



MIRPS Working Group on Internal Displacement

Work Plan 2022-2023

August 2022

Participating MIRPS States:



With the support of:



According to the UNHCR Global Report 2021, there are 51.3 million internally displaced people globally. The Report of the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement of the UN Secretary General indicates that the prevention, management, and solution of internal displacement continues to be a global challenge, while at the same time urging States to adopt measures to help prevent and reduce the risks of further displacement and strengthen the quality of protection and assistance provided to people who are currently displaced.

The UN Secretary General's Plan of Action on Internal Displacement recommends focusing efforts to address internal displacement with three general objectives:

- Help internally displaced people find a durable solution to their displacement;
- Further prevent the emergence of new displacement crises; and
- Ensure that displaced people receive effective protection and assistance.

Additionally, it highlights the need to go beyond the humanitarian model designed for the provision of basic assistance, to adopt a development-oriented strategy that focuses on strengthening public systems and services as a whole to be able to host internally displaced people, and ensure that they, like other members of the local community, receive protection and assistance from the State.

Within this framework, the MIRPS Working Group on Internal Displacement, now in its third year of operation, continues to grow as a space to strengthen capacities and develop legal and institutional frameworks that will contribute to the response to internal displacement in El Salvador, Honduras, and Mexico.

Since its creation, the Working Group has been supported by a panel of international experts from Colombia and Italy on issues of internal displacement. In 2021, under the leadership of Mexico as the leading country, the Working Group decided to follow up on the needs and issues of interest identified in the recommendations presented in 2020, with consultations focused on the regulatory frameworks for addressing internal displacement; a harmonized approach to the use of statistics; and prevention of underlying causes of displacement, community-based approaches, and differentiated approaches to creating solutions.

In early 2022, there were new opportunities for collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Colombia (as member of the MIRPS Support Platform), which are now integrated as advisors to the Working Group, together with the support of UNHCR and the OAS as the MIRPS Technical Secretariat. This facilitates the application of the principle of shared responsibility, while establishing concrete forms of collaboration for the implementation of National Action Plans through the Working Groups.

Pillars for 2022-2023

In 2022, the States that participate in the Working Group have confirmed their interest in developing measures to address internal displacement and, in line with the work carried out in previous years and the global reports and recommendations on these issues, during the period 2022-2023 the group will focus on the following pillars:

1. Mechanisms to collect, manage, use, analyze and disseminate data on internal displacement
2. Experiences in prevention in contexts of internal displacement
3. Protection and assistance for access to services in situations of displacement

Pillar 1: Mechanisms to collect, manage, use, analyze and disseminate data on internal displacement

Objective: Support States in establishing mechanisms to collect, manage, use, and disseminate data analysis on internal displacement, based on statistics, administrative records, and other information deemed pertinent, for the purposes of providing recommendations for the design and follow-up of public policies on matters of prevention of internal displacement and guaranteeing of rights to displaced populations. Additionally, it is necessary to identify the functional purpose of information management that allows the strengthening of institutional responses.

Additionally, the use of information on forced displacement allows the identification of scenarios and risk profiles, as well as, based on the context, the more thorough understanding of the vulnerabilities derived from forced displacement.

These efforts will be approached in accordance with the International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (IRIS) and other relevant international standards, as well as the recommendations that may be provided from the relevant experiences of other countries.

This Pillar will be coordinated with the national statistical offices of the respective countries and with the Migration and Displacement Technical Group of the Central American Statistical Commission of SICA (CENTROESTAD).

PILLAR 2: Experiences in prevention in contexts of internal displacement

Objective: Support States in the identification of prevention/alternatives to displacement, based on learning from applied experiences in the region, such as the Early Warning and Response Systems (EWRS).

This pillar seeks to increase the capacities of the States in the identification of sources of risk, communities in situations of greater vulnerability, as well as understanding the magnitude and impacts of the risks. Through the tools delivered and the experiences shared, it is expected that practical proposals for application in the participating States will be identified, on displacement prevention mechanisms based on early warning alternatives advanced by other countries or developed with the technical assistance and guidance provided by international organizations.

Among these initiatives to be shared are:

- EWRS are conflict prevention and attention mechanisms that focus on the systematic collection (quantitative or qualitative), processing, and analysis of information on situations of violence, with the purpose of alerting political decision-makers to implement measures or actions that avoid the emergence or escalation of a conflict. These systems are aimed at identifying the causes of a conflict, predicting its outbreak, and mitigating its impacts. For this pillar, work will be done with the Unit for Comprehensive Victim Support and Reparation of the Government of Colombia and with the OAS. This includes the design and implementation of EWRS in the interested countries and in the specific contexts that require a process with various stages and the development of a set of basic elements for its establishment.
- In addition, other indirect mechanisms for detecting internal displacement will be shared, such as alerts issued by schools.
- Control entities and those with competencies in generating alerts and information associated with risks, threats, profiles, trends and/or patterns on forced displacement, in order to generate measures to mitigate risks, develop contingency plans and/or provide policy recommendations for prevention and emergency care.
- Risk prevention according to differentiated risks and effects related to recruitment, dispossession/abandonment of property, gender-based violence, or extortion.
- Delve into collective/community-based protection measures for at risk-communities, with an urban focus.

PILLAR 3: Protection and Assistance for Access to Services in Situations of Displacement

Objective: Strengthen coordination and quality of protection and assistance responses to persons in situations of internal displacement, ensuring their access to public services, focusing on documentation, education, livelihoods, land, and humanitarian assistance.

Within this pillar, experiences related to States' public programs will be shared and how they are adapted to serve people in situations of internal displacement, including systems for monitoring services provided by the State. Likewise, it will be analyzed how to bridge the gap and generate coherent responses between the measures and policies associated with humanitarian assistance, durable solutions for displaced populations, and plans and projects associated with local and national development, in a way that allows progress towards community integration and the guarantee of fundamental rights.

Among the measures for protection and assistance, the following are to be highlighted:

- Care and assistance for psychosocial non-material needs, and integrated processes for recovery.
- Returns and relocation in urban contexts in which there remains risks of violence.
- Protection of lands and territories and judicial and material restitution of abandoned or dispossessed lands and housing in contexts of displacement caused by generalized violence.
- Inter-institutional coordination regarding the distribution of powers and resources between the national level and local governments, in scenarios in which the technical and financial capacity is very limited.

- Address the complementary nature of care for displaced persons through social policies aimed at vulnerable populations.
- Design and implementation of institutional and regulatory frameworks to prevent, assist and protect the displaced population.

Methodology

Share experiences and good practices, the problems associated with the underlying causes of displacement, as well as the limitations associated with the design and implementation of measures and policies regarding prevention, care, and solutions for victims of internal displacement, through actions focused on knowledge-sharing, training activities, and expanding methodologies and routes for comprehensive care and reparation for victims.

The pedagogical model for the exchange of knowledge and experiences will be done through the following modalities:

- Virtual sessions with the technical teams, addressing different contexts and challenges.
- In-person training sessions on specific topics (methodological and conceptual).
- Field visits to learn about specific cases in the situation in El Salvador, Honduras and Mexico and to facilitate technical support from Colombia.
- Technical support and virtual advice to institutional teams to implement recommendations and proposals to address problems.
- Technical support and assistance for the design and implementation of EWRS in the concerned countries and in the specific contexts, which requires a multi-stage process and the development of a set of basic elements for its establishment.
- Based on the identification of common problems and transnational underlying causes, identify common actions between countries to implement in a parallel and coordinated manner, especially with regard to patterns of displacement, the dynamics of violence, and the evolution of underlying causes of forced displacement.

