



Diaspora engagement mapping

HONDURAS

Facts & figures

Terminology: The idea of diaspora is captured in the 2013 [Ley de Protección de los Hondureños Migrantes y sus Familiares](#) as it refers to “*hondureños residentes en el exterior*.” It also refers to the diaspora concept as “*hondureño migrante*” which is the term used by some government entities (e.g. Dirección General de Protección al Hondureño Migrante).

Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections
for citizens residing abroad²



Remittances as a share of GDP: **26.07%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **8,968**

Voting from abroad:

at embassies and consulates



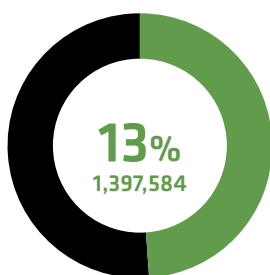
Emigration



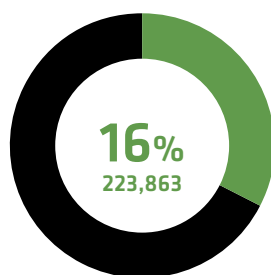
% of emigrants in
total population



% of which
in the EU



♂ 49%
♀ 51%



♂ 32.6%
♀ 67.4%

Data disclaimer

As diaspora definitions vary widely, we have chosen to use comparable data on emigration as a proxy. This does not include all who consider themselves diaspora and is not necessarily aligned with national definitions of diaspora. Emigration data comes from [UNDESA](#) (2024) and remittances from the [World Bank](#) (2023).

Top countries of destination



United States of America	934,727
Spain	218,548
Mexico	166,398
Nicaragua	13,606
El Salvador	12,039

¹ Constitución de la República de Honduras, 1982. Article 28 provides that no Hondurans citizens by birth may be deprived of their nationality, even when they acquire another nationality.

² Ley Especial para el Ejercicio del Sufragio de los Hondureños en el Exterior Decreto No.72-2001

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2009** ● **Visión de País 2010-2038 and Plan de Nación 2010-2022:** The national development plan prioritises the issue of return and reintegration of migrants among those who left the country but were detained at US borders. The plan offers a commitment for decent employment opportunity to help reintegration upon return. The plan makes no mention of the importance of migrants and remittances for the country.
- 2013** ● **Ley de Protección de los Hondureños Migrantes y sus Familias:** This Act is a comprehensive legislation aimed at protecting migrants abroad. It promotes - among other things - the reduction of financial and other costs associated with remittances, and aims to strengthen the cultural, social and economic position of Honduran migrants. It creates the National Council to Protect Honduran Migrants and stipulates measures to coordinate among government agencies on issues of rights protection.

>> Trends

Honduras migration is relatively new, mostly a phenomenon resulting from Hurricane Mitch in 1998 when a large out-migration wave occurred, growing at an annual 7% rate. With the 2009 military coup and the global recession, a new wave later emerged, exploding in 2014 with thousands of unaccompanied minors leaving Honduras to the US. Because migration is a relatively new trend, diaspora communities are less established and there is less of a collective diaspora identity than evident in other nations.

Even though there are some institutions and programmes related to diaspora engagement and leveraging remittances for development should be a point of convergence between the diaspora and the government, the government has not engaged as effectively with its diaspora as it could have. The main reason is that Honduras prioritises the challenges posed by significant outmigration. The government chooses to focus on those returned or deported by the US government, with its policies addressing mainly outside pressures.

Lately the country has started to recognize prominent Hondurans in arts, entrepreneurship, international business and social enterprise. However, when it comes to science diasporas, there is no official or centralized database built by any public institution even though they have shown willingness to transfer knowledge back to their country of origin.³



Achievements

In 2016 Honduras signed several multilateral and bilateral agreements on migration, such as a Memorandum of Understanding on labour cooperation with Mexico, El Salvador and Guatemala. It also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United States of America to protect Honduran migrant workers against discriminatory practices.

A relevant fund, Fondo de Solidaridad con el Migrante Hondureño (FSMH, 2017-2019), was established as a result of a reform to the Ley de Protección de los Hondureños Migrantes y sus Familias by decree No. 15-2015. The last allocation for this fund was approved in 2019. The funds financed returned migrant care centres, social and labour reintegration programmes, the strengthening of Honduran consulates, non-profit organisations and the “Centro Consular de Protección al Migrante Hondureño”. It also provided direct help to Hondurans for their voluntary return and, when requested by the consulates, helped Hondurans deprived of liberty, provided hospital and medical aid and assistance in death or illness due to natural catastrophes and also supported the repatriation of bodies in case families did not have financial resources.

³ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9243554/>

Depending on the case, aid applications were submitted to the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, the consulates or the Dirección General de Protección al Hondureño Migrante.⁴

In response to community lobbying, Honduras approved the opening of a new Vice-Consulate in Girona⁵, Spain. Girona and surrounding Catalonia have seen a surge in Honduran residents – over 7,300 Hondurans were officially registered in Girona city by late 2023, making them the largest foreign group in that area.

For the first time, Honduras has offered Honduran driver licence renewal service in Europe.⁶ After Honduras and Spain signed a license homologation agreement, a team from the Honduran National Transport Authority (DNVT) travelled to Spain to renew expired Honduran driver's licenses on the spot. This initiative was executed from 22 October to mid-November 2024.

Obstacles



- **Lack of data:** There is a lack of information on and analysis of the characteristics and development potential of Hondurans living abroad and statistics on the impact of remittances.⁷ With the foundation of the Observatorio Consular y Migratorio de Honduras (CONMIGHO) in 2015, the government has made a significant advance in statistical registration and helped close the gap. However, they still argue for the need to collect better information.
- **Resource limitations:** Due to their institutional and financial weaknesses, diaspora organisations lack resources (financial and organisational) and knowhow. Much diaspora-led work is run on donations and focuses on cultural and social activities, but there is no coordination structure. As a result, the government does not have a structured way to engage with these organisations.
- **Lack of programmes to build ties with the diaspora:** There are no formal programmes to build or preserve ties with the Honduran diaspora.⁸ Efforts were made through the Programa de Remesas Solidarias but since 2017 there are no further developments.⁹
- **The Honduran diaspora is weak overall due to its relatively recent development.** Nevertheless, it seeks to materialise its links with Honduras through cultural or philanthropic activities, or even reaching out to government officials. However, trust in the home country government is a latent issue.

4 Reglamento del Fondo de Solidaridad con el Migrante Hondureño. Accessed July 2020.

5 <https://sreci.gob.hn/node/1784>

6 <https://tiempo.hn/hondurenos-espana-podran-renovar-licencias-octubre/#:~:text=Redacci%C3%B3n,los%20hondure%C3%B1os%20que%20residen%20all%C3%AD>

7 Wilson Center Latin American Programme. Fondo Social de Deuda Externa y Desarrollo de Honduras, Características Fundamentales para una Reinserción Efectiva de hondureños “TPS” Retornando a Honduras, recomendaciones de políticas públicas. Pages 28-29. Accessed May 2020.

8 International Organization for Migration (IOM). Migration Governance Snapshot: Republic of Honduras. 2018. Accessed May 2020.

9 “Programa Remesas Solidarias y Productivas ha beneficiado a más de 35,000 hondureños”. Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores y Cooperación Internacional. November 2, 2017. Accessed May 2020.

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Assisting returning migrants 2011

REINTEGRATION; ENTREPRENEURSHIP

In 2011, the Asociación Hondureña de Instituciones Bancarias (AHIBA) initiated the “Friends of the Migrant Project”, a corporate social responsibility initiative which includes assistance on: awareness raising and education of migrants and their families on the proper use of remittances; encouraging saving practices; holding a semi-annual running event to raise funds for returned migrants with disabilities.

AHIBA and the Instituto Nacional de Formación Profesional (INFOP) of Honduras, signed a Cooperation Agreement in 2012, through which they offer training with an entrepreneurial approach to promote entrepreneurship to deportees. AHIBA's participation is considered strategic as financial inclusion strategy to help returnees, mainly in terms of access to housing and productive assets.¹⁰

The Centros de Atención al Migrante Retornado (CAMR) 2000

RETURN & REINTEGRATION

is an entity operating on the basis of an agreement between the Scalabrinian Sisters Association/Catholic Church, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Secretariat of Foreign Relations and International Cooperation of Honduras. Their main goal is to provide immediate assistance (food, lodging, transportation, and health) to returned migrants from the United States and to promote their full reintegration through technical training and relocation for new jobs. In 2019, more than 60,000 Hondurans benefited from this initiative, 14,000 of them were minors.¹¹

Solidarity and Productive Remittances Programme 2010

REMITTANCES

The Programme, launched in 2010 and resumed in 2015 until end of 2017¹² was an initiative supported by the United Nations Development Programme to support 17 community development projects.^{13,14} These projects included diaspora cash donations to schools and community centres in the cities of Comayagua, La Paz e Intibucá that were matched by the government.

Programme Becas 20/20 2017

EDUCATION

It encourages Honduran students to continue their studies abroad under the condition of returning to the country. In 2021 the programme was only supporting health students as a response to the COVID 19 pandemic.

10 Wilson Center Latin American Program. Fondo Social de Deuda Externa y Desarrollo de Honduras, Características Fundamentales para una Reinserción Efectiva de hondureños “TPS” Retornando a Honduras, recomendaciones de políticas públicas. Pages 21-22. Accessed May 2020.

11 “Atención Integral a retornados” Sala de Prensa de la Presidencia de la República de Honduras, 2019. Accessed July 2020.

12 “Remesas Solidarias”, programa en el que Honduras invierte un dólar por cada uno que envían inmigrantes”. Proceso Digital. October 31, 2017. Accessed May 2020.

13 “Gobierno reactiva programa de remesas solidarias y productivas”. UNDP. March 12, 2015. Accessed May 2020.

14 “Programa Remesas Solidarias y Productivas ha beneficiado a más de 35,000 hondureños”. Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores y Cooperación Internacional. November 2, 2017. Accessed May 2020.



HONDUFUTURO Labor Intermediation Program

The objective is to be the bridge between beneficiaries and companies and governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as to provide our beneficiaries with the tools that will enable them to find the best job options in the country. The PIL seeks to support beneficiaries in their individual labor transition strategy that involves returning to the country after completing their graduate studies. The Credit-Scholarship Program also offers financing of up to \$50,000 over two years and a scholarship of up to 50% to students pursuing graduate studies abroad.

RETURN

2022 Hondureños y Hondureñas Conectadas

Launched by The Honduran Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Social Development (SEDESOL) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Honduras with the objective of improving the socioeconomic situation of the communities of origin of the diasporas established in the U.S., through 3 Consulates. The remittances sent by Hondurans from abroad also contribute to the creation of community development projects, proposed and developed by the communities themselves or municipalities' boards of trustees, in order to promote investment, employment opportunities and access to services. All this will contribute to the reduction of inequality gaps and the mitigation of the causal factors of poverty and irregular migration.

REMITTANCES +
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

The courses 'Cuidado del adulto mayor y niñez en el hogar' and 'Curso universitario de informática para hondureños globales' were launched by the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH) and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to support the Honduran diaspora living in Spain and the United States.

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions

- **At regional level**

Regional Conference on Migration 1996

The RCM is a forum of discussion on international migration to share experiences relating to migration. Member countries include Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, El Salvador, United States, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Dominican Republic. The Conference is led by Vice-Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

Central American Integration System (SICA) 1991

The Central American Regional Integration System serves as an institutional framework for policy coherence and integration at regional level. The SICA has a division on migration to promote regional uniform policies.

Jesuit Refugee Service Latin America and the Caribbean (JRS LAC) 1980. Equipo de Reflexión, Investigación y Comunicación (ERIC) y Radio Progreso. They offer legal, pastoral and investigative support to migrants, as well as help for Honduran compatriots and their families in situations of migration and often homelessness.

- **National institutions**

- At ministerial level

Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores de Honduras

The Secretariat for Foreign Affairs is responsible for external politics and international relations, including promotion of economic ties and political, cultural and international cooperation. It is in charge of the diplomatic missions abroad.

Dirección General de Protección al Hondureño Migrante 2013

The General Directorate for the Protection of Honduran Migrants is in charge of the execution of policies and programs to protect Honduran migrants abroad, as well as to execute return policies and programmes for Honduran migrants.¹⁵

Oficina de Protección al Hondureño Migrante (OPROHM) 2013

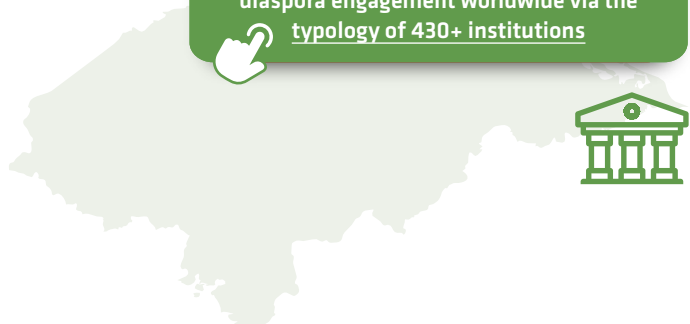
The Office for the Protection of the Honduran Migrant is in charge of executing policies and programs to protect Honduran migrants (e.g. repatriations, assistance to inmates and human trafficking cases).

Oficina de Asistencia al Migrante Retornado (OFAMIR) 2013

The Office for Assistance to Returned Migrants promotes and executes policies and programmes for the return of Hondurans abroad and the achievement of their social and labour reintegration. As well as providing technical and financial support to Centros de Atención al Migrante Retornado (CAMR).

¹⁵ Observatorio Consular y Migratorio de Honduras CONMIGHO <https://www.conmigho.hn/direccion-general-de-proteccion-al-hondureno-migrante> Accessed May 2020.

Explore the institutionalisation of diaspora engagement worldwide via the [typology of 430+ institutions](#)



Centros de Atención al Migrante Retornado (CAMR) 2013

The centres for Assistance to Returned Migrants implement policies and programmes from the OFAMIR. There are three centers actively operational: Centro de Niñez, Adolescencia y Familias Migrantes Belén, Centro de Atención al Migrante Retornado Omoa and Centro de Atención al Migrante Retornado en La Lima.

Unidades Municipales de Atención al Retornado (UMAR) 2013

There are 14 municipal units for assistance to returned migrants, where complete care is provided. The units offering central and local government aid to follow-up with and monitor applicants, thus achieving effective and sustainable reintegration into their communities.

- At sub-ministerial level

Consejo Nacional para la Protección al Hondureño Migrante (CONAPROHM) 2014

A consultative and advisory office attached to the Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores de Honduras, in charge of carrying out studies regarding Hondurans abroad.

Sistema Integral de Atención al Migrante Retornado (SIAMIR) 2014

SIAMIR's mission is to present statistical data on returnees to Honduras, with the purpose of easing the understanding of the migratory reality of the country.

Undersecretariat for Consular and Immigration Affairs 2015

Created under the organic structure of the Secretariat for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Within the functions assigned to its competence, it has the task of coordinating, promoting, harmonizing and socializing the policies established in the applicable laws to consular and immigration matters and delegated by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Diaspora organisations in Europe

Asociación de Hondureños en Málaga ADHEM 2018 Spain
(inactive)

☑ Integration activities

ADHEM worked to promote activities of cultural interest, manage initiatives and actions to guide, supervise, and inform to promote quality of life as well as to strengthen humanitarian aid to people in need.

Asociación de la Comunidad Hondureña en España (ACHE) 2015 Spain

☑ Integration activities


ACHE fights for equal conditions for all Hondurans, taking into account that education can bring better opportunities for migrants without forgetting their national reality. [[f](#)]

Read more about diaspora organisations
in "[Starting guide: What is a diaspora
organisation](#)"



Asociación Social Cultural de Honduras en La Provincia de Girona 2015 Spain

Integration activities

Share their culture, customs and gastronomy, in order to create that harmony between the Hondurans and the Gironans. []

Honduras Global UK 2011

Development activities

is a Foundation launched in 2011, inspired by the international network of “outstanding” Hondurans promoted by Sir Salvador Moncada, a prominent scientist with roots in Honduras based in the United Kingdom. As of February 2022, it has over 60 members, including artists, entrepreneurs, businesspeople, and scientists. All its members are Hondurans.

The Association of Zamorano Alumni Europe

it is a systematic networking platform established in 1965. As for 2022, there are nearly 9,000 graduates from over 30 countries of origin. The Alumni is organized in chapters based on their location, interests and affiliations, e.g., There are Alumni Zamorano Association in Europe, the United States, Asia, Africa and various countries in Latin America.

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