was necessary to ask the Relief from Suffering Foundation (FAS) to provide accommodation to 32 people, mostly Ecuadorians in the Relief from Suffering Hospital in the Municipality of El Paraíso.

We have provided educational services, delivering **more than 350 educational kits to migrant children, working in a differentiated manner according to age,** and helping to develop logical-mathematical skills, incorporating children's rights, gender and interculturalism.



Attention outside the National Migration Institute INM in Trojes, El Paraíso.



HEALTH

During this period, we have delivered **hygiene products, bedding, blankets and pillows,** we also improved the conditions of some temporary rest centers, we repaired the facilities of the Jesus is Alive Center, which functioned as a temporary rest center until January 15, and we provided psychosocial care to children and adolescents.

In January, we provided **more than 3,300 psychosocial services in the rest centers** where we intervened, more than 1,500 health services with our team of doctors in the centers and the mobile medical team, and we vaccinated 100 children against poliomyelitis, 105 against measles and 24 adults against COVID-19.



 NUTRITION

On a weekly basis, **we provide nutritional care to children, adolescents, pregnant women and nursing mothers.** This month, we have evaluated more than 400 children under 5 years of age, noting that the situation of malnutrition has worsened in the last period.

The Consortium's response is coordinated: children arriving in the worst nutritional situation have been **provided with specialized medical care,** nutritional supplements to continue on road, and an economic transfer so that the family can improve their nutrition along the way. We have also evaluated more than 120 pregnant women and nursing mothers, giving talks on child nutrition and providing them with the necessary micronutrients during pregnancy and breastfeeding.

 WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

In January, **we have delivered water to more than 6,000 people in the municipalities of Danlí and Trojes.** The hydration points located outside the Migration offices, and in Tatumbula, have reached almost 5,000 people, handing out 600 ml bottles of water to people while they wait in line to be attended.

In the Rest Centers, we also ensure that they can carry out activities such as showering, washing clothes or cooking. The number of people who have been able to use adequate sanitation services at the service points exceeds 2,700 people in January. In addition, at these points, **we have delivered more than 1,400 hygiene kits differentiated for men, women, girls and boys,** according to their needs.



1



2



3



4

1. FAS supported the CAMI-Francisco Paz in Danlí due to the high influx of migrants, providing food and lodging for 32 people, mostly of Ecuadorian origin.
2. Delivering hygiene supplies in front of the INM delegation in Trojes.
- 3 y 4. Educational spaces for children in Trojes, near the INM delegation.



FUTURE RESPONSE OF CONSORTIUM

With the application of the humanitarian parole by the United States to migrants of Venezuelan, Nicaraguan, Haitian and Cuban nationalities, since mid-January it has been remarkable to see migrant families returning from Mexico and Guatemala to Honduras, other persons has chosen to wait in the rest centers of Choluteca, Danlí and Trojes - where the **LIFE-Honduras Consortium** is positioned - but also on the northern border, because they do not have enough resources to return to their countries.

Others from South American countries are very afraid to return by the Darien route. At the end of January, UN-Honduras Resident Coordinator Alice Shackelford visited Ocotepeque, located in western Honduras, and highlighted the work of the Casa del Migrante, which for

some years has been providing care to families in transit. The most vulnerable migrant families is temporarily housed for several days in informal shelters, mostly churches and their associated community centers, which operate on a volunteer basis.

Sharing the same vision of the UN Resident Coordinator, the **LIFE-Honduras Consortium** is seeking additional financial resources to expand humanitarian attention to more migrant families in Danlí, Trojes and Choluteca, but also to **extend geographically to these new reception points in Ocotepeque and with the flexibility to attend other sites by means of mobile teams**, depending on the evolution of the migratory emergency, for a period that would last until the end of May 2023.

TESTIMONIES

Martín Ortíz, pointing to the Choluteca River crossing, bordering Nicaragua.



“
 I am a defender of
 human beings”

Martín Ortíz has become a kind of champion of migrants on the southern border of Honduras, to whom he provides shelter in his home located in the community 7 de Mayo, in El Guasaule, municipality of El Triunfo, department of Choluteca.

He says that he has been voluntarily protecting irregular migrants for many years, more than 40 according to his calculations. He does it “because to serve his neighbor is to serve God”.



His wife Lidia Berta and at least 4 of his 12 sons and daughters collaborate in this work, which has become intense in the last year, and who, according to Martín, will resume this help once he is gone.

Although there are several unauthorized crossings in the community where Martín and Lidia Bertha live, the area where their home is located is almost an obligatory passage for migrants who want to continue their journey through Honduras. In many of the cases they attend to, they are people who have been assaulted or injured by criminals, or are caught at night at that point, so they resort to the shelter that the Ortiz couple's home has become.

Generally, these incidents occur at night. *"Here at night if they go alone, they are assaulted, so they come in groups at night, sometimes they bring them to me, they find them lost and the people bring them to me because they know that I protect them here, I give them shelter, sleep, food and water".*

Since the **LIFE-Honduras Consortium** started working in the area, **don Martín can share hygiene kits, drinking water with his protégés and recently he has been able to create better hygiene conditions for his guests**, because he will have bathrooms and latrines with the Consortium's support.



"I felt I had a hygiene problem, but they are going to help me, now I am happier, because I am from the border and here the migrants will continue to pass and continue to pass," says Martín.

Passage of migrants was massive

According to Martín, people arrive alone or entire families, pregnant women, elderly people, *"all kinds of people, they come from everywhere, they speak every language"*. He says that this has not been a problem because in the groups there is always someone *"who comes to guide them, who speaks as I speak -Spanish-, so we understand each other. That one speaks for everyone."*

Martín estimates that in the last three years he has been able to help seven thousand people. *"That's a lot of people I've helped."*

Last year (2022) the number of irregular migrants was higher than in previous years, he points out, *"because it was massive, they passed here in the morning, at noon, in the afternoon, in the evening, at night, at midnight, they did not stop"*.

Martín recognizes that the support of the **LIFE-Honduras Consortium**, which includes Action Against Hunger, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Pure Water for the World, ChildFund, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and the Relief from Suffering Foundation (FAS), has also been of help to the local authorities, because now they see him as a part of the humanitarian network supporting irregular migrants.

Fear of criminals

Martín's only fear is of criminals. *"I hope that you will help me, collaborate with me, even if it is only with prayer, because sometimes the criminals don't like it when you go around saving people, but God is with you and nothing happens to us"*.

"Here I have been visited by institutions for the work we are doing and we will do it until God takes us away, because we cannot be indifferent to human beings," he declares with conviction.

Sister María Cristina Otálora Macías, director of Hope Home



“Migration has become a business”.

The Hope Home has become a shelter for irregular migrants in Choluteca. Its director, Sister María Cristina Otálora Macías, a nun of the “Daughters of Jesus of Kermaria” Community, says that with the support of the **LIFE-Honduras Consortium** they provide lodging and hygiene services to migrant families.

The Colombian-born nun is in Honduras for the second time and a year ago in the home in Choluteca, which previously served vulnerable people in the locality or those who came to **receive medical treatment or prostheses as is the case of migrants who suffer amputations after falling off the train on the border between Mexico and the United States.**

Faced with the need, the home opened its doors to migrants, *“because it is like a cry, a call from the people, they had nowhere to sleep so this house was opened about 7 years ago and since then it has been welcoming migrant brothers and sisters, while also welcoming the locals”*, explains Sister Maria Cristina.

In the Esperanza home receive between 13 and 15 people daily, but this month the number has decreased by half, which is attributed by the nun to the migratory measures taken by the United States.

People from many parts of the world have passed through Hogar la Esperanza. Sister Maria Cristina mentions having attended migrants from Kenya,

Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Ghana, Mauritania, as well as Asian and Latin American countries.

She comments that what has impacted her the most is that *“migration has become a business, they charge them too much, here those who arrive at the home are because they no longer have absolutely nothing, because they have been robbed, they have been mugged, they have been robbed of all their belongings, they arrive here at the home with nothing”*.

She points out that people who migrate do so because *“they have a deep desire to improve their lives, to improve their family’s situation”*.



Traumatized people

Of stories she has heard while caring for migrants, Sister Maria Cristina remembers a family of Cuban origin in which there was a man whose feet were sore, whose legs were scratched by trees and whose insect bites were infected. That group of families experienced very difficult situations along the way, especially in the Darien jungle, where they encountered many dead and experienced the helplessness of not being able to help people who could not continue their journey.

“These are situations that have had a great impact on me. People arrive very traumatized, now also when women and girls are raped, very painful situations. We have had at least two cases of adolescents and some women,” he says.

Some cases, she says, have been denounced in Panama, but they have desisted at the request of the authorities who tell them that otherwise they will have to stay for months in that country. María Cristina points out that

the Hogar listens to them and refers them to other entities such as the Red Cross or the UNHCR, because it is almost impossible to provide them with treatment because they only stay between 2 and 4 days on average.

“Then we try to help them when they pass that they are oriented towards other entities and we tell them that when they arrive in the United States, they should try to do family therapy, because they have realized the situations they live in.”

Sister Maria Cristina says that the **LIFE-Honduras Consortium** has given them “quite a lot of support, because imagine how people arrive and we can offer them fresh water, we can offer them a shower, they can go to the bathroom, they can rest, we can offer them guidance regarding hygiene. And there is a lady who helps us with the cleaning, which is also very positive. The consortium has been of great help to us and we are very grateful, on behalf of all the migrants, a thousand thanks!”



Migrants receiving donations of footwear.

