

**ChildFund International
Humanitarian Situation Report Template**

**Humanitarian Situation Report [#]
[returning migrant crisis] – [Guatemala]
[08/10/2021]**

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Part 1: The Overall Situation

- Returned Migrant Crisis in Honduras.
- Omoa, Cortés department. Practically the entire national territory due to the displacement of people returned to their communities of origin.
- At the moment, an approximate number of people with AGD disaggregation is calculated: approximately 3,200 people. Most men, single mothers with children between 1 and 7 years of age. 1270 men, 1089 women, 181 girls / boys.
- Nationalities: mostly Honduran. In addition, about 60 young Salvadoran men and 60 young Nicaraguan men were identified.
- Transportation and communication for deportees. Articulation between organizations to promote access to services in express deportations. Incidence for the fulfillment of the protocol of reception of the deported population. State Institutional Presence.

Part 2: The Situation in Areas Where ChildFund Works

Context Analysis:

Every year, hundreds of thousands of people from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras flee extreme violence and poverty and head north through Mexico to find safety. The high levels of violence in the region, known as the Northern Triangle of Central America (NTCA), are comparable to that in war zones where MSF has worked for decades.

The countries of the NTCA have long been burdened by deep social inequality, political instability, and conflict—and in some cases have been further destabilized by US interventions in the region over the past 40 years. Now these countries are also contending with the rapid expansion of transnational organized crime, which has exploded over the past decade. Across this region, drug and human trafficking by criminal groups known as *maras (gangs)*, coupled with widespread corruption and weak law enforcement, have resulted in an environment where civilians face the ever-present threat of violence.

On 25 March 2018, a group of about 700 migrants (80% from Honduras) began their way north from Tapachula. By 1 April, the caravan had arrived in Matias Romero, Oaxaca, and grown to about 1,200 people. In mid-April, 500 migrants continued northward from Mexico City—the caravan's last official stop—toward Tijuana, in separate groups riding atop freight train cars. Two busloads of the migrants arrived in Tijuana on 25th April and a further four busloads were making their way from Hermosillo. On 29 April 2018, after traveling 2,500 miles (4,000 km) across Mexico, the migrants' caravan came to an end at Friendship Park at the Mexico–United States border in Tijuana.

More than 150 migrants prepared to seek asylum from United States immigration officials. United States Attorney General Jeff Sessions called the caravan "a deliberate attempt to undermine our laws and

overwhelm our system". On 30 April, Sessions' Justice Department announced criminal charges against eleven people for crossing the border illegally. American aid worker Scott Warren with the organization No More Deaths was arrested on 12 May on charges of illegally harboring people in the country, hours after releasing a report accusing the U.S. Border Patrol of tampering with water sources for migrants crossing the Arizona desert. He pleaded not guilty and was ultimately acquitted in November 2019.

Regarding to migration flow entering through Corinto stands out, with 3,800 migrants identified. The particularity of this flow is that it is a return flow in a north-south direction.

Sixty-five percent of the migrants who entered were men. In relation to people in vulnerable conditions, there are still limitations for field staff to identify differentiated profiles, so that a quantitative approach is available according to the capacities of each key informant.

Drought and crop failure in the Central American dry corridor and climate change in Honduras has been a factor in the formation of the caravans. Pueblo Sin Fronteras supported its first Holy Week caravan in 2017.

Current Situation:

Regarding the reasons for which the people who made up the migration flow in transit through Honduras migrated, the main reasons were the search for improvements in their socioeconomic conditions, displacement due to violence and political conflicts, in addition to seeking family reunification and a better quality of life.

Since September 15th, 2021, some members of the Protection Cluster have carried out missions in the Corinto border to verify the situation of the increase in the arrival of buses (up to 10 buses per night) from the El Ceibo border located between Mexico and Guatemala with people returnees who are then transported to the Corinto border in the early hours of the morning.

The DINAFA had requested the support of the partners of the Child Responsibility Area of the Protection Cluster to support the humanitarian response and cover specific needs: transportation of children and their families to the Centro de Belén, food, hydration, medical services, psychosocial support and legal guidance (mainly unaccompanied children).

Last weekend it was possible to identify a family that reported the case of a man who was kidnapped along with his wife and their two children, 4 and 8 years old, during the immigration transit to the United States. The person managed to escape with his 4-year-old son, but his wife and his 8-year-old son are still kidnapped in Mexico. When investigating the reasons for the flight, he explains that the reason why he chose to flee was due to the extortion and murder of his brother by the gangs and the subsequent dispossession of his home, also carried out by the gangs. The case was referred to one of the Cluster partners, but the situation shows protection situations that are not being addressed or reported within the framework of the response given by the Institutions in charge.

Given the lack of capacity or approach of the government response, the Protection Cluster will continue to carry out missions to the border and provide a response to humanitarian needs within the framework of the actions defined in the local Protection Cluster of San Pedro Sula and having taken into account the matrix of needs prepared by the AoR for Children.

Part 3: ChildFund's Response

Currently ChildFund is participating in the Protection cluster and Child Protection sub-cluster of the Humanitarian Country Team; also in the protection cluster of the Valle de Sula through CASM (local partner). Through the Protected Passage project, around 900 food rations, early childhood kits and more than 1,000 biosecurity kits have been delivered.

Needs detected:

1. Most of the people state that they were deported from Mac Allen Texas to Villa Hermosa by plane and from this city by bus to Corinto.
2. Other people said that they were arrested for more than a month and other migrants placed them on buses without informing them of the destination of the trip.
3. The deportees said that upon arrival, they need to rest, eat because they spent up to 10 hours without eating, communicate with their families, receive information about how they can return to their communities of origin or their countries, money to pay the tickets, coat for babies and childrens and sanitary services. Foreigners (El Salvador and Nicaragua requested information on routes and transportation to reach their countries).
4. Regarding their general health, they were in favorable condition, some childrens with flu symptoms; their mothers say that this is due to the air conditioning of the plane and bus, as well as the time they have spent outdoors.
5. People who were provisionally arrested received medical attention and food.

We are preparing a response plan with the possible activities: objectives, thematics, supply chain actions, and making a preliminary budget that will include: funding target, pipeline, secure funds and funding gap.

Our actions are focused on:

- Distribution of food rations based on the content of the ration distributed by the project: Protected Passages.
- Distribution of early childhood kits based on the content of the kit distributed by the project: Protected Passages.
- Transportation of returnees from the Corinto border to the San Pedro Sula bus station. This coordinated with the Red Cross, Médicos sin Fronteras and Pastoral de Movilidad Humana.
- Gift cards or pantry vouchers to distribute to returnees (mainly family nuclei); the distribution point will be the San Pedro Sula bus station.
- Psychosocial support to families (mainly children) who are located on the border.

+Below Sections for Internal Use Only

- Staffing and Security
 - o Jorge Bejarano, Security, Disaster and Operational Risk Management, jbejarano@childfund.org Jorge provides the backstopping to the Honduras office and guides the local partners. CASM partner activate his own security protocols but aligned with the CF security plan.
 - o Pablo Urrutia, DRR and Humanitarian Specialist of Guatemala and Honduras CO's (tel. +502 47709357, purrutia@childfund.org). At the moment, Pablo Urrutia will be coordinating humanitarian actions with local partners and with the support of the CF

staff. At the moment, Pablo Urrutia will be coordinating humanitarian actions with local partners and with the support of the CF staff.

- Thania Alvarado, Project Lead of Protected Passages Project, Country Management (talvarado@childfund.org). She is coordinating all actions in the field directly with beneficiaries, with the staff of the local partner "CASM" and participating in the protection cluster at the Valle de Sula level.

- Sponsorship and Grants
We are exploring opportunities with a private company in Honduras, evaluating a strategy to expand sponsorships to migrant children and activating the StartFund in the event of a possible alert (but ChildFund is not part of the Start Network).

- Donors
 - At the moment, the humanitarian network has not been, have not yet explored opportunities with donors and it will depend on the evolution of the crisis. It is a very complex situation that has also been addressed in REDLAC and the only funds available are those assigned by the BHA through the HRP where most of these funds have been assigned for recovery processes due to the impact of Eta and Iota tropical storms and dry corridor. Based on this, **we consider making an NSP request for which it has been calculated to respond with \$ 30K USD to respond for 3 months because this is the estimated time that this deportation mechanism will last.** However, we will be conducting a forward-looking analysis to determine the possible evolution of the crisis and assess an extent of the humanitarian response.

Due to the nature of the crisis, IO, GSS or Global Teams support is not needed. Only the backstopping of the remote international office.

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