

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION



30 April and 7 May,
2025



Virtual
sessions



11:00am - 13:00pm
(Bogota time)



CONCEPT NOTE

MIRPS Learning Event – International Protection

Introduction

In line with the MIRPS Regional Pledge on Strengthening Asylum Systems made at the Second Global Refugee Forum in December 2023, the MIRPS Regional Action Plan 2025, led by Costa Rica as Pro-Tempore Presidency, aims to strengthen national institutions responsible for refugee status determination, achieving greater efficiency, equity, and quality in these processes, as well as in responses to international protection needs. The MIRPS Regional Technical Team on Reception, Admission, and Case Processing, also led by the Government of Costa Rica in 2025, is composed of representatives from institutions responsible for refugee status determination, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, and other key institutions involved in international protection issues, with the participation of the seven MIRPS States.

Through this Regional Technical Team, participants enhance their knowledge regarding practical measures that can be adopted and contextualized within their asylum/refugee systems to strengthen them and ensure their quality and integrity. In a context where asylum/refugee systems are overwhelmed by the number of applications and resource shortages, and where the number of people with international protection needs are increasing, it is essential to adopt innovative approaches for efficient management of applications and backlogs, without affecting the right to seek and receive asylum.

Asylum/refugee systems are essential to ensure access to protection in a host country. However, delays in processing refugee status applications can occur when the number of asylum applications requiring individual interviews and evaluations exceeds the system's processing capacity over a sustained period and no operational measures are taken to address the issue efficiently and effectively. Additionally, delays are not only the result of a large number of new applications or sudden staff turnover but can also arise from systemic structural and/or operational challenges.

Colombia, as the Chair of the MIRPS Support Platform in 2025, has developed a strategy that prioritizes the exchange of good practices and concrete capacity-building initiatives focused on international protection and strengthening asylum/refugee systems. In implementing this Strategy, Colombia, along with other

Support Platform Members, is developing activities to support MIRPS Member States in their efforts to ensure that refugees have efficient and equal access to comprehensive protection in their host countries and work towards achieving their objectives set out in the MIRPS National Action Plans. In particular, this MIRPS Learning Event is organized with the aim of facilitating practical exchanges for peer learning and technical support in international protection.

Objectives

- Integrate key recommendations, strategies, and principles to prevent and reduce backlogs;
- Consider adopting reasonable measures centered on the rights of asylum-seekers to prevent, mitigate, and reduce backlogs of pending applications; and
- Learn about practices implemented by countries in the region focused on backlog reduction, including both achievements and challenges faced.

Proposed Dates, Format, and Agenda

This MIRPS Learning Event will be held virtually, using an interactive and participatory methodology. The sessions and activities include:

Preparatory Survey: April 21-25

- Shared via email, response through Google Forms
- The survey aims to gather participants' responses regarding their expectations for the sessions, their familiarity with the topics, and any questions they may have.

Virtual Session 1: April 30, 11:00am-1:00pm (Bogotá time)

- Opening remarks and session objectives
- Analysis of the preparatory survey
- Key elements, strategies, and recommendations to consider for preventing and reducing backlog
- Experiences and lessons learned from MIRPS States and Support Platform Members in strategies to reduce backlog

Virtual Session 2: May 7, 11:00am-1:00pm (Bogotá time)

- Session objectives
- Verification measures and administrative case closures with protection safeguards
- Roundtable - good practices and experiences on administrative closures with protection safeguards (including database cleaning measures and use of digital case management systems for case archiving)
- Discussion based on interests identified in the preparatory survey
- Summary and next steps

Post-Event Survey: May 8-16

- Shared via email, response through Google Forms
- The survey aims to gather participants' feedback on the Learning Event to consider for future events, identify opportunities and next steps to apply the shared information at the national level, and receive more questions or suggestions on topics to address in the future.

Participants

This learning event is open to all members of the MIRPS Regional Technical Team on Reception, Admission, and Case Processing. MIRPS National Technical Teams can also identify additional participants whose responsibilities are related to the established objectives.

All members of the MIRPS Support Platform are invited to participate, including through their technical focal points and experts in relevant subject matter. Support Platform members interested in presenting a good practice or their technical experience on this topic as part of the agenda are invited to contact the MIRPS Support Platform Secretariat (panpamirpshn@unhcr.org).