



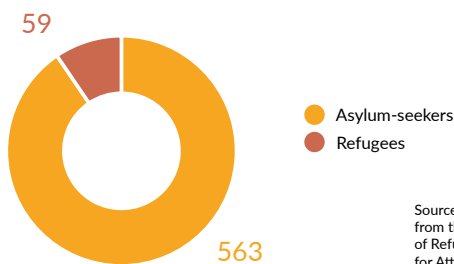
ADDRESSING FORCED DISPLACEMENT: THE MIRPS IN GUATEMALA

Guatemala is considered to be a country of origin, transit, destination, and return of people in contexts of human mobility. Currently, Guatemala assumes an important role as a host country for an increasingly growing number of people who are fleeing their countries because their lives are at risk and who are in search of international protection. The member institutions of the National Technical Team (NTT) with their different mandates, contribute to generating the conditions of protection, education, health, employment, and livelihoods for refugees, asylum-seekers and returnees.

Currently, through its institutions, the country makes constant and targeted efforts to serve refugees, asylum-seekers, and people with international protection needs; ensure the provision of specialized, differentiated, safe and dignified reception conditions; strengthen institutions that govern the protection of children and adolescents, especially in border areas and transit routes; attend to returnees with protection needs; enhance the approach for attending to groups in situations of high vulnerability; promote labour-inclusion through access to jobs and livelihoods; among other important actions for protection and durable solutions.

FIGURES AT A GLANCE

JANUARY TO JULY 2022



Source: Prepared with official data from the Department for the Recognition of Refugee Status (DRER) of the Subdirectorate for Attention and Protection of Fundamental Rights of Migrants of the Guatemalan Migration Institute (IGM), July 2022.

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

27 COMMITMENTS



PROTECTION
14 COMMITMENTS



EDUCATION
2 COMMITMENTS



HEALTH
1 COMMITMENT



JOBS & LIVELIHOODS
10 COMMITMENTS

MIRPS IN GUATEMALA

MIRPS NATIONAL TECHNICAL TEAM

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MINEX)
- Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MINTRAB)
- Ministry of Education (MINEDUC)
- Secretary of Social Welfare of the Presidency of the Republic (SBS)
- Guatemalan Institute of Migration (IGM)

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT THE MIRPS

- The Children's Shelter Association
- LAMBDA Association
- House of the Guatemalan Migrant (CdM) Missionaries of San Carlos Scalabrinians
- Research and Projection Institute on Global and Territorial Dynamics (IDGT) of the Rafael Landívar University (URL)
- Pastoral Care for Human Mobility (PMH) of the Episcopal Conference of Guatemala (CEG)

ACHIEVEMENTS

Contribution to the development of refugee children and host communities

Through the new Casa Joven in Amatitlán, the Social Welfare Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic has provided care to adolescents and youth in vulnerable situations from January to June 2022.

Casa Joven offers a friendly and discrimination-free space for the technical training of its beneficiaries.

Children and youth attending Casa Joven in activities for the prevention of violence, from Jan-June 2022:

- 455 received psychosocial attention
- 220 participated in educational, cultural, and sports activities
- 20 participated in social and civic services

1



PROTECTION

Inauguration of the Comprehensive Child Care Center

in the municipality of Santa Elena, Peten: In charge of the Social Welfare Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic, it provides care, food, and comprehensive care services for the children of the municipality.

Promotion of labour inclusion for asylum-seekers and refugees, through the “Renaciendo en Guate” Campaign

Promoted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, the private sector, public officials, and the population in general learn more about the causes of displacement and the benefits of providing opportunities.



JOBS AND LIVELIHOODS

2

Faster and more efficient management of work permits

Through the Electronic Platform for Work Permits for Foreigners (PEX), the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare has simplified and automated the process of issuing work permits for foreigners.

Work permits issued with a maximum processing time of 4 days (January to July 2022):

- 432 for asylum seekers
- 44 for refugees



UPDATED COMMITMENTS

The MIRPS National Technical Team in Guatemala 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 2.1 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

Continue strengthening the institutions that provide assistance to refugees, asylum-seekers, persons in need of international protection, and returnees to guarantee their fundamental rights.

- **Continue strengthening the institutional capacity of the Guatemalan Institute of Migration**, particularly in matters of care and protection of asylum-seekers, refugees, and those in need of international protection.
- **Provide continuous training and updating of processes for the focal points of the National Technical Team** on issues related to the Comprehensive Framework for Protection and Solutions, shelter and international protection, and protection of children and adolescents, among others.
- **Update the current protocols regarding care and protection** for people in contexts of human mobility in accordance with the Migration Code, including refugee status determination and other international protection measures such as the humanitarian visa and other measures adopted by the State.
- **Prepare and distribute informative materials on access to shelter** and other protection and care systems for people in contexts of human mobility.
- **Strengthen the Migratory Attention Centres for Returned Guatemalans (CAMIG)** for the identification (in situ) of Guatemalan returnees who have protection needs.
- **Processes for the exchange of experiences** to raise awareness among public servants in the institutions that work in the context of human mobility and refuge in international protection issues, **to strengthen the processes of assistance, attention, identification, protection, and lasting solutions** with a focus on rights, including an age, gender and diversity perspective, and for the special attention to unaccompanied and separated children and adolescents, women at risk, LGBTBI populations, victims of human trafficking, elderly people, and people with disabilities.
- **Strengthen the institutional capacity for the care and response** of the governing institutions for the protection of children and adolescents, especially in border areas.
- **Implement mechanisms for registering cases and complaints** concerning human rights violations against children and adolescents.
- **Continue strengthening teams of eligibility officers** to guarantee a fair and effective processing of asylum applications in the Department of Recognition of Refugee Status (DRER) of the Guatemalan Institute of Migration (IGM).
- **Strengthen the Temporary Migratory Shelter and Care Centre (CACTMI)** for populations with international protection needs, with specialized and trained teams.
- **Strengthen the Temporary Family Shelter Programme** for the care of children and adolescents returned and in transit with protection needs.
- **Set up a shelter specialized in the care and protection of children and adolescents** in need of international protection in Guatemalan territory.
- **Continue strengthening inter-institutional and intersectoral coordination** to expand care options and basic services to asylum-seekers and refugees.
- **Strengthen the Transit Protection Mechanism** for people at high risk who need support for safe and regular access to countries of refuge.



EDUCATION

Promote the strengthening of mechanisms for the inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers in the national education system, and awareness-raising in the education sector.

- **Coordinate actions with authorities and local educational institutions** throughout the country for the inclusion of girls, boys, adolescents, youth, and adults who are refugees and asylum-seekers into the national education system. This includes awareness and information campaigns aimed at the educational community in coordination with IGM and other related institutions.
- **Implement and socialize the Ministerial Agreement 1753-2019** “Regulation of Equivalence and Equivalence of the Studies in the Levels of Pre-primary, Primary and Secondary Education and in the Subsystems of School and Extracurricular Education” and its instructions for returnees, refugees, and asylum-seekers.



HEALTH

Advance the strengthening of the national health network to provide services and care to refugees, asylum-seekers, other persons in need of international protection, and returnees.

- **Coordinate with the Health Services Network**, especially in border areas, to ensure access and coverage of health services to the Guatemalan, migrant, refugee, asylum-seeker, and returnee population.



JOBS AND LIVELIHOODS

Promote economic inclusion, and facilitate access to national employment services and sustainable livelihoods for refugees, asylum-seekers, other persons in need of international protection, and returnees.

- **Identify and implement the labour skills certification model** and technical-professional training programmes, for the attention of asylum-seekers, refugees, returned Guatemalans, and other people in need of international protection.
- **Propose the modification of labour regulations** to allow the refugee and asylum-seeker populations to access work permits.
- **Design and implement awareness processes** aimed at the private sector and public officials on the rights of refugees, especially in relation to the labour market and access to services.
- **Implement processes of socialization of the use and operation of the Online System of Work Permits for Foreigners (PEX)** of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, aimed at asylum-seekers, refugees, and others.
- **Give continuity to statistical studies** and improve registration systems to understand the profiles of returnees, refugees, and asylum-seekers, including their employment characteristics, for their safe reinsertion and, if necessary, internal relocation.
- **Continue strengthening the infrastructure and tools of the National Employment Service** to promote the labour reinsertion of the refugee applicant population, refugees, and returned Guatemalans.
- Promote, through public-private partnerships, the **reintegration into employment of asylum-seekers, refugees, and returned Guatemalans**.
- **Design awareness campaigns for the business sector** on issues of labour inclusion of returned Guatemalan migrants.
- **Develop a guide for labour inclusion** of persons with disabilities, diverse populations, and persons in situation of human mobility, with a gendered approach. In addition, the development of a manual for the establishment of a system for recognition for the private sector in Guatemala, with the objective of promoting labour inclusion of vulnerable populations.
- **Promote employment fairs and kiosks** to facilitate labour intermediation for asylum seekers, refugees and returned Guatemalans.

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.



www.mirps-platform.org/en



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