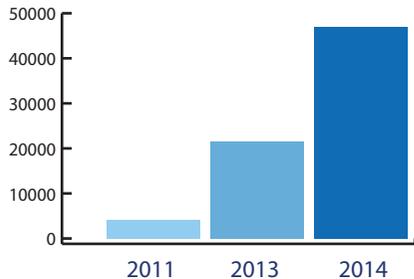


On 2 June 2014, the US president declared an **"urgent humanitarian situation"** for the wave of unaccompanied children crossing the US - Mexico border from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico.

52,000 children have been taken into custody since October 2013 - an increase of **2 times** more than this period last year.



Increase of children caught at the US border in the last three years

POVERTY AND VIOLENCE

48 per cent of children interviewed said they experienced or were threatened with harm by criminals. (UNHCR)

60 - 70 per cent of girls interviewed have reported suffering from sexual violence. (UNFPA)

El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras have among the **highest homicide rates** in the world. (UNDOC)

El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras are among the poorest nations in Latin America with 17%, 26% and 30% of people living on less than **\$2 a day** respectively. (Pew Research Center)



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Creation date: 18 July 2014

Data Sources: OAS, OCHA, UNODC, UNFPA, UNHCR, World Bank, Pew Research Centre

Map Sources: UNCS, Reliefweb

Feedback: eriksenb@un.org www.unocha.org www.reliefweb.int

RESPONSE

The president of Honduras declared a humanitarian emergency to address the situation.

The Governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico have created reception centres for returning children to reunite with their families.

The United States has established three shelters on the border with Mexico.

Humanitarian actors in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras are working on contingency plans in the event that the United States begins the deportation process as announced. In 2013, more than 180,000 illegal immigrants were deported.

KEY MESSAGES

Unprecedented flow of unaccompanied children crossing the US border is causing serious concern for the humanitarian community due to possible unmet humanitarian needs.

This may represent the tip of the iceberg as the number of migrant children in Mexico is unknown.

Rapid deportation could threaten the wellbeing of returnee children given that adequate humanitarian attention and protection is not guaranteed.

Girls face a higher threat upon return given the risk of gender based violence.

Legend

- Unaccompanied Migrant Children detained at US border.
- Shelters or Reception Centres