

2025 Work Plans and Discussion on Global Refugee Forum Pledges

16 May,
2025

16:00 - 18:00
(Geneva time)



MIRPS and the MIRPS Support Platform: 2025 Work Plans and Discussion on Global Refugee Forum Pledges 16 May 2025 Event Report

The Government of Costa Rica, in its role as Pro-Tempore Presidency of the MIRPS in 2025, and the Government of Colombia, as the Chair of the MIRPS Support Platform, convened this hybrid meeting to facilitate a discussion with the Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Geneva regarding their respective work plans and priorities. The event aimed to strengthen collaboration and support throughout the year and included a discussion focused on the MIRPS regional pledges made at the Second Global Refugee Forum (GRF). This discussion served to take stock of progress, identify existing gaps and priority next steps, as well as explore opportunities for additional support from members of the MIRPS Support Platform.

More than 100 officials participated in the meeting, both in-person in Geneva and virtually. The meeting was attended by: MIRPS States (Belize, Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, and Panama); and the MIRPS Support Platform (Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, the European Union, Spain, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and ECLAC). Ecuador and Chile participated as observers. Civil society and refugee-led organizations were represented through the participation of the MIRPS Civil Society Dialogue Mechanism.

I. Presentation of the MIRPS 2025 Regional Action Plan and the 2025 Support Platform Chair Strategy

Costa Rica presented its 2025 Regional Action Plan, highlighting four priorities (i) strengthening initiatives that facilitate the protection and socioeconomic integration of refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons, returnees with protection needs, and stateless persons; (ii) Regional coordination with other platforms and key actors to strengthen the protection and solutions framework; (iii) Strengthening the response to displacement caused by disasters; and (iv) Strengthening MIRPS and its working structures.

The work of the four Regional Technical Teams was highlighted: Reception, Admission and Case Processing; Jobs and Livelihoods; Internal Displacement; and Local Governance, led by the governments of Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico, which have already produced results this year, including the preparation of regional resources requested by MIRPS States such as the “ABC of Internal Displacement” and the Guidelines for Local Programs for Prevention and Response to Gender-Based Violence against Women in the Context of Displacement.

Colombia presented the 2025 MIRPS Support Platform Chair Strategy, emphasizing its focus on strengthening international protection. In 2025, the Platform will seek to support MIRPS countries in ensuring that refugees have equitable and efficient access to comprehensive protection in their host countries. Building on the work of previous Support Platform Chairs, Colombia pursues the following key objectives: (i) Promote political and technical commitments to address humanitarian and development needs identified by MIRPS countries; (ii) Increase the international visibility of MIRPS and commitments to provide support by a broader range of actors; (iii) Strengthen the Support Platform as an effective mechanism for mobilizing comprehensive responses to the forced displacement situation in the region; and (iv) Provide technical assistance to help MIRPS countries advance in the implementation of their National Action Plans and related objectives.

Colombia invited MIRPS Support Platform members to actively participate in the implementation of this strategy and to strengthen cooperation aimed at reinforcing protection and solutions in Central America and Mexico.

II. Progress on MIRPS Regional Commitments from the Second Global Refugee Forum and Expressions of Support

UNHCR provided a brief overview of preparations for the High-Level Officials Meeting (HLOM), scheduled for December 15–17, 2025 in Geneva, with the expected participation of high-level government representatives and stakeholders. UNHCR emphasized the role of MIRPS as a key platform for pledge matching and noted that it offers valuable experiences that could be showcased during the upcoming HLOM.

MIRPS States shared updates on the commitments made at the Second GRF, highlighting concrete achievements at the national level related to the four MIRPS regional pledges: strengthening asylum/refugee systems, economic inclusion and social protection, strengthening local governance, and inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless persons in national statistics and surveys.

Highlights include:

- **Costa Rica** has made notable progress in strengthening its asylum/refuge system. In partnership with UNHCR, it is implementing an eight-pillar strategy leveraging new technologies to streamline refugee status determination. A key initiative involves the collective closure of inactive cases while preserving the right to reapply. In May 2025 alone, 6,420 cases were closed in two weeks, with a projected 8,000 by month’s end, marking a significant step in reducing backlogs and reallocating resources to complex cases. With support from Spain through the MIRPS Fund, Costa Rica has also reduced waiting times and improved service delivery.

- **Mexico** highlighted progress in its Local Integration Program, which has benefited over 50,000 refugees by connecting them with employment opportunities in more than 600 companies since 2016. These individuals are estimated to contribute approximately USD 15 million annually in taxes. Mexico also announced the establishment of the Multiservice Center in Baja California, a comprehensive service hub that promotes protection, integration, and coexistence of displaced persons and host communities.
- **In El Salvador**, 767 individuals have successfully entered the formal labor market through the “My First Job” program, contributing to long-term integration and economic self-sufficiency. Additionally, 1,516 people have received job training, and 296 have been supported through the MIRPS Fund, further enhancing inclusion and livelihood access.
- Regarding statistical inclusion, **Honduras** emphasized that, for the first time, the country included displacement in its 2023 household survey—an important step toward evidence-based policymaking. The 2025 population census will include a question on causes of displacement. Honduras also leads a regional working group—comprising 13 countries—focused on developing a harmonized statistical guide, reinforcing its commitment to regional cooperation and data-driven solutions.
- On local governance, **Guatemala** reported that 19 local governments have joined the Cities of Solidarity initiative, advancing efforts to promote integration, improve employability, and empower refugee women. This growing local commitment reflects a strategic shift toward inclusive, community-based solutions that strengthen social cohesion and resilience.

Support Platform members highlighted examples of their technical, financial, and political support that contributed to the progress mentioned above, as well as announced their future commitments. Highlights include:

- **Canada** has collaborated with Mexico through the Regional Asylum Capacity Building Initiative (RACBI) and deepened its partnership with Costa Rica through technical training to advance their asylum system modernization strategy. Financial support has been provided for capacity-building initiatives across the Americas, including 8 projects to strengthen asylum systems in MIRPS States. Canada remains committed to mutual exchange and sharing of innovative practices through the MIRPS Regional Technical Team on Reception, Admission, and Case Processing. Canada is using the results of an asylum adjudication needs mapping to share knowledge with other states and platforms, aiming to identify synergies and strengthen collective agendas.
- **The European Union** reaffirmed its strong support for MIRPS, recognizing its vital role in addressing displacement and promoting refugee self-reliance in Central America and Mexico. The EU announced an allocation of EUR 120 million in humanitarian aid for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2025, of which EUR 10 million is earmarked for Central America and Mexico. EU support for MIRPS has included humanitarian assistance—providing health and protection services for displaced people across Central America, especially along migration routes—as well as support for durable solutions and socio-economic integration, such as programs facilitating the integration of Nicaraguan refugees in Costa Rica and access to decent work for displaced persons in Mexico.

- **Spain**, the first Chair of the MIRPS Support Platform, has made financial contributions totaling EUR 6.2 million over three years through UNHCR and the OAS, complemented by EUR 3.4 million via AECID, directly supporting displaced communities. Spain maintains its commitment to resettle 1,200 individuals per year for four years and develop complementary pathways linked to employment opportunities for refugees from Central and South America. Spain's regional efforts have focused on protection, health, and institutional strengthening, with special attention to women and children. Spain also supports innovative efforts like digital inclusion through the GIGA project and collaborates with UNHCR on comprehensive solutions along displacement routes, focusing on gender-based violence survivors and vulnerable groups.
- **The World Bank** highlighted that human mobility presents a significant opportunity to achieve development goals and stressed the importance of engaging private capital as a key partner in strengthening economic and social integration. The World Bank and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) launched a new five-year regional initiative in Latin America and the Caribbean focused on promoting economic inclusion for displaced, refugee, and vulnerable migrant populations. In this context, two concrete actions were proposed to strengthen public-private links: investing in regularization and in the growth of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises with inclusion potential. For example, IFC could provide financing to companies willing to hire or include refugees and ensure access to financial tools or added flexibility in requirements. The World Bank reiterated its willingness to provide technical and financial support to MIRPS member countries to advance their priorities.
- **ECLAC** highlighted its continued support for MIRPS through efforts to strengthen the statistical inclusion of displaced populations in public policies. Through its Population Division (CELADE), it has supported a working group on migration and forced displacement statistics, led by Honduras, to develop a Practical Guide for the Production of Harmonized Statistics on Forced Displacement and Migration, aimed at building the capacity of national statistics offices to implement technical recommendations. Progress includes a diagnostic tool, regional and international frameworks, and thematic consultations with countries. ECLAC reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the production and use of displacement statistics as a critical tool to improve responses and achieve durable solutions for displaced populations.
- **The OAS**, through its Department of Social Inclusion, in partnership with UNHCR as Secretariat, has actively supported the MIRPS initiative by providing political backing, technical assistance, and promoting multisectoral engagement, including academia and the private sector. MIRPS has gained visibility in OAS political and legal forums, including the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, the Committee on Migration Affairs, and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI). The OAS has promoted capacity-building through initiatives such as the Inter-American Course on Migration and Protection, which has trained more than 500 participants and secured ongoing funding. As a result of Spain's contribution to the MIRPS Fund, MIRPS States are implementing six projects benefiting over 24,000 displaced persons in key areas such as institutional strengthening and socio-economic integration.

The Government of Argentina as a member of the MIRPS Support Platform, shared a written statement expressing the following key messages:

- **Argentina**, in line with its humanitarian and solidarity commitments, has implemented the Resettlement Plan and Complementary Admission Pathways to the Republic of Argentina for refugees, stateless persons, and/or individuals in need of international protection, approved by the National Commission for Refugees (Co.Na.Re.). In the coming months, the country will receive a group of 10 cases—mostly Nicaraguan families displaced in Guatemalan territory—who are in situations of extreme vulnerability. This response is being carried out in coordination with UNHCR, IOM, and the Red Cross. The Government of Argentina, together with civil society organizations such as ADRA and Fundación AMAL, and with international support, will ensure the resettlement process, including transportation funding, documentation management, psychosocial support, and local integration for an initial period of six months. This support includes housing, healthcare, education, employment, and community accompaniment. This initiative reaffirms Argentina’s commitment to shared responsibility in addressing displacement crises in the region.

The MIRPS Civil Society Dialogue Mechanism, composed of 36 organizations and led by the Association of Nicaraguans in Mexico, announced the development of a commitment to be incorporated into the official Global Refugee Forum pledge database. This commitment aims to strengthen civil society participation in advancing MIRPS objectives. Through this mechanism, civil society continues to advocate for regularization pathways, support both protection and durable solutions for displaced persons, and promote the active participation of refugees in public policymaking processes.

Monitoring of progress and commitments will continue throughout the year in line with the MIRPS Regional Action Plan and the Support Platform Chair Strategy, and as part of the series of preparatory meetings leading up to the HLOM, with the support of UNHCR.