

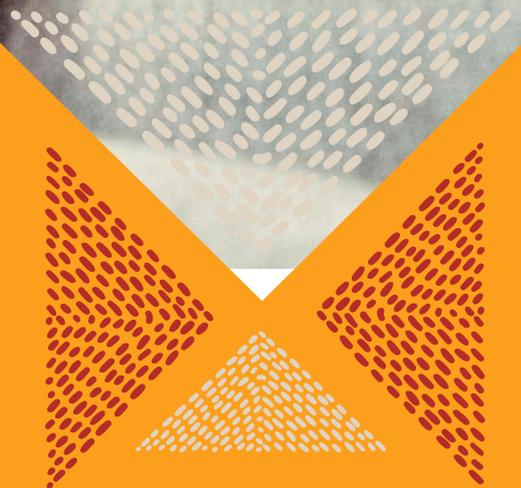


ANNUAL REPORT

MIRPS 2024

Comprehensive
Regional Protection
and Solutions
Framework







Mexico

NATIONAL CONTEXT

Indicators



10,980

NUMBER OF REFUGEES AND PEOPLE RECEIVING COMPLEMENTARY PROTECTION

who are benefiting from the *Programa de Integración Local* [Local Integration Programme] in 2024



1,309

NUMBER OF ASYLUM-SEEKING CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

referred by the COMAR to national authorities responsible for child protection



1,646

NUMBER OF PERSONS OF CONCERN referred by the COMAR to public healthcare services



48,165

NUMBER OF ASYLUM-SEEKERS WHO HAVE A TEMPORARY

Clave Única de Registro de Población (CURP) [Unique Population Registration Number]

Mexico sought to implement a series of pledges not only for the design of protection models and solutions for persons in need of international protection, but also for strategies to support host communities.

In recent years, the number of people in need of international protection who have arrived in Mexico has increased significantly. In 2023, 140,777 claims were received —the highest number on record. Meanwhile, by the end of September 2024, 58,806 claims had been made. Since 2017, Mexico (through the Ministry of the Interior [SEGOB, in Spanish] and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [SRE, in Spanish]) has participated in the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS, in Spanish) and has sought to implement a series of pledges not only for the design of protection models and solutions for persons in need of international protection, but also for strategies to support host communities. The pledges made as part of the MIRPS process are complemented by a series of pledges made during the 2019 Global Refugee Forum, which were ratified in 2023, in Geneva.

At the regional level, Mexico assumed leadership of the MIRPS process by becoming the first Pro-Tempore Presidency in 2019. In 2021, Mexico led the Regional Technical Team on Internal Displacement and, from 2022 it led the Regional

Technical Team on Case Reception, Admission and Processing. At the national level, Mexico set up the Inter-Institutional Roundtable on Asylum and Complementary Protection, chaired by the Undersecretariat of Human Rights, Population and Migration of the SEGOB, which provides a political forum for approving the proposals made by four MIRPS technical working groups focused on access to services: i. education (chaired by the Ministry of Education); ii. healthcare (Ministry of Health); iii. employment (Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare); and iv. documentation and identity (National Population Registry, RENAPO). At the federal level, supported by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Mexican Refugee Commission (COMAR, in Spanish) plays an important supporting role as Technical Secretariat. Since 2020, the COMAR has set up 10 state and 2 municipal MIRPS roundtables at the local level, with the aim of creating an environment conducive to inclusion and integration in the main urban settings receiving refugee populations.

PROGRESS

Coordination



Throughout 2024, as leading country of the Regional Technical Team on case reception, admission and processing, Mexico directed efforts aimed at identifying good practices, gaps and opportunity areas for the strengthening of procedures for children and adolescents. Thanks to this work, a final document on refugee status determination, which is adapted to this population, is currently being drafted.

At the national level, the Inter-institutional Roundtable on Asylum and Complementary Protection has held specialised sessions through thematic roundtables on education, documentation and identity, as well as healthcare and integration in the job market. Since its implementation in 2019, these endeavours have proven to be an efficient

and effective coordination mechanism among government offices, United Nations (UN) agencies and civil society organisations.

Following up on the pledges of the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection, together with agencies from the three levels of government, Mexico is working on the development and implementation of a public policy aimed at the local integration of the population in need of international protection. In collaboration with the Ministry of Welfare and the National Employment Service, COMAR has devised a route for the relocation of people legally recognised as refugees or pre-screened with a positive outcome, from the city of Tapachula, Chiapas, to Guadalajara, Jalisco.

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Social Protection



As a follow-up to the pledges adopted by the Mexican Government at the second Global Refugee Forum, a four-party arrangement was set up, with the participation of representatives of organisations led by refugees in Mexico, civil

society, COMAR and UNHCR. This is a space where the refugee population participates in the decision-making processes related to their protection and integration in Mexico. A national

(federal) arrangement was established together with its counterparts in 10 cities in the country.

Since 2022, the National Council to Prevent Discrimination (CONAPRED, in Spanish), COMAR and UNHCR have been jointly implementing the “*Jornadas por la inclusión y la no discriminación*” (Days for inclusion and non-discrimination), with

the aim of developing a programme of institutional interventions and community activations against discrimination, racism and xenophobia in cities where there are people on the move, refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced people. As of September 2024, workshops have been run in 14 cities in the country.

Protection



Throughout 2024, COMAR has been working on a project to adapt the verbal and written language used at each stage of the asylum procedure for children and adolescents, culminating in the production of an instruction manual for all COMAR

staff working with children and adolescents. This manual is currently being revised, and will be implemented soon.

In order to streamline the signing procedure at the COMAR or the National Migration Institute (INM,

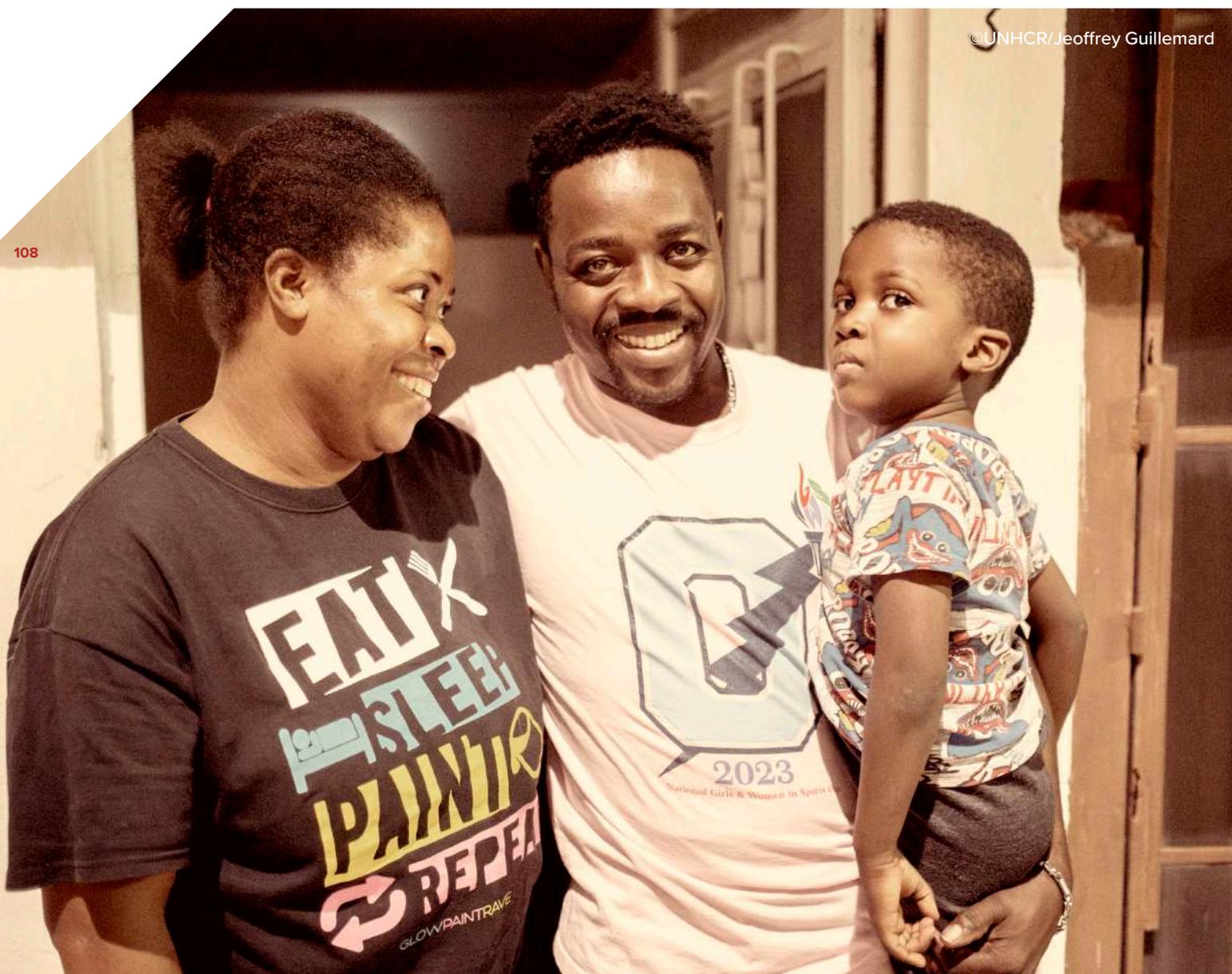


in Spanish) offices, based on the obligations of asylum-seekers, a module was developed in the Refugee Information System (SIRE, in Spanish) to automate the registration of signatures, as well as to automatically close the cases for those who do not attend within the deadline established by law.

As part of the strengthening of inter-institutional coordination with a view to guaranteeing the right to an identity of asylum-seekers and refugees, a project aimed at implementing identity verification mechanisms through biometric engines was continued with the support of UNHCR, reducing

the backlog in the delivery of documents and ensuring the interoperability of systems and statistical information among participating government institutions.

In 2024, COMAR has received 210 family reunification claims – as of September 2024, 57 people have been authorised. An information module was implemented in Mexico City in 2024, which supports asylum-seekers with a thorough prior review of documentation and personalised guidance, reducing procedural preventions by 80%.



Healthcare



In line with the universality principle of the right to healthcare, the *Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social para el Bienestar* [Mexican Social Security Institute for Welfare] (IMSS-BIENESTAR, in Spanish) established an **ID-generation system** to facilitate registration and identification across the national healthcare network for people who are not enrolled in social security schemes in 23 states.

In March 2024, in conjunction with the US Embassy in Mexico, the Ministry of Health held a technical working meeting with participants from Mexican government agencies (Ministry of Health, *Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública* [National Institute of Public Healthcare], SRE, COMAR, INM, *Sistema Nacional para el Desarrollo Integral de la Familia* [National System for the Integral Development

of the Family, SNDIF, by its Spanish acronym], *Centro Nacional de Programas Preventivos y Control de Enfermedades* [National Centre for Disease Control and Preventive Programmes] and US government agencies (the offices of the Department of Health and Human Services [HHS], and the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC]), United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organisations. During this meeting, areas of collaboration to promote greater integration with the public healthcare system were identified. The creation of a Technical Working Group on Healthcare was also proposed to coordinate the provision of services and the exchange of information with the aim of supporting the integration of people on the move into the healthcare system in Mexico.

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Education



The Directorate of School Control of the Ministry of Public Education continues to support the dissemination of information for directors, teachers and academic staff on how to facilitate the integration and permanence of children and adolescents in the national education system, regardless of their national origin or migration status.

Through the information materials available on its website, guidance is provided to schools on how to enrol children on the move in school and how to place them in the correct educational level if they do not have any academic background.

From 1 January to 30 September 2024, through the *Estrategia Educación Sin Fronteras* [Education without Borders Strategy] of the *Instituto Nacional de Educación para Adultos* [National Institute for Adult Education] (INEA, in Spanish), a total of 97 active refugee learners registered in the school control system were reached, with 50 people in primary school and 47 in secondary having completed a certain level or certification. In addition, 243 foreigners are registered as studying in Mexico through the APRENDEINEA online platform.



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Jobs and Livelihoods



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The National Employment Service (SNE, in Spanish) of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare has launched the microsite “*México te emplea*” [Mexico employs you], aimed at people on the move who are in Mexico and are seeking employment. The microsite gathers job offers from employers who have previously been made aware of recruitment processes for foreigners in Mexico. At the same time, it also offers relevant information such as calls for job fairs and workshops on labour rights and fraud prevention. Since the start of platform operations in March 2024, 4,270 people have registered and 645 have been placed in employment. 94% of the people registered with the SNE are either Honduran, Cuban, Haitian, Salvadoran, Venezuelan, Guatemalan or Colombian.

Three hundred eighty-one companies with a *Constancia de Inscripción del Empleador* [Employer Registration Certificate] (CIE, in Spanish) from the National Migration Institute (INM, in Spanish) are registered with the SNE,

allowing them to hire foreign workers. In addition, these companies have already registered over 6,600 vacancies and more than 31,700 job seekers, in the context of mobility, have registered with the SNE (3,544 of them have found formal employment).

The SNE has also held job fairs in which job seekers receive personalised attention from company representatives, who present their job offers in sectors such as industry, commerce and services, with the aim of setting up a job interview. In coordination with COMAR and UNHCR, the SNE has held four fairs in Guadalajara, Aguascalientes and San Luis Potosí, in which 44 companies have participated and 1,316 job offers have been made.

In August 2024, a job fair was held in Mexico City, with the participation of over 35 companies and more than 400 people with international protection seeking employment. Thanks to this event, more than 200 people were directed to a vacancy.

Local Integration Programme



From January to September 2024, some 10,980 refugees were relocated from the southern states of the country to locations in central and northern Mexico so that they could participate in the Local Integration Programme (PIL, in Spanish), in order to receive support in their efforts to find employment in the formal labour market and integrate their families into the host communities. With these participants, the programme has reached a total of 47,421 beneficiaries since its inception in 2016.

Participants include single adults (51%); families (41%), of which 20% are single-parent families; and couples without children/adolescents or with other family compositions (8%). Hondurans composed 69.1% of participants, followed by Haitians (8.7%), Cubans (8.5%), Salvadorans (7.1%) and Guatemalans (3.5%). Other nationalities accounted for 3.1%.

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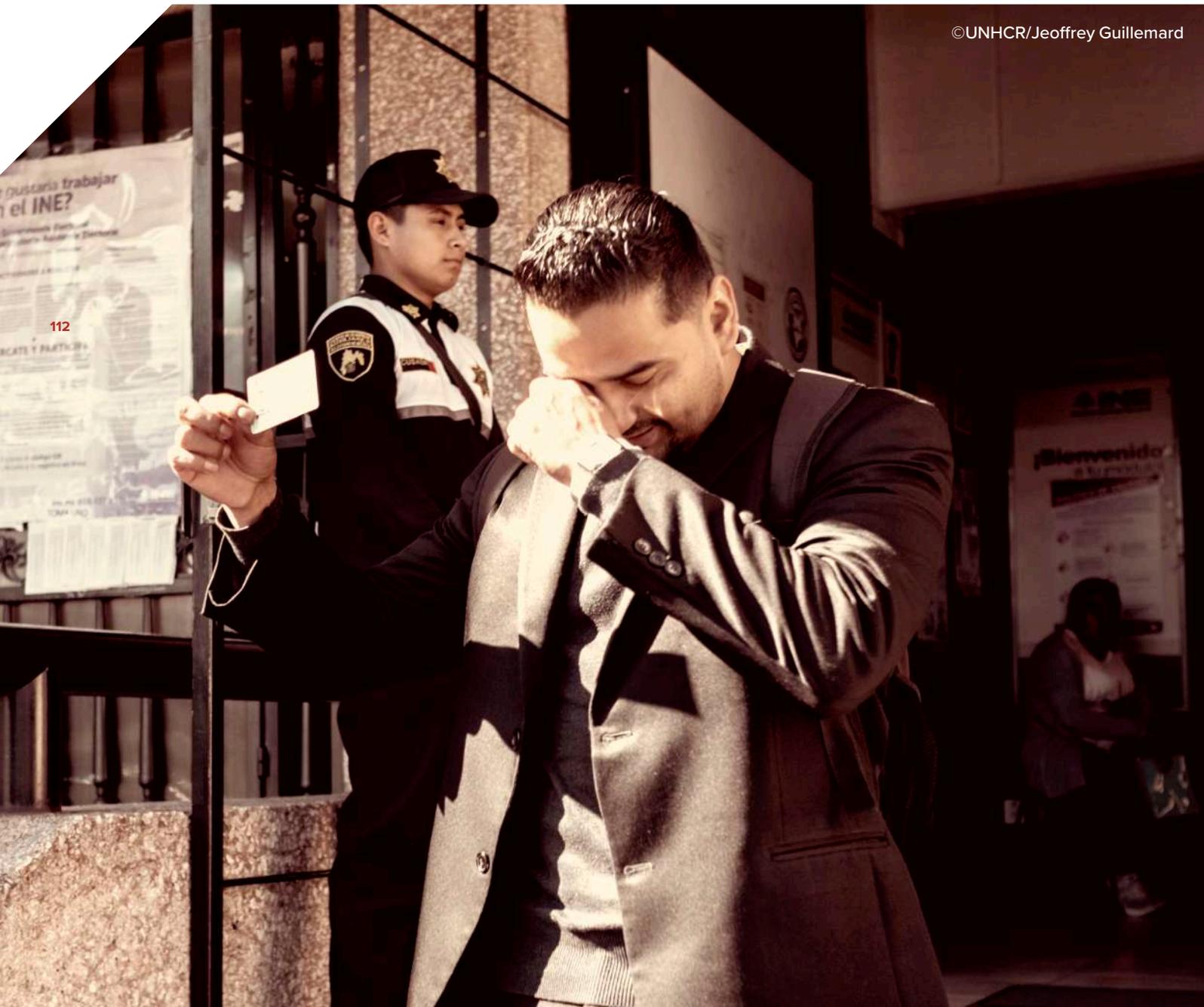


Naturalization



During 2024, the refugee population and those with complementary protection continued to submit naturalization applications to the SRE. As of 30 September, 1,303 refugees made a claim to the

COMAR for a recommendation to apply to the SRE for naturalization. In the same period, 131 received their naturalization certificates.



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Internal Displacement



The technical team from Mexico presented to the MIRPS Support Platform a project to provide direct support to the internally displaced population in the municipality of Choix, Sinaloa, through community strengthening and protection strategies aimed at raising people's awareness of the mechanisms for accessing their rights, thereby supporting actions and activities with a view to strengthening community coordination efforts to find collective solutions. The project was approved on 8 July 2024, as a good-practice implementation project.

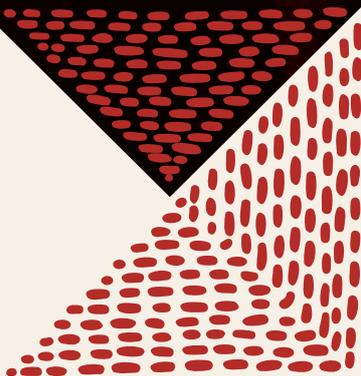
The SEGOB and UNHCR jointly developed the “*Guía para el registro de personas en situación de desplazamiento forzado interno en México*” [Guide for the registration of forcibly internally displaced persons in Mexico], in order to guide state and federal governments in its design and implementation and to centre standards, principles and considerations around the registration of internally displaced people (PDFI, in Spanish). In addition, the *Formato Único de Registro de Personas Desplazadas* [Single Registration Form for Displaced People] was developed – it is a tool identifying the minimum elements required for screening attention needs and the possible creation of durable solutions. Additionally, it is a living instrument that can be adapted and adjusted according to the specificities of each legislation and institutional approach.

In August, the National Meeting on Good Practices and Opportunities in Inter-institutional Coordination for the Attention of Forced Internal Displacement in Mexico was organised by the *Unidad de Política Migratoria, Registro e Identidad de Personas* [Unit for Migration Policy, Registration and Identity of People] (UPMRIP, in Spanish), UNHCR and the

Michoacán Secretariat for Migrants. The event was attended by various states and federal agencies in the city of Morelia, Michoacán. The aim of the meeting was to create a space for dialogue among authorities from the three levels of government to reflect on experiences, good practices and common challenges regarding the comprehensive care of internally displaced people, as well as to foster partnerships with a view to furthering coordination and collaboration among states.

In September, COMAR launched an online course entitled “*Movilidad Humana, Refugio y Desplazamiento Forzado Interno en México*” [Human Mobility, Asylum and Forced Internal Displacement in Mexico], available on the Aprende.mx platform. This course aims to provide training on human mobility, specifying the general characteristics of the phenomenon, as well as the categories that have been identified, with particular emphasis on asylum and forced internal displacement. So far, more than 1,200 people have enrolled on the course.

Furthermore, in September, a report was produced on the activities carried out in the area of internal forced displacement at SEGOB's Under-Secretariat for Human Rights, Population and Migration during the 2018-2024 administration. This document reflects the work done in this area during that period, and its goal is to hand down to the following administrations the tools, instruments and experience required to implement a public policy aimed at addressing this situation in due course.



Naturalization helps refugees feel at home in Mexico

BY MATEO PRIVITERA TORRES

Johan experienced a sense of belonging to the country that gave him protection and stability when he heard the words: “As of today, you are officially a Mexican citizen.”

Johan, 35, experienced years of harassment and threats from criminal groups in his hometown in Honduras, facing forced recruitment attempts since childhood. As an adult, the intimidation never stopped: “You have to pay the gangs, supposedly to protect you,” he explained. At one point, Johan ran out of money to pay them, so he was attacked and shot. Despite his wound, he realized he had no choice but to flee that same night.

Upon arriving in Mexico City, Johan lived in a shelter for three months and found a job in a department store. Despite his initial intention to reach the United States, he decided to stay in Mexico and seek asylum there.

In recent years, Mexico has become a destination country for people in need of international protection, with more than 140,000 asylum claims made in 2023 alone, placing it among the top five countries receiving the most claims worldwide.

Thanks to the efforts of the Mexican Government, refugees from Latin American countries can apply for Mexican nationality status after two years of residence. This legislation reflects the long-term protection spirit of the Cartagena Declaration,

“

I am very proud to be Mexican, but of course, no one can take away my roots.”

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which celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2024. Citizenship confers important rights such as access to identity documents, the right to vote and a sense of settlement and belonging.

Johan met the requirements and felt deeply touched when he received his Mexican nationality. “I cried out of pure happiness,” he said, while reminiscing about the day that he received his naturalization certificate. “I am very proud to be Mexican, but of course, no one can take away my roots.” In addition to naturalization, Johan has managed to complete high school, paving the way for him to achieve his dream of studying civil engineering and improving his job prospects.

He has now made friends and shares his passion for football with his co-workers, who have turned him into a Club América fan. Johan looks to the future with a clear dream: to buy a house of his own in the country that he now calls home.



LINK TO FULL STORY:

