

# MIRPS 2024

**MID-YEAR REPORT**  
OF THE COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL  
PROTECTION AND SOLUTIONS FRAMEWORK



## CREDITS

We recognize the contributions of the MIRPS Pro-tempore Presidency Belize 2024, National Technical Teams of MIRPS countries and their partners for the development of this report.

## PRODUCTION





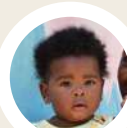


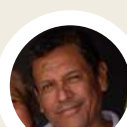

MIRPS Pro-tempore Presidency Belize 2024, MIRPS National Technical Teams, UNHCR-OAS Technical Secretariat (UNHCR Regional Bureau for the Americas and the OAS Department of Social Inclusion, Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity). The maps in this publication do not express any opinion on behalf of the governments of MIRPS countries nor of their partners, regarding the legal status of any country or territory, or delimitation of borders.

Cover: © UNHCR / Santiago Escobar-Jaramillo




**OAS** | More rights  
for more people

# CONTENT

	MIRPS Regional Progress	4
	Belize	6
	Costa Rica	8
	El Salvador	10
	Guatemala	12
	Honduras	16
	Mexico	18
	Panama	22
	MIRPS Support Platform	24
	MIRPS Fund	26
	MIRPS Civil Society Dialogue Mechanism	28





# MIRPS Regional Progress

Pro-Tempore  
Presidency

During the first half of 2024, the Government of Belize, in its role as MIRPS Pro-tempore Presidency (PPT), has made progress in the implementation of the Regional Action Plan. This progress is in line with the provisions of the MIRPS Statutory Charter, and contributes to fulfilling the commitments presented at the Global Refugee Forum.

In the area of protection, the Regional Technical Team on Reception, Admission and Case Processing, under the leadership of Mexico, is making progress in preparing a regional document on the **protection of children and adolescents in refugee status determination processes**, integrating elements such as accessibility, security and conducive physical environments. The Regional Technical Team on Internal Displacement, led by Honduras, has analyzed the criteria for the registration of internally displaced persons and methodologies for conducting a protection analysis.

In the area of solutions, the Regional Technical Team on Jobs and Livelihoods, led by Costa Rica, is making progress in the preparation of a roadmap towards a Subregional Multilateral Agreement on Labor Migration Flows, as well as in the implementation of the Subregional Strategy for Skills Certification, in coordination with the International Labor Organization. At the local level, together with the Follow-up Mechanism for the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI) of the Inter-American Commission of Women and UN Women, and under the leadership of the cities of Guatemala and San Benito, the Regional Technical Team on Local Governance has received training on **prevention and response to gender-based violence at the local level**.

Belize has also participated in coordination meetings with various regional processes and mechanisms, including the Regional Conference on Migration, the Quito Process, Cartagena+40 and the OAS Commission on Migration Affairs. Within these spaces, Belize has positioned MIRPS' contributions on governance in the region on displacement issues, in line with the Regional Action Plan that promotes the complementarity of efforts with other regional mechanisms.



# Belize



## National Context

Belize has been making great strides toward upholding its position as a member state of the MIRPS Framework. In recent months, Belize has undertaken several initiatives in the pursuit of progress, with the primary one being the assumption of the MIRPS Pro-tempore Presidency for 2024. The country has made significant efforts in working towards strengthening its refugee protection system and improving access to services for refugees and asylum-seekers. As of the start of 2024, the Refugees Department has received a total of 112 applications for Refugee Status. Among

these applications, the department has reviewed 75 applications and has approved 15 applicants for refugee status. Additionally, 1,027 individuals have been granted permanent residency through the Amnesty Program. Belize has continued to support the implementation of the MIRPS and has been working closely with other countries in the region to ensure the effective coordination and implementation of regional initiatives.



## Protection

### Establishment of a Refugee Department presence at the Western Border.

As part of Belize's actions to improve its response to forcibly displaced persons, the opening of this office will alleviate the issue of access to the asylum system for persons entering through this border point. This important initiative is planned to be implemented on August 1st, 2024, with the deployment of a Liaison Assistant at the Western Border.



## Social Protection

### Focus groups with refugees and asylum-seekers in host communities.

The National Technical Team facilitated discussions in the communities of Bella Vista and Benque Viejo del Carmen in Belize. These sessions delved into the experiences and challenges of refugees and asylum-seekers while residing in the country.



© UNHCR/Aida Escobar



© UNHCR/Nicolo Filippo Rosso

# Costa Rica



## National Context

Costa Rica has made progress in its efforts to assist people in situations of forced displacement and human mobility. The country has become home to 222,752 people in need of international protection, of which 17,283 have been recognized as refugees, 205,122 are asylum-seekers, and 347 are stateless persons.

Costa Rica is also a country of transit. In 2023, the General Directorate of Migration (DGME) reported 451,929 people entered the country through the

southern border. Most of these people arrive in precarious conditions, with urgent humanitarian and protection needs, which substantially increase the need for attention from Costa Rican institutions and the provision of essential services.

Despite this additional pressure on public institutions, the country has reiterated its commitment to international protection and humanitarian assistance and continues to make progress in implementing the commitments included in its National Action



Plan. Costa Rica has also committed to strategic actions within the Global Refugee Forum to address the main challenges, such as reduction of processing times for asylum-seekers, increasing humanitarian support for people who are part of

mixed movements, and facilitating socioeconomic integration of refugees, among others.



## Protection

### **Modernization of the Costa Rican asylum system:**

The Refugee Unit of the DGME, together with UNHCR, worked on the construction of a strategy to modernize the Costa Rican asylum system, in order to address the backlog, expedite the resolution of pending asylum applications (203,900 accumulated applications as of May 2024) and transform the asylum system to resolve new applications more efficiently. The strategy, which was approved in May, will be implemented over the next few years and for an estimated period of 24 months. It seeks to strengthen, in a progressive and staggered manner, the work of the various institutions involved in the refugee status determination procedure.



## Jobs and Livelihoods

### **Socioeconomic integration of asylum-seekers through inter-institutional coordination:**

Through coordination between the Institute for Social Assistance and the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, Costa Rica was able to identify approximately 1,000 asylum-seekers who are being assisted by the Institute who can enter the National Employment System. The system registers the information on occupational profiles and job opportunities or technical training available, to match both supply and demand for registered vacancies.



## Health

### **Medical insurance for asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons:**

Through the fifth agreement between UNHCR and the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS), the Costa Rican Government provides temporary medical insurance to asylum-seekers, stateless persons and refugees who have a chronic health condition and cannot opt for other insurance schemes. This measure guarantees access to public health services for 4,835 beneficiaries throughout the country.



© UNHCR/Nicolo Filippo Rosso



© UNHCR/Mark Redondo

# El Salvador



## National Context

El Salvador continues to be committed to expanding responses to human mobility, both for Salvadorans within and outside the country's borders, as well as for foreigners arriving in the country. In this sense, the implementation of the Human Mobility Policy has been fundamental. Regarding the national-level follow-up on the Global Compact on Refugees and its implementation through the MIRPS, El Salvador

continues to show its firm commitment, highlighting the work being done to have an agile and modern asylum system to respond to the needs of the continuously increasing foreign population seeking international protection in El Salvador.



## Protection

**El Salvador continues to implement initiatives for community organization to rebuild the social fabric and prevent forced displacement through sports, art, and culture.**

Led by the Directorate for Social Fabric Reconstruction, in the first half of the year, the “Graffitiour” initiative was launched, as the first phase began in Mejicanos. The initiative promotes artistic curatorship workshops among the communities that serve as a basis for the inspiration of street artists who capture the community’s feelings in the artistic expressions of graffiti. This initiative promotes the restoration of public spaces, activates local economies and reclaims community memory in an exercise to redefine spaces in communities historically affected by violence and forced displacement.



## Jobs and Livelihoods

**El Salvador continues to implement the “My First Job” program,** through which 707 people have been linked to formal employment. Since the beginning of the program, more than 1,254 people have received training in soft skills for employment. This initiative is supported by more than 180 companies that are already part of the program. “My First Job” is an initiative implemented by the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, through which displaced persons or persons at risk of displacement, refugees, and asylum-seekers, are supported in strengthening their soft skills, allowing them to access formal jobs under an apprenticeship contract that allows them to gain experience through a formal opportunity. The program’s success rate in terms of job permanence in the formal sector exceeds the formal employability rate at the national level.



## Health

**ISDEMU continues to expand its response for attention to and protection** of women survivors of violence, and women in situations of human mobility or at risk of displacement, through different mechanisms, both in-person and remote, such as the specialized care centers, the 126 Te Orienta Platform, 126 Te Orienta Sin Fronteras, and protection centers. These care and protection centers provide comprehensive and specialized support to women of all ages, and their children up

to 11 years of age, provided by a multidisciplinary team made up of lawyers, psychologists, social workers, doctors, educators and caregivers.

From January to May 2024, 2,439 services were provided in the different ISDEMU care centers. (According to data generated in the Integrated System for the Management of Files and Appointments, SIMEC).

\*Report the inputs for the mid-year report with a cut-off date of May 31, 2024.



© UNHCR/Victor Sánchez Mejía

# Guatemala



## National Context

The State of Guatemala has reaffirmed its commitment to address and respond to the situation of human mobility through various forums held by the President of the Republic, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and UNHCR, placing special emphasis on refugees and asylum-seekers, returnees, people in need of international protection, and highly vulnerable populations such as women, children and adolescents, and people with disabilities.

In 2024, the number of refugee status requests has increased by 25%, compared to 2023, as approximately 588 requests were received from January to May of this year. Guatemala has reached the figure of 1,338 recognized refugees, thanks to the valuable efforts made to strengthen the refugee system.

On June 20, 2024, UNHCR and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs commemorated World Refugee Day. At the event, the Vice President of the Republic reiterated the commitment to the refugee and asylum-seeker population and encouraged municipalities to join the Cities of Solidarity model.

Of note, the State of Guatemala, through the Municipality of San Benito Petén and the Municipality of Guatemala City, assumed the leadership of the MIRPS Regional Technical Team on Local Governance, with the objective of sharing its good practices with the MIRPS countries. At the national level, the municipalities of Esquipulas and Villa Nueva were already engaged, and now the municipalities of Puerto Barrios, Izabal; Livingston, Izabal; Quetzaltenango and Huehuetenango have joined this innovative model.



## Education

**The Ministry of Education, through the General Directorate of Non-Formal Education (DIGEEX), has developed workshops for the evaluation of labor competencies with the purpose of assessing, recognizing, and certifying the knowledge, skills, capacities, abilities and competencies** of people in the long-term performance of an occupation or trade, in order to contribute to generating opportunities that promote social and labor development, to improve living conditions, dignified employment and self-esteem. The evaluation was carried out in the departments of: Guatemala (22 refugees), San Marcos, Ayutla (6 refugees), Huehuetenango (5 refugees), Quetzaltenango (1 refugee), Huehuetenango (14 returnees), Izabal (5 refugees), Petén (8 refugees), which has allowed the evaluation of 61 people, including the population in a situation of human mobility.



© UNHCR/Victor Sánchez Mejía



## Protection

**The Department for the Recognition of Refugee Status (DRER) of the Guatemalan Migration Institute, given the growing number of applications for refugee status,** provides quality care to people who have fled their countries of origin in search of international protection, and expedites the processing of applications, increasing the number of technical reports for the National Commission for Refugees (CONARE), which provides opinions, recommendations and/or suggestions, and subsequently elevates the files to the National Migration Authority for resolution.

Regarding the management of cases of unaccompanied children and adolescents, the DRER has carried out inter-institutional coordination, prioritizing attention and protection of these cases, complying with the procedures established in the law, and considering the principle of the best interest of the child.

Pilots are being carried out for the DRER's decentralization process, with the objective of facilitating access to the refugee status application procedure in areas of the Guatemalan territory in which a considerable number of persons in need of international protection have been identified. As such, in partnership with UNHCR, commissions have been carried out in the identified departments.



## Jobs and Livelihoods

**The Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare** has given continuity to labor inclusion through the Electronic Platform of Work Permits for Foreigners (PEX). As of May 31, 2024, 260 work permits have been authorized for asylum-seekers and 33 for recognized refugees.

Through the signing of the “Facilitation of Labor Inclusion of the Asylum-Seeker and Refugee Population in Guatemala” agreement, labor intermediation between employers and asylum-seekers and recognized refugees will be permitted by strengthening the “Tu Empleo” Platform, the mobile application of the Electronic Platform of Work Permits for Foreigners (PEX) and kiosks in Municipal One-Stop Shops. Overall, 70% of this part of the population will have access to these tools and will be inserted into the Guatemalan labor market.



© UNHCR/Victor Sánchez Mejía



# Honduras



## National Context

In Honduras, internal forced displacement remains a critical challenge. According to data from the National Statistics Institute (INE), it is estimated that around 247,000 people have been internally displaced due to violence and other causes since 2004. This phenomenon mainly affects the departments of Cortés, Francisco Morazán, and Atlántida. In response to this crisis, the Government of Honduras has made significant efforts to strengthen the regulatory framework and improve support to displaced persons.

One notable advance is the Law for the Prevention, Attention and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons, approved in 2023. This law establishes mechanisms for the prevention of displacement,

comprehensive support, and the protection of the rights of affected persons. In addition, the National Congress approved a fund of 150 million lempiras for attention to displaced persons.

Despite this progress, challenges persist in the implementation of these commitments. The lack of adequate resources and the need to strengthen institutional capacity are significant obstacles. Additionally, it is crucial to improve data collection and identification of the needs of displaced persons to ensure an effective and humanitarian response. The Government of Honduras, together with international partners, continues to work to overcome these challenges and fulfill its commitments under the MIRPS.





## Protection

### Fund for Attention to Displaced Persons:

The National Congress of Honduras approved a fund of 150 million lempiras (USD \$6,055,348) for supporting persons displaced by violence. This fund, contemplated in the Law for the Prevention, Attention and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons, finances essential programs and services, providing direct assistance to those who have been forced to leave their homes.

The Property Institute has developed the outline and operating manual for the Abandoned Property Registry, in line with the provisions of the Law on Displacement and its Regulations, which is expected to be approved by the Board of Directors. Meanwhile, with the purpose of increasing legal security of property tenure, the Property Institute, with the support of UNHCR, launched the national information and awareness campaign “*Tu hogar registrado, tu derecho asegurado*” (Your registered home, your secured right”), through which information is shared on the processes for the regularization of tenure, as well as the available registries.



© UNHCR/Nicolo Filippo Rosso



## Education

### Educational Inclusion for Displaced Persons:

The Ministry of Education has implemented specific programs to guarantee access to education for displaced children and youth. These programs include the incorporation of support modules and tutoring to help students integrate and remain in the educational system, ensuring continuity in their education.



© UNHCR/Jeoffrey Guillemard

# Mexico



## National Context

In recent years, the profiles of people applying for refugee status in Mexico have become increasingly diverse in terms of nationality, gender, and age. From January to May 2024, 36,860 applications were registered, representing a 41.9% decrease compared to the number of applicants in the same period in 2023. Some 16,377 applications were received from women, 9,450 from accompanied children and adolescents, and 317 from unaccompanied minors. In terms of nationality, during this period, applications were registered

from people originating from 75 countries around the world, of which 98.36% are from Latin America and the Caribbean.

Since 2017, Mexico, through the Ministry of the Interior (SEGOB) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SRE), has participated in the MIRPS, seeking to implement a series of commitments for designing protection models and solutions for people with international protection needs and internally displaced persons, strengthening their self-sufficiency and integration,

as well as for supporting host communities. The commitments made with MIRPS are complemented by a series of pledges made during the 2019 Global Refugee Forum and reaffirmed in the second forum in 2023.

In December 2023, the Regional Coordination Office of Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas, was inaugurated.

Additionally, the Regional Coordination Office of Villahermosa, Tabasco, which coordinates the states of Campeche, Veracruz, Oaxaca, Tabasco, Quintana Roo, and Yucatán, was inaugurated in February 2024. In March 2024, a liaison office was also opened in Cancún, Quintana Roo. With the opening of these offices, 76.4% of the total refugee applications received in the country are addressed.



## Protection

**As part of the Digital Transformation in COMAR,** since January 2024, COMAR technical staff have been trained in SIRE, COMAR's case management system, for its administration and autonomous use for sustainability. The project is nearly fully implemented. In recent months, the following new functionalities have been implemented: (1) Interpretation and Translation Module to facilitate the management of services provided by a supplier, (2) Statistics Module that allows the viewing of statistical reports based on data collected during the procedure, (3) Triage that allows the operational areas of Registration and Protection to identify risk profiles and channel cases to differentiated procedures, which has been shared with the National Institute of Migration (INM) to streamline the migration procedures for asylum-seekers, (4) Module for transfers, reopening, abandonments, and withdrawals (TRAD), which allows for addressing the cases of applicants who have moved within the national territory, and for any of COMAR's field offices to check the procedure status in real-time.

**COMAR ensured a fairer and more efficient procedure through the expansion and support of differentiated procedures** in its representative offices in the northern (Tijuana, Saltillo, and Monterrey), central (Mexico City and Guadalajara), and southern (Palenque, Tapachula, and Tenosique) zones. This processing mechanism begins with the identification and channeling of cases from the registration and admission stage of the application, and the selection of certain profiles that, due to their specific characteristics, may have a high recognition rate.



© UNHCR/Antoine Tardy



© UNHCR/Antoine Tardy



## Jobs and livelihoods

**Creation of a digital platform “México te emplea” to promote linkages to formal labor for people in situations of human mobility.**

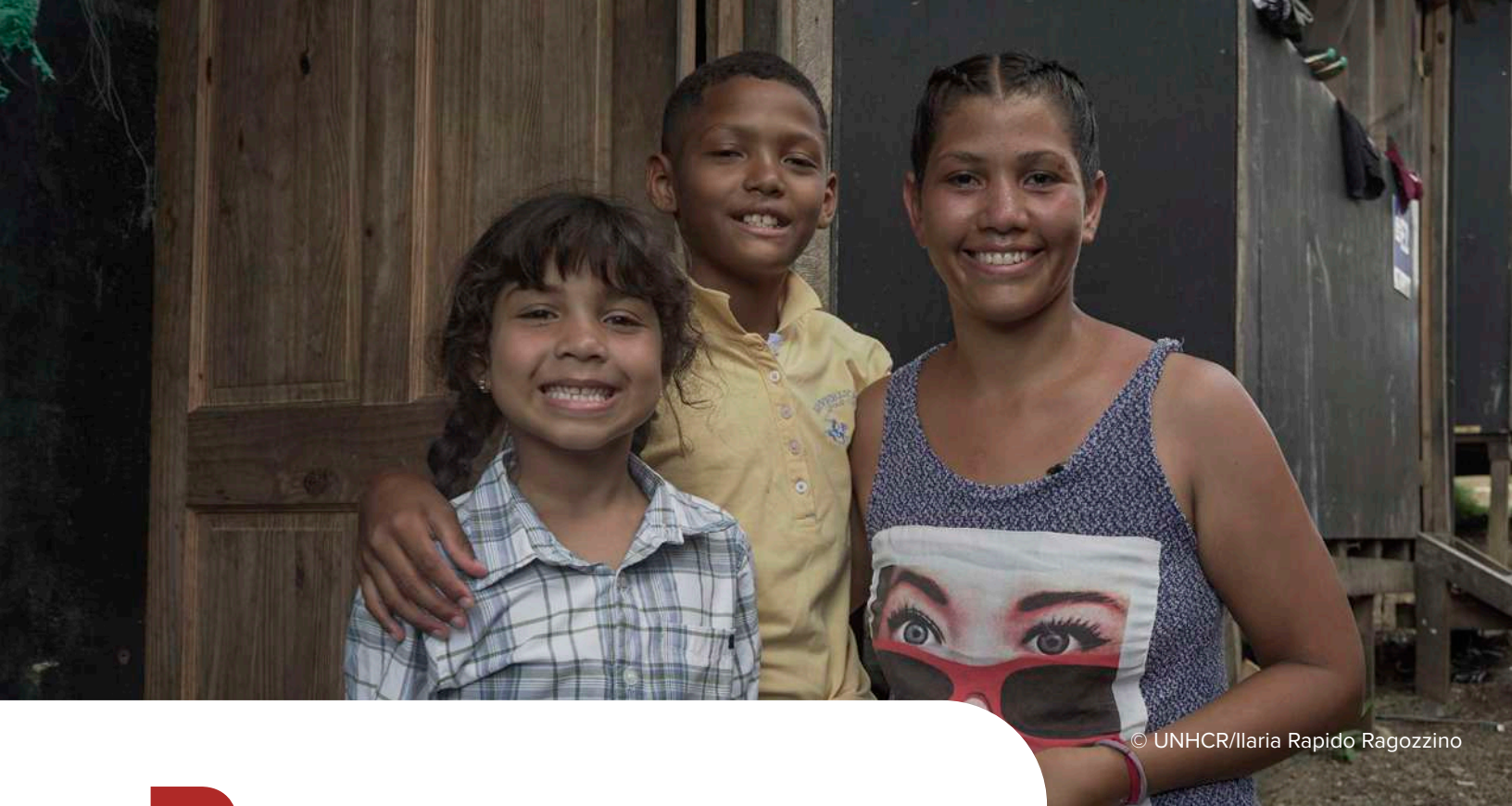
Operated by the National Employment Service (SNE), it forms part of the approach to fulfil the Mexican Government’s commitments regarding the economic integration of people on the move. The platform facilitates access to job opportunities and linkages with key actors, NGOs, international organizations, and companies offering employment, and SNE officials who advise these actors on its use.



## Internal displacement

**The Ministry of the Interior and UNHCR jointly developed the “Guide for the registration of people in situations of internal forced displacement in Mexico”** to compile standards, principles, and considerations regarding the registration of internally displaced persons, serving as a tool to guide state and federal governments in its design and implementation.

**Additionally, the Unified Registration Form for Displaced Persons was developed,** a tool that provides the minimum elements for identifying needs, with a view to responding to these needs and working towards durable solutions. It is a living instrument that can be adapted and adjusted according to the specificities of different types of legislation and institutional approaches.



© UNHCR/Ilaria Rapido Ragazzino

# Panama



## National Context

Panama is a transit and destination country in Central America. It has established itself as a host country for asylum-seekers due to various favorable conditions, increasing the flow of people seeking international protection. To date, Panama has granted refugee status to 2,609 people. The refugee population is mainly comprised of nationals of Colombia, Nicaragua, Venezuela, and Cuba, among others.



© UNHCR/Tito Herrera



## Protection

**The strengthening of the National Office for the Attention of Refugees (ONPAR) has been achieved through the establishment of the first office on the border between Panama and Colombia, located in Metetí, Darién.** This initiative aims to provide more timely and effective assistance to asylum-seekers. Additionally, significant efforts have been made to improve response times to applications, resulting in processing 176 asylum applications, of which 7 people were granted refugee status.

**The registration system has been updated and a backup of the files of asylum-seekers and recognized refugees is being maintained.** Additionally, a process of digitizing files has begun, allowing the review of 860 cases, of which 300 were identified for closure. Furthermore, inter-institutional coordination with various security agencies has been initiated to prevent the misuse of refugee status by individuals with a criminal record.

**During the period covered by this report, a total of 21 passports have been issued to people who have been officially recognized as refugees.** This action is part of the ongoing commitment to provide support and protection to those seeking asylum and who have been displaced from their countries of origin. The issuance of these passports not only facilitates their international mobility but also provides them with an essential document for their identification and safety.



## Jobs and livelihoods

### **Work permits for stateless and refugees.**

In virtue of the commitments made concerning the international protection of stateless persons, declared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the first work permit for a person under this condition was issued by the Ministry of Labor and Labor Development.

This milestone translates into obtaining a humanitarian work permit, thus reaffirming the commitment to the dignity and rights of stateless persons in our country.

During this period, 72 work permit applications for individuals who have been granted refugee status have been processed. These permits are essential to allow the economic integration of refugees in our community, providing them the opportunity to work legally and contribute to the socio-economic development of the country. This initiative is part of the efforts to promote the self-sufficiency and dignity of refugees, ensuring their access to labor rights and basic protections.



© UNHCR/Jeoffrey Guillemard

## MIRPS Support Platform

The **“MIRPS Good Practice Implementation Projects”** were launched in 2024 in fulfillment of the pledge made by the United States of America at the Second Global Refugee Forum to continue supporting, in alignment with efforts by MIRPS States, to advance the self-reliance of refugees, other forcibly displaced and stateless people, and host communities in Central America and Mexico. This pledge announced plans to support targeted projects through UNHCR with each MIRPS State to implement good practices to foster local integration as a durable solution for refugees and other displaced persons in the region.

The Support Platform Secretariat initiated a ‘call for proposals’ from MIRPS National Technical Teams to develop projects aligned with the good practices featured in the three MIRPS Learning Events that took place in 2023, many of which are supported by Members of the Support Platform. The thematic areas include access to mental health and psychosocial support, economic integration, and solutions to internal displacement. The MIRPS Support Platform Committee – formed by the United States of America, Canada, UNHCR, and the OAS Department of Social Inclusion – completed a review process for strengthening and selecting proposals for implementation in the second half of 2024.



As a result, the Refugees Department of Belize, the Ministry of Labor and Social Security of Costa Rica, and the Secretary of Labor and Social Security of Honduras are launching projects focused on **facilitating the labor integration of displaced persons**. The Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMAR) is leading the implementation of a project on strengthening community networks and responses to facilitate **integration of internally displaced populations**. The Salvadoran Institute for the Advancement of Women (ISDEMU) and the Secretary of Social Wellbeing of the Presidency of Guatemala are launching projects focused on **increasing access to mental health and psychosocial support services**, with a secondary

focus on economic inclusion. The Ministry of Health of Panama has developed a proposal on the provision of **mental health and psychosocial support services**, which will soon be finalized.

The Secretariat looks forward to disseminating the positive impacts of these projects made possible by the MIRPS Support Platform and facilitating opportunities for MIRPS States to share their experiences in project implementation.





© UNHCR/Victor Sánchez Mejía

## MIRPS Fund

**The Department of Social Inclusion (DSI) of the Organization of American States (OAS), as the entity responsible for the administration and management of the MIRPS Fund, has continued to make progress in its implementation.**

These important efforts are aligned with the support required by MIRPS States to address the priorities established in their National Action Plans and strengthen their responses for the assistance, protection, and integration of displaced persons, in addition to existing cooperation mechanisms. The DSI, in close coordination with the MIRPS States and strategic allies, has developed several

activities that reflect satisfactory progress in the implementation of four projects of the First Portfolio of the MIRPS Fund.

In **Costa Rica**, the project “Strengthening the identification and referral of asylum-seekers and/or persons in vulnerable situations, through the modernization of the Refugee Unit of Costa Rica” is now being implemented. This initiative is led by the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners (DGME) in alliance with the University of Costa Rica Research Foundation. To date, ten percent of the project has been executed, which is reflected in the preparation of an assessment of the procedures

of the DGME Refugee Unit, which will provide elements to implement improvements, allowing the Unit to provide more agile support to asylum-seekers in need of international protection.

In El Salvador, the project “Enhancing the livelihoods of returnee children and adolescents in need of protection and their families” is being implemented by the National Council for Early Childhood, Childhood and Adolescence (CONAPINA). This initiative is seventy percent complete and has resulted in the delivery of humanitarian assistance and technical specialization scholarships to 70 returnee families in need of protection (with children and adolescents), to strengthen technical skills and provide them with the necessary livelihoods for their reintegration into their communities of origin.

In **Honduras**, the project “Strengthening the governmental response to assist internally displaced persons due to violence” is being carried out by the Honduran Ministry for Human Rights. This initiative is thirty percent complete and has resulted in the delivery of humanitarian assistance to 38 people who are internally displaced due to violence.

In **Panama**, the project “Strengthening the care and integration of refugees and asylum seekers in Darien” is being implemented by the Ministry of Government of the Republic of Panama in partnership with the City of Knowledge Foundation. This project is thirty percent complete and has resulted in the delivery of basic assistance and hygiene kits and school kits in the communities of Metetí, Alto Playona and Boca de Cupe, benefiting more than 800 refugees and asylum-seekers in this area.

Additionally, the DIS has made progress in the negotiations to begin the implementation of two other projects that are part of the First Portfolio of the

MIRPS Fund. The OAS General Secretariat and the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (MINTRAB) of Guatemala signed an agreement for the execution of the project “Facilitating of the labor inclusion of asylum-seekers and refugees in Guatemala,” marking the beginning of its implementation. Regarding Belize, the new authorities endorsed the proposal of the “Awareness and Border Presence Campaign” project, presented by the Ministry of Immigration of Belize through its Refugees Department, for which DIS plans to convene the High-Level Selection Committee (CSAN) to carry out the corresponding evaluation so that implementation can begin promptly.

The implementation of these projects is made possible by the pioneering contribution of Spain, as a demonstration of its commitment to the principles of solidarity and shared responsibility.





© UNHCR/Markel Redondo

## MIRPS Civil Society Dialogue Mechanism

During the first semester of 2024, the MIRPS Civil Society Dialogue Mechanism has made significant progress in both its internal strengthening and its external relations. Since January 1, Refugio LGBT+ Casa Frida (Mexico) has held the Pro-tempore Presidency, with the firm purpose of raising the profile of the Mechanism and consolidating it as a key actor to improve attention to forced displacement in the region.

Between January and May 2024, five meetings of the Mechanism’s General Assembly were held. These sessions have been crucial to define strategies and strengthen links with MIRPS countries. The main focus has been on **internal strengthening and promoting more active participation**, always highlighting the valuable work of the 37 member organizations in the protection and search for solutions for displaced persons.

Strong connections have also been established with the MIRPS Pro-tempore Presidency, led this year by the Government of Belize. At a joint meeting, the Presidencies discussed the importance of effective coordination between the Mechanism and the

MIRPS Regional and National Technical Teams, to strengthen and support the actions outlined in the MIRPS plans.

The MIRPS Civil Society Dialogue Mechanism is committed to continue working closely with all stakeholders to address current challenges and promote an effective and inclusive regional response. The first half of 2024 has been a period of significant progress and consolidation, reaffirming the crucial role of the Mechanism within the MIRPS and highlighting the need for solidarity and cooperation at the regional level.



© UNHCR/Markel Redondo

