



APRIL - JUNE 2022

IMPLEMENTING THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO

STRATEGIC SECTORS:



Protection



Jobs and
livelihoods



Social protection



Education



Health

MIRPS Countries update national action plans and priorities of the Working Groups

Under the leadership of the Pro-Tempore Presidency of Honduras and expecting the 2022 Solidarity Event, the MIRPS countries have been working on updating their national action plans, preparing country files, and activating coordination groups, as a common forum to assess technical and financial support needs for the implementation of MIRPS commitments. The latter forum was promoted by the Pro-Tempore Presidency of Guatemala, which according to each national context would include the participation of diplomatic missions (MIRPS Countries and Support Platform members), development cooperation agencies, UN agencies, OAS offices in MIRPS countries, civil society, among others.

Through the active participation of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico, the leading countries of the four MIRPS Working Groups, the priorities of the groups for this year have been established, the possible areas of cooperation, the potential partners and the following steps. The Reception and Admission Group held a regional twinning meeting in Panama City in May to identify collaboration opportunities between the MIRPS countries and the Support Platform (Brazil, Canada and the United States). The Working Group on Internal Displacement in its Work Plan 2022-2023 has identified new opportunities for collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Colombia (member of the MIRPS Support Platform), and the OAS with its technical area specialized in the matter, which are now integrated as advisors to the Group, with the accompaniment of UNHCR and the OAS as Technical Secretariat. The Working Group on Employment and Livelihoods has considered as a priority to advance towards the elaboration of a regional strategy for the recognition of competencies, taking into consideration the existing regulations and procedures at the national level, for which the International Labor Organization (ILO) will be assisting the MIRPS countries through a consultancy. The Local Governance group has been making progress in defining its 2022-2023 workplan and is planning its sessions to evaluate the progress in the application of policy recommendations, to review the status of the support provided by UNDP and UNHCR, considering contributions from other partners, and to review the progress of the Solidarity Cities mechanisms and their criteria.

MIRPS IN ACTION:

IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL PLANS

BELICE

PROTECTION - The technical capacity in the asylum process was strengthened with training on topics such as Evaluation of Inclusion and Credibility, Relocation of Internally Displaced People and Exclusion.

EDUCATION AND HEALTH - In coordination with the Ministry of Health and Welfare, they began to distribute vaccines against COVID-19 to children aged 5 to 11, including refugees and asylum seekers.

Psychosocial support was provided to 29 refugees and asylum seekers through the NGOs *Ayuda para el Progreso* and *HUMANA People to People*. This helps them overcome the traumas they face as a result of their experiences of forced displacement and the gender-based violence and exploitation they face in their country of origin.

New educational opportunities were opened with the Stann Creek Institute of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ITVET) for 10 asylum seekers who graduated with a high school diploma.

EMPLOYMENT AND LIVELIHOODS - The Department of Refugees has issued official letters to 442 registered asylum-seeking families who are eligible for the Government Amnesty Program 2022-2023.

Support was provided to 195 persons of concern through information and assistance with amnesty application, and with the support of UNHCR and its partners information is being provided to registered asylum seekers who are eligible for amnesty from the Government.

Through programs implemented by *Humana People to People* and *Help for Progress*, 232 refugees and asylum seekers accessed livelihood and skills training sessions to improve their self-sufficiency and local integration.

COSTA RICA

PROTECTION - The General Directorate of Migration and Foreign Affairs (DGME) has implemented initiatives to address the delay in the management of refugee status determination (RSD) procedures.

Refugee status has been granted to 364 people.

Approximately 100 daily appointments for the presentation of refugee applications have been advanced, reducing the wait. 1,439 appointments have been advanced in the period July 4 to 21.

EMPLOYMENT AND LIVELIHOODS - The Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MTSS) held 11 talks on the Guidelines of the National Employment System aimed at officials of the Employment Unit Network (RUE), employers and union organizations for the attention of migrant workers, refugees and asylum seekers.

The Government launched the [National Employment Agency](#), as a free service that facilitates contact between job seekers.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MTSS) and the National Institute of Learning (INA) provided training to personnel that assists migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking population at the national level, to guide these populations on the procedures for finding a job, legalizing their immigration status, services of the National Agency for Employment and training. The business sector also participated to raise awareness and learn about the situation of these populations.

EL SALVADOR

PROTECTION - Inauguration of the new Support Space “A Tu Lado” in the Municipality of San Miguel with the collaboration of the Directorate of Attention to Victims, offers information on rights and free, safe and confidential assistance to displaced populations in the territories.

30 officers from the Migrant Assistance Management Office (GAMI) have been trained on humanitarian protection, case management, human rights and victims assistance.

There is a Preliminary Draft of the National Policy for Territorial Planning and Development, in which preliminary guidelines related to the attention of displaced people are incorporated.

HEALTH - The process of raising awareness among multidisciplinary and first-level health personnel for the timely attention and follow-up of cases of forced displacement continues.

Advances in the elaboration of the Psychosocial Attention Protocol for people affected by violence with emphasis on internal forced displacement.

EDUCATION - 29 cases of childhood, adolescence and youth were assisted within the framework of the educational continuity strategy in temporary shelters for displaced people and people at high risk of displacement.

EMPLOYMENT AND LIVELIHOODS - 33 internally displaced women and/or survivors of gender-based violence in the different centers of *Fundación Ciudad Mujer* have been trained in workshops aimed at psychosocial support and strengthening of micro-business skills.

MIRPS IN ACTION:

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62 internally displaced people and youth at risk of displacement and asylum seekers signed contracts with partner companies of the MTPS “*Mi Primer Trabajo*” program. “*Mi Primer Trabajo*” reached the participation of 21 companies interested in providing opportunities to young people at risk of displacement and without previous work experience.

GUATEMALA

PROTECTION - On June 15, the Letter of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner in Guatemala, with the aim of strengthening the General Directorate of Consular and Migratory Affairs, as well as the joint work that is carried out for shelter care for refugees and people with international protection needs.

In June, the Guatemalan Institute of Migration (IGM) conducted training for its staff on migration control systems and processes with a Human Rights approach, with the aim of strengthening and providing differentiated attention to migrants in conditions of vulnerability and people in need of international protection.

On July 15, an Agreement was signed between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MRE), Guatemalan Institute of Migration (IGM) and the United Nations System in Guatemala, within the framework of the visit of the President of the General Assembly, Ambassador Abdulla Shahid. The objective of this agreement is to formalize the follow-up of the Roundtable on Migratory and Refugee Matters in order to support Guatemala in the comprehensive treatment of the migratory and refugee issue according to international standards.

35 Officials of the Attorney General's Office (PGN) were trained in the identification and assistance to Children and Youth (NNA) in transit.

The Migrant and Refugee Assistance Center (CAPMIR) has been inaugurated on the Agua Caliente border with Honduras, with the presence of authorities from the Ministry of Labor, Guatemalan Institute of Migration (IGM), the Municipality of Esquipulas and representatives of the United States Embassy.

EMPLOYMENT AND LIVELIHOODS - To promote decent employment opportunities and the improvement of employability, the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare held, in different parts of the country, the National Employment Fair within the framework of International Labor Day in which it was possible to provide information on the rights of refugees and asylum seekers with the aim of raising awareness among the population.

HONDURAS

PROTECTION - The National Institute of Migration (INM) carried out 6,047 interviews, and identified 1,632 people in transit with international protection needs.

The Inter-institutional Commission for the Protection of People Displaced by Violence (CIPPDV) and the Human Rights Secretariat provided humanitarian assistance to 137 internally displaced people by violence and people at risk of displacement.

The Internal Refugee Commission belonging to the National Institute of Migration (CIR-INM) was created, which has held four (04) meetings in order to simplify internal processes.

EDUCATION - 51 officers from National Institute of Migration (INM) were trained, at the national level, on border instructions, for consultation by inspectors and migration delegates.

EMPLOYMENT AND LIVELIHOODS - Meetings at the Migration and Health Work Table, for the management of hiring health personnel.

25 people benefited with seed capital to contribute to their social reintegration and economic stabilization in host communities.

HEALTH - 22 health offices were installed to control COVID 19, at border points, airports and ports to facilitate the control of travelers entering the country.

MEXICO

PROTECTION - The Interinstitutional Table on Refuge and Complementary Protection of the MIRPS and the Local Tables, established to promote public integration policies for refugees at the local level, has grown to a territorial scope of 8 states in the northern and southern borders regions of the country: Chiapas, Baja California, Veracruz, Quintana Roo and Coahuila.

EMPLOYMENT - A Table on labor inclusion was held, with the aim of facilitating the coordination of government sectors, international organizations and civil society, regarding the inclusion of asylum seekers and refugees in the labor market.

MIRPS IN ACTION:

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The National Employment System held the Employment Fair for Labor Inclusion, aimed at people in contexts of displacement, training businesspeople and public workers on the use of the Employment Portal, aimed at facilitating job seekers and employers, the hiring of refugee people.

EDUCATION - The first Afghans youth in need of international protection were received.

The process of selecting students from countries in the Latin American region began in coordination between Mexican Commission for Refugee Aid (COMAR), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the civil association Intercultural Dialogue of Active Mexico (DIMA-HABESHA).

HEALTH - In June, the Thematic Table on Access to Health Services was held, progress is being made in the vaccination of the refugee population in Mexico.

Work is done to establish coordination mechanisms to channel refugees with mental health needs.

PANAMA

PROTECTION - A meeting was held with the Vice Minister of Government to discuss the strengthening the presence of the National Office for the Attention of Refugees (ONPAR) at strategic border points, as well as the drafting of an interinstitutional instrument to accompany said strengthening.

SOCIAL PROTECTION, HEALTH AND EDUCATION - Within the framework of the Ministerial Meeting on Migration Panama 2022, the Minister of Government met with the Deputy Secretariat of State of the United States Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM), the progress and challenges of the National Office for Refugee Assistance, and efforts carried out to guarantee access to rights, and the promotion of social protection inclusive services, as well as actions to support Ukrainian refugee status seekers.

EMPLOYMENT AND LIVELIHOODS - Launch of a new Talent Without Borders communication strategy to improve the dissemination of useful information to promote the economic inclusion of the refugee population on legal and labor processes in Panama.

MIRPS IN ACTION: IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL PLANS

The MIRPS positions itself before the OAS bodies and the Summit of the Americas

The Pro-Tempore Presidency of the MIRPS, in charge of Honduras, participated on May 17, 2022, in the session of the OAS Committee on Migratory Affairs (CAM), in which the challenges, good practices and opportunities for the development of a comprehensive and hemispheric approach to respond to migration and displacement in the region were analyzed. Likewise, on May 31, 2022, the Pro-Tempore Presidency shared good practices from the MIRPS on displacement governance before the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI).

Within the framework of the Ninth Summit of the Americas, held in the city of Los Angeles, California, on June 9, 2022, the Foreign Minister of Honduras, Mr. Eduardo Enrique Reina, participated in the side event “Towards Regional Governance on migration and international protection”, organized by the Department of Social Inclusion (DSI) of the OAS Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity, the UNHCR, PADF and other allied organizations. This event aimed to address the importance of strengthening regional governance on migration and international protection matters, and to review the role and to coordinate efforts between different regional response mechanisms.

Also, within the framework of the Summit of the Americas, all the countries that are part of the MIRPS signed the Declaration of Los Angeles on Migration and Protection, in which the subscribing States reiterated their willingness to strengthen regional and hemispheric efforts in order to create the conditions for safe, orderly, humane and regular migration, and to strengthen the necessary frameworks for protection and international cooperation. This declaration recognizes the work of the MIRPS as one of the coordinated and comprehensive response mechanisms at the regional level.

Round table of business experts: The voice of business in supporting the employability of displaced people in Central America and Mexico

On June 29, taking into account the significant presence of Canadian companies in the MIRPS countries, the Round Table of experts of the MIRPS Support Platform was organized, which provided a space for discussion to expand the participation of the Canadian business community with operations in the region to promote inclusive hiring practices and employability of the displaced population workforce. The event was attended by 15 representatives of the Canadian private sector with operations in Central America and Mexico, Canadian Chambers of Commerce and business associations with presence and operations in the MIRPS countries, and other business leaders from the region, as well as government officials from Canada, the OAS and the UNHCR. The session was a starting point for discussion to encourage other companies to implement their own inclusive hiring practices or initiatives in the future.

Upcoming events

II Solidarity Event towards the forcibly displaced and host communities in the region of Central America and Mexico

On the next September 21, 2022, within the framework of the United Nations General Assembly in New York City, the II Solidarity Event towards the MIRPS will take place, under the organization of the Governments of Canada and the United States; the United States will assume the next Presidency of the Support Platform. Said meeting will be a unique opportunity to increase the visibility of the situation and challenges of displacement in Central America and Mexico, to expand support for MIRPS, to promote the participation of new actors in the Support Platform, and to mobilize resources to support national plans of the MIRPS countries including funding and technical support as well as opportunities for admission pathways.

