



NATIONAL ACTION PLAN BELIZE

Belize has continued to be a country of destination, predominantly for forcefully displaced persons seeking refuge from widespread violence and rights violations, perpetrated by organized criminal groups in the north of Central America. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a considerable contraction in economic activity, negatively impacting the tourism and agricultural sectors, negatively impacting public acceptance of refugees and increasing the vulnerability of various population groups including asylum-seekers and refugees.

To address the situation, Belize, who joined the MIRPS in 2017, has made progress in the implementation of its commitments to provide protection and solutions for the forcibly displaced. Equally, the support of the international community in the areas of protection, vocational training, and livelihoods is required to respond to unmet needs and integrate the thousands of persons seeking refuge in the country.

8 COMMITMENTS



PROTECTION
6 COMMITMENTS



JOBS & LIVELIHOODS
1 COMMITMENTS



EDUCATION
1 COMMITMENTS

Belize has been expanding its operational refugee response capacity to regional forced displacement through the adoption and implementation of 8 commitments in its National Action Plan for Protection and Solutions.



PROTECTION

Strengthen legal protection mechanisms for forcibly displaced persons by optimizing the asylum system and promoting alternative pathways, as well as promoting activities focused on the prevention of statelessness.

- Ensure the **implementation of Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs)** to facilitate the comprehensive identification and referral of persons with international protection needs.
- Ensure that persons arriving at official border points, including at the international airport, are provided with **essential information on the right to claim asylum and related procedures**.
- **Promote understanding amongst the general population** of the right to asylum, and foster a climate of tolerance and mutual coexistence.
- Conduct a review of existing data availability, essential information needs, and potential digital tools and systems to integrate a **comprehensive approach to Registration and Identity Management**.
- Strengthen the timeliness, efficiency, and quality investigation and adjudication processes of the national asylum system.
- **Ensure the inclusion of up-to-date refugee and asylum-seeker population data** within national data, national development planning, and implementation processes.



EDUCATION

Promote access to rights for communities of forcibly displaced persons through the expansion of educational opportunities focused on basic and tertiary education.

- **Basic education: Ensure equitable access to primary and secondary education** for refugees and asylum seekers on an equal basis as nationals. **Tertiary education: Support investments within the national TVET system**, to ensure the delivery of demand-

driven courses in key economic sectors associated with climate change, benefiting refugees, asylum-seekers, migrants, and Belizean youth.



JOBS AND LIVELIHOODS

Promote access to the right to work for refugees through the development of a collaboration strategy with the private sector in the country's priority production areas.

- **Provide access to employment opportunities** in priority sectors of the economy to respond to the needs of the private sector and labour market.