

MIRPS 2025

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



CREDITS

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





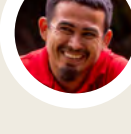
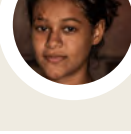
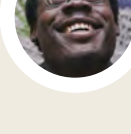
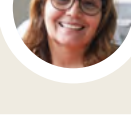
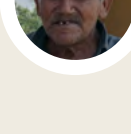

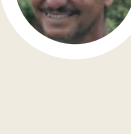
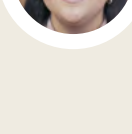
PRODUCTION

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MIRPS Regional Progress

Pro-Tempore
Presidency

During the first semester of 2025, under the leadership of the Government of Costa Rica as the 2025 Pro-Tempore Presidency (PPT), the MIRPS countries achieved significant progress in implementing the commitments outlined in the [2025 Regional Action Plan](#). These efforts have strengthened both national and regional capacities to respond comprehensively to displacement in Central America and Mexico.

Through coordinated work within the Regional Technical Teams (RTTs), and with the consistent support of the MIRPS Support Platform, concrete actions have been advanced to contribute to the protection and socioeconomic integration of refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons, returnees with protection needs, and stateless persons.

Within the framework of the RTT on Reception, Admission, and Case Processing, led by Costa Rica, training processes have been developed on differentiated strategies to improve the management of applications within the asylum systems of MIRPS countries. In these sessions, countries highlighted how they have incorporated differentiated modalities into their asylum/refugee systems and noted that their application has resulted in faster and more efficient case management, improved identification of vulnerable profiles, and a reduction in the backlog of refugee status determination procedures. The team also validated the documents *“Results-Based Management Focused on Strengthening Asylum Systems”* and *“Technical Recommendations to Facilitate Accessible Procedures for Refugee Status Determination, Particularly in Cases Involving Children and Adolescents.”*

Regarding the RTT on Internal Displacement, led by Honduras and supported technically by the Group of Expert Advisors—composed of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), UNHCR, and the Department of Social Inclusion (DSI) of the OAS—the document *“ABC of Internal Displacement”* was published as a practical tool to strengthen the capacities of Honduras, El Salvador, and Mexico in this area. Additionally, a session on *“Good Practices in Strengthening the Social Fabric”* was held in coordination with the Government of El Salvador, showcasing effective practices for creating spaces that foster integration and social cohesion in communities affected by displacement. In parallel, a country-by-country analysis was carried out to identify needs and good practices for addressing displacement linked to violence.

In relation to jobs and livelihoods, the RTT led by Mexico updated an analysis of the profiles and specific needs of refugees and displaced persons, with the aim of facilitating their inclusion in public employment systems. In partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO), progress is being made in strengthening training, certification, and skills recognition services managed by the relevant authorities in MIRPS countries. This partnership has enabled the alignment of priorities with the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM), optimizing available resources and promoting the exchange of good practices towards a coordinated approach to the recognition of labor competencies in contexts of human mobility.

Within the framework of the RTT on Local Governance, led by Guatemala City, efforts continue to strengthen the capacity of local governments to promote the integration of refugees and returnees with protection needs. Among the most relevant advances is the presentation of the *“Guidelines for Local Programs on the Prevention of and Response to Gender-Based Violence Against Women in Displacement Contexts.”* This document was developed with the support of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (MESECVI) of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the OAS, UN Women, UNHCR, and the OAS Department of Social Inclusion (DSI).

During this period, regional coordination and cooperation with other mechanisms and key actors have been promoted to strengthen the regional framework for protection and solutions, through the following actions:

- In collaboration with the RCM and the Network of Civil Organizations for Migration (RROCM), the *“Regional Model Instrument for the Identification of Vulnerabilities and Needs of Persons in Mobility Contexts at Borders”* was presented. This tool will improve responses in border areas.
- The participation of the MIRPS PPT in the technical meeting with the Quito Process to coordinate joint actions to be implemented in 2025, including the *“Second Regional Meeting of CONAREs and their*

Equivalents in the Americas”, the development of a document on family reunification procedures, and the meeting between the academic networks of the Quito Process and MIRPS.

- The participation of the MIRPS PPT, together with other regional mechanisms, in the annual thematic session of the OAS Committee on Migration Issues, where the importance of shared and differentiated responsibility in international protection was highlighted.
- MIRPS participation in review processes and follow-up meetings under the Chile Action Plan (PAC), resulting from the Cartagena +40 Process, promoting the coordination of mechanisms in accordance with each one’s specific mandate.

The MIRPS PPT has also played an active role in strengthening its working structures and raising the visibility of its efforts. In February, the PPT participated in the session of the OAS Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, during which the seven MIRPS States shared key progress and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening regional political dialogue. Furthermore, in May, the work plans of MIRPS and the Support Platform were presented to the Permanent and Observer Missions to the OAS, as well as to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Geneva, in events co-organized with Colombia in its capacity as Presidency of the MIRPS Support Platform.

The MIRPS countries have also advanced in a participatory process to implement dialogue mechanisms with academia and the private sector, in line with the commitments set forth in the 2025 Regional Action Plan. In this context, key actors in both sectors have been identified and will be invited to participate in the activities planned for this year.

In the second half of 2025, the MIRPS PPT will continue consolidating the progress achieved, with an emphasis on institutional strengthening, intersectoral coordination, and responding to new challenges, focusing its efforts on completing the implementation of the Regional Action Plan. These actions include:

- Continuing the process to strengthen the MIRPS

Statutory Charter to further consolidate the MIRPS structure.

- Reinforcing engagement spaces with civil society, refugee-led organizations, the private sector, and academia.
- Enhancing the response to disaster-related displacement through the exchange of good practices and the development of common tools.
- Preparing a compendium of priorities and strategic recommendations aimed at deepening coordination among the various regional mechanisms that

address international protection in the Americas.

These achievements will be presented at the VIII MIRPS Annual Meeting, as well as at the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review 2025, where MIRPS countries will reiterate their commitment to a regional response grounded in solidarity, shared responsibility, and respect for human rights.





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Belize



National Context

In the first six months of 2025, the Refugees Department received 45 new asylum applications representing 66 individuals. The Refugees Department convened six Refugee Eligibility Committee (REC) meetings where 62 cases were presented, representing 93 individuals. So far in 2025, the Department has recognized 35 individuals as refugees.

The Refugees Department's social worker conducted home visits for 36 vulnerable families to assess their needs and referred 14 cases to other government departments for follow-up.



Protection

Enhanced Access to Asylum Procedure

The Refugees Department's office in Benque Viejo del Carmen at the Western Border continued its collaboration with Immigration and law enforcement agencies to receive referrals and screen individuals potentially in need of international protection. This initiative aimed to strengthen access to Belizean territory and the asylum procedure for those seeking protection. As a result, the screening and referral mechanism has become more responsive to the needs of asylum-seekers arriving through key entry points.

Expanded Amnesty Program for Residency Regularization

From January to June 2025, Belize processed 6,104 Amnesty applications, with 5,843 resulting in positive decisions. To date, 9,537 individuals and their dependents, representing 85% of all applicants, have benefited from the program. On 20 May, the Cabinet approved the expansion of eligibility criteria by extending the residency cut-off date from 2016 to 31 December 2019, significantly broadening access to permanent residency for those meeting the revised criteria under the Amnesty Program.



Social Protection

Community Engagement and Awareness Activities in Schools

To commemorate World Refugee Day 2025, the Refugees Department, in coordination with UNHCR, hosted a community football match with students from Bella Vista Government Secondary School and operated an information booth to raise awareness on refugee issues and the asylum process. The Department also participated in primary school Career Days, showcasing its mandate and the responsibilities of its staff to promote understanding and interest in refugee protection among younger audiences.



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Costa Rica



National Context

The regional context has witnessed a significant increase in human mobility and forced displacement. According to UNHCR data, the Americas host 21.8 million people in situations of refuge, forced displacement, or statelessness. Additionally, more than 302,000 people have crossed dangerous routes such as the Darien. This scenario demands both individual and coordinated efforts from States, as well as regional action mechanisms to address the challenge of forced displacement.

True to its tradition of respect for human rights — including the right to seek asylum — and in line with the principles of international law, Costa Rica has reaffirmed its commitment to international protection. The country currently hosts 17,808¹

recognized refugees and 336,578² asylum-seekers. These figures place Costa Rica as the second country with the highest number of asylum-seekers per capita, in relation to its population of 5.2 million inhabitants.

Costa Rica hosts 52% of the world's Nicaraguan asylum-seekers, followed by the United States. The deterioration of the socio-political situation in Nicaragua has triggered a sharp increase in asylum claims, consolidating Costa Rica as the country with the highest number of applications in both 2021 and 2022.

Costa Rica's commitment to international protection extends beyond the national sphere. In 2025, the

¹ Data from the Refugee Unit of the Directorate General for Migration and Foreigners, as of 15 June 2025.

² Data from the Refugee Unit of the Directorate General for Migration and Foreigners, as of 15 June 2025.

country holds the Pro-Tempore Presidency of five regional and international platforms that address forced displacement either directly or transversally.

In this role, Costa Rica has promoted coordinated and articulated action to address this phenomenon and to strengthen the regional response.



Protection

Modernization of Costa Rica's asylum system

The Refugee Unit of the Directorate General for Migration and Foreigners, in coordination with UNHCR, developed a strategy to address and prevent the backlog, with the aim of expediting the resolution of pending asylum claims. This strategy established a baseline of 203,900 accumulated applications as of May 2024, with the objective of transforming the system to process new claims more efficiently. The strategy has been under implementation since its approval, resolving a total of 55,199 cases and reducing the backlog by 19%.



Jobs and Livelihoods

Socioeconomic integration of refugees and asylum-seekers

Through the implementation of the National Employability and Human Talent Strategy, known as Brete, the Ministry of Labor and Social Security has facilitated access for 864 foreign nationals — including refugees and asylum-seekers — to orientation, counseling, and job placement services offered by the National Employment System via the brete.cr digital platform. Additionally, the Ministry has trained 175 foreign nationals, including refugees and asylum-seekers, on labor rights to promote their socioeconomic integration, strengthen their knowledge of existing regulations, and facilitate their access to safe and decent employment in the country.



Health

Establishment of a collective agreement to guarantee access to healthcare for asylum-seekers and refugees

The Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS) ensured the right to healthcare for 3,331 asylum-seekers and refugees. Through an agreement with UNHCR, the CCSS provides collective health insurance to individuals in need of medical care. This initiative enables them to access public health services that would otherwise be unavailable to them and significantly contributes to their social and economic integration in the country.



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El Salvador



National Context

In recent years, the Salvadoran government has implemented a series of public policies aimed not only at improving public security but also at strengthening institutional capacity in key areas such as the protection of persons in situations of human mobility.

In this regard, the country has demonstrated a commitment to the principles of international protection, aligning national priorities with regional initiatives such as the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS), as well as with global commitments undertaken within the framework of the Second Global Refugee

Forum. These efforts have translated into concrete actions, such as the official recognition of refugees and the improvement of conditions for asylum-seekers, ensuring dignified, humane, and respectful treatment.

Furthermore, programs aimed at pursuing durable solutions continue to be implemented, including labor market integration, capacity building, and socio-economic development, incorporating persons in situations of vulnerability, including those in situations of human mobility.



Protection

Since 2023, the Commission for the Determination of Refugee Status (CODER) has carried out the naturalization process for 35 refugees of various nationalities. This has enabled the full integration of these individuals into society, thereby achieving the culmination of durable solutions. It is worth noting that, during 2025, the process of changing the migration category to Permanent Resident was managed and facilitated for four refugees.



Jobs and Livelihoods

The “My First Job” Program, led by the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, has continued to be implemented. Since 2021, it has successfully integrated 842 individuals into formal employment through apprenticeship contracts. El Salvador recognizes that access to livelihoods is essential for achieving true social inclusion and will continue working in partnership with the private sector to generate more employment opportunities.

Since the program’s inception in 2021, more than 1,599 individuals have received training in soft skills to facilitate job placement.



Health

The Ministry of Health updated the Comprehensive Health Care Standard for Persons with Intentional Injuries, including those in situations of forced displacement. The standard incorporates actions for the promotion of peaceful coexistence, prevention, detection, care, and rehabilitation, with a rights-based approach and consideration of the social determinants of health, applicable across institutions within the National Integrated Health System (SNIS). As of March 2025, the standard has been disseminated across the five Health Regions, with the participation of 200 multidisciplinary personnel from first-level health facilities and national hospitals.

The National Council for Childhood and Adolescence (CONAPINA) is providing psychosocial care services from four newly established spaces in communities historically

affected by forced displacement. These spaces aim to provide comprehensive support to children, adolescents, and families from these communities, bringing services closer to the most vulnerable populations and creating opportunities for development and peaceful coexistence.



Education

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MINEDUCYT) distributed 2,850 copies of the Guidelines for Assisting Displaced Students and Teachers or Those at Risk of Internal Forced Displacement to school principals, teachers, and administrative staff, in order to guide case referrals and ensure educational continuity. In addition, the Ministry provided assistance to 605 individuals in the category of “Returned Migrants” through the Equivalency Exam and Alternative Education Modalities, some of whom may be returnees with protection needs.



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Guatemala



National Context

Central America has historically been a region marked by human mobility. Over time, Guatemala has been the scene of multiple dynamics: a point of origin, transit, destination, and return for persons in situations of human mobility, including a growing number of asylum-seekers and refugees.

Currently, Guatemala hosts 1,586 recognized refugees, primarily from Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Venezuela. This figure not only reflects the trust placed in the country as a place of protection but also demonstrates the strengthening of national institutions in asylum. In the first six

months of 2025, 221 individuals were granted refugee status. Since 2019, asylum applications have steadily increased, from 494 that year to a historic high of 1,878 in 2024. Since the beginning of 2025 alone, 804 new applications have been registered.

In this context, two key milestones led by the National Migration Authority through the Guatemalan Migration Institute stand out. The first is the implementation of the *National Migration Policy* of Guatemala, conceived as a framework instrument to guide the comprehensive, orderly,

and safe management of migratory flows, with a focus on human rights, development, and shared responsibility. This policy seeks to strengthen State capacities to effectively and respectfully address the needs of migrants, returnees, and persons in transit.

The second milestone is the approval of the *Return Home Plan 2025*, a key initiative aimed at ensuring dignified reception and effective reintegration for Guatemalans returned mainly from Mexico and the United States. This plan is structured into three phases: **Phase 1: Near You**, covering consular assistance and protection; **Phase 2: Dignified Return**, providing immediate humanitarian assistance upon return; and **Phase 3: New Opportunities**, facilitating access to employment, education, and State programs.

This strategy reflects the State's commitment to a coordinated, humane, and sustainable response to return migration.

This comprehensive effort represents a concrete and sustainable opportunity to strengthen labor, educational, and social reintegration, particularly in communities with high rates of irregular migration.

In parallel, the MIRPS National Technical Team, in compliance with the National Action Plan and in line with the commitments of the Government of Guatemala, has promoted the inclusion of refugees in the education system and the formal labor market, thereby reaffirming the country's commitment to an inclusive, dignified, and sustainable humanitarian response.



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Protection

Decentralization of services provided by the Refugee Status Determination Department.

Through mobile outreach activities in border areas, access to the asylum procedure was facilitated in the Department of Chiquimula, assisting 98 persons with international protection needs between January and June. In addition, in the Departments of Quetzaltenango and Chiquimula, permanent services are provided to inform about the procedure and the rights to which applicants are entitled, deliver final decision notifications from the National Migration Authority, issue certificates, conduct home monitoring visits to verify the current situation of asylum-seekers and refugees, among other actions. A total of 163 asylum applications and 41 refugees were assisted.

Promoting psychological well-being in refugee contexts.

The Psychological Clinic of the Refugee Status Determination Department provides care to applicants who have experienced traumatic situations. Services include psychological first aid, crisis intervention, and therapeutic support, both in person and virtually. More than 120 sessions have been conducted, mainly for women from various countries. The clinic has a support network of public and private institutions for case referrals and is a key resource for the emotional well-being of asylum-seekers and refugees.

Digital platform for extensions: agile and decentralized access.

The digital platform for extensions of Provisional Stay Status decentralizes issuance of documents and eliminates the need to travel to Guatemala City every 30 days. This saves time and money and ensures continuity in the process for asylum-seekers. With only their case number and

email address, applicants can receive their extension online within a maximum of 72 hours. Currently, 2,007 users are registered. In 2024, 13,332 extensions were granted, and so far this year, 10,933 have been issued.

Jobs and Livelihoods

The Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare promotes employability, technical training, job fairs, and authorizes work permits for foreigners.

Between January and June 2025, 417 permits were granted to asylum-seekers and 39 to refugees.

Additionally, 119 returnees or individuals at risk of irregular migration received training. Two business forums were held with 140 companies to raise awareness about labor inclusion.

Personalized guidance was also provided and focus groups with companies were organized. With the support of UNHCR, staff of the General Directorate of Employment were trained on the human rights of refugees.

At the institutional and national levels, the creation of the Returned Migrants Assistance Unit stands out, supporting recruitment, job fairs, and employment kiosks. The PEX, Tu Empleo, and Oportugate platforms facilitate labor market access and promote inclusion across the country.

Social Protection

In 2025, the Casa Joven programs reached thousands of adolescents and youth, promoting the prevention of violence, irregular migration, and other protection needs. A total of 5,070 therapeutic processes were provided, and 2,885 individuals participated in the School for the Family. In addition, 222 adolescents received technical training, and 423 continued their education. More than 1,000 adolescents and youth at risk of irregular migration were informed about their rights, and the inter-institutional network was strengthened, with UNHCR as a strategic partner. *Casa Joven* continues to be synonymous with opportunity and transformation.

Education

The Ministry of Education, through the General Directorate of Extracurricular Education (DIGEEX) of Guatemala, actively participates in the implementation of the Return Home Plan. It also promotes the Educational Integration Strategy for populations in situations of human mobility, with the aim of facilitating access, retention, and graduation for children, adolescents, youth, and adults seeking educational reintegration into the National Education System. In 2025, the Ministry supported more than 765 returned Guatemalans by providing information and guidance on educational and training programs and services in flexible and relevant modalities to ensure the continuity of their educational pathways and restore their right to education. These actions fall within the phases of Dignified Return and New Opportunities, contributing to sustainable reintegration.



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Honduras



National Context

Honduras faces significant challenges in the protection of internally displaced persons, returnees with specific needs, refugees, and asylum-seekers. As of June 2025, the authorities report notable normative and institutional advances, including the implementation of the *Protocol for Assistance and Identification in the Migrant Returnee Assistance Centers (CAMR)*, the strengthening of inter-municipal coordination, and the drafting of the regulations for the *Law on Internal Displacement*. Data collection on forced displacement has been intensified by the

National Institute of Statistics (INE), with the support of UNHCR and the Secretariat for Human Rights (SEDH).

Despite these advances, structural challenges persist, such as violence, insecurity, land dispossession, and climate change, which continue to fuel the displacement cycle. In this context, Honduras is moving toward coordinated, evidence-based responses, in coordination with local governments, international agencies, and civil society organizations.



Progress

Honduras has implemented various measures to improve the protection of refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees, and internally displaced persons, as well as to prevent forced displacement.

The National Migration Institute (INM) has strengthened its legal and regulatory framework, aligning it with international standards to facilitate clear asylum application processes. It has worked closely with UNHCR and IOM to ensure security conditions and access to basic services, in addition to training its personnel in human rights and international protection. Safe spaces have been established to serve people in mixed movements, and awareness campaigns on rights and available resources have been promoted.

During the first semester of the year, the INM registered 302 asylum applications and continues to strengthen its protection and integration response within the MIRPS framework and Action Plan. Through the Human Rights Directorate and in coordination with UNHCR, assistance has been provided with migration procedures. A participatory assessment with refugees identified barriers to accessing employment, financial services, and productive resources. Additionally, *World Refugee Day* was commemorated with events in Tegucigalpa, Choluteca, and Danlí, reaffirming the government's commitment to protecting this population.

Progress has also been made in modernizing facilities, training staff, and improving humanitarian assistance to ensure that persons with international protection needs can enter Honduras and access efficient procedures. Medical care is provided in three *Migrant Assistance Centers (CAMIs)* by trained personnel with the support of the Ministry of Health. Furthermore, dialogues

have been initiated with the Ministry of Education (SEDOC) and the Ministry of Labor and Social Security (SETRASS) to address the obstacles faced by refugees in accessing employment and social inclusion.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has led the development of the *Protocol for Assistance and Identification of Returnees with Protection Needs*, in coordination with other State institutions and with the support of international agencies. This protocol establishes mechanisms for differentiated assistance, referral to specialized services, and data collection to inform evidence-based public policies.

The Secretariat of State for Human Rights has strengthened coordination between central and local governments to respond to internal displacement through the development of participatory municipal guidelines, the establishment of dialogue platforms, and the training of 127 officials in eight priority municipalities. Similarly, the *Directorate for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons by Violence (DIPPDIV)* has supported virtual training sessions for public officials organized by the SEDH, introducing the topic of State protection against displacement, and has disseminated the *Law for the Prevention, Assistance, and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons and the Case Response Pathway for Displacement* to 420 public servants from the National Emergency System 911. In addition, a service fair was held in Tegucigalpa, reaching 504 people with information on the protection services provided by the National System for the Response to Internal Displacement (SINARDEFI). Forums were held, and informational materials were developed and distributed at migrant reception points and institutional spaces.

The SEDH held three capacity-building and knowledge-sharing workshops with the three *Migrant Returnee Assistance Centers* in the northern region, reaching a total of 75¹ participants who received information on Law 154-2022 and the protection pathway of the DIPPDIV, thus improving referral and care protocols for returnees with protection needs.

During the first semester of this year, the DIPPDIV provided *Emergency Humanitarian Assistance* to a total of 62 cases, representing 204 beneficiaries.² Of these, 19 cases involved returnees with protection needs.

The INE, together with the SEDH and UNHCR, has begun collecting statistical data on forced displacement in Honduras, refining methodologies and integrating variables such as causes, places of origin, and return. This work will feed into a national report containing key information for public policy.

Honduras has also advanced in creating an inter-institutional protection pathway for displaced children, with an emphasis on preventing forced recruitment and gender-based violence. This initiative involves multiple public institutions and complements the *National Policy*

for Early Childhood, Childhood, and Adolescence 2023–2033, which includes a specific focus on the protection of children in human mobility.

In addition, the creation of a *Register of Assets Abandoned Due to Violence* has begun, aimed at ensuring their legal protection. In the academic sphere, FLACSO Honduras has conducted key research analyzing institutional capacity and profiling displaced and returned persons, generating valuable evidence for the design of more effective public policies.

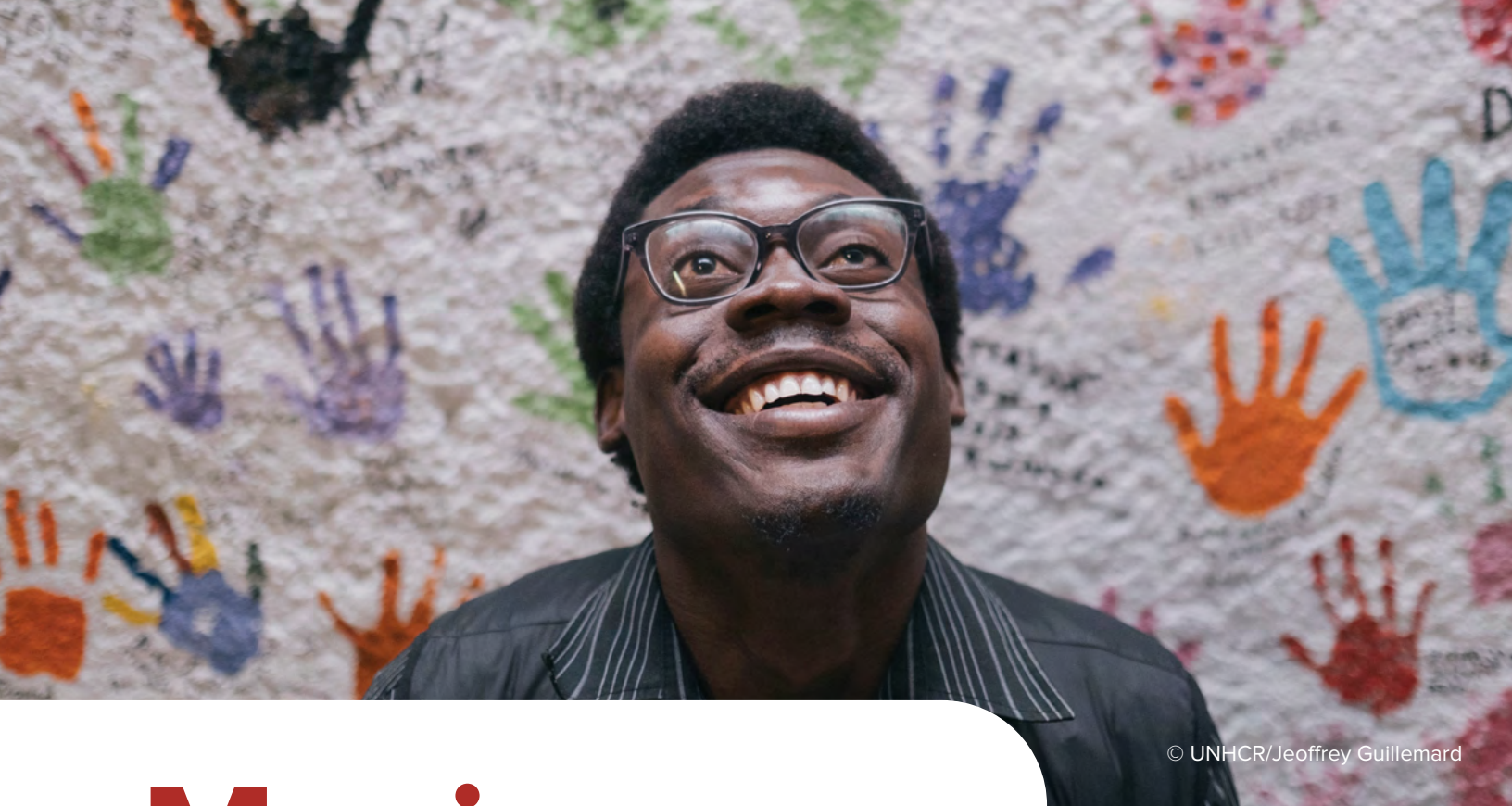
In the first semester of 2025, concrete and significant steps have been taken to ensure human rights-based approaches for the population in human mobility, in line with the commitments of the *Government Plan for the Refoundation of Honduras 2022–2026*, which includes guaranteeing human rights, citizen security, mental and emotional health, education, migration with a humanistic migration policy, among others.

¹ 23 women and 5 men at the CAMR Belén; 14 women and 7 men at the CAMR Omoa; and 15 women and 11 men at the CAMR Lima.

² Of the 204 individuals disaggregated, 61 are women, 59 are men, 36 are girls, 47 are boys, and one person belongs to the LGBTIQ+ community.



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Mexico



National Context

Mexico has played a key role in the human mobility cycle in the Americas, simultaneously serving as a country of origin, transit, destination, and return. Evidence of this is the fact that it has been ranked among the five countries receiving the highest number of applications for refugee status worldwide, from a population representing more than 100 nationalities.

In the first half of 2025 alone, 45,519 asylum-seekers were assisted (approximately 18% of them were children and adolescents). This represents an increase of more than 7% compared to the number recorded during the same period in 2024. To date, the highest peak was recorded in 2023, when a historic total of 142,700 asylum-seekers was reached.

In the face of these challenges, Mexico, through the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMAR), has reaffirmed its commitment to international protection through concrete and transformative actions aimed at safeguarding its

asylum system. It has strengthened institutional capacities, optimized processes, and placed asylum-seekers, refugees, and beneficiaries of complementary protection at the center of its work.



Protection

The establishment of simplified, agile, efficient, and high-quality procedures for determining refugee status and processing family reunification applications.

with the principle of legality and the right to due process. These measures include conducting in-person appearances for the appointment of legal representatives, holding personal interviews via videoconference, and creating digital case files.

As part of the implementation of measures for the early identification and referral of cases with a high eligibility rate, from January to June 2025, 4,359 cases benefited from differentiated processing of their applications through accelerated or simplified procedures.

Furthermore, thanks to COMAR's application since July of last year of the expanded refugee definition contained in the 1984 Cartagena Declaration to adjudicate claims from Haitian nationals, in the first half of this year, the refugee recognition rate for this population in Mexico reached 89%.

During the reporting period, COMAR also began implementing digital transformation and administrative streamlining measures for family reunification applications, in full compliance



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Jobs and Livelihoods

Actions for the legal, economic, social, and cultural integration of asylum-seekers, refugees, and beneficiaries of complementary protection.

Information brigades, workshops, and training sessions on employment have been carried out, along with psychosocial and cultural mediation activities targeting individuals under international protection. COMAR has also organized and participated in various local-level integration fairs and campaigns, in collaboration with entities such as the National Employment Service, the National Institute for Adult Education, private companies, and the Tax Administration Service.

Furthermore, under the framework of the Refugee Relocation Programme for Socioeconomic Integration, implemented in Mexico in coordination with UNHCR, more than 2,200 individuals benefited from this initiative between January and June 2025, enabling their employment and educational placement in different cities across the country.



Health

Care and inclusion of persons with international protection needs in medical care services.

From January to June 2025, COMAR carried out more than 1,100 actions to facilitate access to medical care services for asylum-seekers, refugees, and beneficiaries of complementary protection. These efforts enabled the referral of this population to primary, secondary, and tertiary medical facilities, including institutions equipped with advanced technology and providing specialized care, such as mental, sexual, and reproductive health services. In addition, monthly health campaigns have been implemented in COMAR offices to facilitate access to services such as vaccinations, risk factor control, and family planning, through medical care circuits.



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Panama



National Context

Panama is both a transit and asylum country in Central America and has consolidated its role as a receiving country for asylum-seekers due to various favorable conditions, which has increased the flow of people seeking international protection. To date, Panama has granted refugee status to 2,661 individuals. The refugee population is composed mainly of nationals from Colombia, Nicaragua, Venezuela, and Cuba, among others.

During the reporting period, 332 asylum applications were processed. Of these, 20 cases were admitted, and refugee status was granted to 27 individuals, in accordance with the criteria established under national regulations and international commitments on international protection. Additionally, 31 passports were issued to refugees who, due to their circumstances, cannot obtain this document in their country of origin, thereby guaranteeing their right to identity and facilitating their international mobility.



Protection

This year, the Government of Panama approved a new migration category available to all asylum-seekers who do not meet the criteria for refugee status but have been residing continuously in the country for at least one year.

The process of issuing asylum-seeker identification cards has resumed, both for principal applicants and their family members. To date, 352 cards have been issued, ensuring that asylum-seekers have a valid identification document that allows them to move freely within the national territory.

A protocol has been developed between the National Migration Service and the National Office for Refugee Care (ONPAR) with the aim of clearly and jointly establishing the procedure for receiving, assessing, and processing asylum applications. This regulatory instrument seeks to strengthen inter-institutional cooperation and ensure timely, efficient, and rights-respecting assistance for individuals seeking international protection.

A document containing proposals to amend the current legal framework has also been developed, with the objective of strengthening and optimizing the refugee status determination process in Panama. These proposed amendments aim to align the legal framework with international protection standards, improve administrative efficiency, and

guarantee faster, more transparent, and more rights-respecting procedures for asylum-seekers.



Jobs and Livelihoods

During this period, 51 work permits have been processed for individuals who have been granted refugee status or whose asylum applications have been admitted for consideration.



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MIRPS Support Platform

In 2025, the Government of Colombia leads the MIRPS Support Platform. Through its strategy for this mechanism, the Presidency aims to promote a coordinated approach to support MIRPS States in the implementation of their National Action Plans, focused on protection and solutions for displaced persons. This strategy is also aligned with the priorities of the 2025 MIRPS Regional Action Plan, under the leadership of Costa Rica's Pro-Tempore Presidency.

During its term as Presidency, the Government of Colombia has prioritized strengthening international protection systems by enhancing technical capacities, modernizing refugee status determination systems—including their digitalization—and developing national

procedures, systems, and practices that foster greater efficiency, fairness, and quality in asylum processes.

In April and May, the International Protection Learning Event was held, focusing on principles and strategies to reduce backlogs in the processing of asylum claims. This virtual event brought together representatives from the seven MIRPS countries and five members of the Support Platform. Experts from the Governments of Argentina, Canada, Colombia, and Costa Rica shared good practices in the field, identifying support needs and next steps to advance national contexts, deepen areas of common interest, and strengthen institutional capacities.

During the first half of the year, and in coordination with Costa Rica's Pro-Tempore Presidency, Colombia presented its Strategy for the MIRPS Support Platform to the Permanent and Observer Missions to the OAS in Washington, and to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Geneva. These meetings sought to reaffirm the political commitment of MIRPS countries and Platform members, as well as to promote collaboration around the priorities identified for the year.

As co-convenor of the Second Global Refugee Forum, Colombia has actively promoted follow-up to the commitments undertaken, with the aim of showcasing progress achieved and mobilizing greater support from members of the MIRPS Support Platform towards

advancing the fulfillment of regional pledges. This effort is particularly relevant in view of the upcoming Global Refugee Forum Progress Review 2025, to be held in December. During a hybrid session with the Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Geneva, several Platform members—Argentina, Canada, Spain, the European Union, the World Bank, and ECLAC—reaffirmed their commitment, including financial and technical support, to strengthen protection and solutions systems in MIRPS countries.

In response to the call made by Colombia at the beginning of 2025, MIRPS States and Platform members actively contributed to the MIRPS Good Practices Inventory, enriching this dynamic resource that guides the development of technical assistance initiatives.



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As a result of this call, the first semester of 2025 saw the participation of eight countries: Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Switzerland (HIAS), Mexico, and Panama. During this period, 83 good practices were collected, classified under ten thematic areas: child and gender-focused care; decentralization and local governments; internal displacement; employment and livelihoods; integrated care spaces and humanitarian protection; digital innovation; preparedness and response to mass and mixed population movements; border and in-transit protection; legal and regulatory protection; and registration systems.

This exercise also allowed for the identification of key support needs expressed by MIRPS countries in strengthening their asylum systems. These include: financial support to ensure the sustainability of actions; technical training with an emphasis on quality, differential approaches, and the use of technological tools; institutional strengthening to improve response capacity; and the expansion of stakeholders involved, promoting a more coordinated and multisectoral response.

This inventory will be available on the MIRPS website, in a public, interactive section, with the aim of fostering the exchange of experiences and strengthening cooperation among countries in the region.

In line with this spirit of collaboration, Colombia continues to promote the participation of Platform members in MIRPS technical spaces, especially the

Regional Team on Reception and Case Admission. This coordination seeks to strengthen institutional capacities through the exchange of experiences, with joint initiatives projected for the coming months.

In parallel, Belize, El Salvador, Mexico, and Honduras completed the implementation of their MIRPS Good Practices Implementation Projects, financed by the Platform in 2024. These projects promoted the integration of displaced persons in the region through high-impact initiatives derived from the exchange of good practices. In Honduras, for example, the Secretariat of Labor and Social Security (SETRASS) expanded an internship program that benefited 91 young people in partnership with 64 companies, achieving a 73% job offer rate during the project's implementation. In El Salvador, the Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women (ISDEMU) led a project that directly benefited 80 women through an integrated approach combining psychosocial support, economic autonomy training, and entrepreneurship development. As part of the project, 25 women consolidated their businesses with seed capital, fostering their stabilization, integration, and contribution to the local economy.

In the second half of the year, Colombia will continue implementing its Strategy for the MIRPS Support Platform, in close coordination with its members, who will continue to provide technical and financial support to advance regional priorities.



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MIRPS Fund

The MIRPS Fund has become a strategic and operational mechanism to channel resources and coordinate support directed to MIRPS Member States in response to the displacement crisis in the region. Since its launch in 2022, thanks to the pioneering contribution of the Government of Spain, the Fund has financed its First Project Portfolio, comprising six initiatives aligned with the MIRPS pillars and the commitments undertaken by States in their National Action Plans, under the technical and administrative management of the OAS Department of Access to Rights (DAR).

As of the end of the first half of 2025, four projects have completed implementation in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, and Panama:

- In Costa Rica, the initiative “Strengthening the identification and referral of asylum-seekers and/or persons in vulnerable situations, through the modernization of the Refugee Unit of Costa Rica”, implemented by the Directorate General of Migration and Foreigners (DGME) through its Refugee Unit, led to the modernization of the Unit’s service platform. These upgrades enhanced privacy, confidentiality, and operational efficiency,

reducing wait times by approximately 20 minutes per person and increasing the weekly appointment capacity from 600 to 1,500.

- In El Salvador, the National Council for Early Childhood, Children and Adolescents (CONAPINA), through the project “Enhancing the Livelihoods of Returnee Children and Adolescents in need of Protection and their families”, provided humanitarian assistance and promoted durable solutions for 70 families via technical scholarships, support for entrepreneurship, and seed capital.
- In Honduras, the Secretariat of Human Rights (SEDH) implemented the project “Strengthening the governmental response to assist internally displaced persons due to violence”, which provided humanitarian assistance to more than 100 internally displaced persons and enhanced local governments’ response capacities, particularly in La Ceiba and Catacamas.

- In Panama, the Ministry of Government implemented the initiative “Strengthening the care, integration and protection of refugees, asylum-seekers and host communities in Darien province, with a focus on children, adolescents and women”, delivering assistance kits to over 800 refugees and asylum seekers, and supporting 75 Indigenous women from the main host communities in Darién by linking them to sustainable livelihoods, strengthening their entrepreneurial capacities through training and seed capital, and promoting economic autonomy and resilience.

Collectively, these four projects have directly benefited more than 24,000 people—more than half of them women and children—focusing particularly on individuals facing heightened protection risks. Beyond their direct impact, the

projects have helped strengthen institutional response capacities, promote socioeconomic inclusion, improve access to essential services, and generate sustainable conditions for the integration of displaced populations in host communities.

In addition, two other projects in Guatemala and Belize are currently under implementation according to the established timeline:

- In Guatemala, the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare leads the project “Facilitating the labor inclusion of asylum-seekers and refugees in Guatemala”, focused on improving employment opportunities.
- In Belize, the Ministry of Immigration is implementing the “Refugees Department’s Border Presence Project” aimed at improving access to information and regularization mechanisms for asylum-seekers.

All these initiatives have been designed by the States themselves, responding to national priorities and incorporating cross-cutting approaches to rights, gender, age, and differentiated attention for vulnerable populations.

The MIRPS Fund has proven to be an effective mechanism for regional coordination and action. In light of persistent challenges, the Fund remains open to new contributions, with the goal of financing a second portfolio of projects and expanding the positive impact already achieved. Continued international cooperation, framed within a principle of shared responsibility, remains essential to advancing durable, inclusive, and sustainable solutions for displaced people in the region.



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MIRPS Civil Society Dialogue Mechanism

Under the leadership of the Association of Nicaraguans in Mexico, which holds the regional coordination of the Mechanism in 2025, a work plan has been implemented, with the following key achievements:

Review process of the Terms of Reference (TORs)

The organizations that make up the Mechanism carried out a review of its TORs to ensure alignment with MIRPS documents, such as the Statutory Charter. This review, which was also shared with

the Pro-Tempore Presidency, will strengthen the continuity of the Mechanism and facilitate joint work between its member organizations and the MIRPS States.

Bilateral meetings

In line with the commitment to coordinate efforts with other existing mechanisms and networks to increase efficiency and avoid duplication, a meeting was held in May with the Regional Network of Civil Organizations for Migration of the Regional Conference on Migration (RROCM). Shared work objectives were identified, including the Vulnerability Detection Tool at Borders and the possibility of implementing it as a pilot plan in Costa Rica and Mexico.

Good Practices Manual

As a result of the Regional Forum of this Dialogue Mechanism held in 2024, a “Good Practices Manual” was developed under the leadership of the 2024 Presidency, in collaboration with the organizations that make up the Mechanism. In the first half of this year, the Manual underwent a review process and is currently in the layout stage for publication.

Multi-stakeholder pledge for the Global Refugee Forum

On behalf of this Dialogue Mechanism, a pledge was presented under the multi-stakeholder commitment for the Global Refugee Forum. This pledge involves designing a regional strategy

to document good practices and evidence in refuge, focusing on economic inclusion and access to asylum procedures, in order to generate recommendations for States. The organizations also commit to promoting intersectoral coordination spaces among civil society organizations (CSOs), refugee-led organizations (RLOs), governments, and the private sector. Likewise, the Mechanism aims to strengthen regional coherence through collaboration with other mechanisms, such as Cartagena +40 and the Quito Process, to position proposals from civil society and RLOs in line with the Global Compact on Refugees.



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Implementation of the MIRPS Academia and Private Sector Dialogue Mechanisms

As of June 2025, MIRPS has advanced in implementing its Academia and Private Sector Dialogue Mechanisms, designed to strengthen comprehensive and sustainable responses to displacement in Central America and Mexico, complementing State efforts.

Building on consultations with these sectors since 2024, followed by a participatory process with MIRPS States, strategic actors have been identified as potential members of these mechanisms. The information gathered will serve as the foundation

for organizing two complementary events within the framework of the VI Edition of the Inter-American Course on Migration and Protection. This training program is organized by the OAS General Secretariat, through its Department of Access to Rights (formerly the Department of Social Inclusion) of the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy, in collaboration with UNHCR, IOM, and the University of Notre Dame, and will take place in Washington, D.C., from October 8 to 10, 2025.

Within this context, the first Regional Meeting between the MIRPS and Quito Process Academia Networks will be held, with the goal of showcasing relevant studies on displacement in the Americas and fostering the production of knowledge to inform public policies. Additionally, the MIRPS Private

Sector Dialogue Mechanism will be launched, aimed at building partnerships that promote the socioeconomic integration of displaced persons.

These support structures reflect the commitment of MIRPS Member States to inclusive responses based on a whole-of-society approach, recognizing the shared responsibility and contributions of diverse non-governmental actors. By engaging both the academic and private sectors, MIRPS enhances its capacity to design more sustainable and innovative solutions that tangibly improve living conditions and expand opportunities for refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons, returnees with protection needs, and stateless persons in the region.



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