



ANNUAL REPORT

2025





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ABSTRACT

The year 2025 represented a key turning point for the Scalabrini Training Center for Migrants (CESFOM), during which the solidity and maturity of the project were put to the test. Amid an international context marked by a drastic decrease in humanitarian aid and aggressive changes in migration policies in both Mexico and the United States, the institution faced a hostile and rapidly shifting environment that demanded an unprecedented level of adaptability, management, and sustainability.

Cuts in international cooperation directly affected the sustainability and presence of various organizations in the border region. This situation led CESFOM to prioritize the activities that generate the greatest impact on the population and its development. However, the reduction in staff resulted in an internal restructuring that, while challenging, reaffirmed the vocation and commitment of the team that upholds the educational and humanitarian mission of this institution each day.

Amid this period of adjustments, the organization received valuable support from the group “Amigos de la Casa del Migrante” in San José, California, a group of lay collaborators who, upon learning about the situation CESFOM faced at the beginning of the year, decided to assist, enabling the continuation of the training sessions scheduled for the first period, precisely during the most critical point of budget cuts. Likewise, University Christian Church (UCC) of San Diego chose to join CESFOM’s mission, providing financial resources for the implementation of programs and training sessions for one year, partially in 2025 and partially in 2026. This support was fundamental for the project.



The year was also marked by a change in the leadership of Casa del Migrante in Tijuana A.C., the parent institution of which CESFOM is part of. This administrative transition brought with it new approaches as well as new challenges.

Within this context of transformations, CESFOM celebrated its fourth anniversary, strengthening its position as a space for training, encounter, and hope. Four years after its founding, the center continues to be a place where education becomes a tool for personal and social reconstruction, a bridge that connects interrupted dreams with new opportunities.

During 2025, a total of 729 people enrolled in 33 training programs, with women playing an active role, representing 58% of all students. The migrant population served was made up primarily of individuals from Mexico and Haiti, along with participants from Colombia, Honduras, Venezuela, and El Salvador. Most participants held temporary or permanent residency statuses, as well as refugee statuses, and included individuals who, since 2024, had been waiting for an appointment to request asylum in the United States but, in the face of evolving border policies, found in CESFOM a safe space while remaining in Tijuana and discerning their next steps.

This report presents a summary of the work carried out throughout 2025, highlighting the efforts of a team that, despite limitations, remained firmly committed to accompanying, training, and dignifying each person who found in CESFOM a place to learn, grow, and reconnect with their own path.



KEY DATA

Trainings	33
Enrolled	729
Students in shelters	125
Majority gender	Women
Majority nationality	Haitian
Majority migratory profile	Temporary Resident

A. SOCIODEMOGRAPHICS

During 2025, CESFOM registered a total of **729** enrollments in the various courses and workshops offered by the institution. Throughout this enrollment process, the institution collects key information from beneficiaries that allows us to contextualize the situation we are addressing.



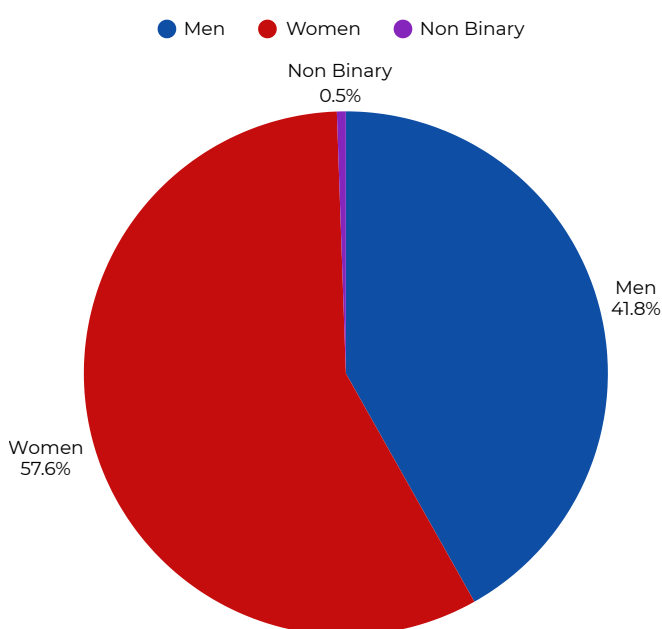
Among the information collected are basic sociodemographic data such as gender, age, nationality, and migration status, along with other details of great relevance to our work as a humanitarian project.



University students Jazmín (upper right) and Marina (lower) guiding users of Haitian origin through their enrollment process.

A.1. GENDER

Of the total **729** students enrolled in 2025, **57%** correspond to women, who for three consecutive years have represented the majority population at CESFOM. Men accounted for nearly **42%** of the student population this year, while non-binary persons represented **0.5%**. However, people belonging to the LGBTTTIQ+ community made up **10.5%** of all students, a percentage that, although seemingly small, is highly significant and relevant.



The factors related to the gender of our beneficiaries allow us to analyze and assess key aspects for decision-making regarding the services CESFOM offers. In this case, as women are the majority population, many of them share a particular circumstance: they attend classes accompanied by their children, which in some cases presents challenges due to the attention minors require and the need to prevent their exposure to substances used in certain workshops.

Given this situation, CESFOM launched a pilot program with the support of volunteers to provide care for the children accompanying their mothers. This allowed women to focus on their training while their children were cared for through the program.

Thanks to this pilot project, a large portion of the women who attended with their children completed the workshop, demonstrating that it is not only participation that must be considered, but also the needs and difficulties of the population, and how we support them.



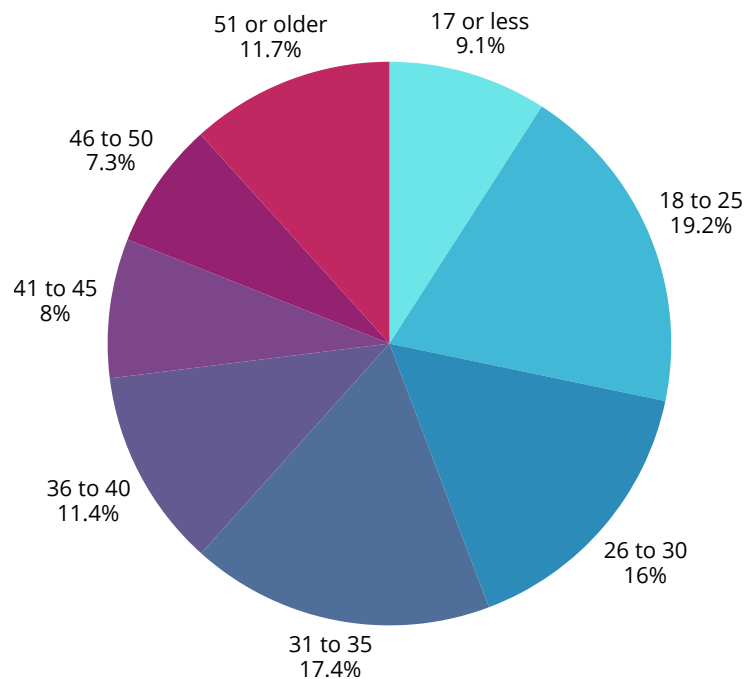
Perla Belén, pilot program for the care of children of migrant student mothers

A.2. AGE

Age is a key factor in identifying the needs present across the different stages of human development within migration. For example, children and teenagers face needs and challenges that differ from those of adults and older adults. During 2025, “young adults” represented the majority, as the 18–25 and 26–30 age groups together accounted for just over **35%** of all students at CESFOM.

Knowing the age distribution allows CESFOM to guide its instructors so they can consider different factors in planning, resource use, and potential challenges.

The student groups in courses and workshops display a high level of dynamism, which presents challenges but also valuable opportunities. Having people of different ages and with diverse experiences enriches the learning process; at times, younger students support older ones, and vice versa.

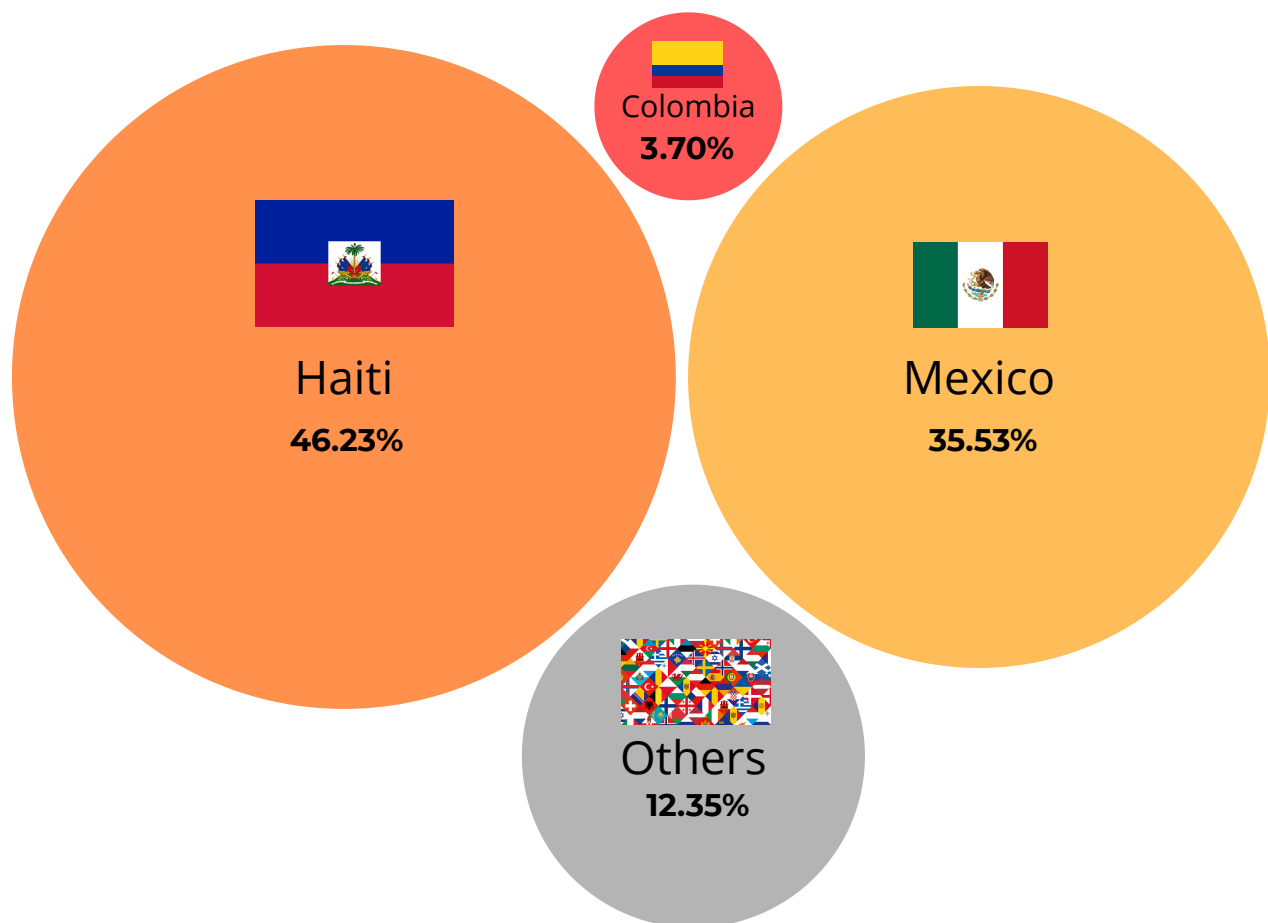


Students from the electricity workshop practicing galvanized conduit bending for wiring.

A.3. NATIONALITY

As migration flows shift, so do the people arriving in the city. For years, CESFOM has welcomed a wide range of individuals from different countries, languages, cultures, and beliefs, all of them in search of opportunities. Given the particular dynamics of the American continent, migration flows occur between its different regions, and although there are extracontinental migrants, they represent a minority compared to continental migrants.

As a key migration hub, Tijuana receives the presence of Mexican nationals fleeing violence and natural disasters, as well as continental and intercontinental migrants. During this year, CESFOM registered a majority of participants from Haiti, who made up **46%** of all enrolled students, followed by Mexico with **35%** as the second largest group. These two communities differ significantly from other populations, such as those from Colombia, which ranked third but represented only **3.7%**.



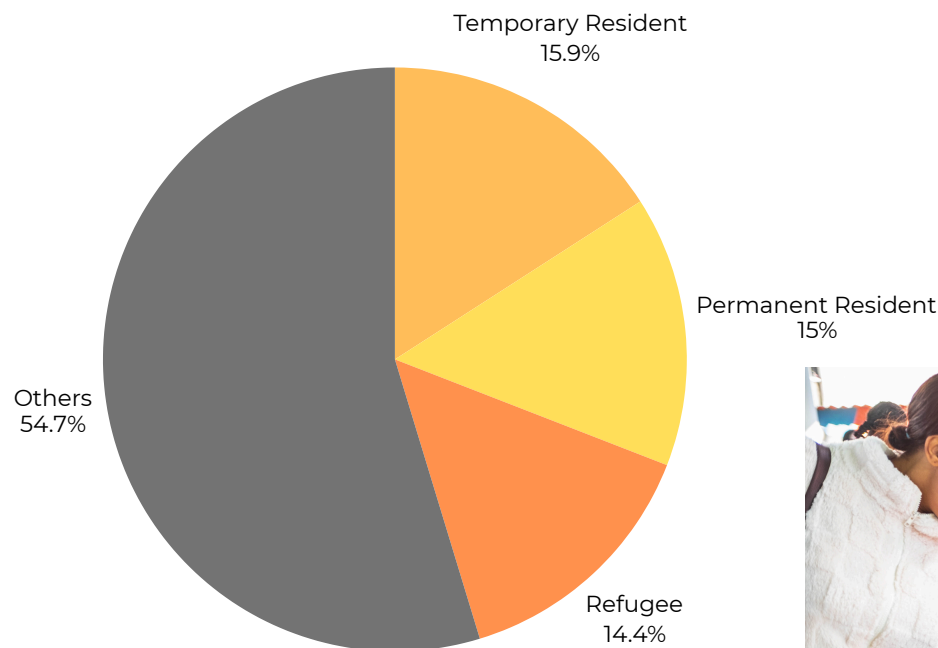
A.4. MIGRATORY PROFILE

At CESFOM, every person is welcome as long as their intention is to learn, share, progress, and grow. For this reason, the population we serve presents a wide range of characteristics, including different migration profiles, which help us understand the legal, social, and humanitarian situations of each person in mobility. Knowing these profiles allows us to guide individuals as effectively as possible and define part of the services we offer.

During 2025, individuals with temporary residency made up the largest group served, representing **15.9%** with more than **100** enrolled users. They were followed by permanent residents and refugees, with similar percentages.

It is inferred that the increase in these populations is linked to changes made by the United States in its asylum application procedures. With the cancellation of the CBPOne application process, people in mobility chose to remain or wait in Mexico and begin their regularization process.

Migration Profile of Registered



Denisse, a translation student from UABC, supporting the CESFOM team at the Multiservice Center "BC Frontera Solidaria," operated by UNHCR and COMAR, providing institutional information to French- and English-speaking individuals.

B. TRAINING

Training programs are the main activity carried out by the Scalabrini Training Center for Migrants (CESFOM); they are the reason the project was created and the reason it exists.

During 2025, a total of 33 training programs were implemented. Each program has its own characteristics and particularities, but they all pursue the same goal: to provide individuals with tools that support their integration into society and the labor market, and above all, to foster their personal and professional development.



Graduates of courses and workshops; the diversity present at CESFOM can be observed, including the strong presence of the Haitian community alongside local residents and individuals from other countries and regions of Mexico.

CESFOM offers courses focused on developing soft skills and personal growth among beneficiaries, such as language classes, computer skills, and spirituality. Workshops, on the other hand, focus on building technical skills that enable students to acquire a trade and train in a specific activity, such as welding, electricity, or barbering, so they can perform the activity and earn an income from it.

B.1. COURSES

During 2025, CESFOM offered a total of **17** courses, including basic Spanish groups, basic English, computer skills (Basic Computing and Office Automation), the reintroduction of the Haitian Creole course for staff of local civil society organizations, and a Mariology course for members of the Scalabrinian parish of San Felipe de Jesús and other interested individuals.

A total of **338** people enrolled in the various courses offered by CESFOM throughout the year. The largest number of these students corresponded to the Spanish courses, which saw exceptionally high demand compared to previous years, resulting in the implementation of six groups.

For example, Spanish classes aim to provide students with linguistic tools that enable them to manage and communicate in everyday situations, understanding that the need to learn the language is perceived as an urgent requirement to achieve progress in the social and labor integration of the non Spanish speaking migrant community.



Students from the Haitian community attending basic Spanish classes.

Meanwhile, computer courses seek to promote digital literacy through basic computing classes. Office automation courses, on the other hand, aim to introduce students to the use of the Microsoft Office suite in a general manner, equipping them with skills applicable to personal or professional contexts. In 2025, pilot computer courses tailored specifically to the Haitian community were launched, including basic computing classes in Haitian Creole and office automation in French. The instructional materials provided were in Spanish with partial translations, designed to encourage students to work on the language indirectly.

English classes, however, experienced a significant decline in demand, resulting in the implementation of only two courses, both with low participation, quite a contrast to previous years, when English had been one of the most highly requested and well attended offerings. We consider that the main reason for this decrease is the recent political changes in the United States, which have discouraged people interested in migrating there, causing the need to learn English to become a lower priority. Nevertheless, given the border dynamics of the city, it is expected that interest will rise again in the coming months among those who choose to settle in the area.



From top to bottom and left to right, the photos show some Spanish classes, followed by computer classes, English classes, the Haitian Creole course, and a spirituality course, Mariology.

CESFOM promoted the learning of Haitian Creole as a way to improve the support provided to this community, which has a strong presence in the city and has long faced barriers to receiving adequate services due to language challenges. While they learn our language, we learn theirs. For its part, spirituality classes were offered only once this year, through the Mariology course taught by our director, Brother Raúl Ochoa C.S.

B.2. WORKSHOPS

During 2025, CESFOM offered a total of **16** workshops, which included both regular workshops and micro-workshops. The main difference between them lies in their complexity and duration. Regular workshops typically last from two to up to three months, for example, welding, electricity, air conditioning, barbering, and acrylic nails. Micro workshops, on the other hand, generally last no more than one month or, at most, a month and a half, such as balloon decoration, cookie decoration, emergency mechanics, or audiovisual production.

These types of programs are the most costly, as they require supplies, tools, and equipment that must be replaced, replenished, or newly acquired. They also require instructors with proven field experience and teaching skills.

All workshops offered by CESFOM are mixed, and everyone is welcome. However, certain programs tend to have a higher presence of one gender or another. In programs such as welding, electricity, and air conditioning, the majority of participants are men, and although there are women enrolled, their presence is minimal. A similar pattern occurs in acrylic nail and balloon decoration workshops, where most participants are women; while male participation is limited, there is a greater presence of LGBTTTIQA+ community members in these programs.



Barbering workshop: four female students can be observed, two of whom are members of the LGBTTTIQA+ community.

In 2025, the workshops with the highest student attendance and best completion rates were acrylic nails and balloon decoration, programs that were consistently requested throughout the year by various users and showed a high level of interest in our internal surveys.

A pilot cookie decoration workshop was also implemented, aiming to explore the viability of accessible pastry related programs and practical activities that could generate supplementary income.



From top to bottom and left to right, the photos show classes in air conditioning, barbering, balloon decoration and mechanics, acrylic nails, electricity, cookie decoration, and welding.

C. FINANCES

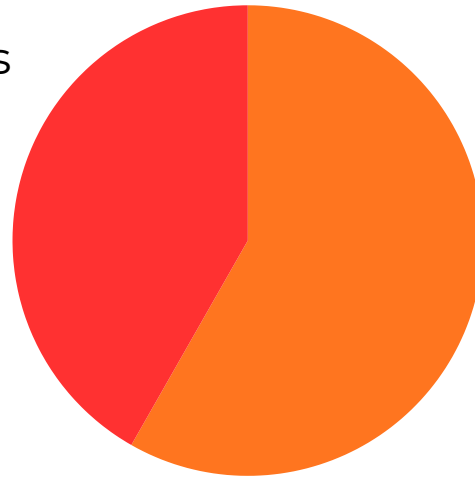
The work carried out by CESFOM is provided entirely free of charge to its beneficiaries; however, this does not imply the absence of operating expenses. On the contrary, offering services at no cost represents a significant financial challenge for the institution.

In 2025, **training activities accounted for approximately 25% of CESFOM's total annual expenditures**. This portion corresponds primarily to instructor fees and the procurement of workshop materials. The remaining 75% of institutional expenses was allocated to employee salaries, taxes, utilities, and other essential operational requirements.

It should be noted that this year's percentage was lower than in previous periods due to reductions in international support for humanitarian projects, which limited CESFOM's operational capacity as a result of diminished available resources.



Equipment, supplies and tools
41.8%



Instructors
58.2%



From left to right, the images show the delivery of barber chairs, the reception of tools for the air-conditioning workshop, the reception of supplies for the acrylic-nails workshop, and the delivery of materials for the welding workshops.

C.1. BENEFACTORS

The activities carried out by CESFOM would not be possible without the valuable support of various organizations and religious communities. Thanks to their commitment and belief in our mission, all the training programs we offer can continue to be provided free of charge. Our benefactors contribute not only through financial support, which is always greatly appreciated and managed responsibly, but also through in-kind donations such as hygiene and cleaning supplies, stationery, operational funding, and even furniture when needed.

These types of donations provide much-needed relief for CESFOM, as they help reduce expenses and allow us to channel more financial resources into priority areas of service and institutional strengthening. In 2025, we received operational support from UNHCR; office supplies, stationery, and workshop materials from IOM; funding for courses and workshops from Holy Cross Parish and University Christian Church; as well as hygiene and cleaning supplies from Divino Maestro Parish and CETYS University. There is also a smaller group of private benefactors and volunteers. Each of these contributions, financial, in-kind, or through time, has been essential in enabling us to continue our mission and to promote the development of migrants in support of their social and labor integration.



D. CONCLUSIONS

The year 2025 began with a clear plan and an awareness of the potential international changes expected from the presidential transition in the United States; however, the magnitude, speed, and intensity of these changes exceeded all predictions. The announcement of the freezing of international funds at the end of January affected hundreds of organizations worldwide and, in our case, directly impacted the operation of our training programs. Even so, amid uncertainty, solidarity emerged: some individuals and partners financed the first stage of training programs, while others offered their time as volunteer instructors. This immediate support allowed us to reorganize our finances and adapt our strategy to continue operating.

The impact was not limited to CESFOM. Shelters in Tijuana and various organizations providing comprehensive assistance also saw their resources reduced, directly affecting a migrant population already facing complex conditions. Despite this context, limited funds, shifting migration flows, reduced staff, and restricted operational capacity, CESFOM remained steadfast in its commitment to promoting, supporting, and educating people on the move.

The trust placed in CESFOM by the community, our partners, and our students confirms that the work we do remains essential and deeply valued. In a context where even the local population faces challenges in fully developing their potential, migrants encounter even greater barriers as they attempt to rebuild their lives. In the face of this reality, CESFOM reaffirms its mission: to continue being a safe, educational, and humanizing space where each person can strengthen their abilities and move forward with their life project.



Want to know more? Send us an e-mail to:
cesfom@gmail.com