



ADDRESSING FORCED DISPLACEMENT: THE MIRPS IN 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.

MIRPS IN BELIZE

MIRPS NATIONAL TECHNICAL TEAM

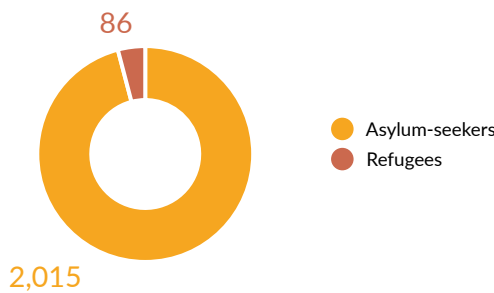
- Ministry of Immigration: Refugees Department
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Intl Cooperation Unit
- Ministry of Human Development
- Ministry of Economic Development
- Ministry of Home Affairs

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

- Help for Progress
- Human People to People Belize
- Human Rights Commission of Belize
- Belize Network of NGOs

FIGURES AT A GLANCE

PEOPLE OF CONCERN IN BELIZE



Source: UNHCR / Dec 2021

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

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.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Third national amnesty

Towards the end of 2021, the Government announced an amnesty for targeted undocumented persons who remain in Belize. At an early stage, the decision was taken to include persons with international protection needs, for whom the amnesty offers an alternative pathway to regularize their legal status in Belize.

1



PROTECTION

Expanded asylum processing capacity

Having received support to expand its institutional operational capacity, the Government's Refugees Department is staffed with five additional refugee eligibility officers who received intensive technical training related to the reduction of the backlog of claims and improved modalities for the management of new asylum cases. Simultaneously, the departments' processes in data registration, storage, and analysis are being upgraded with new hardware and software for the department's Ministry of Immigration, while the Refugee Eligibility Committee has received in-depth technical training in the adjudication of asylum claims.

Increased uptake of vocational and entrepreneurship training services

Since early 2020, Belize remains focused on expanding technical vocational education services to young refugee and asylum-seeker students, together with national youth from host communities. In 2021, it mobilized resources to place a national focus on the growth of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), to provide new pathways for asylum-seekers and refugees to enroll in formal enterprise development initiatives managed by the Trade and Investment Development Service, the Small Business Development Centre and the Belize Training and Employment Centre.



EDUCATION

2

UPDATED COMMITMENTS

2022-2023

The MIRPS National Technical Team in Belize reviewed and updated its national action plan in 2022 to maintain the relevance and validity of the MIRPS and reflect the current challenges for addressing displacement.

Governmental institutions have identified strategic interventions that require urgent support for the implementation of the plan in the short term (2022-2023). These interventions would address critical needs for the protection of and solutions for displaced populations.

**ESTIMATED COST FOR STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS (2022-2023):
USD 500 K***

* This estimated cost only includes prioritized commitments that have been costed and can be implemented by governmental institutions in 2022 – 2023. It does not include activities by international organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders.

The full list of commitments are presented below by focus area:



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.

THE MIRPS

The Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS) is a regional contribution to the Global Compact on Refugees formed by the governments of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama to strengthen protection and promote solutions for forcibly displaced populations, addressing the underlying causes and promoting a stable environment that ensures security, economic development and prosperity.



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ADDRESSING FORCED DISPLACEMENT: THE MIRPS IN COSTA RICA

Costa Rica has a long-standing tradition of hosting persons that have been forcibly displaced from their countries of origin. Its democratic stability, robust institutions, and tradition of respecting human rights provide the conditions for refugees and asylum-seekers to find the security and opportunities they need to rebuild their lives.

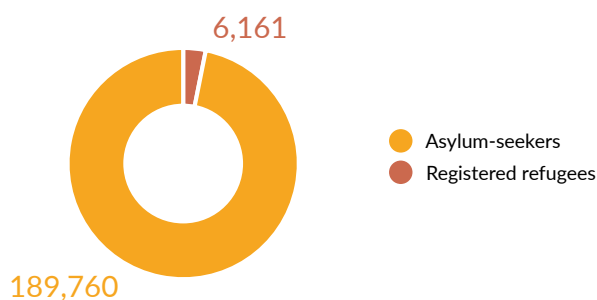
In recent years, Costa Rica has grown in prominence as a country of asylum due to persecution and violence in the region, especially in Nicaragua, Venezuela, Cuba, and northern Central America. From 2018 to July 2022, a total of 195,921 persons with international protection needs have sought refuge in the country. This includes 6,161 registered refugees and 189,760 asylum-seekers. Additionally, there are 67 recognized stateless persons, with 125 individuals undergoing the statelessness determination process.

The sustained increase in the number of persons seeking international protection in the country has placed additional pressure on national institutions and their respective response capacities. The economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has further intensified the country's challenges to attend to this population. In the first quarter of 2022, 50,224 persons formalized their asylum claims in the country.

While the country has a robust asylum system, the current displacement context is creating new challenges in its response, in a scenario where the demand for services exceed the supply. When displaced persons enter the territory to seek international protection, border communities are on the frontlines of the response to meeting the needs of this population. The northern border communities, ranking second lowest in the national development index, provide asylum-seekers and refugees with basic health services, education, and humanitarian assistance. The Government and UN agencies are promoting a territorial approach that engages development actors, international financial institutions, and other humanitarian agencies to strengthen host communities and ensure access to rights and services. Costa Rica appeals to the international community to support country efforts to respond to and address the growing needs of refugees and asylum-seekers.

FIGURES AT A GLANCE

PEOPLE OF CONCERN IN COSTA RICA



Source: Refugee Unit, General Migration Authority.
Data included from 2018 to July 2022

THE MIRPS IN COSTA RICA

NATIONAL TECHNICAL TEAM

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship
- Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MTSS)
- Ministry of Public Education (MEP)
- Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy (MIDEPLAN)
- Viceministry of the Interior
- General Migration Authority (DGME)
- Social Security Bureau (CCSS)
- Social Welfare Institute (IMAS)
- National Apprenticeship Institute (INA)
- National Council of Persons with Disabilities (CONAPDIS)

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

23 COMMITMENTS



PROTECTION
9 COMMITMENTS



JOBS AND LIVELIHOODS
3 COMMITMENTS



SOCIAL PROTECTION
8 COMMITMENTS



EDUCATION
3 COMMITMENTS

ACHIEVEMENTS

1



PROTECTION

Complementary protection for Venezuelans, Nicaraguans and Cubans

In December 2020, the Government of Costa Rica approved complementary protection measure, ensuring effective protection to persons of these three nationalities whose asylum claims were denied, but cannot return to their home countries due to security concerns. This pilot initiative ran from December 2020 – February 2022, which provided legal security and the granting of a work permit providing unfettered access to the labour market. 4,038 individuals requested this protection, which was granted to 3,934 persons. This represents an approximate approval rate of **99%**.

Access of refugees and asylum-seekers to national poverty-reduction programmes

Costa Rica guarantees that asylum-seekers and refugees in situations of poverty and extreme poverty can access the poverty reduction programmes of the Social Welfare Institute (IMAS) as the same way as Costa Ricans. This access provides refugees and asylum-seekers with inclusion into the national social protection and social mobility systems. In 2021, **4,134** refugees were awarded benefits through different programs.



SOCIAL PROTECTION

2

3



JOBS AND LIVELIHOODS

Access to documentation allowing asylum-seekers to access the labour market

The Government of Costa Rica grants refugees and asylum-seekers work permits so that they can enter the labour market and supports their integration through the national employment platform, which provides training offered by public institutions to respond to opportunities within the domestic labour market. In 2021, the platform registered **5,490** foreign nationals, including 35 refugees and asylum-seekers. An additional 81 refugees also participated in other training opportunities to increase their employability.

Health insurance for asylum-seekers and refugees

The Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS) provides temporary health insurance to asylum-seekers and refugees as part of an agreement signed with UNHCR. The agreement guarantees asylum-seekers and refugees access to public health services throughout the country. This agreement currently benefits **6,000** people.



HEALTH

4

UPDATED COMMITMENTS

The MIRPS National Technical Team in Costa Rica reviewed and updated its national action plan in 2022 to maintain the relevance and validity of the MIRPS and reflect the current challenges for addressing displacement.

Governmental institutions have identified strategic interventions that require urgent support for the implementation of the plan in the short term (2022-2023). These interventions would address critical needs for the protection of and solutions for displaced populations.

ESTIMATED COST FOR STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS (2022-2023): **USD 4.3 M***

* This estimated cost only includes prioritized commitments that have been costed and can be implemented by governmental institutions in 2022 – 2023. It does not include activities by international organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders.

The full list of commitments are presented below by focus area:

PROTECTION

Strengthen the Costa Rican asylum system to ensure the effective access of forcibly displaced persons to the refugee status determination process and the protection of their rights.

- **Presence at the border:** Strengthen the existing agreement between DGME and UNHCR that facilitates the presence of liaison personnel at border migration posts in Peñas Blancas, Los Chiles and Tablillas in the north, and Paseo Canoas in the south, as well as extending it to ensure the placement of at least one person in the ports of Golfito, Limón, Caldera and in both international airports.
- **Regionalization of the Refuge Unit:** Advance the regionalization of the Refuge Unit in the offices of Upala, Liberia, Paso Canoas, Limón, los Chiles and San Carlos to decentralize the functions of the Unit.
- **Strengthen the Temporary Care Center for Migrants (CATEM):** Guarantee the allocation of funds for the maintenance of infrastructure, equipment, and administration of the CATEMs as a good regional practice as an alternative to administrative detention.
- **Promote national or international public-public and/or public-private partnerships** to secure funds and respond to the need for assistance and legal sponsorship for asylum-seekers undergoing refugee status determination.
- **Project for the Prevention of Delays:** Increase the number of officials specialized in refugee matters, by at least 6 persons in each instance.
- **Strengthening of the Commission on Restricted Visas and Refuge (CVRR):** Assign a full-time Specialized Legal Advisor to each Commissioner, in charge of the respective Ministries in order to assist in the review of files received by the Refuge Unit, and in the preparation of draft CVRR resolutions.
- **Maintain free documentation for asylum-seekers** and reduce the cost of documentation for refugees.
- **Digitization of the Refugee Process:** With the technical and financial support of UNHCR, the DGME will develop a digital system for processing asylum claims that will speed up the process of issuing documents, advancing appointments, and reducing wait times to receive official documentation. This system will allow the Refuge Unit to reduce the number of cases pending the formalization of applications and/or eligibility interviews.
- The General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners will **adapt the procedures for refugee status determination** in line with the assistance, care, and support needs of persons with disabilities claiming asylum to guarantee due process in accordance with their needs and circumstances. This action must be carried out by the DGME with the support of CONAPDIS.



JOBS AND LIVELIHOODS

Support the integration of refugees and asylum-seekers into Costa Rican society through employment opportunities and entrepreneurship initiatives that promote their self-reliance.

- **Labour integration project for LGBTI populations:** The Ministry of Human Development and Social Inclusion, through Bridge to Work or the National Employment System and with the support of UNHCR, will coordinate a training and labour integration programme for refugees from the LGBTI community.
- **Protection of the labour rights of refugees and asylum-seekers:** a) The National Labour Inspection will consider refugees in its procedures to ensure their labour rights and employer obligations are recognized on an equal basis as nationals; b) Informative actions will also be carried out on current legislation to improve the recognition of the identity documents of asylum-seekers and refugees and reduce discrimination and xenophobia during the recruitment and selection processes.
- **Entrepreneurship promotion project:** The Ministry of Economy, Industry and Commerce will include enterprises led by refugees in the Register of Entrepreneurs and will encourage their participation in business meetings and other activities organized by the Ministry to strengthen micro and small businesses.



SOCIAL PROTECTION

Ensure access and inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers in Costa Rica to the national social protection system to meet their needs through the programs and services offered by public institutions in this sector.

- **Inclusion of the category of refugee in the information files of the social sector:** The Ministry of Human Development and Social Inclusion will instruct all the institutions of the social sector and the National System of Unique Registry of Beneficiaries (SINIRUBE) to include the categories of “refugee status” and “refugee status applicant” in their information sheets.
- **Protocols for care of refugees in the social sector:** The Ministry of Human Development and Social Inclusion will provide technical support to all institutions in the social sector to establish protocols that allow the standardization of care for refugees and asylum-seekers, as well as the implementation of internal awareness processes that guarantee the application of these protocols in all institutions.
- **Solidarity networks for refugees:** The Ministry of Human Development and Social Inclusion, with the collaboration of UNHCR, will promote the participation of civil society in the care of refugees through research initiatives and professional practices with public and private universities.
- **Creation of a collective health agreement** under the modality of temporary voluntary insurance for asylum-seekers and refugees to guarantee the fundamental right to medical care, and to facilitate integration into Costa Rican society.
- **Methodology for quantifying the state contribution to refugees:** The Ministry of National Planning and National Economic Policy (MIDEPLAN) will develop a methodology for quantifying the state contribution in terms of care for refugees with technical support from the OECD. It will be presented to other institutions and MIDEPLAN provide training and support for its use. Formulation, validation, and implementation of a system for generating simultaneous accurate data on the gap in public financing to cover all of the comprehensive care needs of asylum-seekers and refugees, and training of personnel at the institutional level for its optimal use and analytical skills that facilitate decision-making and fundraising in international cooperation will also be undertaken.
- **Development of a care protocol for attending to people with disabilities** during the RSD and integration process.
- **Care protocol for adults and minors seeking asylum and/or refugees** who present health issues derived from the use of psychoactive substances: The Institute on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (IAFA) will develop a care procedure for asylum-seekers and refugees to guarantee access to IAFA care services and those of NGOs that are part of the national treatment system, under the supervision of the Institute.
- **Access for refugees to social interest housing programmes:** The Ministry of Housing and Human Settlements (MIVAH) guarantees access for refugees who meet the conditions and meet the requirements established in its current regulations and legal frameworks, to all social interest housing programmes of the Costa Rican Government.



EDUCATION

Ensure the right to public education and integration into the educational communities of refugee claimants and refugees who are minors in Costa Rica, as well as provide opportunities for technical and vocational training to increase the employability of this population.

- **Promote the attention and integration of the refugee population and refugee applicants** in the Costa Rican educational system from the intercultural education approach.
- **Project for the provision of alternative evidence for recognition of academic degrees:** CONARE will incorporate the Consular Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship into the Memorandum of Understanding with UNHCR for the provision of tests or alternative evidence in the formalization of the application for recognition and equation of academic degrees and professional titles in the country of origin in favour of refugees.
- **Offer priority attention to refugees referred by MINARE,** in accordance with the services offered by INA (education, certification, and training) provided that the referred persons meet the entry requirements established by the institution and the legal framework.

THE MIRPS

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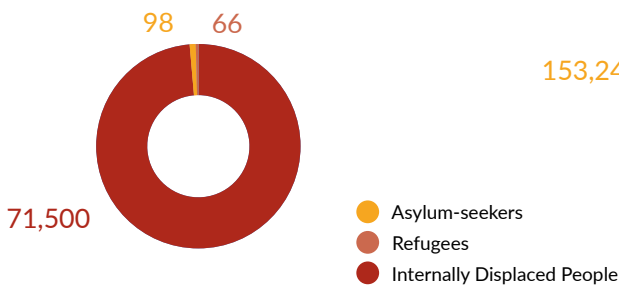
ADDRESSING FORCED DISPLACEMENT: THE MIRPS IN EL SALVADOR

From 2006 to 2016, 71,500 people were displaced in El Salvador, according to the first internal forced displacement characterization exercise led by the Ministry of Justice and Public Security in 2018. In January 2020, the country approved a law to provide protection and offer durable solutions to persons who are internally displaced or at risk of displacement due to violence. However, human mobility in Central America and Mexico remains a complex issue, and the number of asylum-seekers and refugees in El Salvador has continued to rise.

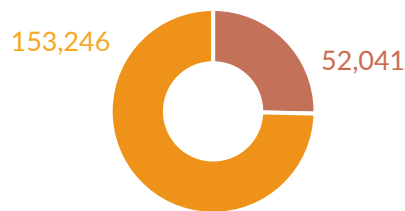
Existing advances in legislation and operational responses for the protection of forcibly displaced persons and refugees require strengthening. El Salvador joined the MIRPS in 2019 and expressed its commitment through a National Action Plan concerning asylum, livelihoods, education, psychosocial support, health, legal assistance, and the protection of rights. This National Action Plan complements the commitments made during the 2019 Global Refugee Forum.

FIGURES AT A GLANCE

PEOPLE OF CONCERN IN EL SALVADOR



PEOPLE OF CONCERN FROM EL SALVADOR GLOBALLY



Source: UNHCR / Dec 2021

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

43 COMMITMENTS



PROTECTION
22 COMMITMENTS



EDUCATION
6 COMMITMENTS



JOBS & LIVELIHOODS
8 COMMITMENTS



HEALTH
7 COMMITMENTS

MIRPS IN EL SALVADOR

MIRPS NATIONAL TECHNICAL TEAM

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Justice and Public Security
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
- Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare
- Ministry of Local Development
- Ministry of Interior and Territorial Development
- El Salvador Agency for International Cooperation

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS*

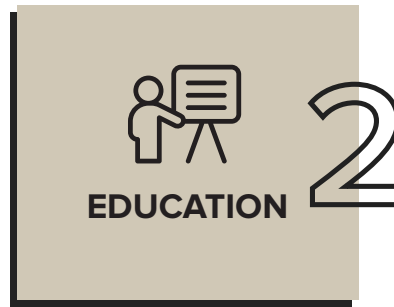
- International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- Save the Children
- World Vision
- Association Communicating and Training Trans Women (COMCAVIS TRANS)
- SOS Children's Villages
- Plan Foundation
- Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
- Scalabrini
- Foundation for Salvadoran Development and Affordable Housing (FUNDASAL)

(* UNHCR in El Salvador contributes to institutional strengthening through the implementation of actions -directly or indirectly- through these partner organizations in 2022.

ACHIEVEMENTS



- In 2022, the Government of El Salvador obtained results from a pilot project as the basis for updating the characterization study on internal forced displacement. The quantitative and qualitative information on forced displacement to be collected in the study will allow evidence-based decision-making for the design of public policies.



- Strengthened educational modalities allow children and adolescents to continue their education through the implementation of both regular and flexible (accelerated, distance, blended, evening, and virtual) modalities, using a range of platforms including television, radio, and other communication channels.

- The School Councils offer improved psychosocial support services to internally displaced boys and girls. This programme works to create safe educational environments, which contributes to educational continuity.

- Displaced or at-risk persons who are in temporary shelters benefit from improved child, adolescent, and youth focused care, through the implementation of an educational continuity strategy.

- In 2022, the opening of two new “A tu Lado” attention spaces in the municipalities of San Miguel and Santa Ana strengthens the capacity of the local response to displaced populations, which includes the free provision of information on rights and assistance in a safe and confidential way.

- In 2022, the government has continued to make investments in State institutional capacity to enhance an effective response to humanitarian protection, case management, human rights, and victim assistance.

- The Preliminary Draft of the National Policy for Territorial Planning and Development incorporates guidelines related to the care of displaced persons.



- As part of the “My First Job” Programme supporting at-risk youth to strengthen their skills to access the labour market, 62 participants signed employment contract with local employers following their graduation during the first half of the year.



- Implementation of a public campaign to disseminate information on the rights of victims of violence to access essential healthcare.

- The ongoing facilitation of training for multidisciplinary and first-level health personnel is strengthening the timely care and monitoring of cases of forced displacement.

- Specialized workshops supporting internally displaced women and/or survivors of gender-based violence have continued, providing psychosocial support and strengthening their micro-entrepreneurial skills. A total of 33 women benefited from the workshops so far this year.

UPDATED COMMITMENTS

The MIRPS National Technical Team in El Salvador reviewed and updated its national action plan in 2022, to maintain the relevance and validity of the MIRPS and reflect the current challenges for addressing displacement.

Governmental institutions have identified strategic interventions that require urgent support for the implementation of the plan in the short term (2022-2023). These interventions would address critical needs for the protection of and solutions for displaced populations.

ESTIMATED COST FOR STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS (2022-2023): USD 9.5 M*

* This estimated cost only includes prioritized commitments that have been costed and can be implemented by governmental institutions in 2022 – 2023. It does not include activities by international organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders.

The full list of commitments are presented below by focus area:

PROTECTION

Strengthen the mechanisms for protecting the fundamental rights of people in conditions of internal forced displacement, and those who are at risk of being displaced, through prevention procedures and a more effective and inclusive care system.

- **Train personnel in specialized legal assistance** (economic, social, and cultural rights), concerning the protection of property and assets for people in need of protection.
- Review and update the **comprehensive care protocol for internally displaced persons**, establishing care routes according to specific profiles and their needs, as well as a follow-up route for cases and an updated mapping of existing services.
- Establish a **specialized unit for displaced populations** with technical teams trained to attend to different profiles within the Direction of Attention to Victims (DAV).
- **Creation of a single registry** of displaced persons and persons at risk of forced displacement, carrying out annual statistical analyses.
- Update the study on the **Characterization of Internal Displacement**.
- **Introduce the initiative “The Special Law for the Care of Persons in Condition or at Risk of Forced Displacement”** and other regulatory frameworks that provide a greater guarantee of protection to internally displaced persons.
- **Review and update existing protocols and routes in the Center for the Attention of Migrants (GAMI)** to include specialized care according to profile and vulnerability (children and adolescents, women, families, LGBTI population, people with disabilities, and older persons).
- Implementation by all institutions with a presence in the GAMI of the single migratory registry and software development and implementation of a protection module to **strengthen the identification and management of cases of deportees with protection needs** (children and adolescents, women, family groups, LGBTI population, people with disabilities, older adults).
- **Establish a training plan for GAMI staff** based on identified needs, where organizations join according to their mandates/expertise.
- Create, print, and disseminate **informative materials on the available services** provided by the institutions present at the GAMI.
- Dissemination at the national level for the population of the new **Immigration and Foreigners Law**.
- **Implement trainings z z** for the consular network in Mexico, the United States, Guatemala, and Belize for the identification of profiles with protection needs.
- **Design of a roadmap for the identification and care of people in need of protection** abroad, which includes routes directly linked to the services that exist at the national level.
- **Carry out training, as well as disseminate information and communication** on the right to international protection, the asylum process, and its corresponding identity document for asylum-seekers and refugees, aimed at government institutions and private companies.
- Technically and operationally **strengthen the Commission for the Determination of Refugee Status (CODER)** (the Secretariat and Sub-Commission) to increase the capacity to analyze and resolve requests.
- Design and print **informative materials on the asylum process in El Salvador**.

- **Develop a bill for the granting of “International Protection and Statelessness,”** for the integration of the refugee population in El Salvador.
- Design and implement **care routes for forcibly displaced women or women at risk**, as well as self-care processes aimed at technical staff at the Ciudad Mujer Centers.
- Incorporate **guidelines and directives aimed to respond to the situation of displaced persons**, in the formulation of the National Policy of Territorial Planning and Development (PNODT).
- **Incorporate guidelines for the sectors linked to forcibly displaced populations**, in the formulation of the Master Plan for Territorial Planning and Development (PLAMODT), in order to mitigate the situation.
- Enable spaces for the **dissemination and socialization of the Practical Guide** for planning, assembly, and coordination of shelters at the municipal, departmental, and national level.
- Creation of the **national network of sectoral technical teams for shelters (ETS-A)** at the municipal and departmental levels.



EDUCATION

Continue strengthening mechanisms for protecting the rights of the educational community in a situation of internal forced displacement or at risk of being displaced, through strategies that promote their protection and attention, through, among others, the harmonization of regulatory frameworks, and in accordance with the recently approved law, “Grow Together for the Comprehensive Protection of Early Childhood, Childhood and Adolescence.”

- Implement a process for **collecting reliable information in the System for information management of the Ministry of Education (SIGES)** on the impact of internal forced displacement on students and teachers at the national level.
- **Update and harmonize** the “Guide for Assistance to Displaced Children, Adolescents, Youth, and Teachers or at Risk of Internal Forced Displacement” and the “Operational Manual for Assistance to Displaced Children, Adolescents, Youth, and Teachers or at Risk of Internal Forced Displacement” to the law, “Growing Together for the Comprehensive Protection of Early Childhood, Childhood and Adolescence” and related regulations.
- **Design and print** the “Guide for Assistance to Displaced Children, Adolescents, Youth, and Teachers or at Risk of Internal Forced Displacement,” the “Operational Manual for Assistance to Displaced Children, Adolescents, Youth, and Teachers or at Risk of Internal Forced Displacement,” and the law, “Growing Together for the Comprehensive Protection of Early Childhood, Childhood and Adolescence” and related regulations.
- **Disseminate materials for students and teachers nationwide on** the human rights-based approach; the impact of forced displacement due to violence; protection mechanisms established in the “Guide for Assistance to Displaced Children, Adolescents, Youth, and Teachers or at Risk of Internal Forced Displacement” and the “Operational Manual for Assistance to Displaced Children, Adolescents, Youth, and Teachers or at Risk of Internal Forced Displacement.”
- **Harmonize, design, and print education regulations with a human rights-based approach** to incorporate protection mechanisms against threats and violations of the rights of girls, boys, adolescents, and teachers in the Educational System.
- Implement actions to **prevent, protect, and restore the rights of children and adolescents against school violence** and forced internal displacement as a cause of school dropout and social risk.



JOBS AND LIVELIHOODS

Expand access to economic opportunities and durable solutions for people forcibly displaced in El Salvador or at risk of being displaced, to promote their self-sufficiency and conditions of respect and dignity.

- Design of **information and awareness campaigns** on the rights of displaced populations and existing services.
- **Creation of a specialized centre** that promotes technical/vocational programmes, access to tertiary education, livelihoods, and the promotion of labour insertion (in coordination with private companies) for forcibly displaced populations.
- **Promote programming for technical skills training and life-skills training**, prioritizing access for forcibly displaced populations.
- **Design of a local inclusion model** for refugees and asylum-seekers that includes actions from a legal, economic, and social perspective.

- **Priority access to job placement programmes** for displaced or at-risk populations.
- **Strengthen awareness-raising processes with the private sector** for hiring vulnerable, displaced, or at-risk populations, refugees, or asylum-seekers, in favour of diversity and inclusion.
- **Strengthen and coordinate the labour insertion table**, articulated with the different associations of the LGBTI population and INSAFORP for their technical training.
- **Provide access to income-generating programmes and services** that favour inclusion and economic autonomy for women who are forcibly displaced or at risk, referred from the Ciudad Mujer Centers and territories.



HEALTH

Expand specialized medical and psychosocial care adapted to the needs of victims of forced displacement by the National Health System of El Salvador, through services provided with quality and warmth, in favor of their dignity, inclusion and respect for human rights.

- **Design and implement information and awareness campaigns** on the rights of displaced persons, deported persons in need of protection, refugees, and asylum-seekers to access health services.
- **Develop a specialized protocol for the comprehensive health care** (medical and psychosocial) of displaced persons, deported persons in need of protection, refugees, and asylum-seekers.
- **Provide specialized training to health system officials** on psychological, psychiatric, and psychosocial care for people affected by forced displacement (internally displaced people, deported persons with protection needs, refugees, and asylum-seekers).
- **Coordinate comprehensive mobile care** (medical and psychosocial) for health services in shelters and reception spaces to care for displaced persons, deported persons with protection needs, refugees, and asylum-seekers.
- **Design a model of psychological/psychosocial care for people affected by violence** (internally displaced people, deported persons with protection needs, refugees, and asylum-seekers).
- **Design internal forced displacement indicators for inclusion in the Ministry of Health's Information System** for the analysis of the impact of internal displacement on health, as input for the design of programs and interventions.
- **Include within its policies and protocols comprehensive health care** (direct medical care, psychosocial care, care for chronic diseases, special health conditions) to guarantee continued care and access to specific medications for displaced persons, deported persons with protection needs, refugees, and asylum-seekers, without discrimination.

THE MIRPS

The Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS) is a regional contribution to the Global Compact on Refugees formed by the governments of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama to strengthen protection and promote solutions for forcibly displaced populations, addressing the underlying causes and promoting a stable environment that ensures security, economic development and prosperity.



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MIRPS
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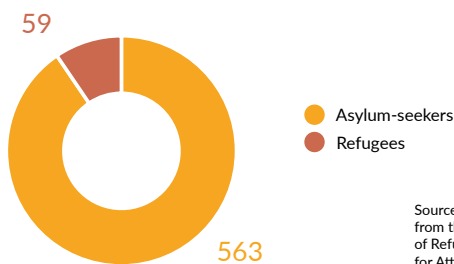
ADDRESSING FORCED DISPLACEMENT: THE MIRPS IN GUATEMALA

Guatemala is considered to be a country of origin, transit, destination, and return of people in contexts of human mobility. Currently, Guatemala assumes an important role as a host country for an increasingly growing number of people who are fleeing their countries because their lives are at risk and who are in search of international protection. The member institutions of the National Technical Team (NTT) with their different mandates, contribute to generating the conditions of protection, education, health, employment, and livelihoods for refugees, asylum-seekers and returnees.

Currently, through its institutions, the country makes constant and targeted efforts to serve refugees, asylum-seekers, and people with international protection needs; ensure the provision of specialized, differentiated, safe and dignified reception conditions; strengthen institutions that govern the protection of children and adolescents, especially in border areas and transit routes; attend to returnees with protection needs; enhance the approach for attending to groups in situations of high vulnerability; promote labour-inclusion through access to jobs and livelihoods; among other important actions for protection and durable solutions.

FIGURES AT A GLANCE

JANUARY TO JULY 2022



Source: Prepared with official data from the Department for the Recognition of Refugee Status (DRER) of the Subdirectorate for Attention and Protection of Fundamental Rights of Migrants of the Guatemalan Migration Institute (IGM), July 2022.

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

27 COMMITMENTS



PROTECTION
14 COMMITMENTS



EDUCATION
2 COMMITMENTS



HEALTH
1 COMMITMENT



JOBS & LIVELIHOODS
10 COMMITMENTS

MIRPS IN GUATEMALA

MIRPS NATIONAL TECHNICAL TEAM

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MINEX)
- Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MINTRAB)
- Ministry of Education (MINEDUC)
- Secretary of Social Welfare of the Presidency of the Republic (SBS)
- Guatemalan Institute of Migration (IGM)

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT THE MIRPS

- The Children's Shelter Association
- LAMBDA Association
- House of the Guatemalan Migrant (CdM) Missionaries of San Carlos Scalabrinians
- Research and Projection Institute on Global and Territorial Dynamics (IDGT) of the Rafael Landívar University (URL)
- Pastoral Care for Human Mobility (PMH) of the Episcopal Conference of Guatemala (CEG)

ACHIEVEMENTS

Contribution to the development of refugee children and host communities

Through the new Casa Joven in Amatitlán, the Social Welfare Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic has provided care to adolescents and youth in vulnerable situations from January to June 2022.

Casa Joven offers a friendly and discrimination-free space for the technical training of its beneficiaries.

Children and youth attending Casa Joven in activities for the prevention of violence, from Jan-June 2022:

- 455 received psychosocial attention
- 220 participated in educational, cultural, and sports activities
- 20 participated in social and civic services

1



PROTECTION

Inauguration of the Comprehensive Child Care Center

in the municipality of Santa Elena, Peten: In charge of the Social Welfare Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic, it provides care, food, and comprehensive care services for the children of the municipality.

Promotion of labour inclusion for asylum-seekers and refugees, through the “Renaciendo en Guate” Campaign

Promoted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, the private sector, public officials, and the population in general learn more about the causes of displacement and the benefits of providing opportunities.



JOBS AND LIVELIHOODS

2

Faster and more efficient management of work permits

Through the Electronic Platform for Work Permits for Foreigners (PEX), the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare has simplified and automated the process of issuing work permits for foreigners.

Work permits issued with a maximum processing time of 4 days (January to July 2022):

- 432 for asylum seekers
- 44 for refugees



UPDATED COMMITMENTS

The MIRPS National Technical Team in Guatemala reviewed and updated its national action plan in 2022 to maintain the relevance and validity of the MIRPS and reflect the current challenges for addressing displacement.

Governmental institutions have identified strategic interventions that require urgent support for the implementation of the plan in the short term (2022-2023). These interventions would address critical needs for the protection of and solutions for displaced populations.

ESTIMATED COST FOR STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS (2022-2023): USD 2.1 M*

* This estimated cost only includes prioritized commitments that have been costed and can be implemented by governmental institutions in 2022 – 2023. It does not include activities by international organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders.

The full list of commitments are presented below by focus area:



PROTECTION

Continue strengthening the institutions that provide assistance to refugees, asylum-seekers, persons in need of international protection, and returnees to guarantee their fundamental rights.

- **Continue strengthening the institutional capacity of the Guatemalan Institute of Migration**, particularly in matters of care and protection of asylum-seekers, refugees, and those in need of international protection.
- **Provide continuous training and updating of processes for the focal points of the National Technical Team** on issues related to the Comprehensive Framework for Protection and Solutions, shelter and international protection, and protection of children and adolescents, among others.
- **Update the current protocols regarding care and protection** for people in contexts of human mobility in accordance with the Migration Code, including refugee status determination and other international protection measures such as the humanitarian visa and other measures adopted by the State.
- **Prepare and distribute informative materials on access to shelter** and other protection and care systems for people in contexts of human mobility.
- **Strengthen the Migratory Attention Centres for Returned Guatemalans (CAMIG)** for the identification (in situ) of Guatemalan returnees who have protection needs.
- **Processes for the exchange of experiences** to raise awareness among public servants in the institutions that work in the context of human mobility and refuge in international protection issues, **to strengthen the processes of assistance, attention, identification, protection, and lasting solutions** with a focus on rights, including an age, gender and diversity perspective, and for the special attention to unaccompanied and separated children and adolescents, women at risk, LGBTBI populations, victims of human trafficking, elderly people, and people with disabilities.
- **Strengthen the institutional capacity for the care and response** of the governing institutions for the protection of children and adolescents, especially in border areas.
- **Implement mechanisms for registering cases and complaints** concerning human rights violations against children and adolescents.
- **Continue strengthening teams of eligibility officers** to guarantee a fair and effective processing of asylum applications in the Department of Recognition of Refugee Status (DRER) of the Guatemalan Institute of Migration (IGM).
- **Strengthen the Temporary Migratory Shelter and Care Centre (CACTMI)** for populations with international protection needs, with specialized and trained teams.
- **Strengthen the Temporary Family Shelter Programme** for the care of children and adolescents returned and in transit with protection needs.
- **Set up a shelter specialized in the care and protection of children and adolescents** in need of international protection in Guatemalan territory.
- **Continue strengthening inter-institutional and intersectoral coordination** to expand care options and basic services to asylum-seekers and refugees.
- **Strengthen the Transit Protection Mechanism** for people at high risk who need support for safe and regular access to countries of refuge.



EDUCATION

Promote the strengthening of mechanisms for the inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers in the national education system, and awareness-raising in the education sector.

- **Coordinate actions with authorities and local educational institutions** throughout the country for the inclusion of girls, boys, adolescents, youth, and adults who are refugees and asylum-seekers into the national education system. This includes awareness and information campaigns aimed at the educational community in coordination with IGM and other related institutions.
- **Implement and socialize the Ministerial Agreement 1753-2019** “Regulation of Equivalence and Equivalence of the Studies in the Levels of Pre-primary, Primary and Secondary Education and in the Subsystems of School and Extracurricular Education” and its instructions for returnees, refugees, and asylum-seekers.



HEALTH

Advance the strengthening of the national health network to provide services and care to refugees, asylum-seekers, other persons in need of international protection, and returnees.

- **Coordinate with the Health Services Network**, especially in border areas, to ensure access and coverage of health services to the Guatemalan, migrant, refugee, asylum-seeker, and returnee population.



JOBS AND LIVELIHOODS

Promote economic inclusion, and facilitate access to national employment services and sustainable livelihoods for refugees, asylum-seekers, other persons in need of international protection, and returnees.

- **Identify and implement the labour skills certification model** and technical-professional training programmes, for the attention of asylum-seekers, refugees, returned Guatemalans, and other people in need of international protection.
- **Propose the modification of labour regulations** to allow the refugee and asylum-seeker populations to access work permits.
- **Design and implement awareness processes** aimed at the private sector and public officials on the rights of refugees, especially in relation to the labour market and access to services.
- **Implement processes of socialization of the use and operation of the Online System of Work Permits for Foreigners (PEX)** of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, aimed at asylum-seekers, refugees, and others.
- **Give continuity to statistical studies** and improve registration systems to understand the profiles of returnees, refugees, and asylum-seekers, including their employment characteristics, for their safe reinsertion and, if necessary, internal relocation.
- **Continue strengthening the infrastructure and tools of the National Employment Service** to promote the labour reinsertion of the refugee applicant population, refugees, and returned Guatemalans.
- Promote, through public-private partnerships, the **reintegration into employment of asylum-seekers, refugees, and returned Guatemalans.**
- **Design awareness campaigns for the business sector** on issues of labour inclusion of returned Guatemalan migrants.
- **Develop a guide for labour inclusion** of persons with disabilities, diverse populations, and persons in situation of human mobility, with a gendered approach. In addition, the development of a manual for the establishment of a system for recognition for the private sector in Guatemala, with the objective of promoting labour inclusion of vulnerable populations.
- **Promote employment fairs and kiosks** to facilitate labour intermediation for asylum seekers, refugees and returned Guatemalans.

THE MIRPS

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ADDRESSING FORCED DISPLACEMENT: THE MIRPS IN HONDURAS

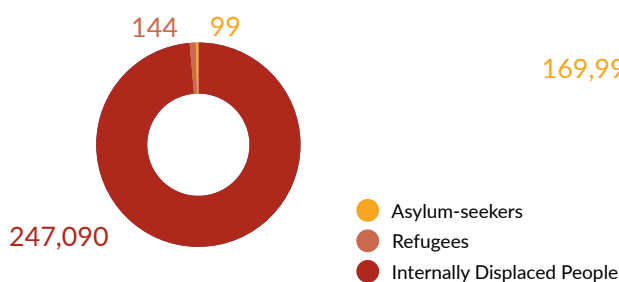
In Honduras, according to official data, at least 247,090 people were internally displaced by violence between 2004 and 2018. From 2015 to date, 529,487 Hondurans returned to the country, and from 2014 to 2022, 546 people applied for asylum in the country. From 2010 to 2022, the increase in people transiting through Honduras in an irregular situation totalled 203,758 people, of which 74,542 were officially registered between January and August 2022. These figures highlight the pressure placed on national institutions and its response capacity to care for people with protection needs.

Since the launch of the MIRPS in 2017, the Government of Honduras has remained committed to establishing a comprehensive response to forced displacement due to violence, and ensuring the care and integration of returnees with protection needs, refugees and asylum-seekers. In 2022, the Government promoted the expansion of the MIRPS National Technical Team, which now includes 12 national institutions. This, together with investments in partnerships with civil society, is enabling a multi-partner response to persons with protection needs.

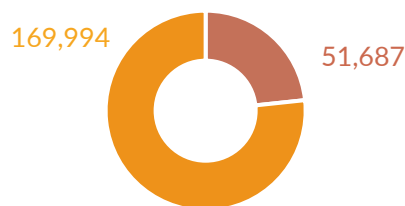
National investments in regulatory frameworks, local governments, and essential services for people in situations of displacement require the support of the international community to: (i) promote the consolidation of regulatory and institutional frameworks; (ii) improve reception conditions and protection and assistance mechanisms; and (iii) link assistance mechanisms to social protection and livelihood programmes to expand options for durable solutions, among others.

FIGURES AT A GLANCE

PEOPLE OF CONCERN
IN HONDURAS



PEOPLE OF CONCERN
FROM HONDURAS GLOBALLY



Source: UNHCR / Dec 2021

MIRPS IN HONDURAS

MIRPS NATIONAL TECHNICAL TEAM

(EXPANDED IN 2022)

- Secretary of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (SRECI)
- Secretary of Human Rights (SEDH)
- National Institute of Migration (INM)
- Secretary of Education (SEDUC)
- Secretary of Security (SS)
- Secretary of Labour and Social Security (STSS)
- Secretary of Social Development (SEDESOL)
- Ministry of Health (SESAL)
- Secretary of the Interior, Justice, and Decentralization (SGJD)
- Women's Secretary (SEMUJER)
- Property Institute (IP)
- Directorate for Children, Adolescents and Family (DINAF)

DIALOGUE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

- Center for Research and Promotion of Human Rights (CIPRODEH)
- National Forum for Migration in Honduras (FONAMIH)
- World Vision Honduras (WV)
- Center for the Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation of Victims of Torture and their Families (CPTRT)
- Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

26 COMMITMENTS



PROTECTION
21 COMMITMENTS



EDUCATION
1 COMMITMENT



JOBS & LIVELIHOODS
4 COMMITMENTS

ACHIEVEMENTS

• Strengthen local responses to forced displacement and promote municipal policies in response to forced displacement with the municipalities of San Pedro Sula, Central District, El Progreso, Choloma, Choluteca and Juticalpa. The experiences of San Pedro Sula have been fundamental in identifying good practices and opportunities for improvement in the methodology formulated for working with local governments.

• The National Migration Institute has increased its presence and services for refugees and asylum-seekers through improved reception conditions and the provision of support programmes in two Irregular Migrant Assistance Centres (CAMI). This has included: improved access to territory and the establishment of refugee status determination procedures; increased numbers of specialized staff; establishment of community monitoring networks; the provision of legal and psychological assistance; and the integration of registration systems. Shelter infrastructure has been adapted and equipped in the Trojes and Toncontín border.

1



PROTECTION

• An emergency humanitarian assistance pilot for the care of people displaced by violence, launched in 2021 by the Human Rights Secretariat (SEDH), has established a functional inter-institutional response to displacement through the design and implementation of a national care programme based on evidence and individual case management.

• Legal protection of abandoned assets due to acts associated with violence: The National Property Institute has established a Virtual Repository of Abandoned Assets for future restitution, pending the adoption of a specific legal framework for the protection of IDPs.

• In July 2022, the National Congress began deliberations on the Bill for the Prevention, Attention and Protection of Forcibly Displaced Persons. This includes the restitution of abandoned property and assets as a result of violence, and the creation of Early Warning Systems for the prevention of displacement and the mitigation of its impacts.

• The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Association of Municipalities of Honduras have launched a new partnership to facilitate coordinated support to returnees with protection needs, encompassing repatriation, social reintegration, and the mitigation of the risks of internal displacement.



**JOBS AND
LIVELIHOODS**

2

UPDATED COMMITMENTS

The MIRPS National Technical Team in Honduras reviewed and updated its national action plan in 2022 to maintain the relevance and validity of the MIRPS and reflect the current challenges for addressing displacement.

Governmental institutions have identified strategic interventions that require urgent support for the implementation of the plan in the short term (2022-2023). These interventions would address critical needs for the protection of and solutions for displaced populations.

ESTIMATED COST FOR STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS (2022-2023): USD 4.0 M*

* This estimated cost only includes prioritized commitments that have been costed and can be implemented by governmental institutions in 2022 – 2023. It does not include activities by international organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders.

The full list of commitments are presented below by focus area:



PROTECTION

The State of Honduras is making progress in establishing a legal framework for protection and the consolidation of a national system to prevent internal displacement by violence, and protect, assist, and provide solutions to returnees with protection needs, refugees, asylum-seekers, and internally displaced persons, as well as addressing the underlying causes of displacement and community-based approaches.

- Guarantee that people in need of international protection can enter Honduran territory in **dignified and safe conditions and access efficient procedures.**
- **Consolidate the technical and operational capacities** for the identification, attention, and referral of people with international protection needs.
- **Improve the mechanisms for receiving requests** through a network of remote care units to serve people with protection needs.
- **Implement the System for the Admission and Registration of Requests for Protection (SIARSP)** and improve the processes of digital registration of cases.
- **Ensure legal guidance and humanitarian assistance mechanisms** in the CAMI at the national level.
- **Strengthen the consular network** to facilitate the early identification of people who could be at risk when returning to Honduras, with the aim of promoting their incorporation into the national protection system.
- **Strengthen the Directorate for the Protection of Persons Internally Displaced by Violence** as the governing body for the design and implementation of a national mechanism for the care of internally displaced persons.
- **Implement an assistance and protection route** that facilitates the reception, attention, and referral of cases.
- **Establish an information system** that regularly updates an overview on internal displacement in the country, generating official data and figures on dynamics, trends, affected areas, and risk profiles, among others.
- **Improve the national understanding of the causes and impacts** of internal displacement due to violence, as it relates to affected people and communities, as a mechanism for collective awareness and public policy management.
- **Improve care for returned Hondurans with protection needs** through the application of care and referral protocols, including for the response to cases of uncoordinated deportations.
- **Facilitate the assistance of returnees with protection needs** through the CAMR Returned Migrant Assistance Centres.
- Promote measures to facilitate **access to personal identification documents.**
- **Coordinate an inter-institutional response** for the differentiated identification of returned children with protection needs, particularly unaccompanied children, between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Directorate for Children, Adolescents, and Family.
- **Coordinate actions in response to internal displacement** with municipalities or local governments most affected by displacement.
- **Develop and implement contingency plans** in the event of collective displacement due to violence in the municipalities with the highest rates of violence.
- **Creation of an institutional mechanism** for the comprehensive protection of vulnerable children due to displacement.

- **Strengthen the organizational capacities of the populations at risk of displacement**, as a fundamental tool for prevention and recovery of public spaces and in coordination with local governments.
- **Create a confidential registration system** for abandoned property and homes.
- **Guarantee the articulation of the State's social protection programmes**, to ensure a comprehensive response to the assistance and protection needs of the populations internally displaced by violence.
- Design and implement tools and guidelines that contribute to the **generation of durable solutions for displaced persons**.



EDUCATION

The Honduran State seeks to ensure refugees' and asylum-seekers' right to education and integration into the educational communities, and aims to provide vocational technical training opportunities to increase their employability.

- **Establish a dialogue with the national authorities on education at the primary, secondary and higher levels** to resolve obstacles in access to education for refugees and asylum-seekers.



JOBS AND LIVELIHOODS

Support efforts to identify mechanisms to strengthen the search for durable solutions, in particular livelihoods for IDPs and returnees with protection needs, as well as the generation of employment opportunities to contribute to the self-reliance and integration of refugees and asylum-seekers.

- **Raise awareness** among government institutions, the private sector, civil society, and the general population about the rights of persons in need of international protection who enter Honduras.
- **Reduce barriers to access state services, programmes, and projects** to generate livelihoods for refugees and asylum-seekers.
- **Establish spaces for inter-institutional dialogue with local governments** for returned population to access the existing socioeconomic inclusion mechanisms through the Municipal Returnee Assistance Units (UMAR).
- **Facilitate access to vocational training programmes** and initiatives for income generation.

THE MIRPS

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THE MIRPS IN MEXICO

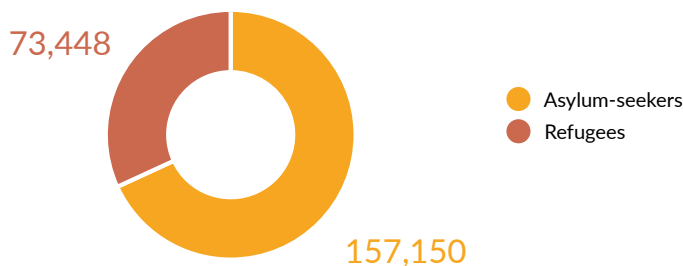
Mexico has received increasingly complex mixed flows of migrants and refugees from the region and beyond in recent years. In 2021, it became the third highest recipient country of new asylum applications worldwide.

Mexico (through the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) has participated in the MIRPS since 2017 and has sought to implement a range of commitments to provide protection and solutions for the forcibly displaced, strengthening the self-reliance of refugees, asylum-seekers and other vulnerable groups, as well as to adopt strategies to support host communities. The commitments made in the MIRPS process are complemented by a number of pledges made during the 2019 Global Refugee Forum.

At the regional level, Mexico took the lead of the MIRPS process assuming the first Pro-tempore Presidency in 2019. At the national level, Mexico designed the Inter-Institutional Roundtable on Refugees and Complementary Protection, chaired by the Under Secretary of the Interior, which offers a political forum to validate proposals made by four MIRPS National Technical Working Groups focusing on access to education (chaired by the Ministry of Education), access to health (Ministry of Public Health), employment (Ministry of Labor), as well as documentation and identity (National Population Registry - RENAPO). At the federal level, the Mexican Refugee Commission (COMAR), supported by UNHCR, acts as Secretariat of the four groups and provides technical support. Since 2020, COMAR has been convening MIRPS roundtables at the local level aiming at creating a favorable environment of inclusion and integration in major urban settings.

FIGURES AT A GLANCE

PEOPLE OF CONCERN IN MEXICO



Source: UNHCR / Dec 2021

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

As part of its commitment to implement the MIRPS, the Government of Mexico has undertaken significant steps to expand its operational capacity to respond to forced displacement inside Mexico and in the region. Improved coordination between all

MIRPS IN MEXICO

NATIONAL TECHNICAL TEAM

- Secretariat of Governance through the General Coordinator of the Mexican Refugee Commission (COMAR)
- Secretariat of Foreign Affairs through the Under Secretary of Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING THE MIRPS

- Programa Casa Refugiados
- CAFEMIN
- Sin Fronteras
- Asylum Access Mexico
- Save the Children
- International Rescue Committee
- Hospitalidad y Solidaridad and many other shelters and civil society organizations

three levels of territorial administration has helped to bridge the gap between fragmented normative frameworks at the national level and local disparities at implementation level.

As a result of the efforts led by the Government of Mexico, several milestones achievements have been reported: 1) In 2018, asylum-seekers were included in the National Population Registry (RENAPO), paving the way for labor market inclusion; 2) In 2019, refugees and asylum-seekers were included in the national health system as a result of a legislative reform process; 3) In 2020, Mexico simplified the issuance of stay permits which allows asylum-seekers and refugees to access formal employment; 4) The same year, the practice of immigration detention of children and adolescents was abolished, allowing families with children, as well as unaccompanied and separated children, to freely pursue their asylum process; 5) In 2021, Mexico streamlined the inclusion of asylum-seekers and refugees into its post-pandemic back-to-school campaigns, facilitating access to education for thousands of children. Implementing a series of pledges presented at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum, Mexico facilitated the relocation of 25,000 refugees and asylum-seekers from border regions, where livelihood opportunities are limited, to major urban areas in the central part of the country, providing job placement and local integration support.

33 COMMITMENTS



PROTECTION
17 COMMITMENTS



EDUCATION
1 COMMITMENT



HEALTH
2 COMMITMENTS



JOBS AND LIVELIHOODS
5 COMMITMENTS



SOCIAL PROTECTION
8 COMMITMENTS

ACHIEVEMENTS

1



COORDINATION

CONSOLIDATION OF THE INTER-INSTITUTIONAL ROUNDTABLE ON REFUGEES AND COMPLEMENTARY PROTECTION.

The inter-institutional roundtable on asylum and complementary protection has held specialized sessions on health, education, identity documentation, and labour market inclusion of asylum-seekers and refugees. This facilitates the coordination between technical ministries and the Ministry of Interior, and the participation of UN agencies and civil society organizations.

PROTECTION

2



ISSUANCE OF POPULATION REGISTRY DOCUMENTS FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES.

The National Population Registry (RENAPO) has issued 206,000 Population Registry Codes (CURP) to asylum-seekers since June 2018, facilitating their access to public programmes and their integration. RENAPO has also installed registration modules issuing CURP with photography and biometrics.

IMPROVED EFFICIENCY OF CASE REGISTRATION AND PROCESSING.

Mexico, through COMAR has advanced in the implementation of procedural changes, including the adoption of streamlined registration procedures and simplified refugee status determination tools, developed with the support of UNHCR's Quality Asylum Initiative team, which facilitates case "triage" and differentiated processing. Additionally, changes in the SIRE registration system are being undertaken to improve case processing onsite and online.

INCREASED PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN THE CONTEXT OF HUMAN MOBILITY.

In January 2021, legal reforms in matters of children on the move came into force, which will help to strengthen the child protection system, namely by preventing children and adolescents from being kept in migration stations and any other detention facility, and ensuring that their best interests are prioritized. Furthermore, the Comprehensive Protection Route for Migrant and Refugee was implemented at the local level in various states during 2020, with additional efforts underway in 2021.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE. In 2021, nearly 60,000 asylum-seekers and refugees were assisted by a legal network comprised of 76 lawyers and 32 paralegals. Legal consulting and support by the Federal Public Defender's Office (IFDP) has been available to people with asylum claims before COMAR. IFPD has increased the number of specialized staff and the frequency of visits to migration stations to provide its services.

PROGRESS ON THE PROTECTION OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS.

On September 29th the Chamber of Deputies unanimously approved the bill for the General Law on Forced Internal Displacement and passed it for the review of the Senate. In coordination with Mol and MFA, pilot programmes

The National Human Rights Program (2020-2024) has included specific actions to address forced internal displacement with objectives to improve information management, prevention, and capacity building, among others. The Migration Policy, Registry, and Identity Unit (UPMRIP) created a microsite where it publishes advances made with regards to internal displacement, and in 2022, it issued two publications that shed light on a path to developing a response framework and invited the federal entities to develop a legislative framework that considers national and international standards. Exchanges of experiences with the Colombian government on IDP responses were organized in 2022. The Supreme National Court (SCJN), with the support of UNHCR and ICRC, issued a guideline Handbook on Internal Displacement to provide orientation to the Judicial Branch of the Federation in the resolution of cases of internal displacement in June 2022.



INCLUSION OF ASYLUM-SEEKING AND REFUGEE CHILDREN IN THE RETURN TO SCHOOL STRATEGY.

As a result of collaboration between COMAR and the Federal Ministry of Education, a specific mention on the enrolment of refugee children was included in the strategic document "Return to Classrooms" for reopening schools after an 18-month closure due to COVID-19.



LABOUR INTEGRATION AND RELOCATION PROGRAMME

Since 2016, over 25,000 people identified in the south of the country have been relocated to the centre and north, namely to the cities such as Saltillo, Guadalajara, and Monterrey, and have been connected to job opportunities with 400 enterprises, access to public education, and psychosocial support, enabling thousands of families to enjoy livelihood opportunities, leading to self-reliance.

UPDATED COMMITMENTS

The MIRPS National Technical Team in Mexico reviewed and updated its national action plan in 2022 to maintain the relevance and validity of the MIRPS and reflect the current challenges for addressing displacement.

Governmental institutions have identified strategic interventions that require urgent support for the implementation of the plan in the short term (2022-2023). These interventions would address critical needs for the protection of and solutions for displaced populations.

**ESTIMATED COST FOR STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS (2022-2023):
USD 9.2 M***

* This estimated cost only includes prioritized commitments that have been costed and can be implemented by governmental institutions in 2022 – 2023. It does not include activities by international organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders.

The full list of commitments are presented below by focus area:



PROTECTION

Improve efficiency in the registration and processing of refugee cases through the implementation of simplified procedures, and enhance the operational capacity of the involved officers through training and institutional strengthening.

- **Give continuity to COMAR's visits to the Immigration Stations**, for the follow-up of requests for recognition of refugee status.
- **COMAR will train and sensitize the INM staff at internment points and Migration Stations** in order to improve the identification and care of asylum-seekers.
- **Promote permanent information campaigns** that, in a simple language, inform about rights and the possibility of seeking asylum.
- **Continue providing training aimed at public servants**, as well as contracting companies, financial institutions, and other relevant actors that maintain direct contact with asylum-seekers, refugees, and beneficiaries of complementary protection, to ensure a favourable environment for their protection and integration in dignified conditions.
- **COMAR and UNHCR through "El Jaguar," in collaboration with other relevant authorities, continue to implement information and awareness campaigns.** In addition, the creation of spaces for dialogue in which asylum-seekers, refugees, and beneficiaries of complementary protection and civil society participate, will serve to monitor areas of opportunity and fill gaps for their adequate integration.
- The DIF National System and the DIF State Systems will **strengthen alternative care spaces for the temporary residential accommodation of unaccompanied children and adolescents**, preventing them from being in Immigration Stations.
- **Improve coordination mechanisms between the authorities that attend to children and adolescents in the context of migration** (COMAR, INM, PPNNA) to facilitate the identification of international protection needs and access to the refugee status determination procedure. SIPINNA will strengthen coordination between said authorities.
- The INM and the Attorney General's Offices for the Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents (federal, state, and municipal) will continue to promote the **application of the Initial Evaluation Protocol for the identification of international protection needs in unaccompanied or separated children and adolescents**, developed by COMAR, UNICEF and UNHCR and its interview techniques to identify international protection needs, for subsequent channelling to COMAR or competent authorities.
- **Increase the operational capacity of the federal, state, and municipal Child Protection Prosecutor's Offices**, mainly in the states with the largest population of people in the context of migration, applicants for refugee status, refugees, and beneficiaries of complementary protection (Chiapas, Tabasco, and Veracruz).
- **The PFPNNA will generate coordination mechanisms with state and municipal protection attorneys** to standardize criteria that regulate restitution plans and the determination, coordination, execution, and monitoring of comprehensive protection measures and restitution of the rights of children and adolescents. Likewise, the SIPINNA will promote the creation, installation and operation of Commissions for the Comprehensive Protection of Girls, Boys and Adolescents in the context of mobility in the federal entities so that these collegiate bodies facilitate the link between the PFPNNA with state and municipal protection attorneys.
- CONAVIM and COMAR, within their jurisdiction, continue to carry out actions aimed at **preventing and eradicating gender-based violence against girls and women.**
- **Give continuity to the work of reviewing and approving the missing registration information**, with the aim of ensuring that the information collected is of good quality, using an appropriate language for children and adolescents.
- **COMAR, UNHCR and UNICEF will implement training and support tools for their staff, so that attention to children and adolescents is done while using appropriate language.** These techniques will be used during eligibility interviews and other procedures or questionnaires addressed to this population.
- **Promote institutional linkages and rapprochement with civil society and government shelters**, in order to safeguard the right of the targeted population to have a shelter.
- Work will continue on the implementation of mechanisms that allow COMAR to **provide care for the targeted population.**
- **Guarantee the right to identity targeted documentation** of asylum-seekers, refugees, and beneficiaries for complementary protection, from the issuance of the CURP (temporary and/or permanent) and establish coordination mechanisms between RENAPO, INM, and COMAR to strengthen management, implementation, and training.
- INM, COMAR and UNHCR will promote measures to **speed up the procedure of providing a signature before the COMAR or INM office as proof of presence** in accordance with the obligations of asylum-seekers, in order to facilitate their integration.



EDUCATION

Establish institutional mechanisms that allow access to the educational system.

- The SEP, as the coordinating authority of the Thematic Table on Educational Inclusion, together with COMAR, will continue working to **guarantee access to educational programmes and recognition of accreditation.**



HEALTH

Guarantee free access to health services and medicines to all people who are in Mexico, regardless of their immigration status.

- COMAR, in collaboration with the Technical Secretariat of the National Mental Health Council, will **carry out actions aimed at ensuring access to mental health services for asylum-seekers, refugees, and beneficiaries of complementary protection.**
- The Ministry of Health will promote coordinated actions to **continue guaranteeing access and inclusion of asylum-seekers, refugees, and those with complementary protection to the public health system throughout the country.**



JOBS AND LIVELIHOODS

Facilitate access to the labor market, vocational training, and skills certification.

- Within their jurisdiction, CONOCER and CECATI will continue including **asylum-seekers, refugees, and beneficiaries of complementary protection in public and private job training institutions, as well as skills certification processes or standards.**
- In coordination with key federal and state agencies, UNHCR will promote the implementation of **projects to promote peaceful coexistence between the refugee population and host communities, fostering spaces for exchange and cultural learning.**
- COMAR and the National Employment Service, through the implemented channelling mechanism, will facilitate the labour **inclusion of applicants, refugees, and beneficiaries of complementary protection, including linking them with job offers.** Additionally, they will promote and disseminate the calendar of job fairs that are organized throughout the country.
- The National Commission of Banks (CNBV) will promote actions together with the Association of Banks of Mexico, to **address the reforms of regulations for credit institutions, facilitating the financial inclusion** of asylum-seekers, refugees, and beneficiaries of complementary protection.
- Mexico will support the **integration of refugees and beneficiaries of complementary protection into the Mexican labour market,** through intergovernmental and interinstitutional coordination, with the support of UNHCR, and through the involvement of the private sector in different states of the country.



SOCIAL PROTECTION

Promote actions for social inclusion that allow access to programs and services granted by the State.

- In conjunction with COMAR and UNHCR, the participating institutions of the Inter-institutional Table on Refuge and Complementary Protection will develop **materials that describe the programs and services available to applicants, refugees and beneficiaries of complementary protection and the steps to access them.**
- **COMAR will replicate the Inter-institutional Tables on Refuge and Complementary Protection** at the state and municipal levels in order to identify the gaps faced by the population in need of international protection and will promote access to public services and programmes.
- CONAPRED, COMAR and UNHCR will **promote awareness days to counter xenophobia** against migrants and people in need of international protection.
- **Promote actions of social inclusion of applicants, refugees, and beneficiaries of complementary protection for older persons,** to the services offered by INAPAM at the national level, including the issuance of membership cards.
- COMAR, in coordination with UPMRIP, **will generate and make public statistical information including data disaggregated** by sex, age, place of origin, and other variables, with the aim of knowing the characteristics of the applicants, refugees and beneficiaries of complementary protection, to facilitate their inclusion in programmes and services.
- UPMRIP, in coordination with COMAR, will promote synergies and the optimization of efforts between government institutions, academics, and civil society organizations for the **generation of studies and information linked to the design and evaluation of public policy** that serves asylum-seekers, refugees, and beneficiaries of complementary protection.
- The Ministry of Welfare, through the Social and/or Natural Emergency Program (PESN) on the Southern Border, **will promote actions for the inclusion of asylum-seekers, refugees and/or beneficiaries of complementary protection, including direct financial support of MX\$5,119.00,** with the purpose of mitigating vulnerabilities experienced by pregnant women, single parents, families with children and adolescents, the elderly, and people with disabilities and/or terminal or chronic degenerative diseases.
- **Mexico will continue to facilitate the admission of naturalization procedures for refugees and persons with complementary protection residing in Mexican territory,** with the support of the UNHCR, in accordance with relevant legislation.

THE MIRPS

The Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS) is a regional contribution to the Global Compact on Refugees formed by the governments of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama to strengthen protection and promote solutions for forcibly displaced populations, addressing the underlying causes and promoting a stable environment that ensures security, economic development and prosperity.



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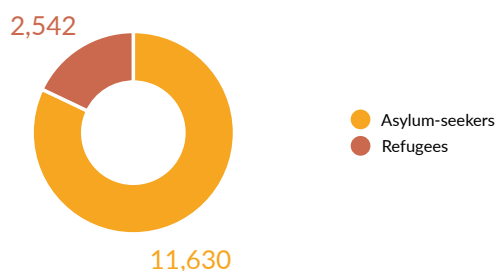
ADDRESSING FORCED DISPLACEMENT: THE MIRPS IN PANAMA

The Republic of Panama is currently home to approximately 13,000 people in need of international protection, with 2,573 refugees and 10,272 asylum-seekers predominantly from Colombia, El Salvador, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, with the majority residing in the Metropolitan Area of Panama City. In addition to receiving people forced to flee, Panama is also a transit country for thousands of people from Venezuela, Haiti, Cuba, and countries in Africa and South Asia who cross the Darien Gap heading northwards in search of new opportunities, family reunification, or protection. In recent years, the Darien Gap has become one of the most significant and risky transit points in the region. In 2021, approximately 133,720 people entered the country irregularly through this border, a record number of people in mixed movements heading towards the north of the continent.

According to the National Migration Service, in the first seven months of 2022, more than 75,000 people crossed the Darien Gap, almost twice the total of the equivalent period in 2021, with some days reaching 1,000-1,300 entries. In 2022, the most common nationality of people in transit is Venezuelan. The majority of people seeking asylum in Panama in recent years arrived by plane, while new asylum claims from people fleeing both neighbouring and distant countries is increasing.

FIGURES AT A GLANCE

PEOPLE OF CONCERN IN PANAMA



Source: UNHCR / Dec 2021

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

20 COMMITMENTS



PROTECTION
11 COMMITMENTS



EDUCATION
2 COMMITMENTS



HEALTH
1 COMMITMENT



JOBS & LIVELIHOODS
3 COMMITMENTS



SOCIAL PROTECTION
3 COMMITMENTS

MIRPS IN PANAMA

NATIONAL TECHNICAL TEAM

- Ministry of Government
- National Office for the Attention to Refugees (ONPAR)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Legal Department)
- Ministry of Labour and Laboural Development
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Public Security
- National Institute for Women
- National Secretary for Children, Adolescents and Family
- Ombudsman Office

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING THE MIRPS

- HIAS
- NRC
- Panamanian Red Cross
- RET

OTHER ALLIANCES

- Private Sector (ManpowerGroup)

ACHIEVEMENTS

Increased technical capacities of Government officials in international protection

In 2021, more than 500 state security officers (from the National Police, National Border Service, National Naval Air Service) and representatives from the Ombudsman's Office, National Women's Institute, CONARE, ONPAR, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs took part in a training on international protection.

1



PROTECTION

Recognition of statelessness

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs continues to implement the commitments made at a high-level meeting that led to the creation of an inter-institutional mechanism to facilitate the implementation of the Executive Decree approving the statelessness procedure. With this progress, other related authorities have been made aware of their responsibilities within this legal framework.

Expansion of ONPAR's presence in critical border areas,

to respond to the needs of people entering the country as part of mixed movements through the Darien Gap. This has facilitated the identification and processing of specific cases that have requested international protection in Panama, and others that would otherwise not have done so. In coordination with the Civil Registry, National Migration Service, and the Ombudsman's Office, the registration of 90 newborns was achieved in 2020 in Darien province. The registered individuals were all persons on the move who were born in Darien province while their parents were transiting the country. This is an important achievement towards the mitigation of the risk of statelessness in the future.

3



JOB AND LIVELIHOODS

The participation of asylum-seekers and refugees in public consultations

In 2021, refugees and asylum seekers took part in a national consultation for the creation of inclusive public policies to close economic, social, educational, and health gaps, called "Pacto Bicentenario." Asylum-seekers and refugees submitted 14 recommendations as their contribution to this initiative.

Participation in activities coordinated by local governments

Through an agreement with the Municipality of La Chorrera, asylum seekers and refugees were included in gender-based violence prevention programmes, not only as beneficiaries but also as key actors empowered to provide support and advice to other people in the community.

2



LOCAL INTEGRATION

Employability for refugees, asylum-seekers, and host communities

The implementation of the onsite/online "Talents Without Borders" programme, in alliance with ManpowerGroup and HIAS, continued to strengthen the capacities and skills of displaced persons, promote their access to the formal labour market, and facilitate their integration into the country. In addition, the implementation of a Female Entrepreneurs Programme, in alliance with the Ciudad del Saber Foundation, has benefited a total of 76 women who are heads of households.

Access to professional training for refugees

The National Institute for Vocational Training and Human Development (INADEH) has formally enabled access for refugees to their vocational training programmes, which were previously only accessible for Panamanian citizens and foreign nationals with more than 10 years of residency in the country.

Implementation of the Technical Standard for Mental Health Care for the Migrant and Refugee Population in Panama

The new provision instructs the regional offices of the Ministry of Health to produce valuable statistics and for institutions, NGOs, and local communities to be involved in an integrated mental health approach, which emphasizes prevention, referral systems, universal access, and community-based initiatives. The protocol provides mental health professionals with specialized tools and support to work with these populations to address the consequences of their forced displacement, address their integration challenges within the national public health system, and invest in related support systems and host community capacities.



UPDATED COMMITMENTS

2022-2023

The MIRPS National Technical Team in Panama reviewed and updated its National Action Plan in 2022 to maintain the relevance and validity of the MIRPS and reflect the current challenges for addressing displacement.

Governmental institutions have identified strategic interventions that require urgent support for the implementation of the plan in the short term (2022-2023). These interventions would address critical needs for the protection and solutions of displaced populations.

ESTIMATED COST FOR STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS (2022-2023): USD 600 K*

* This estimated cost only includes prioritized commitments that have been costed and can be implemented by governmental institutions in 2022 – 2023. It does not include activities by international organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders.

The full list of commitments are presented below by focus area:



PROTECTION

Continue to strengthen the asylum system by protecting the rights of asylum-seekers and refugees; reinforcing reception capacity in border areas; and reinforcing capacities for the identification, referral, and care of persons in need of international protection or at risk of statelessness.

- **Continuous strengthening of training processes for public officials** at the national and local levels in matters of international protection, to expand their abilities to identify and refer people with protection needs (refugees and stateless persons). In addition to MIRE, the Electoral Tribunal (Civil Registry), SENAFRONT, SNM, SENAN, ONPAR, CONARE, INAMU, SENNIAF, the Ombudsman's Office and local authorities in prioritized areas, officials from other relevant state entities will be included.
- **Develop a care, identification, and referral protocol** between the Ministry of Security (SNM and SENAFRONT) and the Ministry of Government, as established in Executive Decree no. 5 of 2018.
- **Improve the national registration system**, incorporate biometrics, and issue a new card with QR codes to facilitate the verification of asylum-seekers between authorized public institutions, while ensuring data confidentiality.
- **Speed up the processing of asylum claims** by reducing the delay in applications through the restructuring of internal processes, as well as the development of technical tools.

- **Continue facilitating the hiring of human resources** (lawyers, social workers, psychologists, and other related professions) for ONPAR, to have sufficient capacity to respond to the growing number of requests.
- **Ensure that no child is born stateless and ensure birth registration to prevent statelessness** through carrying out birth registration and registration days in border areas.
- **Continue developing inter-institutional sessions for issuing and renewing documents** (temporary and permanent residence, and defined or indefinite work permits) in areas that are difficult to access.
- **Promote the issuance of driver's licenses** to asylum-seekers who maintain an active application certified by ONPAR.
- **Develop training and awareness programmes** for officials to identify stateless persons.
- **Provide care for female refugees/asylum-seekers and survivors of gender-based violence** through the development and implementation of a care, referral, and counter-referral protocol between the Ministry of Government (ONPAR) and the National Institute for Women (INAMU), and the promotion of the Attention Route.
- Encourage legal clinics of the Faculties of Law of public and private universities to **provide guidance, support, and free legal assistance to asylum-seekers.**



EDUCATION

Continue promoting equitable and quality education by strengthening national systems to foster inclusion, resilience, and participation of children and youth in host communities.

- Promote the development of **instructions, a procedural manual, and level tests** for the operationalization of Decree 1225 of October 21, 2015.
- **Socialization of information for refugees** about the availability of courses, workshops, and trainings provided by the National Institute of Professional Training and Training for Human Development (INADEH), in follow-up to the agreements reached at the beginning of 2019.



JOBS AND LIVELIHOODS

Expand opportunities for integration of the refugee and asylum-seeking population into Panama's economic and social systems, increasing their self-sufficiency through access to formal employment, vocational training, and income-generating opportunities.

- **Raise awareness amongst the private sector** about the refugee population, who are in search of employment.
- Explore the feasibility of **opening bank accounts for recognized refugees.**
- **Promote inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers admitted for processing in the database of the Ministry of Labour,** for their participation in job listings and employment fairs.



HEALTH

Ensure equitable access to public health services, promoting knowledge and coordination among relevant actors to facilitate referral processes for refugees and asylum-seekers.

- **Continue to guarantee access to public health services** and promote referral processes among civil society actors (for refugees, asylum seekers and other persons in need of international protection).



SOCIAL PROTECTION

Promote the consolidation of comprehensive services for protection and care for people with international protection needs, continuing to promote the training of officials and the coordination of government agencies to ensure the inclusion and full access of refugees and asylum-seekers to social protection programs and services.

- Continue to facilitate the inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers in existing social protection programs, such as Panama Solidario, among others.
- **Continue promoting non-discrimination and inclusion campaigns** aimed at different entities to promote the integration of refugees and asylum-seekers in Panama.
- **Establish components on awareness-raising on refugee status** within the training processes of institutions that provide social protection services.

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