



THE MIRPS IN MEXICO

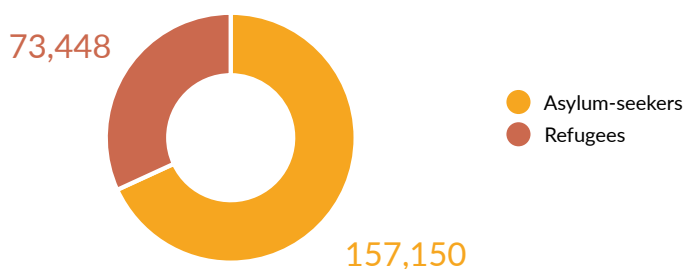
Mexico has received increasingly complex mixed flows of migrants and refugees from the region and beyond in recent years. In 2021, it became the third highest recipient country of new asylum applications worldwide.

Mexico (through the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) has participated in the MIRPS since 2017 and has sought to implement a range of commitments to provide protection and solutions for the forcibly displaced, strengthening the self-reliance of refugees, asylum-seekers and other vulnerable groups, as well as to adopt strategies to support host communities. The commitments made in the MIRPS process are complemented by a number of pledges made during the 2019 Global Refugee Forum.

At the regional level, Mexico took the lead of the MIRPS process assuming the first Pro-tempore Presidency in 2019. At the national level, Mexico designed the Inter-Institutional Roundtable on Refugees and Complementary Protection, chaired by the Under Secretary of the Interior, which offers a political forum to validate proposals made by four MIRPS National Technical Working Groups focusing on access to education (chaired by the Ministry of Education), access to health (Ministry of Public Health), employment (Ministry of Labor), as well as documentation and identity (National Population Registry - RENAPO). At the federal level, the Mexican Refugee Commission (COMAR), supported by UNHCR, acts as Secretariat of the four groups and provides technical support. Since 2020, COMAR has been convening MIRPS roundtables at the local level aiming at creating a favorable environment of inclusion and integration in major urban settings.

FIGURES AT A GLANCE

PEOPLE OF CONCERN IN MEXICO



Source: UNHCR / Dec 2021

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

As part of its commitment to implement the MIRPS, the Government of Mexico has undertaken significant steps to expand its operational capacity to respond to forced displacement inside Mexico and in the region. Improved coordination between all

MIRPS IN MEXICO

NATIONAL TECHNICAL TEAM

- Secretariat of Governance through the General Coordinator of the Mexican Refugee Commission (COMAR)
- Secretariat of Foreign Affairs through the Under Secretary of Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING THE MIRPS

- Programa Casa Refugiados
- CAFEMIN
- Sin Fronteras
- Asylum Access Mexico
- Save the Children
- International Rescue Committee
- Hospitalidad y Solidaridad and many other shelters and civil society organizations

three levels of territorial administration has helped to bridge the gap between fragmented normative frameworks at the national level and local disparities at implementation level.

As a result of the efforts led by the Government of Mexico, several milestones achievements have been reported: 1) In 2018, asylum-seekers were included in the National Population Registry (RENAPO), paving the way for labor market inclusion; 2) In 2019, refugees and asylum-seekers were included in the national health system as a result of a legislative reform process; 3) In 2020, Mexico simplified the issuance of stay permits which allows asylum-seekers and refugees to access formal employment; 4) The same year, the practice of immigration detention of children and adolescents was abolished, allowing families with children, as well as unaccompanied and separated children, to freely pursue their asylum process; 5) In 2021, Mexico streamlined the inclusion of asylum-seekers and refugees into its post-pandemic back-to-school campaigns, facilitating access to education for thousands of children. Implementing a series of pledges presented at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum, Mexico facilitated the relocation of 25,000 refugees and asylum-seekers from border regions, where livelihood opportunities are limited, to major urban areas in the central part of the country, providing job placement and local integration support.

33 COMMITMENTS



PROTECTION
17 COMMITMENTS



EDUCATION
1 COMMITMENT



HEALTH
2 COMMITMENTS



JOBS AND LIVELIHOODS
5 COMMITMENTS



SOCIAL PROTECTION
8 COMMITMENTS

ACHIEVEMENTS

1



COORDINATION

CONSOLIDATION OF THE INTER-INSTITUTIONAL ROUNDTABLE ON REFUGEES AND COMPLEMENTARY PROTECTION.

The inter-institutional roundtable on asylum and complementary protection has held specialized sessions on health, education, identity documentation, and labour market inclusion of asylum-seekers and refugees. This facilitates the coordination between technical ministries and the Ministry of Interior, and the participation of UN agencies and civil society organizations.

PROTECTION

2



ISSUANCE OF POPULATION REGISTRY DOCUMENTS FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES.

The National Population Registry (RENAPO) has issued 206,000 Population Registry Codes (CURP) to asylum-seekers since June 2018, facilitating their access to public programmes and their integration. RENAPO has also installed registration modules issuing CURP with photography and biometrics.

IMPROVED EFFICIENCY OF CASE REGISTRATION AND PROCESSING.

Mexico, through COMAR has advanced in the implementation of procedural changes, including the adoption of streamlined registration procedures and simplified refugee status determination tools, developed with the support of UNHCR's Quality Asylum Initiative team, which facilitates case "triage" and differentiated processing. Additionally, changes in the SIRE registration system are being undertaken to improve case processing onsite and online.

INCREASED PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN THE CONTEXT OF HUMAN MOBILITY.

In January 2021, legal reforms in matters of children on the move came into force, which will help to strengthen the child protection system, namely by preventing children and adolescents from being kept in migration stations and any other detention facility, and ensuring that their best interests are prioritized. Furthermore, the Comprehensive Protection Route for Migrant and Refugee was implemented at the local level in various states during 2020, with additional efforts underway in 2021.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE. In 2021, nearly 60,000 asylum-seekers and refugees were assisted by a legal network comprised of 76 lawyers and 32 paralegals. Legal consulting and support by the Federal Public Defender's Office (IFDP) has been available to people with asylum claims before COMAR. IFPD has increased the number of specialized staff and the frequency of visits to migration stations to provide its services.

PROGRESS ON THE PROTECTION OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS.

On September 29th the Chamber of Deputies unanimously approved the bill for the General Law on Forced Internal Displacement and passed it for the review of the Senate. In coordination with Mol and MFA, pilot programmes

The National Human Rights Program (2020-2024) has included specific actions to address forced internal displacement with objectives to improve information management, prevention, and capacity building, among others. The Migration Policy, Registry, and Identity Unit (UPMRIP) created a microsite where it publishes advances made with regards to internal displacement, and in 2022, it issued two publications that shed light on a path to developing a response framework and invited the federal entities to develop a legislative framework that considers national and international standards. Exchanges of experiences with the Colombian government on IDP responses were organized in 2022. The Supreme National Court (SCJN), with the support of UNHCR and ICRC, issued a guideline Handbook on Internal Displacement to provide orientation to the Judicial Branch of the Federation in the resolution of cases of internal displacement in June 2022.



INCLUSION OF ASYLUM-SEEKING AND REFUGEE CHILDREN IN THE RETURN TO SCHOOL STRATEGY.

As a result of collaboration between COMAR and the Federal Ministry of Education, a specific mention on the enrolment of refugee children was included in the strategic document "Return to Classrooms" for reopening schools after an 18-month closure due to COVID-19.



LABOUR INTEGRATION AND RELOCATION PROGRAMME

Since 2016, over 25,000 people identified in the south of the country have been relocated to the centre and north, namely to the cities such as Saltillo, Guadalajara, and Monterrey, and have been connected to job opportunities with 400 enterprises, access to public education, and psychosocial support, enabling thousands of families to enjoy livelihood opportunities, leading to self-reliance.

UPDATED COMMITMENTS

The MIRPS National Technical Team in Mexico reviewed and updated its national action plan in 2022 to maintain the relevance and validity of the MIRPS and reflect the current challenges for addressing displacement.

Governmental institutions have identified strategic interventions that require urgent support for the implementation of the plan in the short term (2022-2023). These interventions would address critical needs for the protection of and solutions for displaced populations.

**ESTIMATED COST FOR STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS (2022-2023):
USD 9.2 M***

* This estimated cost only includes prioritized commitments that have been costed and can be implemented by governmental institutions in 2022 – 2023. It does not include activities by international organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders.

The full list of commitments are presented below by focus area:



PROTECTION

Improve efficiency in the registration and processing of refugee cases through the implementation of simplified procedures, and enhance the operational capacity of the involved officers through training and institutional strengthening.

- **Give continuity to COMAR's visits to the Immigration Stations**, for the follow-up of requests for recognition of refugee status.
- **COMAR will train and sensitize the INM staff at internment points and Migration Stations** in order to improve the identification and care of asylum-seekers.
- **Promote permanent information campaigns** that, in a simple language, inform about rights and the possibility of seeking asylum.
- **Continue providing training aimed at public servants**, as well as contracting companies, financial institutions, and other relevant actors that maintain direct contact with asylum-seekers, refugees, and beneficiaries of complementary protection, to ensure a favourable environment for their protection and integration in dignified conditions.
- **COMAR and UNHCR through "El Jaguar," in collaboration with other relevant authorities, continue to implement information and awareness campaigns.** In addition, the creation of spaces for dialogue in which asylum-seekers, refugees, and beneficiaries of complementary protection and civil society participate, will serve to monitor areas of opportunity and fill gaps for their adequate integration.
- The DIF National System and the DIF State Systems will **strengthen alternative care spaces for the temporary residential accommodation of unaccompanied children and adolescents**, preventing them from being in Immigration Stations.
- **Improve coordination mechanisms between the authorities that attend to children and adolescents in the context of migration** (COMAR, INM, PPNNA) to facilitate the identification of international protection needs and access to the refugee status determination procedure. SIPINNA will strengthen coordination between said authorities.
- The INM and the Attorney General's Offices for the Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents (federal, state, and municipal) will continue to promote the **application of the Initial Evaluation Protocol for the identification of international protection needs in unaccompanied or separated children and adolescents**, developed by COMAR, UNICEF and UNHCR and its interview techniques to identify international protection needs, for subsequent channelling to COMAR or competent authorities.
- **Increase the operational capacity of the federal, state, and municipal Child Protection Prosecutor's Offices**, mainly in the states with the largest population of people in the context of migration, applicants for refugee status, refugees, and beneficiaries of complementary protection (Chiapas, Tabasco, and Veracruz).
- **The PFPNNA will generate coordination mechanisms with state and municipal protection attorneys** to standardize criteria that regulate restitution plans and the determination, coordination, execution, and monitoring of comprehensive protection measures and restitution of the rights of children and adolescents. Likewise, the SIPINNA will promote the creation, installation and operation of Commissions for the Comprehensive Protection of Girls, Boys and Adolescents in the context of mobility in the federal entities so that these collegiate bodies facilitate the link between the PFPNNA with state and municipal protection attorneys.
- CONAVIM and COMAR, within their jurisdiction, continue to carry out actions aimed at **preventing and eradicating gender-based violence against girls and women.**
- **Give continuity to the work of reviewing and approving the missing registration information**, with the aim of ensuring that the information collected is of good quality, using an appropriate language for children and adolescents.
- **COMAR, UNHCR and UNICEF will implement training and support tools for their staff, so that attention to children and adolescents is done while using appropriate language.** These techniques will be used during eligibility interviews and other procedures or questionnaires addressed to this population.
- **Promote institutional linkages and rapprochement with civil society and government shelters**, in order to safeguard the right of the targeted population to have a shelter.
- Work will continue on the implementation of mechanisms that allow COMAR to **provide care for the targeted population.**
- **Guarantee the right to identity targeted documentation** of asylum-seekers, refugees, and beneficiaries for complementary protection, from the issuance of the CURP (temporary and/or permanent) and establish coordination mechanisms between RENAPO, INM, and COMAR to strengthen management, implementation, and training.
- INM, COMAR and UNHCR will promote measures to **speed up the procedure of providing a signature before the COMAR or INM office as proof of presence** in accordance with the obligations of asylum-seekers, in order to facilitate their integration.



EDUCATION

Establish institutional mechanisms that allow access to the educational system.

- The SEP, as the coordinating authority of the Thematic Table on Educational Inclusion, together with COMAR, will continue working to **guarantee access to educational programmes and recognition of accreditation.**



HEALTH

Guarantee free access to health services and medicines to all people who are in Mexico, regardless of their immigration status.

- COMAR, in collaboration with the Technical Secretariat of the National Mental Health Council, will **carry out actions aimed at ensuring access to mental health services for asylum-seekers, refugees, and beneficiaries of complementary protection.**
- The Ministry of Health will promote coordinated actions to **continue guaranteeing access and inclusion of asylum-seekers, refugees, and those with complementary protection to the public health system throughout the country.**



JOBS AND LIVELIHOODS

Facilitate access to the labor market, vocational training, and skills certification.

- Within their jurisdiction, CONOCER and CECATI will continue including **asylum-seekers, refugees, and beneficiaries of complementary protection in public and private job training institutions, as well as skills certification processes or standards.**
- In coordination with key federal and state agencies, UNHCR will promote the implementation of **projects to promote peaceful coexistence between the refugee population and host communities, fostering spaces for exchange and cultural learning.**
- COMAR and the National Employment Service, through the implemented channelling mechanism, will facilitate the labour **inclusion of applicants, refugees, and beneficiaries of complementary protection, including linking them with job offers.** Additionally, they will promote and disseminate the calendar of job fairs that are organized throughout the country.
- The National Commission of Banks (CNBV) will promote actions together with the Association of Banks of Mexico, to **address the reforms of regulations for credit institutions, facilitating the financial inclusion** of asylum-seekers, refugees, and beneficiaries of complementary protection.
- Mexico will support the **integration of refugees and beneficiaries of complementary protection into the Mexican labour market,** through intergovernmental and interinstitutional coordination, with the support of UNHCR, and through the involvement of the private sector in different states of the country.



SOCIAL PROTECTION

Promote actions for social inclusion that allow access to programs and services granted by the State.

- In conjunction with COMAR and UNHCR, the participating institutions of the Inter-institutional Table on Refuge and Complementary Protection will develop **materials that describe the programs and services available to applicants, refugees and beneficiaries of complementary protection and the steps to access them.**
- **COMAR will replicate the Inter-institutional Tables on Refuge and Complementary Protection** at the state and municipal levels in order to identify the gaps faced by the population in need of international protection and will promote access to public services and programmes.
- CONAPRED, COMAR and UNHCR will **promote awareness days to counter xenophobia** against migrants and people in need of international protection.
- **Promote actions of social inclusion of applicants, refugees, and beneficiaries of complementary protection for older persons,** to the services offered by INAPAM at the national level, including the issuance of membership cards.
- COMAR, in coordination with UPMRIP, **will generate and make public statistical information including data disaggregated** by sex, age, place of origin, and other variables, with the aim of knowing the characteristics of the applicants, refugees and beneficiaries of complementary protection, to facilitate their inclusion in programmes and services.
- UPMRIP, in coordination with COMAR, will promote synergies and the optimization of efforts between government institutions, academics, and civil society organizations for the **generation of studies and information linked to the design and evaluation of public policy** that serves asylum-seekers, refugees, and beneficiaries of complementary protection.
- The Ministry of Welfare, through the Social and/or Natural Emergency Program (PESN) on the Southern Border, **will promote actions for the inclusion of asylum-seekers, refugees and/or beneficiaries of complementary protection, including direct financial support of MX\$5,119.00,** with the purpose of mitigating vulnerabilities experienced by pregnant women, single parents, families with children and adolescents, the elderly, and people with disabilities and/or terminal or chronic degenerative diseases.
- **Mexico will continue to facilitate the admission of naturalization procedures for refugees and persons with complementary protection residing in Mexican territory,** with the support of the UNHCR, in accordance with relevant legislation.

THE MIRPS

The Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS) is a regional contribution to the Global Compact on Refugees formed by the governments of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama to strengthen protection and promote solutions for forcibly displaced populations, addressing the underlying causes and promoting a stable environment that ensures security, economic development and prosperity.



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