

Belize



April - June 2024

Key Figures



4,130

Refugees and asylum-seekers, mainly from El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala, live in Belize.



Over **200**

refugees and asylum-seekers received legal assistance and counselling through UNHCR and partners.



86

Asylum-seekers received cash-based assistance from UNHCR to improve access to health care, documentation, and shelter.

Context

UNHCR supports Belize as the 2024 **Pro-Tempore Chair** of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS). Belize represented MIRPS at the Regional Conference of Migration (RCM), Quito Process, and Cartagena+40 conferences. MIRPS National Technical Team confirmed its National Action Plan for 2024-2026.

Since February, the government has issued permanent residency cards to asylum-seekers who applied through the Amnesty Program. By the end of the second quarter, more than 100 asylum-seekers had received their IDs with the support of UNHCR.

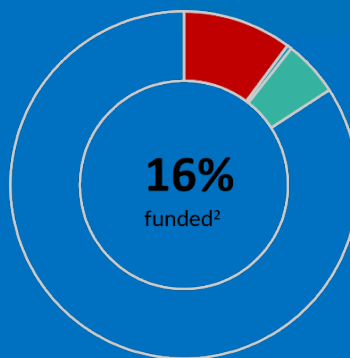
Belize endorsed the 2015 Inter-American Convention on Older Persons, the 1996 Convention on Child Protection, and the 2007 Convention on Child Support. It committed to ensuring social protection, non-discrimination, equity, and equality among all individuals.

Wildfires destroyed over 600 acres of farmland in Toledo District. The National Emergency Management Organization (**NEMO**) estimated that losses amount to up to BEL\$3 million, affecting more than 200 families (approximately 1,000 people). Extreme temperatures fueled the fires, worsened due to persistent drought.

“Celebrating this day helps us reflect on our progress and share our stories with the world,” said Jonathan, a Honduran refugee living in Belize for 11 years and participating in the World Refugee Day Football match in Trio Village. “Today, I felt immense joy being part of something significant, momentarily forgetting the struggles my family and I have faced.”



Regional funding Overview as of 30 June 2024



- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)

\$56.1 million¹

UNHCR's financial requirements 2024

¹ Financial requirement for the Panama MCO in 2024 including requirements for the operations and activities in **Aruba, Belize, Cuba, Curaçao, Guyana, Nicaragua, Panama, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.**

² The percentage funded is indicative.

UNHCR RESPONSE

UNHCR collaborates with the Government, civil society, UN agencies, refugees, and asylum-seekers in Belize. A partnership with the Refugees Department helps channel support and strengthen the country's asylum system. Additionally, UNHCR works in partnership with Help for Progress (HfP), HUMANA People to People Belize (HUMANA), and the Human Rights Commission of Belize (HRCB).



Coordination with local authorities | UNHCR participated in the National Agriculture and Trade Show (NATS) reaching 549 people through an information booth. The refugee-led organization I Hope joined UNHCR in raising awareness among the local public on refugee-related issues. UNHCR participated in the Refugee Eligibility Committee's annual retreat and trained participants on best practices and updates on refugee status determination.



Protection | UNHCR and partners conducted border missions to Benque Viejo, Calla Creek, Arenal, and Bullet Tree, referring 20 people to protection services and sensitizing locals, including 31 students, on international protection.



Education | UNHCR liaised with Galen University to support two students with scholarships for Education and Environmental Studies programs. UNHCR met with partners to request the identification of refugees or asylum-seekers who wish to pursue higher education.



Local Integration | UNHCR partners HfP and HUMANA launched livelihood courses to promote the economic and social integration of refugees, asylum-seekers, and host community members. Ninety refugees and asylum seekers are attending the courses. UNHCR met with eight Valley of Peace village community leaders to re-establish its community-based protection volunteer group (CBPN). Participants agreed to the initiative.



Commemorating World Refugee Day (WRD)

UNHCR organized a sports day to promote integration at the Valley of Peace Christian Primary School with 193 students. The Agency also hosted a [football game](#) in Trio Village with refugees, community members, and other UN Agencies. UNHCR and partners participated in the [Sun Up on 7](#) morning show to spread awareness about WRD. The Refugees Department held an open day at the Ministry of Immigration with information booths. UNHCR and partners, together with the refugee-led organization I Hope, participated.

UNHCR Panama MCO wishes to convey a special thank you to its donors: Australia | Belgium | Denmark | European Union | France | Ireland | Republic of Korea | The Netherlands | Norway | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | United States of America | Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS | Private donors from the Republic of Korea, Australia for UNHCR, España con ACNUR, and the Dutch Postcode Lottery.

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UNHCR's presence in Belize

