

#### IMPLEMENTING THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO

### STRATEGIC SECTORS:



Protection



Jobs and livelihoods



Social protection



Education



#### SECOND MIRPS SOLIDARITY EVENT

The Second Event of Solidarity to Strengthen the Protection and Promote Solutions for Forcibly Displaced Persons and Host Communities in Central America and Mexico took place on September 21, 2022, on the sidelines of the 77th United Nations General Assembly in New York City, United States. The event was co-hosted by the Governments of Canada and the United States, in collaboration with the Government of Honduras. Likewise, the seven MIRPS countries, members of the MIRPS Support Platform, representatives of other international financial agencies and institutions, the private sector, and civil society participated in this event.

During the event, participants reaffirmed their commitment to comprehensively address forced displacement in the region and recognized the progress made by the MIRPS countries. At the same time, the MIRPS was positioned as a relevant space to align with other regional instruments such as the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection. The continued need for support from the international community to make further progress in priority areas such as protection, employment and livelihoods, education, health, and social protection was also highlighted. In addition, the contributions of the MIRPS Support Platform were recognized, as it supports the needs and priorities of MIRPS countries and provides a relevant space for dialogue to achieve a more equitable and predictable distribution of shared responsibilities among host countries and communities.

Members of the MIRPS Support Platform made new commitments to provide political, technical, and financial support of more than US\$210 million in addition to in-kind contributions, to further strengthen the regional response and National Action Plans in 2022 and 2023. These contributions were made by the United States (USD 199.4M), Canada (USD 9.77M), and Spain (USD 0.98M). In addition, the following actors made statements, expressing solidarity and general contributions: Brazil, Colombia, Japan, the European Union, the World Bank, the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), Tent Foundation, Palliser Furniture, ILO, UNDP, and ICRC.

Two joint statements were made: first, the Casa Refugiados Program, in its capacity as the Regional Civil Society Mechanism for the MIRPS, made a joint statement on behalf of thirty-five organizations in seven MIRPS countries; and second, the Tent Foundation read a 'Joint Expression of Solidarity' on behalf of twelve businesses and private sector actors. Lastly, the World Bank announced its intention to join as a member of the Platform.

# MIRPS IN ACTION: MIRPS REGIONAL WORK

### MIRPS Consultation on the root causes of displacement: disasters and climate change

The MIRPS Consultation on Disasters and Climate Change as Root Causes of Displacement took place on August 9, which was organized in collaboration with the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) and had the support of the Technical Secretariat of the MIRPS, formed by the UNHCR and the OAS. The consultation was attended by representatives of all the National Technical Teams of the MIRPS, together with representatives of the Ministries of the Environment, civil protection institutions and services, risk management, emergency care, and academia.

During the consultation, a forum was provided where States shared their experiences and good practices in relation to the implementation of priority areas for action defined in the Agenda for Protection, and other relevant regional and global frameworks in situations of displacement due to disasters. Moreover, common recommendations were made to inform future dialogue within MIRPS on disasters and climate change as root causes of displacement. Lastly, actions were promoted to link the work of MIRPS with the Protection Agenda.

### MIRPS Countries Participate in the Regional Country of Origin Information (COI) Meeting

The Regional Country of Origin Information Meeting took place on the 1st and 2nd of September 2022, in Mexico City, organized by UNHCR and the Government of Mexico, with the financial support of the Government of Canada. It was attended by 60 representatives of the Governments of the 7 MIRPS countries, other States such as Brazil, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, the United States, the European Union, and Uruguay, as well as by specialized experts in the field. This meeting is part of the UNHCR Country of Origin Information Regional Program, which seeks to support Latin American and Caribbean States in accessing, producing, and using country of origin information. The meeting was also attended by the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), which shared its good practices and experience in the implementation and management of this type of networks and working groups.

The main purpose of the meeting was to put to the consideration of participants the establishment of a COI regional network for practical cooperation on country-of-origin information, as well as to share information on Haiti and Venezuela by invited experts. On the first day of the meeting, two country-of-origin briefings were held on Haiti and Venezuela. On the second day, countries that have a COI unit or service presented the structure of their units or services, the products they offer, and the expectations of the regional COI network.

### Exchange of Experiences between Guatemala and Mexico In Strengthening Asylum Systems

As part of the activities of the MIRPS Working Group on the reception, admission, and processing of persons in need of international protection, from August 23 to 26, 2022, a bilateral exchange of experiences between Guatemala and Mexico was held, with the aim of strengthening capacities among peers, and in this way, guarantee the improvement of differentiated modalities for the processing of asylum applications in these countries.

## MIRPS IN ACTION: ALLIANCES WITH STRATEGIC PARTNERS

#### MIRPS DONOR ROUNDTABLE WITH PERMANENT OBSERVERS TO THE OAS

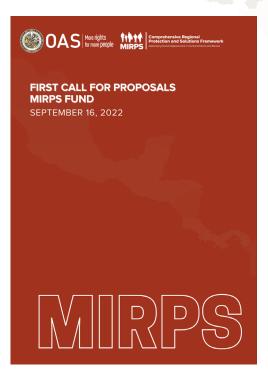
On July 20, 2022, the MIRPS Donor Roundtable with the Permanent Observer States to the OAS was organized. Representatives of the Pro-Tempore Presidency of Honduras, the Technical Secretariat of the MIRPS, the Chair of the MIRPS Support Platform of Canada, and various representatives of the Permanent Observer Missions participated in this meeting. The purpose of the donor roundtable was to provide a presentation on the existing cooperation spaces within the MIRPS, and an update on the implementation of the MIRPS Fund. Additionally, the next Solidarity Event was announced.

#### **COLLABORATION WITH PRIVATE SECTOR**

In preparation for the Second Solidarity Event, the OAS has continued to identify possible areas of collaboration with the private sector. To this end, based on the initiative of Canada as Chair of the MIRPS Support Platform, a dialogue with representatives of Canadian private sector companies in Central America and Mexico was promoted, to explore possibilities of participation and support for displaced populations in the region. In this way, there is an increasing number of business organizations committed to the MIRPS.

## MIRPS FUND IN ACTION: FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSALS

On September 16, 2022, the OAS Department of Social Inclusion, the entity responsible for the administration, financial management, and accountability of the specific Fund for voluntary contributions of the MIRPS (MIRPS Fund), published the First Call for Proposals. MIRPS countries will be able to submit project proposals to respond to commitments and actions within their National Action Plans, until Monday, October 17, 2022. The document includes the details of the resources available to finance projects that will be implemented by the MIRP States, the requirements to apply, the proposal selection process, and the selection criteria. This call for proposals is made thanks to the pioneering contribution to the MIRPS Fund announced by the Government of Spain at the First Solidarity Event, which took place in 2021.



## MIRPS IN ACTION: UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

### **V MIRPS ANNUAL MEETING**



### Training on Refugee Status Determination involving Gender Considerations

On November 23 and 30, and December 7, the Government of Canada will host virtual training sessions on Refugee Status Determination involving Gender Considerations, with the aim of sharing best practices in resolving cases based on gender-based violence and learning about gender-based violence case management procedures based on UNHCR guidelines, and the Immigration and Refugee Commission of Canada updated guidelines. People who wish to participate must register on this form, no later than November 21, 2022.