

MIRPS SUPPORT PLATFORM SIGNATURE EVENT:

RESETTLEMENT, COMPLEMENTARY PATHWAYS AND INTEGRATION.

MAY 24, 25, 26, 2022
OTTAWA, CANADA



*The Government of Canada, as the current Chair of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework for the Americas (MIRPS in Spanish) Support Platform, will convene a 3- day event to share good practices and lessons learned with regards to resettlement policy and processing, complementary pathways of admission as well as settlement and integration policies and practices. The objective is to promote the expansion of mobility and admissions channels for people in search of international protection from Central American Countries and Mexico among the international community. The event will take place on **May 24-26, 2022** in Ottawa, Canada.*

BACKGROUND

The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) recognizes that sustainable solutions to refugee situations can only be achieved through international cooperation and reaffirms that resettlement and other complementary pathways as tangible mechanisms for more equitable responsibility-sharing.

Resettlement is an invaluable protection tool to meet the specific needs of refugees whose life, liberty, safety, health, or fundamental human rights are at risk in the country where they have sought refuge. For almost seventy years, resettlement has provided millions of refugees with protection and the opportunity to build new lives for themselves and their families. Resettlement goes far beyond the relocation of refugees to a third state; it involves a process of settlement and integration within a new society. Governments, NGOs, volunteers, the local population, and refugees themselves all contribute to **the integration process**. With the support of receiving communities, resettled refugees can begin a new life with dignity and respect.

In addition to traditional forms of resettlement, **complementary pathways of admission** can help refugees access safety and opportunity as part of long term solutions. Complementary pathways are safe and regulated avenues that may take many forms including labour mobility, family reunification, and education. They not only offer refugees with alternatives to irregular means and dangerous onward movement, but they can also facilitate the acquisition and retention of skills that can help refugees attain a sustainable solution in the future.

The Americas region currently hosts more than 18 million refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced and stateless people, representing some 20 per cent of the displaced population worldwide. MIRPS countries are involved and engaged in a number of areas to meet the needs of displaced persons and the communities that host them through their National Action Plans. The MIRPS countries are comprised of: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico and Panama.

However, more efforts by States and partners, with the involvement of the private sector, financial institutions, academia, community-based structures, civil society and local authorities is needed to advance access to complementary pathways in the region.



However given the extensive challenges faced and in the absence of voluntary return prospects to countries of origin in the region, the expansion of third country solutions are a current key strategic priority to ease pressure on host countries and support their local integration efforts while contributing to refugee self-reliance. They are also part of a comprehensive protection and solutions response.

MIRPS SUPPORT PLATFORM

Two years after its establishment during the first Global Refugee Forum, **the MIRPS Support Platform** provides a unique mechanism to channel greater solidarity and responsibility-sharing for individuals and families affected by forced displacement in and from Central America and Mexico. The Support Platform seeks a broad base of support and a comprehensive response by including States, and also other actors, including development partners, civil society, the private sector, financial institutions and others.

The current members of the MIRPS Support Platform are Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, the European Union, France, Spain, Switzerland, Uruguay, the United States of America, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) is the MIRPS Support Platform Secretariat.

Canada assumed its tenure as Chair in July 2021 with the objectives of (1) galvanize political, financial, technical and material commitments toward the fulfillment of the humanitarian and development needs identified by the MIRPS countries, (2) increase international visibility and engagement in support of MIRPS from a wider range of actors, and (3) reinforce the Support Platform as an effective mechanism to mobilize comprehensive responses for the situation of forced displacement in the region.

EVENT OBJECTIVES

As part of Canada's work plan, a Signature Event on Resettlement, Complementary Pathways, and Integration will bring together members of the MIRPS Support Platform, MIRPS countries, UN Agencies, and other strategic actors such as private sector and refugee led organizations to share best practices and promote the expansion of mobility and admission channels for people needing international protection from Central America and Mexico. Canada's Chair theme is the Protection and Empowerment of Women and Girls on the Move, which will also frame the Signature Event.

Specifically, the event will aim to:

- **Share key examples** of policies, programming and/or models of third country solutions, such as resettlement and complementary pathways, and integration as best practices to promote untapped opportunities for people forced to flee to improve their lives through international protection.
- **Promote a positive narrative**, making visible the valuable contributions and engagement of refugees and other displaced persons in host communities.
- **Explore opportunities for international cooperation** among MIRPS countries and MIRPS Support Platform members to integrate concrete action in support of MIRPS national action plans.

- **Lay the groundwork to mobilize support** of Support Platform members and other interested stakeholders to make commitments during the Solidarity event in June 2022.



PARTICIPANTS

The event will bring together members from the MIRPS Support Platform, the MIRPS States, and other strategic actors including International Financial Institutions, the private sector, civil society, philanthropy, persons who have lived refugee experience, refugee-led organizations, and representatives of other related networks, e.g. Community Sponsorship States Network and Global Task Force on Refugee Labour Mobility.

At the opening of the event, High-Level remarks are planned by the Honorable Mr. Sean Fraser, Member of Parliament for Central Nova and Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), a high level official from the Government of Honduras as MIRPS Pro Tempore Presidency, and Mr. Filippo Grandi, High Commissioner of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

FORMAT & EVENT DETAILS

DATES: May 24, 25, 26, 2022

LOCATION: Ottawa, Canada

MODALITY: In person

ORGANIZER: The Government of Canada

FORMAT: Each day will consist of a plenary session with panel discussions, site visits in Ottawa, as well as opportunities for break out discussions and conversations. A high-level panel opening and an evening reception are planned for Day 1. Side meetings are to be confirmed.