

# Belize

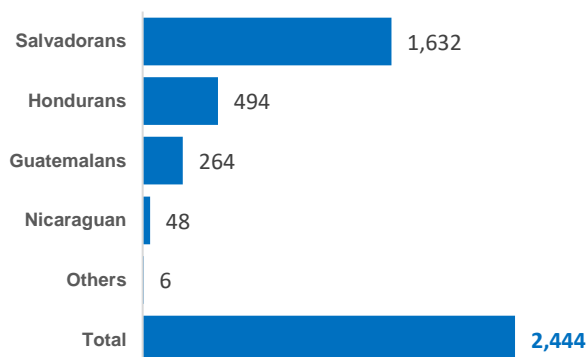
September - October 2021

Belize is home to **around 2,500** refugees and asylum-seekers, the majority from El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala.

**640** asylum-seekers benefitted from community empowerment and protection activities, as well as vaccines against COVID-19.

**120** refugees and asylum-seekers participated in livelihood and skill trainings to enhance their self-reliance and integration into host communities.

## Population of concern\*



\* Data includes registered refugees and asylum-seekers.  
 Source: Refugees Department, as of June 2021

## CONTEXT

While land borders remain closed except for short-stay visits, people seeking international protection continue to enter the country. However, the COVID-19 related halt in asylum claims remains in place.

As of 31 October 2021, Belize registers 27,149 cumulative COVID-19 cases, 2,400 of which still active, and 495 deaths. Vaccinations against COVID-19 are being delivered to people age 12 and up, including refugees and asylum-seekers. By the end of October, 51% of the population has received at least the first dose, and 46% has been fully vaccinated.

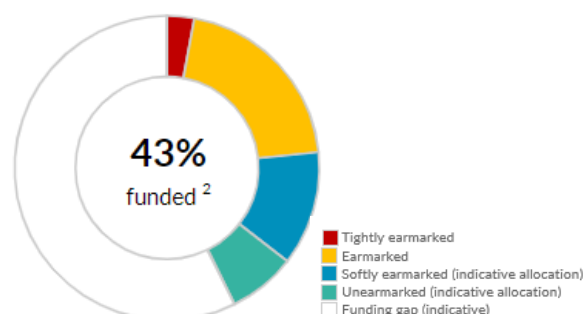
The Institute for Technical Vocational Education and Training (ITVET) network across Belize confirmed asylum-seekers registered with the Refugees Department can enrol and access the ITVET academic offer in Hope Creek, Stann Creek District, close to the Bella Vista area, where many of the people of concern reside.

UNHCR continues to support the Government of Belize in providing protection and assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers, and to deliver on their commitments under the [Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework, MIRPS](#).

FUNDING (AS OF 9 NOVEMBER 2021)

## US\$ 48.7 M

requested for the Panama Multi-Country Office for 2021



1 The financial requirements for the Panama MCO include requirements for the Coronavirus Emergency and the Venezuela Situation. Belize is part of the Panama Multi-Country Office in 2021 along with Panama, Nicaragua, Cuba, and the Southern Caribbean

2 The percentage funded includes indicative allocations of softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions



Belizean young artist, Kevin Moralez, and a young Salvadoran asylum-seeker, David\*, completed a *mural* promoting the inclusion of all youth, both displaced and local, in the community.

## UNHCR Response and Strategy

UNHCR works in close coordination with the Government, civil society, UN agencies, and refugees and asylum-seekers in Belize. A partnership with the Refugees Department helps channel support and continue strengthening the asylum system in the country. Additionally, UNHCR works in partnership with Help for Progress (HfP), HUMANA People to People Belize (Humana), and Human Rights Commission of Belize (HRBC). Furthermore, UNHCR supports the government in implementing its commitments under the [Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework \(MIRPS\)](#).

## Main Activities

Alongside the government, partner organizations, civil society, development actors, and UN Agencies, UNHCR undertakes protection and solutions activities, including:

### Protection

UNHCR through partner HRCB assisted **71 asylum-seekers and other persons of concern with legal services**. Moreover, UNHCR and HRCB continue to train **25 community leaders** on refugee and human rights as part of the community-based protection activities in Belama Phase 4, a neighbourhood that hosts 37% of all refugees and asylum-seekers in Belize City. UNHCR and HRCB also **trained 20 workers of the Department of Youth Services** on International Refugee Law, Refugees Act of Belize, and Human Rights to raise awareness and promote inclusion. In addition, A Community-Based Protection Network led by asylum-seekers in Bella Vista, **distributed information on the asylum procedure** across the village and neighboring communities to help unregistered asylum seekers access the asylum procedure.

### Advocacy and peaceful coexistence

A Community-Based Protection Network led by asylum-seekers in Bella Vista, led peaceful coexistence projects, such as street sign design and installation, that benefitted **over 250 people** in the community. In addition, UNHCR through partner HUMANA and in cooperation with the Department of Youth Services and the Independence Village Council completed a **mural** promoting the inclusion of all youth, both displaced and local, in the community. The mural was created with participation of a Belizean young artist, Kevin Moralez, and a young Salvadoran asylum-seeker. Moreover, UNHCR and partners **shared a video** on a **refugee** who fled El Salvador in 1981, has rebuilt his life in Belize and is now **giving back** to his host community as a **primary school teacher**.

### Cash-based interventions and assistance

Between September and October, UNHCR through partners provided **multipurpose cash** to **39 refugees and asylum-seekers**, to help them access basic items and rights, including food, medicine, education, gas, documents, rent, and others.

### Health

UNHCR through partner HUMANA and in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Wellness facilitated access to **COVID-19 vaccination** through mobile clinics to **250 persons**, including refugees and asylum-seekers. Moreover, 14 asylum-seekers participated in an awareness raising session on the effects of alcohol consumption and COVID-19, and 18 members of the Community-Based Protection Network received information on Sexual Reproductive Health to promote woman health across the community.

### Durable solutions and livelihoods

UNHCR through partner HUMANA delivered **livelihood and skill training courses** to **120 asylum-seekers** to enhance their self-reliance and skills on electricity work, woodwork, cosmetology, sewing, entrepreneurship, and English as a second language, which aim to support local integration.

Thanks to donors: The UNHCR Panama MCO wishes to convey a special thank you to its donors: the United States of America, the United Kingdom, France, the European Union, and the UN Programme On HIV/AIDS, as well as to the following donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked funds: Algeria | Armenia | Australia | Austria | Belgium | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Cyprus | Denmark | Estonia | Finland | France | Germany | Holy See | Iceland | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Latvia | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | Morocco | Netherlands | New Zealand | Norway | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Slovakia | South Africa | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | Thailand | Turkey | United Kingdom | United States of America | Uruguay | Private donors, including Australia, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Spain, and Sweden

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