

MIRPS NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

BELIZE
COSTA RICA
EL SALVADOR
GUATEMALA
HONDURAS
MEXICO
PANAMA



MIRPS

**Comprehensive
Regional
Protection and
Solutions
Framework**

Addressing forced
displacement in Central
America and Mexico



National Plans Objectives	3
National Plan in Belize	4
National Plan in Costa Rica	6
National Plan in El Salvador	9
National Plan in Guatemala	12
National Plan in Honduras	15
National Plan in Mexico	18
National Plan in Panama	21

NATIONAL PLANS **OBJECTIVES**

- Improve **mechanisms for reception and admission**
- Respond to immediate and persistent **humanitarian and protection needs**
 - Support **host countries and communities**
 - Enhance **opportunities for durable solutions**

FOCUS AREAS:



PROTECTION



**JOBS AND
LIVELIHOODS**



**SOCIAL
PROTECTION**



EDUCATION



HEALTH

COMMITMENTS BY COUNTRY

**BELIZE · COSTA RICA · EL SALVADOR · GUATEMALA ·
HONDURAS · MEXICO · PANAMA**

MIRPS NATIONAL ACTION PLAN IN BELIZE

10 TOTAL COMMITMENTS

FOCUS AREAS:



PROTECTION
7 COMMITMENTS



**JOBS AND
LIVELIHOODS**
2 COMMITMENTS



EDUCATION
1 COMMITMENT

Committed to a comprehensive refugee response, Belize has been improving standard operating procedures for identification, reception and referral of refugees, while simultaneously upgrading the quality of refugee status determination processes. Effects of the current pandemic however have created obstacles, delaying envisioned progress. Similar delays have occurred in advancing sustainable solutions in the livelihoods sector as negative socioeconomic fall-out from the pandemic has limited the absorption capacity of the formal and informal economies. Within its recovery plan, Belize has identified Technical Vocational Education and Training, when adopting new transformational vocations, as key instrument for creating new growth industries, while possessing sufficient potential to rebuild Belize's economy and to include young refugees, migrants and vulnerable nationals in delivering individual and common benefits.

PROTECTION

- Capacity building for all relevant Government authorities, delivering Standard Operating Procedures for POC referral
- Provision of information to POC in relation to admission to territory and asylum processes
- Provision of public information campaigns, to sensitize the general population about the reality of refugees in Belize
- Improved comprehensive data collection (applications; admissions; rejections) and analysis System
- Consideration of participation in the Quality Assurance Initiative (QAI) for strengthening of the asylum process
- Exchange of information with MIRPS States on best practices and mechanisms of responsibility sharing

EDUCATION

- Support to comprehensive knowledge-, skills-, and livelihood-based integration opportunities

JOBS AND LIVELIHOODS

- Collaboration with international community in relation to improved opportunities for refugee integration
- Optimize internal coordination, ensuring that asylum-seekers access all social services to which they are entitled
- Mapping and data collection exercises on POC and host communities to create evidence for inclusion in national plans

MIRPS NATIONAL ACTION PLAN IN COSTA RICA

32 TOTAL COMMITMENTS

FOCUS AREAS:



PROTECTION
11 COMMITMENTS



**JOBS AND
LIVELIHOODS**
4 COMMITMENTS



**SOCIAL
PROTECTION**
12 COMMITMENTS



EDUCATION
5 COMMITMENTS

Costa Rica stands on a long tradition of providing asylum and protection to refugees and asylum seekers. However, its national asylum system is under pressure as a result of displacement situations in the region, particularly Nicaragua. The country hosts approximately 100,891 persons in need of international protection, this figure represents 2% of Costa Rica total population. Out of that number 90,891 are asylum seekers (mostly Nicaraguans) and 9,801 refugees.

Through the implementation of its national chapter Costa Rica increased the overall recognition rate of refugees from 21% (2019) to 49% in 2020. Similarly, the Refugee Unit opened an office in the northern border to ensure access to the national asylum system. The access to state-run social services extended to include asylum seekers and refugees on an equal standing with nationals and provided medical insurance to 6,000 refugees and asylum seekers in high vulnerability.

Despite these efforts, the pandemic has aggravated the challenges to respond to this population, including extended claim processing times, loss of livelihoods, economic hardships, and xenophobia. In response to this scenario, the national technical team quantified and developed three concept notes on key sectors that include social assistance services, health services and the access to the national asylum system for refugees and asylum seekers



PROTECTION

- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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
- Project for the prevention of delays: Project for the prevention of delays: Increase the number of specialized officers in refugee matters, in at least 6 people for each of the instances
- 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
- Modernization of the TAM: Establish the Migratory Administrative Court (TAM) with two specialized administrative sections: one for refugee matters and another in immigration.
- Documentation for refugee 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.
- Maintain no-cost documentation for the applicants for refugee status and reduce the cost of documentation for refugees
- 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

- 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



EDUCATION

- 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
- 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
- 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)
- 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
- 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



JOB AND LIVELIHOODS

- Employment opportunities for LGBTI 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
- 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
- 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, EMPLEATE Program, My First Job and PRO-NAE 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
- 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



SOCIAL PROTECTION

- 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
 - 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
 - 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
- 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
 - 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
 - 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
 - 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
 - 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
 - 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
 - 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
 - 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
 - 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

MIRPS NATIONAL ACTION PLAN IN EL SALVADOR

49 TOTAL COMMITMENTS

FOCUS AREAS:



PROTECTION
27 COMMITMENTS



**JOB AND
LIVELIHOODS**
10 COMMITMENTS



EDUCATION
5 COMMITMENTS



HEALTH
7 COMMITMENTS

Since joining the MIRPS, El Salvador is highly committed to address forced displacement, defining a comprehensive National Action Plan that involves 7 line-ministries. Despite challenges posed by Covid-19, during 2020 the country managed to advance more than 15 commitments, particularly in the areas of protection and education, including the IDP Law approval, hiring and specialized training of staff, adequation of a shelter, enhancement of asylum capacity, definition of a roadmap for the protection of displaced children and adolescents in the education system, among others. During 2021, efforts will be focused in the areas of education, health, and livelihoods / jobs, as priorities to reduce greater vulnerability of POC, as well partnership-building with relevant cooperation actors to cover gaps and reach goals.



PROTECTION

- 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.
- Training of personnel in specialized legal assistance (economic, social and cultural rights), and on the protection of property and assets for populations of interest
- Review and update of existing protocols and roadmaps in the GAMI to include specialized care for vulnerable populations (children and adolescents, women, families, LGBTI population, persons with disabilities, elderly).
- Implementation of the single migratory registry by all institutions in the GAMI; 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).
- Establishment of a training plan for the GAMI personnel, which fills the identified needs with the involvement of competent institutions according to their expertise.
- Creation, printing and dissemination of informative material on the services available in the GAMI.
- Training processes on the identification of people with protection needs, for the consular networks in Mexico, the United States and Guatemala.
- 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.
- Conduct training on international protection and Refugee Status Determination for DGME officers and child protection institutions at the borders and in other institutions involved.
- Strengthen the CODER Secretariat and Subcommittee, and increase their capacities for the analysis and resolution of applications.
- Design and disseminate educational materials on Refugee Status Determination in El Salvador.
- Establish a document that certifies that a person has started the Refugee Status Determination and is awaiting for a resolution.
- 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.
- Establish a specialized unit for displaced populations with technical teams trained to attend to those with different profiles within the DAV.
- Creation of the Single Registration of displaced populations and people at risk of forced displacement, carrying out annual statistical analyses.
- Update the study on internal displacement profiling.
- 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
- Identify spaces for the installation of shelters for asylum-seekers
- Design and implement a strategy with a community approach, for monitoring protection services at local offices
- Design and implement contingency plans at the municipal level to generate early alerts and responses to forced displacement.
- Strengthen the community approach of local offices through interinstitutional and intersectoral coordination.
- 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.
- 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.
- Promote the development of a policy for the attention, protection and solutions for internally displaced persons at the national and local levels.
- Present the Law initiative for the granting of “International Protection and Statelessness”. Integration of the refugee population in El Salvador.
- Encourage the creation of spaces for dialogue, participation and consultation between the central and local government and the forcibly displaced population to promote their participation in the design of local, municipal or departmental plans or policies for comprehensive care.
- Promote, together with the municipalities, the creation or adjustment of mechanisms, programs, plans or local, municipal or departmental policies for humanitarian assistance and reception for internally displaced persons in prioritized municipalities that have a greater number of displaced population or at risk of being displaced.



EDUCATION

- Develop and implement an internal roadmap for the protection of displaced children and adolescents, and for at-risk teachers.
- 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.
- Include courses on forced displacement caused by violence, and on primary psychological attention, in the training programmes for teachers.
- 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.
- Design and implement an educational strategy in schools, to raise awareness on the inclusion of displaced children and adolescents.



JOBS AND LIVELIHOOD

- Design campaigns to inform and raise awareness on the rights of displaced populations and existing services
- 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.
- Prioritize displaced and at-risk women and youth in employment rosters
- Strengthen and coordinate the Roundtable for Labour Insertion, and coordinate with different LGBTI associations and INSAFORP for the technical training of populations of interest.
- Awareness campaign with the private sector to promote the recruitment of LGBTI population.
- Expand and strengthen the entrepreneurship programme to support and sponsor displaced persons, asylum-seekers and deportees with protection needs.
- 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.
- Promote a programme for skills training for displaced populations.
- Design of a local integration model for refugees and asylum-seekers that includes legal, economic and social actions.
- Dissemination of the new Migration and Foreigners Law for the population nationwide



HEALTH

- Design and implement information and awareness campaigns on the right of access to health for displaced persons, deportees in need of protection, refugees and asylum seekers.
- Preparation of a specialized protocol for comprehensive health care (medical and psychosocial) for displaced persons, deportees in need of protection, refugees and asylum seekers.
- Provide specialized training to health system officials on psychological, psychiatric and psychosocial care for people affected by forced displacement (internally displaced people, deportees in need of protection, refugees and asylum seekers).
- Coordinate comprehensive mobile care (Medical and psychosocial) for health services in shelters and reception areas to care for displaced people, deported people in need of protection, refugees and asylum seekers.
- Design a model of psychological / psychosocial care for people affected by violence (internally displaced people, deportees in need of protection, refugees and asylum seekers).
- Design indicators of internal forced displacement for inclusion in the MINSAL Information System for the analysis of the impact on health of internally displaced persons, as an input for the design of programs and interventions.
- Include within its policies and protocols of comprehensive health care (direct medical care, psychosocial care, care for chronic diseases, special health conditions) to guarantee the continuity of care and access to specific medicines for displaced people, deported people in need of protection, refugees and asylum seekers, without discrimination.

MIRPS NATIONAL ACTION PLAN IN GUATEMALA

30 TOTAL COMMITMENTS

FOCUS AREAS:



PROTECTION
19 COMMITMENTS



**JOBS AND
LIVELIHOODS**
8 COMMITMENTS



EDUCATION
2 COMMITMENTS



HEALTH
1 COMMITMENT

The purpose of the National Action Plan is to provide a comprehensive response to persons with protection needs, among the results obtained in its implementation, is the strengthening of the capacities of government institutions, as well as the improvement in the procedure of registration and resolution of asylum seekers and alliances between the public and private sectors about the importance of formal employment when it comes to equality of opportunities for vulnerable groups. Guatemala has prioritized working in the protection, jobs and livelihood sectors, the expected results for this year are the labour inclusion of asylum-seekers and refugees, improve the protection for children and adolescents especially in border areas and the creation of decent and specialized shelters for the care of persons in need of international protection. To achieve the expected results, it is necessary to expand resources to complement state efforts.

 **PROTECTION**

- Strengthen the institutional capacity of the General Directorate of Migration / Guatemalan Institute of Migration, particularly those capacities related to attention and protection.
 - Awareness raising and training of migration delegates, National Police, Army, Jurisdictional Bodies and border security personnel and airports in the field of international protection.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - Strengthen the awareness raising and training processes for border migration delegates on the identification of people with protection needs.
 - Preparation and distribution of informative materials on access to refuge and other systems of international protection and care for migrants.
 - 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.
 - Training and awareness raising of officials who work with the migrant population, for a comprehensive approach, taking into account the age, gender and diversity of the people, with special attention to unaccompanied girls, boys and adolescents, women at risk, LGTBI population, victims trafficking, the elderly and people with different abilities.
 - Strengthening the governing institutions for the protection of children and adolescents, especially in border areas.
 - Develop the Regulation of the Migration Code for the continuity of the permit mechanism for people in transit, in order to ensure regular transit through the country.
- Design, create and implement a mechanism for registering cases and complaints about human rights violations against migrants in transit through Guatemalan territory.
 - 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.
 - Expand the staff of eligibility officers that process refugee applications at the General Directorate of Migration / Guatemalan Migration Institute.
 - Start the creation of a multidisciplinary team for the international care and protection of refugees and refugee applicants.
 - Preparation of a diagnosis for the creation of open shelters in decent conditions, specialized for the population with international protection needs, with specialized and trained teams.
 - Restructure the Temporary Foster Care Program, for the care of returned girls, boys and adolescents in transit with international protection needs.
 - Strengthen inter-institutional and intersectoral coordination to expand basic service options to refugees and refugees.
 - Create the international protection mechanism in transit for people at high risk who need support for safe and regular access to countries of refuge (MINEX-UNHCR)
 - Include in the Institutional Strategic Plans, Multiannual Plan and Annual Operational Plan the provision of basic services to people with international protection needs.

**HEALTH**

- Strengthening of the Directorate for the Attention to Migrants of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance.



EDUCATION

- Negotiation and implementation of regional and international agreements for the recognition of study certificates with special attention to the specific needs and difficulties of refugees in presenting documentation from their countries of origin.
- 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. Preparation and implementation of the roadmap for the attention of the Guatemalan migrant population in the process of accreditation and certification of labor competencies. Implementation and socialization of Ministerial Agreement 696-2017 which establishes “to validate the studies of deported Guatemalans who will continue their training in the National Educational System” (Agreement 696-2017 was repealed, by Ministerial Agreement 1753-2019 “Regulation of Equalization and Equivalences of studies at the levels of pre-primary, primary and secondary education, and in the subsystems of school and extracurricular education ”)



JOBS AND LIVELIHOOD

- Propose changes to the labour regulations to allow the access to work permits for refugees and asylum-seekers.
- Design awareness campaigns for the private sector and public officers on rights of refugees, especially on labour market and access to services (job fairs).
- Strengthening information campaigns for general public on labour rights and insertion of refugees and asylum-seekers.
- Prioritize the process and resolution of work permits requests for refugees and asylum-seekers.
- Facilitate access to Spanish language courses for refugee and refugee applicants.
- 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.
- 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.
- Design awareness campaigns for the private sector on labor inclusion of returned Guatemalan migrants.

MIRPS NATIONAL ACTION PLAN IN HONDURAS

44 TOTAL COMMITMENTS

FOCUS AREAS:



PROTECTION
39 COMMITMENTS



**JOBS AND
LIVELIHOODS**
4 COMMITMENTS



EDUCATION
1 COMMITMENT

Honduras made progress on (i) identifying the causes, impacts, and magnitude of displacement through a Characterization Study at the national level; (ii) the technical and participatory drafting of a Bill that defines the framework of protection and care for the internally displaced population; (iii) the consolidation of a system for registering of land and assets abandoned or dispossessed.

Progress was also made in strengthening care protocols for returnees with protection needs, including the training of 120 officials from the central, municipal and foreign service governments. Registration and processing capacities within the asylum system were increased, and registration and interview brigades continue to be implemented in border areas, with the aim of centralizing access to the asylum system.

As for 2021 it is expected; increase access in high-risk areas, as well as increase reception capacities and humanitarian assistance for returnees with protection needs and refugees and promote access to livelihoods for the persons of interest

PROTECTION

- Strengthen the capacity to identify people with international protection needs.
- Undertake training processes for migration public officials in border areas to strengthen their capacity to identify protection needs.
- Provide information material in offices and border areas.
- Increase the capacity of municipal officials who assist returnees, migrants and their families.
- Follow-up on the protocol to assist returnees/deportees with protection needs.
- Develop a referrals protocol to follow-up on cases of returnees with protection needs through the Municipal Units for the Attention to Returnees.
- Strengthen and update existing capacities of consular officials for the identification and referral of cases with protection needs abroad.
- Train and update consular representations on international protection.
- 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.
- Strengthen the technical and operational capacities of DPPDIV.
- Undertake awareness-raising activities for decision-makers on internal displacement and the assistance and protection roadmap.
- Continue strengthening humanitarian and legal assistance mechanisms
- Provide humanitarian and legal assistance at CAMIs at the national level.
- Develop an awareness-raising initiative for authorities and the private sector on the category of refugees and asylum seekers, and their rights.
- 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.
- Enhance the coverage of humanitarian assistance during the reintegration process.
- Strengthen mechanisms of referral and legal orientation abroad.
- Establish partnerships with free legal representations abroad to provide effective assistance
- Train staff to provide better assistance and guidance at consulates.
- Implement a roadmap to coordinate the actions and services provided abroad.
- 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.
- Create a contingency plan in cases of massive displacements due to violence.
- Implement a humanitarian assistance mechanism articulated with the existing state response.
- Progress in the formulation and implementation of prevention and protection strategy at schools.
- 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.
- Establish an information mechanism on displacement that provides periodic data.
- Promote measures to facilitate the access to personal identification documents
- Develop a communication and awareness-raising strategy on the rights of internally displaced people together with local governments.
- Develop an information and awareness-raising strategy on the rights of internally displaced people.
- Design a methodology that enables a close relationship with communities and internally displaced people without increasing their risk.
- 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.
- Promote dialogue spaces among state institutions and groups of displaced people or at risk.
- Create a confidential system to register abandoned goods and housing.
- Strengthen the institutional response through coordination and referral of cases.
- Include the population within the prevention and protection mechanism in affected communities.
- Establish dialogue spaces to achieve the inclusion of the population in prevention and protection mechanisms.
- Include the interests of refugees within the institutional response and continue strengthening the capacities of groups and organizations through the Refugee Commission.
- Promote initiatives for the participation of the Refugee Committee to incorporate their needs through the Refugee Commission.



EDUCATION

- Establish a dialogue with the Ministry of Labor and the Ministry of Education to resolve obstacles in the access to employment and education for refugees and applicants for refugee status



JOBS AND LIVELIHOOD

- Promote priority access for returnees to existing labour reintegration programmes.
- Promote interinstitutional partnerships at the central and local levels to provide priority access to labour reintegration programmes.
- Strengthen leadership at the community level.
- Facilitate access to vocational training programmes and initiatives to generate income.

MIRPS NATIONAL ACTION PLAN IN MEXICO

38 TOTAL COMMITMENTS

FOCUS AREAS:



PROTECTION
19 COMMITMENTS



JOBS AND LIVELIHOODS
5 COMMITMENTS



SOCIAL PROTECTION
9 COMMITMENTS



EDUCATION
1 COMMITMENT



HEALTH
4 COMMITMENTS

Mexico promotes the integration of asylum seekers and refugees in national systems, with full access to employment, public health services, and education at all levels. The MIRPS framework has been key to achieve a more efficient registration of asylum seekers, and to achieve progress in the protection of the best interests of children in migratory contexts, including those in need of international protection. A policy to internal displacement is currently being developed by the Mexican government. Simplified asylum procedures, financial inclusion and the strengthening of public services in host communities in the south, also remain priorities of the 2021 action plan.



PROTECTION

- Increase COMAR's presence in INM Immigration Stations for a greater number of applicants for refugee status.
- COMAR will train INM personnel in airports, where there is greater flow of people requesting refugee status.
- Promote permanent information campaigns that inform about rights and the process for the recognition of refugee status, in a simple and understandable way.
- 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.
- 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.
- SE-SIPINNA, the DIF and the PFPNNA will strengthen alternative care centres for temporary housing, preventing the use of Migration Stations for shelter.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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).
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Disseminate a handbook of available shelters (public and private) by federation, for asylum-seekers, refugees and beneficiaries of complementary protection.
- Review and accelerate current procedures for the issuance of documents for asylum-seekers, refugees and beneficiaries of complementary protection.
- 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.
- 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.



EDUCATION

- 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.



JOBS AND LIVELIHOOD

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



HEALTH

- 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.
- Perform actions aimed at ensuring access to mental health services for asylum-seekers, refugees and beneficiaries of complementary protection.
- 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.
- 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.



SOCIAL PROTECTION

- 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.
- 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
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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”.

MIRPS NATIONAL ACTION PLAN IN PANAMA

26 TOTAL COMMITMENTS

FOCUS AREAS:



PROTECTION
12 COMMITMENTS



**JOBS AND
LIVELIHOODS**
7 COMMITMENTS



**SOCIAL
PROTECTION**
5 COMMITMENTS



EDUCATION
3 COMMITMENT



HEALTH
1 COMMITMENTS

Panama, as a transit and asylum country, has strengthened its capacities to ensure access to refugee protection for those fleeing violence. The implementation of the MIRPS National Plan has led to a significant improvement in the access to their basic rights, livelihoods, and local integration. This includes the approval of work permits for asylum seekers admitted to the procedure, strengthening of ONPAR's presence at the southern border and the implementation of innovative employability programs, among other achievements.

However, there are still some challenges that need to be addressed. The COVID-19's emergency worsened the already vulnerable condition of some refugees and asylum seekers, forcing to re-define priorities and actions to continue providing refugees and asylum seekers protection, inclusion and humanitarian assistance.



PROTECTION

- 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.
- 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
- Improve the registration system (TRE) to facilitate a cross-cutting revision of asylum claims among authorized public institutions, ensuring confidentiality.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Undertake brigades to issue documents in areas of difficult access, to renew refugee identity documents.
- Promote the elaboration of a legal instrument so that people recognized as stateless can opt for a permanent residence and Panamanian nationality.
- Promote an attention and referral roadmap and a protocol between the Ministry of Government (ONPAR) and the National Institute for Women (INAMU) and other partners for refugee and asylum-seeking women, survivors of SGBV.
- Engage legal clinics of Law faculties in private and public universities in providing free orientation accompaniment and legal assistance to asylum seekers.
- 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.



EDUCATION

- Share information with asylum seekers on workshops, courses and trainings provided by the National Institute for Professional Training (INADEH), as follow-up to the agreements reached in the beginning of 2019.
- 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.
- Promote the creation of an instruction manual 'Procedure and placement tests' for the operation of Decree 1225 of 2015



HEALTH

- 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.



JOBS AND LIVELIHOOD

- 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.
- Promote the issuance of work permits for asylum seekers admitted to procedure by ONPAR
- Promote the issuance of drivers licenses for asylum seekers who have possession of their claim certification issued by ONPAR
- 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.
- Raise awareness within the private sector on refugees seeking employment.
- 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.
- Manage the viability of opening bank accounts for refugees



SOCIAL PROTECTION

- Launch the incorporation of actions within existing social policies for highly vulnerable refugees.
- Promote existing programmes to cover basic needs with key actors (including food and temporary shelter) for extremely vulnerable people.
- Promote the participation and consultation of communities in the design of activities and public policies and enhance joint work with identified facilitators within communities.
- Promote anti-xenophobia campaigns for different entities for the integration of refugees and asylum seekers in Panama.
- Promote community-based integration initiatives for refugees and host communities.

