Mid-Year Report 2026

SUPPORT PLATFORM
SOLIDARITY IN ACTION

MIRPS
Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework



Credits

The contributions of the Pro-Tempore Presidency of El Salvador 2026, the national technical teams of the MIRPS countries, and their partners in the preparation of this report are gratefully acknowledged.

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Production

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Regional Progress in Implementing the MIRPS Regional Action Plan

During the first half of 2026, under the leadership of the Government of the Republic of El Salvador as Pro Tempore Presidency, the **implementation** of the *MIRPS Regional Action Plan* reached **57%**. This result demonstrates the sustained commitment of member States through the Regional and National Technical Teams, as well as the strategic partners supporting this process. This progress reflects both the gradual completion of planned activities and the achievement of concrete results in institutional strengthening, technical cooperation and regional capacity development. The achievements during this period strengthen MIRPS as a regional platform capable of translating exchanges of experience into tools, knowledge and actions dedicated to improving responses to displacement in the region.

Under **Priority 1**, which focuses on strengthening asylum and international protection systems, the Regional Technical Team on Reception, Admission and Case Processing, led by the Government of Costa Rica, developed two strategic outputs. The first was a regional mapping of the incorporation of child and adolescent protection approaches into asylum systems in MIRPS countries. This exercise identified progress, gaps and replicable practices in strengthening legal and operational frameworks for assisting unaccompanied or separated children and adolescents, as well as incorporating age-appropriate interview methods, safe spaces, accessible language and measures to prevent revictimization. As a result, countries now have a regional comparative baseline that helps identify areas for improvement and guides future harmonization processes, protocol updates and institutional strengthening for the protection of children in displacement contexts.

As a second outcome, the Regional Technical Team held a regional exchange on the use of artificial intelligence in refugee status determination procedures, with participation from MIRPS countries, the Quito Process and the MIRPS Support Platform, and presentations by the Government of Canada and UNHCR. The exchange produced a common reference framework to guide the responsible use of these technologies in asylum systems through agreement on guiding principles for responsible innovation. It emphasized the need to maintain human oversight in decision-making, ensure system transparency, protect personal data, monitor potential biases,

conduct human rights impact assessments and establish clear accountability mechanisms. This outcome strengthens countries' capacity to assess the opportunities and risks associated with digital transformation, seeking to ensure that innovation contributes to more efficient procedures while preserving protection safeguards.

Under **Priority 2**, the Regional Technical Team on Jobs and Livelihoods advanced a regional agenda to strengthen links between public employment systems and asylum and refugee protection systems, recognizing that access to employment is essential to promoting autonomy and durable solutions for displaced persons. During the first session of the regional series, the seven MIRPS countries shared initiatives that have facilitated access to public employment system platforms and services, including the digitization of processes, the development of job-matching platforms, the organization of job fairs and the implementation of training programmes. Innovative practices to reduce barriers to access were also presented, including adapted documentation arrangements, local outreach campaigns, tools for employers and integrated service centres to facilitate entry into the labour market from the earliest stages of the protection process.

This exchange identified operational solutions that can be adapted and replicated in different national contexts, as well as concrete opportunities to improve coordination among institutions responsible for protection, employment and vocational training. The expected outcome is to expand displaced persons' effective access to employment opportunities, reduce their dependence on assistance and strengthen their prospects for sustainable socioeconomic integration.

Under **Priority 3**, MIRPS continued to strengthen the regional agenda on disaster displacement by consolidating strategic partnerships with the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). These partnerships expand MIRPS countries' access to specialized technical expertise and create conditions for developing more coordinated responses to the impacts of disasters and climate change on human mobility. The collaborations will support actions envisaged in the Regional Action Plan to strengthen technical and institutional capacities and enhance regional coordination on human mobility, protection and climate change.

As part of this work, the Pro Tempore Presidency participated in the Regional Expert Consultation on Durable Solutions to Disaster Displacement, helping bring MIRPS priorities into the regional dialogue and strengthen ties with specialized stakeholders. This participation supports the incorporation of protection and durable solutions approaches into disaster response planning, while reaffirming the mechanism's commitment to developing more preventive, coordinated and sustainable regional responses.



Under **Priority 4**, the mechanism continued to strengthen its governance and regional coordination. A notable achievement was the implementation of the "ABC of MIRPS" training series, designed to strengthen the capacities of National Technical Team members. The evaluation showed positive results: the proportion of participants reporting a high level of knowledge of the mechanism rose from 12% before the training to 75% upon completion. Average ratings also exceeded 4.5 out of 5 for the usefulness of the content and participants' readiness to take part in MIRPS technical processes.

These results show a significant increase in institutional knowledge of the mechanism and greater readiness among national teams to participate in coordination, monitoring and implementation processes. In terms of impact, the training series helps close information gaps, strengthen technical continuity and improve countries' capacity to translate regional commitments into national action.

During this period, the functioning of the Troika, comprising El Salvador, Costa Rica and Guatemala, was also consolidated as a body for strategic monitoring of regional priorities. Its work strengthened continuity in decision-making, facilitated follow-up on commitments and improved coordination among the current, previous and future Pro Tempore Presidencies.

At the same time, the Pro Tempore Presidency represented MIRPS in various regional political forums, including the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) and the Committee on Migration Issues (CAM) of the Organization



of American States, where it shared the mechanism's progress in implementing the principle of shared responsibility alongside other regional human mobility processes. This participation helped raise MIRPS' political visibility, highlight its results and promote a greater understanding of its value as a regional protection and solutions mechanism.

Coordination with the Regional Conference on Migration, the Quito Process and the MIRPS Support Platform was also strengthened through technical meetings aimed at identifying synergies and promoting a more complementary regional response. As a result, progress was made in identifying areas of collaboration that can reduce duplication, optimize resources and promote greater coherence among the different regional mechanisms addressing human mobility and protection.

As part of these efforts, progress was made in developing a proposal to connect the academic networks of MIRPS and the Quito Process. This initiative seeks to generate a sustained impact on the quality of public policies through increased production, systematization and dissemination of regional evidence. Connecting the two networks will strengthen the link between research and decision-making, expand the exchange of specialized knowledge and consolidate a common technical foundation for designing more effective protection and solutions responses.

Belize

National context

Belize recorded an 87% increase in asylum applications during the first half of 2026 compared with the same period in 2025, with most cases originating from Honduras, Nicaragua and Guatemala. The Refugees Department received 84 new applications, representing a total of 121 people. The Refugee Eligibility Committee (REC) held five meetings, at which it recommended granting refugee status in 84% of the cases reviewed. 100% of recommended cases were subsequently confirmed by the competent authority. Home visits were conducted jointly with social work specialists to asylum-seeking and refugee families with specific protection needs, resulting in referrals for a total of 23 cases.



© Belize Refugees Department

Protection

Efficient refugee status determination through reduced processing times. By strengthening case management, holding regular meetings of the Refugee Eligibility Committee and simplifying administrative procedures, Belize is ensuring timely access to international protection. During the reporting period, the Committee reviewed 50 cases, and the average waiting time between registration and the Committee's decision was 92 days.

Systematic application of the Cartagena Declaration in refugee status determination. The Refugee Eligibility Committee continued to strengthen the application of the Cartagena Declaration criteria incorporated into Belize's Refugees Act by making more systematic use of country-of-origin information in refugee status determination procedures. This approach is applied particularly to applicants from countries experiencing generalized violence, massive human rights violations or other circumstances that seriously disturb public order. It recognizes that not all refugees can explicitly articulate their protection needs; the approach therefore complements the individual assessment of each asylum application.

Inclusive consultations with key stakeholders for the legal review of Belize's Refugees Act. The Refugees Department, in partnership with UNHCR, held consultations with more than 60 representatives of key government institutions, civil society organizations and international partners as part of the review of the Refugees Act (2020). These consultations resulted in technical recommendations to strengthen the national asylum framework and align Belize's legislation with international refugee law, regional commitments and the evolving asylum context.

Progress in digitizing Belize's refugee case management system. Under the project Supporting the Strengthening of the Asylum System and Refugee Protection in Belize, funded by the Government of Japan and implemented by UNHCR, the Refugees Department made significant progress towards digitizing its refugee case management system. During the reporting period, the Department developed standard operating procedures, finalized the technical requirements and terms of reference for the new system, assessed hardware and software needs, acquired essential equipment and began preparations to digitize existing refugee files.

Strengthening protection through the Border Presence Project. The Border Presence Project, funded by the Government of Spain through the Organization of American States' MIRPS Fund and implemented by the Refugees Department, has helped strengthen access to asylum by building the capacities of frontline public officials and other relevant stakeholders through workshops held across the country. The Border Presence Project aims to raise awareness among key stakeholders of the Refugees Department's work and provide asylum-seekers with clear and accessible guidance on the asylum application procedure,

their rights and the opportunities available to them in Belize. As of 30 June 2026, a total of 670 officials from law enforcement agencies and social service institutions throughout Belize had received training on the national asylum system and the principles of international refugee protection.

Health

Expanding access to National Health Insurance for all. The nationwide expansion of Belize's National Health Insurance programme increased access to essential health services for more than 400 refugees living throughout the country, including in the Belize and Cayo districts, where most of the refugee population is concentrated. Expanded coverage has improved access to medical consultations, laboratory services, medicines and other primary health care services delivered through public and private health facilities.



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Costa Rica

National context

In 2025, forced displacement in the Americas continued to increase, reaching 22.8 million displaced persons out of a global total of 117.8 million[1]. This represents an increase from the end of 2024, when 21.9 million displaced persons were recorded[2]. As a result, the region accounts for approximately 19% of the world's displaced population, reflecting the scale of the international protection challenges faced by countries in the hemisphere.

In this context, Costa Rica plays a fundamental role in protecting refugees and asylum-seekers in the region. As of 30 June 2026, the country hosted 23,434 recognized refugees and 181,834 asylum-seekers, 84% of whom were Nicaraguan. This has established Costa Rica as the main host country for persons forcibly displaced from Nicaragua and as one of the region's leading countries in international protection.

The country's response is grounded in a long tradition of respect for human rights and access to international protection. Over the years, Costa Rica has kept its asylum system open and promoted conditions that support refugees' inclusion in host communities, facilitating their access to services, economic opportunities and protection mechanisms.

As a result of this track record, Costa Rica has established itself as a diverse and inclusive society. In 2025, 9% of the resident population[3] had been born abroad, one of the highest proportions in Latin America. This figure reflects both the country's historical capacity to receive people from other countries and the progress made in integrating refugees and migrants, who actively contribute to its social, cultural and economic development. At the same time, Costa Rica continues to strengthen its asylum system and promote comprehensive responses that facilitate socioeconomic inclusion, effective access to rights and the development of durable solutions for refugees, asylum-seekers and others in need of international protection.

1 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Forced Displacement in 2025: Americas Trends, available at: https://www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/2026-06/Americas-trends-forced-displacement-in-2025.pdf.

2 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Global Report 2024, available at: https://www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/2025-07/global-report-2024.pdf.

3 National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC), National Household Survey (ENAHO) 2025, Costa Rica.



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Jobs and livelihoods

Socioeconomic integration of refugees and asylum-seekers. As part of efforts to promote the socioeconomic inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security continued to implement actions under the National Employability and Human Talent Strategy (BRETE) during the first half of 2026. These actions enabled 429 foreign nationals to access guidance, advisory and job-matching services through the National Employment System and the *brete.cr* platform. In addition, 27 foreign nationals received training on labour rights, strengthening their knowledge and tools for effective and sustainable integration into the Costa Rican labour market.

Health

Continuation of the collective agreement ensuring access to health care for asylum-seekers, refugees, stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness. For the seventh consecutive year, the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS), in partnership with UNHCR, maintains a collective insurance agreement ensuring access to public health services for 600 stateless persons or persons at risk of statelessness, asylum-seekers and refugees with medical vulnerabilities. Through this agreement, beneficiaries receive collective CCSS insurance coverage, enabling them to access comprehensive medical care, including consultations, medicines, diagnostic tests and other health services, and removing barriers that would otherwise limit their care. This initiative helps ensure the right to health, support continuity of medical treatment, prevent complications associated with untreated illnesses and promote beneficiaries' social and economic integration in Costa Rica. It also highlights the importance of maintaining and strengthening international cooperation support as an expression of the principle of shared responsibility in addressing the challenges arising from forced displacement and statelessness. The continuation of these cooperation mechanisms is essential to advancing comprehensive and sustainable protection for these populations, while helping preserve the financial sustainability of Costa Rica's social security system. In this regard, coordination between the CCSS and UNHCR has provided a strategic mechanism for reconciling the effective guarantee of the right to health with the sustainability and responsiveness of the public social security system.

Education

Access to Costa Rica's public education system for asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons. As part of efforts to ensure access to education for children and adolescents experiencing forced displacement, the Ministry of Public Education strengthened the capacities of the Regional Education Directorates by training 17 newly appointed supervisors during the reporting period. This initiative helps equip educational communities with more tools to understand the needs of asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons, supporting educational inclusion and respect for their rights on an equal basis.



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El Salvador

National context

The Government of El Salvador, serving as the 2026 Pro Tempore Presidency of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS), continues to strengthen its response for refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees with protection needs and stateless persons.

In this context, the Commission for Refugee Status Determination (CODER) is pursuing actions to strengthen the national asylum system and improve international protection procedures. As part of this process, the institutions comprising the Commission are reviewing and updating the forms used for interviews and for drafting decisions on asylum applications. In addition, the Sub commission for the Reception and Assessment of Asylum Applications, in coordination with the CODER Secretariat and UNHCR, is promoting mechanisms to expedite the admission of applications for processing and strengthen the technical quality of recommendations.

At the same time, El Salvador continues to implement actions that promote integration and social cohesion by providing opportunities for people on the move and host communities, contributing to the development of solutions to displacement.



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Protection

CODER has issued admissibility decisions concerning 33 asylum-seekers, and 15 people have been recognized as refugees. In addition, as part of follow-up on the plan to strengthen El Salvador's asylum system, information materials on the procedure for accessing asylum and tools to achieve fairer and more efficient procedures have been developed, with relevance to the reception and registration stage.

Efforts to integrate refugees and asylum-seekers are continuing. Seven refugees acquire d Salvadoran nationality in the first half of 2026 through naturalization or nationality acquisition procedures, promoting their full access to rights, integration and the consolidation of a durable solution in the host country. Progress is also being made towards the financial inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers, in coordination with the Office of the Procurator-General (Procuraduría General de la República), through the issuance of certificates confirming their status for banking institutions.

Launching of the Humanitarian Assistance Logistics System (SILAH), by the General Directorate of Civil Protection, Disaster Prevention and Mitigation of the Ministry of the Interior and Territorial Development. This digital inventory management tool will enable real-time management of humanitarian assistance in responses to disasters affecting displaced populations.

Jobs and livelihoods

Expanding solutions to displacement in communities historically affected by violence. Through the Urban Centres for Well-being and Opportunities (CUBO), the Directorate for the Reconstruction of the Social Fabric (DRTS) coordinates with other State institutions to expand job training opportunities. In 2026, a total of 897 young people accessed job training through English language learning under the Aldea Programme. Another notable effort to expand the range of job training opportunities is the partnership between the DRTS and the National Training Institute (INCAF), which gives young CUBO users access to online courses from Tecnológico de Monterrey.

Health

Formal adoption of the Specialized Protocol for Comprehensive Health Care for Persons Affected by Intentional Injuries. This instrument includes population in a situation of displacement and human mobility. Its formal adoption has supported efforts to raise awareness among National Health System personnel of specialized care for these populations. In 2026, 450 health professionals and 90 professionals from other disciplines received training under the Protocol, emphasizing the safe referral pathways that other institutions should follow when referring population in a situation of displacement and human mobility to the National Health System for care.



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Guatemala

National context

Central America continues to be a region characterized by complex human mobility dynamics. In this context, Guatemala maintains its role as a country of origin, transit, destination and return for people in need of international protection. During the first half of 2026, the country hosted 1,788 recognized refugees, registered 347 new asylum applications and granted refugee status to 62 people.

These figures reflect the gradual consolidation of the national asylum system and the confidence that people in need of international protection place in the institutions responsible for guaranteeing their rights. According to estimates from the National Statistics Institute (INE), Guatemala also has approximately 573,000 internally displaced persons as a result of violence and insecurity, and more than 3,500 returnees with protection needs. This highlights the persistence of challenges associated with internal displacement and human mobility in the region.

In response to this context, the National Migration Authority (AMN) and the Guatemalan Migration Institute (IGM) continued to advance measures to consolidate the National Asylum System by improving refugee status determination procedures, expediting case management and developing institutional capacities. At the same time, the MIRPS National Technical Team (NTT), led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, promoted initiatives to expand opportunities for the inclusion of people on the move through access to employment, education, health care and psychosocial support. These actions reaffirm the Guatemalan State's commitment to a comprehensive, inclusive and sustainable response.



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Protection

Strengthening and expediting the refugee status determination procedure. The Guatemalan Migration Institute strengthened the technical capacities of the National Commission for Refugees and the National Migration Authority's Legal Working Group through specialized training on the asylum procedure and updated country-of-origin information for countries such as Nicaragua, Cuba and Venezuela. It also promoted the preparation of simplified legal opinions and draft decisions, improving response times for asylum applications, as well as the implementation of management and registration tools focused on humanitarian needs, contributing to more efficient assistance for asylum-seekers and refugees.

Comprehensive psychosocial support. The Department for Refugee Status Recognition (DRER) strengthened free in-person and online psychological support services for asylum-seekers and refugees, seeking to promote emotional well-being, build resilience and provide specialized support in addressing situations arising from displacement, thereby facilitating safer and more dignified integration.

Jobs and livelihoods

Promoting labour market inclusion and access to employment. The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare continued to strengthen employability through job-matching services and measures to regularize access to work. From January to June 2026, 326 work permits were issued to refugees and asylum-seekers. The Work Permit Platform for Foreign Nationals (PEX) was also updated, and 12,924 job-matching services were provided to returnees, complemented by 26 job fairs and 242 employment kiosks nationwide.

Job fairs to expand inclusive employment opportunities. The Municipality of Guatemala, through its Employment Bus Route of Opportunities programme, held 22 job fairs during the first half of 2026, bringing together businesses, Guatemalan nationals and people on the move. More than 10,000 people participated in these activities, with an average of 50 companies per fair, facilitating access to employment opportunities for refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees and host communities.

Education

Technical training to strengthen the integration of asylum-seekers and refugees. The Municipality of Guatemala, through its Employment Bus Route of Opportunities programme and the Vocational Workshop School, promoted technical training and the development of job skills for refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees and host communities. During the first half of 2026, ten refugees participated in work permit guidance sessions and technical training and skills development workshops to strengthen their opportunities to enter the labour market.

Educational continuity and recognition of learning to support educational integration. The Ministry of Education continued to implement the Educational Integration Strategy for People on the Move, facilitating access, retention and educational progression. From January to June 2026, 1,201 returnees received assistance and guidance and were registered. The Ministry also promoted the Recognition, Validation and Accreditation (RVA) Test, benefiting 852 Guatemalan and foreign nationals over the age of 15. These actions were complemented by local coordination efforts, including coordinated work with the Municipality of Esquipulas, where 99 activities benefited 3,088 people, strengthening educational capacities and promoting social inclusion.

Health

Access to preventive health services. The Municipality of Guatemala, through its Directorate of Health and Well-being, held eight community health events for people on the move, including refugees, asylum-seekers and returnees. These actions provided 112 preventive health and basic care services, strengthening access to essential services and contributing to the well-being of these populations and host communities.


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Honduras

National context

During the first half of 2026, Honduras advanced its response to internal displacement through inter-institutional coordination and efforts to secure the legal adoption of the regulations implementing the Law on the Prevention, Care and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons, which are currently awaiting an opinion from the Supreme Court of Justice. This process is key to ensuring the operability of the National Response System for Forced Internal Displacement (SINARDEFI), assistance pathways and the fund provided for in the Law operational for the protection and assistance of displaced persons.

The National Statistics Institute and the Secretariat of Human Rights also released a new estimate of internal displacement, indicating that 423,845 people[4], equivalent to 4% of the population, have experienced displacement due to violence at least once in their lifetime. This development strengthens the evidence available to guide public policies.

Regarding asylum, the National Migration Institute strengthened registration, assistance and procedures for refugees and asylum-seekers through training, institutional coordination and process improvements, helping reduce response times, strengthen assistance mechanisms and consolidate coordination with national institutions and international partners. Measures were also promoted to expand refugees' and asylum-seekers' access to essential services, protection mechanisms and comprehensive solutions.

In this context, the government transition in 2026 created challenges for planning, resource allocation and decision-making. Nevertheless, the Honduran State, with support from international partners, continued to make progress in implementing its MIRPS commitments.

4 National Statistics Institute (INE). (2024). Characteristics of the Internally Displaced Population in Honduras, 2024: Results of the Permanent Multipurpose Household Survey (EPHPM). *Characteristics of the Internally Displaced Population in Honduras, 2024 - INE Honduras - Official Statistics*.

Protection

During the first half of 2026, the Secretariat of Human Rights (SEDH) strengthened governance of the response to internal displacement by convening a high-level meeting of the CIPPDEF, at which State institutions made concrete commitments to reinforce prevention, protection and solutions efforts.

Progress is also being made in the legal and administrative process to approve the regulations implementing the Internal Displacement Law, a key step towards operationalizing the Law and enabling the allocation of resources to the Fund for Assistance to Displaced Persons.



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SEDH also convened a coordination forum with municipalities in the Sula Valley, including managerial and technical personnel, strengthening coordination between the national and local levels. This process facilitated the dissemination of assistance pathways, the consolidation of referral mechanisms and the creation of conditions for establishing Municipal Assistance and Protection Units.

Under SINARDEFI, SEDH held the third Protection Services Fair: Connecting Services, Protecting People, bringing protection and specialized assistance services to more than 500 people in areas such as property rights, health, employment and the activation of protection pathways for persons at risk of internal displacement.

Through DIPPDIV, SEDH also provided humanitarian assistance and protection measures to 313 internally displaced persons, representing 110 cases. With this assistance, the cumulative institutional response reached 2,194 people (605 cases) between 2018 and July 2026, reflecting the progressive strengthening of the protection and assistance mechanisms established under the Internal Displacement Law. In addition, 64 public officials from the central government and municipalities were certified after completing the Specialized Course on Forced Internal Displacement. The training strengthened SINARDEFI's capacity to implement the Law, improving institutional capacity to prevent internal displacement and identify, assist and protect those affected by it.

The National Migration Institute (INM), for its part, registered 97 asylum applications, representing 188 applicants, and continued to strengthen the national asylum system through improvements to refugee status determination procedures, registration and assistance mechanisms, and training for new personnel on access to asylum and international protection, in coordination with national and international partners.

INM also led a high-level dialogue to strengthen refugees' and asylum-seekers' access to rights, promoting greater inter-institutional coordination. Participants included the Secretariat of the Interior, Justice and Decentralization, the Secretariat of Labour and Social Security, the Secretariat for Children, Adolescents and Families (SENAF), SENPRENDE and the National Vocational Training Institute (INFOP), among others. The dialogue sought to promote coordinated action on protection, socioeconomic inclusion and access to rights.

The Property Institute (IP) made significant progress in establishing the Abandoned Property Registry (RBA) by completing the review of the RBA Executive Agreement, with only its approval remaining pending. It also completed the update of its module in the Unified Registry System (SURE), including integration with the new Front Office platform. With these advances, IP has the legal and technological tools needed to begin implementing the RBA and processing decisions issued by the Secretariat of State for Human Rights (SEDH), strengthening protection of the property of persons affected by internal displacement. With UNHCR support, IP also held fairs in San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa, bringing property registration, cadastral and land tenure regularization services closer to the population.

The Secretariat of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (SRECI) ensured the uninterrupted operation of the three Returnee Assistance Centres (CAMR) by allocating financial resources through the Solidarity Fund for Honduran Migrants (FOSMIH) for 2026, ensuring care and humanitarian assistance for Honduran returnees.

During the first half of 2026, SRECI also strengthened the provision of protection and assistance to Hondurans on the move under the Law on the Protection of Honduran Migrants and Their Families by holding the First Extraordinary Meeting of the National Council for the Protection of Honduran Migrants (CONAPROHM). Its agreements focused on strengthening inter-institutional coordination, consolidating information systems and promoting reintegration processes for returnees.

During the first half of 2026, SRECI also carried out strategic actions to strengthen the Consular Network, reactivate the "ALHO VOZ" Call Centre and consolidate the Consular and Migration Observatory. These tools aim to improve assistance, guidance and protection for Hondurans abroad and on the move.

In the area of child and adolescent protection, SRECI assumed leadership of the Human Mobility Commission of Honduras' Comprehensive System for Guaranteeing the Rights of Children and Adolescents (SIGADENAH). It established as a priority the strengthening of protection, reception, referral and follow-up processes for returning children and adolescents, from the CAMR to local assistance and protection mechanisms.

Statistical inclusion

In April 2026, INE, together with the Secretariat of Human Rights, presented findings on internal displacement from the Permanent Multipurpose Household Survey (EPHPM). This development systematically incorporates displacement into national statistical production and strengthens the evidence base for public policies.

Under the Internal Displacement Solutions Fund (IDSF), and with support from UNHCR, IOM and UNDP, SEDH is working to strengthen information systems on internal displacement and the use of evidence in decision-making. It is also promoting the development of a national strategy for durable solutions in the area of livelihoods to support the sustainable socioeconomic integration of displaced persons.

Mexico

National context

Mexico continues to play a strategic role in the regional response to cross-border forced displacement. The sustained arrival of mixed flows, mainly from Latin America and the Caribbean, has posed various challenges for the national asylum system, particularly in terms of response capacity and the development of sustainable solutions.

From January to June 2026, the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMAR) assisted 23,908 people applying for refugee status, a trend that has placed Mexico among the ten countries receiving the highest number of applications worldwide. Of this total, 43% were women and more than 15% were children and adolescents, reflecting the persistence of increasingly diverse and complex protection profiles.

In this context, Mexico continued to implement its MIRPS National Action Plan by progressively strengthening the national asylum system through a comprehensive approach that links international protection, effective access to rights and local integration through coordinated action by the State and its strategic partners.



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Protection

Strengthening the refugee status determination procedure through higher-quality, more efficient and protection-oriented decisions. Between January and June 2026, COMAR issued 6,933 substantive decisions, achieving a protection rate of over 78% through the recognition of refugee status and the granting of complementary protection. It also strengthened specialized eligibility analysis through differentiated approaches, enabling the recognition of 169 people as refugees on the basis of a gender-related nexus and the provision of specialized assistance to 217 children and adolescents who were principal applicants, through adapted interviews, the issuance of Unique Population Registry Codes (CURP) and referrals to health and education services and Offices for the Protection of Children and Adolescents.

Administrative simplification to strengthen the accessibility and efficiency of the asylum procedure. In March 2026, an administrative agreement was published eliminating requirements and introducing measures to simplify and improve administrative procedures before COMAR. The measure standardized forms and simplified procedures related to refugee status determination, family reunification, transfers between federal entities and documentation, among others. This initiative strengthened accessibility, legal certainty and institutional efficiency by reducing administrative burdens for people in need of international protection.

Institutionalizing the Assistance and Integration Model (MAI) to link international protection with effective access to rights and durable solutions. Its implementation as a public policy instrument linking the refugee status determination procedure with assistance, protection and local integration mechanisms facilitated timely access to legal identity, health care, specialized protection and other essential public services for persons receiving international protection. Between January and June 2026, institutional assistance was provided to 56,075 asylum-seekers, refugees and beneficiaries of complementary protection through 71,228 interventions, 4% more than in the same period in 2025. This figure includes 18,484 actions to issue, reactivate or correct temporary CURP records and 26,614 actions to facilitate access to physical and mental health care.

Education

Strengthening referral pathways to promote school enrolment for children, young people and adults. During the first half of the year, coordination mechanisms with the Secretariat of Public Education and the National Institute for Adult Education were strengthened to facilitate the inclusion of people in need of international protection in the education system. This expanded school guidance and enrolment, literacy and basic education for young people and adults, examination services, certification and recognition of prior studies, as well as referrals and psychoeducational support through transition models to help children and adolescents enter the school system.

Jobs and livelihoods

Strengthening socioeconomic integration through job-matching services to support access to formal employment and livelihoods. In coordination with the various stakeholders comprising the ecosystem for refugees' socioeconomic integration in Mexico, a range of actions was promoted: career guidance, connections with employers, access to vacancies, the issuance of Social Security Numbers, ongoing dissemination of information on more than 200 job fairs organized by the National Employment Service in various states across the country, and support for persons receiving international protection to enter formal employment.

Under the Local Integration Programme, implemented in Mexico in coordination with UNHCR, 726 refugees with permanent residence were relocated during the first half of 2026, mainly from Tapachula to Monterrey, San Luis Potosí, Aguascalientes, Saltillo and Guadalajara. Of the relocated refugee population, 69% were single adults and 31% belonged to families of various compositions. The initiative supported their access to employment, services and autonomy.

Local coordination to expand the exercise of rights, self-reliance and development. In January 2026, the project Multi-Service Centre for Inclusion and Development: Local Integration Component for Refugees was launched, developed jointly by COMAR, the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs, UNHCR, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and other partners to strengthen links between the national asylum system and public policies on local integration. This initiative includes locally targeted interventions, with an annual goal of reaching more than 50,000 people. It envisages training more than 300 stakeholders, holding four Inclusion and Non-Discrimination Events for approximately 1,000 participants—two of which took place during the first half of the year—and developing tools to strengthen access to services, family reunification and social cohesion in host communities.



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Panama

National context

Panama is a country of transit and asylum in Central America and has established itself as a host country for asylum-seekers owing to its various favourable conditions, increasing the flow of people seeking international protection. To date, Panama has recognized 2,733 people as refugees. The refugee population consists mainly of Colombian, Salvadoran, Venezuelan, Nicaraguan and Cuban nationals, among others.

During the reporting period, 717 asylum applications were handled. Of these, 18 cases were admitted for processing, and 34 people were recognized as refugees in accordance with the criteria established in national legislation and international commitments on international protection. In addition, 77 passports were processed for refugees who, owing to their situation, cannot obtain this document in their country of origin, thereby guaranteeing their right to identity and facilitating their international mobility.



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Protection

Renewal of identity documents. This year, the process of renewing identity documents began for hundreds of recognized refugees living in hard-to-reach areas of Darién province. Financial constraints had prevented this population from renewing their documents, many of which had been expired for several years. Coordination among various government institutions also made it possible to waive fines arising from expired documents, renew identity cards and initiate procedures to obtain permanent residence for this population. To date, 101 previously expired documents have been processed, restoring these persons' access to valid documentation and strengthening their legal certainty.

Issuance of asylum-seeker cards. This year, 2,363 asylum-seeker cards have been issued to both principal applicants and members of their immediate families, ensuring that asylum-seekers have valid identification allowing them to move within the national territory with peace of mind.

Documentation for children and adolescents. Steps have been initiated to enable minors to obtain permanent residence at the same time as their parents, without having to wait until they reach adulthood to access this benefit. This change would help reduce families' financial burden by eliminating the annual cost of renewing their minor children's immigration cards. It would also provide greater legal stability and facilitate their full integration into Panamanian society, ensuring that, upon completing their studies, they can enter the labour market and practise their professions or trades without facing barriers arising from their immigration status.

Education

Access to the Universal Scholarship Programme. The renewal of identity documents for recognized refugees living in hard-to-reach areas of Darién province has enabled hundreds of families to regain access to important social benefits. Among these, parents can now cash the cheques provided under the Universal Scholarship Programme, which the Government of Panama offers to students with limited financial resources, ensuring the continuity of financial support for their children's education.

Jobs and livelihoods

Processing of work permit applications. During the reporting period, applications for 77 work permits were processed for individuals who had been granted refugee status or whose asylum applications had been admitted for processing.



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MIRPS Support Platform

In 2026, members of the MIRPS Support Platform and other partners continued to provide essential support to MIRPS States, contributing to progress on their national and regional commitments on protection and solutions. Through financial contributions, technical assistance, capacity-building initiatives and knowledge exchanges, Support Platform members supported efforts to strengthen protection and asylum systems, expand opportunities for inclusion and promote durable solutions for refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons and returnees, as well as affected host communities, in line with the 2026 MIRPS Regional Action Plan led by El Salvador and the MIRPS National Action Plans.

Their engagement at the national, regional and global levels remains essential to mobilizing resources, supporting the implementation of MIRPS commitments and fostering more coordinated, comprehensive and sustainable responses to displacement in the region. The examples below highlight selected initiatives undertaken both through MIRPS and bilaterally by MIRPS Support Platform members with MIRPS countries in 2026, reflecting the diversity and added value of their support.

Spain

Spain continues to firmly support rights-based multilateral efforts to protect and assist refugees and internally displaced persons, including the pursuit of durable and sustainable solutions, with particular attention to the rights of women and girls, who face greater risks in displacement contexts. In addition to sustained financial support for MIRPS (€8.2 million between 2021 and 2025), Spain provides technical assistance and contributed to the "MIRPS Regional Mapping of Refugee Status Determination Procedures for Children and Adolescents" in April 2026, as part of the exchange of good practices on the reception, admission and processing of international protection cases.

Canada

Canada continues to strengthen cooperation on asylum in the Americas. In March, the Refugee Coordinator for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) at the Canadian Embassy in Mexico travelled to Costa Rica to deliver in-person training to asylum eligibility officers of the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners. The interactive sessions focused on key aspects of refugee status determination, including interview techniques and credibility assessment. In July, Canada also joined MIRPS partners in exploring the use of artificial intelligence in refugee status determination procedures. The Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada shared Canada's experience during a regional online exchange convened under the Regional Technical Team on Reception, Admission and Case Processing. Canada's contribution extends beyond technical exchanges. IRCC also provides funding to UNHCR to strengthen asylum systems, improve access to protection and promote durable solutions in the region. In Mexico, for example, with Canada's support, migrants, returnees and asylum-seekers receive legal assistance and information on regularization mechanisms. Asylum-seekers and refugees are also referred to the Local Integration Programme (PIL) in Chiapas, Tabasco, Nuevo León, Chihuahua and Mexico City.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

As part of the activities of the Working Group of ECLAC's Statistical Conference of the Americas for the 2024–2025 biennium, coordinated by Honduras' National Statistics Institute (INE) and with the participation of the national statistical offices (NSOs) of twelve countries in the region, the *Practical Guide for the Production of Harmonized Statistics on Forced Displacement and Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean* was developed. This guide provides a solid regional framework and a practical tool offering guidance to NSOs across the Americas on including migrant, displaced, refugee and stateless populations in national statistical systems in a harmonized manner. The Guide has been shared at regional and subregional meetings, including those of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS), as well as the first meeting of the Support Platform for the Chile Plan of Action 2024–2034 (PAC), adopted in December 2024 to mark the 40th anniversary of the Cartagena Declaration on Refugees.

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

The IDB has committed US$60.8 million in non-reimbursable resources from its ordinary capital, channelled through the *Grant Facility*, and mobilized an additional US$3 million in donor funds through 14 investment loans in five MIRPS countries: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Panama. Together, these represent a total investment of US$788.2 million aimed at the socioeconomic integration of migrants, returnees and host communities. In addition, the Bank financed 12 technical cooperation operations totalling US$3.94 million to strengthen government institutions in the region, including support for a migration regularization pathway and assistance to asylum-seekers in Costa Rica, as well as technical assistance for managing human mobility information in Mexico. In El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, the Bank promotes circular labour migration in coordination with Spain, while in Panama it is advancing the digitization of the National Migration Service. In line with the regional América en el Centro programme, the Bank also supports the socioeconomic reintegration and inclusion of returnees in northern Central America and the strengthening of the recognition and portability of job skills through the Skills Passport.



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MIRPS Fund

Throughout 2026, the MIRPS Fund has continued to consolidate its role as a strategic regional cooperation mechanism that translates the priorities defined by MIRPS States into concrete action to address displacement in Central America and Mexico. Administered by the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) through its Department of Access to Rights, the Fund mobilizes resources and strengthens national capacities to advance protection, access to rights, socioeconomic inclusion and durable solutions.

Thanks to the pioneering contribution of the Government of Spain, the MIRPS Fund's first portfolio comprises seven projects developed on the basis of States' national priorities. To date, four projects have been successfully completed and their results presented in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Panama. The initiatives in Belize and Guatemala remain under implementation, while Mexico's project is progressing through the formalization process. The completed projects show concrete results:

- In **Costa Rica**, modernization of the Refugee Unit's platform has improved assistance for more than 32,000 asylum-seekers, reducing waiting times and strengthening the identification and referral of persons in vulnerable situations.
- In **El Salvador**, 70 returnee families—more than 300 people—received humanitarian assistance, seed capital and training scholarships, helping create better conditions for their sustainable reintegration.
- In **Honduras**, more than 100 internally displaced persons benefited from humanitarian assistance and livelihoods support, while institutional capacities and coordination of the State's response to internal displacement due to violence were strengthened.
- In **Panama**, more than 800 people benefited from humanitarian assistance, social inclusion and livelihoods-strengthening activities, including support for Indigenous women entrepreneurs from host communities.

Projects under implementation are also making significant progress. In **Guatemala**, the launch of the Electronic Work Permit Platform for Foreign Nationals (PEX) is a concrete step towards simplifying and decentralizing access to formal employment for refugees and asylum-seekers. In **Belize**, activities in border areas are expanding access to information, guidance and services for refugees and asylum-seekers.

These efforts are complemented by contributions from the Governments of the Republic of Korea and Portugal, which have enabled complementary activities to expand the reach of interventions, particularly in the socioeconomic integration and self-reliance of refugees and displaced persons. These contributions strengthen the Fund's capacity to bring together resources and partnerships around MIRPS States' priorities and enhance the results of national responses.

Taken together, the MIRPS Fund's first portfolio has benefited more than 33,000 people to date and is projected to reach more than 100,000 once all seven projects are completed. These results establish the MIRPS Fund as a concrete instrument for channelling international cooperation towards country-defined priorities, strengthening national responses and advancing shared responsibility for displacement in the region.



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Mid-Year Report 2026

SUPPORT PLATFORM
SOLIDARITY IN ACTION

MIRPS
Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework