FACT SHEET
November 2026

NRC's operations in

North of Central America and Mexico



Humanitarian overview

El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras – collectively known as Northern Central America (NCA) – together with Mexico, continue to face widespread violence linked to organised crime and gangs, deep-rooted poverty and inequality, recurrent extreme weather events, and institutional fragility. Honduras, although there has been a downward trend in homicides in recent years, remains among the countries with the highest homicide rates in Latin America. Women are disproportionately affected, with a rate of 4.3 killings per 100,000 – the highest in the region (CEPAL 2025).

In 2025, an estimated 4.6 million people in NCA required humanitarian assistance, according to the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plans (OCHA 2025). However, funding levels remained critically low and were further impacted by significant financial cuts to the humanitarian sector over the past year. In Honduras, the response plan received only 11 per cent of the required funding, reaching just 17 per cent of the target population.

Internal displacement remains at alarming levels: approximately 573,000 people were displaced within in Guatemala (IDMC) and around 424,000 in Honduras, primarily due to violence (UNHCR). In Mexico, as of the end of 2025, there were 390,000 people internally displaced due to violence, including 10,000 who were newly displaced during the year (IDMC).

Human mobility under complex conditions – including forced migration, prolonged transit, returns, and situations of stagnation – continues to place significant strain on protection systems. Over the past five years, Mexico has received approximately 500,000 asylum applications. Between January and September 2025 alone, more than 58,800 new applications were registered (UNHCR, 2025). This situation puts further pressure on institutions and humanitarian organisations, while prolonging refugees' exposure to protection risks.

Our core activities

- Education
- Information, counselling and legal assistance (ICLA)
- Protection from violence
- Livelihoods and food security

NRC in North of Central America and Mexico

Established	2014
International staff	2
National staff	91

Our areas of operation

Honduras
- Atlántida
- Choluteca
- Colón
- Comayagua
- Copán
- Cortés
- El Paraíso
- Francisco Morazán
- Gracias a Dios
- Intibucá
- Islas de la Bahía
- La Paz
- Lempira
- Ocotepeque
- Olancho
- Santa Bárbara
- Valle
- Yoro

El Salvador
- La Libertad
- Santa Ana
- San Salvador
- La Paz

NRC will cease operations in El Salvador in December 2026

México
- Michoacán
- Chihuahua
- Tapachula

Guatemala
NRC closed its operations in Guatemala in December 2025.



Our activities in detail

NRC has been working in the region since 2014, meeting the needs of tens of thousands affected by violence and disasters, including the internally displaced, refugees, people in need of international protection, deported people, host communities, and children and youth out of school or at risk of dropping out.

We contribute to policy development aimed at protecting the rights of displaced populations, while advocating for increased humanitarian funding and stronger engagement in processes that drive structural and sustainable improvements in protection and assistance across the region.

4,913 people reached in 2025 ▼

Education

We work to ensure that children and youth have access to education and safe learning environments, despite the challenges posed by violence and displacement. In close collaboration with local communities, as well as local and national authorities, our teams:

- identify out-of-school children and youth and prepare them to resume education activities and gain basic skills to remain safe
- promote and provide safe education opportunities, including flexible learning modalities, according to their needs
- strengthen the capacities of local communities and institutions to sustain protective and quality education responses

15,645 people reached in 2025 ▼

Information, counselling and legal assistance (ICLA)

To protect individuals who have been forced to flee their homes, as well as those deported or returned to the region, we:

- provide information and counselling on humanitarian assistance, asylum procedures, and other legal pathways for people in need of international protection
- support authorities at local and national level to develop legal frameworks and improve practices to protect the rights of the forcibly displaced
- provide services to ensure access to documentation and housing, land and property rights for internal displaced people

15,986 people reached in 2025

Protection from violence

We assist people affected by forced displacement to protect their rights.

- We take a case-by-case approach to working to reduce people's exposure to violence and enhance their resilience.
- We support communities to recognise protection risks and develop self-protection strategies.
- We aim to empower people facing protection risks, and support duty bearers to improve their protection responses accordingly to protection minimum standards.
- In collaboration with other humanitarian actors, we also collect and analyse information on mixed migration movements. This informs our operations to achieve a better humanitarian response, especially at key borders of the migratory route.

310 people reached in 2025 ▼

Livelihoods and food security

We support vulnerable displaced people to restore their livelihoods by providing resources, training and coaching on running small businesses.

In 2025, we worked, through local partners, to provide training and technical support to young people and individuals affected by violence and forced displacement, so that they could access better livelihoods. We rely on private companies that provide professional internships for these individuals once they have been trained.

Advocacy

We contribute to the development of policies aimed at protecting the rights of displaced populations, while advocating for increased principled humanitarian funding and stronger engagement in processes that generate structural and sustainable improvements in protection and assistance across the region. At the same time, we work to increase the visibility of humanitarian needs in this part of the region, which continues to be underestimated and insufficiently prioritised in global response and funding frameworks.

Our donors

We are grateful for the generous support from our donors:

- European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO)
- UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- Swedish International Development Agency (Sida)
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- Norwegian Embassy in Mexico

Your support saves lives and brings hope. Together, we assist people fleeing violence and extreme climate events in the North of Central America and Mexico.

Contact NRC in North of Central America and Mexico

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