

# II Annual Report of the Regional Comprehensive Protection & Solutions Framework (MIRPS)

2019



Notes:

All English translations of national institutions, laws, decisions and reports are not official translations, unless otherwise indicated.

CREDITS:

MIRPS countries wish to acknowledge the contributions made by country teams and their partners for the elaboration of this report.

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The maps and data in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion on behalf of any of the governments nor of their partners, with regards to the legal status of any country or territory, or the delimitation of borders.

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# ACRONYMS

## General

AECID: Spanish Agency for International Cooperation  
 UNHCR: UN Refugee Agency  
 IADB: Inter-American Development Bank  
 CBI: Cash-Based Interventions  
 CCPDH: Central American Human Rights Ombudsmen Council  
 CERF: Central Emergency Response Fund  
 CLAMOR: Latin American and Caribbean Ecclesial Network for Migration, Displacement, Refuge and Trafficking in Persons  
 CRRF: Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework  
 MIRPS: Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework  
 ECHO: European Commission Humanitarian Assistance Office  
 Great MIRPS: Regional Academia Group  
 IASC: Inter-Agency Standing Committee  
 LGBTI: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transexual, Intersex  
 NCA: North of Central America  
 OAS: Organization of American States  
 IOM: International Organization for Migration  
 ILO: International Labour Organization  
 NGO: Non-Governmental Organization  
 PTA: Protection Transfer Arrangement  
 REDLAC: Regional Working Group on Risk, Emergency and Disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean  
 SICA: Central American Integration System  
 UNS: United Nations System  
 UNDG LAC: United Nations Development Group for Latin American and the Caribbean  
 SGBV: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

## Costa Rica

CATEM: Temporary Attention Centres for Migrants (Centro de Atención Temporal a Migrantes)  
 DGME: General Directorate of Migration and Foreign Affairs (Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería)  
 IMAS: Institute for Social Support (Instituto Mixto de Ayuda Social)

## Honduras

AMHON: Association of Municipalities of Honduras (Asociación de Municipios de Honduras)  
 CAMI: Center for the Attention of Irregular Migrants (Centro de Atención al Migrante Irregular)  
 CENISS: National Center of Information on the Social Sector (Centro Nacional de Información del Sector Social)  
 DINAF: Childhood, Adolescence and Family Directorate (Dirección de Niñez Adolescencia y Familia)

## Mexico

COMAR: Mexican Commission for Refugees (Comisión Mexicana de Ayuda a Refugiados)  
 CNDH: National Human Rights Commission (Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos)  
 CURP: Unique Population Registry Key (Clave Única de Registro de Población)  
 INEA: National Institute for Adult Education (Instituto Nacional para la Educación de los Adultos)  
 INM: National Migration Institute (Instituto Nacional de Migración)  
 SNE: National Employment Service (Servicio Nacional de Empleo)  
 UPM: Migration Policy Unit (Unidad de Política Migratoria)

## Panama

CINAMUS: Center of the National Institute for Women (Centro del Instituto Nacional de la Mujer)  
 CONARE: National Refugee Commission (Comisión Nacional para los Refugiados)  
 ONPAR: National Secretariat for Children, Adolescents and Family (Secretaría Nacional de Niñez, Adolescencia y Familia)  
 SENNIAF: National Office for the Attention of Refugees (Oficina Nacional para la Atención a Refugiados)

# I. Introduction

# i. MIRPS AT A GLANCE



**Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama** adopted the **San Pedro Sula Declaration** in 2017, and agreed to jointly implement the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS known by its abbreviation in Spanish). In 2019, **El Salvador** became part of the MIRPS, thus becoming committed to addressing the root causes of forced displacement in a comprehensive manner, in coordination with the other countries. The MIRPS is a concrete application of the **Global Compact on Refugees**, which encourages regional cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination to share greater responsibility in matters of prevention, protection and durable solutions.

It also entails a **participatory approach** by directly involving people with protection needs and populations impacted by violence and insecurity. In addition, it integrates regional and international organizations, as well as **cooperating States** (Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Spain, Switzerland and Uruguay), which are committed to the humanitarian and development agenda.

**SEVEN**  
 member states

**TWO**  
 years of implementation

**ONE**  
 coordination mechanism: **Pro-tempore Presidency** (Mexico, 2019) supported by the **Technical Secretariat** (UNHCR-OAS)

**TEN**  
 regional and international organizations and mechanisms for coordination: IACHR, SICA, UNSDG LAC, ICRC, CLAMOR, RROCM, REDLAC, GREAT MIRPS, CCPDH, Red Integrase

## ii. FOREWORD

The Pro Tempore Presidency of the MIRPS, as an expression of political will by States integrating it, is a forum that encourages the articulation of strategic actions and new initiatives to address forced displacement and international protection needs from a regional and human rights approach. It incorporates countries of origin, destination, transit and of asylum, as well as a wide set of regional and international actors.

Through the four pillars of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (reception and admission; immediate needs; support to host countries and communities; and durable solutions), this report provides in detail our regional vision and context, as well as our achievements, needs and impending challenges, and also out indicators and best practices at the national level. From a regional point of view, we present the work advanced and led by the Pro Tempore Presidency of the MIRPS.

The national chapters reflect the commitments and priorities all our countries have enshrined in their national plans, as well as the actions put forward, the impact and progress made thus far and our best practices, as well as the challenges inherent to regional responses.

In line with the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees, the regional component is a call to partners and other relevant stakeholders to contribute towards a fairer distribution of the responsibilities, thus widening the basis for support and solidarity.

This joint effort displays the relevance of the Pro Tempore in catalyzing and articulating strategies towards the achievement of common goals like searching for joint solutions. This is paramount to ensuring the access to rights and humanitarian assistance to every persona with international protection needs in our region.

Hence, the Pro Tempore Presidency of the MIRPS is the mechanism that will guarantee continuity of processes already initiated, as well the establishment of much needed synergies with among actors and sectors to work towards addressing the root causes of forced displacement, as well as to tend to the humanitarian and protection needs so no one is left behind.

**2019 MIRPS Pro Tempore Presidency**  
Government of Mexico

### iii. REGIONAL CONTEXT

Forced displacement continues to grow in numbers, and in complexity. Today, approximately 70.8 million people are either refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced or stateless persons. This is the highest recorded number of forcibly displaced people since World War II, and as years go by, new or ongoing conflicts, human rights violations, instability, persecution and oppression continue to force people from their homes.

This trend has not escaped the Americas. Of those 70.8 million uprooted globally, around 16% are in the Americas. Currently, the region is facing complex displacement scenarios, particularly when we consider the recent dynamics of mixed movements and forced displacement at the intra-regional level which have led to significant increases in the number of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants in the Americas.

Gang-related violence, persecution and human rights violations has left no other choice for around 387,000 people from the North of Central America but to flee across an international border. The number of refugees and asylum seekers originating from the region, worldwide as of June 2019, had increased by 107% compared to 2016, and 1700% compared to 2012. That is, as of June 2019, eighteen (18) times more people from North Central America were refugees or asylum seekers in the world than in 2012.

The vast majority are hosted within the Americas region, and with ongoing violence, thousands more continue to flee every year. According to studies carried out by the governments of Honduras and El Salvador, an additional 318,000 people from these countries have had to flee and are internally displaced as a result of violence and insecurity. The social and political crisis that has impacted Nicaragua since April 2018 has forced nearly 90,000 others to neighboring countries. 77% of those uprooted due to persecution and threats are now hosted in Costa Rica, with thousands of Nicaraguans also in Panama and Mexico.

Other more complex and unprecedented challenges include

those arising from massive mixed movements, such as “caravans” heading towards the United States of America, which challenge MIRPS countries. How these countries ensure compliance with their obligation to protect the rights of refugees and asylum seekers under their jurisdiction is even more difficult in a context of mixed movements, where people with international protection needs – those fleeing any form of persecution and violence, as defined by the 1951 Refugee Convention – flee alongside migrants, people who seek to start over in a different country because of economic reasons.

Similarly, ‘asylum cooperation agreements’, will have significant implications and challenges, mainly considering that ensuring the conditions of safety and the access to social and economic rights for asylum seekers and refugees – as enshrined in the 1951 Refugee Convention – continue to be a challenge. In addition, the institutional and technical capacity to process increasing asylum claims are still limited, and systems require significant strengthening and technical assistance to even meet their current demands.

In light of the multiple forced displacement and mixed movements crises, migration control policies continue to be tightened, migration criminalized, borders and regular entry points keep closing, and the protection space keeps shrinking, while xenophobia is on the rise.

Today more than ever, these dynamics present both challenges and opportunities for these countries which are countries of origin, transit, destination and return. However, these countries cannot bear the responsibility on their own. These trends highlight the need to address forced displacement based on common values of responsibility-sharing. The notion that collective approaches are much more effective and efficient to resolving forced displacement situations is a core principle behind the development of the 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, the 2018 Global Compact on Refugees and Safe, and of course the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF).





For decades, countries in Latin America have been leaders in displaying solidarity towards forcibly displaced persons. With a long list of regional instruments, the region has been pioneering initiatives in line with the pursuit of protection and durable solutions for refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced people, deportees with protection needs and others of concern. Central America has long played a key role in this solidarity. It is therefore no surprise that the region would come together to form its own response mechanism.

The adoption of the San Pedro Sula Declaration in 2017 and the development of what is known today as the MIRPS – the Regional Comprehensive Protection and Solutions Framework – has set a precedent and an example of how responsibility-sharing can be a response mechanism for forced displacement issues in the region.

While 2019 has come with its own increasingly complex challenges, it has been a year of progress. The MIRPS expanded to include El Salvador as one of the member States. Similarly, in ensuring its momentum, a rotational President Pro Tempore Presidency was established. The MIRPS countries have made progress in the realization, development and strengthening of their National Plans. This has helped to increase the areas of protection for populations of interest, improve access to social protection and the local integration of these populations, as well as fostering actions aimed at expanding investment in education, access to the formal labour markets and other livelihood opportunities for these populations in their host communities. Similarly, a resource quantification exercise was undertaken to quantify total needs, State investments and funding gaps, as well as to set in motion commitments established in the updated national plans. Additionally, the results of the quantification will be used to maintain an evidence-based and transparent dialogue with the international community in the efforts of addressing forced displacement.

On the other hand, it is worth noting the recognition of the existence of issues that may cause internal displacement. Apart from Honduras, having made progress in advancing initiatives to address internal displacement since its recognition in 2014, Mexico and El Salvador have taken relevant steps in 2019. In the case of Mexico, through the Secretariat of Government, the prevention and response to internal forced displacement has been included within the National Plan for Human Rights, and a process to design a specific legal framework has begun. As regarding El Salvador, the government recognized that the population has been a victim, and committed to work – jointly with relevant civil society organizations. These steps are relevant measures to continue assessing and collecting data on different typologies of this issue, as well as to develop and implement public policies and specific laws to prevent internal displacement. They likely contribute to the creation of mechanisms to guarantee the protection, the provision of humanitarian assistance and achievement of durable solutions for internally displaced people, in line with the Guiding Principle on Internal Displacements.

Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama and now El Salvador, have come a long way in leading the world towards pursuance of humanitarian and development responses together. The roadmap set forth by the MIRPS states needs further support, in the spirit of responsibility-sharing at a global scale.

In this regard, it is worth noting the recent adoption of the resolution on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights during the 49th General Assembly of the OAS held in Medellin, Colombia, in June 2019. This resolution highlights MIRPS as a practical implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework. Beyond this recognition, the adopted resolution invites OAS Member States, taking into account the experience of MIRPS, to develop or update their own frameworks for prevention, protection and solutions for asylum-seekers, refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees with protection needs, as well as joining together in regional cooperation and shared responsibility mechanisms. Additionally, this resolution mandates creation of a proposal for a mechanism for the collection and channeling of financial resources through voluntary contributions (Voluntary Fund) that we hope will enable MIRPS countries to meet their commitments, through a shared responsibility approach, to the challenges posed by forced displacement in this sub-region, in order to protect and improve the living conditions of people who have been forced to move and the communities that welcome them.

At the upcoming Global Refugee Forum, MIRPS states will be able to present their priorities, in light of challenges posed for 2020, during the MIRPS Solidarity Event. This is a vital opportunity to highlight the efforts they have made and ensure they are met with the solid and committed support from the international community. It will be key so that the MIRPS can continue to have a significant impact in the lives of forcibly displaced communities and their hosts.

UNHCR and OAS welcome the actions and efforts that have been advanced by MIRPS states during 2019, in effectively and collectively responding to major challenges in forced displacement. Together, especially through the Technical Secretariat of the MIRPS, we remain committed to support current and future endeavours to advance the commitments and responses of the MIRPS countries to forced displacement within the region.

### **Technical Secretariat UNHCR-OAS**



# II. MIRPS in countries

- i. Belize
- ii. Costa Rica
- iii. El Salvador
- iv. Guatemala
- v. Honduras
- vi. Mexico
- vii. Panama

This section is dedicated to the country chapters of Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama, to gather the work advanced in 2018 in line with commitments assumed since the MIRPS was first agreed upon.

Each chapter begins with a description of the current context, highlighting trends of key population figures. They also report progress made with the creation of legal frameworks and new commitments assumed to address immediate needs and to facilitate the integration of people with international protection needs.

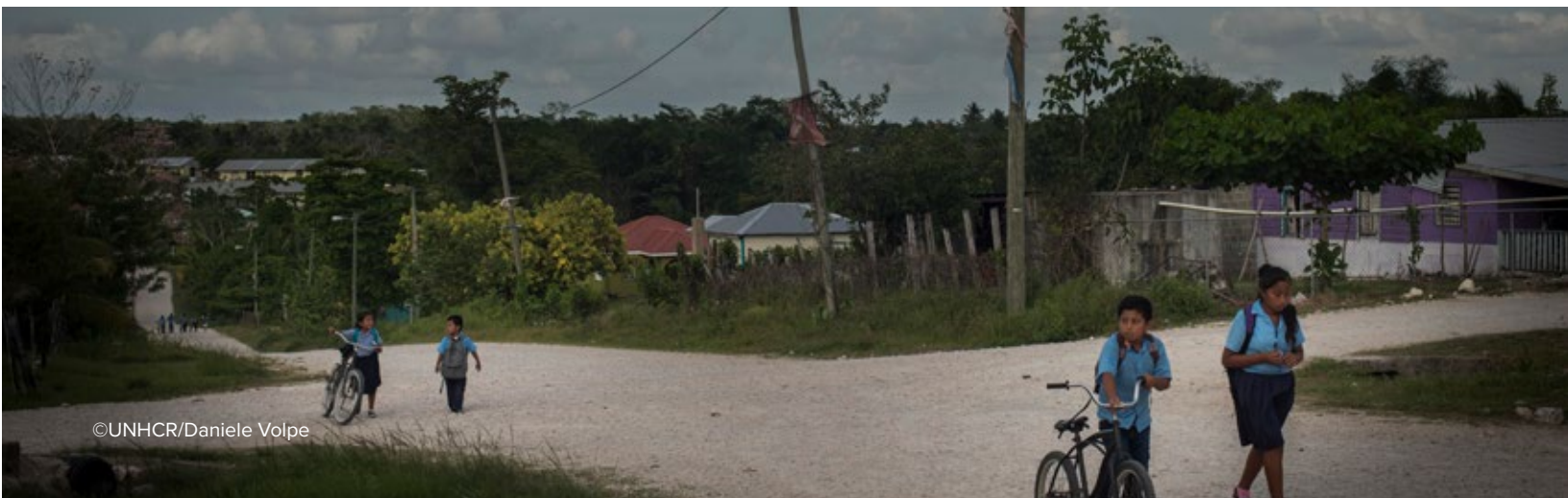
Similarly, each country highlights their achievements during 2019 in relation to the implementation of their commitments, and how these have contributed to improve the identification, referral, documentation and the access to humanitarian assistance for people of concern. In addition, countries highlighted the results of their social inclusion policies and programmes, of their investment in education, access to the formal labour market and other livelihoods for people of concern and their host communities.

Each chapter includes challenges inherent to forced displacement for each country, from their own perspective as countries of origin, transit, destination, return or asylum. Countries identify their needs in striving to provide responses from a responsibility-sharing approach, at the local and national levels. These challenges reflect the updates made to the national plans that will be implemented as of 2020, that were adapted to respond to the current dynamics.

States have selected a number of relevant national indicators that complements the traffic light methodology used last

year, and that constitute progress from measuring process to capturing impact. In some cases, data is reported based on these indicators, however comprehensive results will be captured as of 2020.

Finally, each chapter includes a selection of best practices that countries have identified to illustrate how comprehensive responses developed within the framework of the MIRPS and the Global Compact on Refugees can transform the lives of refugees and their hosts. Their inclusion within the national chapters seeks to facilitate the exchange of experiences, mutual learning and the replication and enhancement of these initiatives at a larger scale, in order to maximize resources. These best practices have been organized based on the MIRPS pillars and on the Forum priority areas (education, employment and livelihoods, solutions and protection capacity) to serve as a contribution to the first Global Compact on Refugees.



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## a. Context

The Government of Belize is fully engaging in opportunities for regional reporting, dialogue, review and stocktaking; all this has been facilitated through the pro-active participation of relevant inter-governmental bodies, including the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Central American Integration System (SICA known for its abbreviation in Spanish). Despite persisting challenges at the national level, related to small states with limited resources and competing priorities at the macro-level, the Government of Belize has prioritized the strengthening of key components of the national asylum system in line with the annual implementation plan as per legislative framework and Belize's MIRPS commitments. Since early 2018, a range of capacity development efforts have been undertaken towards a more favourable protection environment and fairer asylum process.

Improvements to the national data environment have produced an indication of a relatively stable situation in relation to forced displacement and its impact on the country. In 2018, a total of 379 new asylum-seekers were registered, while the total number was 3,492 asylum-seekers by the end of 2018. Data suggest that - at minimum - around 8% of asylum-seekers were de-registered during that year.

By September 2019, a total of 3,934 asylum-seekers were recorded while new requests over the period January – September 2019 reached to 416 persons.

Over the past 12 months, the total number of registered asylum applications appears to have increased, while the number of recognized refugees has been stationary at 28. The number of asylum-seekers, recommended for recognition, by the Refugee Eligibility Committee, steadily increased to 577 by April 2019. In addition to registration data, UNHCR has estimated that some 2,700 persons, who are likely to have

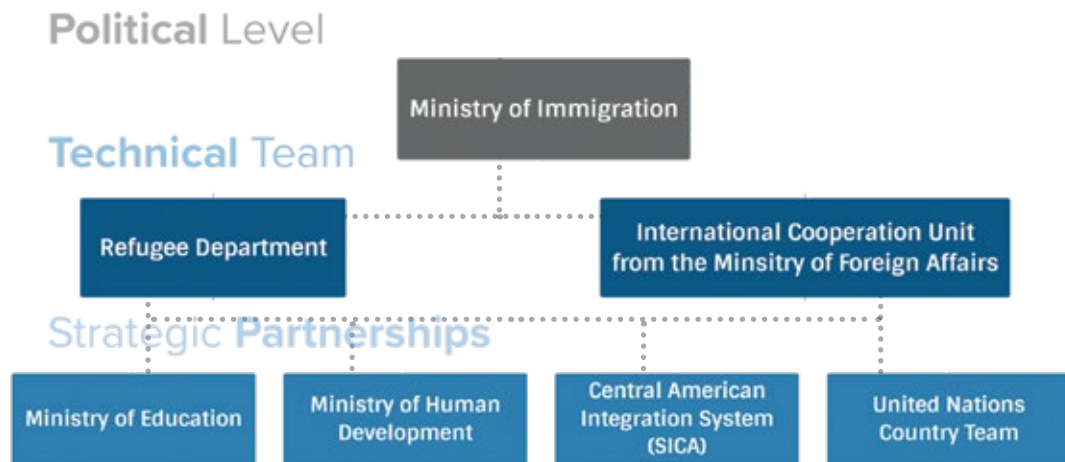
international protection needs, remain in the country but are not formally registered with the authorities.

A comparison of 2018 with 2019 data of registered asylum seekers shows changes have occurred in relation to the breakdown by country of origin. The proportion of asylum seekers originating from El Salvador is increasing, moving from 68% to 80% while the proportion of asylum seekers from Guatemala decreased substantially from 13% to 2%. The proportion of asylum seekers originating from Honduras has remained stable at around 18%.

Raw data from the Person of Concern (POC) Profiling exercise suggest that a majority of 3,900 persons surveyed and potentially in need of protection are not registered with the Government. The data also shows that POCs reside predominantly in the Cayo District (33%) and Belize District (12%) with population concentrations in five urban areas. The age distribution indicates a large proportion (80%) of persons of 30 years of age or below, while 50% are younger than 18 years old; the ratio male to female is 1: 1.08.

The general situation related to persons in need of international protection in Belize has remained, up to present, relatively unaffected by the increased levels of human mobility in the region over the past 12 months. However, concerns are growing that this condition may quickly change, posing additional challenges to the various dimensions of the national response. Apart from the need to adopt a set of adjusted and/or new MIRPS-related commitments, including the solid design of a contingency response plan for an elevated human influx, as a result of the movement of 'caravans', it will also be vital to accelerate the formulation of the pending National Migration and Development Policy. That framework is expected to provide clear pathways for safe, orderly and regular migration whilst creating options that link migration challenges to solutions for the issue of work rights for asylum-seekers.

## MIRPS management in Belize



### b. Achievements

After two decades of activity at a rudimentary level, Belize only recently (2015-2016) re-established and re-activated its core state institutions within the national asylum system. Advances have been made in regards to improvements to reception conditions through routinely and periodically sensitizing and training relevant Government authorities on enhanced standard operating procedures (SOP) for referral pathways for asylum-seekers. Moreover, a first POC resource and information border center plays, since May 2019, a key role in supporting full application of the new SOP for identifying and referring arriving asylum-seekers. As part of the 2019 priorities, steps were also taken to operationalize the Quality Assurance Initiative (QAI) which Belize had formally accepted to join in November 2018. The regional QAI concept has been adjusted to reflect the country's context and to support comprehensive asylum capacity building. As a supporting measure to the QAI, a twinning partnership was started in 2018 with Costa Rica, focusing on exchanging mutual MIRPS and RSD experiences and to be continued with a projected reciprocal visit by Costa Rica to Belize in October 2019. The combined impact of achievements made can be detected in improved referrals of protection seekers and communication between relevant institutions as well as better reception and accompaniment of newly arriving asylum-seekers. The impact of improvements to the RSD procedure via the QAI is expected to be seen in early 2020.

Additional funds made available to MIRPS countries allowed for the creation of opportunities to improve access to formal education and vocational skills training services. Services for English-as-Second Language (ESL) have grown steadily. ESL courses enhance outreach to refugees, asylum-seekers and members of host communities to promote their

local interaction and integration and future personal and professional development, thus creating better conditions for self-sustainability and economic resilience. The ESL scheme is being complemented by targeted investments in improving literacy and numeracy levels in host communities.

Protection benefits and impacts have prepared the ground to deliver even more tangible results in 2020. A key tool will consolidation of government's more systematic interdepartmental coordination to ensure that available data inform the planning and delivery of adequate social services to POC and their host communities. Results of the recent mapping and profiling exercise will be available by end 2019. This data is much awaited to provide a crucial contribution to complementary response frames that are being considered to enhance livelihood options for asylum seekers and host communities. More sustainable livelihoods for POC will support the overall national economy and will be in line with Government's Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy.

There are indications of an increase in the percentage of newly registered asylum-seekers, who have received more specific information about the asylum system in Belize, thus providing them with better access available protection.

Furthermore, Refugees Department, UNHCR and partners have engaged in a more strategic and in-depth delivery of public information and sensitization efforts in 2019. Broader dissemination of accurate information about the background and situation of POC and their potential to contribute to national development has started to create new entry points to influence the public opinion and attitude towards refugees.

## c. Needs and challenges

Significant efforts to improve protection and sustainable solutions for persons with protection needs may face challenges arising from the government's policies to reduce spending. The increased need for technical staff, which has remained unmet due to fiscal tightening, has manifestly affected the work and response to the original MIRPS commitments. Realizing and operationalizing the MIRPS commitments is highly dependent on their continued dissemination, stakeholder ownership and renewed commitment at all levels. Public visibility and the need for effective implementation of the national asylum system call for continuation of national consultations with all relevant stakeholders, including the international community, civil society and the private sector.

At the reception and admission stage of the asylum process, limited awareness still exists amongst many of those expected to apply the recently adopted Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for identification and referral of asylum-seekers in reference to the provisions of the Belize Refugees Act. Some officers find it challenging to vary their established ways of doing things to accommodate the new SOPs, while others are sceptical of the bona fides of asylum-seekers. These challenges need to continue to be addressed through training workshops devised to familiarize officers with the SOPs, and to ensure that they are further disseminated, known and understood. Capacity building efforts in these matters therefore need continued periodic investment in order to promote internalization of new approaches and practices, while addressing horizontal and vertical mobility as well as attrition of public service officers. Additionally, adequate shelter and assistance facilities for asylum-seekers continue to lack in the country, which limits POC's access to appropriate care facilities. Recently, reception conditions were improved via the inauguration of a first POC resource and information center near the main border entry point; additional centres may be needed, however.

The Quality Assurance Initiative (QAI) was recently started but due to initial delays, there is a need to extend the time frame of this effort while ensuring continued presence of sufficient relevant government staff to consolidate agreed follow-up actions of the QAI, in making the asylum system fairer and more efficient. A scheduled fact-finding mission of staff of the Refugees Department to El Salvador to increase information about this Country of Origin will contribute to this effort. A risk however remains in the build-up of a substantial backlog of pending asylum applications, which is partly due to limited human resources. This will, over time, constitute severe bottlenecks in case processing both at the level of the Refugees Department and at the Refugees Eligibility Committee.

Aggravated by longer-than-envisioned refugee adjudication processes, provision of short-term basic emergency humanitarian support to POC households is resulting in increased demands on financial resources which are unlikely to grow, however. Earlier expectations that humanitarian

support to POC could be incorporated in existing national social protection schemes prove to be more difficult to realize as the national schemes are not able to fully cover the existing national needs, in the face of challenges arising from government's policies to control public expenditures.

While initial aggregated data about number and geographical location of POC households are available, these data have not yet been fully analysed, let alone mainstreamed into planning processes. This results in limited inclusion of POC in the national development process. Given current economic and fiscal uncertainties, it is likely that the need for international support, solidarity and cooperation will become of even greater priority to achieve minimum levels of sustainability of the already limited response. Initial outcomes of Belize's first quantification effort show a substantial financing gap in key areas of the national response, creating a high level of dependence on external investments in improving adequate durable solutions for person with international protection needs.

Connected to the success of increased coverage of the 2019 roll-out of public information products on national and social media is a realization of the need to increase the depth-level of topics and the targeting of specific audiences in order to better influence public perception and attitudes towards refugees in Belize.

Belize continues to regard local integration as the most feasible durable solution in the medium-to-long term. This requires, however, a set of conditions in two public domains, which enhance and accelerate local integration processes: In the area of human skills enhancement (language; education; technical vocational training) substantive advances are being made; improvements in the supply of and access to education and skills, training services for POC have proven to deliver protection and integration benefits to POC and host communities alike, as they instil invaluable personal development opportunities, especially for the youth and young adults.

Challenges remain in the "productive area" where POC and certain national population groups experience the same bottlenecks in their opportunities to access decent livelihoods options and apply their acquired knowledge and skills. Discussions at all levels about the possibility of allowing registered asylum seekers to obtain temporary employment permits continue but have not yet led to tangible results.

## d. Updates of national plan

Belize decided that the current and ongoing dynamics of forced displacement affecting Belize, and the proposed national comprehensive refugee response scheme do not warrant a re-design of the content of the commitments, agreed to in October 2017 in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. On the basis of this assessment, the Belize MIRPS National Technical Team performed a re-structuring exercise, transcribing the original commitments into a new framework of Key Results Areas, organized by the same four CRRF pillars; subsequently, the new structure was converted into a new National Action Plan for Protection and Solutions. The new structure does not negate any of the initial commitments but will better facilitate the identification and selection of priorities and enhance the practice of quantifying the priorities made in 2019 and following year. Key aspects of the re-organized plan are shown in the table below.

As an outcome of the increased inter-sectoral dialogues on the MIRPS agenda, the Government of Belize has started to explore concrete options to give follow-up to the priority, stated in November 2018, to develop an “innovative response frame for strengthened livelihood options for asylum seekers”. One of the options currently under evaluation is the continued dialogue to establish an inter-departmental taskforce to design, as a pilot, procedures for the issuance of temporary work permits for asylum-seekers in the primary sectors of the economy.

Key aspects of the updated national plan are highlighted in green.

Pillar 1	1. Capacity building for all relevant Government authorities, delivering Standard Operating Procedures for POC referral
	2. Provision of information to POC in relation to admission to territory and asylum processes
	3. Improved comprehensive data collection (applications; admissions; rejections) and analysis system
	4. Consideration of participation in the Quality Assurance Initiative (QAI) for strengthening of the asylum process
	5. Exchange of information with CRPSF/ MIRPS States on best practices and mechanisms of sharing of responsibility
Pillar 2	6. Collaboration with international community in relation to improved opportunities for refugee integration
	7. Optimize internal coordination, ensuring that asylum-seekers access all social services to which they are entitled
Pillar 3	8. Mapping and data collection exercises on POC and host communities to create evidence for inclusion in national plans
	9. Greater engagement in accurate and holistic public information and sensitization efforts, targeting the general public
Pillar 4	10. Support to comprehensive knowledge-, skills-, and livelihood-based integration opportunities



## e. Relevant indicators

Belize focuses on impact indicators in the two CRRF objectives that are aligned to the country's refugee characteristics (country of destination). Due to the prevailing bottlenecks in the production of accurate, relevant and timely data, the country took a cautious and conservative approach and selected from a total of ten indicators only those that it can likely measure consistently.



**results to date:**  
217 people



**Results to date:**  
3,370 people



**Results to date:**  
Data not available for 2019

## f. Best practices for the Global Refugee Forum



### Protection capacity

Improved Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for identification and referral of applicants for refugee status in Belize

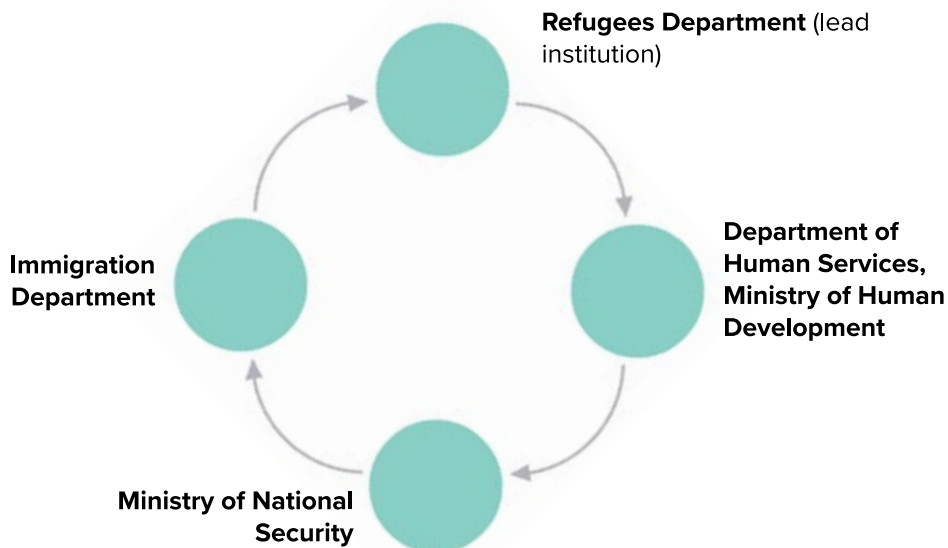
#### Improved Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for identification and referral of applicants for refugee status in Belize

Timeliness is essential to guarantee protection. Failing registration within the 14 calendar days timeframe puts refugees at risk.

Before the application of this best practice, there was no agreed framework or knowledge base for referral, which thus depended on individual criteria and goodwill. Belize has taken measures to gather in one place all the updated necessary information in order for registration to be achieved in a timely fashion.

To this end, Standard Operating Procedures have been created and disseminated to provide the necessary information to relevant actors, such as police and immigration officers, human services staff, community and church leaders, health workers, educators and others. Having an approved, standard set of procedures, rolled-out to relevant government entities, provides a consistent basis on which officers can act.

The SOPs are valid for the entire country and have already been rolled out and are in use in the Western Border region of the country, which is the conduit for the majority of asylum-seekers arriving in Belize.



The Refugees Department has observed that asylum-seekers are increasingly being advised by police and immigration officer of the ability to apply for refugee status and are being provided with the necessary details of where and how to go about such an application.

The best practice provides an excellent example of cross-agency collaboration, since the development, agreement and roll-out of the SOPs has involved four distinct government entities as well as community organizations.

#### Investment

**\$44,000**  
Total cost  
(mobilized  
2018-2019)

**\$22,000**  
Total cost  
(2020)



Provision of English-as-Second Language (ESL) education services

## Provision of English-as-Second Language (ESL) education services

Belize is the only English-speaking country in Central America. Considering that current circumstances in neighbouring states have led to the increased displacement of persons seeking refugee status in Belize, the Government provides English-as-Second Language (ESL) education services to arriving asylum-seekers and resident refugees from Spanish-speaking neighbouring countries.

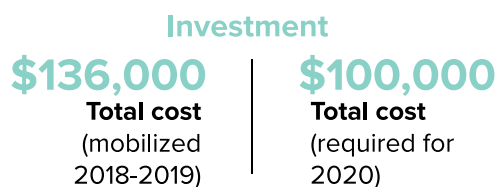
The Refugees Department of the Ministry of Immigration and the Ministry of Education of Belize have forged links with the University of Belize, the NGO "Help for Progress" and UNHCR, to provide this service at both community and on-campus levels.

The ESL education services at a community level are taught by local instructors who have received didactical training on levels A1 (8 weeks) and A2 (8 weeks). Post-primary academic or vocational training at the University of Belize are delivered by certified professionals on levels A1-A2 and B1-B2 (total 32 weeks).

For efficiency and prioritization during selection of candidates, a community needs assessment (including via Mapping and Profiling) is conducted, for basic and intermediate levels. Also, community leaders are chosen as ESL instructors and receive intensive didactical training.



This best practice is an example of the application of the responsibility sharing principle, as it is offered through partnerships between host governments, the international community and other organizations, as outlined in the Global Compact on Refugees.



(83)

TO REMAIN ON CONDITION THAT  
VISAS  
DOES NOT ENTER INTO  
PAID OR UNPAID. DOES NOT  
ANY BUSINESS OR PROFESSION  
THE CONSENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF  
ON AND DOES NOT REMAIN IN  
RGER

19<sup>th</sup> - June - 2016  
0-5-16 FOR 1654746

ON OFFICE BELIZE CITY

Delegación: HARULU VIESMAN VALLE

13 OCT 2016

REPUBLICA DE GUATEMALA

MINISTERIO DE INTERIORES

SECRETARÍA DE INMIGRACION Y EXTRANJERÍA

36

2016 VISAS

13/10/16

To: 12/11/16

Immigration Officer

BELIZE WESTERN BORDER STATION



Section 8 (1) CAP 185  
Not Satisfied  
REFUGEES DEPARTMENT  
RO *Almucho* 17/10/16

37

## ii. COSTA RICA

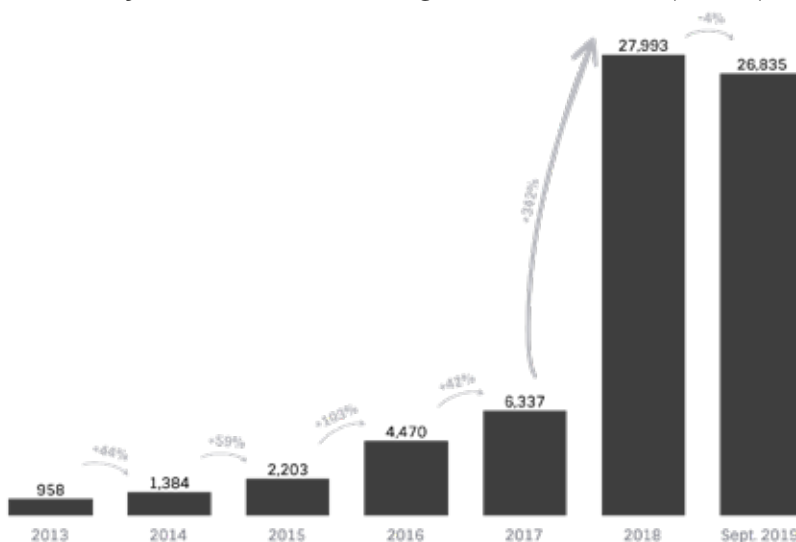
### a. Context

Despite the changes in the context of forced displacement in the region, Costa Rica maintains its tradition of respecting human rights and of providing safety to refugees. In the last five years, the country has registered a sustained increase in the total number of claims, particularly from people from Latin America and the Caribbean. Costa Rica plays a significant role as a country of asylum for people from all displacement situations in the region. Hence, the quantity of formal asylum claims has increased by 44.4% between 2013 (958) and 2014 (1,384), by 59.2% between 2014 and 2015 (2,203), by 102.9% between 2015 and 2016 (4,470), by 41.8% between 2016 and 2017 (6,337) and by 341.7% between 2017 and 2018 (27,993). According to the most recent data from the General Directorate for Migration and Foreign Affairs (DGME), during the first nine months of 2019, 26,835 asylum claims have been formalized. However, this number refer only to those people who have formalized their claim before the Refugee Unit of the DGME; if people who have been assigned appointments to file their claim are to be considered, the number will surpass 70,000.

Changes in the regional forced displacement scenario, particularly in light of Nicaragua and Venezuela, have exerted pressure over the Costa Rican asylum system which was designed to assist an influx of different magnitudes. The national environment also imposes new challenges, particularly in regards to employment and fiscal stability, which has significant implications over the State's response to people with international protection needs.

The Costa Rican government has reiterated its commitment with ensuring assistance, response and integration of asylum seekers through the implementation of the Protection and Solutions Response to Refugees in Costa Rica (MINARE – MIRPS national plan). The country makes these efforts with the strong conviction that the protection and integration of refugees is a responsibility shared with the international community, and that the efforts made by the Costa Rica will be rewarded with a robust and predictable technical and financial assistance. This will enable the country to enhance best practices and offer solutions that will benefit both refugees and their hosts.

Asylum seekers and refugees in Costa Rica (trends)



### b. Achievements

During the reporting period, the double structure of the MINARE was further consolidated. Through a methodology of bi-weekly meetings, commitments were implemented. Similarly, the structure of the Technical Committee to implement the MINARE at the political level was reactivated.

The MINARE has made progress, particularly in actions

identified under pillar 1 'Reception and Admission', facilitating access of people with international protection needs to the Costa Rican asylum system. Worthy to note within the accomplishments is the regionalization of the Refugee Unit of the DGME, allowing for the provision of assistance of people with international protection needs – particularly Nicaraguans – the identification of their needs and the issuance of relevant documentation in lesser time, and without compelling them to travel to San Jose.

## MIRPS management in Costa Rica



### c. Needs and challenges

Forced displacement has been an important topic within the human rights agenda in Costa Rica. Within years, the country has developed a legal and public policy framework that ensures access to the asylum system, as well as to State public services – including health, education and employment programmes – in order to integrate asylum seekers and refugees.

MINARE represents the efforts of the State in strengthening the Costa Rican asylum system and assist people with international protection needs in a timely and comprehensive manner. The second year of implementation presents several challenges in continuing to make progress with commitments, including:

a. The strengthening of the structures of MINARE. The administration of Alvarado Quesada (2018 – 2022) entailed a period of appropriation of the implementation of MINARE. Even during the second year of the national chapter, which coincides with the second year of the administration, adjustments have been made to the structures that take part in the implementation of MINARE. This responds to the changes in focal points identified within the public administration. These changes have impacted both the technical team – which has been in charge in following-up with the implementation of the commitments – and the

Executive Committee – which is comprised by five ministers involved in the response to refugees. This has required a period of familiarization with the processes and dynamics of the implementation of MINARE. During the reporting period, coordination and communication mechanisms for the technical team have been institutionalized, in a manner that ensures they are not dependent on the changes of the public administration. Similarly, the Executive Committee has met on several occasions to discuss political issues affecting MINARE.

b. Optimization of interinstitutional coordination. MINARE integrates institutions of different sectors within its institutional structure. This diversity of actors seeks to ensure the comprehensiveness of the response to asylum seekers and refugees. Nonetheless, this multiplicity also hinders interinstitutional coordination and communication for the articulation of actions. The creation of the technical team includes a representation of different ministries that have a direct role in the response to people with international protection needs; however it does not include all the relevant institutions implementing the MINARE. Hence, it is necessary to establish constant communication mechanisms with institutions that do not form part of the technical team, so to ensure they receive technical support in moving forward with their commitments.

c. Social, political and economic context. Forced displacement is a priority issue within the administration of

Alvarado Quesada, considering guaranteeing access to human rights for people with international protection needs is a commitment made through the MINARE. However, the national reality imposes challenges in guaranteeing the sustainability of the State's response – particularly in terms of employment and fiscal reform. The sustained increase in the number of asylum claims during the past years – particularly of Nicaraguans – has exerted pressure over the Costa Rican institutions and makes necessary to adapt its capacities to assist and integrate people within national systems. Thus, technical and financial cooperation strategies must be advanced to strengthen the institutions' capacities to provide timely and comprehensive assistance for refugees.

In achieving this, the quantification of the state investment in the response to asylum seekers and refugees is a key element. This quantification will inform decision-making and planning processes in the current national context, while allowing for the identification of financial gaps. In all, it will allow for the mobilization of international cooperation funds to not only support the humanitarian response, but also to benefit host communities.

d. Focus efforts to guarantee a uniform progress across all

four MINARE pillars. The main progress is reported in Pillar 1 'Reception and Admission', which aims to guarantee access to the asylum system. Despite this, challenges remain in terms of protection, including making the process swifter. To guarantee the comprehensiveness of the response, it is necessary to advance on the implementation of commitments made within Pillars 2, 3 and 4.

## d. Updates of national plan

As part of the commitments made, the MINARE technical team embarked on the task to update its national plan. This process had the objective of revising the plan from the point of view of the national context following the consultation process in 2017 and considering the necessary actions to be made to strengthen the asylum system in the current environment of forced displacement in the region.

In light of this, the national technical team defined a work plan to revise the 32 MINARE commitments. This exercise entailed a consultation with around 25 national institutions (private sector, academia and civil society) to review the state of each commitment, to identify bottle necks in the implementation, the requirements for political and/or technical support, and the need to make amendments.

As a result, the commitments contained in the original text of MINARE are maintained to preserve the legitimacy of the process. However, several changes in the form – particularly in terms of language – were made in nine commitments, without altering its contents.

The technical team also identified five commitments that required revision from a political point of view, which entailed the involvement of the Executive Committee for their evaluation. The changes requested by the Executive Committee aim at adapting commitments to the exponential increase in asylum claims received by Costa Rica as of May 2018, following the social and political crisis in Nicaragua. The changes intend to also demonstrate the political position Costa Rica has and to reiterate its commitment with the protection and integration of asylum seekers and refugees.

In the specific case of assistance and legal sponsorship of persons of concern, the original commitment proposed a change in the Law for the Creation of a Public Defense, which would entail a lengthy process that does not adjust to the current needs and the high number of pending cases. Hence, an expedited response is proposed through the promotion of public-private partnerships that will allow for an effective and timely access to legal assistance – both for status determination processes as well as on access to rights.

In Costa Rica, asylum seekers receive three different documents – a provisional asylum seeker card (handed during the day the claim is filed), the work permit (provided

three months after the claim has been filed) and the refugee identity document (once the resolution has been signed). The first two, are free of charge, while the last has a cost established by law and its gratuity depends on a change in the national legislation. Despite the fiscal context in Costa Rica, the Executive Committee agreed to maintain the gratuity of the first two documents and agreed to advance in the reduction of the cost of the third one to a nominal cost.

Costa Rica commits to enhance the principle of non-refoulement through complementary protection mechanisms that are applied to people who do not meet the requisites to be recognized as refugees, but that if returned to their country they would be at a reasonable risk of harm.

The sustainability of a comprehensive response to forced displacement depends on the capacity of the State to focalize the investment and identify financial gaps. For this, it is necessary to have information systems that will enable the generation of precise data that will inform decision-

makers. The Executive Committee not only decided to apply a quantification methodology during the implementation of MINARE, but it also promoted the development of the capacity to quantify within State institutions. To do so, the MIDEPLAN will seek technical support from the OCDE.

The corresponding agreement for the access to housing passed from being a simple legal consultation, to promoting housing options like temporary housing or rent for people in extreme vulnerability, in coordination with the Ministry of Housing and Human Settlements (MIVAH). The participation of the State in temporary housing options seeks to improve the trust of owners when it comes to renting housing for people of concern.

Key aspects of the updated national plan are shown below, the changes are highlighted in green.

Pillar 1	1. Presence at the border: Strengthen the agreement that exists between the DGME and UNHCR to maintain the current presence of personnel at border migration posts in Peñas Blancas, Los Chiles and Tablillas in the north, Paseo Canoas in the south; as well as extend it with at least one person in the ports of Golfito, Limón, Caldera and in both international airports
	2. Regionalization of the Shelter Unit: Advance in the regionalization of the Shelter Unit in Upala, Liberia, Paso Canoas and Limón to decentralize the functions of this Unit
	3. Strengthening CATEM: Ensure the allocation of funds for the maintenance of the infrastructure, equipment and administration of CATEM as a good regional practice as an alternative to administrative detention
	4. Promote national or international public-public and/or public-private alliances for fundraising and response to the needs for legal assistance and sponsorship for applicants in procedures for determining refugee status
	5. Project for the prevention of delays: Project for the prevention of delays: Increase the number of specialized officers in refuge matters, in at least 6 people for each of the instances
	6. Strengthening the CVRR: Assign a full-time Specialized Legal Advisor to each Commissioner, by the respective Ministries in order to assist in the review of files received by the Unit of Shelter, and in the elaboration of draft resolutions of the CVRR
	7. Modernization of the TAM: Establish the Migratory Administrative Court (TAM) with two specialized administrative sections: one for refuge matters and another in immigration.
	8. Documentation for refuge applicants: Submit the provisional identification document with DIMEX numbering and temporary work permit at the time of filing the application for the condition of refugee.
	9. Maintain no-cost documentation for the applicants for refugee status and reduce the cost of documentation for refugees
	10. Guarantee the non-refoulement principle: Establish complementary protection or other mechanisms to guarantee the non-refoulement principle for people who do not meet the requirements to be recognized as refugees but should not be returned to their country of origin, because of reasonable risk of suffering harm



11. Inclusion of a category of “refugee or asylum-seeker” in the Social Information Sheet: The Ministry of Human Development and Social Inclusion will instruct all institutions of the social sector and the National Registration System of Beneficiaries (SINIRUBE) to include the categories in their information sheets

12. Protocols for refugee assistance in the social sector: The Ministry of Human Development and Social Inclusion will provide technical support to all institutions in the social sector to establish protocols that allow the standardization of the assistance provided to refugees and asylum-seekers, and for the implementation of internal awareness processes that guarantee the application of these protocols at all levels within the institution

13. National programmes for the reduction of poverty: The Ministry of Human Development and Social Inclusion will include refugees and asylum-seekers in the poverty reduction programmes implemented by the Institute of Social Assistance

14. Protocol for the attention of refugee women: INAMU together with the DGME, PANI and UNHCR will develop a protocol for the assistance of women, adolescent mothers and victims of gender-based violence that allows the coordination and attention of refugees and asylum-seekers cases in Costa Rica; this will include women in Attention Centres

15. Employment opportunities for LGTBI populations: The Ministry of Human Development and Social Inclusion, in coordination with the Costa Rican Chamber of Commerce and with the support of UNHCR, will develop a training and job placement program for refugees from LGBTI communities

16. Protocol for the protection and attention of refugee children: The PANI, with support from UNHCR and DGME, will update the Protocol for the protection and attention of refugee children following international standards. The protocol shall include actions for the protection of unaccompanied or separated children and at risk of statelessness

17. Fund for DNA testing: The PANI will develop a project for the creation of a fund for DNA testing for refugee families or asylum-seekers, to be used when in doubt of the filial link to prevent trafficking or other type of activities that affect children

18. Protocol for the elderly refugee population: The Ministry of Human Development and Social Inclusion in coordination with CONAPAM will manage the development of a specialized protocol for the attention of elderly refugee populations, allowing access to public services and the right to health

19. Protocol for the attention of refugees with problematic use of psychoactive substances: The IAFA will develop a protocol for the attention of refugee population in recovery centres for people with addiction and under the supervision of the Institute

20. Adaptation of the RSD Procedures for people with disabilities: CONAPDIS will advise the DGME to develop a mechanism to assist asylum-seekers with cognitive, physical or sensory disabilities during the refugee status determination procedures

## Pillar 2

21. Solidarity networks for refugees: The Ministry of Human Development and Social Inclusion, with the collaboration of UNHCR, will promote the participation of civil society in the attention of refugees through research and professional practice initiatives with public and private universities

22. Methodology for the quantification of the state’s contribution to refugees: The Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy (MIDEPLAN), with technical support from the OECD, will develop a methodology for quantifying the state’s contribution on refugees. Formulation, validation and implementation of a system of simultaneous generation of actual data on financial gaps to cover all the programmes available for refugees and asylum-seekers. Also, training for officers at institutional levels for the optimal use and analysis capacity that facilitates decision-making and the collection of resources in international cooperation

## Pillar 3

23. MINARE permanent team: The MINARE Technical Team will be a permanent mechanism for monitoring, evaluation and fundraising that ensures the sustainability of the MINARE’s implementation. The team will be coordinated by the Ministry of Governance and Police through monthly meetings. UNHCR will participate as a technical secretariat

## Pillar 4

24. Digital Consultation initiative for Work Permits: The DGME, in coordination with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security and the support of UNHCR, will create a digital consultation mechanism that allows refugees to certify the validity of their work permit to potential employers

25. Intermediation for the inclusion for refugees in the labour market: (a) The Ministry of Labour and Social Security will provide effective access to labour intermediation programs such as [www.buscoempleo.go.cr](http://www.buscoempleo.go.cr), EMPLEATE Program, My First Job and PRONAE 4x4, in addition to the micro-enterprise support programs. (b) The National Labour Inspectorate will consider refugee persons in its procedures with the objective of ensuring that their labour rights and employer obligations are recognized on equal terms as nationals. (c) Informative actions will also be carried out on current legislation to improve the recognition of ID documents and reduce discrimination and xenophobia during recruitment and selection processes

26. Flexible requirements for academic training: The INA will develop an alternative mechanism to check the academic requirements and / or the matching of technical skills of refugees who want to enter technical training courses. Likewise, it will carry out joint actions with the private sector for the promotion of learning internships and the certification of competencies through dual training opportunities

27. Provision of alternative evidence for the recognition of academic degrees: CONARE will incorporate the Consular Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the agreement of understanding with UNHCR for the provision of alternative evidence for the formalization of the application for recognition of academic degrees and professional degrees in country of origin in favour of refugees

28. Technological Literacy Project: The Ministry of Culture, IMAS and the Ministry of Science and Technology will promote the technological literacy of asylum-seekers and refugees through literacy activities of the National Library System (SINABI) and the National Strategy of Costa Rica Digital (access to equipment)

29. Project for the promotion of entrepreneurship: The Ministry of Economy, Industry and Commerce will include ventures led by refugees in the Entrepreneurs Registry and will encourage their participation in business meetings and other activities organized by the Ministry to strengthen micro and small businesses

30. Project for the recognition of the contributions of the population to the culture of the host communities: The Ministry of Culture and Youth will strengthen the information and training processes of the cultural advisors of the local governments that are carrying out activities with population of interest, to promote the recognition of refugees to the cultural dynamics of the host communities

31. Refugee children in the SINEM project: The National Music Education System (SINEM) will give free access to refugee minors to music education processes, including free access to musical instrument

32. Temporary housing program: The Ministry of Housing and Human Settlements (MIVAH) will look for ways to incorporate asylum-seekers into their services in order to facilitate a housing solution, with an inclusive approach

## e. Relevant indicators

The selection of relevant indicators was based on a proposal that were defined in line with the four objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees. The Technical team selected the following indicators:

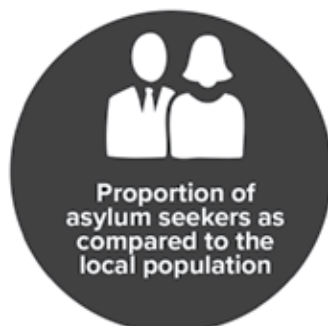


**Result to date:**  
3.5 years



**Result to date:**  
26,835 people  
(to 11 September 2019)

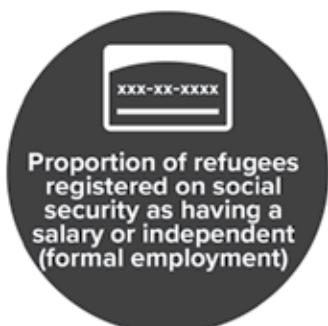
Additionally, the technical team selected several other indicators and modified the language, to adjust them to the country's context. These indicators were selected to not only measure the response to people of concern, but also to help bolster the public information systems. These indicators aim at establishing inter-institutional coordination mechanisms that will allow for the exchange of information from different data bases so the quantity and quality of the data is enhanced in a manner that it will guide decision-making processes. Hence, the indicators established by the technical team are the following:



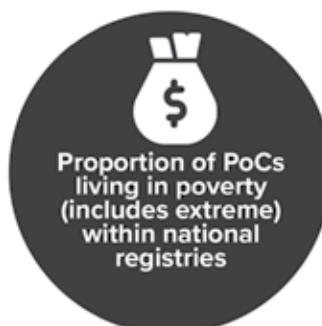
**Result to date:**  
1.4%



**Result to date:**  
421 people



**Result to date:**  
No data available for 2019



**Result to date:**  
2,477 in extreme poverty  
1,542 in poverty

## f. Best practices for the Global Refugee Forum



### Protection capacity

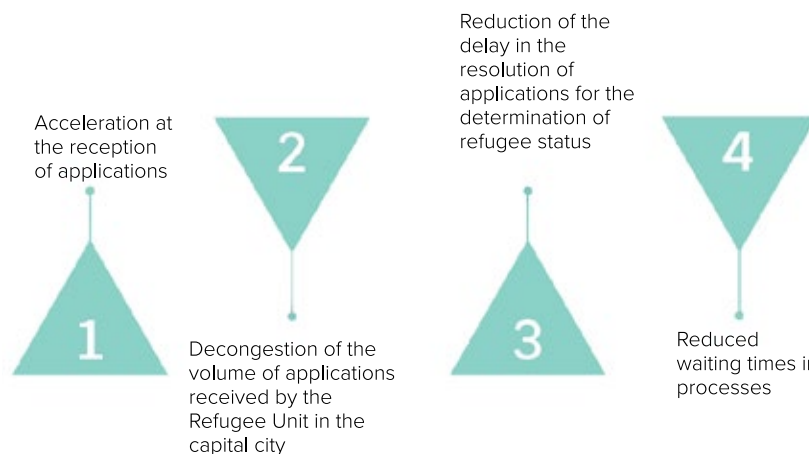
Decentralization of the services of the Refugee Unit of the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners

Response to immediate needs

#### Decentralization of the services of the Refugee Unit of the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners

In response to the increase in requests for refuge, mainly from Nicaraguans, the Government has taken measures to guarantee access for people with international protection needs who enter through the border post of Los Chiles, Upala.

The DGME has decentralized the Refugee Unit by opening an office for direct attention to asylum-seekers, identification of special protection needs and their timely referral to the state's programmes and services.



Additionally, asylum-seekers receive their identification on the same day the process starts, thus speeding up the time for a first contact with the national authorities. The early identification of people in need of international protection and their proper documentation makes it possible to guarantee access to the territory, avoid refoulement, guarantee access to the procedure for determining refugee status, ensure safe transit through the country without risk of detention and deportation and avoid traveling to San Jose to file the application.

**135**  
Asylum-seekers received documentation during the first month of implementation

**12**  
Daily interviews on average

**30**  
Asylum-seekers per day for case processing

## Access for refugees and asylum-seekers to the programmes for poverty reduction

The Government has carried out important actions for the attention of refugees and asylum seekers in situations of poverty and extreme poverty.

In order to ensure the protection of these populations and their access to social security systems, the Government has included the category of “refugee or asylum-seeker” in the Social Information Sheet (FIS) of the Institute for Social Assistance (IMAS). This is the tool for the identification, characterization and classification of the population in poverty or extreme poverty.



This measure guarantees access to human development and social inclusion programs, reduces the invisibility of displaced populations and facilitates the collection of statistical data of interest.

Impact to date

**2,241**

people assisted  
(2018-2019)

Funding

**\$1.3M**

investment of IMAS  
(2018-2019) (CRC748,319,910)

These actions have made possible to make progress in the recognition of the rights of asylum seekers or refugees, by including them within the Social Information Chart. This was thanks to the adaptation of the Regulations for the Provision of Services and Benefits of IMAS for the attention to asylum seekers.



# iii. GUATEMALA



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## a. Context

The State of Guatemala, for its geographic location, is a country of origin, transit, destination, return and asylum for people with international protection needs. Similarly, the significant increase in conflicts and humanitarian crises in the world, combined with the region's complex forced displacement situation from the North of Central America, has resulted in an increasing number of people arriving to or transiting through Guatemala and neighbouring countries in search of international protection.

As party to the MIRPS, Guatemala has assumed the responsibility of incorporating what is regulated by international instruments through national legislation. The National Migration Authority issued Agreement N.2-2019 in March 2019, providing the guidance for international protection and refugee status determination procedure, which entered into force in April 2019. This guidance seeks to regulate the status

determination procedure, which constitutes progress as it ensures access to rights like education and work, an identity document and for unaccompanied or separated children and adolescents the right not to be returned, deported or denied entry at the border without his or her international protection needs assessed.

Based on the above, the recent ruling is being implemented by institutions in order to give continuity to the refugee system. As of August 2019, Guatemala reported 416 people recognized as refugees, the majority from El Salvador, Honduras, Venezuela and Nicaragua, among others. 53% are male, while 47% are female, 25% of them are children and adolescents.

## b. Achievements

The current legal framework allows asylum seekers to obtain a 30-day provisional and extendable permanence status. People who are far away from the capital, are sent to the Immigration Office nearest to them so they do not have to travel far. This status allows them to remain regularly within the country. Asylum seekers also have the right to a special identity document, the same that will be authorized by the

National Registry (RENAP). The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare has issued 106 work permits for asylum seekers lasting for an extendable six months period, and 20 work permits to refugees for an extendable year, free of charge and provided in a timely manner. All in all, this allows for asylum seekers and refugees to reintegrate within the labour market while their claim is processed.

TURI INTEGRÁ, the first livelihoods programme for asylum seekers and refugees in Guatemala, and currently being implemented in Petén, convenes the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MINTRAB), the Guatemalan Tourism Institute (INGUAT), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the private sector and the civil society. It aims at integrating asylum seekers and refugees within the labour market by providing specialized training to both persons of concern and the local community. The added value of this project is that it helps the local economy grow by improving the service and product offer through better human resources.

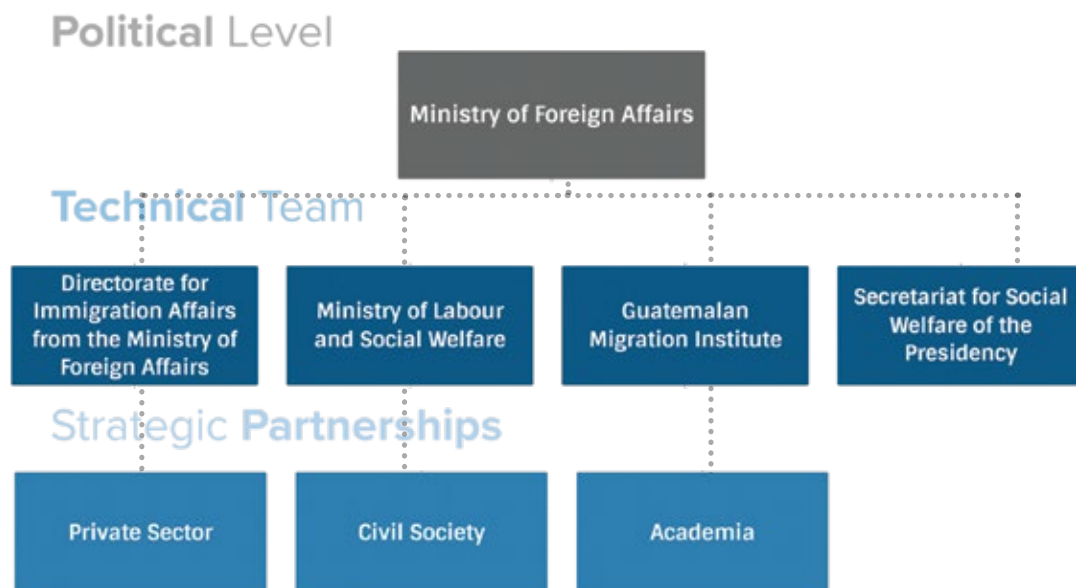
Through this project, eight refugees and asylum seekers undertook internships in tourism companies, seven of whom are already employed since the beginning of 2019. A stable job now allows them to earn a steady income to support their families. A total of 16 courses were taught for refugees, asylum seekers, local employees and the host communities. Several companies have been able to diversify their cultural diversity. Furthermore, the project is exploring actions to further engage young asylum seekers and refugees through TURI-INTEGRA JUNIOR, which provides scholarships for youth to undertake extracurricular courses or technical careers related to the work conducted by participant companies.

The interinstitutional coordination was strengthened in line with the country's needs and, considering the MIRPS methodology, it was addressed in the framework of three

articulated groups at the national level that work directly on migration issues; these include CONARE, the Commission for the Comprehensive Assistance to children and adolescents, and the Human Mobility Roundtable, with the support from the Technical Secretariat. Worthy to note, considering the methodology used by the MRIPS, it was considered that the Regional Technical Secretariat should be confirmed by a representative of each of the roundtable that participated in this process.

Institutional capacities were further strengthened with the creation of an information management and analysis system on refugees and asylum seekers, allowing for a better analysis on refugee profiles – including employment information – to facilitate integration within the labour market. Different government institutions involved in the assistance and protection and refugees and asylum seekers were trained, including the IGM, the PNC, the Social Welfare Secretariat, the MINTRAB, the magistrate's courts, the courts for children and adolescents, the Public Ministry, the Public Health and Social Assistance Ministry, among others.

## MIRPS management in Guatemala





## c. Needs and challenges

Guatemala has identified the following issues:

- Necessary budget for the implementation of actions that enable a comprehensive assistance for refugees and asylum seekers.
- Interinstitutional and intersectoral coordination to enhance the basic services offered for asylum seekers and refugees.
- Awareness-raising and training processes for Immigration Delegates at the borders on the topic of the identification of people with international protection needs.
- Institutional capacity of the Guatemala Migration Institute, namely on reception, assistance, attention and protection of asylum seekers and refugees.
- Training curriculum for relevant authorities in the issues of immigration, including on national protection systems for migrants enshrined within the Migration Code.
- Activated Attention and Protection Council to develop campaigns on prevention and information about the risks of migrating and migrant rights; creation of programmes to raise awareness within the education sector to address the issue of mobility, particularly for children and adolescents; encourage the reporting of human rights violations; and the creation of health programmes for deportees or returnees.
- National private sector to be aware on the benefits and importance of hiring returned migrants, refugees and asylum seekers for formal employment.
- 'QUEDATE' (Stay) Formation and training Centres focused on returned Guatemalan or refugee adolescents and youth.



## d. Updates of national plan

In the case of Guatemala, the MIRPS matrix was developed according to the national context, meaning measurable actions were set to be implemented during a period between 2017 and 2020. This matrix is according to the methodology agreed upon in Panama in 2017 to measure impact through a traffic light system which evaluated progress in five different colours. The national technical team continues to coordinate with relevant institutions to follow-up on the compliance with the actions established in the MIRPS matrix.

Among the actions Guatemala has prioritized within the national plan, one is to expedite the process of proving work permits for asylum seekers and refugees so that they can access income-generating activities in a timely manner. In addition, actions to strengthen the National Employment Service are included to facilitate labour inclusion for refugees and asylum seekers. Other actions like the strengthening of Returnee Reception Centres for (in situ) identification of Guatemalans with protection needs and have been subject to human rights violations during their return have been prioritized, as well as training and awareness-raising for staff that work with migrants so age, gender and diversity is included within their services, with special focus on unaccompanied children and adolescents, women at risk, LGBTI people, victims of smuggling, the elderly and people with disabilities.

Similarly, it is worthy to note that Guatemala is in a transition process, with new elected authorities assuming office on 14 January 2020. Hence, it is imperative that incoming officials continue leading the MIRPS in Guatemala.

Key aspects of the updated national plan are shown below, where changes are highlighted in green.



## Pillar 1

1. Strengthen the institutional capacity of the General Directorate of Migration / Guatemalan Institute of Migration, particularly those capacities related to attention and protection.
2. Strengthen interinstitutional and intersectoral coordination to expand basic service options to refugees and asylum-seekers.
3. Awareness raising and training of migration delegates, National Police, Army, Jurisdictional Bodies and border security personnel and airports in the field of international protection.
4. Inclusion of refugee-related courses in the training programmes for authorities involved in the national protection systems, including information from the Migration Code, the Law for the Protection of Children and Adolescents, and other international protection measures and instruments.
5. Prepare and update the regulations and protocols for attention and protection of refugees and asylum-seekers, in accordance with the Migration Code, including information on refugees and other measures taken by the Government, such as the humanitarian visa.
6. Strengthen the awareness raising and training processes for border migration delegates on the identification of people with protection needs.
7. Strengthening of the Reception Centres for the identification (in situ) of returned Guatemalan people with protection needs and victims of rights violations in the returning process.
8. Identify and serve people in need of international protection in Guatemalan territory.
9. Design, create and implement a mechanism for registering cases and complaints about human rights violations against migrants in transit through Guatemalan territory.
10. Create and/or improve adequate spaces with interview rooms that guarantee the confidentiality of the information of asylum-seekers, as well as specialized and friendly spaces for children and adolescents.

## Pillar 2

11. Provision of assistance and protection services with special attention to the specific needs and difficulties of persons of interest.
12. Implementation and socialization of the Ministerial Agreement 696-2017 which establishes “Validation of studies of returned Guatemalans who will continue their education in the national education system”.
13. Coordinate inter-institutional and intersectoral actions to provide basic services to refugees, asylum-seekers, with special attention to women at risk, LGTBI population, victims of smuggling, the elderly and people at risk.
14. Coordination of actions with local authorities and educational institutions throughout the country for the inclusion of children and young people into the national education system. These include awareness campaigns about the risks and consequences of the migration route; and the socialization of the guide for the attention of the student population on the move.
15. Development and implementation of a roadmap for the care of the migrant Guatemalan population in the process of accreditation and certification of labour competencies.
16. Strengthen inter-institutional and intersectoral coordination to expand basic service options to refugees and refugees.

<b>Pillar 4</b>	17. Propose changes to the labour regulations to allow the access to work permits for refugees and asylum-seekers.
	18. Design awareness campaigns for the private sector and public officers on rights of refugees, especially on labour market and access to services (job fairs).
	19. Strengthening information campaigns for general public on labour rights and insertion of refugees and asylum-seekers.
	20. Prioritize the process and resolution of work permits requests for refugees and asylum-seekers.
	21. Create an intersectoral mechanism for the establishment of roadmaps and national strategies for the labour insertion of returned Guatemalans with or without needs of international protection.
	22. Give continuity to statistical studies and improve registration systems to understand the profiles of returnees, asylum seekers or refugees, including labour profiling, for their integration and, if necessary, internal relocation.
	23. Create an inter-sectoral mechanism to establish roadmaps and implement the national strategy for the labour inclusion of Guatemalan returnees with or without international protection needs.

## e. Relevant indicators

Guatemala chose relevant indicators as part of the MIRPS system adopted during the reporting period. Nonetheless, it is necessary to keep working through the traffic lights system, as it helps give easy visibility to the progress made in the implementation of the MIRPS.



**Result to date:**  
4 trainings



**Result to date:** 20  
work permits



**Result to date:**  
106 work permits



**Result to date:**  
28 people



**Result to date:**  
3 trainings



**Result to date:**  
96 people (23%)



**Result to date:**  
3,822 scholarships for middle-school education

## f. Best practices for the Global Refugee Forum



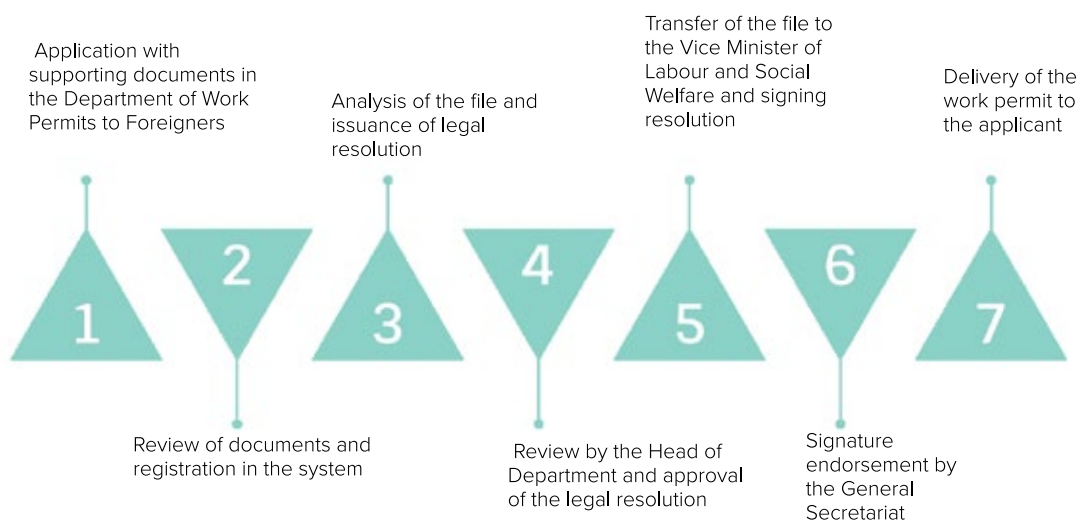
### Durable Solutions

Issuance of work permits

#### Promotion of inclusive employment through work permits for asylum-seekers and refugees

The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, through its Department for Foreigner's Permits, started on April 2019 the issuance of work permits for asylum-seekers, with the objective of facilitating access to formal employment opportunities that generate economic compensation, allowing local integration and self-sufficiency.

In previous years, the work permit was only issued to refugees and the process was managed within 6 months. This period has been reduced to one week, as a result of a joint effort.



The Manual with rules and procedures was prepared and approved through Ministerial Agreement 233-2019, which contains the department's procedures and among these, the procedure for the issuance and extension of permits for asylum-seekers and refugees.

**23**  
work permits  
for refugees  
(To September 2019)

**114**  
permisos  
gestionados para  
solicitantes de refugio  
(To September 2019)

**100%** of the work permits approved

## Refugee Status Request Management System

The Refugee Status Request Management System was designed and developed to record and harmonize the processes of reception, notification, interview and follow-up of shelter requests. Said system allows the Streamlining the interview process, statistics generation and permanence provisional in Guatemalan territory of the applicant for refuge. It also improves the attention, assistance and protection of rights.

Taking into account the human rights approach of immigration regulations in force, which favor the procedures for protection, determination and recognition of the Refugee Statute in the State of Guatemala, the Institute Guatemalan Migration (IGM), as a decentralized agency, ensures the rights of migrants. It also provides assistance specialized through the refugee care and referral team and asylum seekers to the corresponding Institutions.

### Activities

- Approval of the National Migration Authority Agreement No. 2-2019 with the Regulations for the Protection Procedure, Determination and Recognition of the Status of Refugees in the Guatemala.
- Strengthening of the capacity of immigration officers and officials serving the population of interest
- Establishment of coordination mechanisms with the Attorney General's Office (PGN) for specialized care for unaccompanied children.
- Specialized attention to vulnerable groups, such as women at risk, LGBTI population, victims of trafficking, the elderly and people at risk.

### Innovation and success factors

- Automatic generation of statistics
- Immediate register of requests
- Programming control of requests and interviews
- Generation of applicants' records for the National Registry of People, in the management of Special Identity Document and Work Permit management
- Strengthening of inter-institutional articulation



# iv. HONDURAS



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## a. Context

As follow-up to planned MIRPS actions, the government of Honduras has made progress in the development of mechanisms and actions to respond to people with international and national protection needs.

In regards to asylum seekers, asylum claims are being received at the Irregular Migrant Assistance Centres (CAMI) at the national level – previously only available in the capital –, while Nicaraguans entering the country but not wishing to seek protection in Honduras are issued a temporary permanence authorization for 90 days (extendable for an additional 30 days) so they can either return or request protection. During this period, legal assistance and medical attention is provided.

In 2018, Honduras received 97 asylum claims, and 64 temporary permanence authorizations were provided. So far in 2019, 99 asylum claims were lodged, and 40 temporary permanence authorizations were delivered. The National Institute for Migration (INM) provides assistance to meet basic needs identified during a preliminary interview including support to contact family members, legal orientation, medical and psychological assistance, access to medicines, hygiene kits, and clothing. Similarly, through interinstitutional coordination, actions are undertaken to follow-up on the labour and education integration of people of concern, with the support from UNHCR, in addition to the provision of shelter and food among, others.

Furthermore, the process to coordinate with the Secretariat for Labour and Social Security (STSS), the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH) and the Secretariat of Education (SEDUC) has begun in order to facilitate the socio-economic integration of asylum seekers and refugees in Honduras. In order to strengthen the capacity to identify and refer asylum seekers, trainings are provided to personnel in the CAMI and INM.

In relation to the commitments assumed for the assistance to returnees with protection needs and Hondurans abroad, the capacity of consular protection to identify cases in Houston (USA) and Mexico City (Mexico) has been strengthened through the articulation of protection alternatives with the Centre for the attention of Returned Migrants (CAMR). To date, 660 cases have been assisted to meet their basic needs.

In addition, the pilot project ‘Generating knowledge and experience on emergency humanitarian assistance for returned migrants with protection needs’ is being implemented. This experience is to be systematized in order to contribute to the development of programmes and public policies for the response to this population at the national level.

As regards to internally displaced people, the Interinstitutional Commission for the Protection of Internally Displaced People (CIPPDV) formally delivered the draft law on the ‘Prevention, Attention, and Protection of Internally Displaced People’ to the Justice and Human Rights Commission within Congress. To advocate for the passing into law, the CIPPDV launched



the ‘247,000 reasons to approve the IDP law’ campaign.

In addition, the process to update and launch the second profiling study was finalized in 2019, which provided nationwide data on forced internal displacement in Honduras, as well as the impact of displacement and solutions alternatives for displaced people. The study concludes that between 2004 and 2018, 58,500 households have been displaced, wherein at least one of its members was displaced due to violence. In total, 247,090 people in those homes have been displaced.

Similarly, in October 2019, the first Specialized Course on Internal Displacement was undertaken for public servants, through which over 28 public entities were trained, including the Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches.

## b. Achievements

Some achievements in the protection of asylum seekers and refugees in Honduras include the increase and improvement in the admission and reception capacity. In addition, the capacity to monitor and follow-up on persistent needs of refugees was improved. Similarly, case referral, registration and follow-up systems have been enhanced, as well as the capacity to respond in a timely manner to basic needs for asylum seekers and persistent needs for refugees.

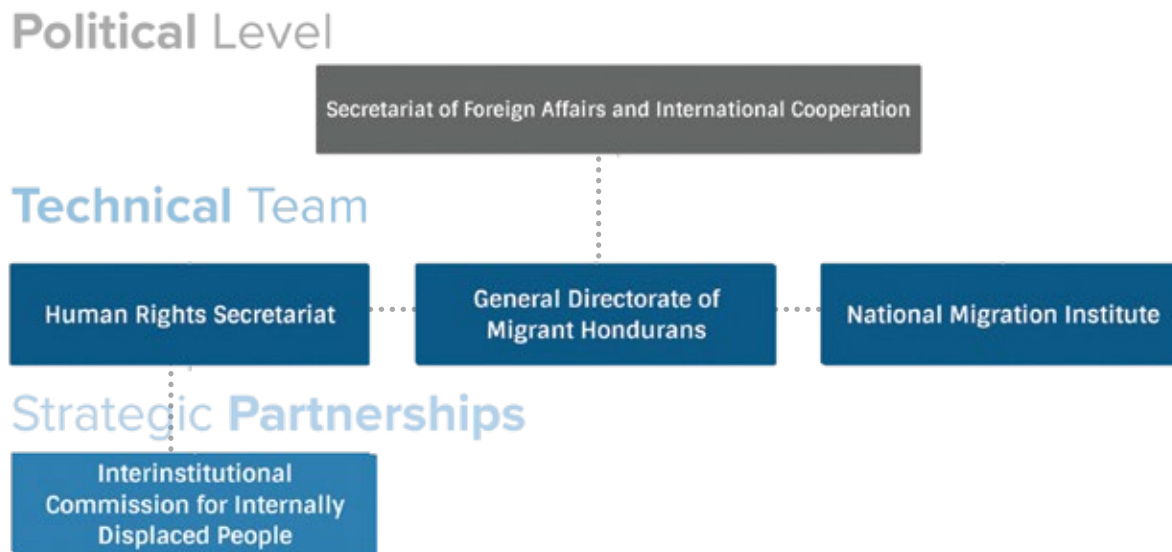
In relation to Hondurans abroad and returnees with protection needs, several achievements have been made, including knowledge and experience development on the provision of humanitarian assistance for returnees with protection needs through a pilot assistance project. It is expected that this project will set the basis for the adoption of a nation-wide programme. Furthermore, CAMR have been strengthened through the incorporation of protection assistants that identify and assist, in a coordinated manner, returned Hondurans whose reasons to have left the country was violence. On the other hand, the Integrated Consular Protection System (SIPROC) is being implemented to inter alia follow-up on Honduran asylum seekers. Moreover, progress has been made on the draft protocol to provide consular assistance to children with protection needs abroad, particularly focused in Mexico and the United States of America; the protocol is in the validation process. Lastly, a national migration profile has been built as a planning and decision-making tool.

Regarding internally displaced people, the government has made progress in producing tools for the development of the legal framework and to plan actions that address multidimensional consequences of forced displacement based on the results of the second profiling study. A communications strategy is being implemented to advocate for the approval of the draft law on IDPs. In addition, tools to provide differential psychosocial-focused assistance have been developed for populations particularly affected by

forced displacement, including children and adolescents, women, LGBTI people, indigenous communities and afro-descendant Hondurans.

Additional achievements have been made in the protection of internally displacement people, including the provision of technical and operation support to the Directorate for the Protection of People Internally Displaced due to Violence through the endowment of equipment and office supplies, and the hiring of additional staff. Progress has been made in the development of municipal public policies to respond to internal forced displacement through the development of base-line studies, municipal coordination mechanisms and action plans. The CIPPDV has been continuously strengthened through the implementation of the its Annual Operational Plan, incorporating new actors and launching joint responses. On the other hand, the national response plan to prevent violence against children and adolescents is being implemented through the education (re)insertion protocol. Moreover, the ‘Te queremos estudiando’ (we want you to study) campaign has been launched with targeted contents for vulnerable children, parents, teachers and their communities so to guarantee access to the right to education. Additionally, an education data system has been developed to track school reinsertion of returned children and adolescents (SERE-NNAMR).

## MIRPS management in Honduras



### c. Needs and challenges

Needs and challenges have been identified according to profiles.

Regarding asylum seekers and refugees in Honduras, there is need for technical and financial assistance to develop and implement effective mechanisms that facilitate access to livelihoods and durable solutions. In addition, it is necessary to include asylum seekers and refugees within government programmes, with greater focus on protection and socio-economic integration. On the other hand, Honduras does not have sufficient human and financial resources for the socioeconomic integration and livelihoods programmes for asylum seekers and refugees. In addition, the needs of the population must be included within operation plans and budget of institutions that have responsibilities within the protection, assistance and solutions framework.

In order to guarantee effective and timely assistance to Honduran asylum seekers abroad, and for returnees with protection needs, it is imperative that the Consular Network is empowered on international protection and asylum claim management. Similarly, the technical and financial capacity of the CAMR and the Municipal Units for the Assistance of returnees (UMAR) must be strengthened in terms of national protection mechanisms. Additionally, a monitoring and follow-up system that is articulated within the national response must be developed and implemented in order to measure and quantify its impact.

Committed human and financial resources must be increased in order to effectively identify and assist people with international protection needs at the CAMR and Consular Network abroad. In addition, trust on behalf of the population towards the assistance and response system must be restored. Lastly, it is necessary to hire trained facilitators to help develop, create and implement a monitoring system, continue working to reduce violence and crime rates that cause forced displacement, as well as regional policies from the coordinated approach of countries of origin, transit and destination.

Further, regarding the protection of internally displaced people, a national legal framework that clarifies roles and responsibilities within the institutions is necessary to ensure impact in the response, in terms of prevention, assistance, protection and solutions, to forced displacement. Furthermore, additional efforts must be made so to raise awareness and train public servants and the population in general about the impact and specific needs internal displacement provokes over people and their communities. Also, sufficient financing is necessary to respond to humanitarian assistance, protection and socio-economic inclusion needs faced by internally displaced people. It is important that a registration and protection of abandoned goods and land for internally displaced people. Additional partnerships must be established to coordinate the comprehensive assistance for internally displaced people, as well as to provide emergency shelter.

Finally, priority must be given to the draft law on forced displacement within an already saturated legal agenda.

Moreover, the state offer must be coordinated in order to guarantee access to rights for people with protection needs. The social and economic inclusion of people with protection needs must be advanced in areas hosting them. A national protection programme must be developed and supported with sufficient technical and financial resources in order to provide a comprehensive and continuous response. Lastly,

protocol and guidelines on procedures for the provision of assistance and protection must be developed for relevant institutions.

## d. Updates of national plan

Considering the current human mobility context in Honduras, and regarding refugees, migrants and internal displacement, MIRPS commitments and actions have been reviewed, updated and strengthened through the quantification exercise. Honduras seeks to ensure the quantification chapter becomes a relevant tool that provides an enhanced perspective and develops a list of needs that must be supported and complemented by the international cooperation.

Based on the results of the quantification exercise, it will be possible to have a robust and articulated system, with

sufficient staff that provides quality attention to asylum seekers and refugees, Hondurans abroad and returned with protection needs, and internally displaced people, through relevant programmes and projects. In addition, the exercise will allow for the better distribution of resources, the reduction of violence and the generation of the conditions that will contribute to the achievement of durable solutions. Hence, this is a key action to obtain results at the short, medium and long term.

Key aspects of the updated national plan are shown below, where changes are highlighted in green.





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**Pillar 1**

Refugees and asylum seekers	
1. Strengthen the capacity to identify people with international protection needs.	
2. Undertake training processes for migration public officials in border areas to strengthen their capacity to identify protection needs.	
3. Provide information material in offices and border areas.	
Returnees with protection needs and Hondurans abroad	
4. Increase the capacity of municipal officials who assist returnees, migrants and their families.	
5. Follow-up on the protocol to assist returnees/deportees with protection needs.	
6. Develop a referrals protocol to follow-up on cases of returnees with protection needs through the Municipal Units for the Attention to Returnees.	
7. Strengthen and update existing capacities of consular officials for the identification and referral of cases with protection needs abroad.	
8. Train and update consular representations on international protection.	
Internally displaced people	
9. Implement the assistance and protection roadmap to facilitate the reception, assistance and referral of cases, and strengthen the technical and financial capacities of the DPPDIV.	
10. Strengthen the technical and operational capacities of DPPDIV.	
11. Undertake awareness-raising activities for decision-makers on internal displacement and the assistance and protection roadmap.	

**Pillar 2**

Refugees and asylum seekers	
12. Continue strengthening humanitarian and legal assistance mechanisms.	
13. Provide humanitarian and legal assistance at CAMIs at the national level.	
14. Develop an awareness-raising initiative for authorities and the private sector on the category of refugees and asylum seekers, and their rights.	
Returnees with protection needs and Hondurans abroad	
15. Strengthen the assistance provided to returnees with protection needs to cover their basic needs of shelter, food and health at the short and medium term.	
16. Enhance the coverage of humanitarian assistance during the reintegration process.	
17. Strengthen mechanisms of referral and legal orientation abroad.	
18. Establish partnerships with free legal representations abroad to provide effective assistance.	
19. Train staff to provide better assistance and guidance at consulates.	
20. Implement a roadmap to coordinate the actions and services provided abroad.	

<b>Pillar 2</b>	<b>Internally displaced people</b>
	21. Continue strengthening the state presence in communities at risk, develop programmes for the prevention and protection based on causes and risk profiles that includes a prioritized access to documentation, and maintain updated information on displacement for an adequate response.
	22. Create a contingency plan in cases of massive displacements due to violence.
	23. Implement a humanitarian assistance mechanism articulated with the existing state response.
	24. Progress in the formulation and implementation of prevention and protection strategy at schools.
	25. Develop strategies to prevent and address specific risks for women and girls, commercial transporters, people at risk due to land dispossession, returnees with protection needs, and LGBTI persons.
	26. Establish an information mechanism on displacement that provides periodic data.
<b>Pillar 3</b>	<b>Refugees and asylum seekers</b>
	27. Strengthen the institutional response through coordination and referral of cases.
	28. Establish a dialogue with the secretariats of Labour and Education to remove obstacles in the access to employment and education by refugees and asylum seekers.
	<b>Returnees with protection needs and Hondurans abroad</b>
	29. Include the population within the prevention and protection mechanism in affected communities.
	30. Establish dialogue spaces to achieve the inclusion of the population in prevention and protection mechanisms.
	<b>Internally displaced people</b>
	31. Develop a communication and awareness-raising strategy on the rights of internally displaced people together with local governments.
	32. Develop an information and awareness-raising strategy on the rights of internally displaced people.
	33. Design a methodology that enables a close relationship with communities and internally displaced people without increasing their risk.
<b>Pillar 4</b>	<b>Refugees and asylum seekers</b>
	34. Include the interests of refugees within the institutional response, and continue strengthening the capacities of groups and organizations through the Refugee Commission.
	35. Promote initiatives for the participation of the Refugee Committee to incorporate their needs through the Refugee Commission.
	<b>Returnees with protection needs and Hondurans abroad</b>
	36. Promote priority access for returnees to existing labour reintegration programmes.
	37. Promote interinstitutional partnerships at the central and local levels to provide priority access to labour reintegration programmes.
	38. Strengthen leadership at the community level.
	<b>Internally displaced people</b>
	39. Implement a national protection system for internally displaced people, progress towards the establishment of a mechanism to register abandoned goods, facilitate access of internally displaced people to vocational training programmes and initiatives to generate income, promote dialogue and consultation spaces with displaced populations.
	40. Promote dialogue spaces among state institutions and groups of displaced people or at risk.
41. Create a confidential system to register abandoned goods and housing.	
42. Facilitate access to vocational training programmes and initiatives to generate income.	

## e. Relevant indicators



**Result to date:**  
0.33% people



**Result to date:**  
- 18% of the returnee population



**Result to date:**  
4% of the national population has considered moving  
3% of the national population has been displaced



**Result to date:**  
69% of the displaced population with registration documentation



**Result to date:**  
69% of the displaced population with registration documentation



## f. Best practices for the Global Refugee Forum



### Protection capacity

Immediate specialized assistance for internally displaced people

#### Practical Guide for the application of criteria for differentiated attention of internally displaced people with a psychosocial approach

The Practical Guide for the application of criteria of differentiated attention aims to define the practical and technical criteria to ensure differentiated care, with a psychosocial approach, in the processes of assistance and protection of internally displacement caused by violence.

The guide is used in the Assistance Centers for Returned Migrants, where the population of interest is received and supported. Also, cases of targeted populations with needs of international protection are identified.

#### Targeted populations



#### Main achievements

- Construction of attention roadmap for the displaced populations, based on the review of profiles returnees with protection needs, in the context of forced displacement, and the new guidelines formulated by the Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Mechanism (MAHE).
- Municipal advocacy and awareness actions, through the formulation of Municipal Response Plans for displacement.
- Preparation of the II characterization study on internal displacement in Honduras.

**150**  
people assisted by  
DIPPDIV



# Durable Solutions

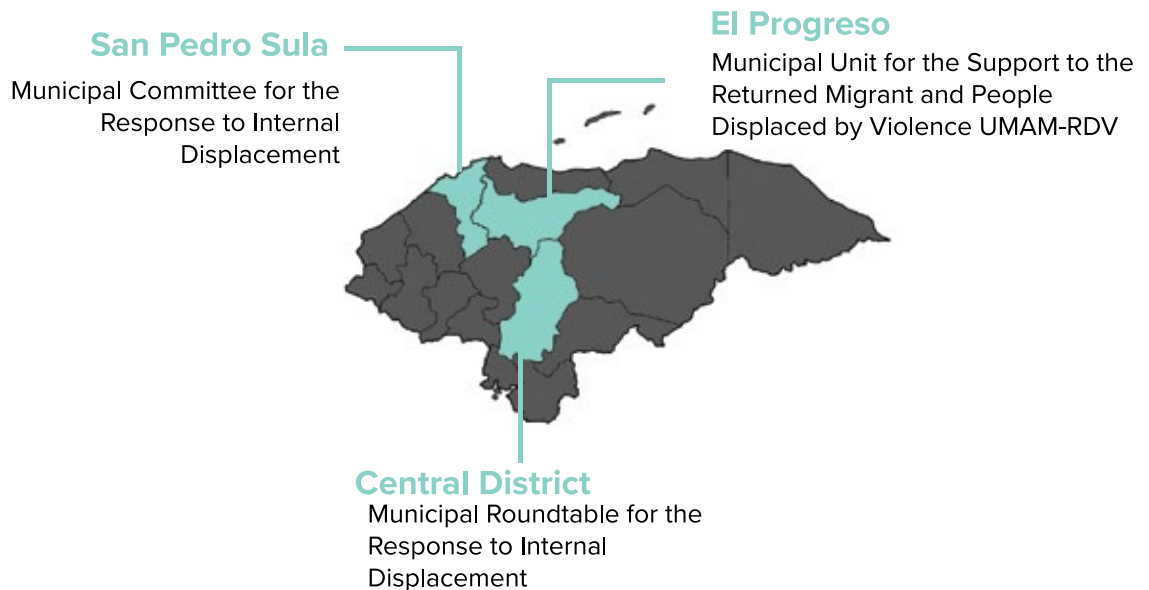
Strengthening the institutional response and coordination of local actors

## Municipal response plans to internal displacement

The Interinstitutional Commission for the Protection of Internally Displacement caused by violence, has carried out activities since 2017, for strengthening the municipal capacities in response to internal displacement.

Instruments, measures and policies have been designed for the prevention, attention and protection of displaced people and for the promotion of solutions. The Human Rights Secretariat - as the executive secretariat of the CIPPDV- has developed a process for the construction of Municipal Response Plans to Internal Displacement in the municipalities of San Pedro Sula, El Progreso and Central District.

### Progress at the municipal level



Although the plans have local differences, they all aim to determine a roadmap that articulates the municipal response with the Municipal Units of Attention to the Returned (UMAR). They also establish clear lines of action that contribute to a consistent and conducive response through municipal policies that respond to internal displacement.





# V. MEXICO

## a. Context

Mexico has witnessed sudden changes in forced displacement and migration movements, which have translated into challenges in the delivery of protection and adequate assistance to all people of concern. In the first place, the number of asylum seekers has increased. Secondly, migration measures implemented by the United States in returning asylum seekers or restricting access to the asylum procedure are likely to impact the movement of asylum seekers in Mexico.

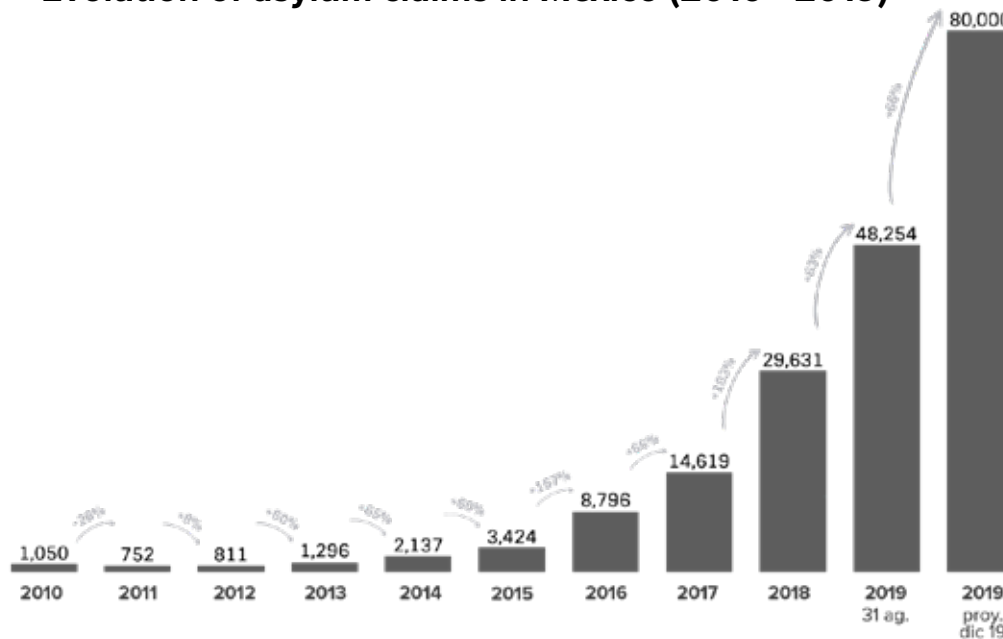
Noteworthy is that Mexico is considering providing a government response in terms of internal forced displacement through an internal displacement law and, contrary to previous years, the issue is gaining visibility in order to provide an adequate response.

In relation to the increase in asylum claims in Mexico, according to figures provided by the Mexican Commission for the Assistance to Refugees (COMAR), the number of asylum seekers has grown from 2,137 in 2014, to 14,619 in 2017, 29,634 in 2018, and to 30 September 2019, the number has

increased to 54,377. Currently, COMAR has presence in four states: Tapachula, Chiapas; Acayucan, Veracruz; Tenosique, Tabasco; and Mexico City. Asylum claims can also be lodged anywhere else in the country through any Delegation, Sub-delegation or office of the National Migration Institute (INM), including in immigration stations and international airports. To address the increase of claims, COMAR expanded its presence to Tijuana, Baja California; Monterrey, Nuevo Leon; and Palenque, Chiapas.

It is important to highlight an aspect about the profile of the population seeking asylum, as the number of families and others with specific needs like unaccompanied children and adolescents have increased. The international environment does indicate any decrease in the number of asylum seekers. Hence, COMAR and other relevant Mexican institutions in charge of implementing MIRPS commitments will continue to strengthen the response to provide comprehensive protection and integration, in line with the national plan.

**Evolution of asylum claims in Mexico (2010 - 2019)**



## b. Achievements

During 2019, innovative strategies were implemented and other best practices were given continuity. COMAR created a specialized registration directorate and new offices were opened in strategic locations with high presence of

people with international protection needs (in the south at Palenque, and in the north at Monterrey and Tijuana). Since the beginning of 2019, a national staff training plan was implemented with the aim of strengthening the operational and institutional capacity, and improve the standards of refugee status determinations, particularly focused on people with specific needs. Furthermore, the resolutions for cases

and nationalities has been simplified where part II of Article 13 of the Law on Refugees, Complementary Protection and Political Asylum is applicable, i.e. in line with the Cartagena Declaration.

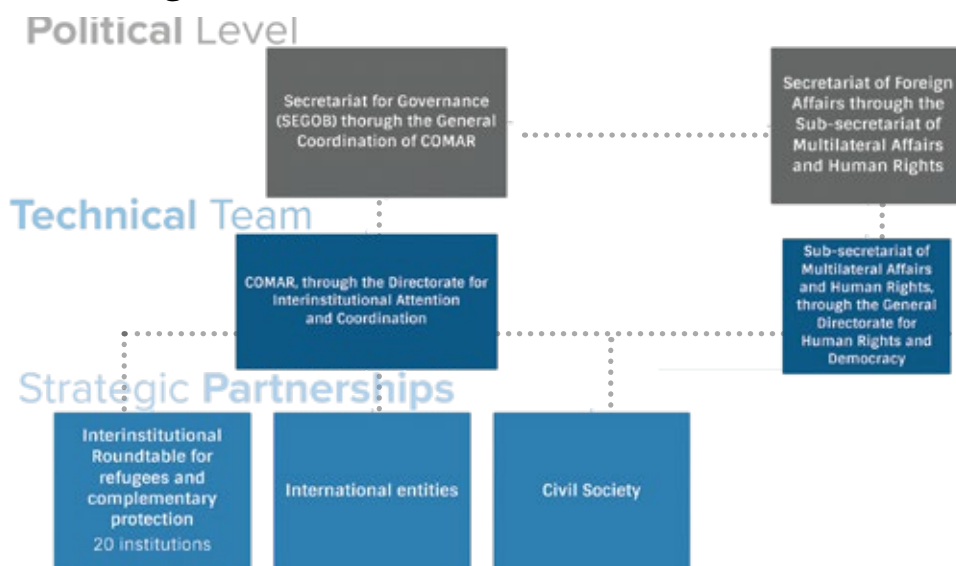
In providing interinstitutional assistance to children and adolescents on the run, a comprehensive protection roadmap has developed by the working group of the commission for the protection of children and adolescents within the framework of the National Comprehensive Protection Framework for Children and Adolescents (SIPINNA). With the aim of guaranteeing the rights of children and adolescents, several departments met regularly to establish a roadmap, with the technical support from the SIPPINA Executive Secretariat, UNICEF, UNHCR and IOM.

The provision of temporary Unique Population Registry Cards (CURP for its abbreviation in Spanish) to asylum seekers and migrants have resulted in them receiving expedited documents from COMAR and INM. Between January to September 2019, 24,970 CURP were delivered to asylum seekers. Since the beginning of the programme on 20 June 2018 to 30 September 2019, 35,119 people have received a card.

In addition, alternatives to detention continued, through which – since 2016 – INM, COMAR and UNHCR have worked together to provide asylum seekers subject to the Administrative Migration Procedure and without a regular permanence status, can continue their process in civil society shelters and receive a temporary permanence status. Between January to September 2019, 8,277 asylum seekers were able to leave immigration detention centres (as compared to the 1,591 people who benefitted during the same period in 2018). Worthy to note is that the civil society is key for the success of this programme.

Lastly, the labour integration programme, through which people are relocated from the south of the country – where integration opportunities are limited – to municipalities with better prospects, has proved to be successful. At the beginning of the project, only persons recognized as refugees were considered. However, since 2019, vulnerable asylum seekers or those interviewed by COMAR are also being relocated so they can access the formal labour market until the status determination procedure is finalized. The number of people that benefitted from this programme were 3,833 between January and 15 October 2019.

## MIRPS management in Mexico



## c. Needs and challenges

During 2019, Mexico had the double responsibility of being chosen as the first Pro Tempore President of the MIRPS. Hence, strengthening the COMAR was of the essence. During the beginning of the reporting period, COMAR had a limited capacity to respond and assist in a timely manner to the increase of claims. Actions to strengthen the operations and budget were initiated, however challenges persist in

making this sustainable.

A national staff training plan was implemented, focused on i) reinforcing the operational and institutional capacity of COMAR through continuous trainings, ii) improving and strengthening the protection standards of status determination procedures, with emphasis on people with specific needs, as well as children and adolescents, and iii) enhance strategic partnerships among institutions and other

actors, particularly with the civil society and UNHCR within the framework of the Quality Asylum Initiative (QAI).

The interinstitutional coordination is key to implement integration policies, hence the interinstitutional roundtable for refugees and complementary protection was reactivated. While it represents great progress in working in a coordinated manner to accomplish commitments, it is necessary that similar initiatives are strengthened in order to promote social, economic and cultural integration of refugees within the Mexican community and facilitate durable solutions. Similarly, the need to enhance initiatives focused on host cities was identified as being key to promote peaceful coexistence and counteract narratives of the lack of local capacity to provide access to services. Hence, it is of the essence that investment in infrastructure of common spaces is revamped in order to serve local communities as well as of refugees and asylum seekers.

A policy that is noteworthy in Mexico has been the issuance of Unique Population Registry Cards (CURP) for asylum seekers, refugees, migrants and other foreigners of concern (since June 2018). This has been key to facilitate their access to basic services. To enhance the positive impact the temporary

CURPS has, it is necessary to improve the delivery of the cards to asylum seekers through the INM in every location COMAR is not present.

Further, the new Comprehensive Roadmap for the Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents on the run (approved in April 2019), is considered to be a success of the interinstitutional coordination. Replacing different existing similar initiatives, it is necessary to train relevant staff so as to gradually achieve its full implementation at the federal, state and local levels.

Several specific programmes and initiatives – like the alternatives to migration stations for asylum seekers, and the labour integration programme being implemented with UNHCR – are yet to be self-sustainable, but have the potential of becoming public policies.

Beyond these challenges, there is still the need to make progress in the creation of information and to collaborate with several institutions for the planning, design, implementation and monitoring of public policies that assist people of concern.

## d. Updates of national plan

With the purpose of guaranteeing continuity and strengthening the compliance of the MIRPS commitments, the Interinstitutional Roundtable for Refugees and Complementary Protection was reinstated on 4 July 2019, which has the participation of 20 departments of the Federal Government. Such roundtable is an interinstitutional coordination mechanism that is key for the implementation of the national MIRPS plan, and is presided by the Sub-secretariat for Human Rights, Population and Migration of the Secretariat of Governance, with COMAR as technical secretariat. The Roundtable had the objective of updating the national plan and boosting joint work to fully respond to challenges inherent to the protection and integration of asylum seekers, refugees and people with complementary protection in Mexico. In addition, international organizations and the civil society were invited as observers for the first time. Concretely, it was agreed that thematic roundtables would be created to cover issues related to health, education, employment, identification and documentation, and labour, in order to promote the full integration of asylum seekers and refugees within national policies and define affirmative actions.

In August, commitments of the national plan were adjusted

following a technical revision between COMAR, UNHCR and entities working in the sectors of health, education, employment, identification and others. Hence, commitments were reorganized, remade or modified under the four MIRPS pillars. Additional new and strategic commitments were made, including by COMAR and RENAPO. On the one hand, COMAR will increase its field presence, and RENAPO will facilitate the issuance of the temporary CURP to enable access to employment and other services for foreigners.

The expected impact is sought at the short, medium and long terms. In the short term, populations will benefit from the training of staff to improve the asylum procedure (in the case of COMAR) and to facilitate access to the asylum procedure. In the medium term, the issuance of migration documents and the CURP will be expedited thus facilitating access to public services (through the creation of integration modules). Similarly, and in the long term, legal advocacy will be conducted to enhance participation in the process of legislative reforms in matters of health.

Key aspects of the updated national plan are shown below, changes are highlighted in green.

## Pillar 1

1. Increase COMAR's presence in INM Immigration Stations for a greater number of applicants for refugee status.
2. COMAR will train INM personnel in airports, where there is greater flow of people requesting refugee status.
3. Promote permanent information campaigns that inform about rights and the process for the recognition of refugee status, in a simple and understandable way.
4. Provide training to public servants who assist or work directly with refugee applicants, refugees and beneficiaries of complementary protection, to ensure decent attention; institutions that make up the Interinstitutional Roundtable on Refugee and Complementary Protection will be prioritized.
5. COMAR and UNHCR will promote the "Jaguar" information and awareness campaign on the rights of applicants and refugees in the areas of greatest transit and destination.
6. SE-SIPINNA, the DIF and the PFPNNA will strengthen alternative care centres for temporary housing, preventing the use of Migration Stations for shelter.
7. INM, COMAR, SE-SIPINNA and UNHCR will seek for alternatives for shelters to lower the use of the Migration Stations, particularly for family groups with children.
8. Improve coordination mechanisms between the authorities that assist children (COMAR, INM, PFPNNA, SIPINNA) to facilitate the identification of international protection needs and access to Refugee Status Determination.
9. The INM and the Procurator's Office for the Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents (federal, state and municipal) will apply the specialized protocol for the care of children developed by COMAR, UNICEF and UNHCR; also for interview techniques to identify needs of international protection and for the referral of cases to the COMAR or to the competent authority.
10. Increase the operational capacity of the federal, state and municipal Child Protection Offices, principally in the states with the largest migrant and asylum-seeker population, (Chiapas, Tabasco and Veracruz).
11. The PFPNNA, through SIPINNA, will generate coordination mechanisms with state and municipal protection offices to standardize criteria that regulate the determination, coordination, monitoring and restitution plans for child protection.
12. The SIPINNA, from the Protection Commission for migrant children and asylum-seekers, will promote the harmonization of the General Law on the Rights of Children and Adolescents with the Law on Refugees, the Migration Law and the Complementary Protection and Political Asylum regulations.
13. CONAVIM will promote access to services for female asylum-seekers or refugees in the Justice Centres for Women (CJM), by coordinating with the 3 governmental levels. CONAVIM and COMAR will carry out actions aimed at preventing and eradicating gender-based violence against girls and women.

## Pillar 2

14. The Ministry of Health and COMAR will carry out actions aimed at risk prevention and access to health services for asylum-seekers, refugees and beneficiaries of complementary protection; the CNPSS will promote strategies for Primary Health Care, Childbirth, puerperium and new born care, prevention of gender-based violence and addiction, by training public officers on the specific needs of this population.
15. Perform actions aimed at ensuring access to mental health services for asylum-seekers, refugees and beneficiaries of complementary protection.
16. Promote the inclusion of asylum-seekers, refugees and beneficiaries of complementary protection, in all reforms to the General Health Law, secondary laws and administrative provisions, in terms of access to health services and medicines, and consideration of the documentation issued by the COMAR and the INM, instead of social security, for the populations of interest.
17. COMAR, UNHCR and UNICEF will review and standardize the interview format for children seeking asylum for quality assurance during the interviews; a guide for the use of appropriate language with children will be developed and used in all interviews and questionnaires.
18. COMAR, UNHCR and UNICEF will develop and share support materials with appropriate language for children, to be used during eligibility interviews and other questionnaires addressed to this population of interest.

Pillar 2	19. Together with COMAR and UNHCR, the participating institutions of the Interinstitutional Roundtable on Refugee and Complementary Protection will develop materials that describe and explain how to access the programs and services available to the populations of interest.
	20. Disseminate a handbook of available shelters (public and private) by federation, for asylum-seekers, refugees and beneficiaries of complementary protection.
	21. Within the scope of their competencies, the agencies will promote the incorporation of asylum-seekers, refugees and beneficiaries of complementary protection, to public and private institutions for job training and certification processes.
	22. SEP, INEA and COMAR will promote actions that allow the formal inclusion of children seeking asylum, refugees and beneficiaries of complementary protection to mandatory school education (preschool, primary, secondary and preparatory), as well as access to educational programs nationwide through the INEA.
	23. Promote actions for the inclusion and issuance of credentials for elder asylum-seekers, refugees and beneficiaries of complementary protection, to assure their access to services offered by INAPAM at the national and state levels.
	24. Review and accelerate current procedures for the issuance of documents for asylum-seekers, refugees and beneficiaries of complementary protection.
	25. Guarantee the right to the identity to asylum-seekers, refugees and beneficiaries of complementary protection, through the issuance of the temporary and/or permanent CURP, and establish coordination mechanisms between RENAPO, INM and COMAR to strengthen management, implementation and training; also, review and make regulatory changes, for the assignation of CURPs in a more efficient and simple way.
Pillar 3	26. INM, COMAR and UNHCR will promote measures to accelerate the signing process at the COMAR and INM offices, in accordance with the obligations of people requesting refugee status.
	27. COMAR, in coordination with UPM, will generate and publish statistical information including data disaggregated by sex, age, place of origin, and other variables, with the objective of analysing the characteristics of the populations of interest for its inclusion to programs and services.
	28. UPM, in coordination with COMAR, will promote collaboration and joint efforts between governmental institutions, academia and civil society organizations for the generation of studies and information linked to the design and evaluation of public policy related to populations of interest.
	29. Development and dissemination of awareness mass campaigns, through television, radio and social networks to counteract xenophobic manifestations against migrants and refugees, including information on the mechanisms to file complaints with CONAPRED for discriminatory acts committed by public or private servants.
	30. CONAPRED will provide courses and workshops to public officers and media to avoid prejudiced and stigmatizing news coverage and communication for asylum-seekers, refugees and beneficiaries of complementary protection.
	31. INDESOL will promote asylum-seekers, refugees and beneficiaries of complementary protection, in the activities organized by civil society organizations, and will review social joint venture programs for the inclusion of this population.
	32. UNHCR will carry out projects aimed at peaceful coexistence in the main host communities, and will foster spaces for cultural and learning exchange, which will favour the integration of the population of interest.
Pillar 4	33. UNDP, UNHCR and PAHO will conduct studies of the capacities of public health services in the host communities in southern Mexico (mainly Chiapas and Tabasco), identifying opportunities to strengthen them and meet the needs of the host communities and populations of interest.
	34. COMAR, together with the participating agencies in the Interinstitutional Roundtable on Refugee and Complementary Protection, will promote access to public services and programs at the federal and state levels, through the revision of guidelines and the creation of integration modules.
	35. Promote the recruitment of asylum-seekers, refugees and beneficiaries of complementary protection for job vacancies available in the National Employment Service; disseminate the calendar of job fairs organized nationwide.

## Pillar 4

36. Promote actions to include asylum-seekers, refugees and beneficiaries of complementary protection to housing programs.

37. CNBV will promote access to financial services for asylum-seekers, refugees and beneficiaries of complementary protection with the Association of Banks of Mexico.

38. The Welfare Secretariat will promote actions for the inclusion of asylum-seekers, refugees and beneficiaries of complementary protection in all social programs, especially in "Sembrando Vida" and "Emergencia Social".

## e. Relevant indicators

Indicators chosen in Mexico are related to the following objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees: 1) ease pressure on host countries and 2) promote the self-reliance of refugees. Several indicators have been developed to measure the specific situation in Mexico, and to particularly reflect the work being conducted for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and adolescents. It is relevant to clarify that the figures reported refer to specific programmes and initiatives, including the CURP, the alternatives to migration

stations and labour inclusion. Regarding the indicator on health, it is documented the assistance provided by the Secretariat of Health in Mexico City that attends regularly to COMAR and referrals made by COMAR. On education, the indicator reports actions that are part of the Education without Borders strategy that seeks to assess and guide asylum seekers, refugees and people under complementary protection on their education options to begin, continue, finish or certify their primary or secondary education, as well as the advocacy made before education authorities on behalf of COMAR at the request of asylum seekers and refugees.



**Result to date:**  
8,277 asylum seekers left migration centres (between January and September 2019)



**Result to date:**  
CURP issued (between January and September 2019))



**Result to date:**  
95.45% were channeled by COMAR to Ombudspersons (between January and September 2019)  
Approval of the Protection Roadmap



**Result to date:**  
17,633 information materials distributed  
604 counselling sessions  
3,222 people assisted



**Result to date:**  
3,833 people relocated (between January to 15 October 2019)



**Result to date:**  
491 people assisted through the Education without Borders strategy  
177 people assisted to manage their income

## f. Best practices for the Global Refugee Forum

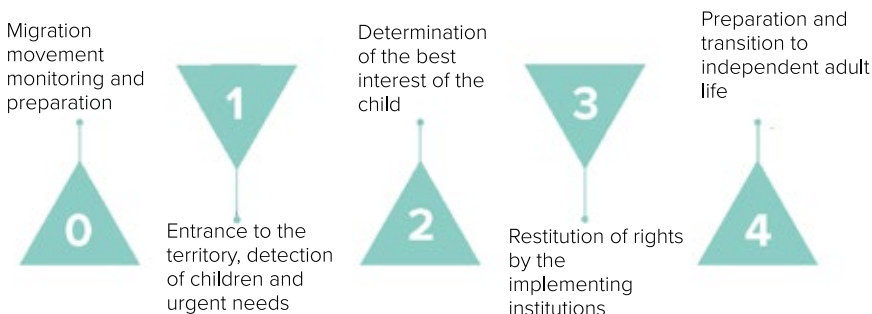


### Protection capacity

Roadmap for the protection of migrant children

#### Roadmap for the protection of migrant children

The Commission for the Protection of migrant and asylum-seeker children was created in 2019, as part of the National Protection System for Children and Adolescents. This Commission has elaborated a roadmap for protection, with five stages:



The Roadmap guarantees the protection of the rights of migrant children, through the definition of responsibilities and mechanisms of inter-institutional coordination, which achieve homologated attention with the highest standards.



### Employment & livelihoods

Provision of temporary Unique Population Registry Cards (CURP)

#### Provision of temporary Unique Population Registry Cards (CURP)

The Mexican Government facilitates the provision of temporary Unique Population Registry Cards (CURP) as individual documentation for shelter applicants admitted by COMAR. This facilitates access to state care services for health, education, registration to the tax administration service, as well as to financial services, access to work in the formal sector, among others.



24,970

CURP provided to asylum seekers (January - September 2019)

The Government plans to expand the capacity for the issuance of CURP nationwide, including a greater number of INM offices relevant to asylum-seekers. Also, there are plans to extend the validity of the document to more than 180 days and to sensitize others institutions on the temporary CURP.





CASA ESPACIO  
DE LOS REFUGIADOS

خوشا مدینہ  
BOYE - MALA

Programa Casa  
Refugiados  
El Centro de Atención Ciudad  
Programa Casa  
Refugiados  
El Centro de Atención Ciudad

# vi. PANAMA

## a. Context

The Republic of Panama is signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, ratified in October 1977 through the approval of Law N.5 of 26 October 1977. In 2011, Panama also acceded to the 1954 Statelessness Convention and to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

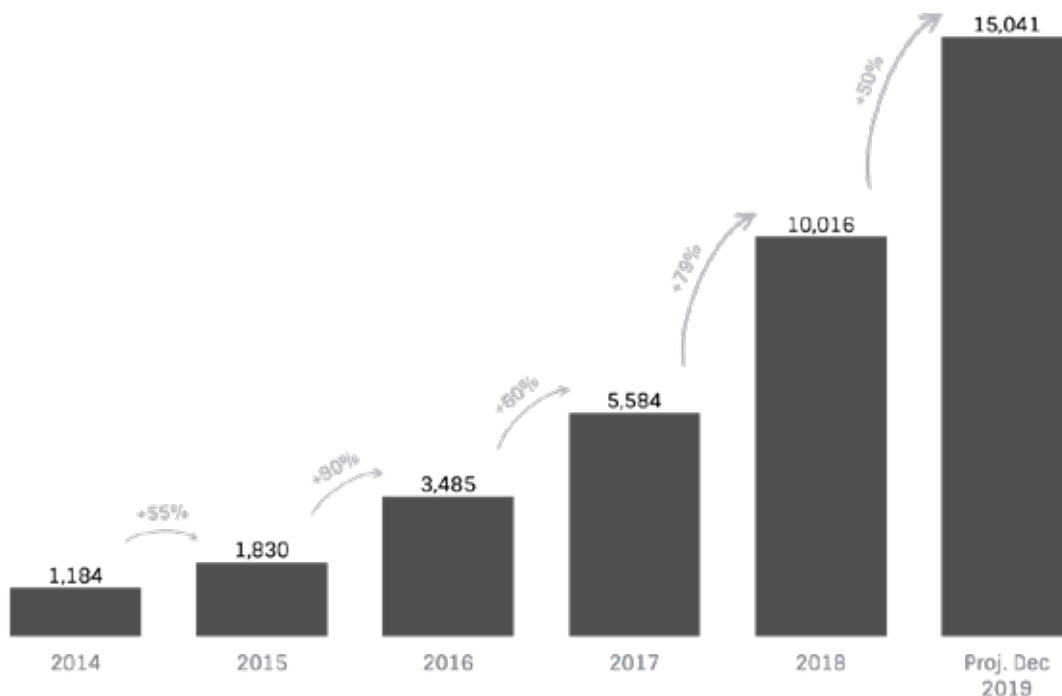
Panama is a country of transit and asylum in Central America. Since 1990 to date, 2,556 people have been recognized as refugees. The refugee population is comprised mostly of people from Colombia, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Cuba, and others from the North of Central America (mainly from El Salvador).

Panama has witnessed the heightened increase of asylum claims in recent years. Statistics from the National Office for the Attention to Refugees (ONPAR) indicated that a total of 28,366 asylum claims have been lodged between 2014 and June 2019.

Asylum seekers are nationals from Nicaragua, Venezuela, Cuba and the North of Central America (Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador). Particularly in the last year, the number of asylum seekers from Nicaragua has increased considerably, becoming the main nationality of asylum claims in Panama in 2019. Up until July 2019, the new government received around 20,000 asylum claims pending review.

In 2017, Panama became part of the MIRPS along with five other countries of the region. As part of the process, a national plan of action was developed with the participation of national authorities, ministries, the private sector and the civil society. This plan seeks to strengthen the asylum system, as well as to facilitate the local integration of asylum seekers and refugees in the country. In July 2019, and as the new government took office, the MIRPS was formally recognized and the government has assumed leadership in implementing the commitments made.

### Evolution of asylum claims in Panama (2014 - 2019)



## b. Achievements

The achievements set forth through the implementation of the national plan are contemplated at the medium and long terms, focusing on the integration of refugees and asylum seekers within the Panamanian society, and supporting host communities for the development of the country.

In January 2018, the government approved the Executive Decree N. 5 which modified the asylum system established by the previous legislation (adopted in 1998). This was positive progress considering the new legislation reinforces the country's commitment guaranteeing international protection and reiterates compliance with due process standards. The new law created a framework to regulate the adjudication of asylum and designates competent authorities to review and decide upon asylum claims. Additionally, it incorporates the protection of children to safeguard their right to international protection taking into account their best interest, as well as the implementation of necessary measures for their protection.

At the procedural level, the frequency of the meetings held by the National Commission for the Protection of Refugees (CONARE) has increased from four to six annual meetings in the framework of Decree N. 5 of 2018. Consequently, the number of cases which can be evaluated by the CONARE will increase.

Although access to employment for asylum seekers is not contemplated within Decree N.5 of 2018, the issue has been particularly addressed through a distinct decree approved in May 2019 (Executive Decree N. 20 of 29 May of 2019), which enables asylum seekers admitted to procedure to obtain a work permit while their cases are pending review from CONARE.

In addition, a national training plan on international protection, mechanisms to identify and refer people with international protection needs, and the national legislation on refugees was approved by the National Migration Service. As a result, 235 staff members of the National Border Service and the Aeronaval Service have been trained.

An information system was implemented for the reception of asylum claims through which procedural control is guaranteed for the phases of lodging the claim and allowing remote access to the claims through a QR code printed in each certification of procedure. This system allows for authorities to validate the certification document so that people of concern are not referred to migration shelters and to mitigate the risk of deportation.

On the issues of the protection of children and adolescents with international protection needs, the Ministry of Government and the National Secretariat for Children and Adolescents signed a protocol to assist unaccompanied or separated children and adolescents with protection needs. This protocol includes guarantees on the refugee status determination procedure, accompaniment, legal assistance, priority action, guidance and mechanisms to determine the best interest of the child. In the framework of the implementation of the protocol, five best interest determination panels have taken place.

To strengthen the capacity to respond, human resources have been increased and the infrastructure has been improved so to guarantee confidentiality during interviews undertaken by ONPAR.

Executive Decree N. 10 of 16 January of 2019 was issued to approve the procedure to recognize the statelessness status.

In terms of health, jointly with the Ministry of Health a roadmap is being developed to refer refugees and asylum seekers to the Inter-sectoral Mental Health Network for their inclusion within relevant programmes.

Regarding employability, the Talents without Borders programme was developed through synergies with the private sector in order to improve access to the labour market. This programme has been documented as a best practice given its innovation and the good results achieved thus far.

Since December 2018, UNHCR and IOM have been implementing the anti-xenophobia campaign 'Somos lo Mismo' (we are the same) with the aim of promoting solidarity, empathy and respect among Panamanians, refugees and migrants.

An important achievement is the inclusion of refugees within the professional training modules provided by the National Professional Training Institute for Human Development (INADEH). This initiative was formalized through a letter of understanding signed by the Ministry of Government, INADEH and UNHCR on 20 June 2019.

Furthermore, on 12 June 2019, the Ministry of Government and the National Passports Authority signed a Cooperation Agreement to provide Travel Documents (passport) to refugees recognized by the CONARE. This agreement has benefitted refugees who do not hold a valid passport.

## MIRPS management in Panama

### Political Level



### Technical Team



### Strategic Partnerships



## c. Needs and challenges

Even with the progress made with the current legal framework (Executive Decree N. 5 of 2018) the local legislation does not include the expanded definition enshrined in the Cartagena Declaration and limits the possibility of obtaining temporary humanitarian permits. Hence, there is a need to keep strengthening the asylum system and the capacity of ONPAR to process individual cases in line with the legal framework. This includes processing the over 20,000 pending claims, enhancing the presence of ONPAR to strategic locations, and the need to develop interinstitutional protocols to identify, assist and refer people with international protection needs.

Another gap is to strengthen the existing mechanisms to prevent refoulement. This pillar is to be addressed through an intensive training and technical support programme and the development and implementation of protocols for the identification and referral of people with international protection needs.

In light of the announcement of a reform to the migration legislation, Panama seeks to provide information to the general public on the differences between asylum, refugees, statelessness, among others, through campaigns focusing on xenophobia, discrimination, etc.

Considering the lack of work permits for asylum seekers in general, they are dependent on humanitarian assistance, and have limited access to services and other basic rights.

Establishing interinstitutional partnerships with the private sector is key to work on integration policies and development programmes so as to facilitate the labour inclusion and encourage peaceful coexistence within host communities.

## d. Updates of national plan

The government of Panama, with the support from the MIRPS technical team reviewed and updated the commitments of the national plan to adjust it to the current needs and the increase in last year's asylum claims. This exercise was conducted during the first semester of 2019, in preparation and as part of the transition period for the new government that took office on 1 July 2019.

Once the relevant authorities were named, the new government manifested its interest in continuing the work advanced through the MIRPS and to keep strengthening the implementation, providing protection and solutions to refugees and asylum seekers in Panama. Similarly, the government has committed to document and exchange best practices and lessons learned with other countries in the region to benefit the people of concern.

The new government, under the leadership of the Vice Minister of Government, convened the first high-level meeting (Vice Ministers and Directors of relevant entities including INAMU, SENNIAF, MINSA, MRE, MITRADEL, SENAFRONT, IFARHU, University of Panama, Ombudsperson's Office, and others), during which – with the support from ONPAR and UNHCR – the MIRPS and its background was presented, along with the national plan and its commitments. The updated national plan is currently being reviewed by authorities for validation.

Within the updated national plan, the main pillar continues to be protection and legal affairs, recognizing the progress made thus far, like the adoption of executive decrees N. 5/18 and N.20/19. However, pending challenges remain in terms of strengthening the asylum system, the reduction of the backlog and the need to align the functions and actions on behalf of ONPAR and its current structure in coherence with the current dynamics. Strengthening the presence of ONPAR and its structure will allow for a more dynamic system, better access to information and data and a faster process of

admission.

Similarly, it continues to be a priority to work with relevant entities like CONARE, migration authorities and to establish protocols to coordinate the identification assistance and referral of people with international protection needs, with the support from UNHCR.

In pillar 2, the issues of attention and direct assistance through cooperation programmes is maintained, to be implemented with the support from UNHCR and civil society organizations like the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), HIAS, the Panamanian Red Cross, RET International and the Pastoral for Human Mobility, among others.

In an additional pillar, the work with host communities has been included to increase their empowerment and implement initiatives at the community level that promote the integration and peaceful coexistence with refugees.

Lastly, in pillar 4, durable solutions continue to be a priority, through continued strengthening of labour and economic inclusion, access to bank accounts and tertiary education for people of concern.

Key aspects of the updated national plan are shown below, changes are highlighted in green.

### Pillar 1

1. Strengthen training processes for public servants at the national and local levels on international protection, in order to enhance their capacity to identify and refer people with protection needs. Special focus will be provided to SENAFRONT, SNM, SENAN, ONPAR, INAMU, SENNIAF, Ombudspersons Office and local authorities in priority areas.

2. Promote an agreement between the Ministry of Safety and Ministry of Government (ONPAR) to formalize and set in motion referral protocols and guidelines between SNM – ONPAR, and SENAFRONT – ONPAR. In order to provide a timely response to the identification and referral of people with international protection needs in border areas and airports, and in line with what is established in Executive Decree N. 5 of 2018.

Pillar 1	3. Improve the registration system (TRE) to facilitate a cross-cutting revision of asylum claims among authorized public institutions, ensuring confidentiality.	
	4. Reduce the backlog of claims submitted to ONPAR under the jurisdiction of Decree N. 23 of 1998, which gave way to the development of Law N. 5 of 1977, that approves the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol.	
	5. Facilitate the management of larger human and financial resources of ONPAR in order to ensure the capacity to provide a response to an increasing number of asylum seekers, which includes, inter alia, personnel for project management, data management, lawyers, social workers, psychologists and other relevant professions.	
	6. Undertake meetings with technical teams of CONARE to analyze cases to be presented during ordinary meetings of the National Commission for the Protection of Refugees, with the aim of ensuring a swifter response for cases admitted by ONPAR.	
	7. Manage the certification of extension of work permits in cases where people recognized as refugees present a request before the Ministry of Labour and Labour Development (department of migration), with 30 days or more prior to the expiration of their permit, and that the extension request is in progress.	
	8. Promote the issuance of work permits for asylum seekers admitted to procedure by ONPAR.	
	9. Promote registration and birth recording brigades to prevent possible cases statelessness in border areas.	
	10. Undertake brigades to issue documents in areas of difficult access, to renew refugee identity documents.	
	11. Promote the issuance of drivers licenses for asylum seekers who have possession of their claim certification issued by ONPAR	
	12. Promote the elaboration of a legal instrument so that people recognized as stateless can opt for a permanent residence and Panamanian nationality.	
	Pillar 2	13. Promote existing programmes to cover basic needs with key actors (including food and temporary shelter) for extremely vulnerable people.
		14. Promote and establish an attention roadmap and protocol between the Ministry of Government (ONPAR) and Ministry of Health (Department of mental health and other services) for the attention and referral of refugees and asylum seeker for whom it is required as a result of their mental health.
15. Promote an attention and referral roadmap and a protocol between the Ministry of Government (ONPAR) and the INAMU and other partners for refugee and asylum-seeking women, survivors of SGBV.		
Pillar 3	16. Promote community-based integration initiatives for refugees and host communities.	
	17. Promote the participation and consultation of communities in the design of activities and public policies, and enhance joint work with identified facilitators within communities.	
Pillar 4	18. Search for income generation alternatives for refugees. Focus will be given to institutions, the private sector and the civil society to explore alternatives and put in motion concrete strategies for the economic inclusion of refugees.	
	19. Raise awareness within the private sector on refugees seeking employment.	
	20. Incorporate asylum seekers admitted to procedure and refugees within the database of the Ministry of Labour, for their participation in job fairs and job exchange.	
	21. Manage the viability of opening bank accounts for refugees.	
	22. Promote the creation of an instruction manual 'Procedure and placement tests' for the operation of Decree 1225 of 2015.	

Pillar 4	23. Engage legal clinics of Law faculties in private and public universities in providing free orientation accompaniment and legal assistance to asylum seekers.
	24. Share information with asylum seekers on workshops, courses and trainings provided by INADEH, as follow-up to the agreements reached in the beginning of 2019.
	25. Match tuition costs for refugee students who are undertaking a bachelor's degree or technical careers at University of Panama with the cost for a national, recognizing the special protection condition of this population and their recognition by the Panamanian state.
	26. Promote the university social service and or internships within ONPAR for University of Panama students undertaking careers in law, psychology, social work, archives, public administration, among others.
	27. Promote anti-xenophobia campaigns for different entities for the integration of refugees and asylum seekers in Panama.
	28. Launch the incorporation of actions within existing social policies for highly vulnerable refugees.

## e. Relevant indicators

Following the revision of the commitments contained in the plan of action and the activities developed to achieve them, Panama has identified three relevant indicators that correspond to the first objective of the Global Compact on Refugees: ease pressure on host countries. Hence, it is expected that the indicators will measure i) the average time for the processing of claims from the lodging to the final decision; ii) the number or proportion of people with protection needs that have received official documentation that allows them to access basic rights and social programmes; and iii) the number of people whose cases have been admitted to procedure and hold a work permit.



**Result to date:**  
12 a 18 months



**Result to date:**  
8,152 certification of procedure  
40 refugee documents  
27 passports



**Result to date:**  
7 notes for asylum seekers

## f. Best practices for the Global Refugee Forum



### Durable solutions

Facilitate access to employment through partnerships with the private sector

#### Employability for refugees, asylum seekers and host communities through the Talents Without Border programme

“Talents without Borders” is an employability programme developed by UNHCR, ManpowerGroup and HIAS for refugees who seek to strengthen their capacities and skills and to promote their access to the formal labour market and thus their contribution to national development.

This programme aims to find solutions for labour inclusion of refugees in Panama, through partnerships with the private sector.

Recently, a letter of understanding was signed with the Municipality of Panama to facilitate the inclusion of young Panamanian population in vulnerable situations as additional beneficiaries of the programme.

Specifically, “Talents without Borders” is focused on:

- Strengthening the skills and abilities of refugees and Panamanians through soft skills training and counselling
- Increasing the capacities of resilience of refugees and Panamanians by overcoming challenges during their job seeking process
- Raising awareness of the private sector, Panamanian society and other relevant actors on the inclusion of refugees and Panamanians, as well as on their benefits to the country

Results for September 2018-2019:



The “Talent without Borders” programme represents a first approach to the private sector in Panama, promoting its contribution to the response to refugee situation, in line with the principle of shared responsibility of the Global Compact on Refugees. The programme promotes the integration of refugees through access to opportunities that facilitate decent work. ManpowerGroup, a company with a long history of developing human talent, advises and trains refugees and young Panamanians in soft skills and other issues related to recruitment processes.

The success of the programme is that (i) employability is approached from a holistic perspective, including communication and awareness strategies that allow promoting real changes to governmental and private level; (ii) the insertion of refugees to the labour market as part of private sector corporate responsibility programmes, which is an innovative strategy in Panama by giving visibility and potential to the population of interest within the local labour market.





## Education

Access to professional training for refugees

### Access to professional training for refugees

Seeking alternatives for the local integration of recognized refugees, through the development of activities that allow access to the labour market, UNHCR, the Ministry of Government and the National Institute for Vocational Training and Training for Human Development (INADEH) have partnered together. The partners signed a letter of understanding that allows the access of recognized refugees to the training offer at national level, in the three modalities:

# 54

**Training programmes (abilities, skills and attitudes)- Duration: 304-2000 hours**

# 280

**Courses on specific areas and topics- Duration: 40-300 hours**

# 21

**Seminars and workshops in technical or academic areas- Duration: 8-40 hours**

The training programme offered by INADEH is completely cost-free and open to any refugee over 18 years old. People who want to enrol in the desired academic offer must present a note issued by the National Office for Refugee Care that accredits their refugee status.

The relevancy of this agreement is the condition of equal access provided to the refugee population for the training and education programmes. INADEH is a widely recognized national programme in the labour market and among entrepreneurs in Panama. Hence, refugees receiving a training accreditation by INADEH, can have access to countless opportunities, facilitating their integration to decent and duly paid work, in addition to improving their abilities for the development of entrepreneurship projects and their technical and vocational capacities.

This programme is innovative as the signing of the letter of understanding expands the coverage to refugees, in its training offer that was only available to Panamanian nationals and permanent residents. Thus, this represents an important and decisive step of Panama, through the Ministry of Government and with the support of UNHCR, for the integration of refugees.

Since it started on December 2018, a total of 43 people have benefited. To increase this number in the future, new partnerships have been created with non-governmental organizations such as the Panamanian Red Cross, in order to socialize this opportunity among the population of interest.

So far, three branches of INADEH (Chorrera, Chorrillo and Tocumen) are accepting the registration of refugees. It is necessary to train and raise awareness with the rest of INADEH branches in Panama City, and to expand the geographical application for the refugee population.



# **III. Expansion of the MIRPS**



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## a. Context

El Salvador acceded to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol in April 1983. Similarly, Decree Law N. 918 (18 July 2002) and Regulation Decree N. 79 (7 September 2005) incorporate the definition of refugee enshrined both in the Refugee Convention as well as in the 1984 Cartagena Declaration. In 2014, the country adopted the Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action, through which States agreed upon the highest standards of international protection at the regional level as well as on the implementation of innovative solutions to forced displacement.

In 2018, the Ministry of Justice and Public Safety issued a report named 'Profiling of internal mobility due to violence in El Salvador', which provides an indication of internal forced displacement in the country. The study revealed that to the end of 2016, at least one of the members of 1.1% of the families in the country had been forced to flee violence or the effects of violence within El Salvador between 2006 and 2016.

This represents the existence of at least 71,500 internally displaced people, whose demographic profile demonstrates that those most affected are family units with youth who have a considerable socioeconomic vulnerability. Furthermore, 69% of the cases reported having been victims of threats, intimidation or coercion, which were at the same time the causes of their displacement. The study details that 70% of the victims did not report the reasons why they fled.

Internal forced displacement is characterized by high levels of victimization, territories with vulnerable social fabric and under the control of criminal groups, as well as threats that force people to abandon their homes. Internally displaced persons are exposed to diverse types of discrimination related to their sex, age, disability, sexual identity, among others.

On 13 July 2018, the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice issued the SENTENCIA DE AMPARO 411-2017, which appeals to the government to recognize the phenomenon of forced displacement of persons which originates from a context of violence and insecurity. The

Chamber also ordered the Legislative Assembly, the Ministry of Justice and Public Safety, the Coordinating Commission and the Technical Unit of the Justice sector to work jointly with other State entities to comply with the following obligations:

1. Recognize people referred as victims of displacement and of rights-holders, and categorize them normatively, for which they would require a special legislation for the protection of victims and witnesses;
2. Design and implement public policies and protocols to prevent forced displacement, for which they would be compelled to adopt measures to regain control over territories under the domain of gangs, and prevent future displacements and subsequent human rights violations.
3. Provide protection measures to those who are de facto internally displaced and guarantee the possibility for them to return to their home; and
4. Propose the celebration of cooperation agreements and maintain relations at the national and international levels with entities and institutions to facilitate compliance.

Hence, on 10 October an audience was held within the Constitutional Chamber with the aim of following up on the compliance with Sentence 411-2017. The Ministry of Justice and Public Safety had the opportunity of presenting progress

made as of June 2019 to date, pending the corresponding resolution. Similarly, during a public event held on 3 October, the Ministry recognized the existence of forced displacement in the country and announced the opening of 25 Offices for the Attention to Victims, Forced Displacement and Migration.



## b. Priorities

The second chapter of the Brazil Plan of Action (PAB) ‘the international protection of refugees and asylum seekers’ established that States party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol need to have asylum procedures of the highest international protection standards within their legislation. Hence, the Government of El Salvador is in the process of drafting a law for the protection of refugees and stateless people, gathering best practices and the highest standards of international refugee protection.

Furthermore, the same PAB chapter indicates that borders are characterized for being areas of transit and entry, and sometimes of permanence and return, for people that take part in massive movements, including those with international protection needs. In order to maintain borders as safe and protective areas for people and States, the implementation of the ‘Solidary and Safe Borders’ programme. The government of El Salvador, with the support from UNHCR, has undertaken training sessions for 70 State officials (National Civil Police, General Directorate for Migration and Foreign Affairs, and Customs) at border areas on the international protection of refugees with the aim of strengthening the identification of potential protection needs and their timely referral to the national asylum system. The government plans to continue collaborating with UNHCR to hold additional sessions on a regular basis. The objective of the government is to guarantee access to the territory and to the asylum procedure for people with international protection needs.

Chapter three of PAB, ‘Comprehensive, complementary and sustainable solutions’, stresses the importance of achieving durable solutions for refugees, and in particular for those in a protracted situation. El Salvador is currently working in the development of a local integration model for refugees in the country, based on information gathered through a participatory assessment undertaken with 30 refugees, through work meetings with State institutions and an experience exchange exercise with Costa Rican authorities. Similarly, during that exercise, interviews were conducted with UNHCR staff, implementing partners and the Costa Rican Chamber of Commerce with the aim of learning from best practices and lessons from their model.

Chapter six of PAB ‘Statelessness’ identifies challenges and necessary actions to eradicate it in the region. Hence, the government of El Salvador ratified the 1954 Statelessness Convention and is currently exploring the possibility of adhering to the 1961 Convention. In this line, two expert consultants on Salvadoran constitutional law have been

hired to provide two independent and impartial opinions on the compatibility of the country’s Political Constitution and the Convention. Worthy to note is that the government is also planning to establish a procedure for the stateless status determination within the framework of the draft law on the protection of refugees and stateless people.

Chapter one of PAB, ‘The situation of refugees, displaced people and stateless people in Latin America and the Caribbean’, states that forced displacement has been proven in the North of Central America as forcing people to flee their homes due to, among other reasons, the transnational organized crime. To this end, the government of El Salvador undertook the profiling study on internal mobility due to violence with the aim of identifying causes, profiles and patterns, among others, of the phenomenon. The study identified that forced displacement responds to different reasons and the economic and family reasons are predominant, with violence being the third main reason for flight. 1.1% of the population fled due to violence between 2006 and 2016. In addition, to guarantee the restitution of their rights and to mitigate the damage caused by violence, the government of El Salvador, under the leadership of the Directorate for the Attention to Victims, Forced Displacement and the Ministry of Justice and Public Safety, opened 25 offices in prioritized municipalities.

Interinstitutional panels for the determination of the best interest of the child (BID) have taken place to guarantee due process. Case management systems have been improved to reinforce the implementation of durable solutions in cases of children a high risk. Community based protection has been strengthened through youth programmes and education interventions that facilitate the participation youth and children. Child welfare entities continue to be supported with technical capacity building on interview techniques, community-based protection and BID which has enhanced the practical work to evaluate and document needs.

The National Institute for the Development of Women in El Salvador (ISDEMU) has been strengthened through a capacity building programme to enhance the identification, documentation and protection of deported women with protection needs, as well as to strengthen the referral, systematization and assistance to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). SGBV prevention programmes have been undertaken, and child friendly spaces have been created.

## c. National plan

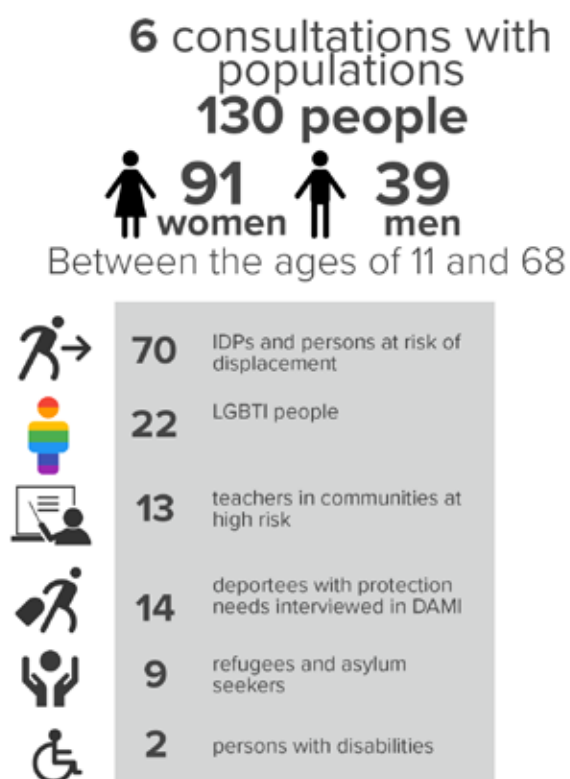
On 25 July 2019, the government of President Nayib Bukele expressed its intention of joining the MIRPS as an expression of willingness to address violence-related forced displacement. Since then, national consultations began to be undertaken with affected populations and relevant actors and the central and local levels.

To launch this process, the Salvadoran government formed a technical team comprised by key institutions: Ministry of Justice and Public Safety; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Governance and Territorial Development; the Ministry of Local Development; the Ministry of Education; the Ministry of Labour; and the Ministry of Health.

The technical team was in charge of guiding the different consultations and the construction of the following plan, under the leadership of the Ministry of Justice and Public Safety and the co-leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In September 2019, participatory consultations were held with affected populations, state institutions and other relevant actors (i.e. NGOs and the civil society; agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations System; and cooperation agencies) and with the technical support from UNHCR. The objective of these consultations was to gather sufficient inputs for the design of the plan of action that reflects the efforts from the government to address forced displacement. Additionally, priority actions were identified in relation to gaps, challenges and best practices, in line with the four pillars according to the phases of displacement: 1. Reception and admission; 2. Support immediate and persistent needs; 3. Support to host countries and communities; and 4. Solutions.

130 people were consulted in six different spaces, during which focus group discussions were held with displaced people or those at risk of displacement, refugees and asylum seekers. To guarantee the specific needs of particularly vulnerable groups, differential methodologies were applied with women, people with disabilities and LGBTI populations. For the selection of the communities to be consulted,



## 3 consultations with key actors



municipalities prioritized within the Territorial Control Plan were taken into account. In the particular case of deportees with protection needs, 15 surveys were applied with people identified as having protection needs by the Directorate for the Attention to Migrants (DAMI).

On the other hand, three additional consultations and four bilateral meetings with 22 state institutions, 19 representatives from NGOs and 14 representatives of the international community and cooperation involved in the response to people of concern, with the aim of identifying priority needs and protection gaps, as well as programmes to integrate people of concern, priority programmes to be developed and existing and complementary state resources.

The following plan is aligned with the government's Cuscatlan Plan and the Territorial Control Plan and their progress made thus far, and will seek to align with the next cycle of other strategic frameworks undertaken by other key actors in the country, including the United Nations Assistance Framework and national strategies, in order to enhance the comprehensiveness and coherence of contemplated actions.





		Expand the capacity to identify, refer and serve deportees with protection needs in the DAMI receptions centres and in the borders.		
		Prioritized need		
Pillar 1	Prioritized action	Implementer		
		<b>Internally displaced people and deportees with protection needs</b>		
		Creation and installation of shelters and shelters to serve internally displaced persons and deported persons in need of protection (with a focus on the family unit); that have adequate protocols for their management.	Directorate of Attention to Victims and Forced Migration - Ministry of Justice and Public Security	
		Training of personnel in specialized legal assistance (economic, social and cultural rights), and on the protection of property and assets for populations of interest	Directorate of Attention to Victims and Forced Migration - Ministry of Justice and Public Security	
		Review and update of existing protocols and roadmaps in the DAMI to include specialized care for vulnerable populations (children and adolescents, women, families, LGBTI population, persons with disabilities, elderly).	General Directorate of Migration and Foreign Affairs - Ministry of Justice and Public Security in coordination with CONNA, ISNA, PGR, ISDEMU, MINSAL, MRREE (Human Rights Directorate), RNP and PNC.	
		Implementation of the single migratory registry by all institutions in the DAMI; design and implementation of a module on protection, to strengthen the identification and management of cases of deportees with protection needs (children and adolescents, women, families, LGBTI population, people with disabilities, elderly).	General Directorate of Migration and Foreign Affairs - Ministry of Justice and Public Security	
		Establishment of a training plan for the DAMI personnel, which fills the identified needs with the involvement of competent institutions according to their expertise.	General Directorate of Migration and Foreign Affairs - Ministry of Justice and Public Security	
		Creation, printing and dissemination of informative material on the services available in the DAMI.	General Directorate of Migration and Foreign Affairs - Ministry of Justice and Public Security	
		Training processes on the identification of people with protection needs, for the consular networks in Mexico, the United States and Guatemala.	Directorate of Human Rights – Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
		Design of a protocol for the identification and assistance of people with protection needs outside the country, including roadmaps for the direct linkages with national services.	Directorate of Human Rights – Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
		<b>Refugees and asylum-seekers</b>		
		Conduct training on international protection and Refugee Status Determination for DGME officers and child protection institutions at the borders and in other institutions involved.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice and Public Security	
		Strengthen the CODER Secretariat and Subcommittee, and increase their capacities for the analysis and resolution of applications.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice and Public Security	
		Design and disseminate educational materials on Refugee Status Determination in El Salvador.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice and Public Security	
		Establish a document that certifies that a person has started the Refugee Status Determination and is awaiting for a resolution.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice and Public Security	

Strengthening the institutional response and coordination with key actors to increase the protection capacity for displaced populations.

	Prioritized need	
	Prioritized action	Implementer
	Internally displaced people and deportees with protection needs	
<b>Pillar 2</b>	Review and update the protocol for the assistance for internally displaced persons, establishing roadmaps according to specific profiles and their needs, for monitoring cases and mapping existing services.	Directorate of Attention to Victims and Forced Migration - Ministry of Justice and Public Security
	Establish a specialized unit for displaced populations with technical teams trained to attend to those with different profiles within the DAV.	Directorate of Attention to Victims and Forced Migration - Ministry of Justice and Public Security
	Creation of the Single Registration of displaced populations and people at risk of forced displacement, carrying out annual statistical analyses.	Ministry of Justice and Public Security
	Update the study on internal displacement profiling.	Ministry of Justice and Public Security
	Develop studies and analyses on the types of dispossession of property and housing; analyse the legal, regulatory and institutional framework to propose possible protection actions.	Ministry of Justice and Public Security
	Develop and implement an internal roadmap for the protection of displaced children and adolescents, and for at-risk teachers.	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
	Inclusion of variable on school dropout due to displacement in the SIGES NID SYSTEM, to get reliable information on the magnitude of the impact on the educational community.	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
	Include courses on forced displacement caused by violence, and on primary psychological attention, in the training programmes for teachers.	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
	Refugees and asylum-seekers	
	Identify spaces for the installation of shelters for asylum-seekers	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice and Public Security

Promote the institutional presence, protection and prevention mechanisms in communities affected by violence

	Prioritized need	
	Prioritized action	Implementer
	Internally displaced people and deportees with protection needs	
<b>Pillar 3</b>	Implement psychosocial care programs to mitigate the impact of violence, with children and adolescents in contexts of social violence and at risk of dropping out of school.	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
	Design and implement an educational strategy in schools, to raise awareness on the inclusion of displaced children and adolescents.	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
	Design campaigns to raise awareness and educate on the rights of the displaced populations and available services.	Directorate of Attention to Victims and Forced Migration - Ministry of Justice and Public Security
	Design and implement a strategy with a community approach, for monitoring protection services at local offices.	Directorate of Attention to Victims and Forced Migration - Ministry of Justice and Public Security
	Design and implement contingency plans at the municipal level to generate early alerts and responses to forced displacement.	Directorate of Attention to Victims and Forced Migration - Ministry of Justice and Public Security

Pillar 3	Strengthen the community approach of local offices through interinstitutional and intersectoral coordination.	Directorate of Attention to Victims and Forced Migration - Ministry of Justice and Public Security
	<b>Refugees and asylum-seekers</b>	
	Disseminate information to raise awareness in governmental institutions and the private sector about the rights and issuance of identity documents for asylum-seekers and refugees.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice and Public Security
<b>Prioritized need</b>		Promote public policies, legal frameworks and projects/programmes for the self-reliance of forced displaced populations.
<b>Prioritized action</b>		<b>Implementer</b>
<b>Internally displaced people and deportees with protection needs</b>		
Pillar 4	Prioritize displaced and at-risk women and youth in employment rosters	Ministry of Labour
	Strengthen and coordinate the Roundtable for Labour Insertion, and coordinate with different LGBTI associations and INSAFORP for the technical training of populations of interest.	Ministry of Labour
	Awareness campaign with the private sector to promote the recruitment of LGBTI population.	Ministry of Labour
	Present the project for the creation of a Special Law for the Attention of Populations At-Risk of Forced Displacement and other regulatory frameworks that provide greater protection for internally displaced persons.	Ministry of Justice and Public Security
	Coordinate with COMURES for the elaboration of guidelines and principles related to the implementation of policies and roadmaps for the attention on forced displacement at the local level, to boost the participation of local governments in the response.	Ministry of Local Development and Salvadoran Institute for Municipal Development
	Expand and strengthen the entrepreneurship programme to support and sponsor displaced persons, asylum-seekers and deportees with protection needs.	Ministry of Local Development and CONAMYPE
	Create a Specialized Centre that promotes technical and vocational programs, access to tertiary education, livelihoods, and labour insertion (in coordination with the private sector) for displaced populations.	Ministry of Justice and Public Security
	Promote a programme for skills training for displaced populations.	Ministry of Justice and Public Security and Ministry of Labour
	Promote the development of a policy for the attention, protection and solutions for internally displaced persons at the national and local levels.	Ministry of Justice and Public Security
	<b>Refugees and asylum-seekers</b>	
Present the Law initiative for the granting of “International Protection and Statelessness”. Integration of the refugee population in El Salvador.	CODER Secretariat- Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Justice and Public Security	

Pillar 4	Design of a local integration model for refugees and asylum-seekers that includes legal, economic and social actions.	CODER Secretariat- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
	Dissemination of the new Migration and Foreigners Law for the population nationwide	General Directorate of Migration and Foreign Affairs - Ministry of Justice and Public Security

**Disclaimer:** This version of the MIRPS National Response Plan in El Salvador has been validated by the authorities, after a series of consultations that define its activities. It will be reviewed periodically by the implementers and updated as necessary. Additionally, this version has been reviewed and validated by the Legal Department of the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, as the leading institution of the MIRPS process at the national level. The institutions involved in the MIRPS in El Salvador are the Ministry of Justice and Public Security; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Government and Territorial Development; Ministry of Local Development; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Health.

## d. Relevant indicators

The government of El Salvador will begin gathering statistical data on the following indicators as of 2020:





# **IV. Quantification of the MIRPS**

## i. Context

In line with the Global Compact on Refugees' key tenant of greater responsibility sharing, a strategic priority of the MIRPS in 2019 is the quantification of the resources needed to implement the National Action Plans and support efforts to address forced displacement in the region. The MIRPS quantification is an innovative effort based on national ownership and leadership to carry out a holistic assessment of the fiscal investment required to address forced displacement, identifying State resources along with financing gaps to be met through international cooperation. The process forms a foundation for evidence-based dialogue on shared responsibility between and within countries of origin, host countries and the international community to support refugees and persons with international protection needs.

“There is an urgent need for more equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility for hosting and supporting the world’s refugees, while taking account of existing contributions and the differing capacities and resources among States.”

- The Global Compact on Refugees  
(December 2018)

## ii. Objectives

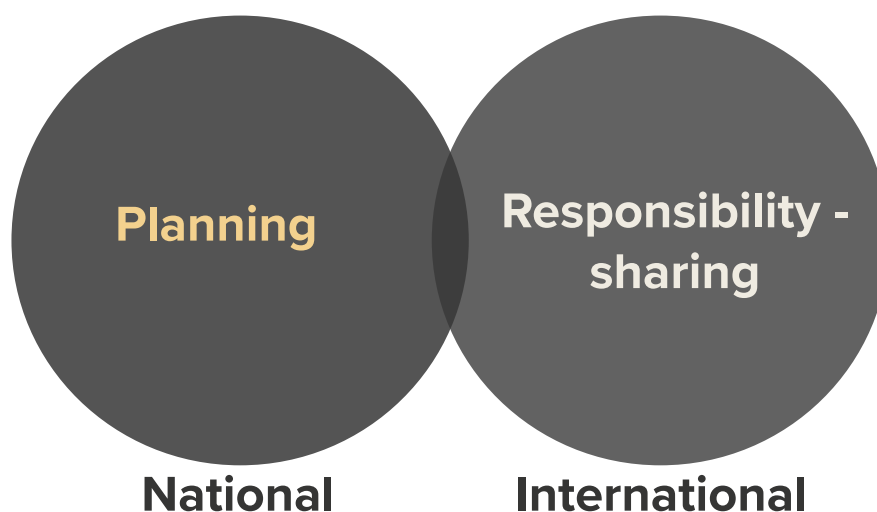
The MIRPS quantification has two main objectives:

1. At the national level, the quantification process serves as a costing exercise and planning tool to identify the total needs to support the population of concern and operationalize the commitments of the National Action Plans. Intragovernmental collaboration raises the profile of the needs required and analysis of State resources allocated to fill these needs.
2. On an international level, the quantification results are used to engage with the international community in a transparent, evidence-based dialogue to support the efforts to address forced displacement. It also demonstrates the States' institutional capacity and credibility to create a framework and methodology around assessing the needs and financial resources required.

## iii. Scope

Each National Technical Team determined the priority areas, scope and timeframe of each countries' quantification based on national priorities, level of impact and available information at the time of the exercise. The country Factsheets included in this chapter highlight the financial requirements and examples of priority actions for each area.

The 2019 MIRPS Quantification Report details the processes, methodologies and detailed results per priority area by country.



## iv. Process

Within a common recognition of the purpose and desired outcomes of the MIRPS quantification process, each State initiated a consultative process with the MIRPS National Technical Teams, relevant governmental counterparts and technical assistance from UNHCR to establish a tailored approach to the national quantification.

<b>ONE</b>	Selection of priority area(s) or desired result drawing from each country's National Action Plans ( <b>Example: education, jobs and livelihoods, strengthening the asylum system, child protection, etc.</b> )
<b>TWO</b>	Assessment of all services and activities related to the area, including, but not, limited to the MIRPS commitments in the National Action Plan ( <b>Example: In Education - children enrolment in public education, education certification validation activities, university scholarships, etc.</b> ).
<b>THREE</b>	Identification of population of concern for services and activities ( <b>Example: refugees and asylum seekers, IDPs, other persons of concern disaggregated by age group, family size etc.</b> ) and establish consensus on statistics to be used for exercise (use proxies where needed).
<b>FOUR</b>	Identification of institutions responsible for services and activities ( <b>Example: Part of the analysis can include historical trends of institutional financing for the implementation of related services and activities.</b> ).
<b>FIVE</b>	Estimation of Needs, State Investment and Financing Gaps of each service or activity. ( <b>Example: \$1,000,000 Total Needs; \$700,000 State Investment; \$300,000 Financing Gap.</b> )

## v. Estimating methodologies

The quantification is an estimation tool and figures should be treated as approximations of general levels of investment required and does not represent a national budgetary obligation. Projections and forecasts draw on the information gathered through consultations with relevant state institution on historic budgetary expenditures and projected costs. Two main estimating methodologies were utilized in the quantification: a detailed cost approach and average cost approach. The consideration for which methodology to employ was based on the intended purpose of the quantification exercise and availability of data. In practice, the MIRPS quantification uses a combination of methodologies.

### Detailed cost approach

A detailed cost approach considers all cost elements that are directly related to the execution of a particular activity, service or operation. Individual operational indicators are required for this approach. The main benefit of using the detailed cost approach is it results in an exhaustive itemized assessment of the operations to be carried out for a given task. The detailed cost approach is useful when:

1. Planning purposes benefit from a granular level of detail to estimate the specific resources required to provide a given service.

2. Estimating the fiscal requirements for specific activities related to the completion of the MIRPS National Action Plan commitments.

3. A top down average cost approach is not feasible or does not provide a realistic representation of the costs attributed to attending to the population of concern.

### Average cost approach


The average cost approach seeks to calculate a per capita cost by service. In general, the calculation uses the total national budget for a given service divided by the number of people served to calculate a per capita cost. This per capita cost is then multiplied by the target population of concern that are estimated to use that service for a total cost for the population of concern. The average cost approach is useful when:


1. Detailed cost information is not available or disaggregated by beneficiaries.
2. Estimating integration services where the general services does not differ between a national citizen and the population of concern.
3. A less resource-intensive quick estimation is required.




## vi. Process Outcomes

In addition to the quantifiable results of the MIRPS quantification, there are notable process outcomes that are critical to sustaining the visibility and mobilization of required resources.

 **National stakeholder engagement.** Displacement issues are increasingly impacting a broader set of stakeholders within national governments, beyond the departments and institutions traditionally involved with refugee, asylum and protection capacity. Integration services such as education, health and livelihoods bring in a set of stakeholders to the conversation that may not have previously participated in an inclusive way, fostering a whole-of-government approach to asylum and protection. The quantification exercise provides an opportunity to invite these new State actors to engage in a coordinated dialogue, raise the visibility of these important issues and its impact on the State's investment.

 **Operationalization of the National Action Plans.** The MIRPS quantification process established a common understanding across national institutions, UNHCR and relevant stakeholders of the specific activities required to fulfill commitments established in the National Plans. This comprehensive assessment linked to operational indicators had not been carried out in a cohesive way across the MIRPS states before the quantification exercise. This planning step of the exercise is tangible step towards the implementation of commitments.

 **Identification of resources required.** An important outcome of the quantification is the increased capacity of the State to identify the resources needed to implement the activities and services required for the protection and integration of the population of concern, particularly given the increasing trends. Through the process, key State actors are empowered to assess the needs required across institutions and deepen their understanding of national budgetary processes to cover those needs.

## vii. Challenges

**Stakeholder coordination.** The nature of the quantification is a participatory one with relevant stakeholders across a wide range of government institutions; therefore, it is no surprise that access to key points of contact is sometimes difficult especially within time constraints of the exercise.

**Statistics on persons of concern.** Availability of data on refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons and others with protection needs is a critical input to the estimating calculations. Often national institutions do not track or compile data or cost information disaggregated by the specific population required.

**Replication and sustainability.** The initial results and reports of the quantification are valuable to understand the methodologies and assumption used to calculate the results; however, in order for the process to continue and have an impact on planning and advocacy, conscious efforts need to be made to dedicate resources to allow the process to be sustainable.

## viii. Recommendations on Next Steps

<b>Refine methodology</b>	The MIRPS quantification process seeks to create common understanding based on credible criteria to define the quantification objective, scope and estimating methodologies in order to give more credibility to the process and ability to compare results across countries. This is an iterative process, building up from the participation of the MIRPS countries and individual processes. The collective learning across the involved countries will continue to strengthen the methodologies used to better understand what works, what does not work and what can be improved.
<b>Expand scope</b>	Each MIRPS participating country defined its scope of the initial quantification exercise based on national priorities and information available. To achieve the ultimate goal of a comprehensive assessment of all resources required to address forced displacement in the country, each country should expand its scope to encompass a broader range of services and activities.
<b>Advocate for resources</b>	The objective of the MIRPS quantification is to facilitate dialogue around resource mobilization, both on a national and international level. States are investing in scaling up their efforts to meet the current and projected future needs; however, the responsibility must be shared in a way that allows for a flexible and exhaustive response to the evolving situation. Therefore, the next step in the process is to align the financing gaps identified through the quantification process with a comprehensive advocacy strategy to enhance the impact of efforts to address forced displacement.

## ix. Country factsheets

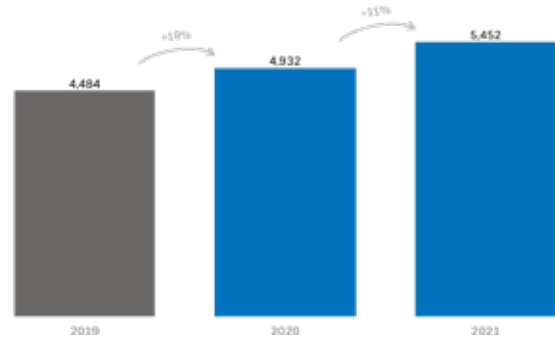
# Belize

## TRENDS & PROJECTIONS

The number of new asylum-seekers has consistently increased over the past years, reflecting a reduction in asylum requests from Guatemalans but an increase from Honduran applicants. For the near future, this trend indicates a regular increase in new applications while regional dynamics of displacement may cause sudden higher increases. This exercise has incorporated these two scenarios for quantifying the response in the areas and sample actions below, which are linked to Government’s priorities of the National Action Plan for Protection and Solutions and for which data are available.


Recent survey data indicate the presence of a significant population of non-registered asylum-seekers. Therefore, the quantification exercise has calculated the costs of regularization of this group.

**Asylum seekers & refugees in Belize**  
(trends and projections)\*



**The time of projected financing requirements is 2020-2021 \*\***

## RESPONSE

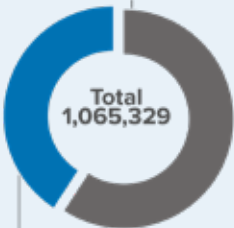


### PROTECTION

**Strengthening the asylum process**

**Sample Priority Actions**

- Provision of key relevant asylum information to asylum-seekers
- Improve Public Sector SOP Identification and Referral
- Strengthening the Quality Assurance Initiative (QA)
- Regularization of Non-registered asylum-seekers



**Total**  
1,065,329

**National investment**  
\$435,038  
41%

**Gap**  
\$630,291  
59%



### PROTECTION


**Humanitarian and Social Assistance**

**Sample Priority Actions**

- Increase social assistance through the BOOST program to address multiple levels of vulnerability in asylum seeker and refugee populations



**Gap**  
\$2,999,117  
100%




### EDUCATION

**Increased Access to Education**

**Sample Priority Actions**

- Increase enrollment in primary and secondary school
- Increase education infrastructure



**TOTAL**  
5,220,535

**National investment**  
\$3,369,203  
65%

**Gap**  
\$1,851,332  
35%



### DURABLE SOLUTIONS

**Jobs and Livelihoods, Entrepreneurship and Vocational Training**

**Sample Priority Actions**

- Microcredit, vocational training and language courses



**Gap**  
\$1,503,479  
100%

\*Preliminary projections are according to available data provided by governments and are subject to change. They are based on estimates of recent trends in the north of Central America.

\*\* The amounts are required financing estimates for the implementation of the needs identified by the State. The national investment are estimates and do not represent budgetary obligations. Additional information about the priority areas, activities and methodology can be found in the 2019 MIRPS Belize Quantification Report.

# Costa Rica

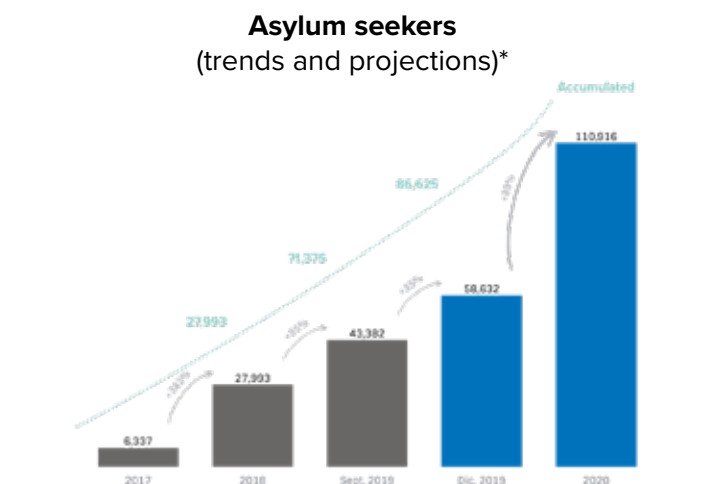
## TRENDS & PROJECTIONS

In the last five years the country has registered a steady increase in refugee status applications, mainly from people in Latin America and the Caribbean. The change in the context of forced displacement in the region, particularly from Nicaragua and Venezuela, imposes new response challenges that must be strengthened in the face of future projections over the coming years. According to data from the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners, 26,835 asylum applications were registered through September 11, 2019. However, this figure refers only to those who have formalized their request. If the people to whom an appointment has been assigned are taken into account, the total cumulative figure exceeds 70,000 people.

### Quantification process in Costa Rica

Since 2017, Costa Rica has progressed in the development of a comprehensive response to the refugee situation under the principles of “the whole government” - “the whole society” set forth in the New York Declaration (2016) and subsequently reiterated in the Global Compact on Refugees (2018). This approach is reflected in the National Chapter of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (MINARE) Costa Rica presented to the international community on the occasion of the adoption of the Declaration of San Pedro Sula (2017).

The implementation of MINARE has shown the need to advance mechanisms to that allow the State to quantify its contribution to the response in order to focus activities, inform decision-making processes with evidence-based data, as well as identify the funding gaps necessary to ensure the



sustainability of the response. This exercise also allows for the identification of the level of participation of State institutions and calls on other sectors of society such as the private sector, civil society, academia and faith-based groups, to support the response.

In Costa Rica this quantification exercise has been led by the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy (MIDEPLAN) who is working on the development of a methodology that allows the visualization of the processes and resources required to serve the refugee and asylum seeker population. Currently, MIDEPLAN is working on the necessary adjustments to adapt the quantification to the exponential increase in the number of asylum applications the country has received since April 2018, following the socio-political crisis in Nicaragua.

## RESPONSE



### EDUCATION

#### Access to education

#### Sample priority actions

- Access to primary and secondary education
- Recognition of university academic grades and professional titles of refugees obtained in their country of origin
- Research initiatives and professional practicums with public and private universities



### DURABLE SOLUTIONS

#### Integration

#### Sample Priority Actions

- Technical training and labour intermediation programs
- Inclusion in social services: social assistance, housing and health
- Issuance of an official document for the inclusion in the labour market for refugees and asylum applicants



### PROTECTION

#### Increase the presence in the borders and regions

#### Sample Priority Actions

- Early identification of persons with international protection needs
- Modernization of the refugee application process and prevention of a backlog
- Effective access to documentation

\*The projection for December 2019 was made based on the average monthly growth of appointments to formalize asylum applications with DGME of 2019 and the projection for 2020 was made based on the estimated annual growth of appointments.

\*Data as of September 11, 2019 includes pending appointments to formalize asylum applications.

# Guatemala

## TRENDS & PROJECTIONS

In recent years, Guatemala has registered an increase in the number of new refugee applications per year coupled with low abandonment rates. National projections are also on the rise, which is considered an important challenge for the year 2020. Based on historical data, an increase in new refugee applications is projected.

Guatemala has prioritized three major areas of action in its National Plan including Reception and admission; Immediate and Persistent Needs and Durable Solutions. The financing required for 2020 in the priority areas within each of these components will contribute to the implementation of the National Plan. **Term of Required Financing: 2020-2022\*\***

**Asylum seekers and refugees in Guatemala**  
(Trends and projections)\* 2016 - 2020



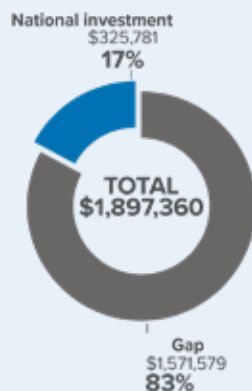
## RESPUESTA



### PROTECTION Refugee system

#### Sample Priority Actions

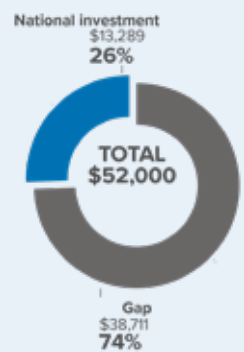
- Information technology for real-time registrations and increase of eligibility responses.
- Multidisciplinary teams for the care and protection of refugees and asylum seekers.
- Special attention through protocols.
- Specialized spaces and services for unaccompanied children.
- Optimization of curriculum in the training schools of authorities involved in the migration issue.



### EDUCATION Immediate public service

#### Sample Priority Actions

- Validation of academic studies of deported Guatemalans who will continue their training in the national education system.
- Negotiation and implementation of regional and international agreements for recognition of study certificates, with special attention to specific needs and difficulties of refugees in presenting documentation of their countries of origin.

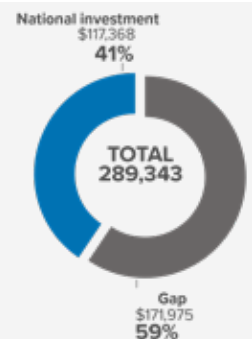


### DURABLE SOLUTIONS

#### Jobs and Livelihoods: Training and reintegration

#### Sample Priority Actions

- QUEDATE training centers, with attention to returnees and Guatemalan adolescents and refugees.
- Labour Market Observatory
- Strategy for labour reintegration of returned Guatemalan migrants.
- Awareness campaigns for the business sector to link refugees to formal employment.



\* Prepared with data provided by the Guatemalan Institute of Migration (IGM), Government of Guatemala for January-July 2019. Preliminary projections based on available data provided by IGM and are subject to change.

\*\* Amounts are estimates of the required financing for the implementation of the needs identified by the State. The amounts reported are estimated figures that may vary due to institutional budget allocations. Additional information on priority areas, activities and methodology are in the MIRPS Quantification Report 2019.

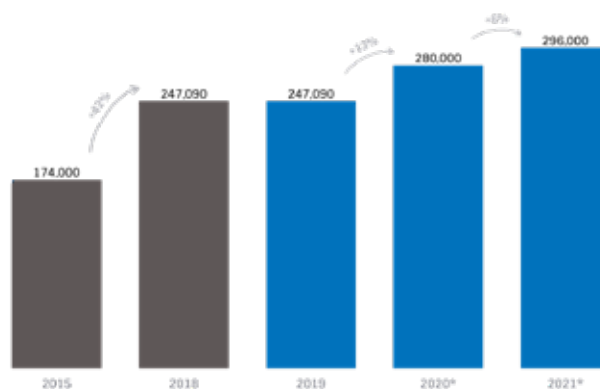
# Honduras

## TRENDS & PROJECTIONS

Honduras has carried out two internal displacement characterization exercises in the last five years. Since they do not constitute a census or a registry of persons, it is not possible to determine an increase, decrease or trends.

**Term of Required Financing: 2020-2022\*\***

### Internal displacement 2015 - 2019 (projections 2020 - 2021)



## RESPONSE

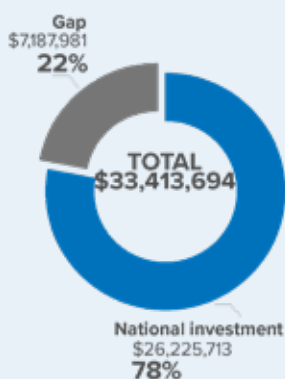


### PROTECTION

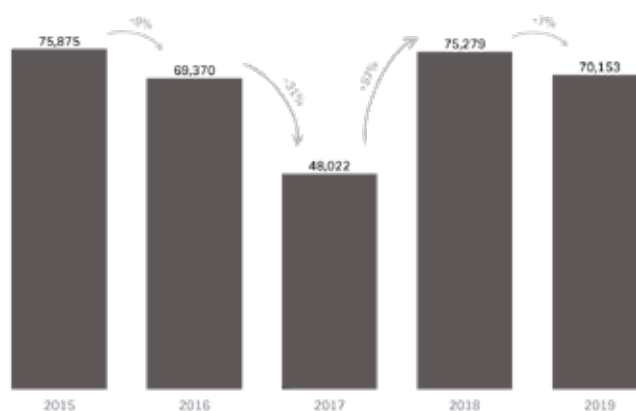
Improve the quality of attention to persons of interest

#### Sample Priority Actions

- Unified system of information on internally displaced persons
- Virtual diploma in internal displacement
- Humanitarian assistance mechanisms
- Centers of protection
- Social orientation and psychosocial attention



### Returns (trends)

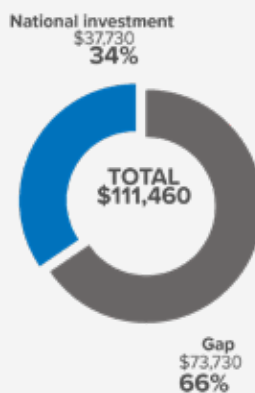


### SOLUTIONS

Facilitate the integration through local solutions

#### Sample Priority Actions

- Strengthening of State institutions capacity and civil society to support the process of local integration
- Creation of a bank of labour profiles of asylum seekers and refugees in Honduras
- Interinstitutional coordination for the search of strategies that facilitate access to education
- Management of funds for self-sufficient projects and initiatives for refugee families in Honduras

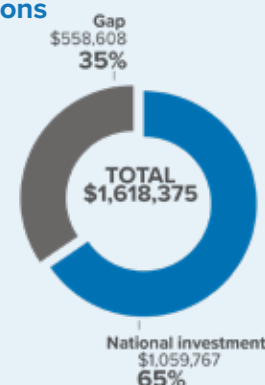


### PROTECTION

Protection of returnees with protection needs and Hondurans abroad  
Sample of priority actions

#### Sample Priority Actions

- Incentive strategies to optimize the attention offered to the returned Honduran population and Hondurans living abroad
- Strengthening of the human talent at the national level and abroad
- Improve the capacity of conflict resolution and search for a consensus from target populations and institutions
- Investigations on the structural problems through academic alliances
- Integrated System of Consular Protection for Honduran asylum seekers



\*Data are part of an official study of the country through 2018. The additional projections figures are provided by UNHCR.

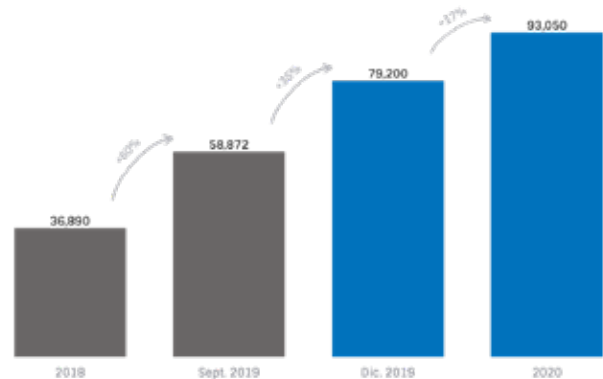
\*\*The priority actions and the amounts of investment reference the principle needs identified by the State of Honduras as are the costs required for implementation. They should not be understood as executed activities nor as public resources available for their use or investment.

# Mexico

## TRENDS & PROJECTIONS

Mexico has experienced sudden increases in both the flow of migrants and people who require international protection. In the case of the latter, this situation presents challenges to make their protection effective, as well as their access to public rights and services. First, the number of people requesting recognition of refugee status has increased. Another aspect to highlight is the type of population requesting refugee status, as it has increased the number of families and other profiles with specific protection needs, in addition to unaccompanied children and adolescents. The international context does not show a trend towards the eventual decline in applicants for refugee status. Therefore, COMAR and the Mexican institutions responsible for the MIRPS commitments will continue to strengthen the integrated protection and integration response in line with the National Action Plan.

**Asylum seekers, refugees and people with complementary protection in Mexico**  
(Trends and projections)\*



**Term of Required Financing: 2020-2022\*\***

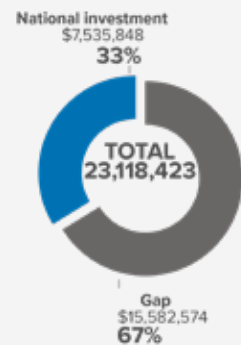
## RESPONSE



### PROTECTION Protection of children and adolescences.

#### Sample Priority Actions

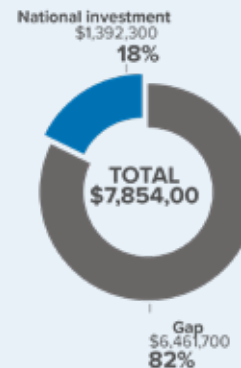
- Generate coordination mechanisms and approved criteria for the integral protection and restitution of the rights of children and adolescences.
- Strengthen the Office of Children Protection (PPNNA), as well as develop and train in protocols on the determination of the best interests of the child, identification of children's needs and case referrals.



### PROTECCIÓN Strengthening the asylum system

#### Sample Priority Actions

- Improve the procedure for the applications for recognition of refugee status, including the registration phase, the signature system, attention to specific needs and the determination of refugee status.
- Increase the presence of COMAR in migratory stations and training to the INM in airports.
- Promote information and awareness campaigns on the right to asylum.
- Facilitate the issuance of immigration documentation and the Unique Population Registration Code (CURP), so that the applicants for refugee status can access formal jobs, public health and education services.



\* Preliminary projections based on available data provided by COMAR and are subject to change. They are based on the estimate as indicated by recent regional trends.

\*\* The amounts are estimates of the financing required for the implementation of the needs identified by the State. National investments are estimates and do not represent budgetary obligations. Additional information on priority areas, activities and methodology are in the MIRPS Quantification Report 2019.

# Panama

## TRENDS & PROJECTIONS

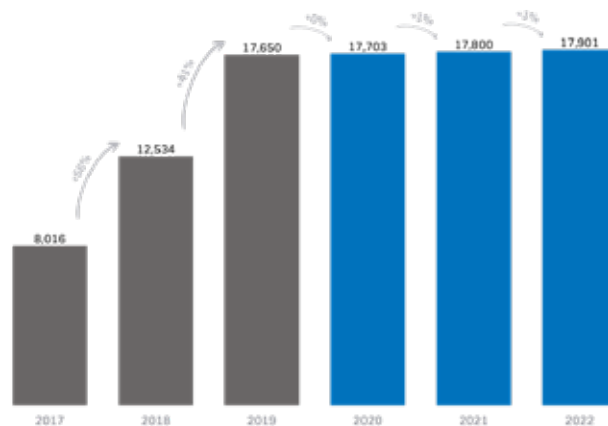
Panama, through Law 5 of October 26, 1977, ratified the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol on the Status of Refugees. In 2018, the Ministry of Government (MINGOB), through the National Office for Refugee Assistance (ONPAR), adopted Executive Decree No. 5 of January 16, 2018, which modifies the regulations for refugee applications, issuing new provisions for the protection of refugees and providing new tools to expedite and improve the procedure for the recognition of the Refugee Statute.

In Panama, ONPAR leads the national response for people in need of international protection as the government entity that receives, process and submits requests for refugee status to the National Refugee Protection Commission (CONARE).

Since the year 1990 to date, 2,556 people have been recognized under the Refugee Statute. In recent years, Panama has experienced an increase in the number of applications for refugee status. According to ONPAR statistics, a total of 28,366 applications were received between June

**Term of Required Financing: 2020-2022\*\***

### New asylum claims and refugees in Panama (Trends and projections)\*



2014 and June 2019. Despite the increasing trends of recent years, projections through 2022 indicate that the number of new applications will stabilize at approximately 15,000 per year. Likewise, it is expected that, with the implementation of more efficient processes and trained human resources, Panama will be able to reduce the number of applications for refugee status that has accumulated in recent years.

## RESPONSE



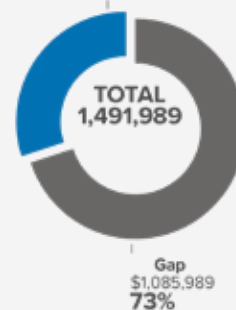
### PROTECTION

Protection service and comprehensive attention to people with international protection needs

#### Sample Priority Actions

- Mapping of existing programs and services to cover the basic needs of people in extreme vulnerability.
- Strengthen information and monitoring services for the population requesting refugee and refugee status.
- Strengthen reference mechanisms for the inclusion of vulnerable population in state social programs.
- Boost programs that promote labour alternatives for generating income for refugees

National investment  
\$406,000  
27%



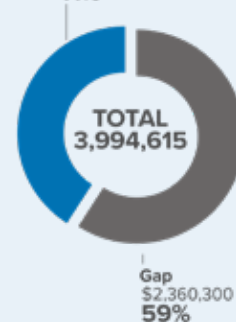
### PROTECTION

Services for receiving and processing refugee status applications

#### Sample Priority Actions

- Strengthen the institutional capacity to identify, refer and attend to people with international protection needs
- Improve the mechanisms for receiving and processing refugee status applications
- Increase the presence of ONPAR in strategic areas of the country for the immediate and timely response to requests for international protection
- Reduction of the application backlog through restructuring of internal processes and increasing human resources to serve the population, as well as through the support of technical tools and training processes

National investment  
\$1,634,315  
41%



Preliminary projections based on available data provided by governments and are subject to change. They are based on the estimate as indicated by recent trends in the region.

\*\* The amounts are estimates of the financing required for the implementation of the needs identified by the State. National investments are estimates and do not represent budgetary obligations. Additional information on priority areas, activities and methodology are in the MIRPS Quantification Report 2019.





# MIRPS in the region

# ➤ LEADERSHIP OF THE PRO - TEMPORE PRESIDENCY

The creation of the Pro Tempore Presidency to manage the MIRPS was a key step in the development and evolution of the framework.

It became necessary to maintain dialogue and to establish inter-government synergies among equals, and to incorporate a political mechanism that would represent them as governments through the figure of a Pro Tempore Presidency. In 2019, Mexico was the first country chosen to exercise this function, for a one-year period.

The Pro Tempore Presidency is a political and sovereign instance that encourages the articulation of coordinated actions of responsibility-sharing on human mobility of people searching international protection and forced displacement Central America and Mexico.

The Presidency enables further progress in strengthening strategic partnerships at the regional, hemisphere and global levels, and on regional positions to approach comprehensive and durable solutions.

The accompaniment of the Technical Secretariat in this new phase, both in technical and political sense, added to the financial contributions from UNHCR, continues to be fundamental for the MIRPS, as well as in the national, regional and global dynamic.

## Work plan of the Pro Tempore Presidency

The first presidency of the MIRPS (Mexico) began its tenure on March 2019, and was focused on strengthening the regional and national dynamics to promote responsibility-sharing mechanisms among countries of origin, transit, destination and of asylum through the key four pillars adopted in each country: Reception and admission. Immediate and persistent needs. Host countries and communities. And durable solutions.

One of the main purposes of the Pro Tempore Presidency is to consolidate and harmonize the access to rights and humanitarian protection of internally displaced people, people at risk of displacement, refugees, asylum seekers, people in transit and returned with international protection needs.

On the other hand, a challenge has been to build and establish the figure of Pro Tempore Presidency and its role, both within and outside of the MIRPS, setting the highest standards for management.

Based on these premises, the work plan was presented for validation and approval during the first online meeting with MIRPS countries, held on 15 March 2019.

Within this framework, the plan prioritized:

- The updating of commitments and national plans, and the introduction of an indicator system, which replaces the previous traffic light system, and it constitutes a new step in the transition towards measuring impact.
- The incorporation of new actors and institutions and cooperation agencies.
- Coordination mechanisms with actors and sectors.
- Holding meetings on relevant topics and those specific to context.
- The compilation of best practices on the four pillars and a future exchange to consolidate comprehensive and regional responses.
- Strengthening of partnerships with regional and sub-regional mechanisms.
- Position and give visibility to the MIRPS at the political level, and before different actors and sectors.
- Set the basis for the creation of dialogue and coordination with civil society networks and organizations.
- The incorporation of El Salvador within the MIRPS.
- The quantification of technical and financial resources necessary for the implementation, the resource mobilization during the Solidarity Event at the Global Refugee Forum.

- Hold dialogues within the framework of online and high level in-person meetings among MIRPS countries, Resident Coordinators of the United Nations, and with cooperating and donors countries, among other partners, on issues related to emergencies, on current challenges in the search of comprehensive solutions.

This first Pro Tempore Presidency undertook its period through virtual meetings with the national technical teams, with the support from the Technical Secretariat.

In eight months, a total of eight regional meetings were held with good results and during which, apart from validating the plan and schedule, dialogue was held among technical teams to update instruments and harmonize criteria to follow up and comply with commitments, to update national plan and present relevant formats. Similarly, each State presented their best practices for each pillar, and shared progress, challenges and information on other initiatives, for example the quantification exercise and the upcoming Global Refugee Forum.

In a joint effort between the OAS, UNHCR and the government of Mexico, El Salvador signed up to the MIRPS as of 15 July 2019.

In parallel, the Pro Tempore Presidency held regular activities to position and give visibility to the MIRPS during bilateral meetings and dialogues with key actors and sectors, and in key meetings, forums and communication outlets. The Presidency also held dialogues with instances that accompany the implementation of the Comprehensive Development Plan, as well as with the OAS, government representatives of MIRPS countries, with the Friends of the MIRPS, and with the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM) of the Department of State of the United States.

The Presidency further enabled the Annual Meeting to gain more relevance, by adding a regional meeting with regional civil society networks and organizations that undertake humanitarian and assistance work. This will be key in establishing a constant dialogue and collaborative approach to encourage multi-sectoral and complementary interventions.

Similarly, with the aim of contributing to find comprehensive and shared solutions to address forced displacement in the region, a high level segment to discuss regional issues of interest was incorporated within the annual meeting. Guiding topics include refugees, forced displacement, migration, in line with the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees and the key areas of the Global Refugee Forum.

As a balance

- We can establish that the MIRPS is the first sub-regional expression of the Global Compact on Refugees. It constitutes a reference for the creation of other similar mechanisms in the Americas, considering the region is now one of origin, transit and destination for people seeking international protection. This, consequently, requires responsibility-sharing mechanisms that provide for comprehensive solutions.

- During the eight months of the first Presidency, representing and enhancing the voices of governments, is characterized by a good receptivity, political will and commitment of States in seeking comprehensive and shared solutions. This corroborates that the figure and the role as an inter-governmental mechanism was a success in the evolution of the MIRPS.

- The modality of virtual regional meetings provides an important dialogue space that strengthens the management of the MIRPS at the regional level.

- The role of UNHCR and the OAS as Technical Secretariat in support to the Presidency has been key to provide technical and financial assistance to countries in the implementation of their plans, and supporting the implementation of the Presidency's plan on the one hand, and with the management of political platforms on the other. At the global level, the Technical Secretariat has enabled further political, technical and financial advocacy to mobilize resources in the framework of the Global Compact on Refugees.

### **Challenges for the upcoming Pro Tempore Presidency**

Future challenges to address include the following:

- Guide high level dialogues in the search for comprehensive and shared solutions to forced displacement in the region, in line with the Global Compact on Refugees.
- Strengthen asylum systems in the MIRPS region, and contribute to simplify and accelerate procedures to provide the refugee status, and promote the exchange of best practices on the matter.
- Contribute to create, at the national and regional levels, a culture of hospitality and integration, and of respect for human rights towards victims of forced

displacement, refugees and asylum seekers so as to eradicate discrimination and xenophobia.

- Strengthen mechanisms to tackle the trafficking and smuggling of people.

- Establish synergies between the MIRPS and the Comprehensive Development Plan.

- Follow-up and provide support to the initiative of the OAS to establish a voluntary fund to support the implementation of the national plans and programmes of shared-responsibility.

- Promote the exchange of best practices identified in 2019, based on the four MIRPS pillars so to contribute to consolidate asylum and integration systems in the region.

- Consolidate the dialogue mechanism with civil society organizations and networks which undertake humanitarian and assistance work.

# CONTRIBUTIONS FROM STRATEGIC PARTNERS

In response to the complexities of forced displacement in the region, and with the aim of establishing durable solutions, the active support and contributions from the civil society, non-governmental organizations and inter-government entities are of the essence.

During the implementation of MIRPS, partners have been key in providing different types of support, from advocacy at the highest political level, border monitoring to the deployment of emergency humanitarian assistance.

In this respect, UNHCR has been working closely and in a coordinated manner with MIRPS partners through agreements or coordination fora that have allowed for the enhancement of joint actions to address forced displacement. This chapter seeks to reflect some of the contributions partners have made during the second year of the MIRPS.



## Central American Integration System (SICA)

The Central American Integration System (SICA) has been a key actor in the consolidation of leadership of States in the region. Since the signature of an agreement in 2014, UNHCR and SICA have been working together to advance on actions that foster integration in Central America, regional safety and strengthen government institutions and the civil society, within the framework of the protection for refugees, the forcibly displaced and stateless people in the region

As part of this work, SICA promotes regional meetings of national refugee commissions to strengthen the exchange of experiences and opportunities that the MIRPS puts forward in response to forced displacement. It also implements, in collaboration with UNHCR, a pilot project in the border municipality of Ocotepeque, Honduras, through which groups of displaced people and migrants cross. This project is the manifestation of local leaderships to coordinate and articulate several institutions in the reception and referral on cases of violence, particularly against women.

Beyond this pilot project in Ocotepeque, a UNHCR-SICA work plan has been developed, which includes a series of annual trainings for the National Refugee Commissions (CONARES), and the incorporation of CENTROESTAD to the EGRIS group (Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics).

In coordination with UNHCR and IOM, SICA has formulated a plan of action for the Comprehensive Attention to Migration in the region that begins its implementation with the development of a baseline study articulated in the Comprehensive Migration Policy proposal, enabling an updated understanding of the forced displacement and migration situations in MIRPS countries. This study includes a specific pillar on the protection of refugees, as well as strategy proposals to respond to the particular needs inherent to forced displacement. This baseline study provides a good practice of the inter-agency and inter-government articulation and coordination between SICA, UNHCR and IOM teams, within an environment of respect for specific mandates and institutional roles.

SICA has also contributed with the development of a context study focused on forced displacement, which includes the definition of profiles of people in transit who have international protection needs, as well as a mapping of institutions and services available to assist and refer them. Related to the

so called 'caravans' the study concludes that information posts and assistance spaces must be available at border areas, particularly those equipped to assist unaccompanied children and adolescents. It also highlights the need to design harmonized assistance protocols and information systems across the region.

In this respect, SICA has made significant progress through the incorporation of a displacement and migration module within its Integrated Statistical Information System, which counts with the participation of the Central American Statistical Commission within the Group of Experts on Refugee and IDP Statistics of the UN Statistical Commission.

The NGO Cristosal has designed a regional system to monitor forced displacement by identifying variables on victims based on generalized violence as a cause for internal forced displacement. The collaboration between SICA and UNHCR has allowed for the sharing of this experience, and to strengthen the capacities of teams at the national and local levels across Central America in the sectors of health and education. The pilot implementation of a regional monitoring system includes technical assistance in the design of indicators on forced displacement and the incorporation of relevant variables.

## **Protection Sub Group of the Regional IASC Working Group – Risk, Emergency and Disaster (REDLAC)**

The Protection Sub Group of the Regional IASC Working Group – Risk, Emergency and Disaster (REDLAC), as a regional coordination and analysis platform for humanitarian action, has facilitated the analysis of the wide-spread structural violence in the region that keeps forcing thousands to flee their homes.

Since the beginning of the MIRPS until today, REDLAC continues to strengthen the exchange of information and analysis on violence and the humanitarian needs in the North of Central America with the aim of, on the first hand, generating evidence to set forth coordinated actions and, on the other, attract support from the international community and other key partners.

Particularly, REDLAC has been key in producing periodic reports on the environment of violence, forced displacement and protection which has enabled further advocacy efforts afore government and international fora.

These reports have touched upon the following topics: the humanitarian response to protection needs; humanitarian access in other situations of violence; humanitarian response to caravans of refugees and migrants; the impact of violence in the access to educations; and the impact of violence on the right to adequate housing.

These publications are the result of a joint position of humanitarian organizations with presence in the region, they present a common understanding of the needs and gaps of the current response. The analysis obtained provide greater visibility to the protection situation in the NCA at the regional and global levels, and strengthen the advocacy efforts afore governments and donors. It has also become a tool that supports decision makings processes within country protection groups in NCA.

## International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been key in providing assistance and facilitate access to emergency basic services for people affected by violence in Central America.

On the one hand, the ICRC has contributed to improving the infrastructure of shelters administered by NGOs to benefit displaced people and migrants and has provided assistance to people gravely wounded or amputated as a result of their displacement towards the northern Mexican border.

The ICRC, along with UNHCR, participates in the commission in charge of coordinating an interinstitutional response to internal displacement in Honduras.

Among other actions, the ICRC also assists States in the development of public policies and legal frameworks coherent to the needs of internally displaced people, and supports the efforts of local authorities to deploy emergency basic services along the main transit routes in order to mitigate risks for refugees and migrants.

On the other hand, the ICRC support the efforts of National Red Cross Societies and the civil society in general to provide an immediate response to vulnerable populations and refer them to the relevant structures, in particular for injured people and victims of violence (treatment, referral, rehabilitation), separated families (reestablish contacts), and unaccompanied children (reintegration within communities of origin and respect for the rights of children).

## Central American Council of Human Rights Ombudspersons (CCPDH)

The Central American Council of Human Rights Ombudspersons (CCPDH) has been a key partner in providing visibility to the defense and promotion of the human rights of people with international protection needs in Central America.

Following their two visits to the main transit routes used by people with protection needs and migrants, the CCPDH has adopted a resolution which provides recommendations to MIRPS countries to improve the protection response along their route to safety.

Among the recommendations is to create comprehensive policies from a human safety approach that place the rights of people at the centre of the response. Similarly, the recommendations placed forward by the CCPDH promote the strengthening of interinstitutional strategic partnerships at the local and national levels in each country, as well as with international and civil society organizations.

The CCPDH created a report on the asylum systems in Panama, Costa Rica, Belize and Mexico, and undertakes distribution and advocacy actions in relation to the findings of the reports and related visits.



# ➤ CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

During the last year, the United Nations System (UNS) has increased its focus towards the North of Central America (NCA) in striving to advocate for a comprehensive approach to the multi-dimensional forced displacement and migration situation (causes, protection, and solutions). In seeking to provide a holistic response to this crisis, the UNS has set forth a series of initiatives, plans and humanitarian and development processes at the regional level that complements the MIRPS.

Based on the concern of the impact of violence over human rights, human development, governance and protection needs, the executive committee of the Secretary-General of the United Nations has taken a series of decisions to adopt a comprehensive and alternative approach based on the 2030 agenda which seeks to contribute to the reduction of violence.

This initiative is led by the United Nations Group for the development of Latin America and Caribbean (UNDG-LAC) named the **joint initiative for the reduction of chronic violence (joint initiative)**. This initiative was approved by the executive committee of the secretary general in February 2018, with the aim of establishing a common result on the reduction of violence through a strategic approach.

The joint initiative is launched in March 2017 by the UNSDG-LAC and is co-led by the regional director of UNICEF and the Coordinator of the UNSDG-LAC. It is composed of a regional coordination technical group which includes UNDP, UNHCR, OCHA, and UNICEF. This group works closely with focal points of other agencies, funds and programmes of the UNSDG-LAC, and with the resident coordinators in three countries of the North of Central America.

Since its launch, the joint initiative has made progress in establishing a common framework and analysis of the context; it has consolidated evidence on the impact of violence (which are updated every six months through the protection Group of the UNSDG-LAC). Furthermore it has a defined common and strategic messages and approaches, while it has developed a full index of chronic violence to monitor violence in these countries and contribute identifying priority interventions. Moreover, it has completed a baseline study on the situation of violence in these three countries in 2018, while

mapping interventions of the United Nations currently being implemented in the countries to reduce chronic violence, and identify gaps and opportunities. The UNSDG-LAC has also advocated before several joint funds of the United Nations so criteria can be flexible enough to contribute to the joint initiative. It has also undertaken workshops for the United Nations country teams to integrate the reduction of violence within their cooperation frameworks. Lastly it has produced a draft common strategic approach of the United Nations system to reduce violence in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras which is currently being considered by the relevant resident coordinators.

Hence, the joint initiative is a great relevance to address an advocate in a coordinated for the reduction of violence and address one of the main causes of force displacements in the region.

Additionally, considering the context of mixed movements it has become necessary to establish collaboration mechanisms to address the root causes of this displacement. In light of this El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico with the technical support from the Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean (CEPAL) set the basis to create a **comprehensive development plan** in order to make human mobility an option not an obligation.

This plan seeks to contribute to safe, orderly and regular migration through these countries and, simultaneously, address the root causes of forced displacement. The plan which is articulated through four pillars: economic development, social welfare, environmental sustainability and climate change, and the comprehensive management of the displacement cycle. It is through the last pillar that the plan seeks to respond one of the main regional concerns: forced displacements and migration addressing not only violence but other causes that force people to flee their homes in the region. This pillar, co-led by UNHCR and IOM, places the emphasis of refugees and migrants at the centre of a process that includes countries of origin, transit, destination and return. The general principles that guide actions are of non-discrimination and inclusion. It seeks to integrate human mobility with sustainable development from the basis of equality and safety in terms of physical safety, employment,

income, education, social protection and livelihoods.

The foreseen interventions seek to strengthen the reception capacity of the state as well as to enhance their presence and capacity at border areas to guarantee protection and assistance in accordance with international norms and protection systems. This pillar includes actions to protect human rights of refugees and migrants, it considers factors of expulsion and human safety, integration, return, and reintegration. And also considers issues related to regular migration asylum systems and protection, and Diaspora and remittances.

Additionally, and considering the need to establish comprehensive approaches (humanitarian-development) to address human mobility in the region, UNHCR, IOM and UNICEF, and in the case of El Salvador with the World Food Programme (WFP), are working on the development of **immediate response plans**. This has been based on the dire need to provide humanitarian assistance so that displaced people, refugees and migrants have access to water, nutrition, medical assistance, psychosocial support, temporary shelter and specialized protection services according to the immediate needs identified in each country.

In the sense, quick impact actions have been developed for the seven countries in Central America and Mexico to be implemented in a maximum time frame of six months.

Similarly, these actions will be aligned with other initiatives to achieve greater impact and sustainability and medium and long-terms.

### Priority areas of the immediate response plans

**Humanitarian assistance and cash-based interventions for returnees, forcibly displaced people and those in transit, as well as the identification and referral of people with protection needs.** The assistance provided in coordination with relevant government entities and the civil society will contemplate shelter, food, medical and psychosocial care, for forcibly displaced people and migrants, as well as transportation and training for personnel present at shelters and transit areas. Similarly, interinstitutional coordination mechanisms will be strengthened to ensure an adequate identification and referral of cases with protection needs identified at reception centres.

**Strengthening of the asylum systems and protection mechanisms.** A robust asylum system is essential so countries can face the increasing number of asylum claims in the region and reduce the backlog in the revision of cases. It is necessary that countries in the region take steps towards adopting measures that strengthen existing asylum systems through trainings for immigration officials and eligibility commissions, to support the improvement or construction

of infrastructure and confidential spaces for interviews, registration and case management, etc.

**Enhance Child protection actions.** Children and adolescents as disproportionately impacted by violence, forcing them to flee their communities and countries. When they return to their communities of origin, they often do not receive adequate support for their reintegration and are thus unprotected and facing multiple risks. This grave situation has created a 'revolving door' situation (displacement-return-displacement), as many feel that the risks of undertaking the journey compensates for the risks and difficulties that implies remaining at home. Child protection systems have a limited capacity to follow-up on individual cases of vulnerable children and adolescents in their communities of origin and return.

**Strengthening of shelters.** There are shelters that provide temporary assistance to returnees, people on the move and internally displaced people. These shelters, administered by the civil society, have a limited capacity to assist the increasing number of people on the move. Its infrastructure, personnel, equipment and material are often insufficient, which hinders management and the provision of assistance,

**Support for the reintegration of returnees.** At the community level, Mayor's offices and other local actors require support to lead processes that provide a response to people at risk of displacement, forcibly displaced people and returnees. The provision of services in greatly affected communities is a challenge. This, it is necessary that reintegration processes are strengthened through the capacity development at the municipal level, the development of public and municipal policies, the access to (re)integration programmes, socioeconomic development, psychological assistance, specialized assistance for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, and access to education and protection services. Similarly, host communities require support to they can provide the ideal social and security conditions, and foster peaceful coexistence.

- 1** **Guatemala:** information, legal assistance, asylum system, reception and protection
- 2** **El Salvador:** reception, humanitarian assistance, child protection, shelter and reintegration
- 3** **Costa Rica:** knowledge development, Communication for Development (C4D), capacity strengthening, institutional and civil society development, advocacy and evidence development
- 4** **Panama:** communication and information, child protection protocol, asylum system, humanitarian assistance, psychosocial support, infrastructure and coordination
- 5** **Belize:** Communication and information, asylum system, humanitarian assistance and psychosocial and legal support

### Countries of implementation



- 6** **Honduras:** response at the border, institutional capacity, assistance, community-based protection and reintegration
- 7** **Nicaragua:** prevention of irregular migration and smuggling, direct assistance, protection of refugees, statelessness, capacity development, psychosocial support, assisted voluntary return, reintegration and information.
- 8** **Mexico:** Mass communication and information, asylum systems and legal assistance, child protection, humanitarian assistance and cashed-based interventions (CBI), strengthening of the capacity of temporary shelters



# ➤ DONORS AND FRIENDS OF MIRPS

## Friends of MIRPS

The complexity of forced displacement of countries that integrate the MIRPS has a significant impact not only in countries of origin but also in countries of transit and destination. These phenomena of human mobility pose challenges that required joint efforts, knowledge and experiences, articulation and a close collaboration among different actors as well as the consolidation of strategic partnerships, cooperation and timely financial support.

In line with the spirit of solidarity and considering the capacity of the OAS to convene political will and mobilize resources, the support platform “Friends of MIRPS” has been formed as a follow-up mechanism established during the first annual meeting in Washington DC on 8 November 2018. The friends of MIRPS follows a long trajectory based on solidarity and cooperation to address common challenges and achieve the implementation of commitments, including that of a fair, sustainable and foreseeable responsibility sharing. This, in line with the commitment made it through the Global Compact on Refugees. The support platform is comprised of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, the United States of America, Uruguay and some of the permanent observer states of the OAS. These include non-regional States which are key partners for the MIRPS: Spain, France, Italy, Switzerland, the European Union, the Vatican.

With the establishment of the group of friends, MIRPS countries have been able to set the basis to continue consolidating the interaction among member states as well as to highlight the support provided in different matters. An example of that has been the recognition that the UN committee of independent experts on the protection of migrant worker’s rights and of their families has given Argentina for its active and positive participation in the Friends of MIRPS.

In preparation for the second annual meeting and ahead of the first Global Refugee Forum, it is crucial and strategic that the Friends of MIRPS are active. In particular, it will be key that all of the support and resources can be channeled through fundraising mechanisms like the one being created within the OAS. This will increase the visibility and support for the MIRPS at the international level, while continuing to enhance the basis of support to give continuity and sustainability to the MIRPS commitments presented before the Global Refugee Forum.





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## International cooperation

Historically, the duty to respond to force displacement dynamics has been unjustly born upon countries of destination that often do not count with sufficient capacities or resources. The MIRPS seeks to generate linkages and synergies with other states, and to strengthen the south-south cooperation and beyond, with the game of gathering financial technical and resettlement support that would fast track durable solutions.

In the sense, initiatives of different nature, including the exchange of experiences and best practices among member and cooperating states, are noteworthy.

In 2019, and within the framework of the **COI** initiative, Government authorities of different countries with a long tradition of receiving asylum seekers and the refugees undertook visits to MIRPS countries. This with the aim meeting local authorities, the civil Society and forcibly displaced populations, and share replicable experiences according to the context. A forum was held with delegates from legislation and constitutional commission of El Salvador in relation to the development of the legal framework on the protection of internally displaced people, with the support from the UNHCR office in Honduras. Similarly, workshops were facilitated for judges, magistrates and other judicial

operators in collaboration with the national legal counsel of El Salvador.

On the other hand, the **government of Colombia** continues to be an ally in the development of legal frameworks on the matter of forced displacement in Central America. In this sense, Colombian authorities have supported El Salvador with undertaking workshops for judges, sharing experiences of mechanisms for the protection of abandoned lands, and the development of the internal displacement law.

Lastly, the cooperation for resettlement and other forms of complementary protection continues to provide solutions for people at high risk in their communities of origin. Through the **Protection in Transit Arrangement (PTA)**, 3,757 people have been identifies as being at imminent risk in their countries of origin. 1,746 of them have been referred to several countries, and to the end of September 2019, 689 people have found a safe place to rebuild their lives in the United States of America, Australia, Canada, Brazil and Uruguay. Despite being a solution for a limited number of people, it is a clear example of responsibility sharing to protect people who have no other choice but to flee.

## Solidarity Event

The UN General Assembly adopted Resolution A RES/73/51 which confirms that the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) is a representation of the political will and ambition of exercising the principle of responsibility-sharing. The GCR highlights the urgent need to share in a fair manner the responsibility to host and support refugees in the world, taking into account existing contributions and the different capacities and resources of States. A key mechanism to achieve the GCR's objectives is the Global Refugee Forum that will be held every four years at the ministerial level. The forum will provide state and other relevant stakeholders the opportunity to present and confirm concrete pledges in light of the objectives of the GCR, and consider forms in which their responsibility can be shared fairly.

The first forum, to take place on 17 and 18 December 2019, to update to progress towards the activation of support platforms, to establish academic networks on refugees, to consolidate support groups and develop three-year strategies. To provide a strategic approach and maximize the impact this first Global Refugee Forum, the following areas have been prioritized: i) Education; ii) Employment and livelihoods; iii) Energy and infrastructure; iv) Solutions; and v) Protection capacity.

Additionally, a Solidarity Event for the MIRPS has been organized a day prior to the forum, which presents opportunities for MIRPS countries to:

- Evaluate the current situation, challenges and opportunities to address forced displacement in Central America.
- Present evidence of progress and challenges through the second annual report, that includes the updated national plans and selected indicators.
- Share best practices and future priorities, highlighting progress towards self-reliance of refugees, the relieve a pressure over host communities, and the search for solutions, aligning the Forum's priority areas with the MIRPS pillars.
- Launch the support platform Friends of MIRPS, where donors can present their commitments to support the needs, fill gaps an contribute to the sustainability of this regional effort.

Hoy es lunes 25 de marzo del 2019.  
Hoy es lunes 25 de marzo del 2019.

Tomás  
Tomás es grande. A él  
jugar mucho  
día. Red

### Los sílabas:

- 1. monosílaba →  
Son las palabras que tienen una sílaba.
- 2. bisílabas → tienen  
dos sílabas.
- 3. Trisílabas, →  
Tienen tres sílabas.

TABLAS DE MULTIPLICACIÓN

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24
3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36
4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36	40	44	48
5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60
6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72
7	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63	70	77	84
8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72	80	88	96
9	18	27	36	45	54	63	72	81	90	99	108
10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120
11	22	33	44	55	66	77	88	99	110	121	132
12	24	36	48	60	72	84	96	108	120	132	144

