

APPLYING THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO

MIRPS Strategic Sectors

Protection



Jobs & Livelihoods



Social Protection



Education



Health



SOLIDARITY IN ACTION: LAUNCH OF THE SPANISH PRESIDENCY OF THE MIRPS SUPPORT PLATFORM

The Spanish Presidency of the MIRPS Support Platform was launched on 29 June 2020. Through the Platform, Spain will lead efforts to galvanize the commitment of the international community to support the implementation of MIRPS national action plans. During the event, which brought together the Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain, Arancha Gonzalez Laya, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, Alexandra Hill Tinoco, the OAS Secretary-General Luis Almagro, and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi.

During the launch, all parties highlighted the need to comprehensively address the root causes of displacement with responses that go beyond financial support, and that respond to the needs of the most vulnerable populations.

Hence, and taking upon the leadership of the Support Platform, **Spain called for solidarity and commitment**, outlining four strategic priorities that will guide its role for the next twelve month: i) To provide visibility to the crisis and attract new support for the MIRPS; ii) Step up efforts to ensure greater involvement of development actors; iii Facilitate dialogue and cooperation between platform members and MIRPS countries; and iv) Engage the private sector to generate jobs and opportunities to foster inclusion and reduce the root causes of forced displacement.

For [more information](#).



ADOPTION OF THE OAS VOLUNTARY FUND

The Fund, approved during the virtual session of the OAS Permanent Council on 27 May, will gather contributions coordinated and channeled by the MIRPS Support Platform to support the implementation of the MIRPS in the region. The Fund can receive voluntary contributions from Member States, permanent observer states, other members of the United Nations, international organisms, as well as persons, and national or international public or private entities. [For more information](#).



Upcoming events

30/07 10am Regional virtual follow-up meeting between UNHCR and the civil society in the framework of the joint support to the implementation of the MIRPS.

THE MIRPS IN ACTION DURING COVID-19: IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL RESPONSE PLANS

Building upon regional consultations that took place in March, MIRPS states have sought to ensure the inclusion of displaced persons within their respective national responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, strengthening inter-institutional coordination and partnerships. While the pandemic has impacted the implementation of MIRPS national response plans, states have taken steps to ensure the continuity of existing service provision to persons of concern; while seeking gains against several commitments and pledges. This has included; ensuring medical assistance to persons of concern under the same conditions as nationals; managing consultations, appointments, and requests for the renewal and issuance of documentation remotely and online; and where possible, including persons of concern within social assistance programmes and expanding shelter and protective quarantine services. Consideration is being given to their inclusion within medium term socio-economic recovery plans.

While the pandemic is assessed to have impacted MIRPS national action plans this year, in terms of the rate of implementation and areas of focus, it is also being considered as an opportunity to accelerate several MIRPS commitments, and further the inclusion agenda, through medium and longer term investments in health and social protection services, that remain fragile and overburdened. In addition, states have initiated preparations for strategic mid-year review sessions that will take place in July, to consider possible changes in priorities within their national plans considering evolving operational context and protection needs, together with new opportunities for partnership.

MEXICO has continued to receive and process new asylum claims; with 19,211 persons up to the end of May this year. The referral of those with specific protection needs has continued; including a targeted support to 355 unaccompanied children.

The reform of existing legislation to ensure the provision of universal and free access to health services, regardless of nationality or legal residency status has successfully concluded; providing immediate benefits to all persons of concern within the country. The new statute is now informing the creation of the Health for Welfare Institute (INSABI) to oversee implementation.



EL SALVADOR was one of the first countries in the region to take restrictive measures and strategies to prevent the spread of the pandemic, which in turn has placed additional pressure on institutions that have been charged with leading the response. As a result, gains in the implementation of the national action plan have been limited. Despite these challenges, the Directorate of Attention to Victims has continued to receive, and respond to the needs of displaced persons, and facilitate referral to partners for complimentary services.

Inter-governmental and external consultations have continued to ensure the extension of related rights and support services, including the organization and receipt of specialized training in forced displacement engaging ministries of Justice and Public Safety, Health, Education, and participation in the newly established within the MIRPS Working Group on Internal Displacement, and regional GP20 consultations.

BELIZE has fully integrated refugees and asylum seekers within the national response to the pandemic. Overall rates of infection have remained modest. A review of national asylum system has been undertaken to support a request for technical support from the Asylum Capacity Support Group (ACSG). Initial consultations have also been undertaken with the Ministry of Economic Development, concerning the inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers within the forthcoming update of the national development plan. This is being supported through the creation of an inter-ministerial Refugee Response Planning Working Group, that will also oversee the second phase of the national quantification exercise this year.

GUATEMALA

Questions on the reasons for leaving countries of origin within the interviewing procedure for deportees have been recently incorporated to ensure the identification of those with protection needs. In addition, effective inter-ministerial coordination between the Ministries of the Interior and Health has ensured the effective identification and referral of persons of concern at border health assessment points, as part of COVID-19 screenings.

To strengthen national asylum capacity, the inter-ministerial National Commission for Refugees has committed to expand staff capacity to reduce the backlog of pending asylum cases awaiting refugee status determination. This following an increase in the rate of new asylum applications, followed the adoption of a new Asylum Regulation, which has facilitated the receipt of asylum requests at migration offices at border points, in addition to offices of the Guatemalan Migration Institute.

HONDURAS

In support of local solutions to displacement, and the identify of priority needs, has expanded the use of a Community Based Protection Monitoring Tool to five departments, which have informed the identification of priority needs (food and hygiene) amongst persons of concern in the San Pedro Sula Metropolitan Area, which was subsequently included within the wider national pandemic response.

As part of the response to the pandemic, the Municipality reactivated the Technical Committee on Forced Displacement and ensured the implementation of the Municipal Mechanism for Humanitarian Assistance for IDPs.

PANAMA

launched 'Panama Solidario' to oversee the implementation of both preventative measures to the pandemic, and the provision of social protection services, available to some persons of concern have also benefited. Pro-active steps also have also been taken to expand the scope of existing humanitarian entitlements remotely, through the inclusion of emotional support services; including both individual and group assistance sessions. Nonetheless, overall vulnerability is assessed to have increased, particularly amongst mixed movement populations who remain in Darien.

Moreover, the government continued processing asylum claims lodged prior to the pandemic, and has extended the validity of refugee and asylum seeker cards until systems resume operation.

As part of the commitment to facilitate economic inclusion of the refugee population within the private sector, the pilot initiative 'Talento Sin Fronteras' undertaken in partnership with ManpowerGroup, has transitioned to the provision of its skills training programme, and one-on-one recruitment preparation sessions remotely, to ensure the continuity of services for refugees and Panamanians nationals.

COSTA RICA

in response to the pandemic, has sought to expand access to health care and basic national services, particularly in the north of the country, where there has been both a considerable presence of persons of concern, and a high rate of new infections. National authorities have continued to call for solidarity from the international community, in a variety of fora, to ensure a comprehensive response to the pandemic, particularly for vulnerable groups, including refugees and asylum seekers.

In line with the commitment to secure access to health, the inclusion of persons of concern with severe health conditions and in a vulnerable economic situation within the public health system has remained a priority, with 6,000 persons supported by mid-year, through the provision of medical insurance provided by the Costa Rican Social Security System. In line with the commitment to enable access the labour market, investments in corporate social responsibility schemes has continued, most recently through a collaboration with the Ultrapark Free Trade Zone, that is providing training in technology, the English language and life-skills.

REGIONAL COORDINATION: PRIORITIES & PROGRESS OF THE PRO-TEMPORE PRESIDENCY FOR 2020

PROTECTION		DURABLE SOLUTIONS	
<p>Asylum systems Create partnerships with cooperating states to provide technical assistance, particularly to establish national registration systems</p>	<p>Internal displacement Creation of an expert Working Group to guide activities and actions for interested states on Internal Displacement established</p>	<p>Local governments Create partnerships to expand the number of Cities in Solidarity hosting displaced people</p>	<p>Private sector Increase private sector partnerships to generate employment opportunities and facilitate integration within host communities</p>



MIRPS Working Group on Internal Displacement

The working group aims to provide a platform to share experiences and knowledge on the prevention and attention to internal displacement in line with international standards.

Government representatives from El Salvador, Honduras and Mexico will work with a Panel of Experts with extensive experience in the prevention and response to internal displacement. The group will issue a report for Ministers with conclusions and recommendations, to inform the operational response within the three countries in 2021. These results will also inform relevant global processes, including the GP20 and the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement.

The Panel of Experts is composed of: Paula Gaviria Betancur, Ex-director of the Colombian National Victims Unit and member of the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement of the UN Secretary General; Gladys Prada, Ex-director of the Registry and Information Management of the Colombian National Victims Unit and currently the Special Peace Jurisdiction (JEP) in Colombia; Iris Marin Ortiz, Auxiliary Magistrate of the Constitutional Court in Colombia; and Martina Caterina, Legal Official of the UN Special Rapporteur on Internal Displacement.

With the support from



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