



MIRPS REGIONAL ACTION PLAN 2024

BELIZE PRO- TEMPORE PRESIDENCY



Background

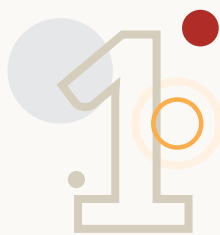
The Government of Belize presents the 2024 Regional Action Plan, based on the following documents as approved by the MIRPS States:

MIRPS Statutory Charter: The Statutory Charter is recognized as a set of non-binding rules that regulate and define the structure, roles, objectives, and scope of the MIRPS. The Charter establishes the regional and national technical teams as the main mechanisms for the implementation of the regional and national action plans. The Regional Technical Teams (former Working Groups) provide platforms for the MIRPS Member States to share experiences and knowledge, identifying joint solutions in different thematic areas that allow them to advance in the implementation of the regional and national plan (Art. 20). Moreover, at the national level, the MIRPS has National Technical Teams composed of government departments and public institutions responsible for planning, coordinating, monitoring, implementing, periodically reviewing, and consolidating National Action Plans and related commitments (Art.

27). The National Technical Teams aim to ensure a comprehensive response led by the State, with a general focus on providing protection and durable solutions for refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, and persons in need of international protection (Art. 28). The Charter also establishes the MIRPS Dialogue Mechanisms with the civil society, the private sector, and the academia (Arts. 34-38).

MIRPS Pledges as presented at the Global Refugee Forum: Under the leadership of Panama as the 2023 Pro-tempore Presidency and through the MIRPS Regional Technical Teams that concretely address protection and solutions, MIRPS States worked together to develop four regional multi-stakeholder pledges that were presented at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, to complement specific pledges at national or local level.





Strengthening Asylum/Refugee Systems

In support of the Multistakeholder Pledge on Asylum Capacity Strengthening and in the framework of the MIRPS Working Group on Strengthening Asylum Systems, MIRPS States commit to continue strengthening national institutions responsible for refugee status determination processes by improving technical capacities and developing national asylum procedures, systems, and practices that enhance efficiency, fairness, and quality, in accordance with the capacity and needs of each country and with the support and assistance of members of the MIRPS Support Platform, UNHCR, OAS, and other partnerships.



Integration

In support of the Mega-Pledge on Economic Inclusion and Social Protection, and in the framework of the MIRPS Working Group on Jobs and Livelihoods, the MIRPS countries commit to promoting the self-reliance of refugees and other displaced or stateless communities by facilitating access to decent work and entrepreneurship, through the employability mechanisms of involved government institutions; national legislation and relevant policies; and by facilitating the recognition of competencies, knowledge and skills, with the support and assistance of the members of the MIRPS Support Platform, and in partnership with the private sector and civil society.



Local Governance

In support of the Multistakeholder Pledge: Call to Action for Refugees and Migrants, and in the framework of the MIRPS Working Group on Local Governance, the municipalities that form the Group commit to promoting the leadership of local governments and strengthen coordination with relevant institutions to facilitate the integration at the local level of displaced persons, together with their host communities.



Statistical Inclusion

In support of the Multistakeholder Pledge: Inclusion of Forcibly Displaced and Stateless Persons in National Statistical Systems and Surveys, MIRPS States commit to furthering systematic inclusion in data collection efforts, including through identification questions and solutions indicators in national population censuses and household surveys, as appropriate, to enable data disaggregation and reporting on forcibly displaced- refugees, asylum seekers, people with protection needs, internally displaced (as applicable) and stateless persons, with the support and assistance of members of the MIRPS Support Platform and other partnerships¹.

¹ The following MIRPS countries have adhered to this pledge: Belize· Costa Rica· El Salvador· Honduras· Mexico· and Panama·

Panama City Declaration:

As adopted by the MIRPS States, this Declaration includes their commitment in working on:

- Responding to challenges due mixed migratory movements across the borders of Central America and Mexico, particularly in the Darien region.
- Collaboration aimed at identifying and addressing the root causes of displacement.
- Promoting the work of the MIRPS Regional Technical Teams.
- The four MIRPS Pledges as presented at the Second Global Refugee Forum.
- Protection of the human rights of accompanied and unaccompanied children and adolescents in mixed migratory movements and displacement, in accordance with international protection frameworks, guaranteeing the protection of the principle of the best interests of the child.
- Highlighting the work of the entities implementing the projects financed by the MIRPS Fund.

Priorities - 2024 Regional Action Plan



Result

Strengthened regional response on protection and solutions for displaced persons in MIRPS countries.

- Strengthen national institutions responsible for refugee status determination processes.
- Conduct context-specific protection analysis on Internal Displacement, if applicable.
- Promote self-reliance of refugees and other displaced or stateless communities by facilitating access to decent work and entrepreneurship based on their abilities.
- Promote leadership of local governments to facilitate the integration at the local level of displaced persons.



Result

Increased participation of key stakeholders in the implementation of the MIRPS regional and national action plans.

- Enhance existing coordination channels with the MIRPS Support Platform.
- Strengthen the participation of civil society organizations, private sector and academia, through the MIRPS Dialogue Mechanisms.



Result

Further develop of existing talent in the MIRPS teams, with individual and organizational capacities for standardized data collection, sharing and reporting.

- Selection of MIRPS regional indicators.
- MIRPS Mid-year report.
- 4 thematic newsletters.
- Documents on “Why MIRPS matters for asylum/integration/solutions?”.
- Event on Statistical Inclusion and Displacement.

BELIZE PRO-TEMPORE PRESIDENCY

For each of the results, Belize as the 2024 Pro-tempore Presidency (PPT) will coordinate informative meetings with other regional mechanisms and initiatives such as the Regional Conference on Migration, Quito Process and Cartagena+40 to complement joint efforts. In the section below, each result is divided into specific objectives, products, events/working sessions, potential partners, linked processes and communications materials.

Expected results, objectives, and products

Result 1: Strengthened regional response on protection and solutions for displaced persons in MIRPS countries.

PROTECTION

Objective 1.1

Continue strengthening national institutions responsible for refugee status determination processes by improving technical capacities and developing national asylum procedures, systems, and good practices that enhance efficiency, fairness, and quality, in accordance with the capacity and needs of each country and with the support and assistance of members of the MIRPS Support Platform, UNHCR, OAS, and other partnerships.

Regional Technical Team on Reception, Admission and Processing of cases



Products

- Recommendations on accessible procedures for RSD in cases of children and adolescents.
- Identification of Good practices from the region.
- Regional glossary of terms and concepts applicable to Refugee Status Determination procedures.
- Training on research, validation, verification and applicability of reliable and relevant Country-of-Origin Information (Haiti, Nicaragua and Colombia).
- Digitization of refugee application files
- Platform for Processing Procedures.
- Implementation of biometrics in asylum processes.
- Implementation of effective communication processes between national offices.



Peer-learning

- Twinning arrangements/South-South Cooperation to support strengthening national institutions responsible for refugee status determination processes.



Events/working sessions

- Working sessions on protection of displaced children and adolescents.
- Working sessions on standard technical concepts on RSD for the region.
- Dialogues on contextualized Country-of-Origin Information (COI): In this session, MIRPS States will be trained on research, validation, verification and applicability of reliable and relevant COI (Haiti, Nicaragua and Colombia).
- Working sessions on the digitalization of asylum applications, a Platform for Processing Procedures, the implementation of Biometrics in RSD procedures, and the implementation of effective communication processes between national offices.



Potential partners

- UNICEF.
- Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.
- Inter-American Children's Institute.
- Inter-American Development Bank.
- CAF Development Bank.
- Asylum Capacity Support Group (Global Compact on Refugees).
- Civil society organizations.



Linked processes

- Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection.
- Cartagena+40.
- Quito Process (International Protection/Brazil).
- Regional Conference on Migration.
- Declaration for the Protection and Integration of Migrant and Refugee Children and Adolescents in the Americas (OAS).



Communications

- Products related to documentation.
- Products related to good practices of National Commissions for Refugees to obtain greater efficiency in the process of protection.

BELIZE PRO-TEMPORE PRESIDENCY

Objective 1.2

Conduct context-specific protection analysis to guide legal frameworks, policy, and strategies to address internal displacement in MIRPS States.

Regional Technical Team on Internal Displacement



Products

- Protection analysis including main risks identified, groups most affected and prioritized geographical areas.
- Guidelines on shelter responses for displaced persons.
- Statistical data on internal displacement by country.
- Development of minimum criteria for registration of internally displaced persons.
- Progress in prevention protocols and early warnings.
- Proposal for the development of models for care and durable solutions.



Events/Working sessions

- Inter-American Forum on Internal Displacement with the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons.
- Event on Data and Internal Displacement.
- Session on shelter responses for displaced persons.



Potential partners

- Government Institutions
- UNDP
- Civil society organizations
- Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
- ECLAC

SOLUTIONS

Objective 1.3

Promote the self-reliance of refugees and other displaced or stateless communities by facilitating access to decent work and entrepreneurship, through the employability mechanisms of involved government institutions; national legislation and relevant policies; and by facilitating the recognition of competencies, knowledge and skills, with the support and assistance of the members of the MIRPS Support Platform, and in partnership with the private sector and civil society.

Regional Technical Team on Jobs and Livelihoods

**Products**

- Regional strategy for linking public employment systems for socioeconomic inclusion incorporating refugees, asylum seekers, people at risk of statelessness and stateless persons.
- Regional strategy for the recognition of skills in MIRPS states, including: Single portal on competency certification; Define common elements to position the competency evaluation and certification services of each country; Define a strategy for the dissemination of services aimed at different users.
- One product as included in the joint CSO/private sector plans.
- Tools to facilitate livelihood for refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons, and people at risk of statelessness based on people's skills for the labor market.
- Recommendations to guarantee the right to education of Asylum Seekers, Refugees, and Returnees in Need of Protection, through the implementation of Flexible and Inclusive Strategies that contribute to the Securing and Protection of Formal Educational Trajectories.

**Events/Working sessions**

- Event on experiences of multilateral or regional employability systems.
- Learning event on certification of skills.
- Meeting with the Private Sector.
- Exchange of Successful Educational Experiences, on Processes and Strategies for Flexible and Inclusive Access, for the Guarantee of the Universal Right to Education.

**Potential partners**

- ILO
- UNHCR
- Private sector
- Civil Society organizations
- Inter-American Development Bank
- World Bank

**Linked processes**

- Regional Conference on Migration
- Quito Process (Social Economic Integration/ Colombia)



Communications

- Success stories on labor integration.
- Contributions of displaced persons to host communities.

Objective 1.4

Promote the leadership of local governments and strengthen coordination with relevant institutions to facilitate the integration at the local level of displaced persons, with a focus on prevention of gender-based violence and promotion of mental health and psychosocial support programs for displaced populations.

Regional Technical Team on Local Governments



Products

- Tools for local programs for the prevention and response of GBV
- Tools for the implementation psychosocial support policies and programs
- Mapping of local services for displaced persons
- Strategy for including refugees and people in need of protection through sport, recreational and cultural activities that favor this population's mental health.



Events/Working sessions

- Working sessions with health officers on MHPSS
- Event on recommendations and best practices on the role of Local Governments in Reception and Integration of Migrants, Refugees and Displaced People



Potential partners

- UN Women
- UNFPA
- Civil society organizations
- Inter-American Commission of Women
- World Bank

Result 2: Increased participation of key stakeholders in the implementation of the MIRPS regional and national action plans.

Objective 2.1

Enhance existing coordination channels with the MIRPS Support Platform to mobilize technical, financial, and material resources for MIRPS initiatives on protection and solutions.



Products

- Seven projects implemented in MIRPS States, through the MIRPS Fund at the OAS.
- To identify seven “Good practices projects” for the integration of displaced persons in MIRPS states, implemented with the support of the United States as Past SP Chair.



Events

- Dialogue between MIRPS and SP representatives in the OAS Permanent Missions and Observers to the OAS.

Objective 2.2

Strengthen the participation of civil society organizations, private sector and academia, through the MIRPS Dialogue Mechanisms, to support the response of MIRPS Member States to displacement.



Products

- Joint Annual Work Plan with the MIRPS Civil Society Mechanism, including opportunities for their participation in MIRPS Regional technical teams’ sessions and activities, and promoting their involvement as partners in the implementation of the MIRPS National Action Plans.
- Organization of the MIRPS Private Sector Dialogue Mechanism and outreach with key business organizations (at 3 levels- regional, sectoral and individuals) with presence in the MIRPS countries to continue raising awareness and position MIRPS and the ways private sector can contribute with its objectives.
- Terms of Reference for the MIRPS Academia Dialogue Mechanism, that includes a list of potential Academia partners that could be involved in MIRPS activities.
- Organization of the MIRPS Refugees and IDPs Advisory Board.



Events

- - Fifth edition of the Inter-American Course on the Protection of IDPs, asylum seekers, refugees, returnees, and other populations in need of protection in the Americas, including a session on international protection.
- Consultation on statelessness in Central America and Mexico.



Potential partners

- Catedra Sergio Vieira de Mello (CSVM), OAS, University of Notre Dame.

BELIZE PRO-TEMPORE PRESIDENCY

Result 3: Further develop of existing talent in the MIRPS teams, with individual and organizational capacities for standardized data collection, sharing and reporting.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT



Products

- Selection of MIRPS regional indicators
- MIRPS Mid-year report
- 4 thematic newsletters
- Why MIRPS matters for -asylum/integration/solutions?
- Event on Statistical Inclusion and Displacement



Training

- **Developing High-Quality Indicators:** This session aims to enhance the capabilities of MIRPS States in creating and updating effective indicators for measuring the implementation progress of their national plans. This training will focus on ensuring consistency with both the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the pledges presented at GRF. Participants will gain valuable skills to articulate indicators that align closely with international standards, fostering a more accurate and comprehensive assessment of their efforts in addressing refugee-related challenges.
- **Project Formulation:** This training will impart the knowledge, skills, and methodologies necessary for effectively conceptualizing, planning, and developing projects.
- **Communicating results efficiently and storytelling in the context of refugee responses** involves effectively conveying and sharing information about the outcomes and actions taken in a concise and impactful manner. It encompasses the skillful use of narrative techniques to articulate the experiences, challenges, and successes related to refugee initiatives, ensuring that the communicated message is informative.
- **Communication with communities:** MIRPS States will be provided with guidance on enhancing their listening and communication skills with refugees and displaced persons.
- **How to create a social media advocacy program:** The objective of this session will be to empower participants with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to leverage social media effectively for advocating on behalf of displaced persons and addressing their specific needs.
- **Training on statistical data:** The training aims to enhance the capability of participants to navigate, analyze, and utilize statistical data effectively, contributing to evidence-based decision-making and improved understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by displaced populations.
- **How to create an informative and advisory platform,** where the actions taken by each country are published (emblematic cases).

Proposed Timeline 2024

[illegible]

BELIZE PRO-TEMPORE PRESIDENCY

[illegible]