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#### **SITUATION REPORT No. 20**

Irregular migratory situation in the municipalities of Trojes, Danlí, El Paraíso, in the department of El Paraíso; Machuca in Santa Fe, department of Ocotepeque Consortium LIFE-Honduras



## CONTEXT

In May 2024, the U.S. government implemented new measures aimed at deterring the arrival of migrants at its border with Mexico and better managing migration flows. The new rules include temporary restrictions on the ability of migrants to apply for asylum during periods of high encounters at the border, as well as stricter criteria for evaluating cases. At the same time, returns of migrants to some twenty countries of origin have increased.

As a consequence of the change of government in Panama, the new administration has committed to close the transit through the so-called Darien Gap, which will lead to a longer stay of migrants in the Colombian part before the Panamanian jungle, as well as an increase in the use of boats to make the crossing through the sea.

As of May 5, a Venezuelan airline began offering twice weekly flights from Caracas to Managua, despite warnings from the United States about the suspension of visas to businessmen who facilitate migration.

In Mexico, Foreign Minister Alicia Bárcena announced that her country, together with the United States and Guatemala, agreed during a trilateral meeting to improve border security and address the causes of irregular migration. During this meeting, the importance of creating conditions for Mexican and U.S. companies to recruit workers in Guatemala in circular migration programs was highlighted.

This month Honduras, Mexico and Guatemala also signed an agreement to protect migrants, allowing the three countries to share experiences and collaborate to provide assistance and protection to the population in transit. The agreement was signed on May 7.

Meanwhile in Honduras, a total of 45,927 migrants entered the country irregularly in May, with Venezuela leading the number of entries,

#### +NATIONALITY TOTAL VENEZUELA, REPÚBLICA BOLIVARIANA DE CUBA 36.892 ECUADOR 14.026 HAITÍ 13.616 COLOMBIA 10.631 7.721 3.667 CHINA INDIA CONTINENT 219.675 Total

#### Figure 1. Irregular migratory flow by nationality from January 1 to May 31, 2024

#### PERIOD 01/01/2024 TO 31/05/2024

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https://www.swissinfo.ch/spa/biden-firma-una-orden-ejecutiva-que-limita-las-solicitudes-de-asilo-en-la-frontera/79665482
https://www.latribuna.hn/2024/05/08/guatemala-mexico-y-ee-uu-buscan-mejorar-las-condiciones-de-seguridad-fronteriza/

3. https://www.14ymedio.com/internacional/33-000-cubanos-entraron-honduras\_1\_1102657.html#google\_vignette

4. https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/honduras-migrantes-ine-ingreso-promedio-diarios-PJ18998601

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followed by Cuba, Colombia, Ecuador, China

In the first 5 months of 2024, almost 33,000

Cubans crossed Honduras on their way to the

United States, consolidating the department of

In the last two years there has been a

significant increase in migration flows. In 2023,

545,043 people were registered in transit, a

Honduran migration authorities. For 2024, the

transit of at least 600,000 migrants is projected,

according to statements by the director of the

figure that exceeded the estimates

National Migration Institute (INM).

El Paraíso as the main miaratory route.

and Haiti.

Official reports indicate that most of the migrants in transit, aged between 21 and 30, come from Venezuela, Haiti, Ecuador and Colombia, using Honduras as a bridge to Guatemala and Mexico.

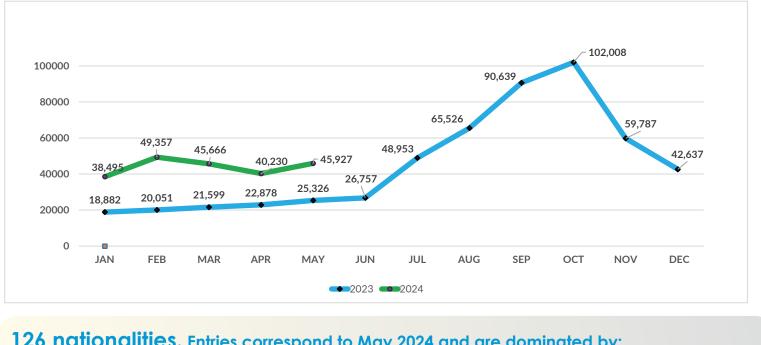
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Last year's massive migration collapsed the Temporary Rest Centers (CDT), forcing many migrants to spend several days in parks and sports fields. In response to this situation, the Honduran government has moved forward with the construction of the Center for the Attention of Irregular Migrants (CAMI), which will be inaugurated at the end of June.



of

#### Figure 2. Irregular migrant flows by month and year 2023 - 2024

126 nationalities. Entries correspond to May 2024 and are dominated by:





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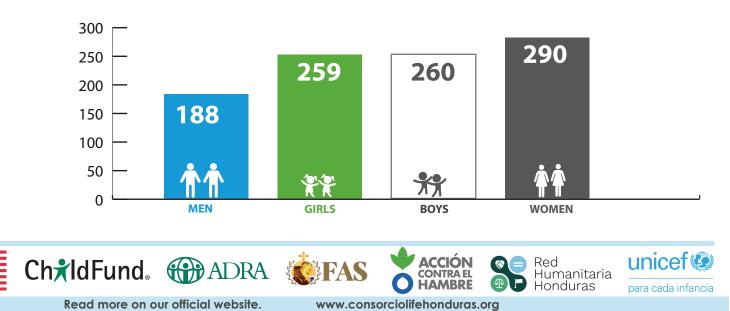
### **CONSORTIUM'S RESPONSE**

The Consortium LIFE-Honduras, formed by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Action Against Hunger, ChildFund, Adventist Development and Relief Resources Agency (ADRA) and the Relief from Suffering Foundation (FAS), continues to respond to the migratory emergency by assisting people in transit in Temporary Rest Centers (TRC) and attention points located in Danlí, Trojes, El Paraíso, in the department of El Paraíso, and Machuca, in the department of Ocotepeque, focusing on sectors of Child Protection, Education, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Nutrition, Health and Social Protection.

In May, **3,502 people accessed protection services in safe and friendly spaces**, of which 2,973 received care at the Relief from Suffering Temporary Rest Center (RS-TRC) in El Paraíso.

At the Trojes Temporary Rest Center, **529 people received lodging**, **food**, **internet access to communicate with their families in their countries of origin**, personal hygiene kits and clean drinking water and personal hygiene services.

With support from other donors, Action Against Hunger has continued to assist migrants in extreme vulnerability and at risk of protection with multipurpose transfers. In May, 110 families were reached, some 398 people, of whom 18% were children under 5 years old, 33% between 5 and 18 years old and 49% adults. It is worth mentioning that 87% of the beneficiaries were Venezuelan, 5% Colombian, 4% Haitian and the remaining 4% of other nationalities.



#### Figure 3. Protection services in Friendly and Safe Spaces during May 2024



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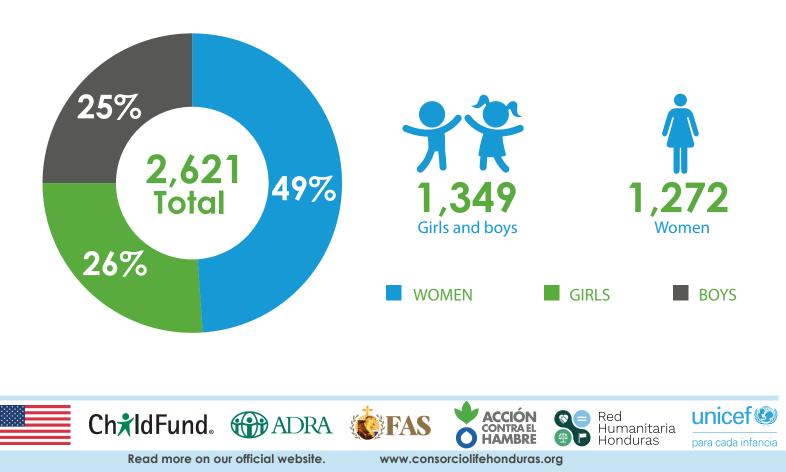




During May, 2,621 people, including pediatric population and women, received primary health care. In Danlí, 1,645 people were attended at the Humanitarian Space located in "El Pescadero", of which 650 were women and 898 children. This population sought medical help for illnesses such as common colds (32%), gastroenteric syndromes (22%), headaches and postural edema (14%), pharyngotonsillitis (7%), mixed vaginosis in women (5%) and for other illnesses (20%).

Meanwhile, on the western border, 622 women and 451 children and adolescents (NNA) in conditions of human mobility received primary health care at the point of care located in Machuca. At this site, medical attention to children and adolescents was mainly for respiratory infections (57%), acute gastroenteric syndrome (21%), dermatological lesions (3%) and the rest for other pathologies (19%).

#### Figure 4. Primary health care for women, children and adolescents during May 2024.



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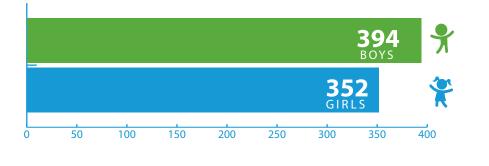
emergency THAT NOBODY migration IS LEFT BEHIND family



In May, 674 children and adolescents had access to educational tools such as booklets and different worksheets to reinforce logical-mathematical and reading-writing skills at the Humanitarian Space in "El Pescadero".

The learning platform continues to be a very popular area for children and adolescents who come to the friendly spaces in both "El Pescadero" and the Relief from Suffering Temporary Rest Center (RS-TRC) in El Paraíso. During this month more tablets were acquired so that more young people can make use of the Learning Passport.

#### Figure 5. Children and adolescents who accessed digital learning platforms.





In May, **721 children aged 6 to 59 months were evaluated for malnutrition**, 386 were assisted in the municipalities of Danlí and El Paraíso, of which 191 were girls and 195 were boys. In the humanitarian space of Machuca, on the western border, 335 children were evaluated nutritionally. Of this number, 52% were girls and 48% boys.

In the southeastern border, 16 infants were diagnosed with some form of malnutrition, 9 were evaluated at the Espacio Humanitario facilities in "El Pescadero", in Danlí; 5 at the Relief from Suffering Temporary Rest Center (RS-TRC); and 2 at the Migrants Families Temporary Rest Center (MF-TRC). All of them were referred for appetite tests, 75% of which were positive. The children admitted for treatment were given nutritional supplements and subsequently all were referred for medical evaluation. In addition, as a preventive measure against Acute Malnutrition,

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lipid-based nutritional supplementation was provided to 28 children aged 6 to 59 months who were at high nutritional risk according to Mid-Upper Arm Circunference (MUAC) anthropometric parameters.

On the other hand, in Machuca, 8 infants were diagnosed with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and one with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), all of them were provided with Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUFT) to promote their nutritional recovery, and the case of Severe Acute Malnutrition was referred to a local health care center.

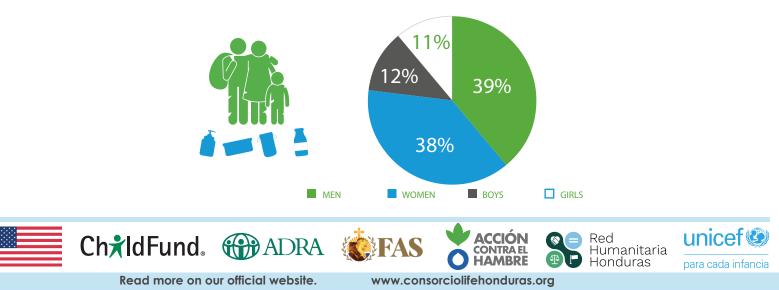
In the southeastern border, 60 women (14 pregnant women and 46 nursing mothers) were also assisted, all of whom were supplemented with micronutrients in tablet form.



In May, **29,083 people had access to safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene.** In the hygiene house and bathroom area at the El Pescadero Humanitarian Space in Danlí, 19,160 people made use of these facilities, 31% were women, 34% men and 35% boys, girls and adolescents, mostly of Venezuelan origin (67%), Haitian (7%), Ecuadorian 7% and 19% were of other nationalities.

At the Trojes Temporary Rest Center, **518 people had access to safe** drinking water, of which 37% were women and 63% men.

Meanwhile, on the western border in the municipality of Santa Fe, 9,405 people were assisted. Here they were supplied with drinking water through dispensers installed in the Humanitarian Space in Machuca. Of the people who accessed these devices, 45% were men, 30% women, 10% girls and 15% boys.



#### Figure 6. Delivery of personal hygiene supplies to migrants in transit in May 2024.

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### **TESTIMONIAL**

#### "I didn't have a job to provide for my son and that's why I decided to travel."

Paola, we will call her that to protect her identity, has traveled with her young son and decided to leave her country in search of better opportunities, because she says that she worked, but her salary was not enough to meet all the needs of the household. "The work is not difficult, the bad thing was the salary, since what I earned lasted only a day," she says.

"I managed to meet some people who were in a group, they helped me by giving us food so that we could get through and get out safely, it was two days walking in this jungle and it really is a very hard journey," she comments.

Paola assures that beyond walking for several days, the complicated part was that her son got sick, which caused her concern. "My son started vomiting, had diarrhea, didn't want to eat anything and this really alarmed me, because during the walk through the jungle he didn't have any problems, but only when he came out of the jungle".



They have been able to receive humanitarian care at the Humanitarian Space in Danlí, El Paraíso.



Paola with her son while waiting for assistance in the Humanitarian Space in Danli, El Paraiso.

"Of all the stops we have made, this has been the best, because they check the children and give them assistance, which is the most important thing, they gave him medicine and he is fine, the doctors said they were going to prescribe what was necessary for him to improve his health; I feel very grateful for this support for us migrants in Honduras," she said.

Paola, a woman in her twenties, explains that the crossing through the Darien is the most difficult stage of the migration journey. There are hundreds of people walking the route, many of them are abandoned, she states. "God has been good to us, because we didn't suffer any assaults, and we managed to get through until we got here," she said.











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## **PHOTOS**



We protect children at as many points as possible, using play areas as a needs-screening mechanism for detecting needs.



Migrant population organizing to register for admission to the Relief from Suffering Temporary Rest Center (RS-TRC)



Nutritional weight-height evaluation of a 3-year-old Venezuelan child in Machuca, western border.



Medical assistance to people in transit, in Machuca, Ocotepeque.



From the WASH component, we provide safe drinking water supply points.



Nutritional evaluations of pregnant women at the Relief from Suffering Temporary Rest Center (RS-TRC).



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