



OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2022

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

### STRATEGIC SECTORS



Protection



Jobs and  
livelihoods



Social protection



Education



Health

### V MIRPS Annual Meeting: Fifth anniversary of the MIRPS

On December 13, in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, during the V Annual Meeting of the MIRPS, the 7 member States highlighted their achievements in strengthening their asylum systems, generating new national and local policies to prevent, address, and respond to forced displacement and mobilizing economic, technical, and material resources to continue supporting more than 1.3 million people forced to flee in Central America and Mexico.

During the Annual Meeting, participants addressed key issues such as access to protection in countries of transit and destination, state policies and practices to address internal displacement, and durable solutions and integration of persons in situations of displacement. Representatives of Canada also participated, as Chair of the 2021-2022 Support Platform, to report on the achievements made during his term. Likewise, the United States presented its work plan for 2022-2023 as the incoming Presidency and announced that the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) will join as a new member of the Support Platform to continue seeking solutions for displaced people in the region.

Furthermore, the countries adopted the Declaration of Tegucigalpa, which reaffirmed the commitment of the member countries, after five years of the creation of the MIRPS. This Declaration aims to be a roadmap for 2023 and includes agreements to continue strengthening the structure and functioning of the mechanism, strengthen national and local institutions, and promote dialogue and actions for shared responsibility and regional solidarity in favor of displaced persons in the region.

Finally, Honduras transferred the Pro Tempore Presidency of MIRPS to Panama, which will assume this role during 2023. The V Annual Meeting was accompanied by the Technical Secretariat, made up of the UNHCR and the OAS, through its Department of Social Inclusion.

# MIRPS IN ACTION:

## MIRPS REGIONAL WORK

### MIRPS COUNTRIES UPDATE NATIONAL ACTION PLANS AND NATIONAL COORDINATION GROUPS

In the fifth year of implementation of the MIRPS, following the call of the Pro Tempore Presidency 2022 of Honduras, the Member States undertook the process of reviewing and updating their Action Plan, in the face of the new challenges that arose since the creation of the MIRPS, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the growing needs that have resulted from the increase of violence, disasters, climate change, among other factors. To this end, the MIRPS countries identified the commitments that had been reached, adapted the outstanding ones to the current challenges, and incorporated new commitments. In addition, the National Technical Teams were expanded, through the involvement of new actors whose participation is necessary for the implementation of the National Action Plans.

Similarly, the MIRPS States formed the National Coordination Groups, which are spaces for dialogue and joint work between the National Technical Teams and other relevant actors for the implementation of the National Action Plans in the MIRPS countries, such as diplomatic representations of the members of the Support Platform at the national level, development cooperation agencies, UN agencies, OAS national offices, civil society, among other

### MIRPS CONSULTATION ON THE ROOT CAUSES OF DISPLACEMENT: EXTORTION

On November 10, the MIRPS Consultation on Extortion as a Root Cause of Displacement was organized in collaboration with the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC). During the consultation, participants reviewed extortion trends that are prevalent in the subregion and that cause forced displacement. In addition, MIRPS States presented national institutional responses to extortion. The application of approaches and tools to strengthen community resilience to extortion was reviewed, and information was shared for the development of policy recommendations to strengthen community resilience to extortion.

### INTER-AMERICAN COURSE ON MIGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

The Third Edition of the Inter-American Course on the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons, Migrants, Asylum Seekers, Refugees, Returnees with Protection Needs, and Victims of Trafficking in the Americas strengthened the knowledge on the issue of forced displacement and migration of more than 90 officials of the Permanent Missions of the Member States and Observers to the OAS, the General Secretariat, national stakeholders involved including the MIRPS National Technical Teams, among other stakeholders. The Inter-American Course took place on December 6, 2022, and was organized by the Department of Social Inclusion of the OAS, in cooperation with UNHCR.

## MIRPS FUND IN ACTION:

### SELECTED PROPOSALS

In December 2022, the High-Level Selection Committee selected 6 projects from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Panama to be financed by the MIRPS Fund in 2023 and 2024. The projects address issues such as: strengthening institutional capacities for better care and protection of asylum seekers, refugees, internally displaced persons, and returnees in need of protection; expanding access to humanitarian assistance and providing livelihoods and self-reliance for these populations; strengthening mechanisms for the socio-economic integration of displaced populations; strengthening the processes of recognition of the right to identity and documentation of displaced populations in their host communities; among others. This first call for proposals was made thanks to the pioneering contribution of the Government of Spain to the MIRPS Fund.

# MIRPS IN ACTION: MIRPS WORKING GROUPS

## Reception, admission, and processing of persons in need of international protection

With the support of the Government of Canada as a Member of the MIRPS Support Platform, the Training on Refugee Status Determination involving Gender Considerations was held on November 23 and 30, and December 7. The event aimed to share best practices in resolving cases based on gender-based violence and to learn about procedures for handling cases of gender-based violence. More than 90 eligibility officers, border agents, and government officials from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Panama participated in these trainings.

## Local Governance

On October 27, 28, and 31, 2022, the Working Group on Local Governance, led by the Municipality of Esquipulas, convened three sessions where the following topics were reviewed: global initiatives and frameworks on local governance; cities of solidarity; and the roles and responsibilities of regional and international organizations. The twelve participating municipalities shared their experiences, good practices, and knowledge in the protection and inclusion of forcibly displaced persons, with the support of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the Municipality of Medellín, the Mayors Migration Council (MMC), OAS, UNDP, and UNHCR.

## Employment and Livelihoods

On November 21 and 22, participants from Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico, and Panama met in Panama City to work on the development of a joint roadmap, to ensure that migrant workers, refugees, and asylum seekers have access to services for the recognition of their labor skills, that favor their entry and mobility into the labor market of the host country. This event was organized by the ILO and supported by the Technical Secretariat of MIRPS.

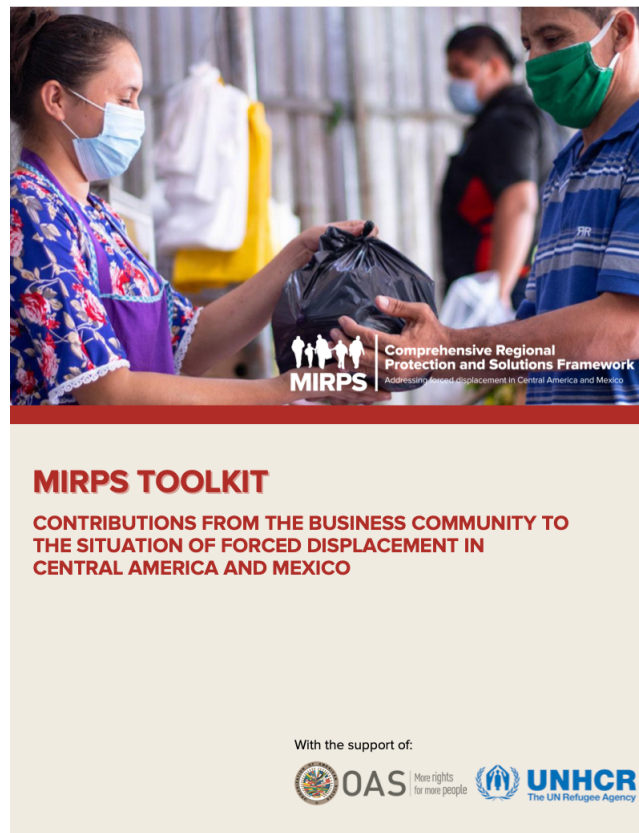




# MIRPS IN ACTION: ALLIANCES WITH STRATEGIC PARTNERS

## COLLABORATION WITH PRIVATE SECTOR

The MIRPS Technical Secretariat developed the “MIRPS Toolkit: Contributions from the business community to the situation of forced displacement in Central America and Mexico”. This [document](#) includes around 30 initiatives and good practices that are being carried out by business organizations in the region. This publication also includes the skills certification and employment linkage programs currently in force in the seven countries that make up the MIRPS, as presented at the MIRPS Working Group on Employment and Livelihoods.



## CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

On October 26, 2022, the MIRPS Regional Civil Society Mechanism presented the Executive Summary of the Report on the Implementation of the MIRPS, which is the result of a series of diagnoses carried out in the seven members in 2021. This document aims to publicize the challenges that civil society organizations identified in terms of international protection in the region. Moreover, it seeks to expose the progress that each country has made during the year to generate a constructive dialogue on measures and programs that can be implemented in the region to face the most important problems.

