



REGIONAL RESPONSE TO THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE OF CENTRAL AMERICA SITUATION

June 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

146,000

Refugees and asylum-seekers
(2016 projection)

234,000

Returned population from USA and
Mexico to NTCA (2016 projection)

190,000

IDPs from 20 municipalities in Honduras
(2016 projection)

CONTEXT

- In recent years, the Northern Triangle of Central America countries – El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras – have seen a dramatic escalation in violence by organized criminal groups. Current homicide rates are among the highest ever recorded in the region and are as deadly as many contemporary armed conflicts.
- In 2015, asylum applications from citizens from NTCA countries nearly doubled with a growing number of women and girls and unaccompanied and separated children.
- More than 230,000 citizens from NTCA countries were apprehended by authorities and returned to their countries of origin in 2015. This is nearly a two-fold increase compared to 2011.
- Forced internal displacement due to the violence in the NTCA also appears widespread, although data remains fragmented.
- This supplementary appeal is presented as a follow-up of the Protection and Solutions Strategy for the Northern Triangle of Central America launched in December 2015. The appeal outlines UNHCR’s protection and solutions interventions planned for 2016 to respond to additional and most urgent needs of refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees and internally displaced persons from the NTCA in countries of origin, transit and asylum. It encompasses Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

OPERATION	Additional Requirements
Panama (including NTCA)	6,936,085
Mexico	7,037,811
Costa Rica	1,216,761
Belize	1,473,355
Regional and global activities	281,206
Subtotal	16,945,218
Support costs (7 per cent)	1,186,165
TOTAL	18,131,383



STRATEGY

- UNHCR’s Protection and Solutions Strategy for the NTCA situation is framed under the Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action adopted in December 2014. It ensures that prevention, protection and solutions interventions are embedded within comprehensive efforts to address root causes of displacement, including through existing national and regional strategies and taking into account the magnitude and patterns of displacement and profiles of displaced persons. There is particular focus on the specific needs of children, women, and LGBTI populations of concern.
- It aims to address the protection needs of populations of three main groups:
 - a) asylum-seekers and refugees, including those in transit;
 - b) returned people with specific needs and vulnerabilities; and
 - c) internally displaced persons.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Support authorities in countries of origin to reinforce existing prevention and national protection response mechanisms to mitigate the effects of internal displacement, including strengthening welfare institutions for children and women and Ombudsperson’s Offices.
- Implementation of identification and referral mechanisms, adequate reception arrangements, alternatives to detention, and access to asylum procedures including strengthening refugees status determination procedures, as well as supporting local integration opportunities and targeted resettlement.
- Implementation of advocacy and awareness-raising activities on the evolving protection situation, support to capacity building of national institutions and the strengthening of protection responses to the needs of the population of concern.



WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- Enhancing regional cooperation and partnerships to implement responsibility-sharing arrangements to address the humanitarian impact of displacement is an essential component of the strategy. UNHCR seeks to strengthen the inter-agency response to displacement in the region and continue to work closely with the United Nations Development Group in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDG LAC), alongside UN Resident Coordinators.
- UNHCR will continue to lead the existing inter-agency Protection Task Forces and Protection Groups in the NTCA countries and Panama along with other international organizations, including UNICEF, UNFPA, OCHA, ICRC, IOM and international NGOs.

In order to implement the Regional Response to the Northern Triangle of Central America situation, UNHCR has established a supplementary budget totaling USD 18.1 million.

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