

# MIRPS

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## Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework

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Canada

Canada's Chairship of the  
MIRPS Support Platform  
(July 2021 – September 2022)  
**Annual Report**



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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Canada assumed its role as Chair of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS) Support Platform (previously held by Spain) in July 2021. Canada identified the theme of *“Protection and Empowerment of Women and Girls on the Move”* and focused on three main objectives, listed below, which were also in line with the Support Platform objectives as a regional application of the Global Compact on Refugees.

**Objective 1: Galvanize political, financial, technical and material commitments toward the fulfillment of the humanitarian and development needs identified by the MIRPS countries.**

Highlights:

- Three twinning arrangements were made during the Regional Twinning Meeting conducted in Panama in May 2022.
- Five Technical Workshops were conducted and generated avenues for support and areas for collaboration for MIRPS countries in line with the MIRPS Working Groups and the identified national priorities for MIRPS state members.
- Over USD \$210M in financial pledges mobilised including CAD \$13.15M in humanitarian assistance for key humanitarian partners by Canada during the Solidarity Event in September 2022.

**Objective 2: Increase international visibility of MIRPS, and engagement in support of MIPRS from a wider range of actors.**

Highlights:

- Addition of the World Bank as a new member of the MIRPS Support Platform.
- Joint expression of solidarity by 12 business and private sector actors.
- Increased visibility and awareness of the forced displacement situation in the region, with a focus on women and girls on the move during the High-Level Event organised in December 2021.

**Objective 3: Reinforce the Support Platform as an effective mechanism to mobilize comprehensive responses for the forced displacement situation in the region.**

Highlights:

- Introduced the Troika governance model to assist in providing sustainability, accountability and continuity in the MIRPS Support Platform Governance structure.

In September 2022, during the Solidarity Event, the U.S. became Chair of the MIRPS Support Platform, while Canada transitioned into the role of Past Chair<sup>1</sup> under the newly established Troika governance model.

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<sup>1</sup> Under the Troika Governance model, the Past Chair is responsible for: providing strategic support to the Chair and MIRPS Pro Tempore presidency work plans, provide technical expertise to inform Chair activities and promote engagement between MIRPS and MIRPS Support Platform members.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### **Background**

The MIRPS is a regional contribution to the Global Compact on Refugees formed in 2017 by the Governments of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Panama, to strengthen protection and promote solutions for forcibly displaced populations, while addressing the underlying causes of displacement and promoting a stable environment that ensures security, economic development, and prosperity. At the 2019 Global Refugee Forum, the MIRPS Support Platform was established as a mechanism to support the efforts of the MIRPS States and ensure greater responsibility-sharing, as provided for in the Global Compact on Refugees. The Support Platform seeks to leverage support from the broadest possible range of States, international financial institutions, the private sector, regional bodies, and other stakeholders. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada was the lead for Canada’s role and tenure as Chair, in collaboration with Global Affairs Canada.

Canada assumed its role as Chair of the MIRPS Support Platform (previously held by Spain) in July 2021 and identified the “*Protection and Empowerment of Women and Girls on the Move*” as the theme. This theme enabled the activities of the Support Platform to draw attention to the international protection needs of refugee women, girls and LGBTQ2I individuals who have been placed in vulnerable situations.

## 3. KEY RESULTS AND ACTIVITIES

This section highlights the key results achieved and activities during Canada’s tenure as Chair of the MIRPS Support Platform in support of its established objectives.

### **Activities conducted under Canada as Chair**

<b>MEETINGS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ 5 Technical Meetings conducted between MIRPS Support Platform members.</li><li>✓ Regional Twinning Meeting conducted in Panama.</li><li>✓ Canadian Ministerial participation at the MIRPS Annual meeting in Guatemala.</li></ul>	<b>HIGH LEVEL EVENTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ International Virtual High-level Event.</li><li>✓ International Signature Event held in Ottawa.</li><li>✓ International Solidarity Event co-led with the U.S. as Incoming Support Platform Chair and Honduras as MIRPS Presidency in NYC.</li></ul>
<b>TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ 5 Technical Workshops organised between MIRPS countries and MIRPS Support Platform members.</li><li>✓ Topics: internal displacement, admission and reception, labor market and vocational training, local governance and private sector engagement.</li></ul>	<b>GOVERNANCE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Establishment of the Troika governance model with past, current and future chairs working together during their tenures.</li></ul>

As the second Chair of the MIRPS Support Platform, Canada was able to build on the work undertaken by Spain in strengthening the MIRPS Support Platform. To reinforce the Support Platform, Canada introduced the **Enhanced Troika Governance Model**<sup>2</sup> which will strengthen the Platform's sustainability and governance. Moreover, strong relationships continued to be fostered with Platform members and MIRPS countries through cooperation and collaboration, including exchanges of best practices. This engagement and advocacy resulted in the expansion of the **membership of the MIRPS Support Platform to include the World Bank.**

Canada's first event as Chair of the MIRPS Support Platform, **co-led with UNHCR as the MIRPS Secretariat**, was a **virtual high-level event in December 2021**, that focused on the protection and empowerment of displaced women and girls from Central America and Mexico. With this event, the Platform joined the UN Refugee Agency's 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, to draw attention to the international protection needs and the importance of empowering refugee women and girls in the region, as well as the need to protect the human rights of migrant women, girls, and LGBTQ2I individuals in vulnerable situations.

The Support Platform's strong advocacy for refugee women and girls, as well as Canada's Chair Role in facilitating collaboration and communication between the various members of the MIRPS countries and MIRPS Support Platform members, was also showcased through the **five MIRPS Support Platform Technical Meetings** that took place throughout the year. These meetings provided an opportunity for open dialogue exploring issues and potential solutions relating to forced displacement and the actions that could be taken to support MIRPS countries in achieving the goals indicated in their National Action Plans.

Additionally, from March to June 2022, **five Technical Workshops (co-led by Canada, Honduras, UNHCR and OAS)** brought together MIRPS countries and MIRPS Support Platform members to exchange best practices on, reception and admission, internal displacement, vocational training and labour market participation, local governance, and private sector partnerships. The Technical Workshops resulted in the technical twinning arrangements between MIRPS and MIRPS Support Platform members to advance elements of the MIRPS' National Action Plans including: the organisation of a Regional Country of Origin Information (COI) Meeting in Mexico in September 2022; the organisation of peer-to-peer capacity building through bilateral exchanges of experiences between Mexico-Brazil and Guatemala-Mexico, focused on improving differentiated modalities for processing asylum and refugee requests; and the organisation of gender based adjudication training at the request of Honduras and El Salvador, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panama in November 2022. The Immigration Refugee Board of Canada delivered the training.

In May 2022, Canada hosted the **MIRPS Support Platform Signature Event** to increase visibility of the MIRPS and promote the sharing of best practices on complementary pathways and integration. The event also showcased the solidarity of Canadian businesses with the MIRPS countries and existing efforts to employ refugees and asylum seekers. This event laid the groundwork for a technical workshop (in June 2022) attended by Canadian-based companies, Canadian Chambers of Commerce and business associations with presence and operations in Central America and Mexico. The workshop was used to

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<sup>2</sup> A Troika Governance model is system of governance whereby leadership rotates through a Chair (U.S), with the 'Past Chair' (Canada) and 'Incoming Chair' (TBD) maintain a supportive role to the Chair-in-Office.

encourage companies to implement their own inclusive hiring practices as well as other initiatives, and to mobilize more private sector support.

To conclude its tenure as Chair of the MIRPS Support Platform, Canada **co-hosted a Solidarity Event** with the United States (as the incoming Chair), and in partnership with Honduras (as the 2022 MIRPS Pro-Tempore President), on September 21, 2022 in New York. The event also brought private sector actors to the table. Participants committed USD \$210M towards the MIRPS countries and their effort to address forced displacement in Central America and Mexico.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

At the Solidarity Event that took place in September 2022, the U.S. became Chair of the MIRPS Support Platform while Canada transitioned into the role of Past Chair<sup>3</sup> under the newly established Troika governance model. In its role as Past Chair, Canada will continue to reinforce the principles of the Global Compact on Refugees as well as support the reinforcement of the MIRPS Support Platform governance model to ensure sustainability, continuity and accountability. Canada will also support the U.S.' chosen theme as new Chair of the Support Platform, *"The Benefits of Successful Integration - Valuing the Contributions Forcibly Displaced People Bring to Host Communities"*.

A few lessons learned and recommendations from Canada's tenure as Chair include:

- More space for dialogue and exchange could be created for MIRPS countries to discuss approaches to implementing some of the best practices shared within their own local contexts.
- A calendar of Support Platform activities could be created and shared with members at the beginning of the year to ensure engagement and ongoing support.
- Members of the Troika could improve the coordination of engagement activities especially with regard to advocating for new members to join the Support Platform.
- Enhanced dialogue between the private sector and MIRPS countries could be promoted including through the creation of a Private sector partners network to support the MIRPS.

As Past Chair of the MIRPS Support Platform, Canada had the opportunity to work with diverse stakeholders, including states, international financial institutions and international organizations, to improve the situation of those that have been forcibly displaced in Central America and Mexico. Canada will continue to work towards supporting the MIRPS countries in achieving their goals, and remains a committed member of the MIRPS Support Platform.

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<sup>3</sup> Under the Troika Governance model, the Past Chair is responsible for: providing strategic support to the Chair and MIRPS Pro Tempore presidency work plans, provide technical expertise to inform Chair activities and promote engagement between MIRPS and MIRPS Support Platform members.

5. ANNEX: MIRPS SUPPORT PLATFORM EVENTS TIMELINE

