

rregular migratory situation in the municipalities of Trojes, Danlí, El Paraíso, in the department of El Paraíso; Machuca in Santa Fe, department of Ocotepeque and Guasaule in El Triunfo, department of Choluteca. **Consortium** LIFE-Honduras

CONTEXT

In the month of September, the National Migration Institute registered 21,651 migrants who processed their permits to move through Honduras during 5 days; this total population in mobility is represented by 44% men, 28% women and 28% children. Venezuela continues to be the country with the largest migrant population in transit through the country with a record of 13,515 people in September, followed by Cuba with 2,685, Haiti with 734, Colombia 662, Egypt 493, among others. Compared to August, September presented an increase in the number of registrations with 2,917 more people than the previous month.

Meanwhile, Panama reported a deportation of 433 migrants in 11 flights, which are financed by the United States under an agreement with Panama to reduce the flow of people. The U.S.

investment in the framework of this agreement amounts to 6 millions US dollars.

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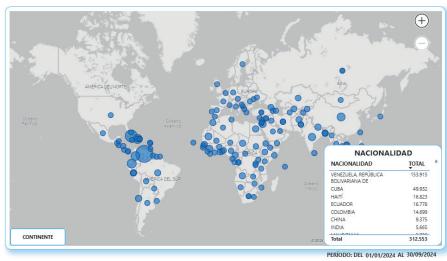
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On the other hand, presidents Gustavo Petro, Colombia, and Jose Raul Mulino, Panama, recently, agreed to advance the evaluation of a legal route for the transit of migrants through El Darien in order to combat human trafficking networks and ensure safer passage.

The migratory flow through the Darien jungle remains constant and permanent, as has occurred in recent years, and with a significant presence of young women accompanied by children, according to information provided by the border coordinator of the Jesuit service for migrants in Costa Rica.

Figure 1. Irregular migratory flows by nationality from January 1 to September 30, 2024.



1 https://inm.gob.hn/migracion-irregular.html

2 https://www.eltiempo.com/mundo/latinoamerica/panama-deporto-a-mas-de-430-migrantes-el-ultimo-mes-tras-un-ultimo-grupo-de-ecuatorianos-3383242

3 https://360radio.com.co/162901-colombia-y-panama-buscan-frenar-el-trafico-de-migrantes-con-una-nueva-ruta-legal-en-el-darien/162901/

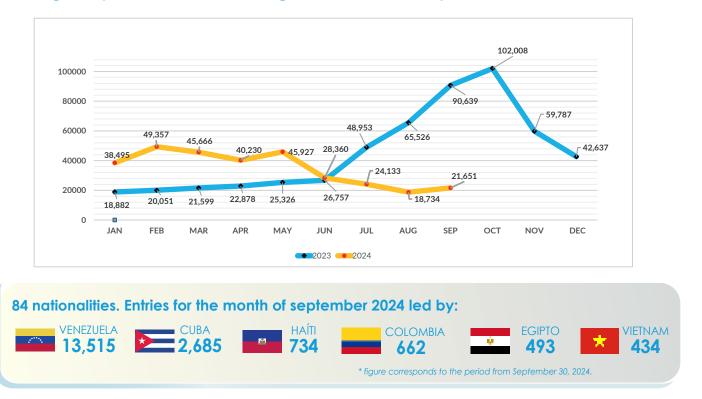
4 https://www.radiofeyalegrianoticias.com/flujo-migratorio-por-el-darien-reporta-alta-presencia-de-mujeres-y-ninos/

5 https://www.debate.com.mx/migracion/Gobierno-de-AMLO-registro-el-cruce-de-mas-de-13-millones-de-migrantes-por-Mexico-20240921-0154.html





Recently, the Director of Coordination of Representative Offices of the National Institute of Migration (INM) announced that during the six-year term of Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, more than 13 million migrants crossed the border between Mexico and the United States, with Ciudad Juarez and El Paso being one of the most critical points in the migratory flow.



Migratory flow behavior through Honduras in the period 2023 - 2024

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), Pure Water for the World (APPM) and the Relief from Suffering Foundation (FAS), continues to respond to the migratory emergency by assisting people in transit in Temporary Rest Centers (CDT) and attention points located in the municipalities of Danlí, Trojes, El Paraíso, in the department of El Paraíso; Machuca in Santa Fe, in the department of Ocotepeque and in Guasaule in El Triunfo, department of Choluteca, focusing in Child Protection, Education in Emergencies, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Nutrition, Health and Social Protection through humanitarian monetary transfers.



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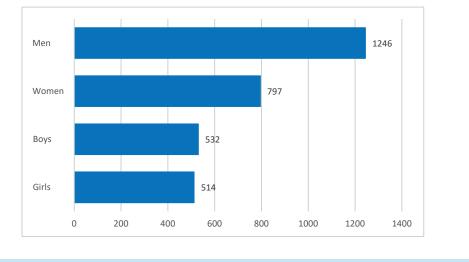
During September we provided 3,089 services to migrants in mobility, of which 3,046 people were received at the Temporary Rest and Relief from Suffering Center (CDT-FAS), distributed among 1,229 men, 785 women, 1,032 children and adolescents. At the Temporary Rest Center for Migrant Families in Trojes, 43 people were cared for, including 17 men, 12 women and 14 infants.



People had access to shelter to rest, food, internet connection to communicate with their relatives in their country of origin, hygiene products for personal use, nutritional care provided by Action Against Hunger and drinking water. It is worth mentioning that during this period, 1% of the population served in the Rest Centers were pregnant women, and 3% were nursing mothers.

El Pescadero Humanitarian Space a total of 3,117 (90%) individuals, of which 1,797 were adults and 1,320 Children and Adolescents (NNA); CDT-FAS served 341 (9%) of the total number of people, of which 167 were adults and 174 were NNA. Among other issues, 186 families benefited from Multipurpose Cash Transfers through funds from the Lewis Family Charitable Trust, 113 with funds from the Consortium LIFE-Honduras and 99 through the project Response to the Changing Humanitarian Needs of Migrant Populations in Transit through Honduras, financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), for a total of 1,452 people reached with these benefits.

Figure 3. Girls and boys who accessed non-formal education and received educational materials in September.







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During September, essential medical attention was provided at three strategic points: on the southeastern border, services were provided at the El Pescadero Humanitarian Space and at the Las Manos Border Crossing Point. Likewise, on the western border, interventions were carried out at the Machuca border point. In total, 3,231 services were provided, of which 1,697 were for women and 1.534 for children and adolescents.



During the medical services provided by the Consortium LIFE at the points of care where we intervene, the main clinical diagnoses found among the beneficiaries are: common colds 34%, postural edema 20%, insect prurigo 12%, acute gastroenteric syndrome 11% and 23% other diseases.

In addition, Child Development Care (CDI) activities continue in the vicinity of INM-Pescadero and the CDT "Sagrada Familia" of Caritas in Danlí, by strengthening practices towards sensitive caregivers, for early stimulation, respectful education without abuse and violence, regardless of the health condition of the child, reaching 98 caregivers through these counseling sessions.

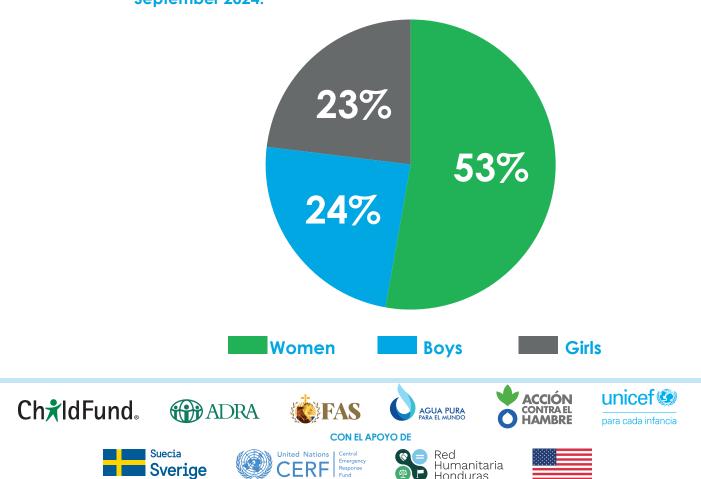


Figure 4. People who received primary health care during September 2024.

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H EDUCATIÓN In September, 730 Children and Adolescents (NNA) had access to non-formal education spaces, highlighting an innovative initiative: the delivery of educational materials not only to those attending classes, but also to those in the migration lines. This allowed children and adolescents to receive educational resources, ensuring that everyone had access to fundamental tools for learning, even in contexts of mobility.

The provision of materials is crucial not only for learning, but also for the emotional and social well-being of children, ensuring equal opportunities for their development.

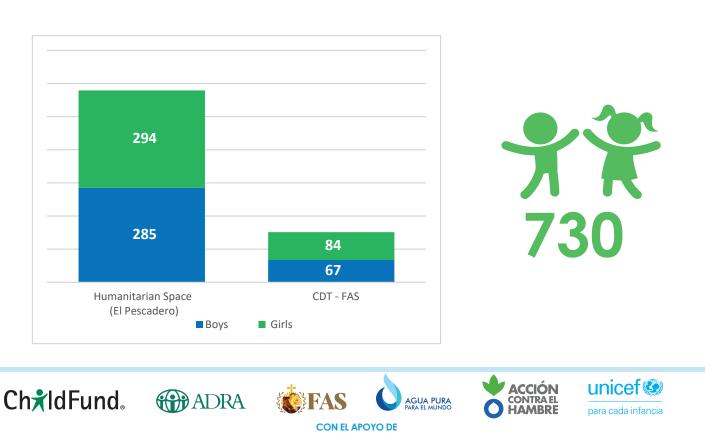
In addition, 832 caregivers participated in information sessions on the importance of education and the use of the Learning Passport platform. This allows them to support their children during their journey, and foster a continuous educational environment.

In the other hand, 657 children and adolescents used the "Viajo y Aprendo" platform, a digital tool that strengthens their knowledge on various subjects through tablets. This platform is part of the Honduran educational system, making use of the new technologies available in the country in the context of migration.

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Figure 5. Girls and boys who accessed non-formal education and received educational materials in September.



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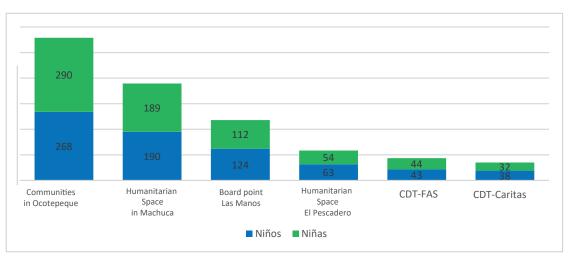
During this period, 1,447 children aged 6 month to 5 years old were examined for acute malnutrition, and cared for in the different Humanitarian Spaces and transit points where the LIFE-Honduras Consortium cares for both the migrant and host population.

Between the Humanitarian Space "El Pescadero", the border point "Las Manos", the Relief from Suffering Rest Center (FAS) and the Caritas CDT-SF, 510 infants between the ages of 6 to 5 years were examined. Of these 510, 48% were girls and 52% were boys. Of these 510, 48% were girls and 52% boys. 32% were under 24 months of age. It is worth mentioning that the origin of the infant population served is mainly from Venezuela (43%), followed by Colombia (29%) and Peru (8%).

NUTRITION

In addition, on the western border, in the municipality of Santa Fe, department of Ocotepeque, 379 children aged 6 month to 5 years were examined to diagnose acute malnutrition, using the "MUAC" tape and weight/height evaluation. Also, 558 Honduran children were examined in foster communities, 52% of them airls and 48% boys, to detect malnutrition. The care was distributed in the municipalities of Concepción, Sensenti, Sinuapa, Santa Fe, La Labor, Lucerna, Ocotepeque and Belén Gualcho. Of the total number of infants attended, 27 were at nutritional risk, 22 were diagnosed with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and 5 had Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). It is worth mentioning that all were referred for appetite testing and received ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUFT).

Figure 6. Boys and girls examined for the detection of acute malnutrition (under 5 years old) during September.





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During this period, 24,115 people had access to safe water services for drinking and personal hygiene. In the Humanitarian Space located in the municipality of Santa Fe, 4,424 people benefited from these services, while in El Pescadero municipality of Danlí 16,168 people were able to access these benefits.



At the Temporary Rest and Relief from Suffering Center (FAS), 3,046 migrants, who spent one night at the center, were guaranteed access to sanitary facilities, such as washbasins, toilets, drinking water and personal hygiene. Finally, at the Guasaule care point, these same services were provided to 477 people.

In addition, 16,369 people received critical hygiene supplies, including menstrual hygiene items. Distributed as follows; in Machuca, municipality of Santa Fe, western border 5,007 people received this service, in Guasaule Choluteca 18 people, while in the Humanitarian Space El Pescadero 11,344 migrants received these supplies for personal use. Among the supplies distributed were toothbrushes, bath soap, disposable diapers, sanitary napkins, deodorant, among others.

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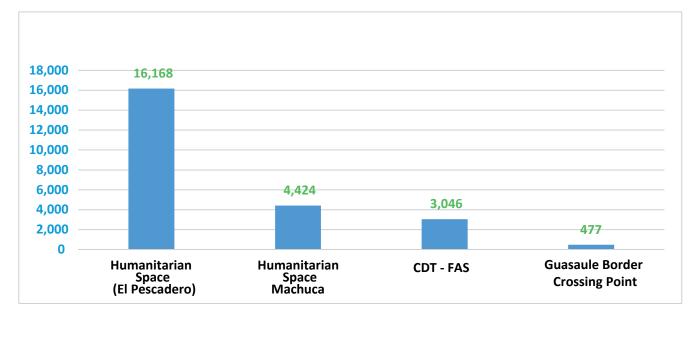


Figure 7. People with access to a sufficient amount of safe water.



Irregular migratory situation in the municipalities of Trojes, Machuca in Santa Fe, department of Ocotepeque and Guasaule in El Triunfo, department of Choluteca

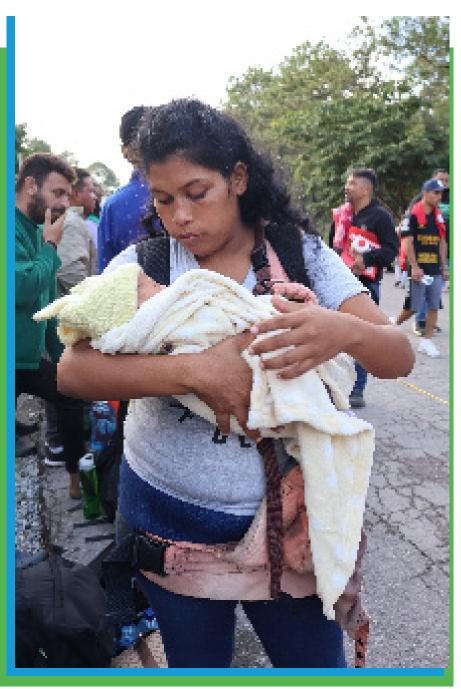
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TESTIMONIAL

"WE HAVE RECEIVED GOOD CARE HERE"



Fernanda Maria, a Venezuelan woman who has come to the Humanitarian Spaces of the LIFE Honduras consortium to take advantage of the free services. She is traveling with her four children, one of whom was born in Honduras. She crossed this migration route for several weeks, pregnant with her three children, and her husband, who had left her at the beginning of the birth process, accompanied her to Honduras. "We left our country in search of better opportunities, but when we arrived here, he left me in a recovery center in Danlí".

During this difficult process with her three children, one person who came along the road became a hero because he helped her all the way to Machuca and supported her by carrying her children while she took care of the newborn. "There are still good people in the world, the boy offered me his help. While I take care of the youngest, he helps me with the others," she said.

Fernanda gave birth to her son in Honduras, where he was recognized as Honduran and subsequently she has continued on her way.



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Fernanda said that they were well looked after the in humanitarian facilities where they were staying and that this helps them to ensure the health and well-being of their children. "The care was excellent, Action Against Hunger took care of their nutrition, they looked after me and gave us medicines and supplements for my children," she said.

José Gregorio, 27 years old, is the person who has offered to help her throughout her journey through the country by taking care of her three children. "Of course it is very difficult for a woman to go alone with four children, two small ones and two others who are older and restless. I will help her along the way," he said.

Gregorio left his family in Medellín, Colombia, and made the journey alone, but in Honduras he met Fernanda, to whom he now gives all his support. He also said that he received humanitarian care: "They took good care of us, gave us accommodation and food and treated us very well, we didn't want to leave because you



Gregorio met Fernanda María upon his arrival in Honduras, and has been very kind to support her on this journey.

come with so many problems and when you arrive in places like this, you relax and take your time," he concluded.

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PHOTOS



Semi-permanent module with attention to women and children, installed at the Machuca assistance point.



Nutrition team delivering nutritional supplements to children who have been evaluated.



Attention to children and adolescents in the child friendly spaces of the Consortium LIFE-Honduras.



Primary health care provided at Punto Machuca, municipality of Santa Fe, department of Ocotepeque.



Migrants lining up to receive attention at the Humanitarian Spaces, while waiting for buses to leave.



Migrant population in transit, entering the facilities of the Centro of the Centro de Descanso Alivio del Suffering (CDT-FAS).



Consortium LIFE-Honduras Gue NADIE migración SE QUEDE ATRÁS familia



CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES: ADDRESSING THE MIGRATION EMERGENCY AT THE BORDER

Currently, Honduras is experiencing a reconfiguration of migratory dynamics, as it traditionally did not receive many migrants. These migrations, whether forced or voluntary, reflect the desire to seek better opportunities and security. However, as Villarreal and Bernal (2024) mention in their article Migration conflicts and human trafficking: General reflections¹. The path is not usually easy, as it involves exposure to risks such as "coyoterismo", human trafficking and inherent violations of human rights. The analysis of conflicts and migrations by Martinez², Emmerich and Morales, 2024; considers that migration, geopolitics and crime are interconnected in border areas, leading to human tragedies. These dynamics are particulary relevant on the southeastern border, where our interventions occur, making the environment and the approach to migrants more complex.

Providing care at border points presents challenges exacerbated by the nature of the context, such as:

• The need for safety and protection: 46% of 193 people interviewed by the UN Refugee Agency UNHCR and UNICEF³ in September of this year indicated traveling with someone with specific protection needs increased the risk of facing violent actions or exploitation during their journey or upon arrival at their destination.

• Lack of information and awareness of their rights and available services: This represents a limitation for them to find the help they need; according to UNHCR and UNICEF's Mixed Movement Report, 2024; apart from basic needs, migrants express other needs such as access to information on protection and migration alternatives, internet and telephone access, shelter, and legal assistance.

• The effect of electoral processes in countries of origin and destination of the migrant population: Government decisions can alter the social and economic conditions of these nations, leading to changes in migration policies that can influence various aspects from the decision to migrate or remain in their places of origin to foster reactions in host populations such as xenophobia.



INFORME DE SITUACION No.23 Irregular migratory situation in the municipalities of Trojes, Danlí, El Paraíso, in the department of El Paraíso; Machuca in Santa Fe, department of Ocotepeque and Guasgule in El Triunfo, department of Choluteca

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CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES: ADDRESSING THE MIGRATION EMERGENCY AT THE BORDER

Faced with these multifaceted day-to-day challenges, we identified the need to continue coordinating efforts, articulating and complementing among organizations, to provide a comprehensive response to the changing needs of migrants in transit through Honduran territory and considering advocacy actions around:

Inter-institutional coordination: Despite Honduras' limited resources, in recent months the country has allocated part of its budget to respond to the humanitarian situation of migrants transiting through the country, from a humanitarian and human rights perspective. Coordinating with humanitarian organizations has proven to be a best practice. We have joined this effort by signing a collaboration agreement with the National Migration Institute to provide protection, health, nutrition and WASH services to the Francisco Paz Migrant Care Center in the city of Danlí.

Development of qualitative research: Upon arriving at border points, migrants are in a hurry, with the need to move as quickly as possible on their migratory journey. To address this, we have coordinated with the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) to conduct qualitative research, creating documents that humanize the migratory emergency response.

Finally, understanding these challenges and finding solutions is crucial for promoting stability and security at borders, aiming for a more secure and sustainable future for migrant populations.

In the Consortium LIFE, we affirm our commitment to continue serving migrants while collaborating with local institutional and organizational actors.

- 1 https://ve.scielo.org/scielo.php?script=sci_abstract&pid=S0798-14062024000100084&Ing=es&nrm=iso
- 2 https://www.researchgate.net/publication/378825302

3 https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/112201



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