



Towards the implementation of the MIRPS in Central America & Mexico

Concept notes on selected sectors

2020



**Comprehensive Regional
Protection and Solutions Framework**

Addressing forced displacement in Central America and Mexico

Context

Impacted by increasingly complex forced displacement situations, Central America hosts hundreds of thousands of people who have fled their homes, either within or across their country's borders, in search of safety. This includes IDPs in El Salvador, Honduras and Mexico; together with refugees and asylum-seekers from the northern Central American countries who have fled chronic gang violence, persecution and insecurity. The vast majority of refugees and asylum-seekers from these countries are hosted in Mexico and the USA, with several thousands more having sought asylum in Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Panama. In addition, tens of thousands of people have fled the social and political crisis in Nicaragua, the vast majority arriving in neighbouring Costa Rica where asylum claims have increased exponentially.

In 2019, the Americas was the largest recipient of asylum applications worldwide. An additional several hundred thousand persons are returning to their countries of origin as deportees, including those with protection needs. With an increasing trend of people forcibly displaced in the region exerting pressure on national protection and asylum systems, the MIRPS seeks to expand the operational capacity of States in Central America and Mexico to respond to forced displacement. This includes making the necessary arrangements to ensure safe reception and admission of people forced to flee, facilitating access to safe spaces and shelters, engaging community and municipal leadership, promoting durable solutions and livelihoods, as well as fostering an environment of peaceful coexistence.

In 2017, Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama adopted the San Pedro Sula Declaration, to address forced displacement by strengthening the protection and assistance to affected persons, as well as promoting durable solutions. Through the Declaration, countries agreed to participate in the MIRPS as a regional contribution to the Global Compact on Refugees, where all states committed to adopt and implement national action plans, aligned to country specific commitments and priorities. In 2019, El Salvador joined this regional effort and held the Pro-tempore Presidency for 2020. Nationally, MIRPS Technical Teams (NTTs) are comprised of relevant government institutions who plan and coordinate the implementation of work plans with support from UNHCR and OAS as the technical secretariat.

Identification of resources required

Through the State-led quantification process, NTTs have assessed the financial resource requirements and steps required to implement select national commitments, defining specific costed activities in the areas of protection, social protection, health, education and livelihoods. The related Concept Notes presented within this document have informed the elaboration of detailed Concept Notes, that were informed by consultations and working sessions of the NTTs which brought together national counterparts in the areas of planning, financing and international cooperation with the technical support from the UNHCR-OAS MIRPS Secretariat and the Pro-Tempore Presidency.

This process has served to strengthen the national planning process to implement MIRPS national action plans, and is a basis for partnership engagement and resource mobilization. Key consideration was given to identifying commitments that aligned closest to the humanitarian context and prevailing protection needs, and were dependent on establishing new partnerships and forms of financing to implement. In a number of instances, focus areas also align to Pledges that were also made at the Global Refugee Forum.

The scale of the forced displacement crisis in the region - compounded by the pandemic - and the projections of a possible increase in the numbers of people fleeing once the opening of borders is regularized, requires the **strengthening of partnerships** to be a priority for 2021. In this sense, MIRPS countries have diverse national, regional and international partners, as well as the backing of the **Support Platform, international financial institutions, development actors, the civil society and the private sector** as a true example of responsibility-sharing.




Find out more about
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Prioritized focus areas


Total requirement \$63,152,181
Total gap \$54,479,442

MEXICO **Total requirement \$8,289,178**

 Strengthening schools in the public education system in host communities in southern Mexico

Total Required Financing

\$7,042,800

 Strengthening first level health care in the state of Chiapas, Mexico

Total Required Financing

\$1,246,358

HONDURAS

Total requirement \$3,999,725



Guaranteeing a harmonized approach to provide long term solutions such as access to work and social protection

Total Financing Required

\$3,999,725

GUATEMALA **Total requirement \$346,170**
Total gap \$333,442



Creation of specialized, differentiated, safe, and decent reception conditions

National Financing Financing Gap

\$4,546 \$39,935



Strengthening institutions that govern the protection of children and adolescents in border areas

National Financing Financing Gap

\$4,286 \$232,208



Public-private sectors alliances for the inclusion of refugees and refuge applicants in Guatemala into the workforce

National Financing Financing Gap

\$3,896 \$61,299

BELIZE

Total requirement \$2,596,861



Establish demand-driven technical and vocational training in key economic sectors associated with climate change, benefiting refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and Belizean youth

National Financing Financing Gap

\$0 \$2,596,861

EL SALVADOR **Total requirement \$11,993,682**
Total gap \$10,336,910



Improve the technical, inclusive, and operational capacity of the Salvadoran educational system to support the rights of the forcefully displaced population

National Financing Financing Gap

\$1,513,561 \$6,854,890



Expand opportunities of access to work and sources of livelihood to encourage self-reliance of people who have been forcibly displaced in El Salvador

National Financing Financing Gap

\$0 \$3,266,520



Strengthen the capacity of the National Health System to provide better health and psychosocial services to forcibly displaced people in El Salvador

National Financing Financing Gap

\$143,211 \$215,500

COSTA RICA **Total requirement \$7,966,225**
Total gap \$4,980,215



Voluntary temporary insurance for asylum seekers and refugees in Costa Rica

National Financing Financing Gap

\$0 \$3,033,333



Social protection of the populations with international protection needs through services provided by the Social Welfare Institute (IMAS)

National Financing Financing Gap

\$836,397 \$641,655



Institutional strengthening to support the refugee and migrant population in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

National Financing Financing Gap

\$2,149,613 \$1,305,227

PANAMA

Total requirement \$27,960,340



Expanding social coverage to meet the basic needs of vulnerable refugees and applicants for refugee status

National Financing Financing Gap

\$4,017,229 \$23,943,111

 **Education**

Total requirement \$18,008,112
Total gap \$16,494,551

 **Social protection**

Total requirement \$33,438,117
Total gap \$28,584,491

 **Protection**

Total requirement \$3,813,551
Total gap \$1,345,162

 **Child protection**

Total requirement \$236,494
Total gap \$232,208

 **Health**

Total requirement \$4,638,422
Total gap \$4,495,211

 **Jobs and livelihoods**

Total requirement \$3,331,715
Total gap \$3,327,819




Belize.

Persons of concern in Belize

Refugees* 29

Asylum seekers* 2,134

*Official data provided by government to UNHCR by end of 2019

SECTOR	DESCRIPTION	IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES	FINANCING NEEDS
 <p>Education</p>   <p>In support of national GRF pledge</p>	<p>The programme will support investments within the national ITVET system, establishing foundation basic language and computer literacy training, together with demand-driven courses in key economic sectors associated with climate change, benefiting refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and Belizean youth.</p>	<p>Ministry of Education, Youth, Sport and Culture; Cayo Centre for Employment Training (CET), Institutes for Technical Education and Training (ITVET).</p>	<p>National Financing: \$0</p> <p>Financing Gap: \$2,596,861</p>

Context

As a country of some 400,168¹ inhabitants with an ethnically diverse background, Belize is considered a small middle-income country with an open economy, driven mainly by the tourism and agriculture/fisheries sectors.

Forced displacement trends

Having experienced a widespread demographic and social impact of a first wave of refugees and migrants in the 1980s and early 1990s, the country has continued to be a country of destination for forcefully displaced persons seeking refuge from widespread violence and rights violations, perpetrated by organized criminal groups in the north of Central America. The national Refugees Act was passed in 1991, providing a legal framework to respond to arriving asylum-seekers. After a period of diminished regional displacement in the period 1998- 2010, the annual numbers of asylum-seekers arriving in Belize have been steadily increasing. Meanwhile, the steady increase of the Belize migrant stock over the past four decades has driven the nation's response to develop a new Migration and Development Policy. The country is currently home to some 4,186 refugees and asylum seekers, comprising of 1,039 households; 70% of whom originate from El Salvador. Half of this population group are from single headed households, with 41% between the ages of 18 to 35 years, and with 33% being children and youth. (UNHCR, 2020) In addition, the Belize is host to some 60,000 migrants.

At the same time, over the past two decades, Belize has been experiencing fiscal and economic pressures, which recently have been exacerbated by the onset of the coronavirus pandemic. The impact of the pandemic is expected to cause a considerable contraction in economic activity. The agricultural sector has been grappling with increasing effects of climate change-induced weather patterns and diseases, and currently the pandemic's impact, both resulting in declining outputs in tourism and agriculture. These factors are negatively affecting employment and increasing the vulnerability of various population groups, including the poor (often residing in the poorer host communities), asylum-seekers and migrants. The current economic downturn carries the potential to reinforce the public opinion against a progressive shift towards national solutions in response to the impact of forced displacement.

National response

Efforts to increase the capacity of the Refugees Department of the Ministry of Immigration have focused on improving the registration and refugee status determination processes, to reduce the backlog of cases and waiting periods for receiving a final response to asylum claims. While waiting for the state's final response, asylum-seekers do not have formal permission to access formal jobs. This situation heightens asylum-seekers' vulnerability, as their access to services becomes

limited and while any personal financial resources are being depleted. This increases their dependency on limited and temporary humanitarian assistance. A UNHCR study (2018-2019) shows that, expressed in "standard of living" terms, 65% of persons of concern to UNHCR lives on or below the poverty level, more than double the household poverty rate provided in the most recent Country Poverty Assessment in 2009: 31%.

The MIRPS in Belize

The Government of Belize joined Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and Mexico in 2017 in a coordinated joint response to forced displacement in the region, the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (CRPS; in Spanish "MIRPS"). The MIRPS National Action Plan of Belize is guided and overseen by a National Technical Team (NTT), and coordinated by the Refugees Department. The activities of the NTT bring together line Ministries (Immigration, Human Development, Education); the national Statistical Institute of Belize; civil society (Help

for Progress, Belize Red Cross, Humana People to People, Human Rights Commission of Belize, Belize Network of NGOs), UN agencies and the Organization of American States.

The government maintains the conviction that the protection and integration of refugees is a shared responsibility between the international community and regional actors, supplying robust and predictable technical and financial assistance, to enable the country to enhance best practices and offer solutions that will benefit both refugees and host community.

¹ <https://population.un.org/wpp/>

COUNTRY: Belize

SECTOR: Education

Establish demand-driven technical and vocational training in key economic sectors associated with climate change, benefiting refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and Belizean youth



Executive Summary

Through a long-term contribution to green growth and sustainable economic development, Belize seeks to match a young and capable workforce found among its refugee, migrant and Belizean youth population with the green industries a low-lying Caribbean state, like Belize, needs to ensure a healthy economy in the face of climate change. The programme builds skills development for economic inclusion and stability through investments in the existing network of institutes for technical and vocational education and training (ITVETs) that enable the delivery of course content responding to the needs of the labour market and facilitating investments in the green economy. The proposal expands course enrolment capacity in foundational skills in basic English language and computer literacy training needed to enter the formal labour economy. The second phase trains workers, engineers and technicians in specific sectors, that also provide the knowledge, skills and competencies, to develop an economy that promotes resource efficiency, reduces waste and advances more environmentally conscious practices. The scope and variety of the second phase courses will be based on existing labour market needs, as well as in coordination with private sector partners to identify growth opportunities in key economic sectors associated with environmental sustainability, benefiting refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and Belizean youth in finding last economic inclusion while supporting the hosting community in its development a green economy.

DURATION

2021-2022

IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Ministry of Education, Youth, Sport and Culture; Cayo Centre for Employment Training (CET), Institutes for Technical Vocational Education and Training (ITVET).

LOCATION

National

BENEFICIARIES

Phase 1 a) Professional training: 40 refugees, asylum seekers and migrants; b) Language and computer literacy training: 1,108 refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.

Phase 2 a) Professional training: 250 rrefugees, asylum seekers and migrants; b) Language and computer literacy training: 1,156 refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.

ESTIMATED BUDGET

Total Required Financing:	\$2,596,861
National Financing:	\$0
Financing Gap:	\$2,596,861

1. Education sector context in Belize

Primary education is tuition free and compulsory for all children up to the age of 14 years, thereby ensuring the right to primary education regardless of migratory status. Participation rates of primary school-aged children from Belizean and refugee families are equal at 97%. School enrolment levels among persons of concern are lower than among Belizeans within the same communities for secondary education (12 – 17 age group) and even more so for tertiary (18 years and older)¹ education. For refugees and asylum-seekers, lower participation rates in education past primary level are due to administrative and/or financial barriers.

English learning among persons of concern is crucial to their effective integration into local communities, with just 25% of refugees and asylum seekers fluent in English in a country where English is the official language. While schools in Belize provide bilingual training for staff and provide English as a Second Language (ESL) education, language barriers remain. Additional investments are required, including the provision of remedial education to close the learning and enrolment gap between Belizean, refugee/asylum seeker and migrant students.

Access to Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) by refugees and asylum-seekers is currently limited, despite it being the preferred form of secondary education to increase opportunities for achieving individual and/or family self-sufficiency and self-reliance. Access to livelihood opportunities, including skills training that allow asylum-seekers to gain access to the labour market in their host country is consistently identified as a critical need through participatory assessments with displaced persons. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the resulting loss of opportunities within the informal economy, the demand for language and technical vocational training has been increasing.

Business leaders and investors indicate that most graduates do not possess the required skills that the markets need, and demand increased investments in order to be national and globally competitive. To date, skills training opportunities provided by the six TVET facilities in Belize include electrical; automotive; welding; air conditioning & refrigeration; cosmetology; food preparation; and furniture & upholstery making. It is critical to facilitate enhanced technical and operational capacities of the TVET facilities to ensure that their courses align with local market needs, particularly in the areas of ICT, and within the niche of growing green economy technologies, including renewable energy.

When considering socio-economic background and country of origin, there is a large variation in different countries in education performance between students with a migration background and national students, suggesting that policy initiatives may play an important role in reducing imbalances (OECD, 2019). A school system's response to regular and forced displacement tremendously affects the economic and social development of its recipient communities. When children receive support to enhance their personal resilience, learn the language and culture, and successfully integrate into their new school community, their learning and outcome indicators improve while repetition and dropout rates decline (OECD, 2003; OECD, 2019).

Furthermore, investment in ESL initiatives have underscored the additional educational value to students when language training is placed within the institutional setting of the desired follow-up education. In this regard, students aspiring to continue an academic secondary or tertiary education path do well when ESL is provided by the relevant education institutions. The same holds for the technical-vocational education and training, pointing at a need to explore the expansion of ESL education at TVET institutes.

Belize has not been able to fully align taught skills and competencies with the skills required by business to support the growth of the local economy. This disconnect can be considered to fall within three principal areas:

- Basic and essential skills: lack of basic literacy (English in the case of Belize) and numeracy, and digital literacy.
- Advanced skills: technicians and engineers; physical, biological sciences, mathematics, computer science and information technology.
- Emerging skills: green jobs (renewable energy, green construction, greener materials, recycle), etc.

UNESCO's Strategy for TVET (2016-2021) recognizes the need to develop skills that facilitate the transition towards green economies and sustainable societies as a priority area in the coming years. In this regard, building upon initial investments in strengthening teaching practices, and capacity in traditional subjects, TVET strategies and investments need to move beyond short-term goals and needs, and embrace a transition to include also a longer term reach, teaching skills useful for the medium- and long-term goals and objectives of national sustainable development.

¹ Profiling of Persons of Concern in Belize 2018 - 2019 Final Report, April 2020

Complementary initiatives

As part of the Belize Education Sector Reform Project, being realised with the financial support of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Ministry of Education is holding a series of national consultations to inform the development of the next Belize Education Sector Strategy; the last national strategy “Improving Access, Quality and Governance of Education in Belize” having concluded in 2016. In addition, through the current financial support of the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the Ministry is making investments in remote and face-to-face learning to assist school communities to address the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The planned intervention aligns to the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework in the Caribbean (2017-2021), and the strategic priority to support ‘An Inclusive, Equitable, and Prosperous Caribbean’, and further ‘Access to quality education and life-long learning increased, for enhanced employability and sustainable economic development’. A key performance target being to ‘By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship’ (Target 4.4).

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)’s Social Development Division is engaged in analysing the supply of work training programmes (particularly, those that address the situation of people excluded from the labour market) and the supply of formal

technical and vocational education at the secondary and tertiary levels. Based on research and experience-sharing, the Division aims to help countries to enhance the supply of training programmes and the link between education and employment by promoting dialogue among various stakeholders.

The Caribbean Virtual Policy Network on Youth Education and Employment (VPNYEE) was a 2017-2018 initiative spearheaded by the United Nations system and co-convened by the CARICOM Secretariat, the Caribbean Employers’ Confederation, the ILO and UNESCO. Its primary goal was to help Caribbean countries and stakeholders to define public policy interventions to support youth employment. It also sought to place youth employment at the centre of the national policy discourse and promote a community of practice.

From 2017-2019, the Ministry of Education implemented the ‘Leadership and Management Certificate Program to provide for capacity building and professional development for administrators and instructors of Technical Vocational & Educational Training (TVET). Through funding from the European Union, the programme worked to increase the capacity of TVET management and instructors to deliver quality training to students, through training in Competence Based Education and Training (CBET). This included a review and update to their existing courses provided with the national TVET institutes.

2. Detailed Approach

The Project Planning Process

An important driver of the development of this initiative, which links the nascent technical vocational education and training sector new niches for the national productive profile, is to reinforce and complement government’s desire to further improve primary and secondary education outputs and to enhance improved participation from the non-national population groups. Within that goal, this proposed initiative focuses fully on the untouched potentials of the technical vocational education and training and the resident non-national population.

The methodology is grounded in the analysis of currently available demographic data of national and non-national population groups and the extent to which secondary education groups are interested in and (can become) eligible for participation in TVET in Belize. Given the parameter that this initiative aims to be innovative in search for new elements of national and sustainable recovery and development, a number of critical assumptions have been to remain on solid ground as best as possible. Most of the assumptions, expressed in terms of risks, are reflected in section 7 below.

Proposed Approach Overview

To facilitate the local integration of refugees and asylum seekers in Belize, access to language training and the possibility to acquire skills that respond to labour market needs is considered a priority. While there is at present, no entitlement to formal employment in the country, the initiative seeks to both provide an opportunity for the Government of Belize to investment within the national TVET system, while providing transferable skills to refugees and asylum seekers in the country. While not detailed further within this document, successful implementation of the planned initiative provides positive impetus to potential pilot access to work permits for select graduates of the programme.

Programme implementation is envisioned to be conducted in two phases. The first phase will include the provision of a pre-skills training foundation programme providing basic English language and computer literacy classes to 40 students; which will entail two of the national TVET institutes overseeing each a class of 20 students. Successful graduation from the pre-skills training courses, which will be targeted to youth from the refugee, asylum seekers and migrant from communities in

the 15-24 age range, will be a prerequisite for access the skills training programme, and seeks to contribute to harmonizing level of basic educational attainment between displaced and migrant populations and their national counterparts

The second phase, anticipated to be implemented in 2022, will seek to support trained workers, engineers and technicians in specific sectors, that also provide the knowledge, skills and competencies, to develop an economy that promotes resource efficiency, reduces waste and advances more environmentally conscious practices. Envisaged as a long-term contribution to green growth and sustainable economic development in the country, refugee, asylum seekers and migrant will be provided access on a 50/50 basis to Belizean nationals. The scope and variety of phase two courses will be based on existing labour market needs, together with growth opportunities identified in coordination with private sector partners. Subject matter content that support investments in the green economy, may be drawn from the following:

- **Renewable Energy.** The renewable energy sector in Belize is expected to grow in the coming years. Solar energy in particular is considered a focus area, with an anticipated 40% increase in installed solar capacity of 40% to 280 GW by 2050 in Latin America and the Caribbean (International Renewable Energy Agency). In this regard, Solar Energy Solutions Belize (SESB) and other private sector companies in the renewable energy sector are currently seeking additional human resource capacity in the sector to scale its operations in the country.

- **Construction.** The construction industry, which includes housing construction and building materials, is responsible for a significant share of energy-related carbon emissions. Globally, it accounts for 30 per cent of energy

related carbon emissions, 40 per cent of total waste and 12 per cent of water use. (UNESCO 2017). Skills training that aligns to advances in environmentally sound and energy efficient practices and materials is essential to reduce carbon emissions, and support water conservation.

- **Agriculture.** To effectively manage energy, land and water use that support sustainable agriculture and safeguards biodiversity, skills training to ensure the delivery of new practices including organic farming, agroforestry, and waste management, the application of energy-efficient technologies, the use of water and irrigation technologies, and the use of information and community technology (ICT); including Geographic information (GIS) and remote sensing (SR) for land planning and monitoring.

- **Forestry.** Complimented by laws at the sectoral level in forestry, there is a need to strengthen forest management to address existing threats as well as anticipated additional threats from climate change. This includes the provision of new skills in forest conservation and expansion to strengthen coastal resiliency and reduce the risk of floods, agro-forestry and forest-based enterprises. Technical skills are also required for the planning, harvesting and maintenance of mangroves.

- **Water.** While increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensuring sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater is relevant in several sectors and industries, the delivery of skills training that supports investments in Integrated Water Resources Management outlined in the National Integrated Water Resources Management Policy for Belize is a priority. This may include a focus support to manage rainwater harvesting and localized wastewater recycling schemes.

General objective

Promote the integration of young vulnerable persons in the green economy through the delivery of demand-driven technical and vocational training within sectors associated with climate change.

ETES oversees the national ITVET structure consisting of 5 ITVETs and the Cayo Centre for Employment Training (CCET), all offering courses of nine-months duration, together with short course of three-to-six months in a range of subjects. The national governance of the TVET sector policy is channelled through the Belize National Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (NCTVET).

Specific Objective 1

Strengthen academic and technical capacities of young refugees, asylum-seekers, migrants and nationals via technical vocational education and skills training.

Expected Results 1

Increased opportunities for socioeconomic resilience, self-reliance and community cohesion for vulnerable and excluded young adult populations from national, refugee and migrant households.

Activities

Regular coordination meetings of programme Steering Committee in consultation with the National Council for TVET.

Identification of target beneficiaries amongst refugee and asylum seeker youth based on vulnerability assessment.

Identification of target beneficiaries amongst migrant youth based on those considered to have international protection needs.

Labour market assessment – based on needs and opportunities within the green economy.

Design and implementation of TVET Green Economy Communications Strategy, including associated products and activities, such as outreach to private sector and civil society.

Review and adaptation of course content to national development context in Belize; setting appropriate curriculum goals and standards and considering core skills for employability (learning to learn, communication, teamwork, problem solving).

Delivery of Training of Trainers exercises aligned to green economy course content.

Delivery of supplementary training for English and computer literacy teachers, enabling TVET staff to work effectively with students from different backgrounds, and to respond to psychosocial support and counselling needs.

Foundation course in basic English language and computer literacy benefiting 100 refugees, asylum seeker and migrant youth across five TVET facilities in 2021.

Up to ten classes implemented in 2022 across five TVET facilities delivering course modules linked to the green economy benefiting 250 students.

Specific Objective 2

Adapt existing and develop new courses addressed to refugees and asylum seekers to respond the labour market needs with an approach of green economy.

Expected Results 2

Delivery of demand-driven technical and vocational training within sectors associated with climate change.

Activities

Identification of target beneficiaries amongst Belizean youth based on vulnerability assessment.

Identification of suitable national private sector partners.

Assessment of TVET institute capacity support needs – aligned to/informed by the development of the forthcoming National Education Sector Strategy.

Administrative and management process supporting course implementation.

Implementation of monitoring and evaluation mechanism to guide programme implementation. Sharing of lessons learned and best practices in TVET with other MIRPS States to inform programme delivery and ongoing innovation.

Review of existing framework conditions for private sector engagement in course development.

Joint review of legal framework and sustainable government incentives for private companies.

Coordinated outreach via external partners to international private sector entities – including those currently provides services within the green economy, and those who have offered concessionary support and pledges during the Global Refugee Forum in 2019.

3. Beneficiaries

Phase 1 – Target beneficiaries are refugee, asylum seeker and migrant youth in the 15-24 age range. For vocational training, based upon the existing capacity of the national TVET system an initial class of 20 students per double teaching “shift” across each of the two institutes (ITVET Belize City, and CET San Ignacio) is envisaged to benefit 40 students on a 50/50 enrolment for those from the refugee and migrant community. This constitutes 0.4 % of the estimated overall combined target caseload of 10,703 individuals (815 refugee and asylum seekers and 9,888 migrants).

For language and computer literacy training, target beneficiaries are 1,108 refugee, asylum seeker and migrant students.

Phase 2 – 250 students, which may include up to a maximum of 125 refugees, asylum seekers and migrants based on a 50/50 enrolment, together with 125 Belizean nationals. This beneficiary range is based on an assessment of existing classroom capacity across the five national TVET institutions, and the expectation of realizing implementing two parallel green economy courses within each institution, with an average student teacher ratio of 1:15.

For language and computer literacy training, target beneficiaries are 1156 refugee, asylum seeker and migrant students.

4. Estimated Budget

TRAINING	TOTAL REQUIRED FINANCING*			NATIONAL FINANCING	IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS			FINANCING GAP		
	2021	2022	TOTAL		2021	2022	TOTAL	2021	2022	TOTAL
Vocational Training	\$223,000	\$2,048,547	\$2,271,547	\$0	\$175,000	\$960,938	\$1,135,938	\$48,000	\$1,087,609	\$1,135,609
Language Training	\$69,875	\$74,709	\$144,584	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$69,875	\$74,709	\$144,584
Computer Literacy	\$87,343	\$93,387	\$180,730	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$87,343	\$93,387	\$180,730
TOTAL	\$380,218	\$2,216,643	\$2,596,861	\$0	\$175,000	\$960,938	\$1,135,938	\$205,218	\$1,255,705	\$1,460,923

*Amounts in USD. Exchange rate 2 BZE to 1 USD.

Estimated total financing requirements for vocational training courses are based on data extrapolated from a CET proposal in response to the aforementioned proposed approach. Total costs for vocation training include salary costs for instructors, applicable institutional overhead, course equipment, infrastructure costs as well as a 50% subsidize student course fee.

Through continued development of the initiative, in-kind contributions will be sought to cover the costs of the course equipment to be provided through by private sector partners. If the total in-kind contribution cannot be covered in its entirety, the financing gap would need to be increased to match the total required financing.

Costs for language and computer literacy courses are based on UNHCR’s data on project costs projects and figures discuss with key stakeholders.

Detailed figures can be found in the annex.

5. Stakeholders

INSTITUTION	MISSION	ROLE IN IMPLEMENTATION
<p>Ministry of Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (MOE).</p>	<p>The Ministry is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that all Belizeans are given an opportunity to acquire those knowledge, skills, and attitudes required for their own personal development and for full and active participation in the development of the nation. ETES is MOE's division in charge of the five TVET Institutes (ITVET) and assists the autonomous Cayo Centre for Employment Training (CCET), all offering courses of nine-months duration, together with short course of three-to-six months in a range of subjects.</p>	<p>The Ministry, specifically, the Employment Training and Educational Services (ETES) is responsible for ensuring quality occupational education and training for young people and serves as the overall lead State entity responsible for overseeing implementation, ensure close coordination with other relevant line ministries.</p>
<p>Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, the Environment and Sustainable Development and Immigration Services and Refugees.</p>	<p>The Ministry's aim is to provide an environment that is conducive to increase production and productivity, promoting investment, and encouraging private sector involvement in agribusiness enterprises in a manner that ensures competitiveness, quality production, trade and sustainability. The Ministry's Department of Immigration and Nationality Services, while ensuring the implementation of national immigration policy, ensures access to territory for asylum seekers, refugees, migrants, and other groups in need of protection.</p>	<p>The Ministry holds responsibility for provide sector inputs under its portfolio as they may relate to the development of subject manner courses. The Ministry's Immigration and Refugees Departments provide oversight for refugee and migrant inclusion within the rendered programmes.</p>
<p>Ministry of Economic Development.</p>	<p>The Ministry's mission is to assume a leadership role in formulating and recommending national development policies, strategies and programmes to promote macroeconomic stability, sustainable socioeconomic development and the reduction of poverty.</p>	<p>The Ministry is responsibility for providing technical subject matter inputs to inform course development, and to lead all matters pertaining to private sector engagement, in coordination with, and based on inputs from all implementing partners.</p>
<p>Cayo Centre for Employment Training (CCET) and Institutes for Technical Vocational Education and Training (ITVETs)</p>	<p>CET (being part of the national ITVET network) and the ITVETs seek to equip individuals with skills, knowledge, attitude, work ethics, and credentials that will enable them to become gainfully employed. The TVET mission is 'based on the philosophy of self-determination and seeks to promote the human development and education of low-income people by providing them with marketable skills training and support services that contribute to economic self-sufficiency'.</p>	<p>CET and ITVETs are responsible for the direct implementation of subject matter courses. They benefit from the technical support of District Education Councils (part of the Ministry of Education) and have a presence in all six districts of Belize.</p>
<p>ILO</p>	<p>ILO brings together governments, employers and workers of 187 member States, to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men. The main aims of the ILO are to promote rights at work, encourage decent employment opportunities, enhance social protection and strengthen dialogue on work-related issues.</p>	<p>As a non-resident UN agency in Belize, ILO is responsible for providing policy support, as part its commitment to promote principles of quality teaching, and in line with the UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework in the Caribbean (2017-2021), Sustainable Development Goal 4 and the Education 2030 Framework for Action.</p>
<p>IOM</p>	<p>IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration. IOM works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need.</p>	<p>As a resident UN agency in Belize, IOM is responsible for identifying eligible migrants for inclusion within TVET courses. Priority will be given to individuals based on standard vulnerability assessment criteria.</p>
<p>UNEP</p>	<p>UNEP is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.</p>	<p>As a non-resident UN agency in Belize, UNEP is responsible for providing technical inputs in the development of course content, as part of the wider promotion of investments in the Green Economy in Belize.</p>

INSTITUTION	MISSION	ROLE IN IMPLEMENTATION
UNESCO	UNESCO is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It seeks to build peace through international cooperation in Education, the Sciences and Culture. UNESCO's programmes contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals defined in Agenda 2030, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015.	As a non-resident UN agency in Belize, UNESCO is responsible for providing policy support as part of its Strategy for TVET (2016-2021) and in line with the UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework in the Caribbean (2017-2021), Sustainable Development Goal 4 and the Education 2030 Framework for Action.
UNHCR	The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is the UN agency mandated to aid and protect refugees, forcibly displaced communities, and stateless people, and to assist in their voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement to a third country.	As a resident UN agency in Belize, UNHCR is responsible for identifying eligible refugees and asylum seekers for inclusion within TVET courses. Priority will be given to individuals based on standard vulnerability assessment criteria. The Agency provides a secondary coordination support function, as part of its role within MIRPS Technical Secretariat, together with the OAS.

6. Cross-cutting themes

Climate Change

The impact of climate change poses a serious threat to Belize, with the increase in atmospheric and sea temperatures, the reduction and instability of rain patterns and the rise in sea levels, together with an increase in extreme meteorological events, including droughts and hurricanes. These realities have an inevitable impact on economic productivity, infrastructure, the health and safety of the population; including for displaced populations that have sought safety and protection in Belize and will also weaken the environment's capacity to provide vital resources and services.

Belize is committed to reducing emissions in line with the Kyoto Protocol, while seeking to ensure sustainable land use and forestry practices. Pressing climate change induced challenges include limited access to useable water, increased flooding and drought, reduced yields in agricultural areas, and threatened biodiversity loss, including coastal erosion and coral bleaching. In this regard, planning for resilience-building, and engagement with development partners on environmental reforms, have been central to Belizean policymaking for many years. The government has developed several important climate policy frameworks over the last decade, including: National Climate Resilience Investment Plan, Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy 2014-2017 and a National Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Action Plan (2015-2020).

The Green Economy

The green economy as one that “results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. In its simplest expression, a green economy can be thought of as one, which is low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive. Practically speaking, a green economy is one whose growth in income and employment is driven by public and private

investments that reduce carbon emissions and pollution, enhance energy and resource efficiency, and prevent the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services.” (UNEP) In line with the government's National Environment Policy and Strategy 2014-2024, the green economy is increasingly important in strategic development processes, focusing on ecological sustainability, economic profitability and social inclusion.

While the development of a green economy supports environmental protection, it also offers new economic opportunities. This can include: investments in ecological change that stimulate the development of technologies and innovation; the optimisation of energy and resources to improve the competitiveness of enterprises; and the introduction of new (greener) production procedures, together with the production of environmentally friendly products, that can create new jobs. This can be considered to covers work in agriculture, industry, services and administration that contributes to preserving or restoring the quality of the environment while also meeting the criteria for decent work – adequate wages, safe conditions, workers' rights, social dialogue and social protection. It also covers activities related to both mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.

The Gender Dimension

As traditionally technical vocational education and training has predominantly been perceived and treated as learning for a male audience, and especially the more technology-oriented courses, this project wants to explicitly advertise and make education and training delivery arrangements that attract and remove any impediments or barriers to female students. Although acceptance and enrolment will be based on merit and skills and competency-based merits and profiles, in the event of equal eligibility preference will be given to female students to adequately balance the overall gender balance of each enrolment cohort in each TVET facility.

7. Risks and assumptions

RISK	PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE	INTENSITY OF RISK IMPACT	MITIGATION STRATEGY
Limitations in coordination between stakeholders implementing the programme	Low	Low	Establishment of Steering Committee bringing together all programme partners, meeting on a regular/fixed basis.
Lack of consensus on selection and adoption of type of innovative TVET courses, aligned with national needs and opportunities	Medium	Medium	Establishment of Steering Committee bringing together wide representation of national education and private sectors and academia.
Traditional low enrolment (Poor social perception) and high dropout rates in TVET courses	Low	Low	While this is not considered to be a principal risk amongst the refugee, asylum seeker and migrant population, a Communications Strategy that both builds the credibility of TVET and promotes its role in the green economy/link to labour market opportunities.
Inadequate supply of trained teachers limits ability to expand TVET services through the programme.	Medium	Medium-High	Implementation of Training of Trainers exercise with TVET facilities to ensure sufficient national capacity to deliver English, IT, and Green economy courses. Ongoing monitoring during programme implementation, with clear student feedback mechanism realized by MOE-ETES.
Limitations in teaching competencies for working with refugee and migrant students.	Medium	Medium	Supplementary training for Phase I (English and ICT) teachers facilitated by UNHCR, to ensure appropriate responses to working with students from different background, together with an understanding of, and effective response to psychosocial support and counselling needs.
Insufficient knowledge products about investment opportunities targeting private sector partners outside of Belize to inform and support the delivery of green economy course content.	High	High	Positively leverage the MIRPS broad base of partners and stakeholders, including the Membership of the MIRPS Support Platform to facilitate effective liaison with private sector entities with a relevant thematic focus and interest in investing in Belize, and the region as a whole.
National private sector actors with insufficient interest or capacity for investing in TVET sector development activities.	Low	Low	Representatives of local companies and trade working groups were engaged in the development of the programme's concept, to ensure that courses will respond to current and future needs. There is a strong interest of business communities in strengthening the TVET system in the country.
Failure to provide sufficient long-term funding to expand TVET services and sustain quality of TVET provision.	Low	Low	The government has underscored the importance of sustained and gradually increased investments in TVET during recent national consultations, that are informing the next national Education Strategy. The expansion of public-private partners is a considered central to long term sustainability.

8. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Ministry of Education serves as the overall lead State entity responsible for overseeing implementation. In this regard, the Ministry's Policy, Planning, Research and Evaluation Unit plays a key role in overseeing monitoring and evaluation, build on the principals of capacity building, learning and innovation. The Unit's work in this area is informed by the government's overall approach to M&E in TVET. Key aspects of which include the use of a teacher performance evaluation mechanism; providing a continuously means of identify positive and negative developments in school management, together with labour market monitoring, the integration of general education and TVET, and cooperation between schools and the private sector. In line with the multi-stakeholder nature of the programme, a participatory approach involving all concerned partners – including the programme's beneficiaries, will be taken to M&E, to design all aspects of the system, implement, and interpret the results. This will entail the development a common vision and agreement on how to share responsibilities between partners; both in terms of M&E, but equally in terms of the future development of the programme.



Annex 1: Estimated Budget Detail

TVET Course Detail

	Unit Cost		# Facilities		Total per year		TOTAL 2021-2022
	2020	2021	2021	2022	2021	2022	
TVET Solar Energy course							
Overhead Cost	5,000	5,125	2	5	10,000	25,625	35,625
Salary Costs	25,000	25,625	2	5	50,000	128,125	178,125
Course Equipment	175,000	179,375	2	5	350,000	896,875	1,246,875
Subsidized Fee per course (50%)	18,000	18,450	2	5	36,000	92,250	128,250
Infrastructure							
Subtotal Solar Energy course					446,000	1,142,875	1,588,875
ICT Digital Marketing/ Apps course							
Overhead Costs	6,000	6,150		5		30,750	30,750
Salary Costs	50,000	51,250		5		256,250	256,250
Course Equipment	200,000	205,000		5		1,025,000	1,025,000
Subsidized Fee per course (50%)	27,750	28,444		5		142,219	142,219
Infrastructure		750,000		2		1,500,000	1,500,000
Subtotal ICT Digital course						2,954,219	2,954,219
TOTAL Required Financing (BZE)					446,000	4,097,094	4,543,094
TOTAL Required Financing (USD)					\$223,000	\$2,048,547	\$2,271,547

Course Fee Subsidies

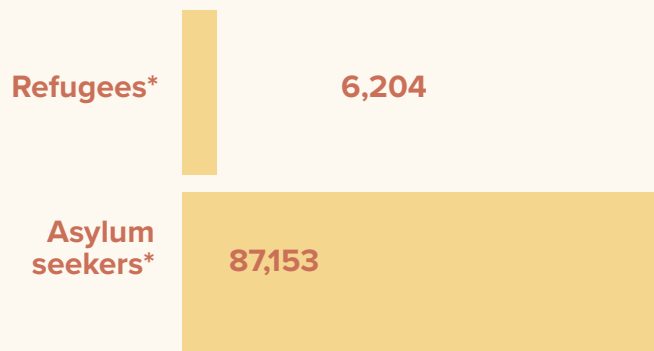
	Annual course fee	% Proposed subsidy	Subsidized Fee	# students & facility per course	TOTAL Subsidized Fee per course
Solar Energy course	1,800	50%	900	20	18,000
ICT Digital course	1,850		925	30	27,750

Beneficiaries






Beneficiaries	By population			By course		Total
	Belizean	Refugees	Migrants	Solar	Digital	
2021	20	10	10	40	0	40
2022	125	63	63	100	150	250
TOTAL				140	150	290

Costa Rica.

Persons of concern in Costa Rica



*Official data provided to UNHCR

SECTOR	DESCRIPTION	IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES	FINANCING REQUIREMENTS	
 Protection	Institutional strengthening to assist asylum seekers, refugees and migrants through the development of infrastructure of the Northern Bicentennial Migratory Station (EMIBI, by its Spanish acronym).	Department of Migration and Foreign Affairs (DGME, by its Spanish acronym)	National Financing \$2,149,613	Financing Gap \$1,305,227
 Health  	Provision and expansion of the Health Collective Assurance Framework through voluntary temporary insurance for refugees and asylum seekers in Costa Rica.	Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS, by its Spanish acronym) UNHCR	National Financing \$0	Financing Gap \$ 3,033,333
 Social Protection	Guarantee asylum seekers and refugees access to state social protection services provided by the Social Welfare Institute (IMAS, by its Spanish acronym)	Social Welfare Institute (IMAS, by its Spanish acronym)	National Financing \$836,397	Financing Gap \$ 641,655

Context

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its socio-economic impact in Costa Rica, the demand to access social security programs has increased significantly. This increase is taking place within a complicated economic context in Costa Rica where, according to the most recent information released by the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC, by its Spanish acronym), the country has reached historical figures on poverty and unemployment, the latter reaching a record 24.4%, one of the highest of the region. Regarding poverty figures, the INEC reports an increased 26.2% , which represents around 420,000 poor households.

However, the rates for multidimensional poverty stayed similar to 2019 for the whole country, which proves the urgent need to maintain and expand the program for vulnerable populations as an efficient measure to curb poverty. This situation requires higher levels of engagement and social action to protect people who are economically vulnerable and need health care services.

Despite the efforts to keep and expand social investments to protect the most vulnerable families, the new national circumstances show the need to obtain additional funding in order to maintain social protection programs.

Trends in displacement

Costa Rica plays an important role in the region as a host country for displaced asylum seekers and refugees. During the last five years, the country has shown a sustained increase in the total number of applications from people from Latin America and the Caribbean. Nicaraguan and Venezuelan displacement circumstances have added more pressure on the Costa Rican system, and the asylum program specifically, which was not designed to address a forced displacement situation like the one the country currently faces.

The refugee and asylum seeker population in Costa Rica has reported a yearly sustained increase since 2015, reaching its highest rate in 2018 as a result of the social and political crisis affecting Nicaragua from that year onward. At present, Costa Rica hosts 99,823 people, of which 90,197 are asylum seekers and 9,371 are refugees. This situation occurs within a complex economic climate, in which Costa Rica faces significant challenges in terms of its economy, officials, employment and security.

This increase of asylum applications has exceeded the capacity of the Costa Rica government to effectively respond. Currently, there is a six-month waiting period to file for an asylum application and another three-month period to get a labour permit that enables refugees and asylum seekers to look for a legal formal job. These long waiting periods make target populations even more vulnerable because their access to services is limited and they are forced to spend their scarce savings or financial resources.

On top of this, the COVID-19 pandemic has created new challenges and worsened existing ones. On March 16th, Costa Rican government declared a state of national emergency through Executive Decree No. 42227-MP-S and encouraged the authorities to focus on the national health situation. Regarding human mobility management, the Executive Decree required the closure of all national borders. This, together with the restrictions on human mobility imposed throughout the Central American region, caused the number of asylum applications filed at the Costa Rican government to decrease. The border closures have had an impact on mixed migration across the nation.

1 In its Continuous Employment Survey (ECE, by its Spanish acronym), the National Institute of Statistics and Census reported an unemployment rate of 24.4% in May, June and July 2020, which represents 557.000 unemployed people, 270.000 more people than the same period in 2019. This data compares to the study of the International Labor Organization (OIL), "Labor Overview in times of COVID-19: Impact on the labor market and income in Latin America and the Caribbean", which presents data from nine different countries in the region and shows that Costa Rica's approximate employment rate is twice than that of nine other countries of the region (11.5% for the second 2020 semester) https://www.ilo.org/americas/publicaciones/WCMS_756694/lang--es/index.htm

2 The National Institute of Statistics and Census National Household Survey 2020 (ENAH0, by its Spanish acronym) reports a poverty rate increase of 5.2%. The ENAH0 shows that there are 1,529,255 people living in poverty in 2020, while the 8.5% of the population —96,697 people— lives in extreme poverty <https://www.inec.cr/noticia/pobreza-por-ingresos-alcanzo-un-262>

National response

Costa Rica has kept its tradition of respecting human rights and hosting refugees through the endorsement of legal documents as the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the Migration and Foreign Affairs Act (Ley General de Migración y Extranjería) No. 8764, the Comprehensive Migration Policy for Costa Rica, the National Integration Plan (Plan Nacional de Integración) 2018-2022, the display of a series of actions based on the key principles

established as part of the protection and the responsibility of a country. Likewise, the right to equality of all people who live in Costa Rica was established in its political constitution. Aware of the challenges that refugees and asylum seekers must face, Costa Rica has supported them through the social development programs in its social security system, including the Costa Rican Social Security Fund.

The MIRPS

As a San Pedro Sula Declaration signer in 2017, Costa Rica supported the implementation of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS, by its Spanish acronym) to comprehensively address forced displacement in the region. This platform aims to respond to the displacement dynamics within the region, addressing the causes of the forced movement of people and strengthen protection and assistance to people in need of international protection. Thereby, the Costa Rican Government is committed to addressing forced displacement through the four lines of action presented by MIRPS: 1. Reception and admission; 2. Immediate and ongoing needs; 3. Support of host communities; and 4. Durable solutions.

In 2017, Costa Rica developed an action framework to assist forcibly displaced people called Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (MINARE, by its Spanish acronym) . MINARE is comprised of 32 commitments undertaken by the Costa Rican government as a prospective comprehensive response to people in need of international protection in Costa Rica. MINARE was developed through national consultation with the most important sectors of Costa Rica, promoting a whole government and whole society approach to the response to refugees and asylum seekers.

Additionally, MINARE creates a structure to assist with its implementation, which is made of two areas:

i. Technical area: A national technical team is created to track the progress of the agreements. This team is comprised of technical liaisons from the five institutions that participate in the support of refugees, namely: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy, the Vice-Ministry of Government and Justice, the Vice-Ministry of Human Development and Social Integration and the Department of Migration and Foreign Affairs.

ii. Political area: An executive committee is created, formed by the heads of the abovementioned institutions, which give political support to the agreements included in MINARE.

Regarding the protection of refugees and asylum seekers, MINARE includes an agreement to strengthen the infrastructure, equipment and management of Temporary Attention Centres for Migrants (CATEM, by its Spanish acronym) to assist those in need of international protection.

Additionally, Costa Rica supports this population through its social development programs and includes refugees and refugee status seekers in its social security systems. This ensures that refugees or refugee applicants living in poverty or extreme poverty are protected by existing social and human development programs, which guarantees that they receive the same assistance as Costa Rican citizens and reduces the possibility of them becoming victims of migrant and human trafficking.

Furthermore, aware of the challenges that refugees and asylum seekers face, Costa Rica has decided to support them through the social development programs of the Social Security Systems, including the Costa Rican Social Security Fund which is in line with the agreements included in MINARE, and the right to equality for all the people who inhabit Costa Rica as established in the Political Constitution.

**COUNTRY:** Costa Rica**SECTOR:** Protection

Institutional strengthening to support the refugee and migrant population in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic



Executive Summary

Costa Rica has been recognized for its tradition of respecting human rights and has demonstrated its commitment to ensure improved living conditions for refugees and asylum seekers and their integration through public policies and initiatives founded on sound inter-institutional coordination.

The General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners (DGME) established the project “Construction of the North Bicentennial Migration Station” (North EMIBI) for the management of safe spaces for the protection of people who are part of mixed population flows. At present, the Temporary Attention Centre (CATEM) in the northern zone operates as a temporary camp, this arrangement presents limitation in the provision of services to meet basic needs, and the identification of claimants of international protection and asylum. DGME has implemented measures to improve the condition of the CATEM to strengthen the management of migratory flows, improving physical space and expand the coverage to these populations, strengthening protection and comprehensive care. This proposal seeks to support the construction of infrastructure in the northern area of CATEM, with 50% of resources provided directly by the Government of Costa Rica.

DURATION

Estimated duration: 2021-2022

Subject to the availability of resources

IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Department of Migration and Foreign Affairs (DGME, by its Spanish acronym)

LOCATION

National

BENEFICIARIES

7,000 persons, including asylum seekers, refugees and migrants

ESTIMATED BUDGET

Total Required Financing:	\$ 3,454,840
National Financing:	\$ 2,149,613
Financing Gap:	\$ 1,305,227

1. Sector Context in Costa Rica

Due to its geographical position and its socio-political situation, since 2015 Costa Rica has welcomed asylum seekers and migrants in transit who enter through the southern border, mainly from Venezuela, Cuba, Haiti, Africa, Southern and Western Asia, Due to the diversity in culture and origin, these movements were considered *mixed flows*.

As a result of the dynamics of these flows, Costa Rica faces the greatest volume of transit in its history, which required that the Costa Rican government determine an operative approach to guarantee comprehensive assistance of vulnerable people in need of international protection, to exercise control over migratory flows and to provide humanitarian assistance.

As a response to these needs, the DGME, as the authority in charge of the national migration administration, has created models for immediate aid from public institutions, with the support of other entities such as international institutions, a network of non-governmental, non-profit organizations, civil society and local governments. These entities cooperate in the operative functioning of the CATEMs, offering food, accommodation and health services to this population.

The flow of the number of people hosted in the Northern CATEM shows the importance of the assistance provide.

Covid-19 Impact

The COVID-19 pandemic and the national state of emergency declared by the Government of Costa Rica triggered emergency protocols and plans for the protection of the population. As part of the Emergency Plan, the Ministry of Government and Justice and the Department of Migration and Foreign Affairs (DGME, by its Spanish acronym), developed a safe method to protect migrants in need of international protection called *“Area protocol for the assistance of new homeless asylum seekers and migrants who are part of the migrant flows in transit within the frame of the Costa Rica Covid-19 national emergency”* (*“Protocolo de zonas para la atención de eventuales nuevos solicitantes de refugio sin domicilio y personas migrantes sin domicilio dentro de los flujos migratorios en tránsito en el marco de la emergencia nacional de Costa Rica COVID-19”*). This system arises from the institutional coordination to contain the pandemic among vulnerable people entering the territory or in transit.

The main goal of this protocol is to strengthen the response to vulnerable migrants and asylum seekers entering the national territory and to establish a more appropriate approach for these people once land borders are opened. To this effect, this protocol provides physical spaces for the reception, triage and assistance of people who have just

Year	Number of people hosted
2016	4,611
2017	1,234
2018	2,297
2019	683
Total	8,825

Source: Official data, DGME.

The data show the direct impact of the Northern CATEM operations, which hosted 8,825 people. The current COVID-19 pandemic creates a situation of utmost urgency due to the necessity of guaranteeing a safe space for vulnerable asylum seekers and migrants and reducing the risk of spreading the disease.

entered the territory and have no place to stay in Costa Rica.

The proposed intervention in this Conceptual Note seeks the support of the second stage of construction, of a B Zone area to protect asylum seekers and migrants who do not show any symptom related to Covid-19, as follows:

- a. People who, after undergoing a medical exam, do not show symptoms and are referred to these facilities. These shall be referred with a health order consisting of a 14-day isolation period.
- b. People who completed the isolation period but do not have a home or, due to a migration circumstance, have no other option but to stay at the facilities.
- c. People who successfully recovered from COVID-19 but do not have a home or, due to a migration circumstance, have no other option but to stay at the facilities.

The flow of people that turn to the Northern CATEM requires the construction of an infrastructure that matches the operational necessities of the DGME . According to official information, 62,000 people were hosted between 2016 and 2019, while in the first quarter of 2020, before the national sanitary emergency was declared, 1,820 people were hosted every month.

1 Some of these signs are the observations included in the report from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) about the Temporary Attention Centres for Migrants (CATEM, by its Spanish acronym) in the North of the country. This report falls within the IACHR visit to Costa Rica in 2018 discussing the human rights current situation of Nicaraguan people who were forced to leave their country and seek for international protection in Costa Rica. As a result of the visit to the CATEM, the IACHR notes these centers do not meet the requirements on availability of basic services and housing to guarantee the right to a proper house and the right to health of migrants and asylum seekers. Consequently, the IACHR has issued some recommendations to improve the condition of these centers. This report is available at the following link: <https://www.corteidh.or.cr/tablas/r39388.pdf> . Furthermore, other institutions such as the Area Health Department of the Ministry of Health and the Office of Labor Health of the DGME, have expressed concerns about the matter and have recommended physical and sanitary improvements to provide people with adequate care.

There is a clear link regarding the importance of enhancing the official response capacity according to the different scenarios that the COVID-19 may pose. Thus, in the case of the northern camp, the Costa Rican government considers CATEM construction a national priority. Under

these circumstances, the funding deficit to complete the full project, as it will be explained in the estimated budget section, must be taken into consideration.

Lessons learned from previous interventions

i. Regarding the actions implemented during the pandemic, the implementation of the zone plan is one of the key interventions which has resulted from the rapid response from the authorities to define an action plan for the appropriate administration of mixed migrant flow through the coordination of several institutions.

ii. The implementation of this project allows for flexibility both within institutions and as regards internal regulations from the partner collaborators, enabling progress towards immediate, urgent solutions for hosting people in these challenging times.

Complementary Initiatives

In the context of this pandemic, initiative models could come from two perspectives. One of them references the collaboration of institutions, such as that of the “Protocolo de zonas para la atención de eventuales nuevos solicitantes de refugio sin domicilio y personas migrantes sin domicilio dentro de los flujos migratorios en tránsito en el marco de la emergencia nacional de Costa Rica COVID-19”. The second

perspective stems from efforts associated with health protection systems that result from international collaboration, such as the fund for the protection of asylum seekers and refugees, which was created by the UNHCR, the Costa Rican Social Security Fund, and the fund for the assistance of people affected by the COVID-19 through the distribution of tests and vaccines as soon as they are available.

2. Detailed Approach

General objective

Improve the assistance to asylum seekers, refugees and migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic health emergency.

Specific objectives

- i. Reduce the health risks of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants who are part of mixed migrant flows.
- ii. Guarantee the protection of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants’ right to health.
- iii. Expand the operative capacity of the Northern CATEM area in order to be able to host asylum seekers, refugees and migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Expected results

Enhance CATEM responsiveness during the COVID-19 pandemic, for the appropriate assistance of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants through the construction of suitable infrastructure and the provision of basic suitable services.

Reducing the risk of spreading COVID-19 among asylum seekers, refugees and migrants in the CATEMs as well as the host communities.

Improved the attention and identification capacity and quality of services provided to refugee applicants, refugees and migrants who enter the North CATEM and ensure the protection of the human rights of this population.

Activities

At present, the Northern CATEM functions as a camp. The DGME will start the construction of a building with better infrastructure. However, the scope of the construction will only reach the first stage with the capacity to host 200 people. The second stage will expand this hosting capacity up to 400 people.

3. Beneficiaries

An estimate of 7,000 people, including asylum seekers, refugees and migrants, will be benefitted by this intervention. The beneficiaries estimate was reached considering the number of people assisted in the Northern Centres of Attention in Costa Rica during 2019 and 2020 and the population estimations for 2021.



4. Estimated budget

OBJECTIVE	REQUIRED FINANCING	NATIONAL FINANCING	FINANCING GAP
Construction of the Northern Bicentennial Migrant Station (EMIBI, by its Spanish acronym) of the Department of Migration and Foreign Affairs (DGME, by its Spanish acronym).	\$3,454,840	\$2,149,613	\$1,305,227

The proposed intervention consists of second stage construction of the Northern CATEM. The estimate cost includes the building design, resulting in an estimate budget based on the construction cost per square meter (mts2).

Per the technical reference, the estimated cost of the construction of the 2,000 mts2 of the second stage amounts to USD 1,305,227.00. The first stage includes the

construction of 3,250 mts2 for which an estimated budget of USD 2,149,613.00 was allocated, which will be funded by the government through a national contribution. The following chart summarizes the cost details:

STAGES	M2 to be built	Amount in USD**	Source
First construction stage	3,250	\$2,149,613	Migratory Social Fund
Second construction stage	2,000	\$1,305,227	There are no resources available for this stage
TOTAL		\$3,454,840	

Source: Official data, DGME.

**Reference exchange rate according to the Central Bank of Costa Rica as of 10/01/2020

Based on this data, the total estimated budget for the construction of 5,240m2 is USD 3,454,840.

5. Stakeholders

In the exercise of a safe, regular and orderly administration of the mixed migrant flows during the pandemic, three broad groups of participants have been identified:

GROUP	MISSION	ROLE IN IMPLEMENTATION
Government Institutions	Upon the declaration of the national health emergency, the DGME has worked in close collaboration with the Emergency National Commission, within the framework of the Emergency Operative Committee which also includes the CCSS, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Public Security.	Acting as the governmental authority for the implementation of several activities according to the corresponding approach, the bulk of their work consists of the institutional communication and coordination to create assistance strategies. This work has resulted in the “Area Protocol for the Assistance of new homeless asylum seekers and migrants who are part of the migrant flows in transit within the frame of the Costa Rica Covid-19 national emergency”
United Nations Agencies a.UNCHR b.IOM UNFPA, UNICEF y OMS/OPS	Protect and advocate for the rights of people in need of international protection. Support in the management of mixed migratory flows in transit for assistance in the southern and northern border areas of Costa Rica Interagency group led by UNHCR to support this project.	Collaborating direct assistance by providing supplies for the care of migrant populations in transit, in the South and North CATEMs. Help in the implementation of the zone plan for the attention of these populations with the construction of works in zone C
Civil Society Organizations a. Centro de Derechos Laborales sin Fronteras b. Corner of Love c. Fundación Arias para la Paz y el progreso humano d. Open Society Foundation	In the particular case of care for migrant populations in vulnerable conditions in the context of COVID, the actions of civil society NGOs have been oriented towards strengthening health care through the transfer of resources to access PCR tests.	Creating direct actions such as the release of information among the support networks, and the assistance of people at risk identified through their networks.

6. Cross-cutting themes

- i. Along with the execution of the proposal to strengthen the CATEMs, a cross-disciplinary component is reflected in the inter-institutional coordination, under the provision that all integral actions require the coordinated administration of issues associated with an effective management of mixed migrant flows, in aspects related to health, coordination and communication with entities such as Emergency National Commission, the Ministry of Health, the Costa Rican Social Security Fund.
- ii. For the effective protection of populations of minors, the approach will be coordinated with the National Children’s Trust (PANI) to attend to the needs of children and adolescents and ensure safe spaces for these people you consider vulnerable in the context of mixed flows.
- iii. In regards the international cooperation environment, this proposal favours, as a cross-disciplinary aspect, the creation of best practices within the context of the pandemic, where the allocation of resources and the analysis of the reality implies a continuous commitment of the authorities and the partner collaborators, considering the existing needs and addressing the challenges as a group.

7. Risks and assumptions

RISK	PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE	INTENSITY OF IMPACT	MITIGATING STRATEGY
Spread of COVID-19 in the Northern CATEM and as a consequence, a health emergency in the district of La Cruz in the Northern area.	High	High	The DGME and CNE have cooperated to establish a zone protocol to mitigate the risks
Increase of the flow of people arriving to Costa Rica. It is believed that the assistance capacity of the CATEMs will be exceeded upon the opening of borders and the arrival of people to Costa Rica, which would imply that homeless people from these groups would not receive assistance.	Medium	High	Costa Rica and Panama have coordinated on migratory flows from south to north, prior to the pandemic, in such a way that only a group of 100 people entered per day to mitigate the risk of exceeding the capacity of the CATEM which will be implemented again with the opening of land borders, taking into account that the attention capacity in the CATEM is 300 people
Operation stability of CATEM regarding basic care services. Given an increase in flow, the DGME institutional estimated budget would be affected and the CATEMs would not be able to work at full capacity.	High	High	The main measure consists of not exceeding the service capacity of the southern and northern CATEMs, as well as resorting to international cooperation to acquire supplies such as food and basic personal care and health items.
Fiscal tightness. The difficult financial situation of the country makes it difficult to increase the resources allocated to the CATEM.	High	High	The DGME has presented the technical and legal criteria to the tax commission on the importance of not cutting the institutional budget in the event of a possible technical closure

8. Monitoring and evaluation

Considering the set of actions proposed herein are part of an institutional project, the monitoring and the evaluation are part of the same follow-up activities of the general project. With that clear, the allocation of these public resources must be implemented according to a schedule of activities which must be duly completed by the contractor as part of the requirements to participate in the project assignment. In reference to this aspect, an outline of the construction of the Northern EMIBI is attached hereto, including details such as rates, direct benefits and implementation terms.



**COUNTRY:** Costa Rica**SECTOR:** Health

Voluntary temporary insurance for asylum seekers and refugees in Costa Rica



Executive Summary

Costa Rica maintains an open-door policy for people forcibly displaced from their countries of origin. However, the difficulty posed in accessing health services increases the vulnerability of this population, particularly for those requiring medical treatment. In turn, an undermined health status, complicates the search for employment and a means of subsistence in the country. Mindful for the situation faced by refugees and asylum seekers, the country has sought to facilitate their inclusion in the social security system of the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS). The CCSS, in conjunction with UNHCR, developed a pilot project in 2019 to provide health insurance to 6,000 refugee applicants or refugees in a situation of economic vulnerability by 2020.

This proposal seeks to establish a second phase that will allow for the expansion of health insurance coverage to 10,000 vulnerable persons. This entails an increase in the contributory coverage of health insurance, in the form of a collective contribution for refugees and asylum seekers in conditions of economic vulnerability or with specific health needs that do not currently benefit from support. The selection of beneficiaries has been based on their assessment of being in a situation of economic vulnerability.

DURATION

12 months (2021)

IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS, by its Spanish acronym), UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

LOCATION

National

BENEFICIARIES

10,000 asylum seekers and refugees

ESTIMATED BUDGET

Total Required Financing:	\$ 3,033,333
National Financing:	\$ 0
Financing Gap:	\$ 3,033,333

1. Sector context

The national health system is formed by Costa Rican government institutions whose purpose is to improve the health of people, families, and communities. With the goal of preserving, maintaining and enhancing the health of the population, the national health system brings several institutions under the supervision of the Ministry of Health. One of those institutions is the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS, by its Spanish acronym), which is the independent institution in charge of providing health services to the entire Costa Rican population.

The CCSS has adhered to the principles of universality, solidarity and equality as the pillars of its administration, which strengthens the national social security system. These principles guarantee universal access to comprehensive health services, with the same rights and obligations. The government insurance, administered by the CCSS, provides coverage to all people under the poverty line. Likewise, the government protects vulnerable people through specific laws, decrees and other legal instruments. The CCSS charges the government for each health service that it provides to its users. Those users include minors, pregnant women and infants, in accordance with applicable laws¹.

However, refugees and asylum seekers who are waiting for their identification documents, do not have access to the CCSS universal coverage. As they are a vulnerable population, they cannot afford any of the available insurance programs.

Upon their arrival, refugees and asylum seekers face a series of challenges, including a lack of identification documents, economic resources, or knowledge about the national system, which prevent them from accessing public health services. Most of these people not only have an economic need, but also a need for healthcare, both preventive, follow-up, and treatment. This is shown in the social-economic assessments and participation activities with refugees and asylum seekers carried out by the UNHCR.

To guarantee the right to health protection to this population, in 2019, the CCSS and the UNHCR created an agreement to grant medical insurance to 6,000 economically and health vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers for a period of 12 months (January to December 2020). Under the initiative, beneficiaries can seek care at CCSS health centres all over the country.

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has exerted greater pressure on the Costa Rican healthcare system. The CCSS has made a significant financial investment in order to respond to the health emergency². This investment took place in a complex economic climate due to the impact of the pandemic, the decrease in the national economic activities, high unemployment, high poverty indexes and a reduction of the institution's income. Consequently, the agreement signed with the UNHCR constitutes a foundation for the COVID-19 mitigation strategy and the protection of vulnerable people.

The implementation of the first stage of the agreement between the CCSS and the UNHCR provides a valuable experience in order to guarantee the impact of this expansion proposal. In the same way, important lessons have been learned that can be used for future implementations, such as:

- The details of the agreement and the requirements established must be known in full by the parties involved in the process.
- The implementation of the agreement requires multifunctional teamwork, a challenge for all collaborators, making it vital that all understand each parties' function and the ideal circumstances with which applications can be processed in a timely manner.
- The precision and clarity of the data on people of concern in the lists, which allows them to receive insurance, must be verified from the very first moment said data is entered on the list. This way, delays can be avoided in issues such as inclusion, data readjustment and exclusion of the population of concern in the agreement, and barriers to care in health centres can be minimized.
- The CCSS's information systems are prepared to register the insurance of the target population using a collective agreement model by managing the monthly billing of contributions associated with the program and the costs incurred for the care of persons in the health system effectively.
- Effective communication channels between institutional actors who have direct contact with beneficiaries of the agreement in order to avoid barriers arising out of lack of knowledge of the agreement and its scope.

¹ The Directive No. 010-MP-MIDEPLAN-MTSS-MSP-MGP-MRREE of 2018 stipulates basic health care for conditions and illnesses as well as emergency care. As regards to pregnant women and minors, it provides access to health care services paid for by the Government. <https://www.saludmigracion.org/es/directriz-numero-010-mp-mideplan-mtss-msp-mgp-mrree>

² According to the CCSS, until October 14th, 2020, CRP 79,582.2 million from the Social Security Contingency Fund of the Costa Rican Social Security Fund have been allocated to the response to the COVID-19 health emergency. This amount accounts for the use of 63.7% of the Fund; https://www.ccss.sa.cr/noticias/servicios_noticia?contraloria-aprobo-40-mil-millones-para-fondo-de-contingencias-de-la-ccss

2. Detailed Approach

General Objective

Expand temporary voluntary coverage of the health insurance, guaranteeing the right to health of refugees and asylum seekers with equality, equity, universality and solidarity.

This intervention aims at addressing the protection gap that arises the moment a person applies for international protection and formalizes their refugee application before the Department of Migration and Foreign Affairs, and continues until he or she receives the documents validating his or her asylum seeker status. This process can take between 6 and 9 months, and during that time people experience vulnerability due to the lack of documentation permitting access to rights and services.

Three months after the formalization of the refugee application, the person receives an unconditional work permit that is valid until they receive a final from the second organization. This work permit is required to access formal jobs and, therefore, other insurance plans. However, there are people with health needs that have not been able to formalize their application and, as a result, do not have an appropriate work permit. In the same way, there are people whose health condition does not allow them to enter the labour market. This proposal presents an additional layer of protection for this population, by guaranteeing access to public health services through temporary voluntary insurance.

Specific objectives

1. Provide temporary healthcare services (12 months) to vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers while guaranteeing confidential and private use of their information
2. Improve the mental and physical health of vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers by providing access to health services.
3. Prevent disease among vulnerable and at-risk refugees and asylum seekers.

Expected result

Refugees and asylum seekers who have specific health needs, identified risk factors, or who are socially vulnerable are included in the temporary health insurance plan.

3. Beneficiaries

This intervention aims to expand insurance coverage to include 10,000 asylum seekers and refugees in Costa Rica. The implementation of the agreement entered into by the CCSS and the UNHCR for the collective insurance of 6,000 persons with international protection needs established the mechanisms for selecting beneficiaries who are eligible as specified in the Agreement (elderly persons, in economically vulnerability situations and identified health need). Through the database of the population of asylum seekers and refugees in Costa Rica (ProGres) registered before the UNHCR, there are 10,724 identified cases of eligible people for this medical insurance; however, there are not enough resources to expand coverage and provide medical insurance for them.

Because of this, this proposal seeks to guarantee and expand coverage of the temporary voluntary insurance plan

10,000 asylum seekers and refugees

to 10,000 people. An important note is that out of the total number of beneficiaries, 6,000 people are included in the current agreement between the CCSS and the UNHCR for this year, but, due to their vulnerability condition, they require an extension of the benefit. Additionally, medical insurance will be granted to 4,000 new beneficiaries who have already been identified as eligible and are on the waiting list for the expansion of the insurance plan. Hence, this proposal is ready to be implemented once the funding for expanding coverage is obtained.

The CCSS will provide collective health insurance in the form of “temporary voluntary insurance”, under the conditions and in the terms specified by health regulations and the Regulations on Voluntary Insurance Membership, and in the corresponding membership newsletters, which will be part of the agreement.

4. Estimated budget

The estimated budget of this intervention is calculated by the average cost per person for 12 months. The insurance fee for voluntary insured people in the CCSS health system (CRC 15,155, which equals approximately USD 25) was used as a starting point for the estimates.

The following chart summarizes the estimated investment required to provide insurance to 10,000 people, according to the conditions outlined in the agreement between the CCSS and the UNHCR.

OBJECTIVE	REQUIRED FINANCING*	NATIONAL FINANCING	FINANCING GAP
Extension of the insurance plan for asylum seekers and refugees.	\$3,033,333	\$0	\$3,033,333

*Amounts in USD. Exchange rate 599.54 CRC to 1 USD.

5. Stakeholders

INSTITUTION	MISSION	ROLE IN IMPLEMENTATION
Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS, by its Spanish acronym)	Provide health services directly to the national population.	Body executing the project.
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Protect and guarantee the rights of people with international protection needs.	Aids in identifying and verifying beneficiaries, and with monitoring tasks.
NGOs working with the asylum seeker and refugee population in Costa Rica, the Refugee Education Trust (RET) and HIAS, the global Jewish nonprofit that protects refugees.	Responds to the needs of asylum seekers and refugees.	Identifies potential beneficiaries and referring cases to the UNHCR for their corresponding verification.

6. Cross-cutting themes

Access to health services through this agreement will allow the target population to have the same access to healthcare, according to the conditions established by health regulations for comprehensive health assistance and based on social security principles, such as equality, equity, universality and solidarity.

3 In line with the principle of universality that governs social security in the country, access to health and medical care for minors of age and pregnant women is stipulated in the Health Insurance Regulations of the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS) and of the Childhood and Adolescence Code. In this way, the Costa Rican State assumes the insurance of these populations and guarantees their right to Health.

7. Risks and assumptions

The following chart shows the possible risks of the intervention, of risk mitigation strategies, and the probability and intensity of each one:

RISK	PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE	INTENSITY OF IMPACT	MITIGATION STRATEGY
The ongoing pandemic limits universal access to health services, which makes it imperative for the CCSS to follow certain guidelines in order to avoid spread and large groups of people.	High	High Higher costs of social services and their impact on the national population	Proceed with the implementation of phone consults and video calls for medical follow-ups.
Problems locating people in order to deliver the insurance ID (card) through Costa Rica's postal services.	Medium	High Double efforts and resources due to not locating people.	Deliver required documents in-person, while implementing appropriate health protocols, and keep a record of their delivery.
Avoid assigning various insurance numbers to one single person as a result of previous insurance.	High	High Various insurance numbers associated with one single person are generated, which contradicts regulations of the General National Comptroller of the Republic and influences the institutions, which could compromise the implementation of the project.	Perform interviews with the target population to determine whether they have previous insurance and if so, report it in the insurance documentation.
Lack of clarity and precision in the source information contained in the list, or unconfirmed information used in order to avoid delays in insurance and healthcare.	Medium	High Difficulty including or excluding people of concern in the agreement, thus hindering prompt response to urgent situations, and leading to inadequate permanence of a person in the agreement.	Systematically verify that the data provided on the list is consistent in format and content with insurance and healthcare registers.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring work will continue, following the structure established in the agreement, and a response group made up of focal points from all involved units will be implemented, whose tasks are detailed below:

- Continuous and adequate collection and organization of information;
- Implement verification methods applied to details provided by asylum seekers or refugees, such as letters or statements from people who are aware of the scope of the agreement, concur to the agreement, know the obligations and implications of being insured under an agreement of such nature, states whether she or he has previous insurance, states their previous social insurance number, among other assessments the team will perform together with its counterparts at the CCSS.
- Communicate with the population of concern.
- Coordinate the resolution of identified problems.

The response group will hold team meetings at their discretion and according to identified needs to promptly respond and solve every matter concerning the implementation, as well as unforeseen events and challenges that arise during the implementation process.

This specialized group will serve as an open work and coordination committee, in which any person involved in the operation can participate as long as their participation is pertinent to the project topic, at the discretion of focal points.

CCSS, for their part, will implement a multidisciplinary work team, made up of representatives from Financial Management and Medical Management, who will continually track situations that arise as the project is implemented. Likewise, the CCSS already has specific processes and procedures in place for insuring the population under the used model, which have proved to be reliable and appropriate according to considerations of internal control at the institution level, and which must be complied with in order to adequately execute the agreement.

Apart from the meetings proposed for internal operation issues, the UNHCR and the CCSS, via formal, joint coordination meetings on monitoring with the frequency deemed necessary, will solve problems observed and learn from experience acquired with to improve the project implementation. To this end, they agree to keep open discussion and communication methods, based on mutual respect and good faith, to solve unforeseen matters related to the application of this agreement.

The meetings will be coordinated by the focal points, who will rely on colleagues that can contribute to the resolution of the problems.

The frequency of meetings will depend on the identified problems and the urgency with which they need to be addressed.



Annex 1: Estimated Budget

Average Cost per Individual (Annual)	Projected # of Pdl Beneficiaries	Total Required Financing	National Financing	Financing Gap
2020	2021	2021	2021	2021
USD 303.33	10,000	USD 3,033,333	0	USD 3,033,333
TOTAL		USD 3,033,333	0	USD 3,033,333

Exchange rate: 599.54 CRC to 1 USD.

COUNTRY: Costa Rica**SECTOR:** Social protection

Social Protection of the Populations with International Protection Needs through Services Provided by the Social Welfare Institute (IMAS)



Executive Summary

Costa Rica guarantees refugees and asylum seekers access to social development programmes within its national social security system. Through the Social Protection and Promotion Programme, the Mixed Institute of Social Assistance (IMAS) has established a package of promote processes of comprehensive care that responds to the needs of people in situations of economic vulnerability.

The number of people eligible for these services has increased, including those from the refugee and asylum seeker population. This increase in demand for IMAS services has placed greater pressure on the institution's operational capacity to respond and attend to cases. Through a cooperation agreement with UNHCR, additional institutional operational capacity is provided for social care, assessment and access to IMAS services by refugees and asylum seekers. Despite these investments, the institution's main limitation remains budgetary, since demand exceeds the availability of available financial resources. Therefore, the majority of the referred population is assessed for eligibility, but those that are positively considered for inclusion, are unable to benefit from the related services. This proposal seeks to provide the material resources required to ensure the inclusion of the eligible population within IMAS's programme.

DURATION

2021

IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Social Welfare Institute (IMAS, by its Spanish acronym)

LOCATION

National

BENEFICIARIES

2,306 refugees and asylum seekers

ESTIMATED BUDGET

Total Required Financing:	\$ 1,478,052
National Financing:	\$ 836,397
Financing Gap:	\$ 641,655

1. Social Protection Sector Context in Costa Rica

Costa Rica has always been a country committed to human development by maintaining public policies of universal access to basic services. By providing these services, the Costa Rican state creates a social security network that guarantees the welfare of families, enables social mobility and is a tool to combat poverty. This social policy requires a significant investment of resources on the part of the state to respond to the needs of economically vulnerable people.

At a national level, IMAS serves as the governing body for public policies to combat poverty. The governing principle of its actions is to inclusively and mutually protect and promote the development of the population that experiences poverty and extreme poverty, through programs and projects, from a multidimensional approach¹. In this way, its management includes affirmative actions that promote of comprehensive assistance, intervention, and aid for economically vulnerable people. IMAS seeks to serve populations in poverty and extreme poverty through its program, according to the needs of families and their members. To this end, IMAS has created thirty-two benefits to protect human rights and social promotion.

The way in which IMAS manages poverty is governed by several public policies, which are shown below:

- National Plan for Public Development and Investment (PNDIP, by its Spanish Acronym) 2019-2022;
- Institutional Strategic Plan 2019-2022;
- Institutional Operational Plan (POI, by its Spanish acronym) 2020²;
- 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (ODS, by its Spanish acronym);

The Social Protection and Promotion Program of IMAS groups together the benefits that contribute to the social mobility of individuals, families or groups in situations of economic vulnerability within a given territory, as means for social construction and the protection of rights. From a social promotion perspective, the dynamics of intervention involves approaching economically vulnerable populations to generate opportunities for change from a situation of poverty, and of social assistance towards efforts to strengthen skills and abilities so they may become independent of state protection.

The following are some of the benefits included in the Social Protection and Promotion Program that are provided to people in situations of poverty and extreme poverty:

- **Atención a Familias (Assistance for families).** Promotes the satisfaction of basic needs for food, health, housing, and basic public services, among others, through comprehensive assistance and an economic contribution to family income which promotes better living conditions.

- **Cuidado y Desarrollo Infantil (Childcare and development).** Promotes the access of children in early childhood to protection and development services by means of an economic contribution to the family income for the payment of the cost of the option selected by the family. Girls and boys up to 12 years old can access a care and attention option that facilitates their protection and development.

- **Avancemos (Let's Go Forward).** Provides opportunities for high school students to access and remain in the formal education system through a conditional cash transfer. This assistance supplements the family income to meet the costs associated with their education. At the same time, it promotes the intervention of other actors related to social development in order to generate positive results in the quality of life of the beneficiary families and allows the family to receive other benefits simultaneously when required.

- **Creceamos (We Grow).** Provides opportunities for preschool and elementary school students to access and remain in the formal education system through a conditional cash transfer that supplements the family income to meet the costs associated with education. This benefit helps cover other needs the family may have, through a model of comprehensive aid through the granting of other benefits or access to other social services as joint-effort options.

In general, IMAS prioritizes assistance to individuals or families in situations of poverty and extreme poverty. Likewise, there are high-priority population groups, such as people with disabilities, households led by women, children, students, the elderly, homeless or abandoned persons, people in situations of violence, refugees and asylum seekers.

A growing number of refugees and refugee status applicants are economically vulnerable. People generally enter the country with limited economic resources, without social or family support networks, with little knowledge of the normal function of the country or social welfare programs, with health and psychological problems from difficulties encountered while migrating and episodes of physical and sexual violence suffered along the way. Despite all this, they are still fearful of resorting to the legal systems that protect their rights.

¹ Social Welfare Institute, <https://www.imas.go.cr/es/general/sobre-la-institucion>

² The Institutional Operational Plan is summarized on page 2, as well as the main legal instruments regarding and related to the institutional work of IMAS. The document can be accessed through the following link: <https://www.imas.go.cr/es/documento/planes-operativos-y-planes-estrategicos>

During the first three months after they arrive in the country, refugee applicants do not have a work permit, which makes it impossible for them to formally generate income to support themselves and their families in the country. Due to this, they resort to spending the scarce savings they have and become vulnerable to human trafficking. If Spanish is not the first language of the refugee or asylum seeker, it is even more difficult for them to find employment opportunities. It is therefore essential to strengthen and expand the coverage of social protection services provided by IMAS to meet the basic needs of forcibly displaced individuals seeking international protection in Costa Rica.

The Government of Costa Rica has implemented two practices that have made it possible to identify and provide assistance to these populations:

a) The inclusion of “refugee” or “asylum seeker” as categories in the Social Welfare Institute (IMAS, by its Spanish acronym) Social Information Sheet (FIS, by its Spanish acronym). IMAS is the leading entity in the formulation and execution of a national policy for social and human promotion. FIS is the main instrument of IMAS for collecting socioeconomic and demographic data on individuals and families, which makes it possible to characterize, qualify and classify populations in situations of poverty and extreme poverty. It is used to register potential beneficiaries and is applied in accordance with the relevant poverty measurement method. The information is organized by categories, codes, and special variables, which allows for the generation of updated information on individuals, the identification of the population in conditions of poverty, and the assistance and intervention of these individuals, families, or households. As of 2017, the ‘refugee/asylum seeker’ category was included in the FIS, which allowed for the identification of socio-economically vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers. However, assisting the migrant population poses a major expense for the institution.

b) Assistance to refugees or asylum seekers through the agreement between IMAS and UNHCR: in order to comply with the provisions of its regulations and assistance commitments, IMAS signed an agreement with UNHCR to assist to refugees and asylum seekers in conditions of poverty and extreme poverty and facilitate their access to the programs and services offered by IMAS. As part of this agreement, professionals were hired to identify, qualify, and select individuals and families in conditions of poverty and extreme poverty so that they can access socioeconomic benefits.

The implementation of both measures allows IMAS to comply with its internal standards of inclusion of refugees and asylum

seekers in conditions of poverty as target populations of the institution. It also makes this population more visible and facilitates the collection of statistical data on refugees who are beneficiaries of its service and on the public investment for the assistance of this population.

The number of people seeking institutional services and benefits is increasing every day, including those from the refugee and refugee status applicant population, who must have a valid document that proves their status to be eligible for these services.

This increase in demand for IMAS services puts greater pressure on its operational capacity to respond and handle cases. For this reason, IMAS signed a cooperation agreement with UNHCR for the loan of professionals who work to fulfil the social purposes established by Act 4760. This agreement increases the institutional operational capacity by adding staff in areas and regional units where there is a greater concentration of this population. This staff would work in social assistance, categorization, management and assessment of refugee status applicants and their access to IMAS programs. This is one of the strategies to enable the refugee and refugee status applicant population to access socioeconomic benefits.

Despite the expansion of its operational capacity, the institution’s main limitation is budgetary, given that demand exceeds the availability of financial resources. This is evident when analysing the data on the number of this population registered on institutional systems, and the reporting of the number of individuals and families who are beneficiaries. Therefore, a large part of the population referred or recruited by other means is served and assessed, but their applications are not resolved, which would conclude with granting benefits.

Impact of COVID-19

Despite the pandemic, the IMAS reiterated its commitment to social protection by implementing different measures or transfers within the framework of the emergency, which helped mitigate the impact on the level of poverty. During the first semester of 2020, IMAS increased social investment by 64,61% compared to the investment for the same period in 2019 . To achieve this, the institution activated a strategy to sustain the benefits of the Social Protection and Promotion Program in such a way that families in conditions of poverty and extreme poverty have continued to receive subsidies. Despite the efforts to keep and expand social investments to protect the most vulnerable families, new national circumstances show the need to obtain additional funding in order to maintain the offered programs. In view of the impact of the pandemic, the following measures were taken to protect various populations or vulnerable sectors:

a) Coordinated effort to protect individuals, families, high-priority populations, and their quality of life from the vulnerability generated by the economic slowdown and changes in working conditions.

b) IMAS coordinated a social protection committee, which, along with the participation of other institutions, formed 56 measures, including the social protection of various high-risk populations such as minors, women, families in poverty, etc.

c) Within the framework of institutional actions for the assistance of individuals and families affected by COVID-19, the following protocols were issued:

- Protocol for granting the Emergency Benefit, cause No. 12, a bonus to protect people in situations of poverty and extreme poverty. This benefit is directed to temporary, informal and

independent workers in conditions of poverty or extreme poverty who have partially or completely lost income as result of the national state of emergency due to COVID-19.

- Interinstitutional protocol for the assistance of families or people under investigation for suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 who have a health order of domiciliary isolation, are in a situation of poverty or vulnerability and need to be evaluated for the granting of benefits or institutional interventions. In order to guarantee the interinstitutional intervention, approval, and transfer of resources for families and people under investigation for suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 so that they can take care of their basic needs, there is an administrative act that orders a legal period of isolation.
- Protocol for granting the Emergency Benefit cause No. 13, for funeral expenses (due to COVID 19), for families who are in a situation of poverty or extreme poverty, with a family member who died due to COVID-19 or an associated factor and cannot assume the economic cost of the funeral.

Complementary initiatives

Since August 2015, the Ministry of the Presidency (Social Council), the Department of Migration and Foreign Affairs, and UNHCR have carried out coordinated efforts for refugees and asylum seekers. As part of these actions, a Memorandum of Understanding was drawn up in which strategic actions

were defined to guarantee the refugee population's access to state development programs, fight against poverty, and promote employability and "entrepreneurship".

³ The total investment during the first half of 2020 was of CRC 115,142 million, while for the same period in 2019 the total investment reached CRC 69,947 million, which represents an increase of 64.61%. This increase made it possible to expand coverage of the programs and to benefit 327,527 families who received assistance from the institution in 2020, compared to the 195,408 families who benefited in the same period in 2019. <https://www.presidencia.go.cr/comunicados/2020/08/imas-incremento-inversion-social-en-64-61-en-medio-de-la-pandemia/>

2. Detailed Approach

This intervention aims to close the protection gap for refugees and refuge seekers who are in situations of poverty or extreme poverty in Costa Rica. During the process of applying for refugee status, the Department of Migration and Foreign Affairs (DGME, by its Spanish acronym), the body that implements the migration policy of the Costa Rican State, creates the preconditions for the incorporation of these individuals into the labour market with the issuance of a work permit that is granted within a period of three months following the filing of the application for the refugee status. However, there are people with protection and social assistance requirements that have not been able to formalize their application and, as a result, do not have an appropriate

work permit. In the same way, there are people whose socioeconomic condition does not allow them to enter the labour market.

This proposal raises an additional possibility of protection for this population, facilitating their access to social protection and promotion services under the benefits of programs offered by IMAS. The objective is to meet the basic needs of forcibly displaced individuals seeking international protection in Costa Rica.

General Objective

To provide comprehensive assistance services to refugee and asylum seeker individuals and families who are in poverty and extreme poverty, promoting their access to social opportunities and their participation in socio-economic development.

Specific objectives

1. Provide access to social protection services, to partially meet the basic needs of refugee and asylum seeker individuals and families who are in conditions of poverty and extreme poverty.

2. Promote the access of children from refugee families and refugee applicants in conditions of extreme poverty and poverty, to the service provided by care centres, facilitating protection and development conditions, through the economic contribution to the family income to pay the cost of alternative care in the alternative selected by the family.

3. Offer opportunities for social promotion to the refugee and asylum-seeking student population in conditions of poverty and extreme poverty, promoting their continued participation in the formal education system by covering the costs associated with education.

3. Beneficiaries

Chart 1 presents the total number of beneficiaries of the five IMAS programs, from 2018 until September 2020.

Table 1. Total beneficiary population of selected benefits, as of September 30th, 2020

PROGRAM	2018	2019	2020 (AS OF SEPT.)
Atención a familias	123, 281	135, 187	81,856
Cuidado y desarrollo infantil	28, 726	30, 590	24, 838
Avancemos	201, 631	203, 205	172, 308
Creceemos ⁴	-	210, 321	215, 846
TOTAL	353, 638	579, 303	635, 683

Source: Social Protection and Promotion Program report, formulated by the Social Information Systems Department of IMAS, years 2018, 2019 and 3rd trimester of 2020.

⁴ The Creceemos (We Grow) benefit did not exist in 2018. It was created in February 2019 through Executive Decree No. 1569-MEP-MTSS-MDHIS.

Chart 2 presents refugees and asylum seekers who are beneficiaries from 2018 to September 2020 of the IMAS programs and projections for the beneficiary population for 2021.

Chart 2. Refugees and Asylum Seekers Beneficiaries

PROGRAM	2018	2019	2020 (BY SEPT)	PROJECTIONS 2021
Atención a familias ⁵	579	2,198	841	1,050
Cuidado y desarrollo infantil	49	925	167	300
Avancemos	95	308	327	325
Creceemos	0	108	359	631
TOTAL	723	3,539	1,696	2,306

Projected calculations of benefited refugees and asylum seekers of the four programs are based on two different methodologies. For Atención de Familias and Creceemos programs, projections assume the same monthly behaviour of benefited refugees and asylum seekers of 2020, according to the Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy (MIDEPLAN, by its Spanish acronym) projected scenario with data from the IMAS Social Information Systems Department.

For the projections for refugees and asylum seekers who benefited from Avancemos and Cuidado y desarrollo infantil, it was decided, based on expert opinion, to adjust the previous

methodology. These estimates are based on a detailed analysis carried out by specialists in the field to create a more accurate estimate for next year. The projections for these two programs are based on a percentage of assisted people according to the population registered in IMAS systems.

It is worth noting that, as of September 30th, there are 2,731 refugees and asylum seekers registered in IMAS systems.

For more information about methodology and analysis, see the annex.

4. Estimated budget

PROGRAM	REQUIRED FINANCING*	NATIONAL FINANCING	FINANCING GAP
Atención a familias	\$727,988	\$458,444	\$269,544
Cuidado y desarrollo infantil	\$502,453	\$219,910	\$282,542
Creceemos	\$110,071	\$49,237	\$60,834
Avancemos	\$137,540	\$108,805	\$28,735
TOTAL	\$1,478,052	\$836,397	\$641,655

*Amount in USD. Exchange rate: 6011 CRC to 1 USD

⁵ The beneficiary population for each year is reported by family unit.

In Costa Rica, the process of quantifying the total required financing, the national financing, and the financing gap to assist refugees and applicants for that condition in the IMAS four programs has been led by MIDEPLAN, in coordination with IMAS.

To calculate required funding, the historical average of services per person or per family is multiplied by the number of refugees and asylum seekers that are projected to be beneficiaries by 2021. The national funding amount is based on historical costs of the four programs until September 30th, 2020, with a 20% reduction estimated in the budget assigned for 2021. This assumption is based on the possibility that the assigned budget will be affected by economic measures that the Costa Rican State has taken due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, a 1.75% annual increase of all unit costs due to inflation is estimated for each year.

The financing gap is the difference between the total required funding and national investment, and it represents the cooperation needed to assist the entire population of refugees and asylum seekers projected to be beneficiaries in 2021.

5. Stakeholders

INSTITUTION	MISSION	ROLE IN IMPLEMENTATION
Social Welfare Institute (IMAS, by its Spanish acronym)	Works to resolve the problem of extreme poverty in the country. Its mission is “to inclusively and mutually protect and promote the development of the population that experiences poverty and extreme poverty, through programs and projects, from a multidimensional approach”.	Plans, directs, implements, and controls a national plan intended to accomplish that goal.
Ministry of Public Education (MEP, by its Spanish acronym)	Provides information to IMAS about active and inactive beneficiaries to educational centres and reports misuse of resources.	Verifies compliance with student conditions. Basically, it confirms attendance to education centres.
Technical Secretariat of Care Network	It guarantees the right of every child, from zero to six years old, to participate in care programs in pursuit of their comprehensive development, according to different needs and in compliance with various required assistance modalities.	Technical agency responsible for the promotion of the organization between different public and private actors, various activities that are carried out in the country for childcare and development, as well as the expansion of services coverage.
UNHCR	Protects and guarantees the rights of people in need of international protection.	Aids in identifying and verifying beneficiaries and monitoring tasks.

6. Cross-cutting themes

Interinstitutional coordination with different social actors at national, regional and local level are required for the comprehensive assistance to the target population, according to prioritizing and qualification criteria that the Target Population Information System (SIPO) and the Unique State Beneficiary System (SINIRUBE) support.

7. Risks and assumptions

En el desarrollo de la intervención, pueden ocurrir algunas situaciones que pueden poner en riesgo el logro de los objetivos, para los cuales se han determinado algunas medidas de mitigación, considerando la probabilidad e intensidad de su ocurrencia:

RIESGOS PARA EL LOGRO DE RESULTADOS	PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE	INTENSITY OF RISK IMPACT	MITIGATING STRATEGY
The pandemic has uncertain effects on mixed flows, making it difficult to complete the corresponding projections.	High	High	Maintain established goals according to the available budget.
The generated information only presents IMAS registration and implementation information. It does not present information generated by the National Information System and Single Register of State Beneficiaries (SINIRUBE, by its Spanish acronym).	High	Low	IMAS corresponding data shows precise implementation data, providing the detailed quantity of beneficiaries and implemented budget. Request SINIRUBE data to compare and determine differences.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

The procedure will be monitored by the Social Information Systems Department through data generation every three months to monitor goal completion. Such data will be analyzed by the Family Wellbeing Department in order to take corresponding corrective measures.

IMAS, has is a procedure to designing and managing evaluations. According to the rulebook of the Institutional Planning System Operationalization, the Institutional Planning Unit is in charge of securing compliance with national and institutional guidelines when it comes to planning, under a Managing for Development Results (MfDR) approach, which involves knowledge management, programming, monitoring, and -as a cornerstone- evaluation.

The implementation of an evaluation is characterized by sequentially following a series of stages that allow the achievement of suggested goals. To achieve this, the indicated procedure provides technical and methodological guidance to evaluate in an organized manner. Institutional Planning and the Area of Family Wellbeing will coordinate to carry out a summative evaluation.



Annex 1: Calculation of Required Funding per Program

Program	Annual Budget (USD)		# of Pdl beneficiaries		Average Costs per Individual or Family			Projected # of Pdl Beneficiaries	Total Required Financing	National Financing	Financing Gap
	2019	2020 (by Sep. 30 th)	2019	2020 (by Sep. 30 th)	2019	2020 (by Sep. 30 th)	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021
	<i>Current figures</i>		<i>Current figures</i>		<i>Current figures</i>			<i>Projection</i>	<i>Projection</i>	<i>Projection</i>	<i>Projection</i>
<i>Atención a familias</i>	\$ 1,292,279	\$ 573,055	2,198	841	\$ 588	\$ 681	\$ 693	1,050	\$ 727,988	\$ 458,444	\$ 269,544
<i>Cuidado y Desarrollo infantil</i>	\$ 267,564	\$ 274,888	925	167	\$ 289	\$ 1,646	\$ 1,675	300	\$ 502,453	\$ 219,910	\$ 282,542
<i>Creceamos</i>	\$ 6,415	\$ 61,546	108	359	\$ 59	\$ 171	\$ 174	631	\$ 110,071	\$ 49,237	\$ 60,834
<i>Avancemos</i>	\$ 151,050	\$ 136,007	308	327	\$ 490	\$ 416	\$ 423	325	\$ 137,540	\$ 108,805	\$ 28,735
TOTAL	\$ 1,717,308	\$ 1,045,496							\$ 1,478,052	\$ 836,397	\$ 641,655

Source: MIDEPLAN, with data from the Social Information Systems Department. IMAS.

Amounts in USD. Exchange Rate: 601.1 CRC to 1 USD.

Annex available electronically:

Annex 2: Section on the methodology of Beneficiary Population Projections for 2021

El Salvador.

Persons of concern in El Salvador

Salvadoran asylum seekers in the world*

136,292

Salvadoran refugees in the world*







41,850

Internally displaced persons in El Salvador**

71,500

*Official data provided to UNHCR

**Data between 2006 and 2016

SECTOR	DESCRIPTION	IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES	FINANCING NEEDS				
 Education 	Contribute to ensuring continuity of education for children and adolescent students who are victims of forced displacement caused by violence in El Salvador through strategies that promote their inclusion and psychosocial assistance.	Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology (MINEDUCYT)	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>National Financing</td> <td>Financing Gap</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$1,513,561</td> <td>\$6,854,890</td> </tr> </table>	National Financing	Financing Gap	\$1,513,561	\$6,854,890
National Financing	Financing Gap						
\$1,513,561	\$6,854,890						
 Jobs and livelihoods 	Contribute to the access of opportunities for durable solutions for people who have been forcibly displaced in El Salvador, by including them in initiatives of specialized training, employment and entrepreneurship, enabling them to expand their capacities to resume their life and regain self-reliance.	Ministries of Justice and Public Safety, of Labor and Social Welfare, of Local Development, in coordination with the Social Investment Fund for Local Development.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>National Financing</td> <td>Financing Gap</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$0</td> <td>\$ 3,266,520</td> </tr> </table>	National Financing	Financing Gap	\$0	\$ 3,266,520
National Financing	Financing Gap						
\$0	\$ 3,266,520						
 Health 	Secure better comprehensive health services (medical and psychosocial) to forcibly displaced people in the entire National Health Service by using strategic tools, such as specialized protocols and assistance models tailored to their needs.	Ministry of Health (MINSAL, by its Spanish acronym)	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>National Financing</td> <td>Financing Gap</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$143,211</td> <td>\$ 215,500</td> </tr> </table>	National Financing	Financing Gap	\$143,211	\$ 215,500
National Financing	Financing Gap						
\$143,211	\$ 215,500						

Context

Just as the rest of the countries in northern Central America, El Salvador faces important challenges when addressing multidimensional violence. Poverty and inequality, together with the average human development indexes, translate into institutional, political, economic, and social challenges. The situation in the region limits access to essential services and the conditions which influence the climate of insecurity and continue to cause forced displacement and irregular migration.

El Salvador has a surface of 21,040 km², which puts it among the smallest countries in the Central American region and has a population of 6.7 million, which makes it one of the most densely populated countries in the world. Among the population, 67.7% live in urban areas and 38.3% in rural areas. Another important demographic characteristic is that over 50% of the population are younger than 30 years old, which shows a demographic dividend which the country could potentially leverage to encourage greater productivity and development levels. GDP in El Salvador reached 2.3% in 2019, maintaining the same average percentage as in recent years. Other relevant data to consider is that the main areas of economic activity that concentrates the majority of the employed population are: 1) commerce, hotels and restaurants; 2) agriculture and farming; 3) the manufacturing industry; and 4) the construction industry. In regards to the social security system of the employed population, only 34.7% are affiliated or covered by a national public or private social system, which shows a relative vulnerability. At the same time, over 60% of this population has no access to health services, as the Salvadoran Institute of Social Security (ISSS, by its Spanish acronym), covers only 15% of the population, private hospitals cover 5%, and the Ministry of Health (MINSAL, by its Spanish acronym) covers the remaining 80% and it's the only one with nationwide service due to the growth of its network.

Economically, the area has experienced a sustained growth of between 2% and 4% in the last few years, creating relative macroeconomic stability. However, this does not necessarily translate into greater wellbeing and development for most of the population. On the contrary, inequality and poverty gaps have widened, making it a country dependent on external shocks and remittances from abroad, which represent close to the 20% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The multidimensional poverty index in El Salvador is 28.8%, which results in difficulty finding employment and social stability for a greater part of the population in the country, and constitutes

one of the main reasons for regular and irregular migration as a solution to the situation. Each year, this leads to thousands of people assuming great risks to their physical integrity to seek a better life and decent and safe living conditions. Regarding education, the report on multidimensional poverty points out that 97% of households in multidimensional poverty have a low level of education among adults, and in homes with children and adolescents, 26% do not go to school.

Additionally, the combination of economic and health elements that the COVID-19 pandemic has created has had a disruptive impact on the human development and skill-building spaces, such as the home, school, and work, increasing the risk of dropping out of school. According to the World Bank, in 2019 El Salvador reached a 2.3 percent growth in GDP, but the country has since recorded low levels of economic growth and, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Salvadoran economy is expected to shrink by 8.7 percent in 2020, and to grow by 4.9 percent in 2021. This framework presents two negative effects on employment: i) shock over the emergency which will primarily affect employees in informal employment, and ii) shock over the international recession, which is predicted to reduce opportunities for formal and informal employment.

As a response, the Salvadoran government is implementing a strategy to foster the economy, which is expected to turn the country into an example of growth in the region, promoting better living conditions and greater levels of development within the population which will reduce historic indexes of vulnerability and dependency. Despite the COVID-19 crisis, economic projections for El Salvador are positive, thanks to the implementation of the Plan de Despeque Económico (Plan for Economic Take Off), a strategy which will provide a new impetus to development for the benefit of Salvadorans, making the economy more dynamic and relying on technology and competitiveness. By including an education pillar to strengthen skills related to new technologies in children and adolescents, this will have a positive impact on the educational sector.

Trends in displacement

According to the report “Tendencias Globales del desplazamiento forzado en 2019” (Global Trends in Forced Displacement in 2019 [UNHCR, 2020]), El Salvador is the seventh-highest country of origin for asylum seekers that year, with a total of 54,300 new applications for asylum presented by Salvadorans in other countries. Worldwide, there were 41,850 refugee Salvadorans towards the end of 2019, and 136,292 pending applications for asylum.

In 2018, the Ministry of Justice and Public Safety (MJSP, by its Spanish acronym) published a report named “Caracterización de la movilidad interna a causa de la violencia en El Salvador” (Characterization of internal mobility due to violence in El Salvador), which measured internal forced displacement due to violence in the country to that date. This report revealed that between 2006 and 2016, 1.1% of families who lived in the country have had at least one of their members forced to change their residence as a result of or to avoid the effects of violence. These 71,500 people displaced internally reflect a demographic profile that shows that family groups with young people in a condition of relative socioeconomic vulnerability are the most affected. Likewise, the LGBTI community, women and young people are identified as especially vulnerable to being victims of these groups.

Forced internal displacement in El Salvador points to high rates of victimization within territories with a vulnerable social fabric, territories under the control of criminal groups, as well

as constant threats and extortion that force people to leave their homes, causing serious psychological, physical, and material damage to those who suffer it.

The immediate effects of forced displacement are reflected in the emotional and psychological disorders affecting a high proportion of the population (70%), and lower access to education for the underage population (4-17 years) largely associated with the need for families to temporarily interrupt the education of their children for reasons related to the change of residence, as well as latent risks from what was suffered. Although this situation tends to stabilize over the years, the medium- or long-term impacts of the educational setback can have important consequences for those affected (MJSP, 2018).

To change this reality, the government has been promoting various strategic efforts since 2019, including a Plan Control Territorial (Territorial Control Plan). This strategy aims to combat crime and violence in the country, seeks to recover territories controlled by criminal groups, and rebuild the social fabric of the population in order to generate environments conducive to peace and coexistence. To date, it has had important results in reducing homicides and other crimes that have chronically affected the population in the past, having until November 2020, 34 days with zero homicides and a registered reduction of 47.1%.

National Response

On July 13, 2018, the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice issued the Amparo Ruling 411-2017, which mandates the Salvadoran State to recognize the phenomenon of forced internal displacement and to work with the relevant institutions to comply with the following obligations:

1. Recognize that the individuals are victims of this phenomenon and have rights and categorize them normatively, for which it is necessary to revise special legislation aimed at protecting victims and witnesses;
2. Design and implement public policies and action protocols aimed at preventing the forced displacement of the country’s inhabitants. It is therefore urgent that measures be adopted to regain territorial control over areas dominated by gangs and to prevent future displacement and the continuation of systematic violations of fundamental rights;
3. Provide protection measures to those who already have de facto status as displaced persons and guarantee them the possibility of returning to their homes; and
4. Propose the establishment of cooperation

agreements and maintain relations at the national and international level with organizations and institutions to facilitate their compliance.

Likewise, in January 2020, El Salvador passed the Ley Especial para la Prevención y Protección Integral de Personas en Condición de Desplazamiento Forzado Interno (Special Law for the Prevention and Comprehensive Protection of Individuals in a Condition of Internal Forced Displacement), which states the rights of the internally displaced population, the phases of internal forced displacement, the organization that will be in charge of their execution, and the establishment of preventive procedures and an efficient assistance system with a humanitarian approach that includes long-term solutions.

This law provides for attention to forcibly displaced individuals in its three phases: prevention, humanitarian assistance, and protection, which, in the long term, should lead to a long-term solution rather than a temporary one. In this sense, the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology (MINEDUCYT, by its Spanish acronym) intervenes in the humanitarian assistance phase in accordance with Article 10, which states



Find out more about the IDP law in El Salvador [Here](#).

that “As soon as conditions permit, education and training services shall be provided to internally displaced individuals, particularly to children, adolescents and women, regardless of address or place of habitual residence”.

The MINEDUCYT is an integral part of the Inter-institutional Technical Commission for the Attention and Protection of Individuals in a Condition of Forced Internal Displacement, established by law, which will be the coordination and joining body that will favour comprehensive, multidisciplinary assistance to individuals in a condition of forced displacement. The commission will be responsible for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of compliance with the national policy and its plan of action, as well as the approval of protocols for the assistance of internally displaced individuals.

On the other hand, under the leaderships of the MJSP as governing body of the law and main guarantor has the objective of recognizing, guaranteeing and protecting the fundamental rights of internally displaced people, and those at risk, through the establishment of preventive procedures and a system to assist efficiently with a humanitarian approach that is solutions oriented.

As provided by the law, the Minister of Justice is to preside the Interinstitutional Technical Commission for the Attention and Protection of Internally Displaced People. The MTSP is also part of such Commission, where coordination and articulation can favour the comprehensive attention with

a multidisciplinary approach to people forced to flee. The Commission will be in charge of formulating, monitoring and evaluating the compliance with the National Policy and Plan of Action, as well as the approval of protocols to assist internally displaced people.

MINSAL intervenes in the phase of humanitarian assistance in line with article 10, which provides that health service providers and public hospital entities across the country must provide emergency health services of quality, in an efficient, timely and immediate manner, and free of charge to displaced people regardless of their place of residence. Similarly, during the protection phase, in line with article 13, all temporary shelters must have comprehensive assistance protocols with a psychosocial approach that will enable the prevention of harmful effects of remaining in shelters. It is thus necessary to establish a specialized protocol on the comprehensive attention and a model for the provision of psychological/psychosocial assistance. MINSAL is part of the Interinstitutional Technical Commission for the Attention and Protection of Internally Displaced People.

The country is making progress towards the legalization of the act, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 health emergency, in order to guarantee its implementation and provide comprehensive and efficient assistance so that the victims of forced internal displacement can resume their self-sufficiency with dignity and security.

The MIRPS in El Salvador

The arrival of new authorities made it possible for the government of El Salvador to join MIRPS on July 25, 2019, as a sign of willingness and responsibility to address the phenomenon of forced displacement due to violence in the country. As a result, the government formed a multidisciplinary National Technical Team (ETN, by its Spanish acronym) composed of seven key ministries¹, involved in providing protection and solutions to victims in the various phases of the cycle of forced displacement.

In addition, ETN was responsible for leading consultations with the population and key actors, which took place in September 2019 with the objective of gathering supplies for the construction of the MIRPS National Chapter. This resulted in the definition of a national response plan that incorporated 49 agreements to attend to, protect and provide lasting solutions for displaced individuals and individuals deported with protection needs, refugees and asylum seekers, through the relevant institutions, including MINEDUCYT, MINSAL,

MSJP, MTSP and MINDEL whose implementation framework is planned for 2020-2022, from an inter-institutional approach to link humanitarian actions with development actions, in order to ensure sustainability and facilitate opportunities for the self-sufficiency of displaced individuals.

Consistent with its commitment, the Ministries are advancing in the implementation of these actions, also establishing a roadmap to identify those activities necessary for their achievement, a key tool to analyze the areas that require complementary support to the government efforts.

¹ The ETN is composed of the Ministry of Justice and Public Safety; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Education, Science and Technology; Ministry of Labor and Social Security; Ministry of Local Development; and Ministry of Government and Territorial Development. They also have the support and assistance of the presidency, through the office of the Presidential Commissioner for Operations and Government Cabinet and the Salvadoran Agency for International Cooperation (ESCO, by its Spanish acronym).

COUNTRY: El Salvador **SECTOR: Education**

Improve the technical, inclusive, and operational capacity of the Salvadoran educational system to support the rights of the forcefully displaced population



Executive Summary

The education system in El Salvador faces significant challenges in ensuring the inclusion of forcibly displaced students. The immediate impacts of forced displacement undermine emotional or psychological well-being, which currently affect 70% of the population. This, combined with families having to change their residence following displacement, reduce educational enrolment and retention amongst children and adolescents from 4-17 years.

The programme seeks to prevent, protect and restore the rights of children and adolescents who are victims of forced displacement or at risk in El Salvador, ensuring their dignity, human rights and inclusion, through the provision of specialized care and support. Advocacy and awareness raising mechanisms will be established to support a comprehensive approach within the national system to instances of forced displacement. In addition, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology will establish programmes of psychosocial care, and implement activities that mitigate violence and social risk for children, partners and teachers.

DURATION

2021-2022

IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology (MINEDUCYT, by its Spanish acronym)

LOCATION

National

BENEFICIARIES

20,000 students (7 and 15 years old)
4,000 mothers, father, and/or care-takers
1,500 teachers in 475 education centers

ESTIMATED BUDGET

Total Required Financing:	\$8,368,451
National Financing:	\$1,513,561
Financing Gap:	\$6,854,890

1. Education Sector Context in El Salvador

One of the main goals proposed for 2019-2024 by President Nayib Bukele is to transform the Salvadoran educational system in order to provide high-quality services. The Cuscatlán plan considers educational innovation, student participation, and continuous training of teaching staff as fundamental goals for the improvement of education in El Salvador. These goals are achieved through cooperation between schools, families, and communities, with a focus on inclusion and opportunities for the most vulnerable sectors. Safety proposals of the plan seek to address problems beyond combating of crime by recognizing a social problem where the lack of opportunities and life options give rise to a vicious circle of poverty, crime and violence.

To achieve this, the MINEDUCYT has a 2020 budget of USD 1.04 million, which represents, approximately, 3.75% of the GDP. From the beginning of the current administration, the ministry has reformulated public policies related to education, incorporated new institutional programs and strengthened and reoriented existing ones in order to offer the public an efficient, fair, and quality educational system, as well as more effective administration.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ministry has had to suspend in-person classes to safeguard the health of students and their families. To address this situation and guarantee the continuity of education, the ministry has developed a 4 stage education continuity plan: 1) Preparation, production and distribution of educational materials and guides; 2) Distribution of over 200,000 printed guides to students with difficulties accessing the internet; 3) Start to digitize education through educational TV programs; 4) Return to school using a multimodal plan which will be put into action when, in agreement with the Ministry of Health, it is deemed safe for students, teachers and parents to do so.

Similarly, this plan has continued with strategic programs focused on early childhood, young people and adults, the development of abilities and skills related to the students' curriculum, artistic skills, scholarships for higher education, the rehabilitation of educational centers, psychosocial and legal assistance programs, and the implementation of an Educational Alert and Violence Variable (SALVE, by its Spanish acronym), for people affected by violence, among others.

In addition to the difficulties that displaced children and adolescents were already facing, COVID-19 has limited their access to the educational system even more. The Inter-American Development Bank has estimated a 16% decrease in general student enrollment in Latin America in after COVID-19, with the most critical situations seen in vulnerable students, as well as indigenous, migrant, and special needs students.

However, it is worth noting that the MINEDUCYT has previous experience with developing initiatives for the assistance of individuals in vulnerable conditions. One example is the 2019 project "Fortalecimiento de competencias y habilidades de niñas, niños adolescentes, madres, padres y referentes en centros educativos para prevenir violencias basadas en género" (Strengthening of the skills and abilities of boys, girls, adolescents, mothers, fathers and mentors in educational centers to prevent gender-based violence), financed by the Spotlight¹ Initiative, which had the technical support of OXFAM and UNICEF so children and adolescents had an opportunity to increase their knowledge of their rights to comprehensive protection and to the prevention of gender-based violence and violence against women and girls, to improve coexistence within the prioritized educative communities.

Complementary Initiatives

The Ministry has various strategic programs, such as Modalidades Flexibles (Flexible Modalities), which offers many education alternatives, from elementary school to high school, for all individuals that, for some reason, dropped out of their studies and now wish to resume them. Among these modalities, is accelerated education, in which individuals complete middle school courses (7th, 8th, and 9th grades) in 18 months. It is one of the main education strategies to guarantee the right to education in emergencies, such as forced displacement and the current climate of COVID-19. These education alternatives provide positive and flexible study conditions to that adjust to reality, schedules and

particular situations to allow young people and adults to continue with their academic training again.

Since 2005, through this modality, MINEDUCYT has delivered elementary and high school education to 565,068 young people and adults in the entire country. In addition, about 190,000 people have obtained a General Bachelor's Degree. These initiatives are thoroughly supported at many levels by institutions such as UNICEF, Plan International and UNHCR, in order to prevent school drop-out and to promote education continuity, given its link to forced displacement, and to provide access to education to vulnerable individuals, this guaranteeing the possession of their rights.

¹ The Spotlight Initiative is a joint campaign of the European Union and the United Nations launched in 2017. It is focused on eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls. In El Salvador, the Initiative is implemented cooperatively by UNWOMEN, UNICEF, UNFPA, and UNDP, in alliance with civil society organizations and under the leadership of the national and local governments. It uses a comprehensive approach to intervention that covers all causes and factors that contribute to violence against girls, adolescents and women.

Moreover, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) has selected El Salvador as an eligible country to establish cooperative actions; therefore, it is currently working with the Ministry of Education to create “a local education group” that will involve all partners and donors of the education sector as part of the development and implementation of a national education strategy aimed at benefiting the most vulnerable individuals.

In turn, the United Nations System, through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)² 2016-2020, included the health sector within its intervention priorities, especially when it came to strengthening basic service systems and creating and promoting debate spaces as an instrument to reach agreements and consensus in high-priority areas for the development of the country, for which

many initiatives have been developed. In addition, the Plan de Respuesta para la Recuperación Socioeconómica (Response Plan for Socioeconomic Recovery), a response to COVID-19 in El Salvador, prioritizes helping children and adolescents to continue with their learning process through distance learning, with the support of their families. Strategies are also being developed to address their safe return to school, including MINEDUCYT support in implementing return-to-school protocols that take into account management and educational planning, socio-emotional support, cybersecurity and biosecurity.

2. Detailed Approach

General Objective

To prevent, protect and restore rights to children and adolescents who are victims of forced displacement or at risk in El Salvador, with dignity, human rights and inclusion, facilitating their incorporation into the education system and access to assistance specialized to their needs.

In order to meet the proposed objectives for the intervention, MINEDUCYT must implement various strategic activities in coordination with relevant public institutions (the Ministry of Justice and Public Safety, the Salvadoran Agency for International Cooperation, the Salvadoran Institute for the Integral Development of Children and Adolescents, etc.), international cooperation partners that can contribute to the initiative, and many office units within the same ministry, under the leadership of the National Directorate for Prevention and Social Programs.

The effects of such interventions consider the inclusion of the entire country through department centers and offices within education centers, in order to benefit the greatest number of children and adolescents who have been affected by forced displacement or who are at risk due to violence while including their parents, caregivers and teachers.

Specific Objective 1

Promote education continuity for children and adolescents affected by forced displacement due to violence through the promotion of awareness-raising and school inclusion strategies in education centers, which facilitate the development of tools and mobilization of supplementary support.

Expected Result 1

Improved knowledge about the right to access education for children and adolescents forcibly displaced and the importance of guaranteeing their right to education through a comprehensive approach.

Activities

A1.1: Prepare an assessment and analyze data on educational inclusion of children and adolescents displaced by violence, to be implemented in educational centers nationwide.

A1.2: Prepare awareness-raising material on the rights of displaced people and assistance guidelines for teachers.

² United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

A1.3: Design and disseminate an awareness-raising strategy addressed at fathers, mothers, caregivers, and teachers, as well as other key actors from the educational sector, in a national and international context.

A1.4: Design and implement a training program of the ministry, targeted at teachers, about rights, forced displacement, coexistence and prevention of social risks.

Specific Objective 2

Mitigate the impact of violence on forcibly displaced children and adolescents, as well as at-risk teachers, by strengthening the psychosocial care program of the school counseling offices, thus contributing to the reduction of school drop-out.

Expected Result 2

Improved psychosocial care of children and adolescents focused on preventing violence and social risks, as well as legal counseling addressing forced displacement, involving mothers, fathers and teachers from educational centers.

Activities

A2.1: Optimize the school counseling office program in order to efficiently respond to the needs of the forcibly displaced student population based on identified needs.

A2.2: Prepare, implement and disseminate guidelines or care guides for children and adolescents who have been subject to forced displacement, targeted at staff working at school counseling offices, including mechanisms of detection, assistance, reference and following-up of cases of harassment, abuse and violation of rights, as well as of sexual and gender-based violence, including the hiring of specialized staff, investment on infrastructure, purchase of property and educational and informative materials, training, among others methods.

A2.3: Develop training workshops for service staff in order to provide high-quality services with warmth, as well as self-care and psychological first-aid workshops.

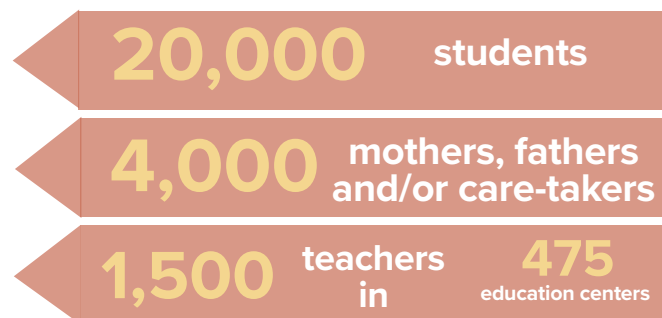
A2.4: Train mothers and fathers in positive child-rearing steps or methods, and the importance of participating in their children's education.

A2.5: Prepare an assessment on the needs of school counseling offices and to carry out the relevant adjustments on physical spaces, including strengthening of virtual counseling and improvement of physical spaces of 260 school centers in order to expand the services offered.

3. Beneficiaries

Through this intervention, MINEDUCYT aims to benefit more than 20,000 students, children and young people from 7 to 15 years of age who are affected by forced displacement or at risk due to violence. Additional beneficiaries include 4,000 mothers, fathers and caregivers that seek support, and at-risk teachers in the 14 departments of El Salvador, with the goal of reaching 1,500 teachers and 475 school centers. This will be achieved through delivering assistance during crises, psychosocial care, legal counseling, violence prevention in education centers, and raising awareness about rights through actions to be implemented from January 2021 to December 2022.

It is also worth noting that once the ministry has updated data on the number of students affected by forced displacement in the country, provided by the study included in the project activities, this target population figure could be expanded and adjusted, improving the response using evidence-based information.



4. Estimated Budget

In the first year of MIRPS implementation, the Salvadoran government has led a quantification process of identifying financing needs required to meet its agreements in its National Response Plan. This includes the MINEDUCYT agreements, such as promoting greater national planning and administrative capacities to mobilize additional resources that supplement country efforts with the support and leadership of the Salvadoran Agency for International Cooperation (ESCO, by its Spanish acronym) during the process.

For this, various strategic ETN meetings have been held to identify and estimate the costs of services and activities within each area so as to put the agreements of MIRPS into operation using the methodology shown in the detailed costs. Through this exercise, the country seeks to build a useful instrument for the visibility of the national investment and the promotion of productive discussions with international cooperation bodies to put forced displacement, a high-priority issue for the country, into the funding agenda.

Below are the estimated financial requirements for the effective implementation of the initiative, according to the proposed goals:

OBJECTIVE	REQUIRED FINANCING*	NATIONAL FINANCING	FINANCING GAP
SO 1: Promote education continuity for children and adolescents affected by forced displacement due to violence through the promotion of awareness-raising and school inclusion strategies in education centers, which facilitate the development of tools and the mobilization of supplementary support.	\$135,050	\$0	\$135,050
SO 2: Mitigate the impact of violence on forcibly displaced children and adolescents, as well as at-risk teachers, by strengthening the psychosocial care program of the school counseling offices, thus contributing to the reduction of school drop-out.	\$ 8,233,401	\$ 1,513,561**	\$ 6,719,840
TOTAL	\$ 8,368,451	\$1,513,561	\$ 6,854,890

*Amounts in USD.

** Amount funded by the European Union. For now, a national budget is not available.

5. Stakeholders

For the implementation of this intervention, it is proposed to take advantage of the MIRPS interinstitutional approach and coordinate to the greatest extent possible with the corresponding public entities, in order to guarantee a consistent, effective, and comprehensive response:

INSTITUTION	MISSION	ROLE IN IMPLEMENTATION
Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology (MINEDUCYT, by its Spanish acronym)	Governing body responsible for guaranteeing the right to education in El Salvador, focused on efficient, equitable and inclusive services.	Directs the implementation strategy to improve opportunities to access education for students, children and adolescents who are victims of forced displacement due to violence, through strategies that promote their inclusion and psychosocial care.
Ministry of Justice and Public Safety (MJSP, by its Spanish acronym)	Governing body in charge of coordinating public safety in the country to improve developmental conditions and peaceful coexistence among the population through strategies to fight against crime and violence.	Contributes to the efforts of the MINEDUCYT by coordinating their efforts to aid victims of forced displacement in the educational environment.

Institution	Mission	Role in Implementation
Ministry of Health (MINSAL, by its Spanish acronym)	Governing body of healthcare which guarantees coverage of prompt and comprehensive services, with equality, quality and warmth, in joint responsibility with the community, including all sectors and social actors, in order to contribute to achieving a better quality of life.	Supports efforts in assisting victims of forced displacement due to violence through the delivery of efficient healthcare services tailored to their needs.
Salvadoran Agency for International Cooperation (ESCO, by its Spanish acronym)	Institution responsible for managing, negotiating, and administering the distribution of technical and non-refundable financial cooperation to every public institution in each sector, according to the orders of the executive branch.	Attends to the management of resources and discussions with potential cooperation partners, guaranteeing their compliance with the national priorities.
Salvadoran Institute for the Integral Development of Children and Adolescents (ISNA, by its Spanish acronym)	Institution responsible for initiatives concerning the promotion and dissemination of the rights of children and adolescents, including primary prevention of violence.	Contributes to the definition of strategies and initiatives to improve the inclusion capacity for displaced children and adolescents into the education system, as well as the awareness-raising of actors about the right to education for this population.
National Council for Children and Adolescents (CONNA, by its Spanish acronym)	Highest authority of the National System of Integral Protection for the rights of children and adolescents.	
National Institute for the Youth (INJUVE, by its Spanish acronym)	Organization in charge of formulating, directing, executing, and policing the observance of the Ley Nacional de Juventud (National Youth Act) and national policies in cooperation with national and international institutions to contribute to the comprehensive development of young people.	Helps assist and refer young people affected by forced displacement and violence.

Additionally, other pertinent organizations of international cooperation may be added to this group, such as United Nations system agencies, funds, and programs, and civil society and private sector organizations who are interested in contributing to the initiative. The effort coordinated among institutions, such as UNHCR, PAHO/WHO, UNDP, ICRC, World Vision, UNFPA, and other partners, will be fundamental for the efficient development and implementation of this initiative, as a way of incorporating their contributions in terms of their mission.

6. Cross-cutting themes

Taking into account the conditions that forced displacement implies, it is important to make sure that the planning and execution of these initiatives is carried out within a strategic and integrating framework, broadening sectoral understanding. To achieve this, it is fundamental that the Age, Gender, and Diversity approach (AGD), the Sexual and Gender-based Violence approach (SGBV), and a hearing and visually-impaired childhood approach are incorporated into the specific assistance of the intervention. The intervention focuses on children and adolescents, who are, approximately, 80% of underage beneficiaries, in order to respond accordingly to their needs. Likewise, it will be important to prioritize assistance to girls, young women and adult women, in order to protect their mental health so that they can continue with their education. This assistance should emphasize socio-emotional care, teachers' skill-building, strengthening of values, respect of gender equality and equity, and freedom of expression.

7. Risks and assumptions

In the developmental stage of the intervention, there might be some situations that may compromise the achievement of goals. Some mitigating measures have been determined for these cases, considering their probability and intensity:

RISKS	PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE	INTENSITY OF RISK IMPACT	MITIGATING STRATEGY
The COVID-19 emergency is still affecting the education system operation in 2021.	High	High	The Ministry seeks to strengthen offices and psychosocial care programs through electronic media by obtaining the necessary media for the population to access them.
The multidimensional impact of COVID-19 on society has increased forced displacement in the country.	High	High	MINEDUCYT seeks to implement MIRPS in response to this phenomenon, strengthening their capacities and those of their service teams for victims and supporting education continuity.
Abrupt changes in ministry planning and priorities due to the reopening of school centers in 2021	Medium	High	The Ministry appoints a specific team dedicated to implementing these initiatives.
Gang violence in school centers limits the implementation and participation of beneficiaries	Medium	High	The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Education maintains close cooperation with corresponding institutions for protection and public safety to identify and refer cases.
Parents and/or family members and teachers do not take the time to train in gender-based violence prevention.	Low	Medium	The Ministry of Education prioritizes parents' participation in psychosocial care, providing them with the tools to get actively involved in their children's education.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

A MINEDUCYT team will be in charge of monitoring and managing the evaluation of the intervention. This team may be coordinated at a multi-functionally level with relevant entities in order to ensure the tracking and integral evaluation of the implemented activities. The team will be required to prepare a periodical report on advancements for interested parties, based on the logical framework and the annual plan, taking into account, among other things, the following elements:

- Degree of indicator and product advancement according to established annual goals;
- Monitoring of risks, both updated and new with possible scenarios or mitigating measures for each case;
- Project achievements and milestones, main challenges, contingencies or delays which jeopardized the achievement of goals, and corrective measures;
- Gender-based analysis and revised gender-based mainstreaming strategy/actions/products;
- Lessons learned, successful experiences or difficulties, actions, changes, and solutions.
- Monitoring visits, workshops, and follow-up meetings;
- Visibility and communication activities; and
- Other relevant activities.

Annex 1 – Logical Framework and Estimated Budget

Results/Activities	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Baseline (Dec. 2020)	Goal (Dec. 2022)	Source and Means of Verification	Duration	Required Financing	National Financing	Financing Gap
<p>General Objective: To prevent, protect and restore rights to children and adolescents who are victims of forced displacement or at risk in El Salvador, with dignity, human rights and inclusion, facilitating their incorporation into the education system and access to assistance specialized to their needs.</p>									
<p>Specific Objective1: Promote education continuity for children and adolescents affected by forced displacement due to violence through the promotion of awareness-raising and school inclusion strategies in education centres, which facilitate the development of tools and the mobilization of supplementary support.</p>									
<p>R1. Use a comprehensive approach to improve knowledge about the right to access education for children and adolescents forcibly displaced and the importance of guaranteeing their right to education</p>	<p>Number of people that learn more about access to education and forced displacement</p>	<p>Boys Girls Teenage boys Teenage girls Men Women</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>10,500 (2500 boys; 2500 girls; 2500 teenage boys; 2500 teenage girls; 200 men; 200 women)</p>	<p>Publications and material for dissemination distributed, reports on training activities and awareness-raising workshops, report on the implementation of the awareness-raising strategy</p>	<p>2021-2022</p>			
<p>A1.1. Prepare an assessment and analyze data on educational inclusion of children and adolescents displaced by violence, to be implemented in educational centres nationwide.</p>	<p># educational centres at a national level participating in the assessment</p>	<p># centres</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>475</p>	<p>National assessment prepared and published online as a reference for the hiring of counseling services</p>	<p>2021</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>\$0</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>
	<p># analysis and design sessions made at a national level</p>	<p># sessions</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>Minutes and/or reports of meetings held, photographs, attendance lists</p>	<p>2021</p>	<p>\$12,050</p>	<p>\$0</p>	<p>\$12,050</p>
<p>A1.2. Prepare awareness-raising material on the rights of</p>	<p># people accessing the prepared and</p>	<p># people</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>5,000</p>	<p>Publications and material for dissemination</p>	<p>2021</p>	<p>\$10,000</p>	<p>\$0</p>	<p>\$10,000</p>

displaced people and assistance guidelines for teachers.	distributed material				distributed, number of printed and distributed materials, number of downloads on published pages					
A1.3. Design and disseminate an awareness-raising strategy addressed at fathers, mothers, caregivers, and teachers, as well as other key actors from the educational sector, in a national and international context.	# fathers, mothers, caregivers and teachers participating in awareness-raising activities	# fathers, mothers, caregivers and teachers	0	3,000	Designed, validated and disseminated awareness-raising strategy, reports on the monitoring of the strategy implementation	2021-2022	\$28,000	\$0	\$28,000	
	# agreements and alliances established and/or strengthened with institutions of the educational sector	# agreements	0	3	Memorandum of understanding, executed agreements, exchange of letters between institutions and/or organizations	2021-2022	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000	
A1.4. Design and implement a training program of the ministry, targeted at teachers, about rights, forced displacement, coexistence and prevention of social risks.	# teachers participating in the training	# teachers (disaggregated by sex)	0	500	Designed, validated and implemented training program, reports on training conducted, photographs and publications in social networks	2021-2022	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000	
SO 1 SUBTOTAL:								\$135,050	\$0	\$135,050
Specific Objective2: Mitigate the impact of violence on forcibly displaced children and adolescents, as well as at-risk teachers, by strengthening the psychosocial care program of the school counseling offices, thus contributing to the reduction of school drop-out.										
R2. Improved psychosocial care of children and adolescents focused on preventing violence and social risks, as well as legal	# minors that have received psychosocial assistance	Boys Girls Teenage boys Teenage girls	0	1,000 (250 boys; 250 girls; 250 teenage boys;	Databases of School Counseling Offices on assistance	2021-2022				

counseling addressing forced displacement, involving mothers, fathers and teachers from educational centres.				250 teenage girls)	provided, satisfaction survey implemented and report on results systematization				
A2.1. Optimize the school counseling office program in order to efficiently respond to the needs of the forcibly displaced student population based on identified needs.	# School Counseling Offices nationwide that have been consulted for the adaptation of the Program	# School Counseling	0	14	Revised, updated program of the School Counseling Office, reference terms for the hiring of counseling services	2021	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
A2.2. Prepare, implement and disseminate guidelines or care guides for children and adolescents who have been subject to forced displacement, targeted at staff working at school counseling offices, including mechanisms of detection, assistance, reference and following-up of cases of harassment, abuse and violation of rights, as well as of sexual and gender-based violence, including the hiring of specialized staff, investment on infrastructure, purchase of property and educational and informative materials, training, among others methods.	# minors that have received psychosocial assistance based on the guidelines and support plans developed/updated	Boys Girls Teenage boys Teenage girls	0	1,000 (250 boys; 250 girls; 250 teenage boys; 250 teenage girls)	Databases of School Counseling Offices on assistance provided, satisfaction survey implemented and report on results systematization	2021-2022	\$3,560,199	\$1,513,561	\$2,046,639
A2.3. Develop training workshops for service staff in order to provide high-quality services with warmth, as well as self-care and psychological first-aid workshops.	# officials trained in the subject area	# officials (disaggregated by sex)	50 psychologists and lawyers (60% women and 40% men)	200 psychologists and lawyers (60% women and 40% men)	Minutes and/or reports of lectures completed, photographs, attendance lists	2021-2022	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
A2.4. Train mothers and fathers in positive child-rearing steps or methods, and the importance of	# participating fathers and mothers	# fathers and mothers (disaggregated)	500 (50% fathers	1,500 (50% fathers and 50% mothers)	Minutes and/or reports of trainings	2021-2022	\$44,800	\$0	\$44,800

participating in their children's education.			and 50% mothers)		completed, photographs, attendance lists				
A2.5. Prepare an assessment on the needs of school counseling offices and to carry out the relevant adjustments on physical spaces, including strengthening of virtual counseling and improvement of physical spaces of 260 school centres in order to expand the services offered.	# educational centres improving infrastructure and/or equipment in areas of assistance based on the assessment	# centres	0	25	Assessment performed, reference terms for the hiring of counseling services, reports on the monitoring of the implementation of the needs identified in the assessment, distributed didactic material	2021-2022	\$4,000,000	\$0	\$4,000,000
	# educational centres extending their online support offer	# centres	0	50	Registration of online support provided, elaborated report on support, institutional report	2021-2022	\$603,402	\$0	\$603,402
SO 2 SUBTOTAL:							\$8,233,400	\$1,513,561	\$6,719,840
TOTAL							\$8,368,451	\$1,513,561	\$6,854,890

Amounts in USD.

**COUNTRY: El Salvador****SECTOR: Jobs and livelihoods**

Expand opportunities of access to work and sources of livelihood to encourage self-reliance of people who have been forcibly displaced in El Salvador



Executive Summary

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed a significant challenge to the Salvadorian economy, while in turn having a negative impact on an already vulnerable forcibly displaced persons, placing a particular strain on limited self-sufficiency, access to labour market opportunities and housing. As a consequence, with the support of a diverse range of actors, the Government seeks to provide a comprehensive response to mitigate a possible socio-economic crisis for the most vulnerable populations, through increased access to employment and livelihood programmes.

The objective of this programme is to stimulate the self-sufficiency of forcibly displaced persons in El Salvador to further the achievement of durable solutions in conditions of respect, dignity and the guarantee of rights. The related interventions will reinforce the role of forcibly displaced persons as actors of socio-economic development in the communities that host them. Likewise, it will improve care for forcibly displaced people, prioritizing their participation through the promotion of decent employment and economic opportunities through job boards. Lastly, the programme will expand access to income generation opportunities, independence, and the capacities for the forcibly displaced population, by strengthening programmes and initiatives that support entrepreneurship.

DURATION

2021- 2022

IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Ministry of Justice and Public Safety (MJSP);
Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (MTPS);
Ministry of Local Development (MINDEL, in coordination with
the Social Investment Fund for Local Development (FISDL)

LOCATION

National

BENEFICIARIES

At least 400 victims of forced displacement

ESTIMATED BUDGET

Total Required Financing:	\$3,266,520
National Financing:	\$0
Financing Gap:	\$3,266,520

1. Labour and livelihoods sector context in El Salvador

The government's Cuscatlán Plan for 2019-2024, in its economic proposal, aims at achieving inclusive and sustainable economic growth based on social justice, local reactivation, solidarity, the creation of opportunities for every sector of the population, through state efficiency and commercial competitiveness of the relevant institutions in the sector.

In the same way, the government has analyzed situations in the labour sector, mainly that of young people and women, unemployment, informal jobs and marginal employment, which do not provide minimum wages that satisfy the actual needs of the working class. These labour market conditions have hindered the development and wellbeing of the country which reveals a need for greater assistance and better support programs.

Despite some advances, El Salvador is still one of the countries most affected by violence, leading to deep-seated problems of inequality and poverty. This situation has been exacerbated by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, which apart from posing a great challenge to public health, is an unprecedented humanitarian and economic challenge.

In the COVID-19 environment, access to opportunities is particularly limited due to mobility restrictions and the impact of economic measures, which could cause the most affected people to rely on jobs with lower remuneration and under informal conditions under which, in many cases, they could be victims of abuse and mistreatment. In this context, especially vulnerable people, such as people who have been forcibly displaced, suffer from a greater shock due to the aggravating factor of having lost their goods and property, while facing a reduction of income and an increase in expenses to attend to their needs as a consequence of the displacement. The vision of the future of people displaced due to violence is mainly focused on raising children, personal development and educational development for their children, as well as on employment, be it by getting a job, keeping their current job, or setting up their own business, and on the purchase or construction of their home (MJSP, 2018).

Due to the economic needs caused by the forced displacement, more members of the family group must look for sources of income, which has a detrimental effect on the continuity of their studies, which, in the long run, makes it more difficult for them to obtain employment. Although the state and other actors, such as NGOs, international bodies, etc., provide support to this population in emergencies situations by focusing on humanitarian protection and assistance, it is necessary to design and implement programs and policies that allow displaced people to have an opportunity to reshape their lives with dignity, which is possible through access to decent jobs, savings and loans, vocational training and soft skills, entrepreneur training, and seed capital to develop their business ideas. This support will facilitate durable solutions for this population.

Consequently, the MJSP, MTPS, MINDEL and FISDL, as key actors in the development of durable solutions for this population, have met and agreed to coordinating their efforts to establish initiatives to achieve this goal, including, among others, the evaluation of a socio-economic and educational profile of victims in order to refer them the services of the Job Agency, the entrepreneurship support program, as well as to other key institutions. To do so, it is important to strengthen the operational and technical capacity of a system of long-term solutions, in coordination with the MTPS, MINDEL and FISDL, among other relevant institutions.

These institutions have previous experiences developing similar initiatives, which range from managing aid to benefit at-risk, vulnerable women with food baskets and seed capital as an incentive for entrepreneurial women to reactivate their economic and productive activities, to the facilitation of opportunities to access decent jobs and sources of income for men and women, thus encouraging and guaranteeing the protection of their fundamental rights in the workplace and the extension of protection and social security coverage.

Complementary Initiatives

Currently, various initiatives exist which could complement these efforts. For example, the Ministry of Labour has a public service program of employment intermediation which is offered in the fourteen departmental districts. According to the administrative records of the National Department of Labour, thanks to the collaboration of local governments, NGOs, and trust in participating companies, in 2019 it was possible to accommodate 17,266 people in new job posts along the country, with an important participation of young people between 18 and 29 years old (41% of the participants).

Likewise, employment services are offered that focus on young people to reduce youth unemployment, underemployment and precarious employment levels, implementing encouraging strategies such as: skill development via scholarships and training courses, employment counselling services and workshops, authorization of learning contracts, and entrepreneurship support and advice. Only in 2019, 1,359 workshops were organized, which benefited 60,481 people, and 710 educational scholarships were granted.

Regarding entrepreneurship, there are productive initiatives in place, that offer products and services to the public by organizing self-employment fairs in close association with other governmental institutions and local governments. In 2019, a total of 3,282 entrepreneurs were benefited, including people with disabilities, older adults, young people and returned migrant people. MINDEL has initiatives such as the *Emprendimiento Solidario* (Supporting Entrepreneurship) program and the *Mejoramiento de Vida* (Life Improvement) program. These initiatives benefit people in poverty and vulnerable conditions who need to continue to earn income and build skills from a self-management approach, while at the same time involving municipalities in order to provide opportunities for the promotion of employment, labour integration, references, among others, at the local level.

Institutions such as World Vision have programs like the *Jóvenes Súper Pilas* (Super Energetic Young People) program for the improvement of life conditions of young people between 15 and 25 years old, with the purpose of increasing economic opportunities in youth by increasing their life and livelihood skills; improving opportunities for education, employment and self-employment; by fostering alliances with the government, companies and universities, where they are trained to prepare a life plan and are provided workshops to improve their skills and capacities allowing them to start a business, get a job or continue with their studies.

Additionally, the United Nations System, through the UNDAF 2016-2020, included among its intervention priorities the generation of decent jobs and sources of livelihood in order for the population to have greater opportunities to access a decent job and sustainable source of livelihood. The intervention would thus contribute to productive and inclusive development, with the participation of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Program (WFP), among others. Additionally, the COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Plan in El Salvador prioritizes to contributing to employment protection, for micro, small and medium enterprises and workers of the informal economy, where the young people and women have increased their employment opportunities through the development of enterprises and innovation.

2. Detailed Approach

General Objective

Increase the self-reliance of forcibly displaced individuals in El Salvador to achieve long-term solutions to their situation with respect, dignity and a guarantee of their rights.

To achieve the goals detailed for the intervention, the ministries require the implementation of many strategic activities in coordination with relevant public institutions (the National Committee for Micro and Small Business [CONAMYPE, by its Spanish acronym], ESCO, the Salvadoran Institute for Professional Training [INSAFORP, by its Spanish acronym], the Salvadoran Institute for Women's Development [ISDEMU, by its Spanish acronym], etc.), international cooperative partners that can contribute to the initiative, and many office units within the MJSP, the MTPS, the MINDEL and the FISDL.

The effects of such interventions consider the inclusion of the entire country, at municipal and central levels, in order to benefit the greatest number of people who have been affected by forced displacement or who are at risk due to violence.

Specific Objective 1

Strengthen the role of forcibly displaced individuals as actors in the socio-economic development of their host communities.

Expected Result 1

Improved access to the necessary economic and training opportunities for forcibly displaced persons to rebuild their lives in conditions of equality, safety, and dignity.

Activities

A1.1: Mapping of services available regarding employment, entrepreneurship, training and other initiatives for durable solutions from the MTPS, the MINDEL, and the FISDL, and other relevant institutions.

A1.2: Strengthen the OLAVMFs through the acquisition of IT equipment, gift cards, supplies, etc.

A1.4: Creation of a 3-month humanitarian aid program for displaced individuals (USD 400 each month in cash) to meet their basic needs, while connecting them with long-term solutions.

A1.3: Establish coordination methods of the OLAVMFs with municipalities and other relevant bodies for the identification of cases.

A1.5: Launching of an information campaign about the services available through the MJSP, MTPS, MINDEL, and FISDL.

Specific Objective 2

Improve assistance provided to displaced individuals, prioritize their participation through the promotion of economic opportunities and decent employment through job banks, particularly for displaced or at-risk women, young people, and the LGBTI community.

Expected Result 2

A strengthened public system of employment assistance with a focus on displaced or at-risk women, young people, and the LGBTI community, through the implementation of effective programs and initiatives for the promotion of economic opportunities and decent employment.

Activities

A2.1: Establish a coordination method for the MTPS, MJSP, MINDEL, and FISDL, and other relevant bodies, for the attention of cases and the connection with existing services.

A2.2: Conduct specialized training lectures for the MTPS staff on forced displacement, financial education, and their comprehensive approach for long-term solutions.

A2.3: Design and implement a line of assistance, reference and referral directed by the MTPS National Labour Department.

A2.4: Prepare and implement prioritized assistance protocols for displaced women and young people in job banks.

A2.5: Update employment counselling, employment intermediation, and entrepreneurship programs, including training for managers.

A2.6: Strengthen, in association with the MINDEL and FISDL, the entrepreneurship program on seed capital for displaced individuals who qualify.

A2.7: Develop awareness-raising lectures along with MJSP, MTPS, MINDEL, and FISDL, and representatives of organizations from civil society, the private sector, international cooperation, and other actors, for the establishment of alliances and the deployment of materials and financial resources related to existing programs, with a focus on women and young people.

Specific Objective 3

Expand the access to opportunities of generating income, autonomy, and skills of victims of forced displacement, through the strengthening of support programs and initiatives for entrepreneurs.

Expected Result 3

Expanded Coverage for and Inclusion of Victims of Forced Displacement in Employment, Training and Entrepreneurship Programs.

Activities

A3.1: Development of specialized training lectures for MINDEL and FISDL staff on forced displacement, financial education, and a comprehensive approach for long-term solutions.

A3.2: Conduct work sessions to define the methodology of the Emprendimiento Solidario program applicable to the various profiles of displacement victims and provide solutions based on their needs.

A3.3: Strengthening of the Emprendimiento Solidario program to extend its reach in area and delivery of seed capital to priority entrepreneurial businesses through the hiring of specialized staff, the increase of available funds and the acquisition of supplies and equipment to track the initiative.

A3.4: Establish a method of coordination with entities involved with entrepreneurship and training issues, such as the CONAMYPE, INSAFORP, etc., to improve their capacities for counseling and specialized training in entrepreneurship for displacement victims.

3. Beneficiaries

The idea behind this intervention is to benefit displaced individuals by incorporating them, through a MJSP referral, into services available in the MTPS and MINDEL. Currently, around 3,500 individuals receive assistance each year from MTPS at a departmental level through the job banks program, such as counselling for job opportunities and entrepreneurial income-generating opportunities.

Taking this into account, it is projected, based on the assistance currently provided by the MJSP which is expected to expand, to reach at least 400 forced displacement victims. Additionally, through the Emprendimiento Solidario program, it is expected to benefit as many displaced individuals and their family groups as possible by strengthening their entrepreneurial abilities and skills, facilitating equipment and supplies to kickstart their businesses, and improving the assistance provided by state institutions, municipalities, host

400 victims of forced displacement

communities and other participating bodies in training and sensitization programs, promoting the involvement of actors from the civil society and the private sector.

As a way of leveraging the demographic dividend in El Salvador and providing opportunities for the development of individuals with social and economic potential, including the LGBTI community, displaced women and young people are recognized as priority groups.

4. Estimated Budget

During the first year of the MIRPS implementation, the Salvadoran government led a quantification process of identifying the financial needs required for the fulfilment of the commitments assumed within its national response plan, among which are those assumed by the three ministries, as a way of promoting greater national planning and management for the deployment of additional resources which complement the country's efforts, with the support and leadership of ESCO during the process.

For this, various strategic ETN meetings have been held to identify and estimate the costs of services and activities within each area so as to put the agreements of MIRPS into operation using the methodology shown in the detailed costs. Through this exercise, the country seeks to build a useful instrument for the visibility of the national investment and the promotion of productive discussions with international cooperation bodies to put forced displacement, a high-priority issue for the country, into the funding agenda.

Below are the estimated financial requirements for the effective implementation of the initiative, according to the proposed goals:

OBJECTIVE	REQUIRED FINANCING*	NATIONAL FINANCING	FINANCING GAP
SO 1: Strengthen the role of forcibly displaced individuals as actors in the socio-economic development of their host communities.	\$2,176,000	\$0	\$2,176,000
SO 2: Improve assistance provided to displaced individuals, prioritize their participation through the promotion of economic opportunities and decent employment through job banks, particularly for displaced or at-risk women, young people, and the LGBTI community.	\$ 458,840	\$ 0	\$ 458,840
SO 3: Expand the access to opportunities of generating income, autonomy, and skills of victims of forced displacement, through the strengthening of support programs and initiatives for entrepreneurs.	\$ 631,680	\$ 0	\$ 631,680
TOTAL	\$ 3,266,520	\$ 0	\$ 3,266,520

*Amounts in USD.

5. Stakeholders

For the implementation of this intervention, it is proposed to take advantage of the MIRPS interinstitutional approach and coordinate to the greatest extent possible with the corresponding public entities, in order to guarantee a consistent, effective, and comprehensive response:

INSTITUTION	MISSION	ROLE IN IMPLEMENTATION
Ministry of Justice and Public Safety (MJSP, by its Spanish acronym)	Governing body in charge of coordinating public safety in the country by law to improve developmental conditions and peaceful coexistence among the population through strategies to fight against crime and violence.	Directs the country's assistance strategy for displaced individuals and is responsible for their identification and referral to opportunities and services for access to available employment and sources of livelihood through an efficient mechanism of referral and case tracking in coordination with other Government entities.
Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (MTPS, by its Spanish acronym)	Governing institution in public administration of labour in charge of designing, executing, and supervising the country's labour policy.	In charge of incorporating displaced individuals into its programs and initiatives in order to contribute to their search of employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, as well as job training and intermediation, with a focus on achieving a long-term solution.
Ministry of Local Development (MINDEL) and Social Investment Fund for Local Development (FISDL)	Responsible for the coordinated execution of initiatives to promote improvements in the quality of life of people in conditions of poverty and vulnerability by encouraging sustainable local development processes.	Prioritizes displaced people in its entrepreneurship programs, enabling them to benefit from counselling, seed capital and other useful supports.
Salvadoran Agency for International Cooperation (ESCO)	Institution responsible for managing, negotiating, and administering the distribution of technical and non-refundable financial cooperation to every public institution in each sector, according to the orders of the executive branch.	Attends to the management of resources and discussions with potential cooperation partners, guaranteeing their compliance with the national priorities.
National Committee for Micro and Small Business (CONAMYPE)	Fosters, protects and develops leading micro and small businesses, strengthening their transformative capacity so that they can integrate themselves and influence the national economic and territorial development in a way that is inclusive, sustainable, and fair.	Supports the efforts of the MTPS, MINDEL, and FISDL to provide support to displaced individuals' businesses.
Salvadoran Institute for Professional Training (INSAFORP)	Its mission is to train the Salvadoran human talent for decent and productive employment, transforming their lives so they can contribute to the socio-economic development of the country and in building a better future.	Works with the MTPS, MINDEL, and FISDL to provide the displaced individuals with specialized workshops and training courses on different subjects to strengthen their life and work skills.
Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women (ISDEMU)	Organization in charge of formulating, directing, executing, and police compliance with the national policy on women, and to promote the protection and comprehensive development of women.	Articulates actions in the assistance and protection frameworks for the benefit of women who have been victims of violence and their access to opportunities for economic independence.
National Institute for the Youth (INJUVE, by its Spanish acronym)	Organization in charge of formulating, directing, executing, and policing the observance of the Ley Nacional de Juventud (National Youth Act) and national policies in cooperation with national and international institutions to contribute to the comprehensive development of young people.	Helps in assisting and referring young people affected by forced displacement and violence, particularly through training and life skills programs.
Committee for the Determination of the Refugee Status (CODER, by its Spanish acronym)	Body in charge of determining refugee status, as well as guaranteeing the right of any foreigner to seek and receive refuge within the national territory in order to safeguard his or her life, personal integrity, liberty, safety, and dignity.	Articulates actions for the benefit of refugees and asylum seekers, including access to employment and sources of livelihood, in agreement with the local integration model.

Additionally, other pertinent international cooperation organizations may be added to this group, such as United Nations system agencies, funds, and programs, and civil society and private sector organizations who are interested in contributing to the initiative. As a way of incorporating their contributions according to their missions, the articulated effort with organizations such as UNHCR, UNDP, FAO, WFP, and other partners will be fundamental for the efficient development and implementation of the initiative.

6. Cross-cutting themes

Considering the conditions that forced displacement implies it is important to make sure that the planning and execution of these initiatives is carried out within a strategic and integrating framework, broadening sectoral understanding. To do this, the age, gender, and diversity approach (AGD, by its Spanish acronym) must be incorporated into the assistance of the target population, so as to respond to their needs. Likewise, it will be important to prioritize the assistance of women and young people when these services are arranged.

7. Risks and assumptions

In the developmental stage of the intervention, there might be some situations that may compromise the achievement of goals. Some mitigating measures have been determined for these cases, considering their probability and intensity:

RISKS	PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE	INTENSITY OF RISK IMPACT	MITIGATING STRATEGY
The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic limits the access to opportunities of formal and decent employment of the population of concern.	High	High	The MTPS, with the support of pertinent organizations, will raise awareness in the private sector of the victims' situation, as a way of promoting their integration onto employment.
Financial and technical restrictions limit the expansion capacity of the entrepreneurship and specialized training programs.	High	High	The ministries will develop strategic discussions with relevant actors who may contribute financially and materially to the initiative.
Coordinating difficulties due to changes of the individuals in charge of entities involved.	Medium	Medium	Each entity involved will designate focal points and establish responsibilities for the fulfilment of the initiative goals.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

The initiative will rely on an interinstitutional team integrated by the MJSP, MTPS, MINDEL, and FISDL, which will be in charge of monitoring and managing the intervention evaluation, and which will be able to coordinate with the pertinent entities in a multifunctional way so as to guarantee a comprehensive tracking process and evaluation of the implemented activities. This team will write a periodic report on the interested parties' advancements in relation to the logical framework and annual plan, taking into account, but not limited to, the following elements:

- Degree of indicator and product advancement according to established annual goals;
- Monitoring of risks, both updated and new, with possible

scenarios or mitigating measures for each case;

Project achievements and milestones, main challenges, contingencies or delays which jeopardized the achievement of goals, and corrective measures;

- Gender-based analysis and revised gender-based mainstreaming strategy/actions/products;
- Lessons learned, successful experiences or difficulties, actions, changes, and solutions;
- Monitoring visits, workshops, and follow-up meetings;
- Visibility and communication activities; and
- Other relevant activities.

Annex 1 – Logical Framework and Estimated Budget

Results/Activities	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Baseline (Dec. 2020)	Goal (Dec. 2022)	Source and Means of Verification	Duration	Required Financing	National Financing	Financing Gap
General objective: Stimulate the self-reliance of forcefully displaced individuals in El Salvador to achieve long-term solutions in a context of respect, dignity, and guarantee of their rights									
Specific objective 1: Strengthen the role of forcibly displaced individuals as actors in the socio-economic development of their host communities.									
R1. Improved access to the necessary economic and training opportunities for forcibly displaced persons to rebuild their lives in conditions of equality, safety, and dignity.	Number of displaced individuals who received counselling on work skills	Displaced individuals (disaggregated by sex and age)	0	800 individuals; 400 women; 600 young people	Report by the MJSP, MTPS, MINDEL, and FISDL	2021-2022			
A1.1. Mapping of services available regarding employment, entrepreneurship, training and other initiatives for long-term solutions from the MTPS, the MINDEL, and the FISDL, and other relevant institutions.	Number of employment, entrepreneurship, training services available, and formation of other long-term solution initiatives	Services	0	30	National mapping completed and published online	2021	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
A1.2. Strengthen the OLAVMFs through acquisition of IT equipment, gift cards, supplies, etc.	Number of displaced individuals identified and referred to existing services	Number of displaced individuals (disaggregated by sex and age)	0	300 (50% women and 75% young people)	Monthly and annual reports from the OLAVs; database of assistance provided	2021-2022	\$996,000	\$0	\$996,000
A1.3. Establish coordination methods with the OLAVMFs and municipalities and other relevant bodies for the identification of cases.	Number of municipalities who participate in the coordination mechanism	Municipalities	0	10	Collaboration agreements; communication exchanges as evidence of coordination; institutional reports	2021-2022	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
A1.4. Creation of a 3-month humanitarian aid program for displaced individuals (USD	Number of individuals who	Number of displaced individuals	0	50 (50% women and	Report of cases; institutional report about the program	2021-2022	\$960,000	\$0	\$960,000

400 each month in cash) to meet their basic needs, while connecting them with long-term solutions.	receive humanitarian aid	(disaggregated by sex and age - family unit)		75% young people)					
A1.5. Launching of an information campaign about the services available through the MJSP, MTPS, MINDEL, and FISDL.	# people accessing the prepared and distributed material	Individuals	0	5,000	Publications and material for dissemination distributed, number of printed and distributed materials, number of downloads on published pages	2022	\$120,000	\$0	\$120,000
SO 1 subtotal:							\$2,176,000	\$0	\$2,176,000
Specific objective 2: Improve assistance provided to displaced individuals, prioritize their participation through the promotion of economic opportunities and decent employment through job banks, particularly for displaced or at-risk women, young people, and the LGBTI community.									
R2. A strengthened public system of employment assistance with a focus on displaced or at-risk women, young people, and the LGBTI community, through the implementation of effective programs and initiatives for the promotion of economic opportunities and decent employment.	Number of displaced individuals assisted through employment and/or entrepreneurship programs	Displaced individuals, women, young people, and members of the LGBTI community	0	800 displaced individuals; 400 displaced women; 600 displaced young people (300 women - 300 men); 30 members of the LGBTI community	Assistance systems databases by the MTPS, MJSP, MINDEL, and FISDL; case reports; institutional reports	2021-2022			
A2.1. Establish a coordination method for the MTPS, MJSP, MINDEL, and FISDL, and other relevant bodies, for the attention of cases and the connection with existing services.	Number of departments in each institution that participate in the method	Institutional departments	0	10	Institutional reports; meeting minutes for the creation and strengthening of the method; regulatory document for method operation	2021	\$40,560	\$0	\$40,560
A2.2. Conduct specialized training lectures for the MTPS staff on forced displacement, financial education, and their	# Public workers trained in forced displacement, financial education, and	Number of male and female public workers	0	200 (50%)	Training program, attendance lists, certificates of participation	2021-2022	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000

comprehensive approach for long-term solutions.	their comprehensive approach for durable solutions.	(disaggregated by sex)							
A2.3. Design and implement a line of assistance, reference and referral directed by the MTPS National Labor Department.	# people referred based on the care plan, reference and established referral	Number of people (disaggregated by sex and age)	0	50 (50%; 75% young people)	Lists of meetings for plan design, written document, institutional adoption, monitoring report, database of assisted cases	2021	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
A2.4. Prepare and implement prioritized assistance protocols for displaced women and young people in job banks.	# public workers who participate in creating and implementing the protocol	Number of public workers	0	30	Lists and/or memoirs of meetings held for protocol creation, written protocol designed to assist forcibly displaced victims, monitoring report	2021-2022	\$18,080	\$0	\$18,080
A2.5: Update employment counseling, employment intermediation, and entrepreneurship programs, including training for managers.	# programs strengthened in employment counseling, employment intermediation, and entrepreneurship	Number of programs	0	5	Lists and/or reports of meetings for program revision, identified agreements, assessment document, report on improvements made	2021-2022	\$145,200	\$0	\$145,200
	# managers participate in training	Number of managers (disaggregated by sex)	0	35 (50%)	Training program, attendance lists, certificates of participation				
A2.6: Strengthen, in association with the MINDEL and FISDL, the entrepreneurship program on seed capital for displaced individuals who qualify.	Seed capital delivered to displaced people	Amount (dollars)	0	100,000	Agreements to achieve funding, monitoring reports on seed capital deliveries	2021-2022	\$150,000	\$0	\$150,000
A2.7: Develop awareness-raising lectures along with MJSP, MTPS, MINDEL, and FISDL, and	# agreements with civil society, private sector,	Number of agreements	0	3	Reports on awareness-raising activities,	2021-2022	\$75,000	\$0	\$75,000

representatives of organizations from civil society, the private sector, international cooperation, and other actors, for the establishment of alliances and the deployment of materials and financial resources related to existing programs, with a focus on women and young people.	international cooperation, and other organizations and actors				attendance lists, distributed materials, adopted agreements				
SO 2 Subtotal:							\$458,840	\$0	\$458,840
Specific objective 3: Expand the access to opportunities of generating income, autonomy, and skills of victims of forced displacement, through the strengthening of support programs and initiatives for entrepreneurs.									
R3. Expanded Coverage for and Inclusion of Victims of Forced Displacement in Employment, Training and Entrepreneurship Programs.	Percentage of increase in displaced individuals included in employment and/or entrepreneurship programs	Percentage	0	10%	Institutional reports, program reports	2021-2022			
A3.1: Development of specialized training lectures for MINDEL and FISDL staff on forced displacement, financial education, and a comprehensive approach for long-term solutions.	# public workers participate in training about forced displacement, financial education, etc.	Number of public workers (disaggregated by sex)	0	100 (50%)	Training program, attendance lists, certificates of participation	2021-2022	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
A3.2. Conduct work sessions to define the methodology of the <i>Emprendimiento Solidario</i> program applicable to the various profiles of displacement victims and provide solutions based on their needs.	# work sessions (?)	Number of work sessions	0	5	Adopted methodology, notes about sessions, attendance lists	2021	\$152,880	\$0	\$152,880
A3.3. Strengthening of the <i>Emprendimiento Solidario</i> program to extend its reach in area and delivery of seed capital to priority entrepreneurial	Amount the program has benefited high-priority projects of displaced people	Amount (dollars)	0	300,000	Agreements to achieve funding, monitoring reports on seed capital	2021-2022	\$398,800	\$0	\$398,800

businesses through the hiring of specialized staff, the increase of available funds and the acquisition of supplies and equipment to track the initiative.					deliveries to displaced people				
A3.4. Establish a method of coordination with entities involved with entrepreneurship and training issues, such as the CONAMYPE, INSAFORP, etc., to improve their capacities for counseling and specialized training in entrepreneurship for displacement victims.	# agreements and established alliances	Number of agreements and alliances	0	2	Notes on meetings to create or strengthen mechanisms, attendance lists, adopted agreements	2021-2022	\$60,000	\$0	\$60,000
SO 3 Subtotal:							\$631,680	\$0	\$631,680
TOTAL							\$ 3,266,520	\$0	\$ 3,266,520

Amounts in USD.

COUNTRY: El Salvador
SECTOR: Health

Strengthen the capacity of the National Health System to provide better health and psychosocial services to forcibly displaced people in El Salvador



Executive Summary

Health services in El Salvador face several challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and in its capacity to provide essential services to vulnerable populations, including people displaced by violence. The immediate impacts of forced displacement should be considered, including in instances of mental health, which affect a high proportion of the population (70%), who have reduced access, and do not have health insurance. In order to respond to these circumstances, the Ministry of Health has identified the need and relevance of establishing a specialized protocol for comprehensive health care, specific to this population, as well as a model of mental health and psychosocial care to guarantee the restoration of physical health, together with mental and emotional wellbeing.

The planned initiative aims to ensure the provision of efficient specialized medical and psychosocial care by the national health system, adapted to the needs of people who are victims of forced displacement. This includes comprehensive health care (medical and psychosocial) adapted to the profiles of people affected by forced displacement, with an emphasis on women, girls, boys and adolescents; including in instances of sexual and gender-based violence, in order to guarantee efficient and effective care.

DURATION

2021- 2022

IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Ministry of Health (MINSAL, by its Spanish acronym)

LOCATION

National

BENEFICIARIES

MINSAL seeks to benefit completely victims of forced displacement or in conditions of risk of, who require assistance from the national health system

ESTIMATED BUDGET

Total Required Financing:	\$358,711
National Financing:	\$143,211
Financing Gap:	\$215,500

1. Health sector context in El Salvador

One of the main goals proposed by President Nayib Bukele for 2019-2024 is to transform the Salvadorian health system in order to provide high-quality services. The principal goal of the Cuscatlán Plan is to secure the right to health of all the inhabitants of the national territory through a comprehensive national health system which continuously strengthens the public sector and effectively regulates the private one, and addresses social determining factors of health with full application of the Comprehensive Primary Healthcare strategy. This strategy would be applied equally in a safe and healthy environment, strengthening the promotion of health, prevention of disease, and recovery and rehabilitation through an approach of inclusion and opportunity for the most vulnerable populations, combined with the security objective of said plan. This objective seeks to address the issue beyond the fight against crime by acknowledging a social problem in which a lack of opportunities and life options begins to produce a vicious circle of poverty, crime and violence.

To achieve this, Ministry of Health (MINSAL, by its Spanish acronym) has a 2020 budget of USD 758 million, which represents around 2.65% of GDP. Since the beginning of the current administration, the aim was to implement healthcare programs for early childhood and adolescence, healthcare for women, vaccination, mental health, and assistance to high-priority groups, among others. However, with COVID-19, these measures had to be adapted to provide an agile and inclusive response in the face of the health emergency with a historically deteriorated health system.

As a result of a redirection of funds and the support of different international cooperation partners, the private sector, NGOs, etc., the country has overcome the challenges of COVID-19. In this sense, MINSAL reported that, together with other state institutions, by May 2020 it had invested more than USD 100 million to acquire personal protection equipment, supplies, and medicine, to strengthen infrastructure, and to hire staff. Its main objectives include the building of the Hospital of El Salvador. This would be the largest hospital in Latin America which, when its third building stage is completed, will have a capacity to house 2,000 beds and 1,000 intensive care units (ICUs). The first and second phases of the hospital have already been inaugurated, and it already has 105 ICUs and 295 intermediate care units for exclusively assisting patients with COVID-19.

Despite these great accomplishments, the health crisis and the measures to contain the virus have greatly impacted the physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of the population, in particular for those who already lived in climates of violence and socio-economic vulnerability, such as the forcibly displaced or at-risk people, returnees in need of protection, refugees and asylum seekers. The immediate effects of forced displacement are shown by the emotional and psychological disorders affecting a high proportion of the population, specifically, 70%. Of this group, 77% of those who had suffered forced displacement did not have private health insurance in 2018 and had difficulties in accessing healthcare services, leading then to services of the public

system (MSJP, 2018).

To address this situation, the government has promised to provide responses and assistance to this population through the implementation of the National MIRPS Plan. Because of that, MINSAL is strengthening the coordinated actions that the MJSP is carrying out through the OLAVMF which provides medical and psychological assistance to its users. In addition, the Office for Victims of all Forms of Violence, under the leadership of the MINSAL, has designed the Technical Guidelines for Comprehensive Healthcare to Violence-affected Individuals, which includes comprehensive healthcare for forcibly displaced people to promote an improvement of health services.

MINSAL has experience in implementing similar initiatives and strategic programs focused on assisting victims of violence. As an example, we can mention the Fortalecimiento del Sistema de Salud Pública Project (Strengthening of Public Health System), which had an investment of USD 80 million and was supported by the World Bank until 2018. This project sought to expand coverage and increase quality and equity in the priority health services provided by the Integrated and Comprehensive Health Services Networks (RIISS, by its Spanish acronym). Additionally, it sought to strengthen the ability of MINSAL to manage and administrate essential functions of Salvadoran public health by providing services focused on the specific needs of diverse population groups, including those affected by violence in the country.

Complementary Initiatives

MINSAL has many strategic programs put forth by the Office for Victims of All Forms of Violence focused on promoting comprehensive healthcare for women, children and adolescents, as well as persons, families and communities affected by violence and injury. In addition, these programs focus on providing technical and logistical counselling and executing projects to address violence in order to ensure people affected by violence in all its forms and injuries have universal access to the right of health.

Moreover, MINSAL, working closely with relevant bodies in the sector, such as the Pan American Health Organization/ World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), established under the 2017-2020 Cooperative Strategy definite priorities based on national policies related to the health sector. This provides continuity to previous processes that directed efforts in a process of health reform, which strengthened the health sector in an environment with efforts of the entire United Nations System (UNS) in the country, and in areas such as the following:

1. Universal health access and coverage as a cornerstone of social development.
2. Giving key focus to social determiners to reduce inequalities and inequities.
3. Lifelong health, to ensure a healthy and well population of all ages.
4. Health in the Sustainable Development Objectives framework.

Long-standing strategic relations with bodies such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Salvadoran Red Cross, the World View, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNPF), are especially important in this type of intervention as they support supply acquisitions, strengthen communal systems, and support staff training in gender-based and sexual violence prevention, among others efforts.

Together, the United Nations System, through the 2016-2020 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), included the health sector within its high-priority interventions, especially regarding strengthening basic service systems and creating and promoting spaces of discussion as a means to reach agreements and consensus in priority areas for the development of the country, for which many initiatives have been developed. In addition, the Response Plan for the Socioeconomic Recovery due to COVID-19 in El Salvador includes, within its priorities, protecting health services and systems during the emergency, the generation of greater national capacity to deal with the demand on priority health programs, and governing and coordinating the National Health System for healthcare in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Detailed Approach

General Objective

To guarantee medical and psychosocial care that is specialized, efficient and tailored to the needs of victims of forced displacement through the Salvadoran National Health Service, with quality and comforting services, that support their dignity, inclusion and respect for human rights.

To achieve the objectives proposed by the intervention, MINSAL must implement many strategic activities in coordination with relevant public institutions (MJSP, ESCO, ISSS, ISDEMU, etc.), who are international cooperative partners that can contribute to the initiative, as well as many office units within the same ministry, under the leadership of the Office for Victims of All Forms of Violence.

The effects of such interventions cover the entire national territory where assistance to victims through the National Health System occurs.

Specific Objective 1

Provide comprehensive healthcare (medical and psychosocial) tailored to the profiles of people affected by forced displacement, with a focus on women, children and adolescents, in order to guarantee efficient and effective assistance.

Expected Result 1

The comprehensive healthcare (medical and psychosocial) provided by the National Health System efficiently responds to the needs of the forcibly displaced population.

Activities

A1.1: Adoption of the comprehensive assistance protocol for forced displacement victims in the health system, and implementation of institutional direction and monitoring mechanisms for continuous tracking and updating.

A1.2: Design, layout and printing of the comprehensive attention protocol, including guidelines and methodological means for its implementation (3,000 copies).

A1.3: Development of social training to facilitate the application of the comprehensive assistance protocol by the staff of institutions that make up the National Health System.

A1.4: Design and implementation of a continuous training program on forced displacement for the staff of institutions belonging to the National Health Systems and other interested parties, such as the ISSS, the INS, the ISDEMU, etc.

A1.5: Design and implementation of information campaigns in the health care system for its users.

Specific Objective 2

Improve psychosocial and psychological care within the national health network to address causes and consequences of forced displacements, including gender and sexual-based violence, in respectful and decent conditions.

Expected Result 2

Improved psychological/psychosocial care to forced displacement victims through the implementation of a specialized model that provides the necessary tools for its best approach.

Activities

A2.1: Creation of a model that addresses causes and consequences of forced displacements with psychological and psychosocial care within the public health network.

A2.2: Implementation of work sessions to identify and improve psychological and psychosocial care for displaced individuals who survived gender-based and sexual violence, including a following-up mechanism.

A2.3: Development of informative events about psychological and psychosocial care models to facilitate its implementation, including psychosocial and psychological care for displaced individuals who survived gender-based and sexual violence.

A2.4: Design and implementation of a training program on rights, quality and comforting services, and workshops on self-care and psychological first aid for support staff.

3. Beneficiaries

Through this intervention, MINSAL seeks to benefit all victims of forced displacement or in high-risk situations due to violence requiring assistance from the National Health System with varying levels of assistance, by applying technical guidelines on integral healthcare for people affected by violence in all the institutions providing said service.

On average, each semester MINSAL assists 6,000 women who are victims of violence, either physical, psychological, sexual, or any other form (MINSAL, 2016) . This number is significantly greater when added to the number of men, young people and children assisted due to these same causes. In 2019, 9,765 victims of any form of violence were assisted and

registered at the Unique System of Registration and Tracking (SUIS, by its Spanish acronym). Of that number, 6,390 were women and 37 were forcibly displaced people (24 women), who were referred by the relevant institutions. In this sense, the Ministry is working to improve its capacity of identifying and registering victims of forced displacement through its System for Morbidity and Mortality Via Web (SIMMOW, by its Spanish acronym).

4. Estimated Budget

During the first year of MIRPS implementation, the Salvadoran Government led a quantification process of identifying the financial needs required for the fulfilment of the agreements in its National Response Plan, among which are those assumed by MINSAL, as a way of promoting a greater capacity for national planning and management of the deployment of additional resources to complement the country’s efforts, with the support and leadership of ESCO during the process.

For this, various strategic ETN meetings have been held to identify and estimate the costs of services and activities within each area so as to put the agreements of MIRPS into operation using the methodology shown in the detailed costs. Through this exercise, the country seeks to build a useful instrument for the visibility of the national investment and the promotion of productive discussions with international cooperation bodies to put forced displacement, a high-priority issue for the country, into the funding agenda.

Below are the estimated financial requirements for the effective implementation of the initiative, according to the proposed goals:

OBJECTIVE	REQUIRED FINANCING*	NATIONAL FINANCING	FINANCING GAP
SO 1: Provide comprehensive healthcare (medical and psychosocial) tailored to the profiles of people affected by forced displacement, with a focus on women, children and adolescents, in order to guarantee efficient and effective assistance.	\$305,003	\$ 133,253	\$171,750
SO 2: Improve psychosocial and psychological care within the national health network to address causes and consequences of forced displacements, including gender and sexual-based violence, in respectful and decent conditions.	\$ 53,708	\$ 9,958	\$ 43,750
TOTAL	\$ 358,711	\$ 143,211	\$ 215,500

*Amounts in USD.

5. Stakeholders

The National Health System of El Salvador is composed by two subsectors, one public and one private. However, the public sector receives the highest demand and is composed by the following institutions: MINSAL (as lead of the public sub-sector), the Salvadoran Institute of Social Security (ISSS), the National Health System (INS), the Salvadoran Institute for Teacher Welfare (ISBM), Military Sanitation Command (COSAM), Solidary Health Fund (FOSALUD), and the Comprehensive rehabilitation Institute. For the implementation of this intervention, it is proposed to take advantage of the MIRPS interinstitutional approach and coordinate to the greatest extent possible with the corresponding public entities, in order to guarantee a consistent, effective, and comprehensive response:

INSTITUTION	MISSION	ROLE IN IMPLEMENTATION
Ministry of Health (MINSAL, by its Spanish acronym)	Governing body of healthcare which guarantees coverage of prompt and comprehensive services, with equality, quality and warmth, in joint responsibility with the community, including all sectors and social actors, in order to contribute to achieving a better quality of life.	Leads the implementation strategy in order to improve health services for victims of forced displacement due to violence, through the execution of protocols and models of specialized care.
Ministry of Justice and Public Safety (MJSP, by its Spanish acronym)	Governing body in charge of coordinating public safety in the country to improve developmental conditions and peaceful coexistence among the population through strategies to fight against crime and violence.	Contributes to the efforts of the MINSAL by coordinating their efforts to provided assistance for victims of forced displacement in the healthcare area through two institutions: The National Directorate's Specialist Unit for the Assistance of Forced Migration Victims (DNAVMF) and its OLAVMFs, for cases of internally displaced people, and the Department of Migration and Foreign Affairs (DGME, by its Spanish acronym), for cases of deported people with needs of protection requiring assistance by MINSAL.
National Health Institute (INS, by its Spanish acronym)	Its mission is to find scientific solutions to the major health problems of the population. Hence, it leads, coordinates and controls the institutional development processes with the aim of creating fields of health research using available databases, national health surveys, the creation of strategic health charts (of management, media and health strategies) and the development of specialized labs.	Supports the MINSAL with the transmission and dissemination of scientific knowledge and information for strategic decision making in the health sector.
Salvadoran Agency for International Cooperation (ESCO)	Institution responsible for managing, negotiating, and administering the distribution of technical and non-refundable financial cooperation to every public institution in each sector, according to the orders of the executive branch.	Attends to the management of resources and discussions with potential cooperation partners, guaranteeing their compliance with the national priorities.
Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women (ISDEMU)	Organization in charge of formulating, directing, executing, and police compliance with the national policy on women, and to promote the protection and comprehensive development of women.	Coordinates actions for the benefit of women who have been victims of violence within assistance and protection frameworks and their access to healthcare services.
Salvadoran Institute for the Integral Development of Children and Adolescents (ISNA)	Institution responsible for initiatives concerning the promotion and dissemination of the rights of children and adolescents, including primary prevention of violence.	Contributes to establishing strategies and initiatives to guarantee access to healthcare services for children and adolescents who have been forcibly displaced.
National Council for Children and Adolescents (CONNA)	Highest authority of the National System of Integral Protection for the rights of children and adolescents.	Contributes to establishing strategies and initiatives to guarantee access to healthcare services for children and adolescents who have been forcibly displaced.
Salvadoran Institute of Social Security (ISSS)	Social security institution in charge of providing integral healthcare and economic benefits to rightful claimants with quality and warmth, based on the principles of social security.	Contributes to the efforts of MINSAL by coordinating the work they perform in relation to the assistance provided for victims of forced displacement in the healthcare area through the execution of protocols and models of specialized care.
Solidarity Fund for Health (FOSALUD, by its Spanish acronym)	This institution, which is part of the Integral National Health System, provides integral healthcare services on extended timelines in prioritized areas by developing and implementing programs that improve the quality of life of the population.	Contributes to the efforts of MINSAL by coordinating the work they perform in relation to the assistance provided for victims of forced displacement in the healthcare area through the execution of protocols and models of specialized care.

Salvadoran Institute for Teacher's Welfare (ISBM, by its Spanish acronym)	Body that manages the Special Health Program, the coverage of professional risks, and other economic and social benefits in favor of public teaching officials and beneficiaries.	Contributes to the efforts of the MINSAL by articulating the work they perform in relation to the assistance provided for teachers that may be at risk or have been victims of forced displacement in the healthcare area through the execution of protocols and models of specialized care.
Military Health Command (COSAM, by its Spanish acronym)	Responsible for supporting the Combat Health Service of the Armed Forces and is in charge of directing and executing programs on health assistance, supply and maintenance of specific materials, and management and administration of resources.	It supports the MINSAL in strategic health areas of the country, by giving complementary support for the promotion of various initiatives.
Committee for the Determination of the Refugee Status (CODER, by its Spanish acronym)	Body in charge of determining refugee status, as well as guaranteeing the right of any foreigner to seek and receive refuge within the national territory in order to safeguard his or her life, personal integrity, liberty, safety, and dignity.	Coordinates actions for the benefit of refugees and asylum seekers in agreement with the local integration model, including access to healthcare services.

Additionally, other pertinent organizations of international cooperation may be added to this group, such as United Nations system agencies, funds, and programs, and civil society and private sector organizations who are interested in contributing to the initiative. A coordinated effort among institutions such as the UNHCR, PAHO/WHO, the UNDP, the ICRC, World Vision, UNFPA and other partners, will be fundamental for the efficient development and implementation of this initiative, as a way of incorporating their contributions in terms of their mission.

6. Cross-cutting themes

Considering the conditions that forced displacement implies, it is important to ensure that the planning and execution of these initiatives is carried out within a strategic and integrating framework, broadening sectoral understanding. To achieve this goal, there must be a systematic focus on age, gender, and diversity (AGD), and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in the assistance of the target population so as to respond to their needs. Likewise, it will be important to prioritize efficient psychosocial assistance for girls and women, as well as for young people, as well as protection measures, such as the ones considered at the COVID-19 Humanitarian Response Plan by the United Nation's Humanitarian Team in the country.

7. Risks and assumptions

In the developmental stage of the intervention, there might be some situations that may compromise the achievement of goals. Some mitigating measures have been determined for these cases, considering their probability and intensity:

RISKS	PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE	INTENSITY OF RISK IMPACT	MITIGATING STRATEGY
Change in MINSAL's planning/priorities, due to the COVID-19 outbreak.	Medium	High	The Ministry appoints a specific team dedicated to implementing these initiatives.
Difficulties in interinstitutional coordination to implement the specialized protocol in the Health System, especially at the community level.	Medium	High	MINSAL will appoint a team specializing in promoting the initiative, which will need to determine focal points within each of the institutions and at a both central and community levels to ensure there are periodic meetings and exchange processes.
Delays in implementing the proposed activities.	High	Medium	A focal point in each organization of the interested parties for the coordination and implementation of activities.
Delays in the initiative because of changes of personnel at MINSAL and relevant institutions	Medium	Medium	MINSAL will establish a mechanism of coordination with defined roles and responsibilities so that the newly appointed officials at the institutions can resume actions.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

The initiative will be led by a MINSAL team which will be in charge of monitoring and managing the evaluation of the intervention. This team may coordinate at a multi-functional level with relevant entities to ensure the tracking and integral evaluation of the implemented activities. They will have to prepare periodic reports on the advances for the interested parties, taking into account, among other things, the following elements, based on the logical framework and the annual plan:

- Degree of indicator and product advancement according to established annual goals;
- Monitoring of risks, both updated and new, with possible scenarios or mitigating measures for each case;

- Project achievements and milestones, main challenges, contingencies or delays which jeopardized the achievement of goals, and corrective measures;
- Gender-based analysis and revised gender-based mainstreaming strategy/actions/products;
- Lessons learned, successful experiences or difficulties, actions, changes, and solutions;
- Monitoring visits, workshops, and follow-up meetings;
- Visibility and communication activities; and
- Other relevant activities.



Annex 1 – Logical Framework and Estimated Budget

Results/Activities	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Baseline (Dec. 2020)	Goal (Dec. 2022)	Source and Means of Verification	Duration	Required Financing	National Financing	Financing Gap	
<p>General objective: Improve medical, psychosocial, specialized and efficient care tailored to the needs of victims of forced displacement through the Salvadoran National Health Service, by means of high-quality and comforting services, that support their dignity, inclusion and respect for human rights.</p>										
<p>Specific objective 1: Provide comprehensive healthcare (medical and psychosocial) tailored to the profiles of people affected by forced displacement, with a focus on women, children and adolescents, in order to guarantee efficient and effective assistance.</p>										
<p>R1. The comprehensive healthcare (medical and psychosocial) provided by the National Health System efficiently responds to the needs of the forcibly displaced population.</p>	<p># of displaced people receiving assistance in the healthcare network, according to their medical and psychosocial needs.</p>	<p>Number of people, number of women, number of children and adolescents (NNA, by its Spanish acronym) (disaggregated by age and sex)</p>	0	4,000 individuals (3000 women, 2500 NNA, of which 1,700 are girls y teenage girls)	<p>Reports of the National Health System, SUIS and SIMMOW Information Systems, monitoring reports</p>	2021-2022				
	<p>A1.1. Adoption of the comprehensive assistance protocol for forced displacement victims in the health system, and implementation of institutional direction and monitoring mechanisms for continuous tracking and updating.</p>	<p># of work sessions for the adaptation of the protocol at a national level</p>	<p>Number of sessions</p>	0	5	<p>Minutes and/or reports of meetings held, photographs, attendance lists, protocol with an arranged monitoring system</p>	2021	\$13,750	\$0	\$13,750
		<p># of monitoring reports elaborated by participating focal points</p>	<p>Number of reports</p>	0	4	<p>Minutes and/or reports of meetings held, photographs, attendance lists, reports prepared every semester</p>	2021-2022	\$133,253	\$133,253	\$0
<p>A1.2. Design, layout and printing of the comprehensive attention protocol, including guidelines and methodological means for its implementation (3,000 copies).</p>	<p># people accessing the prepared and distributed material</p>	<p>Number of people</p>	0	3,000	<p>Publications and material for dissemination distributed, number of printed and</p>	2021	\$8,000	\$0	\$8,000	

					distributed materials, number of downloads on published pages				
A1.3. Development of social training to facilitate the application of the comprehensive assistance protocol by the staff of institutions that make up the National Health System.	# of socialization workshops held for the dissemination of the comprehensive assistance protocol	Number of workshops	0	12	Agenda of workshops completed, photographs, attendance lists	2021-2022	\$90,000	\$0	\$90,000
A1.4. Design and implementation of a continuous training program on forced displacement for the staff of institutions belonging to the National Health Systems and other interested parties, such as the ISSS, the INS, the ISDEMU, etc.	# officials participating in the training	Number of public workers (disaggregated by sex)	0	100	Designed, validated and implemented training program, reports on training conducted, photographs and publications in social networks	2021-2022	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
A1.5. Design and implementation of information campaigns in the health care system for its users.	# people having access to the information of campaigns	Number of people	0	3,000	Publications and material for dissemination distributed, number of printed and distributed materials, number of downloads on published pages	2021-2022	\$40,000	\$0	\$40,000
SO 1 SUBTOTAL:							\$305,003	\$133,253	\$171,750
Specific objective 2: Improve psychosocial and psychological care within the national health network to address causes and consequences of forced displacements, including gender and sexual-based violence, in respectful and decent conditions.									
R2. Improved psychological/psychosocial care to forced displacement victims through the implementation of a specialized model that provides the necessary tools for its best approach.	# people forcibly displaced receiving psychological and psychosocial care	Number of people (disaggregated by gender and age)	0	1,000 (650 women and 350 men; 400 NNA)	Reports of the National Health System, SUIS and SIMMOW Information Systems, monitoring reports	2021-2022			

A2.1. Creation of a model that addresses causes and consequences of forced displacements with psychological and psychosocial care within the public health network.	# health centres participating in the revision and creation of the model	Number of centres	0	10	Minutes and/or reports of meetings held, photographs, attendance lists, model revised/created, which are arranged and approved by the National Health System	2021	\$12,000	\$0	\$12,000
A2.2. Conduct work sessions in order to identify and improve the psychological and psychosocial care and follow-up method for displaced people who survived gender and sexual-based violence.	# of work sessions for the adaptation of the protocol at a national level	Number of sessions	0	10	Minutes and/or reports of meetings held, photographs, attendance lists	2021	\$17,958	\$9,958	\$8,000
A2.3. Development of informative events about psychological and psychosocial care models to facilitate its implementation, including psychosocial and psychological care for displaced individuals who survived gender-based and sexual violence.	# informative workshops among the personnel in charge of the implementation of the care model	Number of workshops	0	12	Agenda of workshops completed, photographs, attendance lists	2021-2022	\$3,750	\$0	\$3,750
A2.4. Design and implementation of a training program on rights, quality and comforting services, and workshops on self-care and psychological first aid for support staff.	# officials participating in the training	Number of public workers (disaggregated by sex)	0	100	Designed, validated and implemented training program, reports on training conducted, photographs and publications in social networks	2021-2022	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
SO 2 SUBTOTAL:							\$53,708	\$9,958	\$43,750
TOTAL							\$358,711	\$143,211	\$215,500

Amounts in USD.

Guatemala.

Persons of concern in Guatemala



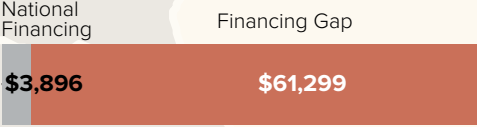


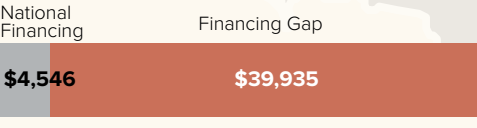


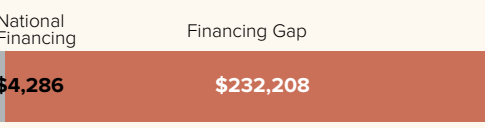
Asylum seekers in Guatemala*

1,978

Refugees in Guatemala*

471

*Official data provided to UNHCR by October 2020

SECTOR	DESCRIPTION	IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES	FINANCING NEEDS
 <p>Jobs and Livelihoods</p> 	<p>Strengthen support from institutions and the community in general, including the private sector, so that refugees and refugee applicants may exercise their right to employment and sources of livelihoods, through associations between the public and private sectors, processes of labor inclusion for refugees and refugee applicants, and tools such as the National Employment Service.</p>	<p>Ministry of Labor and Social Planning</p>	 <p>National Financing: \$3,896 Financing Gap: \$61,299</p>
 <p>Protection</p> 	<p>Carry out an institutional capacity assessment for the opening of open shelters for people in need of international protection for a subsequent phase of increasing capacity for the care, reception and protection of this population.</p>	<p>Guatemalan Migration Institute</p>	 <p>National Financing: \$4,546 Financing Gap: \$39,935</p>
 <p>Child Protection</p> 	<p>Strengthen institutions governing the protection of children and adolescents, such as the Social Welfare Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic in order to establish and implement protection mechanisms of children and adolescents in border areas.</p>	<p>Secretariat of Social Welfare of the Presidency of the Republic</p>	 <p>National Financing: \$4,286 Financing Gap: \$232,208</p>

Context

Despite improvements in the region, national poverty rates in Guatemala have worsened, and have risen from 56.2% in 2000 to 59.3% in 2014, while extreme poverty has increased from 15.7% to 23.4% in the same period. Extreme poverty among indigenous people has increased by 12.7 points compared to an increase of 5 points among non-indigenous people. Likewise, multidimensional poverty, which encompasses several areas of need such as lack of education or employment, inadequate housing, poor health and nutrition, low personal security, and social isolation, is greater in rural areas (87.5% in 2014) and among indigenous people (86.6%).

Human mobility is a phenomenon related to the country's challenges in regard to poverty and inequality, violation of human rights, climate change and natural disasters, among others.

Trends in displacement

According to the United Nations, Guatemala can be seen from three different perspectives: as the country of origin of migrants and refugees who live outside of its borders and similarly, as country of return, mainly for people in Mexico and the USA; as a transit country, mainly for people from Central America, but also for people other places; and as a country of refuge for a small, but growing number, of foreigners who seek international protection.

Between 2015 and 2016, most applications for refugee status in Guatemala came from Honduran and Salvadoran citizens. Although movement is due to several different causes, one of the most resounding is the high level of violence by non-state armed actors (maras and gangs), which affects some countries in the region. The violent situation in Honduras and El Salvador has also impacted the refugee system in Guatemala. In 2016, the number of Hondurans and Salvadorans sought refuge in Guatemala increased by 276% compared to 2012. People from Honduras and El Salvador make up 84% of refuge seekers who waited for a determination of merit on their applications in Guatemala, thus becoming one of the main population groups who seek international protection in Guatemala.

Traditionally, Guatemala has predominantly been a transit country for migrants and people who seek international protection in neighboring countries. The Agreement CA4, signed on June 2005, established free mobility of citizenry within the territories of any of its parties. This agreement constitutes an important regulatory framework for protection, as it facilitates access to the territory and safe and regular

To respond to these problems on a national level, a national plan for development called K'atun: Nuestra Guatemala 2032 (Two Decades: Our Guatemala 2032), was established, and 10 national priorities were identified which connect the plan goals with the Sustainable Development Goals (ODS, by its Spanish acronym). This proposal is in line national priorities related to employment and investment: decreased job insecurity through the creation of decent, quality employment as shown by a) a gradual decrease of the underemployment from the last available data: 16.9%; b) a gradual decrease in informal employment from the last available data: 69.2%; c) a gradual decrease in the unemployment rate from the last available data: 3.2%; and d) eradication of the percentage of workers who live in extreme poverty.

transit for citizens from Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua seeking protection in Guatemala or crossing the country to seek protection in neighbouring countries. On this note, statistics registered since 2002 by institutions such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs suggest a growing trend of people in need of international protection choosing Guatemala as their country of refuge, protection and local integration.

Statistics also imply that the escalation of violence in El Salvador and Honduras, when added to restrictive migratory policies and the violence suffered by people in transit to main countries of refuge, resulted in a greater number of people who seek refuge in Guatemala and wait for a ruling on their requests for international protection.

According to UNHCR (2020), in Guatemala, refugees and people who seek refuge face limitations, especially single women and women with children, large families, minors, members of the LGBTI community, and the elderly, who do not have an income to cover their basic needs. These groups face problems such as the cost of obtaining an ID document that allows them to work freely in the country.

¹ Segeplán, 2015: 52

² UNDP, 2016 : 31

³ UN Guatemala, 2019

⁴ UN Guatemala, 2019

⁵ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2016

National response

The State of Guatemala is committed, at a regional and international level, to offering a specialized, distinguished, safe, and decent reception to people seeking refuge. In 2016, a new Migration Code recognized the statuses of refugee and political asylum and the concept of humanitarian assistance. Article 53 of the Code established that “applicants for refugee or political asylum status under the legal concept of territorial asylum are entitled to a special, personal ID document for access to education and health services until their application is decided.” The document will also be considered valid for the purpose of obtaining paid employment in agreement with current legislation.

As established in Article 51 of the Migrating Authority Agreement No. 4-2019, Regulations for Guatemalan Residency, “Required to present a work permit: Any foreigner who intends to engage in paid labor as an employee within the Guatemalan territory, once notified of their residency decision, must present a work permit issued by the Ministry of Labor and Social Planning to the Guatemalan Institute for Migration within a maximum period of three months. Failure to comply with this requirement will be considered grounds for the annulment of the residence granted.”

The MIRPS

Honoring the long tradition of regional cooperation to respond to the protection challenges caused by forced displacement, and as a member state, Guatemala is committed, within the MIRPS framework, to addressing the three following main points: 1: Reception and admission; 2: Immediate and ongoing needs; and 3: Durable solutions. This is done through the implementation of 30 commitments detailed in the National Action Plan, under the direction of the National Technical Team (ETN, by its Spanish acronym). The ETN is made up of four government entities: The General Directorate of Consular and Migratory Affairs (DIGRACOM, by its Spanish acronym) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Ministry of Labour and

Social Planning; the Guatemalan Migration Institute; and the Social Welfare Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic. In 2019, Guatemala prioritized three focus areas in order to respond to its commitments: protection; protection of children; and employment and sources of livelihoods. The Labour Mobility Committee, coordinated by the Ministry of Labor and Social Planning, was created to follow-up on fulfillment in the employment and livelihoods areas, to continue with the commitments assumed by the State of Guatemala within MIRPS related to the promotion of labor inclusion processes for people in need of international protection.

**COUNTRY:** Guatemala**SECTOR:** Jobs and livelihoods

Public-private sectors alliances for the inclusion of refugees and refugee applicants in Guatemala into the workforce



Executive Summary

Over recent years in Guatemala, there has been large movements of people, including migrants in transit and refugees. To meet the commitment of the Government of Guatemala to facilitate the orderly and safe mobility of people, it is necessary to strengthen institutional capacity and support the community, including the role of the private sector, to ensure that refugees and asylum seekers can exercise their right of access employment and livelihood opportunities. In 2020, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare made significant progress in reducing the processing times and the requirements to ensure refugee access to work permits. In 2021, further investments will be made to improve the understanding of the labour rights of refugees within the provide sectors and the amongst the general population.

To achieve this objective, public-private partnerships will be established to further labour inclusion for refugees and asylum seekers. Specific activities include; awareness raising within the private sector concerning the obstacles the population faces in its search for employment and family support; sensitization amongst the general population through a digital campaign on non-discrimination towards refugees and asylum seekers, and their right to access the labour market; and the promotion of corporate social responsibility programmes within the private sector to support access to employment opportunities through the National Employment Service.

DURATION

2021

IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Ministry of Labor and Social Planning

LOCATION

National

BENEFICIARIES

Population in need of international protection, specifically refugee and refugee applicants.

ESTIMATED BUDGET

Total Required Financing:	\$ 65,195
National Financing:	\$ 3,896
Financing Gap:	\$ 61,299

1. Context of the livelihoods and jobs sector in Guatemala

At present, refugees and refugee applicants face limitations to reentry in the workforce because a large portion of the corporate sector is still unaware of the formal proceedings for this group to reenter the workforce in this country.

Because of this, a large number of people are forced to find informal employment, exposing themselves to various kinds of abuses and exploitation, particularly in the case of women, the elderly, and members of the LGBTI community .

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the government of Guatemala declared a state of national emergency in the entire country which, among other measures, limited the right of free movement and allowed for the issuing of specific measures to safeguard international borders. During this

period, many services were suspended to safeguard health interventions of public officials and users. Therefore, in the context of the national emergency declared by the executive powers and to guarantee the certainty and legal security of labor administrative processes, the Ministry of Labor and Social Planning, through the Ministerial Agreement Number 136-2020, suspended the computing of legal terms and deadlines, and considers any working permit which expired during the state of national emergency declared in the country as still valid.

2. Detailed approach

General objective

Facilitate, through associations between the public and private sectors, the insertion of refugees and refugee applicants into the workforce by using tools such as the National Employment Service.

Resultado esperado

Facilitar mediante alianzas público-privadas, procesos de inclusión laboral para solicitantes de refugio y refugiados, utilizando herramientas como el Servicio Nacional de Empleo.

Specific objective1

Greater awareness in the private sector about the refugee population and the obstacles they face when seeking employment and supporting their families.

Activities

A.1.1: Design a campaign aimed at private sector in traditional and digital media to inform them about the rights of the refugees, especially their right to a revenue-generating employment in accordance with current national legislation.

A.1.3: Distribute the materials through unions and associations in the private sector, as well as through social networks and traditional means of communication.

A.1.2: Prepare a communication strategy including the design of the campaign and preparation of materials for the campaign (videos, posts, radio spots, etc.)

Specific objective 2

Raise awareness in the general public, through a digital non-discrimination campaign, to the condition of refugees and refugee applicants and their right to access the job market.

Activities

A.2.1: Design a digital campaign to raise the general public's awareness of non-discrimination against refugees and refugee applicants due to their condition, and their rights to access the job market.

A.2.2: Prepare a digital communication strategy (define target groups, key messages, media)

A.2.3. Prepare digital materials (gifs, tags, stories, copies, etc.)

A.2.4: Circulate the digital campaign to raise the general public's awareness about non-discrimination of refugees and refugee applicants due to their condition, and their rights to access the job market.

3. Beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries of this initiative would be the population in need of international protection, specifically refugee and refugee applicants.

In 2019, the Guatemalan Migration Institute (IGM, by its Spanish acronym) registered 77 refugees in Guatemala and 494 refugee seekers whose processes are still under consideration. In 2020, the IGM has registered 263 asylum seekers, a number which has decreased due to COVID-19; however, for 2021, there is a projection of 272 new applications for refuge.

4. Estimated budget

OBJECTIVE	REQUIRED FUNDING*	NATIONAL FUNDING	FUNDING GAP
	2021		
1. A greater sensitization within the private sector towards the refugee population and the obstacles they face when seeking employment and support for their families	\$34,221 Q 263,500	\$ 1,948 Q 15,000	\$32,273 Q 248,500
2. Raise awareness in the general public, through a digital non-discrimination campaign, to the condition of refugees and refugee applicants and their right to access the job market.	\$ 30,974 Q 238,500	\$ 1,948 Q 15,000	\$ 29,026 Q 223,500
TOTAL	\$65,195 Q 502,000	\$ 3,896 Q 30,000	\$61,299 Q 472,000

*Exchange rate: 7.7 GTQ a 1 USD

The quantification started with a planning process in which focus areas were selected and key participants and institutions for each focus area were identified. In this case, for the focus area of livelihoods, the Ministry of Labor and Social Assistance was called on to establish goals and products and to devise a work plan for the year 2021. An analysis was carried out in order to identify the services and activities within the focus area so as to put the commitments of the national plan into operation.

The financial resources required for the services and activities planned for 2021 within the focus area were quantified, including the identified state investment and the funding deficits.

The quantification also includes mapping of current external funding opportunities and resource deployment activities to reduce the existing funding

deficit.

The cost methodology implemented for quantifying the costs was carried out through the following steps:

- 1) Identification and prioritization of activities for the focus area;
- 2) Breakdown of costs by activity (using historic costs, average operative costs, use of equipment and materials, and infrastructure investment);
- 3) Verification of planned programming in the Operations Plans (POA, by its Spanish acronym) and estimated budgets for 2021, which were named National Funding; and
- 4) Determination of the funding deficits that resulted from the difference between required costs and national funding.

5. Risks and assumptions

RISK	PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE	INTENSITY OF IMPACT	MITIGATING STRATEGY
Staff turnover within the different state institutions involved, which can slow down the initiated processes.	Medium	Medium	The initiative will be monitored by a focal group, which should keep all department members informed in order to achieve its institutionalization.
The procurement of insufficient financial resources to implement information campaigns and supplementary measures.	Medium	High	A mapping of donors will be carried out to fill the funding deficit identified in 2020 quantification.

6. Monitoring and evaluation

The goals established for 2021 will be achieved through the measures established in this concept note, under the leadership of MINTRAB, and in coordination with the National Technical Team, the civil society and international cooperation. The initiative's progress will be monitored every three months through the tracking that MINTRAB performs on its Annual Operative Plan.

Goals have been established to measure the advancement of the activities prioritized for the year, and MINTRAB will follow-up with them to determine their fulfillment in 2021. The tables with indicators, baselines and goals can be found in the annex of this concept note.

Annex: Logical Framework and Estimated Budget

	Indicator	Baseline	Goal Means of Verification	Duration	Required Financing	National Financing	Financing Gap
General Objective							
Facilitate, through associations between the public and private sectors, the insertion of refugees and refugee applicants into the workforce by using tools such as the National Employment Service.	Amount of refugee applicants and refugees employed through the National Employment Service.		SNE statistics.	2020-2021			
1. Specific Objective							
Greater awareness in the private sector about the refugee population and the obstacles they face when seeking employment and supporting their families.	A campaign to generate more information for the private sector on refugee population and their rights within the labor market.	There is not an information campaign to raise private sector awareness.	Document with communications strategy.	2020-2021			
1.1 Activity	Effect of awareness-raising campaign.	There is not an information campaign to raise private sector awareness.	Reports of effects obtained with the campaign.				
Campaign design aimed at the private sector in traditional and digital media.				2020	GTQ 13,500		GTQ 13,500
1.2 Activity				2021	GTQ 150,000		GTQ 150,000
Creation of material for the campaign (videos, etc.)							
1.3 Activity				2021	GTQ 100,000	GTQ 15,000	GTQ 85,000
Distribution of materials through labor unions and associations.							
Subtotal					GTQ 263,500	GTQ 15,000	GTQ 248,500
				USD	USD 34,221	USD 1,948	USD 32,273
2. Specific Objective							
Raise awareness in the general public, through a digital non-discrimination campaign, to the condition of refugees and refugee applicants and their right to access the job market.	Existence of a digital campaign for non-discrimination of refugees and applicants due to their condition and their rights to access the job market.	There is not an information campaign at national level.	Document with communications strategy.	2021			

2.1 Activity	Effect of awareness-raising campaign.	There is not an awareness-raising campaign for the general public.	Reports of effects obtained with the campaign.	2021	GTQ 13,500		GTQ 13,500
Design a digital campaign to raise the general public's awareness of non-discrimination against refugees and applicants due to their condition, and their rights to access the job market.				2021	GTQ 50,000	GTQ 15,000	GTQ 35,000
2.2 Activity				2021	GTQ 75,000		GTQ 75,000
Prepare a digital communication strategy (define target groups, key messages, media)				2021	GTQ 100,000		GTQ 100,000
2.3 Activity							
Prepare digital materials (gifs, tags, stories, copies, etc.)							
2.4 Activity							
Circulate the digital campaign to raise the general public's awareness about non-discrimination of refugees and refugee applicants due to their condition, and their rights to access the job market.							
SO 2 Subtotal					GTQ 238,500	GTQ 15,000	GTQ 223,500
				USD	USD 30,974	USD 1,948	USD 29,026
TOTAL					GTQ 502,000	GTQ 30,000	GTQ 472,000
				USD	USD 65,195	USD 3,896	USD 61,299

Exchange rate 7.7 GTQ to 1 USD.

**COUNTRY:** Guatemala**SECTOR:** Protection

Creation of specialized, differentiated, safe, and decent reception conditions



Executive Summary

Over recent years in Guatemala, there has been large movements of people, including migrants in transit and refugees. In this regard, it remains a priority to support people in need of international protection along their migration route, with a need for ongoing investments in the capacity of concerned institutions to ensure the provision of the necessary conditions for a safe and specialized reception of these populations. This initiative will seek to create the necessary conditions to ensure the provision of specialized, differentiated, safe and dignified reception through open shelters.

To achieve this goal, the objective of this intervention is to identify and prioritize the areas of institutional strengthening for the creation of open shelters in dignified and specialized conditions for those with international protection needs. Likewise, the specific activities include the identification of international cooperation for the provision of technical assistance that facilitate a diagnosis for the creation of open shelters; though an assessment of the capacities (technical, infrastructure, financial, regulations) required for the opening of open shelters, and establish a roadmap for institutional strengthening.

DURATION

2021-2022

IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Guatemalan Migration Institute

LOCATION

National

BENEFICIARIES

Population in need of international protection, specifically refugee, refugee applicants and migrants.

ESTIMATED BUDGET

Total Required Financing:	\$ 44,481
National Financing:	\$ 4,546
Financing Gap:	\$ 39,935

1. Sector Context

Due to an increased number of the refugee applicant population, it is necessary to strengthen the Guatemalan Migration Institute (IGM, by its Spanish acronym) so it may have shelters for voluntary and temporary stay administered by the state, to strengthen these shelters with human and financing resources, and to create operational guides, rulebooks and protocols so that these shelters can operate by securing refugees' and refugee applicants' human rights and to be host places that include psychosocial and legal support services and referrals to other support services.

Guatemala has signed the main international treaties on human rights, and in 1983 ratified the two main regulatory frameworks on the international protection of refugees: the 1951 Convention about Refugee Status and its 1967 Protocol. Guatemala adopted the 1984 Cartagena Declaration, and in its 30th anniversary, adopted the Brazilian Declaration and Plan of Action, together with other 28 Latin American countries, in 2014.

In December 2001, through the Governmental Agreement N.º 383-2001, the Regulations for Protecting and Determining Refugee Status were passed in the State of Guatemala. The agreement adopts the definition of refugee of the 1951 Convention and of the Cartagena Declaration, as well as incorporating sexual violence and other forms of gender-based violence as foundations for recognizing refugee status

Since 2002, Guatemala has registered approximately 1,200 refugee applications from citizens of over 42 different countries. In 2019, the General Directorate of Migration, now the IGM, registered 77 refugees in Guatemala and 494 refuge seekers whose processes are in different phases of processing. In 2020, the IGM has registered 263 refugee applicants, a number that decreased due to COVID-19; however, in 2021, an increase in refugee applications is expected, since in some years an increase of up to 206% has been observed in the total amount of new refugee applications.

Complementary initiatives

Regarding protection, there are a series of initiatives to be implemented in a supplementary manner to support the creation of specialized and decent shelters for populations in need of international protection. These supplementary initiatives include strengthening of institutional capacities of the IGM to aid protection through more hired and trained specialists and better and broader equipment and infrastructure. This requires an increase of human resources specialized in the IGM for assisting and protecting refugee applicants. It is suggested that these interventions be carried out in a parallel and supplementary manner.

Currently, there are shelters administered by civil society organizations, such as the Pastoral for Human Mobility and the Scalabrinian Missionaries of St. Charles, who aim to support people in transit along the migration route. Some of these spaces have been broadened to accommodate people in need of international protection, even though they do not comply with the appropriate conditions for providing comprehensive services to people in need of international protection.

2. Detailed approach

General objective

Prepare an assessment for the creation of open shelters in decent conditions, tailored to populations in need of international protection, using specialized and trained teams.

Expected result

The expected result for this initiative is the creation of necessary conditions in the Guatemalan Institute of Migration and other institutions that make up the National Council for Assistance and Protection in order to provide a differentiated, safe and decent reception tailored to the population in need of international protection.

Specific objective 1

Identify instances of international cooperation for the management of technical assistance in order to draw up an assessment on the creation of open shelters.

Activities

A.1.1: Conduct a mapping of international cooperation agencies for the management of technical assistance.

A.1.2: Contact potential international cooperation partners for the management of technical assistance.

A.1.3: Formalization of partnerships with international cooperation agencies through letters of understanding.

Specific objective 2

Identify, through the assessment of capacities (infrastructure, and technical, financial and regulatory capacities), areas that require strengthening in order to launch open shelters.

Activities

A.2.1: Methodological design of the assessment of capacities and capacity building areas for the launching of open shelters.

A.2.2: Collection of information with key actors and conducting analysis for the assessment of capacities and areas to be strengthened for the launching of open shelters.

A.2.3: Creation of final document.

Specific objective 3

Create a guide to strengthen institutions in order to create open shelters in decent conditions and tailored to populations with international protection needs.

Activities

A.3.1: Presentation to and sharing with institutions that are competent on the populations with international protection needs, including cooperation agencies.

A.3.2: Validate the results of the capacities assessment by the National Technical Team and the authorities of the institutions that form it.

A.3.3: Prepare a guide, taking into account the results of the assessment, allowing for capacity building for the creation of open shelters.

3. Beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries of this initiative would be the population in need of international protection.

In 2019, the IGM registered 77 refugees in Guatemala and 494 refugee applicants whose processes are in various phases of processing. In 2020, the IGM has registered 263 refugee applicants, a number that decreased due to COVID-19; however, for 2021, an increase in refugee applications is expected. This population usually faces great challenges regarding protection, access to food, healthcare, water, sanitation and shelter, since many are located in inadequate areas². The challenges that this population face regarding documentation and access to employment, bank services, healthcare services, education, housing programs, social security, and security against violence have been identified.

People arriving in Guatemala and seeking international protection have moved, in the majority of cases, under circumstances of persecution, leaving their homes with little luggage and, in many occasions, without personal or legal documents. This situation created a serious defenselessness that limits their recognition as subjects with rights in their destination country, and represents serious limitations to complete legal and social integration. In addition to this, lack of economic resources results in them living in overcrowded places and in conditions with a high risk of violence. This is why it is so important to have shelters that are safe and in adequate conditions³.

4. Estimated budget

OBJECTIVE	REQUIRED FINANCING*	NATIONAL FINANCING	FINANCING GAP
	2021		
OE1: Identify instances of international cooperation to provide technical assistance in order to draw up an assessment on the creation of open shelters	\$2,273 Q 17,500	\$ 2,273 Q 17,500	\$0 Q 0
OE2: Identify, through the assessment of capacities (infrastructure, and technical, financial and regulatory capacities), areas that require strengthening in order to launch open shelters	\$ 25,974 Q 200,000	\$ 0 Q 0	\$ 25,974 Q 200,000
OE3: Create a guide to strengthen institutions in order to create open shelters in decent conditions and tailored to populations with international protection needs.	\$16,234 Q 125,000	\$ 2,273 Q 17,500	\$13,961 Q 107,500
TOTAL	\$44,481 Q 342,500	\$ 4,546 Q 35,000	\$39,935 Q 307,500

*Exchange rate: 7.7 GTQ a 1 USD

The quantification started with a planning process in which the focus areas were selected and the key participants and institutions for each focus area were identified. In this case, for the focus area of protection, the IGM was called on to establish goals and products and to devise a work plan for the year 2021. An analysis was carried out in order to identify the services and activities within the focus area so as to put the commitments of the national plan into operation.

The financial resources required for the services and activities planned for 2021 within the focus area were quantified, including the identified state investment and the funding deficits.

The quantification also includes mapping of current external

funding opportunities and resource deployment activities to reduce the existing funding deficit.

The cost methodology implemented for quantifying was carried out through the following steps:

1. Identification and prioritization of activities for the focus area;
2. Breakdown of costs by activity (using historic costs, average operative costs, use of equipment and materials, and infrastructure investment);
3. Verification of planned programming in the Operations Plans (POA, by its Spanish acronym) and estimated budgets for 2021, which were named National Funding; and
4. Determination of the funding deficits that resulted from the difference between required costs and national funding.

2 IACHR, 2017.

3 UNHCR and Human Mobility Subcommission, Episcopal Conference of Guatemala, 2015

5. Stakeholders

One of the institutions that will be strengthened by this initiative is the Guatemalan Migration Institute (IGM, by its Spanish acronym), which, in accordance with Article 16 of the Migration Code (Decree 44-2016), “has the exclusive power to authorize the entities that will provide shelter and temporary care to migrants, who will have to comply with regulatory dispositions for their location and functioning⁴”.

In turn, the IGM, together with the National Council for Assistance and Protection presided over by the Director of the IGM, will be able to create the necessary connections to manage the support and coordination mechanisms with institutions, such as the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare (MSPAS, by its Spanish acronym), the Ministry of Labor and Social Planning (MINTRAB, by its Spanish acronym), the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES, by its Spanish acronym), the Ministry of Government (MINGOB, by its Spanish acronym), the National Procurator General’s Office (PGN, by its Spanish acronym), the Social Welfare Secretariat (SBS, by its Spanish acronym), and the Human Rights Procurator’s Office (PDH, by its Spanish acronym)⁵.

The initiative will need to be discussed with the National Migration Authority, Executive Committee composed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNHCR, UNDP, OAS and the UN Resident Coordinator in Guatemala, to find support and collaboration opportunities to enhance its results and to allow for new milestones to be reached once the assessing stage is complete. At the same time, and to carry out a unified effort at a national level, there will be coordination with CONARE, who is responsible for enforcement of the provisions set forth by the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its protocol, as well as any other regulation related to the recognition, protection, and assistance of refugees and the regulations and provisions within its rulebook, according to the Government Agreement 383-2001⁶.

At the same time, during the implementation of this initiative, the IGM will be able to promote the participation of the civil society, and the private sector.

6. Cross-cutting themes

The assessment, conducted on areas that require strengthening in order to launch open shelters, will need to take into account a differentiated analysis so that shelters can have decent conditions and be tailored to populations with international protection needs. The assistance and protection needs of accompanied and unaccompanied children and adolescents will need to be considered according to the principles established by the Convention on the Rights of the Child . To do so, associations with governing institutions which are mandated to support children and adolescents with specialized assistance, whether psychological, legal, medical, recreational, or other assistance, will need to be identified. During the assessment process, discussions will be held with civil society organizations and specialized institutions with work experience in subjects related to minors.

Taking into account the differentiated analysis, and in order to guarantee that the refugees of the LGBTI community are protected once they arrive or seek assistance of the shelters, the assessment will also consider the actions, routes and mechanisms required to facilitate such support.

Likewise, during capacity assessment, referral pathways for support services and coordination methods necessary of survivors of gender-based violence, mostly women, will be identified.

Interinstitutional coordination methods will be identified in order to perform an effective, differentiated protection for children, adolescents, women and the LGBTI population in the shelters which will be created and implemented so that they may be safe spaces for these vulnerable populations.

⁵ Congress of the Republic of Guatemala, Decree 44-2016.

⁶ MIRPS, 2017.

⁷ This convention is the international legal instrument for the protection of children, as it establishes global regulations for the protection of minors, taking into account practically every aspect of a child’s life.

7. Risks and assumptions

RISK	PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE	INTENSITY OF IMPACT	MITIGATING STRATEGY
Staff turnover within the different state institutions involved, which can slow down the initiated processes.	Medium	Medium	Ensure that the initiative maintains a focal point in charge of the implementation and tracking of the initiative, regardless of the person who occupies the position of institutional focal point.
Management of resources necessary to guarantee that, once the assessment and guide are finished, there are the resources necessary to put open shelters into operation.	Medium	High	Conduct a mapping of donors and implement a strategy of resource management. Likewise, during the implementation of the initiative, it will be important to include budget guidelines within Annual Operation Plans (POA) and Multiannual Operation Plans (POM, by its Spanish acronym) for the institutions that will be in charge of the implementation of open shelters.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

The fulfillment of the goals established for 2021 will be achieved through the actions established in this concept note under the leadership of the Guatemalan Migration Institute and in coordination with the National Technical Team, civil society and international cooperation organizations. The initiative’s progress will be monitored every three months through the tracking that the IGM performs on its Annual Operative Plan.

Goals have been established to measure the advancement of the activities prioritized for the year, which the IGM will track to determine their achievement in 2021. The tables with indicators, baselines and goals can be found in the annex of this concept note.



Annex: Logical Framework and Estimated Budget

	Indicator	Baseline	Sources of Verification	Term	Required Financing	National Financing	Financing Gap
1. General Objective							
Prepare an assessment for the creation of open shelters in decent conditions, tailored to populations in need of international protection, using specialized and trained teams.	The number of areas to be strengthened for the creation of open shelters in decent conditions and tailored to populations with international protection needs is identified.	0	Assessment of capacities for the creation of open shelters.	2020-2021			
1.1 Specific Objective							
Identify instances of international cooperation for the management of technical assistance in order to draw up an assessment on the creation of open shelters.	Budget amount for the creation of open shelters funded by international cooperation agencies.		Letters of understanding/project documents with funding organization/agency.	2020-2021			
1.1.1 Activity							
Conduct a mapping of international cooperation agencies for the management of financial and technical resources.	Existence of a mapping of donors for the management of financial and technical resources for the creation of open shelters.	None	Mapping of donors	2020	GTQ 5,000	GTQ 5,000	GTQ 0
1.1.2 Activity							
Contact with the international cooperation agencies identified with the mapping.	Number of projects designed and submitted to international cooperation for the creation of open shelters.	0	Letters of understanding/project documents with funding organization/agency.	2021	GTQ 7,500	GTQ 7,500	GTQ 0
1.1.3 Activity				2021	GTQ 5,000	GTQ 5,000	GTQ 0
Formalization with international cooperation agencies through letters of understanding.							
SO 1 Subtotal					GTQ 17,500	GTQ 17,500	GTQ 0
				USD	USD 2,273	USD 2,273	USD 0
1.2 Specific Objective							
Identify, through the assessment of capacities (infrastructure, and technical, financial and regulatory capacities), areas that require strengthening in order to launch open shelters.	Existence of a capacity assessment for the launching of open shelters.	None	Assessment of capacities for the creation of open shelters.	2021			

1.2.1 Activity							
Methodological design of the assessment of capacities and capacity building areas for the launching of open shelters.				2021	GTQ 25,000	GTQ 0	GTQ 25,000
1.2.2 Activity							
Collection of information from key actors and conducting analysis for the assessment of capacities and areas to be strengthened for the launching of open shelters.				2021	GTQ 150,000	GTQ 0	GTQ 150,000
1.2.3 Activity							
Creation of final document.				2021	GTQ 25,000	GTQ 0	GTQ 25,000
SO 2 Subtotal					GTQ 200,000	GTQ 0	GTQ 200,000
				USD	USD 25,974	USD 0	USD 25,974
1.3 Specific Objective							
Create a guide to strengthen institutions in order to create open shelters in decent conditions and tailored to populations with international protection needs.	Existence of a guide for the creation of open shelters in decent conditions and tailored to populations with international protection needs.	None	Document with a guide for the creation of open shelters.	2021			
1.3.1 Activity							
Presentation to and sharing with institutions that are competent on the populations with international protection needs, including cooperation agencies.				2021	GTQ 20,000	GTQ 12,500	GTQ 7,500
1.3.2 Activity							
Validate the results of the capacities assessment by the National Technical Team and the authorities of the institutions that form it.	Number of presentation sessions and validation of the assessment of capacities for the creation of open shelters.	0	Minutes of information-sharing sessions, lists of participants' attendance	2021	GTQ 5,000	GTQ 5,000	GTQ 0
1.3.3 Activity							
Prepare a guide, taking into account the results of the assessment, allowing for capacity building for the creation of open shelters.				2021	GTQ 100,000	GTQ 0	GTQ 100,000
SO 3 Subtotal					GTQ 125,000	GTQ 17,500	GTQ 107,500
				USD	USD 16,234	USD 2,273	USD 13,961
TOTAL					GTQ 342,500	GTQ 35,000	GTQ 307,500
				USD	USD 44,481	USD 4,546	USD 39,935

Exchange rate: 7.7 GTQ to 1 USD.

**COUNTRY:** Guatemala**SECTOR:** Child Protection

Strengthening institutions that govern the protection of children and adolescents in border areas



Executive Summary

Over recent years in Guatemala, there has been large movements of people, including migrants in transit and refugees. An increase in the levels of violence in neighbouring countries of the region, has forced many children and adolescents (both alone or accompanied) to be forced to leave their countries of origin, particularly both originating from Honduras and El Salvador. They are often victims of physical, psychological, sexual violence and exploitation following their original displacement. As a result, it is necessary to strengthen institutional support for this group along the migrant route. This, in turn, requires the strengthening of institutional capacity to provide the necessary conditions for their safe and specialized reception upon arrival.

This initiative will seek to create within a year, the necessary conditions to strengthen the specialized, differentiated, safe and dignified reception through open shelters. To achieve this goal, the objective of this initiative is to strengthen governing institutions for the protection of children and adolescents, especially in border areas. The specific objectives include strengthening social protection services support children and adolescents in border areas through the Quédate Training Centres and the opening of a specialized shelter for the care of unaccompanied children and adolescents in the context of mobility who are in Guatemala outside your country of origin.

DURATION

2021

IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Secretariat of Social Welfare of the Presidency of the Republic

LOCATION

National

BENEFICIARIES

- 20 refugee children and adolescents
- 30 refugee applicants who are children and adolescents
- 25 returned children and adolescents in need of special protection
- 1,500 returned children and adolescents in need of social protection

ESTIMATED BUDGET

Financiamiento Total Requerido:	\$236,494
Financiamiento Nacional:	\$4,286
Brecha de Financiamiento:	\$232,208

1. Sector context

Regarding the protection of children and adolescents, Guatemala has legal frameworks in place for the protection of children and adolescents at a national level, such as the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents Act, which protects the rights of all children and adolescents to live a decent life free of violence, with access to healthcare, nutrition and education in order to develop their full potential.

In Guatemala, Ministerial Agreements 696-2017 and 2474-2018 have been approved, which seek to strengthen the inclusion of children, adolescents and young people (NNAJ, by its Spanish acronym) into the National Education System through the validation of studies, standardization and equivalences. The Secretariat of Social Welfare of the Presidency of the Republic (SBS, by its Spanish acronym) and the National Procurator General's Office (PGN, by its Spanish acronym), which are responsible for the legal representation and protection of children and adolescents in the country, have pursued strengthening mechanisms through UNHCR. In 2018, there were some achievements: articulation of a route of special protection for cases of children and adolescents with international protection needs seeking protection in the country, and the protection of returning children and adolescents who could not return to their homes or communities of origin due to violence¹.

Regarding coordination methods, three committees have been created (the National Commission for Refugees [CONARE], the Commission for the Comprehensive Assistance to Migrant Children and Adolescents, and the Labour Mobility Committee) in order to give continuity to the commitments acquired within the framework of MIRPS in relation to refugees, assistance to migrant children and adolescents, legal framework of the Migration Code (Decree 44-2016), and the creation of employment for people with international protection needs. The SBS has been governed by the processes of coordination, assistance and referral of cases through the Commission for the Assistance to Migrant Children and Adolescents (Governmental Decree 146-2014), which has the objective of conducting interinstitutional coordination, evaluating, promoting and tracking the compliance with strategies made on the technical committee. Likewise, the commission must have institutional and interinstitutional plans and programmes in place related to migrant children and adolescents that provide protection, assistance and comprehensive support and guarantee the respect of their fundamental rights. As a mechanism creating/strengthening programs and routes focused on the following main points: Care, Protection, Reintegration y Prevention. In the same way, through this Commission, the programs of each institution should be articulated (SBS, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MINEX, by its Spanish acronym], MINGOB, the Secretariat of Social Works of the First Lady [SOSEP, by its Spanish acronym], PGN and MINEDUC) in order to create

routes for reintegration and prevention of migrant children and adolescents.

As part of the actions implemented in order to provide shelter for unaccompanied children and adolescents, the Division of Special Protection and Non-Residential Care of the SBS, through the Department of Unaccompanied Migrant Children and Adolescents, is in charge of planning, coordinating, organizing, managing, supervising and evaluating the services and care addressed at unaccompanied migrating children and adolescents.

As regards services and interventions to be implemented, included are such entities as the Casas Nuestras Raíces Guatemala shelter and the Quetzaltenango shelter. These shelters aim to assist and protect unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents who are returned by air or land from the United States of America and the United Mexican States, as well as safeguard their rights². Professionals at the shelters write psychological and social work reports for cases in which children and teenagers need special protection, if they have been victims of any kind of violation of their Human Rights (before or during their migration). These reports are then referred to the representatives of the National Procurator General's Office, PGN.

The SBS has a reception protocols for unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents with a focus on rights and psychosocial aspects. The teams must apply this protocol at the time of the reception and placement in shelters.

The Quédate learning and training centers are available for social welfare and learning. These centers were established to respond to the needs of the returning children and adolescents at risk of migrating irregularly. The centers serve as a viable and accessible option for boosting their skills and abilities in their communities of origin through educational processes with a technical and vocational approach, carried out in a way so they adapt to their cognitive, motor and psychomotor needs, and certified by the Ministry of Education, through the Dirección General de Educación Extraescolar (General Directorate of Extracurricular Education, DIGEEX) and the Instituto Técnico de Capacitación y Productividad (Technical Institute for Training and Productivity, INTECAP)³.

Among the lessons learned that have been highlighted in the MIRPSs monitoring reports there is a need for effective interinstitutional coordination and for the existence of committees that allow MIRPS to fulfill its commitments in a unified and organized manner, with roles and responsibilities clearly identified.

1 UNHCR, 2019

2 Social Welfare Secretariat, 2020.

3 idem

Complementary Initiatives

As regards the protection of the children and adolescents, there are a few initiatives to be implemented in a complementary manner to support the creation of specialized shelters for unaccompanied children and adolescents populations in need of international protection.

In 2018, training sessions for officials involved with the assistance of children and adolescents were carried out on various subjects, including asylum, international protection, protocols, implementation of directives for the determination of the best interest of the child (DIS, by its Spanish acronym), the Migration Code (Decree 44-2016), the Children and Adolescents Comprehensive Protection Act and the interinstitutional assistance route.

Based on the above, the identification of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents returning to Guatemala in need of special protection has been strengthened. That same year, of at least 3,091 children and adolescents repatriated from January to July 2018, 12 protection processes were started and 25 more were referred to regional delegations of the National Procurator General's Office for follow-up.

Among other initiatives, there is also the strengthening of the Secretariat of Social Welfare of the Presidency of the Republic which, through the Department of Unaccompanied Migrating Children and Adolescents and together with UNHCR, was devoted to the planning for the implementation of an assistance model for children and adolescents in a context of human mobility in Guatemala who are outside of their country of origin and in need of international protection in foster homes.

The assistance of the United Nations system in Guatemala has been oriented towards facing the humanitarian crisis as regards migration, but it gives a greater and special treatment to the issue of unaccompanied children and adolescents and, consequently, through agencies such as UNICEF, it has been focused on strengthening institutions such as the SBS regarding reception and accommodation in shelters, consular protection, psychosocial support, integration/ reintegration and prevention, communication and incidence, and modernization and legal framework reforms support⁴.

Despite the progress, there are still some challenges to overcome regarding strengthening institutions that govern the protection of children and adolescents, especially in relation to their ability to respond in border areas.

2. Detailed approach

General objective

Strengthen institutions that govern the protection of children and adolescents, especially in border areas.

Specific objective 1

Strengthen social protection services directed towards children and adolescents in border areas through the Quédate learning and training centers.

Activities

A.1.1: Formulation of a study to establish border and convergence municipalities with a higher identified number of unaccompanied children and adolescents in a context of mobility according to their migratory flow

- A diagnostic study will be carried out to analyze the current mobility situation in border municipalities of unaccompanied children and adolescents in a context of mobility. Apart from providing information on migratory flows of unaccompanied children and adolescents, this study will also evaluate which municipalities have the suitable conditions for the opening of shelters specialized in assisting unaccompanied children and adolescents.
- The assessment will also identify best practices and lessons learned from shelters opened in other countries in the Latin American region and will compile successful experiences implemented in other MIRPS countries.
- Key actors at the level of the institutions involved will participate in the evaluation to get a general outlook on the context of children and adolescents in need of international protection, and to understand the capacities needed in terms of infrastructure, human resources, equipment, and financial resources for the opening of a specialized shelter.

⁴ Guatemala: United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2015-2019 (UNDAF)

A.1.2: Selection and prioritization of border municipalities according to the study

- Use the assessment of unaccompanied children and adolescents in border municipalities to determine selection and prioritization criteria.

A.1.3: Lobbying with municipal governments to establish an agreement of mutual cooperation

- The study performed will be presented to municipal corporations in the prioritized municipalities to procure, together with municipal governments, their support for the strengthening of social protection services directed towards children and adolescents in border zones through the Quédade learning and training centers, and for the creation of the necessary conditions for the opening of a specialized shelter for the assistance of unaccompanied children and adolescents in a context of mobility in Guatemala who are outside of their country of origin.

Specific objective 2

Opening of a shelter specializing in the assistance of unaccompanied children and adolescents in a context of mobility in Guatemala who are outside of their country of origin.

Activities

A.2.1: Formulation of the initiative for a specialized shelter for the assistance of unaccompanied m a context of mobility in Guatemala who are outside of their country of origin for presentation to international cooperation agencies for funding.

- The initiative for the opening of a shelter specialized on the assistance of unaccompanied children and adolescents in a context of mobility will be developed with the goal of deploying necessary technical and financial resources, with an initial implementation in 2021. This initiative will include an assessment of the needed infrastructure, equipment, human resources, and regulatory framework for its operation, as well as a cost plan (for installation and maintenance).

A.2.2: Creation of the conditions, in terms of infrastructure and regulations, for the opening of a specialized shelter for unaccompanied children and adolescents

- Thenecessaryconditionsfortheopeningofaspecializedshelterforunaccompaniedmigrantchildrenandadolescentsinacontext of mobility in Guatemala who are outside of their country of origin will be established. Among these conditions are the following:
 - Definition of geographic location
 - Identification of an area for its location
 - Deployment of resources for the acquisition of infrastructure and equipment
 - Preparation and approval of operation manuals and protocols
 - Identification of necessary human resources and position profiles

A.2.3: Creation of conditions in terms of infrastructure and regulations such as the opening of a specialized shelter for unaccompanied children. Conditioning of physical infrastructure, remodeling, creation of protocols.

3. Beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries of this initiative will be, for 2021, a total of 1,575 refugee children and adolescents in need for protection. Among which, there are:

- 20 refugee children and adolescents
- 30 refugee applicants who are children and adolescents
- 25 returned children and adolescents in need of special protection
- 1,500 returned children and adolescents in need of social protection

On the other hand, the SBS has projected that, in 2022, a total of 1,900 unaccompanied migrant and refugee children and adolescents will benefit from the strengthening of social protection through the Quédade learning and training centers and the opening of a specialized shelter, and by 2023, a total of 2,225 children and adolescents will have benefitted.

4. Estimated budget

OBJECTIVE	REQUIRED FINANCING*	NATIONAL FINANCING	FINANCING GAP
	2021		
OE1: Strengthening social protection services directed towards children and adolescents in border areas through the Quédate learning and training centers	\$156,623 Q 1,206,000	\$ 2,338 Q 18,000	\$ 154,286 Q 1,188,000
OE2: Opening of a specialized shelter for the assistance of unaccompanied children and adolescents in a context of mobility in Guatemala who are outside of their country of origin.	\$ 79,870 Q 615,000	\$ 1,948 Q 15,000	\$ 77,922 Q 600,000
TOTAL	\$236,494 Q 1,821,000	\$ 4,286 Q 33,000	\$ 232,208 Q 1,788,000

*Exchange rate: 7.7 GTQ to 1 USD

The quantification started with a planning process in which focus areas were selected and key participants and institutions for each focus area were identified. In this case, for the focus area of protection for unaccompanied children and adolescents, the Secretariat of Social Welfare of the Presidency of the Republic was called upon to establish goals and products, and to devise a work plan for the year 2021-2022. An analysis was carried out in order to identify the services and activities within the focus area so as to put the commitments of the national plan into operation.

The financial resources required for the services and activities planned for 2021-2022 within the area of focus were quantified, including the state investment and the funding deficit identified.

The quantification also includes mapping of current external funding opportunities and resource deployment activities to reduce the existing funding deficit.

The cost methodology implemented for quantifying was carried out through the following steps:

1. Identification and prioritization of activities for the focus area;
2. Breakdown of costs by activity (using historic costs, average operative costs, use of equipment and materials, and infrastructure investment);
3. Verification of planned programming in the Operations Plans (POA, by its Spanish acronym) and estimated budgets for 2021, which were named National Funding; and
4. Determination of the funding deficits that resulted from the difference between required costs and national funding.

5. Stakeholders

As the governing institution in matters of services which are crucial for the special protection of children and adolescents whose rights have been threatened or violated, this initiative would be implemented by the Secretariat of Social Welfare of the Presidency of the Republic (SBS), in agreement with the Migration Code (Decree 44-2016).

In turn, the SBS, together with the National Council for Assistance and Protection (NCAP) will be able to create the necessary connections to manage the support and coordination mechanisms with the institutions who are part of the NCAP, such as MSPAS, MINTRAB, MIDES, MINGOB, PGN, SBS, and PDH.

The initiative will need to be discussed with the Executive Committee composed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP, OAS and the UN Resident Coordinator in Guatemala, to find support and collaboration opportunities to enhance its results and to allow for new milestones to be reached once the assessing stage is complete. At the same time, and to carry out a unified effort at a national level, there will be coordination with CONARE, who is responsible for enforcement of the provisions set forth by the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its protocol, as well as any other regulation related to the recognition, protection, and assistance of refugees and the regulations and provisions within its rulebook, according to the Government Agreement 383-2001.

At the same time, during the implementation of this proposal, the SBS will be able to promote the participation of the civil society, municipalities, the private sector, and communities.

6. Cross-cutting themes

The assistance and protection needs of accompanied and unaccompanied children and adolescents will need to be considered according to the principles established by the Convention on the Rights of the Child⁵. To do so, associations with governing institutions which are mandated to support children and adolescents with specialized assistance, whether psychological, legal, medical, recreational, or other assistance, will need to be identified. During the assessment process, discussions will be held with specialized organizations and institutions with experience working with issues of minors.

On the other hand, the strengthening of social protection services directed towards children and adolescents in border areas will strengthen the capacity to care for girls, adolescent girls and women who are survivors of gender-based violence.

7. Risks and assumptions

RISK	PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE	INTENSITY OF IMPACT	MITIGATING STRATEGY
Staff turnover within the different state institutions involved, which can slow down the initiated processes	Medium	Medium	Ensure that the initiative maintains a focal point in charge of the implementation and tracking of the initiative regardless of the person who occupies the position of institutional focal point.
Obtaining insufficient financial resources to guarantee goal fulfillment	Medium	High	During the implementation of the initiative, it will be important to include budget guidelines within the institutions' Annual Operation Plans (POA, by its Spanish acronym) and Multiannual Operation Plans (POM, by its Spanish acronym). These institutions will be in charge of the strengthening social protection services directed towards children and adolescents in border zones, through the Quédate learning and training centers and the opening of a specialized shelter for the assistance of unaccompanied children and adolescents in a context of mobility in Guatemala who are outside of their country of origin.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

The fulfillment of the goals established for 2021 will be achieved through the actions established in this concept note under the leadership of the Secretariat of Social Welfare of the Presidency of the Republic and in coordination with the National Technical Team. The initiative's progress will be monitored every three months through the tracking that the SBS performs on its Annual Operative Plan.

Goals have been established to measure the advancement of activities prioritized for the year, which the SBS will track to bring about their completion 2021. The tables with indicators, baselines and goals can be found in the annex of this concept note.

⁵ This convention is the international legal instrument for the protection of children, as it establishes global regulations for the protection of minors, taking into account practically every aspect of a child's life.

Annex: Logical framework and estimated budget

	Indicator	Baseline	Means of Verification	Duration	Required Financing	National Financing	Financing Gap	
General Objective								
Strengthen institutions that govern the protection of children and adolescents, especially in border areas.	Number of strengthened institutions that govern the protection of children and adolescents to provide services in border areas.	0	Reports of institutional efforts	2021				
Specific goal 1.1								
Strengthen social protection services directed towards children and adolescents in border areas through the <i>Quédate</i> learning and training centres.	Number of strengthened social protection services directed towards children and adolescents.	0	Reports of institutional efforts	2021				
1.1 Activity								
Formulation of a study to establish border and convergence municipalities with a higher identified number of unaccompanied children and adolescents in a context of mobility according to their migratory flow.	The existence of a diagnostic study which establishes border and convergence municipalities with a higher identified number of unaccompanied children and adolescents in a context of mobility according to their migratory flow.	There is no study that determines which municipalities have a greater flow of unaccompanied children and adolescents in a context of mobility.	Study document	2021	GTQ 10,000	GTQ 10,000		
1.2 Activity								
Selection and prioritization of border municipalities according to the study				2021	GTQ 1,188,000		GTQ 1,188,000	
1.3 Activity								
Lobbying with municipal governments to establish an agreement of mutual cooperation.	Number of municipalities who sign cooperation agreements for the opening of shelters specializing in the assistance of unaccompanied children and adolescents in a context of mobility.	0	Mutual cooperation agreements with municipalities	2021	GTQ 8,000	GTQ 8,000		
SO 1 subtotal						GTQ 1,206,000	GTQ 18,000	GTQ 1,188,000
					USD	USD 156,623	USD 2,338	USD 154,286

Specific objective 2.1							
Opening of a shelter specializing in the assistance of unaccompanied children and adolescents in a context of mobility in Guatemala who are outside of their country of origin.	Existence of a shelter specializing in the assistance of unaccompanied children and adolescents in a context of mobility in at least one prioritized department.	0	Reports of institutional efforts	2021			
2.1 Activity							
Creation of a study of the necessary conditions for the opening of a shelter specializing in the assistance of unaccompanied children and adolescents.	A study of the conditions for the opening of a specialized shelter for unaccompanied children and adolescents.	0	Study document	2021	GTQ 10,000	GTQ 10,000	GTQ 0
2.2 Activity							
Creation of the proposal for a shelter specializing in the assistance of unaccompanied children and adolescents in a context of mobility in Guatemala who are outside of their country of origin to present to international cooperation agencies for funding.	A project for the deployment of resources for opening of a specialized shelter for unaccompanied children and adolescents.	0	Project document	2021	GTQ 5,000	GTQ 5,000	GTQ 0
2.3 Activity							
Creation of conditions in terms of infrastructure and regulations such as the opening of a specialized shelter for unaccompanied children. Conditioning of physical infrastructure, remodeling, creation of protocols.	Number of protocols and manuals established for the operation of the specialized shelter for unaccompanied children and adolescents.	0		2021	GTQ 600,000	GTQ 0	GTQ 600,000
SO 2 Subtotal					GTQ 615,000	GTQ 15,000	GTQ 600,000
				USD	USD 79,870	USD 1,948	USD 77,922
TOTAL					GTQ 1,821,000	GTQ 33,000	GTQ 1,788,000
				USD	USD 236,494	USD 4,286	USD 232,208

*Exchange rate: 7.7 GTQ to 1 USD.

Honduras.



Persons of concern in Honduras

Honduran asylum seekers in the world*



138,040

Honduran refugees in the world*



29,964




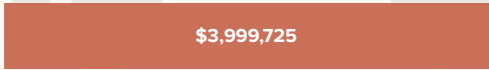
Internally displaced people in Honduras**



247,000

*Data provided to UNHCR by end of 2019

**Internal displacement profiling study 2004-2018

SECTOR	DESCRIPTION	IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES	FINANCING NEEDS
 <p>Social protection</p>  	<p>Access to training and livelihoods programs and humanitarian assistance which support and generate entrepreneurship and contribute to reduce the economic inequality of the asylum seeker, refugee, internally displaced and Honduran returnee populations in vulnerable conditions.</p>	<p>Human Rights Secretariat (SEDH)</p> <p>Secretary of State and International Cooperation (SRECI)</p> <p>National Institute of Immigration (INM)</p>	<p>Total Financing Required</p>  <p>\$3,999,725</p>

National context

Honduras has experienced stable economic growth in the last two decades, although economic and social challenges persist. Between 1985 and 2016, the economy grew at an average of 6.97%, driven by sound macroeconomic management, export growth and good-scale foreign investment. However, there are still significant gaps to overcome since the majority (60.9%) of Hondurans still live below the poverty line and 38.4% of people are in extreme poverty. The development process produced significant contrasts between urban and rural advances where the vast majority of the indicators of the Millennium Development Goals were not met. Furthermore, this period of economic growth was marked by internal violence and social and political instability that produced the breakdown of the constitutional order in 2009. These situations negatively affected growth and have generated a migratory crisis. Honduras has quality opportunities to grow in a sustained manner but the challenge remains of making this growth more equitable to help lift people out of poverty. To this end, the government must implement prudent and sound policies within a complex and uncertain international

context (Draft Evaluation Report on Finance for Development in Honduras (2018), United Nations, page 7).

In November 2020, hurricanes ETA and IOTA impacted the border coasts of Honduras and Nicaragua, causing heavy rainfall. The effects left by the phenomena could be in the range of those experienced in Honduras during Hurricane Mitch in 1998, one of the most devastating disasters ever recorded in Honduras.

The integral dimension of the impact on the different social, economic and productive sectors is still being evaluated, however, so far climatic phenomena have left thousands of people affected, loss of human life, bridges and roads in poor condition, agricultural crops affected by the floods, thus affected people's livelihoods, well-being and safety.

Displacement trends

Economic and social exclusion, poverty, violence, insecurity and natural disasters constitute some of drivers of human mobility, migration, and forced displacement. The complex context of forced displacement due to violence is a real and emerging situation that requires immediate and urgent responses. In 2013, the Government of Honduras recognized that forced displacement exists in the country, thus creating the Inter-Institutional Commission for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons due to Violence (CIPPDV) and the Directorate for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons due to Violence (DIPPDIV) attached to the Secretariat for Human Rights.

The II Characterization Report on Internal Displacement caused by violence, states that 8% of internally displaced people choose their destination for economic reasons and around 55% decide to move to the same municipality in which they have suffered violence, for reasons related to employment opportunities. The percentage of youth unemployment among displaced persons (18-34 years) is 5% higher than that of the general population.

National response

In compliance with international human rights standards, the individual rights that are framed in the Constitution of the Republic of Honduras, through article 101, the recognition of the right to asylum is established in the form and conditions established by law; likewise, articles 3 in numbers 22 and 42 of the Law on Migration and Foreigners define who the refugees are and the established circumstances.

The National Institute of Migration (INM), through the Human Rights and Migrant Care Management, ensures compliance with the international commitments acquired by the Government of the Republic of Honduras, including the

Convention on the Status of Refugees and is in charge of the permanent training of the personnel assigned at the border and in the CAMI, on the observance of articles 44 and 46 of the Immigration and Alien Law on Non-refoulement, resettlement or repatriation and the prohibition of deportation or expulsion of a person in need of protection.

The approved asylum applications have been based on the grounds established in the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees, "due to well-founded fears of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, belonging to a certain social or political group, as well as their opinions outside their

country”, and are unable or unwilling to avail themselves of their country’s protection due to such fears. As established in article 42 of the Migration and Immigration Law, consideration is also based on what is established in the Declaration of Cartagena of 1984, taking into account who have fled their country because their life, security or freedom have been threatened for any of the following reasons: generalized, serious and continuous violence; foreign aggression; internal armed conflicts; massive, permanent and systematic human rights violence; and who suffer persecution through sexual violence or other forms of gender-based persecution based on human rights violations.

In 2013, the Law for the Protection of Honduran Migrants and their Relatives (LPHMF) was approved through Legislative Decree N.106-2013, which mandates the promotion of a comprehensive policy for the return of Hondurans abroad and their social and labour reintegration. Despite efforts made by the Government of Honduras, the migration of Hondurans has increased in recent years, the main causes being economic difficulties, violence or insecurity, health, education, family reunification, and domestic violence¹.

Faced with the massive movements of people coming mainly from the Northern Triangle of Central America, the United States Government has been implementing immigration and labour control measures such as the possible non-renewal of TPS² beyond 2020, the elimination of DACA³ as well as the increase in immigration control within the country, and the strengthening of border control. These measures are reflected in the statistics of Hondurans returned to the country, which have increased in recent years.

Given these circumstances, it is imperative for the Government of Honduras to continue formulating proposals and initiatives that alleviate the needs for protection, humanitarian assistance and durable solutions of Hondurans living abroad and those who return to the country.

In the case of Honduras, the absence of a comprehensive framework of public policies to serve returnees with protection needs and internally displaced persons or at risk of displacement due to violence is the main obstacle

to achieving their labour and social inclusion. The relevant State institutions have not yet developed the instruments, mechanisms and institutional capacities to address the problems in a comprehensive manner⁴ such as the creation of the Directorate for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons due to Violence, created by Executive Decree PCM-055-2017, under the auspice of the Secretariat of Human Rights, whose purpose is to provide care to internally displaced persons due to violence in conjunction with the CIPPDV. Likewise, the Honduran Migrant Assistance Task Force seeks to coordinate and articulate the efforts and institutional resources in migration matters.

The Government of the Republic of Honduras, committed to the safety and health of irregular migrants stranded in national territory and in unrestricted compliance with the provisions issued by Executive Decree PCM-021-2020, has carried out different steps and actions to provide attention and humanitarian assistance to this population. This attention and humanitarian assistance have been coordinated with government agencies, civil society organizations - CSOs, non-governmental organizations - NGOs and international organizations. According to the current trend of migratory flows in transit, an increase 20% of people crossing the territory is expected in the coming years, many of whom have diverse assistance and protection needs, requiring humanitarian aid. The 2020-2021 Annual Operational Plans, as well as international cooperation projects, have been modified to be able to be executed according to the current context. The budgets of the institutions have also been affected, since resources have been redirected to the health emergency due to COVID-19 and the socioeconomic effects due to the Eta and Iota natural phenomena.

Likewise, work is being done to carry out different procedures, services and attention to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches these people, according to the institutional capacities of the country, while the current situation is improved.

The MIRPS in Honduras

In accordance with the long tradition of regional cooperation to respond to the protection challenges derived from forced displacement and as a participating country, Honduras committed itself within the MIRPS framework to address the following axes: 1: Reception and admission; 2: Immediate and persistent needs and 4: Durable solutions. This through the implementation of 30 commitments detailed in the national Action Plan and under the direction of the national technical team (NTT). The NTT is made up of three government institutions: the Secretariat for Human Rights, the Secretariat for Foreign Relations and International Cooperation, and the National Institute for Migration.

1 ceniss.gob.hn/migrantes/

2 TPS: Temporary Protected Status

3 DACA: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival

4 Project: “Promoción del Empleo y la Protección Social en el Marco Integral de Respuesta a los Refugiados en América Central y México” ACNUR-OIT.

**COUNTRY:** Honduras**SECTOR:** Social Protection

Guaranteeing a harmonized approach to provide long term solutions such as access to work and social protection



Executive Summary

The labour inclusion of people internally displaced by violence, returnees with protection needs, refugees and asylum seekers is essential to guarantee access to durable solutions. Currently in the country there are various initiatives focused on livelihoods and social inclusion; however, they are mostly aimed at people living in poverty or extreme poverty and the inclusion of displaced persons has not been specifically addressed, perpetuating economic inequalities. To promote access to decent work and social protection, it is necessary to support durable solutions, through social inclusion programmes, both in employability and in entrepreneurship, to overcome barriers and thus contribute to their self-sufficiency.

This proposal seeks to support a mapping of the various interventions in livelihoods and socioeconomic inclusion implemented by different development actors in the country; with the aim of establishing strategic alliances with these actors. This will include the implementation of a methodology to support the greater inclusion of displaced persons in livelihoods programme, that considers the specific protection concerns associated with the population. The planned intervention includes the establishment of an Economic Inclusion Fund, destined to support and generate entrepreneurship, and to establish economic inclusion actions, by strengthening the life skills of the beneficiaries.

TIMEFRAME

5 years (2021-2026)

IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Human Rights Secretariat (SEDH by its Spanish acronym)
Secretary of State and International Cooperation (SRECI by its Spanish acronym)
National Institute of Immigration (INM by its Spanish acronym)

LOCATION

Honduras, Central and Local level. Departments of Francisco Morazán, Cortés, El Paraíso, Choluteca

BENEFICIARIES

125 asylum seekers
250 refugees
1,000 internally displaced persons
1,000 Honduran returnees in vulnerable conditions

ESTIMATED BUDGET

Total Financing Required: \$ 3,999,725

1. Context in social protection sector in Honduras

According to figures from the INE 2017 in Honduras, the economically active population (EAP)¹ is 4.0 million, of which 93.3% are employed. However, despite this level, underemployment is the main problem. According to the National Institute of Statistics (INE), figures for 2016 show an invisible underemployment of 44.2% and visible underemployment of 11.5% of the total employed in the country. Unemployment represents 7.4% of the EAP and is mainly concentrated in the young population up to 24 years of age, where in addition to unemployment and underemployment there are about 500,000 young people who neither study nor work².

The unemployment problem is largely urban, likely fueled by the constant migration of people from the countryside to the city and the limited capacity of the labour market to absorb this labour force. While the urban Open Employment Rate (OER) is estimated at 7.8%, the rural rate is 3.0%. The Central District and San Pedro Sula have the highest unemployment rate 9.1% and 7.0% respectively. The ability of the labour market to absorb the labour force can also be measured by the Months Looking for Work (MBT) that unemployed people experience.

Thus, on average in urban areas an unemployed person has been looking for work for 3.2 months, while in rural areas it is 1.7 months. As with the OER, the Central District is where an unemployed person can spend the longest time without finding a job, equivalent to 4.2 months. If the OER is analyzed from a gender perspective, it will be clearly noticed that the market has a bias towards male occupation. This indicator is 3.9 points lower for men than for women (4.2% and 8.1% respectively). Furthermore, the market seems to absorb the male labour force more quickly than the female one: while for a man the MBT is 2.5, it is the equivalent to 3.2 months for a woman³.

The informal economy represents 74.9% of jobs according to the ILO. Unemployment is one of the factors that characterize the displaced population. The unemployment rate for the population age 12 to 17 is 5% compared to 1% for the general population. Although the minimum legal age to work in Honduras is 18 years of age, the 12-17 year-old range is taken in the statistics as part of the economically active population (EAP). Furthermore, between the ages of 18 and 34, 12% of displaced people are unemployed compared to 8% of the general population. From 35 to 64 years old, the rates are lower: 5% unemployment for the displaced population and 4% for the general population⁴.

These disaggregated statistical data are not available for refugee and returned populations, which creates a challenge for the creation of differentiated sectoral policies.

Lessons learned from previous interventions

1. The INM is part of the Inter-institutional Work and Education Table, whose primary purpose is to resolve obstacles in access to employment and education for refugees and refugee applicants. The establishment of methodologies and procedures for the implementation of initiatives on education and access to employment are part of the lessons learned in this coordination space.

2. Project “Generation of knowledge and experience in emergency humanitarian assistance to returned migrants with protection needs in the context of forced migration in Honduras” (CONEXAHMIF) is executed between the SEDH and the SRECI from 2019 to date. The main objective of this project is to develop a pilot experience of assistance, protection and solutions for internally displaced persons who leave the country and return to risky environments.

¹ Economically active population

² NiNis, World Bank 2016. UNDP Project

³ LXI Permanent Multi-Purpose Household Survey – EPHPM – June 2019

⁴ Project “Promotion of Employment and Social Protection in the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework in Central America and Mexico” UNHCR-ILO.

3. As of 2015, with the implementation of the LPHMF, which empowers the General Directorate for the Protection of Honduran Migrants (DGPHM) through CONAPROMH to execute national funds from the Fund for Solidarity with Honduran Migrants FOSMIH, projects have been carried out, including the project “Strategy to strengthen and improve the quality of life for relatives of disappeared migrants, through entrepreneurship”. This project was carried out with the National Forum for Migration (FONAMIH), the start-up of the Municipal Units of Attention to the Returned (UMAR) and others such as “Project My Hands, My Future” which generated positive lessons learned. Inter-institutional coordination and active involvement of entrepreneurs, and the accompaniment of government actors in the execution of initiatives is essential for their success.

The lessons learned from these projects, the implemented inter-institutional coordination and articulation routes and the good performance of the selected population will be factors to take into account for the design and implementation of this proposal in order to achieve successful labour insertion and self-employment of the target population.

Complementary Initiatives

Internal Displacement Registration System: the SEDH is currently working on the development of a registration system for persons internally displaced by violence, which allows not only to keep statistical data on the displaced population, but also the characterization and the entire process of care provided. Once the system is operational, the targeting of resources will be enhanced.

Law for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons. Honduras has a draft law for the prevention, care and protection of forcibly displaced persons, delivered in March 2019 to the Justice and Human Rights Commission of the National Congress.

Characterization study of internal displacement due to violence in Honduras 2004-2018, provides information at the national level on the profile of the internally displaced population, as well as the impacts caused by displacement and alternative solutions for displaced persons.

“Promotion of Employment and Social Protection in the Comprehensive Framework of Response to Refugees in Central America and Mexico” Project co-executed by the ILO and UNHCR with funds from the European Union, focuses on strengthening institutional capacities to improve, adopt and / or create the policies, programs and services necessary for beneficiaries to have access to employment, self-employment and social protection in a sustainable way. Beneficiaries of this project are internally displaced persons,

returnees with protection needs and refugees. The project contributes to the national commitments assumed under the MIRPS, providing technical assistance to national counterparts (institutional and otherwise) or responsible entities.

Link between the MIRPS and the private sector. The private sector can contribute to the reduction of poverty and insecurity in various business areas, such as the generation of strategies and plans in key sectors for the promotion of productive development and economic growth, the improvement existing jobs and and generation of new jobs and economic opportunities that make it possible to boost inclusive economic growth and access to the labour market in the countries of origin, as well as to orient public and private investment in these sectors. In the same way, the private sector can support strengthening alternatives for the integration and socio-economic inclusion of newcomers, taking advantage of and capitalizing on their skills. This dimension includes actions that imply access to labour markets, finance, economic and entrepreneurial opportunities, actions that in the long run facilitate and accelerate economic growth, job creation and development.

1 La Iniciativa Spotlight es una campaña conjunta de la Unión Europea y las Naciones Unidas lanzada en el 2017 orientada a eliminar todas las formas de violencia contra las mujeres y las niñas. En El Salvador la Iniciativa es implementada de forma conjunta por ONUMUJERES, UNICEF, UNFPA y PNUD, en alianza con organizaciones de la sociedad civil y bajo el liderazgo del gobierno nacional y los gobiernos locales, y un enfoque de intervención integral, que cubra todas las causas y factores que propician a la violencia contra las niñas, adolescentes y mujeres.

2 Marco de Asistencia de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (UNDAF, por sus siglas en inglés).

2. Detailed approach

General objective

Contribute to the establishment of a program that promotes the well-being of refugee, asylum seekers, internally displaced and returnee populations in vulnerable conditions, taking into account the age, gender and diversity approach.

Specific objective

Facilitate the socioeconomic inclusion of the population of interest in livelihood programs, to support the reduction of their vulnerabilities and inequalities through the establishment of an Economic Inclusion Fund that harmonizes and coordinates all existing livelihood interventions under an integral structure.

Create a registry of the processes of humanitarian assistance and existing aid for inclusion in the national registration system for internally displaced persons.

Expected result

Favourable conditions have been created to support business ventures to persons of concern through the granting of funds for strategic linkage with the various key actors and partners working on livelihoods and socioeconomic inclusion, as well as assistance and technical training, formalization of business ventures, and access to financing.

Registration of the processes of humanitarian assistance and existing aid for persons of concern created and integrated into the national system for the registration of internally displaced persons.

Activities SO 1: This proposal includes the establishment of an Economic Inclusion Fund, aimed at supporting and generating entrepreneurship in order to reduce the economic inequality of internally displaced persons, returnees with protection needs, and refugees and asylum seekers. Key actors will be linked through the granting of additional funds for the inclusion of the population of interest in their interventions and technical advice to facilitate the adoption of this inclusion methodology. At the same time, these key actors will benefit from the adoption of these new methodologies for the inclusion of vulnerable populations.

Activities SO 2: For the development of this proposal, it is proposed to carry out an exhaustive mapping to identify the various livelihoods and socioeconomic inclusion interventions implemented by different actors such as state entities, local governments, international cooperation organization, NGO, private sector among others. After the interventions are identification, alliances and strategic relationships with these actors will be established, identifying lines of work so the population of interest (people internally displaced by violence, returnees with protection needs and refugees and asylum seekers) can be included through the design, adoption and implementation of a differentiate approach methodology to access sustainable livelihood opportunities which accounts for the specific risks and vulnerability conditions of the population of interest.

3. Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of this initiative are:

1. Displaced persons or persons at risk of displacement
2. Honduran returnees in vulnerable conditions;
3. Asylum seekers and refugees in Honduras;
4. Irregular migrants and in transit across the territory.

The selection process of the beneficiaries will be carried out using specific and general criteria, based on a consultation processes led by the MIRPS national technical team with and support from implementing government institutions and other organizations and institutions and, to the extent possible, with the beneficiaries directly. The selection process will be the responsibility of the implementing entity and with the approval of the MIRPS national technical team.

PROFILE	WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL
Asylum seekers	36%	64%	125
Refugees	36%	64%	250
Internally displaced persons	55%	45%	1,000
Honduran returnees in vulnerable conditions	17%	83%	1,000
Irregular migrants and in transit across the territory	42%	58%	61,109
Total beneficiaries in 5 years			63.484

Regarding the profile of asylum and refugee applicants, the number of beneficiaries was calculated based on the 318 applicants in the last six years, and the number of men and women requesting such status. In the case of refugees in Honduras, the accumulated data of the last six years is considered, representing 98 refugees in Honduras. Therefore, the beneficiaries would represent 39.5% of the applicant and refugee population in the country. Regarding internally displaced persons and returnees in vulnerable conditions, the number is based on pilot experiences in similar projects and the installed capacity to be able to follow up on the cases. To date in 2020, 35,900 Hondurans have returned to the country. According to the data from the 2014-2018 Characterization Study, about 4,500 persons are displaced per year, of which less than 20% are identified through institutional mechanisms, and of those identified, not all agree to receiving assistance. The number of migrants in irregular condition and transit through the territory is based on the 34,206 people who transited through the country in 2019, projecting an annual increase of 20%, not all of which require humanitarian assistance.

4. Estimated budget

OBJECTIVES	TOTAL REQUIRED FINANCING*
SO 1: Facilitate the socioeconomic inclusion of the population of interest in livelihood programs	\$ 3,999,725
SO 2: Create a registry of the processes of humanitarian assistance and existing aid for inclusion in the national registration system for internally displaced persons	

* Amounts in USD.

Due to the health and humanitarian crisis, neither the national financing nor the financing gap can be established at this time.

The estimated amounts reflect the analysis of historical costs of previous programs and projects implemented in government institutions. Based on previous Government-supported initiatives supporting small business ventures, the amount per person estimated is 25,000 lempiras per person, with which acceptable results have been obtained. This amount could be increased in accordance with the needs evaluated by the Technical Committee, created for the management of the fund.

In order to provide access to livelihoods to populations of interest in vulnerable conditions, a budget of USD 3,999,725.00 has been calculated, of which 23% execution is planned for the first year, and 77% for the four years remaining of the project.

Addition detail on the estimated Budget per activity can be found in the annex.

5. Stakeholders

Para la implementación de esta intervención se propone aprovechar el enfoque interinstitucional del MIRPS y procurar la mayor articulación posible con las entidades públicas pertinentes, a modo de garantizar una respuesta coherente, efectiva e integral:

INSTITUTION/ ORGANIZATION	MISSION	ROLE IN IMPLEMENTATION
Human Rights Secretariat (SEDH)	Promote the respect, protection and guarantee of human Rrghs for all people.	Responsible for internally displaced persons due to violence and returned migrants with protection needs
Secretary of State and International Cooperation (SRECI)	Manage the country's bilateral, multilateral, economic, cultural and international cooperation relations.	Responsible for the Honduran returnee population in vulnerable conditions
National Institute of Migration (INM)	Exercise control and regulation of the migratory flow of nationals and foreigners within the protection framework of their rights and security.	Responsible for the refugee and asylum seeker population in vulnerable conditions
Other relevant institutions		
Secretariat of Development and Social Inclusion (SEDIS)	Rector of public policies in social matters.	Responsible for the State legal social protection
Secretariat of Labour and Social Security	Responsible for formulating, coordinating, executing and evaluating labor policies.	Technical and implementation advisor
Local governments	Govern and administer the matters that affect the interests of the municipality.	Support the implementation and reporting at the local level of the project
Civil society organizations	Organizations formally separated from the State, autonomous with the capacity to manage their own activities, elect their authorities and regulate their own operation.	Collaboration and support for the implementation at the community level (urban and rural) of the project.
Churches	Social projects as part of the Church's mission	Collaboration and support for the implementation at the community level of the project
Private sector	Within the Corporate Social Responsibility framework	Support for the implementation of the project
National Institute of Vocational Training (INFOP)	Rector the information, accreditation and professional certification	Facilitate access to the target population to existing non-formal education programs in the country.

INSTITUTIONS/ ORGANIZATIONS	MISSION	ROLE IN IMPLEMENTATION
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Lead and coordinate international action for the protection of refugees worldwide	Provide technical support to the development and implementation of the project.
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Ensure the orderly and humane management of migration.	Provide technical support to the development and implementation of the project
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Support the efforts carried out by countries to achieve the 2030 Agenda.	Provide technical support to the development and implementation of the project
Secretariat of the Interior, Justice and Decentralization	Rector of government concerns related to governance, access to justice and decentralization.	Coordinate with local governments in the implementation of the project
Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Represent, promote and support competitiveness and business creation.	Shared responsibility with the State
Honduran Council of Private Enterprise (COHEP)	Contribute to national economic development by strengthening free enterprise	Coordination between private enterprises and the State
Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG)	Ensure that national agricultural production is competitive, sustainable and with the capacity to insert itself into the international economy.	Coordinates the planning and execution process of the Public Agricultural Sector Policy and agricultural production of the country.
National Service for Small Businesses and Entrepreneurship (SENPRENDE)	Application of the normative of the micro, small and medium business, development of entrepreneurship of social sector companies.	Technical assistance for the MIRPS national technical team in the implementation of the project
National Women's Institute	Formulate, develop, promote, coordinate and monitor policies that guarantee and protect the rights of women, adolescents and girls with gender equality.	Ensure a gender inclusion focus in the development and implementation of the project
National Youth Institute	Plan, articulate, manage and evaluate with all the actors and instances the public policies that promote the integral development and the generation of spaces for participation of young people.	Promote efforts for youth inclusion in the project
National Bank and Insurance Commission	Ensure the stability and solvency of the financial system and other supervised ones (cooperatives and other financial entities), its regulation, supervision and control, safeguarding the public interest.	Promote efforts for inclusion of the population of concern

6. Cross-cutting themes

Actions for the protection of the human rights of the population of interest will be coordinated by the National Technical Team with the governing institutions, such as the National Commissioner for Human Rights, the National Institute for Women and the National Institute for Youth, NGOs, among others, to ensure that both in the preparation and in the implementation of this project the participation of women, young people, elderly people, people with disabilities, LGTBI communities in vulnerable conditions belonging to the target population groups is included.

7. Risks and assumptions

RISK	LEVEL OF RISK	MITIGATION STRATEGY
Political Will	High	Socialization of the project among political leaders, implementing agencies and the general public
Climate Change	Medium	Creation, implementation and evaluation of a contingency plan
Natural phenomena/risks	Medium	Creation, implementation and evaluation of a contingency plan
Reassignment of State resources	Medium	Definition of evaluation criteria between the implementing institutions and organizations
Changes in institutional focal points/ Rotation of staff	Medium	Creation and implementation of process and procedure manuals of the actions in the Strategic Plan
Social conflict (mass protests)	High	Creation of a communication strategies that involves the participation of mediators in all sectors
Migration flows	High	Not applicable
Economic instability	High	Not applicable
Sanitation emergencies	High	Creation, implementation and evaluation of contingency plans
Legal limitations of asylum applications	High	Creating spaces for political dialogue
Economic impact due to the COVID-19 pandemic	High	Interinstitutional and intersectoral Action Plans
Coordination limitations between the public and private sector	Medium	Establishment of lobbies

Assumptions:

- The implementing institutions and organizations identified have the technical resources and financial support required for the implementation of this project
- Political will exists for the development and sustainability of the project
- The target population participates and commits to the education and livelihoods programs
- There exist interested donors to support the financing of the project
- There is evidence of commitment by the implementing institutions and organizations in the monitoring, follow-up and evaluation of the project.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

To monitor and follow up on the progress and impact of this initiative, an annual evaluation exercise will be carried out through the establishment of an Evaluation Committee made up of relevant civil society organizations and government institutions, with an equal representation of entities. In this sense, this Evaluation Committee would be made up of the ETN (SEDH, SRECI and INM) and 3 organizations representing civil society, elected themselves. For the selection of the CSO, the NTT will launch a public call for proposals through the media, social media and official websites. The Evaluating Committee must present an annual report by target population, whose sample population will be chosen at random. In this report they will present the main findings found, a comparative analysis of the initial situation of the people at the time of the evaluation and recommendations. Subsequently, and

one year after the assistance and support to persons of concern are delivered, a report must be developed that details the impact achieved by beneficiary person according to the beneficiary population group. To this end, the ETN will develop procedural guidelines that establish the monitoring mechanism, the way in which the NGOs are selected, their functions, etc.

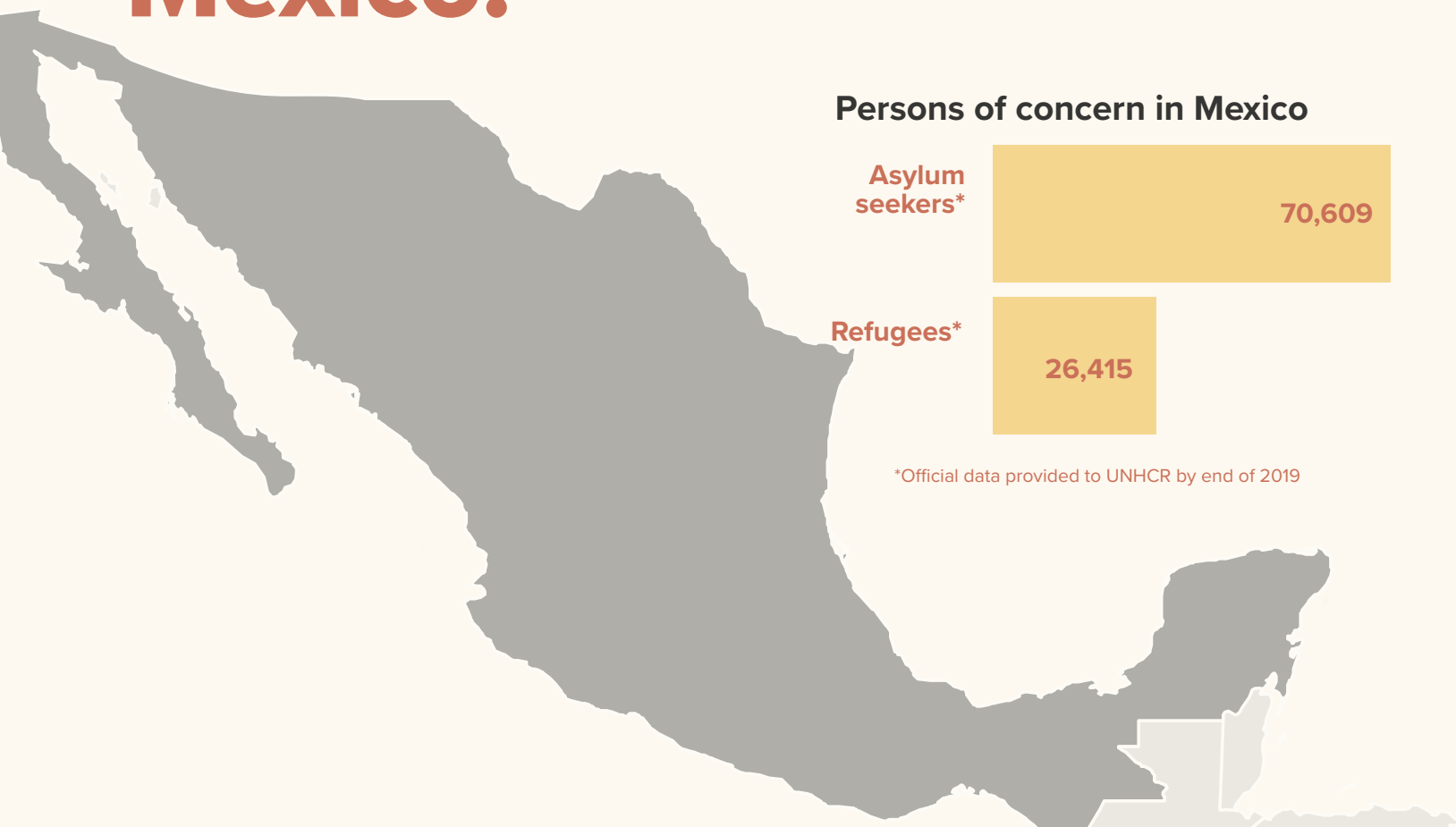
For the sustainability of the proposal, exit and sustainability strategies will be established to include the transfer of capacities to state institutions and resource mobilization actions, managed by the institutions, with the support of the General Secretariat for Government Coordination and the Finance Secretariat in identifying state budgets for these populations.





Annex: Logical Framework and Estimated Budget

General Objective: Contribute to the establishment of a program that promotes the well-being of refugee, asylum seekers, internally displaced and returnee populations in vulnerable conditions, taking into account the age, gender and diversity approach.								
SO1: Facilitate the socioeconomic inclusion of the population of interest in livelihood programs, to support the reduction of their vulnerabilities and inequalities through the establishment of an Economic Inclusion Fund that harmonizes and coordinates all existing livelihood interventions under an integral structure.								
R1: Favourable conditions have been created to support business ventures to persons of concern through the granting of funds for strategic linkage with the various key actors and partners working on livelihoods and socioeconomic inclusion, as well as technical support, training, formalization of business ventures, and access to financing.								
SO 2: Create a registry of the processes of humanitarian assistance and existing aid for inclusion in the national registration system for internally displaced persons.								
R2: Registry of the processes of humanitarian assistance and existing aid for persons of concern created and integrated into the national system for the registration of internally displaced persons								
Indicator: Proportion of population of concern assisted taking into account age, gender and diversity.								
Goal 1. 125 asylum seekers with access to education and livelihoods through implementing institutions according to their legal framework.								
Goal 2. 250 refugees with access to education and livelihoods through implementing institutions according to their legal framework								
Goal 3. 1,000 internally displaced persons with access to education and livelihoods through implementing institutions according to their legal framework								
Goal 4: 1,000 Honduran returnees in vulnerable conditions with access to education and livelihoods through implementing institutions according to their legal framework								
Activities	Unit of Measure	Estimated Budget LPS						Responsible Entity
		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	TOTAL	
1.1 Develop a mapping at the national level of the key actors in livelihoods and socioeconomic inclusion	Mapping developed	HNL 350,000					HNL 350,000	ETN
1.2 Design and implement an access route for the programs	Access route ongoing	HNL 75,000					HNL 75,000	
1.3 Define the network work method (CPM or ABC)	Method designed	HNL 75,000					HNL 75,000	
1.4 Develop a strategic plan with the implementing and supporting	Strategic Plan developed	HNL 150,000					HNL 150,000	
1.5 Design and implement a monitoring, reporting and evaluation mechanism (including acquisition of equipment and goods)	Monitoring mechanism implemented	HNL 600,000					HNL 600,000	
1.6 Underake visibility actions of the Project	Actions undertaken	HNL 25,000	HNL 25,000	HNL 25,000	HNL 25,000	HNL 25,000	HNL 125,000	

1.7 Develop and implement a project sustainability strategy	Strategy developed	HNL 150,000					HNL 150,000	
1.8 Development and implementation of a project legal logical framework	Legal framework executed	HNL 250,000					HNL 250,000	
1.9 Development and implementation of a project operation manual	Operation manual implemented	HNL 250,000					HNL 250,000	
1.10 Support business ventures of returnees (200 people per year, 25,000 Lps each).	Number of beneficiaries who have found work or opened a small business	HNL 5,000,000	HNL 5,000,000	HNL 5,000,000	HNL 5,000,000	HNL 5,000,000	HNL 25,000,000	SRECI
1.11 Support business ventures of asylum seekers (25 people per year, 25,000 Lps each).	Number of beneficiaries who have found work or opened a small business	HNL 625,000	HNL 625,000	HNL 625,000	HNL 625,000	HNL 625,000	HNL 3,125,000	INM
1.12 Support business ventures of refugees (50 people per year, 25,000 Lps each).		HNL 1,250,000	HNL 1,250,000	HNL 1,250,000	HNL 1,250,000	HNL 1,250,000	HNL 6,250,000	INM
1.13 Support business ventures of internally displaced persons (200 people per year, 25,000 Lps each).	Number of internally displaced persons in vulnerable conditions benefitting from education projects	HNL 5,000,000	HNL 5,000,000	HNL 5,000,000	HNL 5,000,000	HNL 5,000,000	HNL 25,000,000	SEDH
1.14 Migrants in irregular conditions in transit through national territory	Number of migrants in irregular conditions in transit assisted	HNL 4,252,500	HNL 6,123,600	HNL7,348,320	HNL8,817,862.50	HNL 10,581,435	HNL 37,123,717.50	INM
1.14 Recapitalizable fund for vulnerable populations	Recapitalizable fund executed		HNL 100,000	HNL 100,000	HNL 100,000	HNL 100,000	HNL 400,000	INM-SEDH-SRECI
Total Required Financing LPS		HNL 18,052,500	HNL 18,123,600	HNL 19,348,320	HNL 20,817,863	HNL 22,581,435	HNL 98,923,718	
Total Financing Required (USD)							\$3,999,725	

Mexico.



SECTOR	DESCRIPTION	IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES	TOTAL REQUIRED FINANCING
 <p>Education</p> 	<p>Strengthen schools in the public education system (basic education and higher middle education) in communities hosting refugees and asylum seekers in southern Mexico</p>	<p>Relevant education Secretariats and Subsecretariats, COMAR, UN Agencies and civil society</p>	<p>Total Required Financing</p> <p>\$7,042,800</p>
 <p>Health</p> 	<p>Strengthening first level health care in three priority areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Women's health 2. Mental health 3. Chronic diseases 	<p>Ministry of Health, Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance at the federal and state level, civil society, United Nations Agencies such as UNHCR, PAHO-WHO and UNDP</p>	<p>Total Required Financing</p> <p>\$1,246,358</p>

Context

In 2019, the population of Mexico was 126,577,691 inhabitants. With respect to the distribution of population within the country; 77.8% of persons live in urban zones and 22.2% in rural zones. For Chiapas, 51% of persons live in urban zones and 49% in rural zones; here we see how the population living in rural areas is higher than the national average, which account for the high levels of poverty in the state. In Tabasco, 57% of persons live in urban zones and 43% in rural zones^{1,2,3}.

The percentage of the population living in poverty decreased from 45.5% to 41.9% between 2012 and 2018. Contrary to this tendency, in both states, the percentage of the population in poverty grew in this period. Contraria a esta tendencia, ambos estados aumentaron el porcentaje de la población en condiciones de pobreza en este periodo, at 76.4% in Chiapas and 53.6% in Tabasco.

Chiapas has 4 times as many indigenous language speakers (3 years old or older) than the country's average: 28 for every 100 habitants in Chiapas speak some form of an indigenous language compared with the national average of 7%. 36.15% of the population self-identifies as indigenous and 0.08% as afro-descendent. 29.34% of persons that speak an indigenous language, do not speak Spanish.

In Tabasco, 3% of 3-year-olds and older are speakers of an indigenous language, below the national average. 25.77% of the population considers themselves of indigenous origin and 0.11% as afro descendent. Of the total of person who

declared they speak an indigenous tongue, only 0.82% do not speak Spanish.

The average length of education in Mexico is 9.2 years. With respect to the average length of schooling by federal state, Chiapas is last place with an average of 7.3 years of education length (equivalent to a little more than the first year of high school). Tabasco is slightly above the national average, with 9.3 years of schooling.

In 2019, the Government of Mexico, through the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (SHCP), has taken action to boost economic recovery, including: 1) the announcement of infrastructure investment for 297 billion pesos, equivalent to 1.3% of GDP; 2) the credit restructuring programme; and 3) the issuance of the first bond linked to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

As a result of the economic recovery trajectory being conditioned by developments and response to COVID-19, by 2020 in health and economic emergency care, health and social protection spending increased by 2.5% and 5.6% real annually, in January and September, respectively. At the same time, operating expenses decreased by 3.3% real annually, showing greater efficiency in the exercise of public resources.

Forced displacement trends

Mexico is a country of origin, transit, destination and return. Historically, the total foreign population living in Mexico has been a very marginal population in terms of quantity; they make up no more than 1% of the population. In addition, Mexico has also been a recipient country for migrants and refugees⁴.

In recent years, (i) the social, political and economic situation of various countries in the region, (ii) the restrictive asylum and migratory policies of the United States; and (iii) the geographic location of Mexico, among other factors, Mexico has experienced an exponential increase in applications for recognition of refugee status as illustrated in the graph.

Up to March 2020, this trend remained upwards according to information from the Mexican Refugee Aid Commission (COMAR). However, as of April 2020, the number of

applicants for refugee status began to decline dramatically due to the health emergency by COVID-19 and decisions to close borders and restrictions on the mobility of people taken by governments in many countries.

However, as of April 2020, the number of applicants for refugee status began to decline dramatically due to the health emergency by COVID-19 and decisions to close borders and restrictions on the mobility of people taken by governments in many countries. In the period from January to June 2020, a total of 20,496 persons applied for asylum in Mexico, compared with 31,499 persons that applied during the same period of 2019, and 10,285 that did so in the same period of 2018⁵.

1 CONEVAL. Poverty Report and 2020 Evaluation, Chiapas. Available at: https://www.coneval.org.mx/coordinacion/entidades/Documents/Informes_de_pobreza_y_evaluacion_2020_Documentos/Informe_Chiapas_2020.pdf

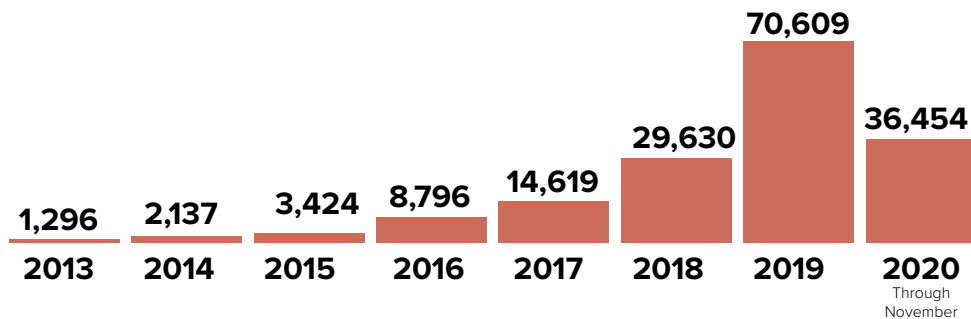
2 INEGI, (2015) Sociodemographic Panorama of Chiapas. Available at : http://internet.contenidos.inegi.org.mx/contenidos/Productos/prod_serv/contenidos/espanol/bvinegi/productos/nueva_estruc/inter_censal/panorama/702825082154.pdf

3 INEGI, (2015) Sociodemographic Panorama of Tabasco. Available at: http://internet.contenidos.inegi.org.mx/contenidos/Productos/prod_serv/contenidos/espanol/bvinegi/productos/nueva_estruc/inter_censal/panorama/702825082390.pdf

4 New Migration Policy 2018-2024 (2019). Available at : http://portales.segob.gob.mx/es/PoliticaMigratoria/Nueva_Politica_Migratoria

5 It is important to highlight the distinction between the number of people and the number of cases. A case can contain one or more people. Thus, the number of cases or requests does not necessarily reflect the number of applicants.

Graphic 1. Number of asylum seekers in Mexico (2013-2020)



While it is complex to anticipate the behavior of this trend because of the health situation and the predominant uncertain landscape, considering the reasons that trigger people’s departure from their home countries, the flows are not expected to stop. For example, 84% of people who considered migrating in the past twelve months would consider retaking the trip when mobility restrictions have been normalized, which suggests that the pandemic has only postponed the projected migration flows⁶. This is consistent with the view shared by the authorities that there will be an uptick in migration flows once mobility restrictions are relaxed, as the conditions for forced displacement from countries of origin have not decreased⁷. This arrival of people

puts pressure on the educational services of the southern border area and forces a process of planning and response from these services that consider these new demands. The states of Chiapas and Tabasco, in addition to Mexico City⁸ are federal states that receive the highest numbers of asylum-seekers application. The COMAR in Chiapas and Tabasco received 63% and 72% respectively of applicants for refugee status in 2018 and 2019 respectively, as shown in the table 1.

Table 1. Number of people and applicants of refugee status in Mexico 2018 and 2019

DELEGATION	2018			2019		
	CASES	PERSONS	%PERSONS	CASES	PERSONS	%PERSONS
CDMX	6,134	8,458	29%	10,122	14,155	20%
Chiapas	9,383	16,640	56%	24,935	45,821	65%
Tabasco	1,213	2,070	7%	2,867	5,266	7%
Veracruz	1,638	2,462	8%	3,359	5,367	8%
TOTAL	18,368	29,630	100%	41,283	70,609	100%

The presence of children and adolescents among those seeking asylum has increased in recent years. Although the presence of all age groups is relatively similar, in recent years the significant increase in the volume of applications has caused an increase in the number of children and

adolescents. Around 30% of applicants for refugee status are in the age range between 0 and 19 years. This equated to 381 children and adolescents⁹ in 2013 and 5,2521 in 2018.

6 OIM (2020), Effects of COVID-19 on the Migrant Population. Available at: https://kmhub.iom.int/sites/default/files/publicaciones/sondeo-efectos_de_la_covid-19_junio_2020_final.pdf

7 COLEF (2020) Migrant and refugee populations in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic (videoconference). Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QaN8TETPeFA&feature=em-lbrm>

8 The central offices of COMAR in Mexico City. They concentrate the applications for refugee status received in more than 20 states of the Mexican Republic.

9 To define this age group, we use the World Health Organization definition of adolescence, which conceives it as the stage between 10 and 19 years of age. Thus, children and adolescents correspond to people between 0 and 19 years of age.

National response

In Mexico a broad legal framework for the protection for asylum-seekers and/or refugees, such as the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States; the Law on Refugees and Complementary Protection, as well as its regulations; the Global Compact on Refugees and the

Comprehensive Regional Framework for Protection and Solutions (MIRPS), which protect their rights, such as that every person in Mexican territory has access to public education services in the country.

The MIRPS in Mexico

In the long tradition of regional cooperation to respond to the protection challenges derived from forced displacement and as a participating country, Mexico undertook within the MIRPS framework to address the following axes: 1: Reception and admission; 2: Immediate and persistent needs; 3: Support to host countries and communities and 4: Durable solutions.

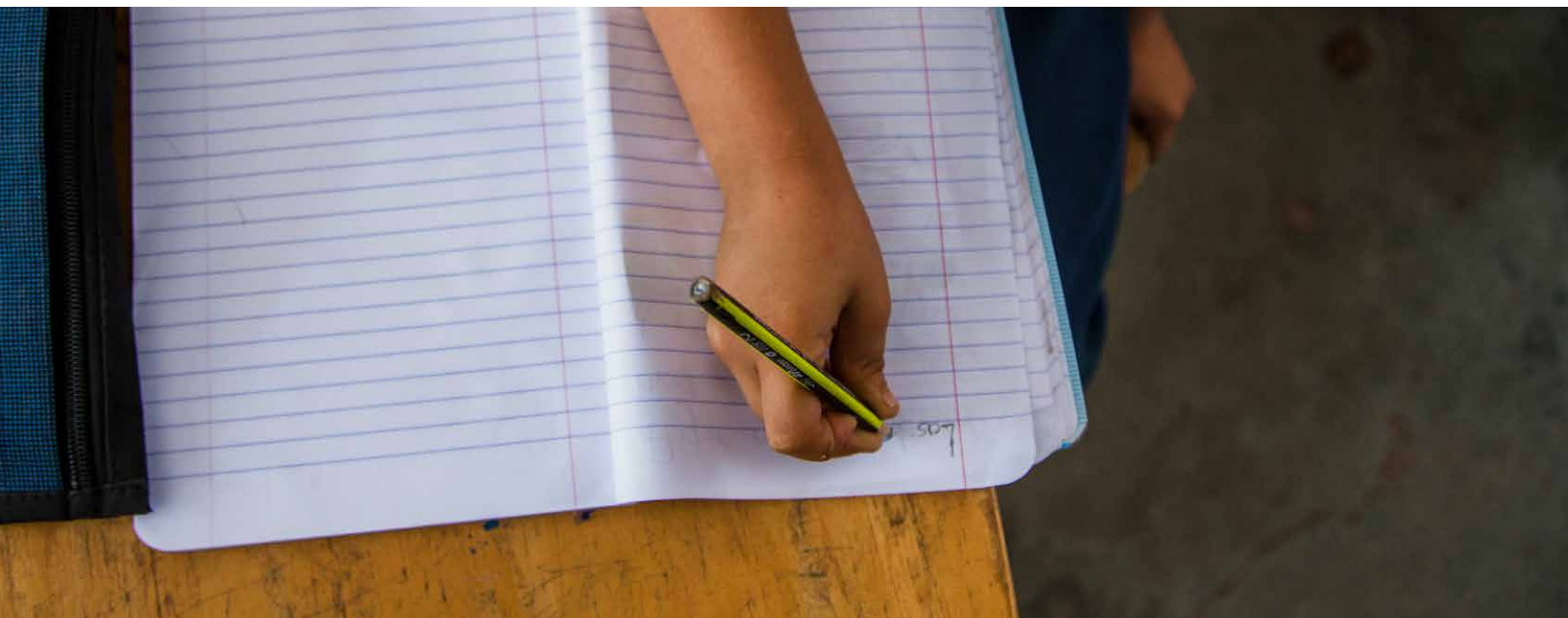
This is through the implementation of 38 commitments detailed in the national Action Plan and under the direction of the national technical team (NTT). The NTT is formed by representatives of the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Relations by COMAR through the Directorate of Interinstitutional Attention and Liaison and the Sub secretariat for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, through the General Directorate for International Human Rights and Democracy Policy.

With the objective of updating the national Action Plan, in the year 2019, the Interinstitutional Table on Refugee and Complementary Protection was reinstated, in which twenty agencies of the Federal Government participated. Specifically, the Roundtable updated the commitments. It was agreed to create thematic roundtables on priority topics such as Health, Education, Employment, Labor and Identity and Documentation, to promote the inclusion of the asylum-seekers and refugees in national policies. The impact that is sought with the changes made in the issues of education, health, employment, identity and others will be for the benefit of the refugee population in the short, medium and long term. The sessions of the Interinstitutional Roundtable and of related thematic roundtables have increased during 2020.

COUNTRY: Mexico

SECTOR: Education

Strengthening schools in the public education system in host communities in southern Mexico



Executive Summary

The right to an education without discrimination for all people in Mexican territory is guaranteed by the concerned national legal framework, which support the educational inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers. Nonetheless, important challenges persist in terms of access, equity and educational quality, especially in the states of Chiapas and Tabasco, in southern Mexico, where 70% of the applications for refugee status from all over the country are concentrated. In this regard, this programme envisages support to the National Strategy for Inclusive Education and is aligned with the Sectorial Education Program 2019-2024, the National Development Plan 2018-2024 and the fulfilment of objective 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The proposed initiative seeks to promote inclusive and resilient educational communities, supporting the Mexican State to strengthen the capacities installed in public schools in southern Mexico through: 1) Training of educational public servants; 2) Intervention in the sanitary conditions of schools and equipping schools to prepare them for the reopening of face-to-face classes; 3) Active detection of students who are out of school and the implementation of re-enrolment campaigns; 4) Training for teachers and managers to provide psychosocial support, and equitable service provision, and 5) Training and provision of equipment with connectivity for educational continuity and facilitation of a hybrid model of education.

DURATION

2021-2022

IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Secretariat of Federal Public Education (Under secretariat for Basic Education and Higher Middle Education, and Inclusive Education Program), Chiapas and Tabasco Education Secretariats, Mexican Refugee Aid Commission, United Nations Agencies: UNHCR, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP, and civil society

LOCATION

Southern Border of Mexico: Chiapas (Tapachula y Palenque), Tabasco (Tenosique)

BENEFICIARIES

Directors, teachers, children in the municipalities of Tabasco and Chiapas

ESTIMATED BUDGET

Total Required Financing: \$7,042,800

1. Context of the education sector in Mexico

The Mexican regulatory framework is favorable to the right to education. Mexico is a signatory to several human rights instruments that affirm the right to education for refugee and asylum seekers, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (art. 26), the CRC (art. 22), the Convention on the Statute of Refugees (art. 22), and the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, among others.

National regulations, starting with the third article of the Mexican Constitution, are consistent with this obligation to guarantee the right to education of all children and adolescents without discrimination. This commitment is reaffirmed in laws such as the recently reformed General Education Law (2019), the General Law on the Rights of Girls, Boys and Adolescents, and the Law on Refugees, Complementary Protection and Political Asylum. Consistently, in the national and sectoral planning instruments - National Development Plan 2019-2024 and Sectoral Education Program 2024 - the commitments contained in Sustainable Development Goal 4 are retaken, which seeks to guarantee inclusive, equitable and quality education, and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. This implies a commitment to build education systems that are more resilient, inclusive and responsive to the needs of children affected by conflict and crisis, including refugees.

Despite the favorable regulatory framework for the inclusion of children and adolescents, challenges of coverage, equity and quality persist. There are inequalities exist for certain subpopulations, because of social, economic or cultural conditions, or the combination of the three¹.

Significant challenges exist in providing appropriate learning environments for all children. Of the total number of primary schools surveyed, 31% showed structural damage in their facilities and 33% work with buildings that do not adhere to the established standard².

Before the arrival of the public health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the educational scenario presented significant challenges. There are great disparities in the access and achievement of pertinent and relevant learning for different social groups, as mentioned in the Institutional Program 2020-2024 of MEJOREDU. Problems such as (i) school exclusion, (ii) over-age, (iii) educational backwardness, (iv) the challenges of multi-grade schools and (v) the need to guarantee sufficient and equitable educational financing, constitute important opportunities improvement for the country.

The Inclusive Education Framework

In Mexico, there are social, economic and geographic dispersion factors that represent a challenge to efforts to guarantee the right to education, and pose difficulties, especially for the population that suffers poverty and marginalization, but also for those who are in situations of vulnerability, such as migrants, indigenous people, as well as children and adolescents with some type of disability. These groups are at higher risk of dropping out of school.

The educational trajectory is not uniform and there are certain sections that require more attention, such as the initial years of each educational level. A significant level of dropout occurs in educational level transitions.

In the case of risk factors, grade repetition, poor results in subjects, late entry, absenteeism and extra-age³, are the main factors to determine the retention of children and adolescents in school.

Family crisis situations, the illness of a family member and migration are factors that are related to regular attendance at primary school. Parents with a low level of education may also be more likely to prioritize financial and domestic obligations at the expense of school enrollment. This is particularly latent in families of asylum seekers and refugees still in migration and the haste to continue the journey are often factors that delay the enrollment of children and adolescents. In preschool and primary school, the population most at risk of leaving school is made up of people with some type of disability, as well as indigenous people, especially girls⁴.

Economic barriers are usually significant in families with lower resources that dedicate a higher percentage of their income to education. This situation is more serious for migrant families, asylum seekers and refugees. The sometimes-hidden costs of education, related to transportation, clothing, school supplies, food, required fees, among others, tend to be obstacles in this regard. Given the economic constraints and the opportunity cost - especially at the end of secondary school and the beginning of Upper Secondary Education (USE) - child and adolescent labour are situations that can restrict the right to education. For all this, it is important that the requirements demanded by the school administration do not raise the cost of education⁵.

In terms of accessibility, the lack of nearby schools, the dangers or insecurity that the transfer could represent are factors contributing to exclusion. Furthermore, the way in which the supply of services is structured, with very few options for educational continuity in certain communities, also represents a significant obstacle.

1 INEE (2019) Education Panorama of Mexico 2018. Indicators of the National Education System Basic and High School Education.

2 INEE (2019) Policies to strengthen the school infrastructure in Mexico, Executive documents of educational policy. Available at : <https://www.inee.edu.mx/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Documento5-infraestructura.pdf>

3 Students older than the typical age for the school year they are in, generally caused by grade repetition or late enrolment.

4 UNICEF (2018), Girls and boys out of school. Available at : <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Ni%C3%B1as%20y%20ni%C3%B1os%20fuera%20M%C3%89XICO.pdf>

5 Ibid.

Educational practices and the teaching environment, including the tendency to rely on a modality of repetition and memorization, together with limited opportunities for teacher training, together with precarious working conditions also negatively impacts the retention of students. In its most extreme cases, violence within the school can also be a determining factor of dropout⁶.

The inclusion of refugee and asylum-seeker children in public education

The vast majority of people applying for refugee status and recognized refugees have Spanish as their mother tongue, with 89.4% and 95.5% respectively; But more and more people whose mother tongue is not Spanish are requesting protection as refugees in Mexico. This linguistic barrier represents an additional integration challenge, as well as a need for attention from the educational system for its inclusion⁷.

The educational profile of persons who have most recently applying for refugee status have lower educational levels than those who arrived previously. In Mexico, the level of education of refugees is relatively similar to the level of education of the local population in Baja California, Chiapas and Tabasco, where the majority of the population aged 18 years and over have completed secondary school or a lower level⁸.

Regarding access to education for asylum-seeking and refugee children and adolescents, the latest official data available is the Refugee Population Survey (ENPORE) carried out in 2017, which according to the survey a significant number of people, 67% of children and adolescents in school age did not attend any educational institution.

Although since then, different measures have been implemented to address some of the causes argued as obstacles to accessing formal education, such as the issuance of temporary CURP for people applying for refugee status since June 2018, or awareness and advocacy with educational institutions, challenges persist to guarantee the access and permanence of child applicants and refugees in school classrooms.

Investment in Public Education and in the south of Mexico

It is important to emphasize that the Mexican State, in the midst of a fiscal austerity policy prior to the pandemic, has increased investment in education by 2% by 2021, strongly betting on an expansion of the scholarship program and other educational policies. However, greater and better spending on education is required to face the pre-pandemic challenges, and urgent resources are required to prevent the

health crisis from turning into an educational crisis with long-term effects on the most vulnerable population.

In southern Mexico, foreign students registered in the 2019-2020 school year only represent less than 0.18% in Chiapas and 0.12% in Tabasco. Although this distribution might appear very scattered and uniform, it is not. There are Mexican schools in the cross-border area where all or a large part of their enrollment is made up of foreign students. For example, the República Mexicana school in Tenosique has a 42% enrollment of students not born in Mexico. The Venustiano Carranza school in the municipality of Las Margaritas, the Álvaro Obregón school in Larrainzar or the José Vasconcelos Calderón school in Pantelhó, all have 100% of their enrollment corresponding to students not born in Mexico. This is not a unique phenomenon and is usually characteristic of schools in border areas.

In the particular case of the southern border, the scarcity of decent and well-paid job offers added to social inequality replicates the context that predominates in Central American migration in their respective countries of origin. Undoubtedly, the challenges of quality and equity in the Mexican educational system are not exclusive to asylum-seeking and refugee children and adolescents, but their situation of vulnerability puts them at a greater disadvantage in the exercise of their right to education.

These educational inequalities have been more pronounced in the context of school closings and the impact of the health emergency caused by COVID-19 on the education sector, with the National Educational System and society as a whole having to adapt to the modality of learning at home raised by the educational authorities.

Due to this inhomogeneous distribution, we believe it is important to focus interventions to consolidate inclusive and inclusive educational communities, which are consolidated as education centers in which no boy or girl is left out of school.

Given that the number of asylum-seeking and refugee students in Mexico is minimal compared to the total enrollment, it is important to maintain advocacy so that support programs for access and permanence, such as the Benito Juárez Scholarships, review their operating rules and allow requesting and refugee children and adolescents are admitted, or that educational services such as revalidation and accreditation are exempted for refugee and asylum-seeking children and adolescents.

6 Ibid.

7 Survey about the Refugee Population México 2017 (2019). Available at: <https://www.gob.mx/comar/articulos/e-n-p-o-r-e?idiom=es>

8 This trait varies according to the country of origin. In the case of people with Honduran, Guatemalan or Salvadoran nationality - who represent the majority of the asylum seeker and refugee population in southern Mexico - it is met. Nationals of Cuba or Venezuela present, on average, better educational profiles than their peers from host communities (ENPORE, 2019).

Education and COVID-19

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) had reached a level of spread and severity that allowed it to be characterized as a pandemic.

Consequently, one of the measures that many countries implemented was the closure of schools, to prevent the massive spread of the disease. In this context, the great challenge facing each of the countries is to ensure that the closure of schools does not mean the suspension of the school year.

In Mexico, the SEP had announced a reference schedule for returning to classes at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. However, the school year began on August 24, through the distance learning program “Aprende en Casa II”⁹, classroom classes being postponed until the public health traffic light system is green.

In Mexico, when deciding to return to face-to-face classes, various measures will be applied aimed at the well-being of the educational community, announced by the Secretary of Education: the activation of Participatory School Health Committees, access to soap and water in schools, access to health services and medical care for teachers, the use of face masks, the distance between entrances and exits to schools and recesses, alternate school attendance, maximizing the use of open spaces, the suspension of ceremonies that generate congregations, and the closure for a fortnight in schools in the first case of contagion that arises.

The Secretary of Education has stated that in the future a hybrid model will be maintained, alternating between distance and face-to-face education, considering the needs of each of the state educational systems. Thus, a gradual return is proposed, planning an alternation scheme. The latter will be done through an individualized diagnostic evaluation, which will be applied during the first three weeks back to school.

Lessons learned from previous interventions

From previous experiences on the topic, the following examples represent success factors in previous projects:

1. Active involvement of all actors. The prior mapping of actors, their recognition and participation in the design are vital for the successful implementation of policies. In the educational field, this is particularly relevant for actors in educational communities such as teachers, parents, students and managers, as well as actors that have a significant influence on the educational context, such as local authorities, trade union organizations and media. This requires a coordination effort between levels of government and between various institutions based on trust and commitment to common goals. This coincidence of will becomes even more evident in the midst of the public health emergency.

2. Mentoring and reinforcement for proper implementation. Awareness building, the dissemination of adequate information and permanent, close and field support ensure the development of capacities in a more experiential and applied way, and an execution that reduces the gap in the implementation of the standards.

3. Strengthen monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. For this, it is necessary to have quality and timely information that allows feedback on the design and management of the project. Whenever possible, it is important to join existing information/ data collection schemes and assess the cost of collecting new information and its usefulness.

4. Inclusion of refugees in existing support and inclusion mechanisms. As mentioned, creating parallel systems for refugees or asylum seekers tends to be inefficient and unsustainable over time. In this sense, and although it is not included in the proposed project, the capacity for generating evidence and advocacy is critical so that asylum-seeking and refugee children and adolescents can fully participate in other existing programs such as the Benito Juárez Scholarship Program, and the allocation of funds from other programs such as ‘La Escuela es Nuestra’ contemplates their enrollment to strengthen the capacities of public schools.

At the same time, it is important to highlight the potential for policy innovation and policy experimenting that non-governmental organizations or United Nations agencies often play. The path from pilot to policy becomes more relevant in this new scenario for all educational actors.

⁹ The response strategy of the Ministry of Public Education to the COVID-19 pandemic was called Learn at Home I, which was launched on April 20, 2020 and concluded with the 2019-2020 school year.

Complementary Initiatives

For the inter-institutional care of girls, boys and adolescents, the Comprehensive Protection Route for the Rights of Girls, Boys and Adolescents in migration situations was established, prepared by the working group of the Commission for the comprehensive protection of migrant girls, boys and adolescents and applicants for refugee status within the framework of the National System for the Comprehensive Protection of Girls (SIPINNA). With the aim of guaranteeing the rights of children and adolescents, various agencies met weekly to establish a referral pathway, with technical assistance and accompaniment from the Executive Secretariat of SIPINNA (SE-SIPINNA), UNICEF, UNHCR and IOM.

COMAR advises and provides information on educational inclusion in the Mexican educational system within its process of recognition of refugee status, and through its delegations in the national territory.

UNHCR supports people through cash-based interventions for inclusion and retention in the education system. More recently, and in the context of the health emergency, UNHCR has supported children and adolescents enrolled in public schools in Chiapas, Tabasco, Veracruz, Oaxaca and Baja California with packages of school supplies and other materials to ensure the educational continuity of the requesting refugee and asylum-seeking children and adolescents, as well as those from host communities.

2. Detailed Approach

General Objective:

Improve access to quality education services for migrant and refugee children and adolescents and host communities in Chiapas and Tabasco, in order to strengthen the capacities of public schools in the midst of the health emergency caused by COVID- 19.

The International Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) recommends that the steps to follow for a resumption of school activities are the following steps:

1. Reopen schools safely
2. Implement leveling and remedial measures for educational re-linking
3. Re-enrollment of all students
4. Expand connectivity

In the proposal, result 1 seeks to close the gap in information and application of the existing regulations among educational personnel. Result 2 seeks to prepare for the reopening of schools based on the improvement of sanitary conditions. Result 3 strengthens the re-enrollment and accompaniment processes for the inclusion of children and adolescents outside of school. Result 5 aims to prepare teachers for leveling and educational remedial measures, while result 4 seeks to equip them and students with the devices and connectivity required to adapt to the new conditions of the hybrid model of education.

Specific objective 1

Strengthen the capacities of public servants of the SEP, both at the national and state levels, to ensure access to public education; and directors, supervisors and other educational personnel increase their knowledge regarding the right to education to guarantee the right to education of children and adolescents

Expected result 1

Directors, supervisors and other educational personnel increase their knowledge regarding the right to education and apply in a more favorable way to guarantee the right to education of children

Activities

1. Design and implementation of a tutored online course on educational inclusion, application of Agreement 286, School Access Route for children and adolescent asylum-seekers, refugees, student registration and withdrawal process, required documentation, placement processes and other relevant regulations for educational inclusion

2. Hold 5 meetings (4 local/state, 1 national) to discuss and disseminate the protocols, proper application of the regulations for access to the educational system, and good inclusion practices

Specific objective 2

Improve the sanitary conditions of schools for the reopening of classes, including compliance with the protocol for this purpose

Expected result 2

Educational centres increase their level of preparation for the reopening of schools, improving their sanitary conditions and have the supplies to return to classes

Activities

1. Diagnosis of the gap for compliance with water, sanitation and hygiene standards in schools (Wash in Schools)

2. Sanitary intervention, hygiene training

3. Provision of supplies for school safety filters: soap, masks, cleaning supplies

4. Evaluation of implementation of protocol compliance for back to school

Specific objective 3

Disminuir el número de NNA fuera de la escuela en las comunidades seleccionadas a través de búsqueda activa, canalización y acompañamiento para la matriculación

Expected result 3

Asylum seekers and refugees and children from the host community who are out of school are identified and enrolled in the education system

Activities

1. Active search for children outside of school

2. Support to enter the educational system

3. Training with teachers and directors about search guidelines and channelling mechanisms

4. Enrolment retention strategy

Specific objective 4

Strengthen the capacity of children, teachers and managers to guarantee pedagogical continuity and the hybrid model of education

Expected result 4

Children and teachers trained and with the necessary resources to guarantee pedagogical continuity and a hybrid model of education

Activities

Provision of tablets and laptops with internet plans + training

Specific objective 5

Strengthen the capacities of teachers and school administrators to provide psychosocial support, level students, focus the curriculum, and adapt to student needs

Expected result 5

Teachers have tools to provide psychosocial support, level students and readjust the curriculum to adapt to the needs of students

Actividades

1. Design of the training (definition of themes: protection guidelines, pedagogical strategies, leveling, EiE, self-care)

2. Implementation of training and support (mentoring)

3. Beneficiaries

Given that the Mexican educational system does not collect information on students that allows for identifying who are asylum seekers or refugees in their administrative records, a proxy variable has been used, the number of foreign students enrolled in the 2019-2020 school year .

Then, together with authorities and other relevant educational actors, the set of schools will be prioritized to be susceptible to interventions that help prepare them for the reopening of classes.

Expected result 1

1,200 educational public servants

Directors, supervisors, zone chiefs and other officials of the elected municipalities of Chiapas and Tabasco

Expected result 2

25,844 children, adolescents, teachers and managers
101 educational facilities

Children, teachers and managers who will be able to return to their educational centers complying with the sanitary filter protocols for the reopening of schools and offering a better learning environment

Expected result 3

10,000 children and adolescents

Children who are out of school are identified and referred for enrollment

Expected result 4

9,554 Students
500 Teachers
38 Directors

Expected result 5

538 Teachers-Directors

The educational establishments to be selected will be prioritized in conjunction with the educational authorities.

4. Estimated budget

The estimated budget for this project is USD \$ 7,042,800, an estimated 147,890,000 Mexican pesos . Table 4 illustrates the amount required for each component:

RESULTS	REQUIRED FINANCING*
1: Directors, supervisors and other educational personnel increase their knowledge regarding the right to education and apply it in a more favorable way to guarantee the right to education of children and adolescents.	\$65,000
2. Educational centers increase their level of preparation for the reopening of schools, improving their sanitary conditions and have the supplies to return to classes	\$2,500,000
3: Children seeking asylum and refuge and from the host community who are out of school are identified and enrolled in the educational system	\$300,000
4: Children and teachers trained and with the necessary resources to guarantee pedagogical continuity and a hybrid model of education	\$3,855,000
5: Teachers have tools to provide psychosocial support, level students and readjust the curriculum to adapt to the needs of students	\$322,800
TOTAL	\$7,042,800

*Amounts in USD. Exchange rate: 21MXN to 1 USD.

To calculate the amounts that make up the indicative budget, referential amounts from educational projects recently financed by Education Can't Wait were used (see Annex 6). These amounts must be adjusted according to market conditions regarding the purchase of computer equipment and devices or supplies of personal protective equipment such as masks, masks, among others.

The development of the initiative requires a second phase of quantification to identify the financing of current and planned Mexican State institutions. This analysis will show what is the financing gap that requires external support to carry out the proposed activities.

5. Stakeholders

INSTITUTION	MISSION	ROLE IN IMPLEMENTATION
Federal Public Education Secretariat	Its essential purpose is to create conditions that ensure access to an education of excellence with equity, universality and comprehensiveness, at the level and modality that require it and, in the place, where it is demanded.	Technical, strategic and operational
Chiapas Ministry of Education	Strengthen the state educational system, seek access to and retention in quality education of all types and modalities, adapted to the needs of the population, through efficient administrative management, which contributes to institutional improvement, social progress and development of the state of Chiapas	Technical, strategic and operational
Tabasco Secretary of Education	Endorse the population's full right to quality education, under conditions of inclusion, equity and substantive equality, which allows the increase of their knowledge, skills and attitudes, favoring the sustainable development of the state of Tabasco.	Technical, strategic and operational
Mexican Commission for Aid to Refugees	COMAR manages services in order to meet the temporary needs presented by users from the beginning of the refugee status recognition procedure, or until integration is achieved.	Technical, strategic and operational

INSTITUTION	MISSION	ROLE IN IMPLEMENTATION
UNHCR	Guarantee the protection of people who are forced to leave their countries due to persecution, violence and armed conflict, and find a lasting solution to their situation.	Technical, strategic and operational
UNICEF	To promote the protection of the rights of the child, to help satisfy their basic needs and to increase the opportunities that are offered to them so that they reach their full potential.	Technical, strategic and operational
UNDP	UNDP works to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities and exclusion. Supporting countries to develop policies, partnerships, leadership skills, institutional capacities and resilience in order to maintain development progress.	Technical, strategic and operational
UNESCO	UNESCO seeks to establish peace through international cooperation in education, science and culture. UNESCO's duty is to reaffirm the humanistic missions of education, science and culture.	Technical, strategic and operational
Directors, supervisors and teaching staff	Carry out the planning, programming, coordination, execution and evaluation of the tasks for the operation of the schools in accordance with the applicable legal and administrative framework; generate a school environment conducive to learning; direct the continuous improvement processes of the campus; promote the fluid communication of the School with the educational community and develop the other tasks that are necessary for the expected learning to be achieved.	Technical, strategic and operational
Parents, guardians or representatives	Obligation of children to attend school; support the educational process of the children; assist the educational authorities in the activities they carry out; promote the participation of their daughters, sons or wards in the educational system.	Technical, strategic and operational
Civil Society and Implementing partners of UNHCR	Support in the design, implementation and evaluation of the project according to their capacities, competencies and institutional mandates.	Technical, strategic and operational

6. Cross-cutting themes

Educational staff will seek contact with students on a weekly basis, regardless of the student's age. The educational figures will prioritize time to talk with the student and their family, with special interest in girls and young women, young mothers, pregnant adolescents, children with disabilities, migrant children, refugees and asylum seekers, children and adolescents without parental care and other vulnerable groups. Additionally, this contact is part of a strategy to monitor the educational and protection situation of children and adolescents. The educational figures will document and report the information through the information management system for this purpose. This information will make it possible to adapt and adjust the response to the needs of girls and other vulnerable groups more efficiently and to advocate for these groups.

To address the digital divide, tablets and laptops will be delivered to teachers, administrators and students. Connectivity plans will also be delivered, including guides for psychosocial support and inclusive education to make calls and maintain communication with students and their families to address and identify problems of access to content, as well as to provide psychosocial support and protection.

7. Risks and Assumptions

RISK	POSSIBILITY OF OCCURRENCE	LEVEL OF IMPACT	MITIGATION STRATEGY
Large migratory flow and humanitarian response considerations could disrupt or require the planned schedule to be reconsidered.	High	High	Continuous monitoring of the migratory situation to make the necessary forecasts and adjustments to the project.
Austerity programs in various sectors do not involve the dismissal of teaching staff in schools.	High	High	The progress of the project must be made visible and communicated to create support and adherence, maintaining communication with educational authorities and important actors, to generate a high-level political commitment to the project.
Resistance on the part of educational actors for the implementation of the project	Medium	Medium	Promote the participation of the teaching union from the design of the project to preserve the viability and sustainability of the project
Connection or logistical problems that make the training of teachers and other officials, and their support staff, difficult.	Medium	Medium	Technological options such as applications for offline use, pre-installed content on the equipment, etc. should be considered.
Cultural resistance, fear of a pandemic or need for income prevent families from sending children to school	Medium	High	To mitigate this risk, families and community leaders must be involved from the beginning of planning.
High turnover of teachers, delivery delays, connectivity problems in the area.	Medium	Medium	Include in selection criteria, intention to stay in the project school for at least two years.
Risk of enrolling thousands of children and adolescents but not having a retention mechanism working.	Medium	High	In conjunction with the SEP: (i) advocate for the inclusion of refugee and asylum-seeking children and adolescents in existing pro-equity programs (inclusion in Benito Juárez scholarships, revision of the formula for provision of school texts and uniforms, school feeding policy) and, (ii) strengthen the existing early warning mechanism for the EMS level.
Families decide not to send their children to school due to the health situation.	Low	High	Monitor local epidemiological indicators and maintain communication with health authorities and families to provide relevant and timely information.
Problems in the diagnostic visits due to health emergencies, delays in the implementation of improvements, delays in purchasing supplies, difficulties in the provision of water to the educational center.	Low	Medium	Implement the necessary protection measures during visits and, in the case of supplies and purchases, adjust the schedule to the existing purchase times
Stress and exhaustion of the emergency situation do not allow for the incorporation of new methodologies, problems in conducting the monitoring remotely.	Low	High	Maintain adequate protection. Adjust accompaniment modalities (face-to-face or remote) as possible. Emphasis on self-care aspects in teacher training.

8. Monitoreo y evaluación

The monitoring and evaluation will be overseen by the United Nations agencies (UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP) in coordination with the federal SEP and state SEP of Chiapas and Tabasco. Taking advantage of the experience and field knowledge of civil society actors is always welcome. It is important that the monitoring framework is connected to the project management to provide feedback and adjust the operation as necessary. It is also imperative that educational figures at the operational and local level are active parts of the monitoring and evaluation process to develop these capacities that are central to the notion of project sustainability.

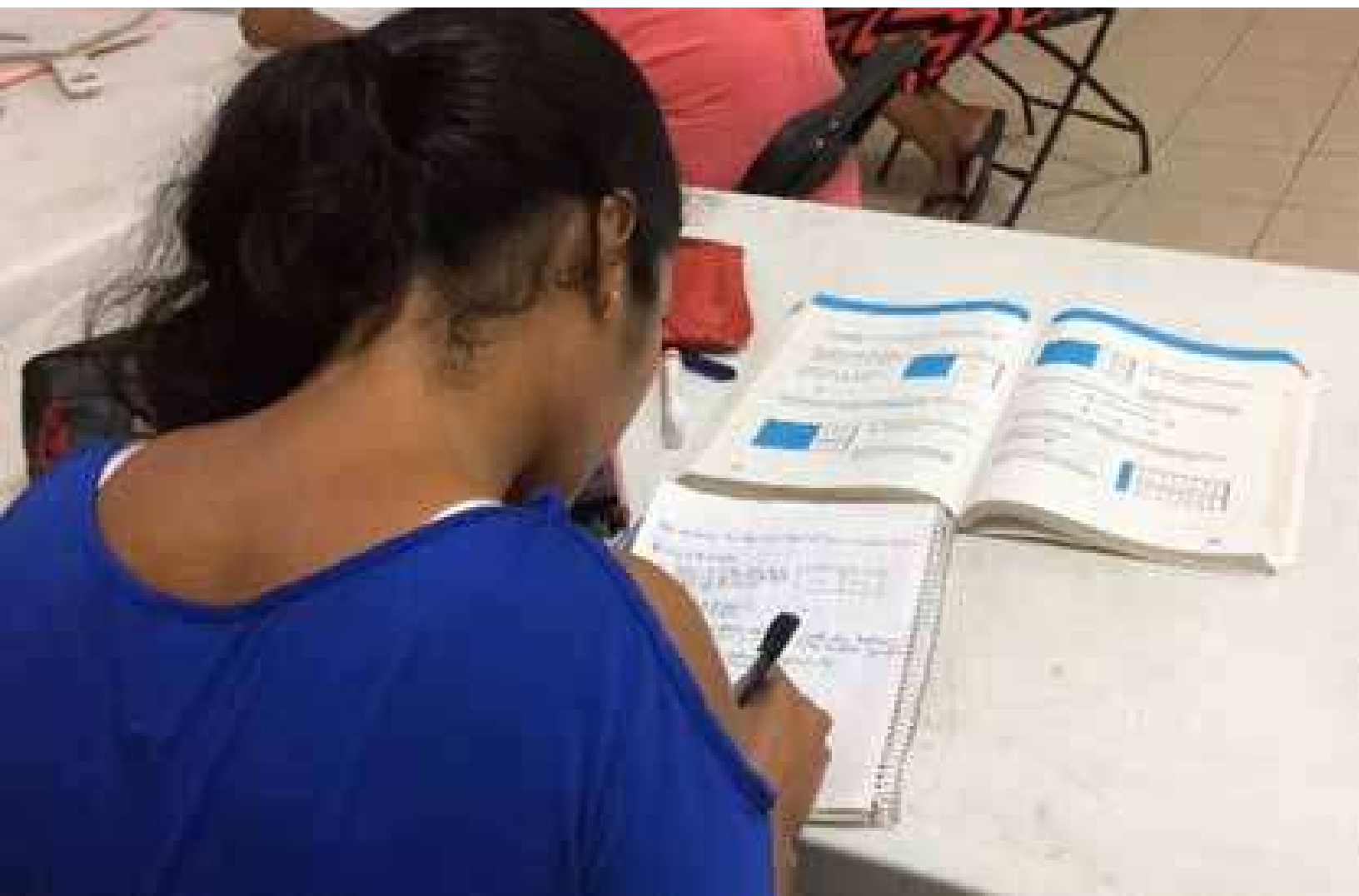
Challenges

- A limitation was the identification of sources, finding information and systematized databases on the population of interest.
- Another important challenge is to involve the governing institutions of the sector from the project design stage. This has been challenging before and the health emergency context proved even more challenging.

Recommendations

Likewise, it is recommended to expand the quantification exercise to help make visible the areas that require more financial support. Spaces such as the Inter-Institutional Working Group on Refugee and Complementary Protection, with its thematic working group on education, or the scope of discussion about the implementation of the National Strategy for Inclusive Education should have a space to strengthen the initiatives of the SEN aimed at guaranteeing the right to education for all children.

Additionally, the MIRPS space can serve the harmonization and contact for the articulation of educational systems in the cross-border area, placing emphasis, for example, on better coordination of the revalidation and recognition of studies, sharing best practices or promoting contact between schools of different countries, among others.



Annex 1 –Logical framework and estimated budget

Objectives / Activities	Indicator	Baseline	Goal	Means of Verification	Term	Financing Required
General Objective: Improve access to quality education services for children and adolescents seeking asylum and refugees and from host communities in Chiapas and Tabasco, amid the health emergency caused by COVID-19.						
Specific Objective 1 Strengthen the capacities of public servants of the SEP, both at the national and state level, to ensure access to public education; and managers, supervisors and other educational personnel increase their knowledge regarding the right to education and apply it in a more favorable way to guarantee the right to education of children and adolescents	Number of supervisors, managers, zone managers and other SEP officials trained and who pass the course	0	1200	Course enrollment records, final evaluations	Semester I	\$ 65,000
Activity 1.1 Design and implementation of a tutored online course on educational inclusion, application of Agreement 286, School Access Route for asylum seeker and refugee children and adolescents, registration and retention of students, required documentation, placement processes and other relevant regulations for educational inclusion.	Number of supervisors, managers, zone managers and other SEP officials trained and who pass the course	0	1,200 (800 women, 400 men)	Course enrollment records, final evaluations	Semester I	\$ 48,000
Activity 1.2 Holding 5 meetings (4 local / state and 1 national) to discuss and disseminate protocols, proper application of the regulations for access to the educational system, and good inclusion practices.	Number of meetings -virtual or face-to-face- held ²¹	0	5	Report on the identification and dissemination of best practices	Semester I	\$17,000
Specific Objective 2 Improve the sanitary conditions of schools for the reopening of classes	Children, teachers and directors that have schools that meet minimum health standards for the reopening of classes	0	25844	Local health authority report on protocol compliance by school	Semester IV	\$ 2,500,000
Activity 2.1 Evaluation of the gap for compliance with water, sanitation and hygiene standards in schools (<i>Wash in Schools</i>)	Number of schools that have a Wash in Schools evaluation	0	101	Health evaluations reports by school, meetings with	Semester I	\$65,000

				directors for joint review		
Activity 2.2 Sanitary intervention, hygiene training	Number of schools that have interventions in their sanitary conditions	0	101 ²²	Work reports by intervened educational establishment, photographic record	Semester III and IV	\$2,400,000
	Number of persons training in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for schools		23,260 (10,467 men and 12,793 women)	Training records, reports		
Activity 2.3 Provision of supplies for school safety filters: soap, masks, cleaning supplies, among others.	Number of children and adolescents, teachers and managers who have sufficient inputs for the implementation of security filters of the SEP protocol	0	25,844	Certificates of delivery receipt of supplies	Semester I	\$30,000
Activity 2.4 Evaluation of implementation of protocol compliance for back to school	Percentage of diagnosed schools that pass the review of health protocols	0	90%	Local health authority report on protocol compliance by school	Semester IV	\$5,000
Specific objective 3 Reduce the number of children and adolescents out of school in the selected communities through active search, channeling, and support for enrollment	Number of identified children and adolescents who are enrolled in school at the end of year 2	0	80%	Administrative records SEP	Semester IV	\$ 300,000
Activity 3.1 Active search for children outside of school	Number of children and adolescents seeking asylum / refugees and from the host community who are out of school are identified	0	10000	Enrollment record of identified children	Semester I and II	\$170,000

Activity 3.2 Support to enter the educational system	Number of children and adolescents enrolled in the educational system Number of children and adolescents who are enrolled in school	0	7000	Accompanying report for re-enrollment in the respective school or educational service	Semester I, II and III	\$100,000
Activity 3.3 Training with teachers and directors about search guidelines and channeling mechanisms	Number of school teams trained in search and re-enrollment guidelines	0	538	Training Report	Semester II and III	\$30,000
Activity 3.4 Enrollment retention strategy ²³	Percentage of children and adolescents identified and re-enrolled that remain in school at the end of the year II	0	80	Administrative records of schools,	Semester III and IV	\$-
Specific objective 4: Strengthen the capacity of children, teachers and managers to guarantee pedagogical continuity and the hybrid model of education	Number of children, teachers and managers who have computer equipment and connectivity plans	0	10092	Delivery-receipt certificates	Semester II	\$ 3,855,000
Activity 4.1 Provision of tablets with internet plans + training for managers	Number of children and adolescents who have the training and resources to continue the hybrid education model	0	9554	Delivery-receipt certificates, attendance record	Semester II	\$3,343,900
Activity 4.2 Provision of tablets with internet plans + training for managers	Number of children and adolescents who have the training and resources to continue the hybrid education model	0	500	Delivery-receipt certificates, attendance record	Semester II	\$475,000

Activity 4.3 Provision of tablets with internet plans + training for managers	Number of children and adolescents who have the training and resources to continue the hybrid education model	0	38	Delivery-receipt certificates, attendance record	Semester II	\$36,100
Specific objective 5 Strengthen the capacities of teachers and school administrators to provide psychosocial support, level students, focus the curriculum and adapt to the needs of students	Number of teachers and managers trained	0	538	Training evaluation reports	Semester III	\$ 322,800
Activity 5.1 Training design (definition of themes: protection guidelines, pedagogical strategies, leveling, EiE, self-care)	Number of teachers trained	0	500	Mentoring reports, teacher self-evaluation	Semester I	\$25,000
Activity 5.2 Implementation of training and support (<i>mentoring</i>)	Number of teachers and managers mentored	0	538	Mentoring reports, teacher self-evaluation	Semester II and III	\$297,800
TOTAL						\$7,042,800

Amounts in USD. Exchange rate: 21 MXN to 1 USD

Annexes available electronically:

Annex 2: Context of the education sector in Mexico

Annex 3: Calculation of the average cost of access of asylum seekers and refugees to the NES in 2021

**COUNTRY: México****SECTOR: Salud**

Strengthening first level health care in the state of Chiapas, Mexico



Executive Summary

Mexico has become a destination country for people seeking international protection. In Chiapas and Tabasco, 63% and 72% of the applicants for refugee status were received in 2018 and 2019 respectively. During the journey from their countries of origin to Mexican territory, people often face adversity and multiple types of physical, psychological and sexual violence.

In the 'National Development Plan (PND) 2019-2024', the government describes the need to position Universal Health Coverage (UHC) as a priority and seeks to guarantee that by 2024 all and all the inhabitants of Mexico can receive medical and hospital care, including the supply of medicines and healing aids, in addition to clinical examinations. Likewise, it seeks to improve and expand the health infrastructure, equipment and supply of medicines in medical and rehabilitation units, generating adequate and accessible conditions to provide quality health services to the entire population.

This programme seeks to strengthen the absorption capacity of health services, to ensure that refugee and asylum seekers and refugees can access health care in Chiapas. The essential components of this initiative are to attention to women's health, mental health and chronic diseases. Through a comprehensive plan, it will promote the inclusion and integration of refugees and asylum seekers into health services in Chiapas.

DURATION

2 years (2021 and 2022)

IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Ministry of Health, Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance at the federal and state level, civil society, United Nations Agencies such as UNHCR, PAHO-WHO and UNDP

LOCATION

Southern Border of México: Tapachula y Palenque, Chiapas

BENEFICIARIES

Refugees, asylum seekers and host communities in Chiapas

ESTIMATED BUDGET

Total required financing: \$1,246,378

1. Health sector context in Mexico

The current administration that began on December 1, 2018, proposed a six-year projection to articulate national problems and identify solutions called 'National Development Plan (PND) 2019-2024' wherein the need to position Universal Health Coverage (CUS for its acronym in Spanish) as a priority is described.

The current government seeks to guarantee that by 2024 all inhabitants of Mexico can receive free medical and hospital care, including the supply of medicines and materials, as well as clinical examinations.

Particularly pillar II called "Well-being", in its objective 2.4 establishes "to promote and guarantee the effective, universal and free access of the population to health services, social assistance and medicines." This is framed in the principles of social participation, technical competence, medical quality, cultural relevance and non-discriminatory treatment¹.

Likewise, it seeks to improve and expand the health infrastructure, equipment and supply of medicines in the medical and rehabilitation units, generating adequate and accessible conditions to provide quality health services to the entire population.

The way to operationalize this commitment to the CUS will be through the National Institute of Health for Wellbeing (INSABI for its acronym in Spanish), which will provide health services throughout the national territory to all people without entitlement to the Mexican Institute of Social Security (IMSS for its acronym in Spanish) or the Institute of Social Security and Services for State Workers (ISSSTE for its acronym in Spanish), Petróleos de México (PEMEX for its acronym in Spanish), Secretariat of the Navy (SEMAR for its acronym in Spanish) and / or private institutions².

The attention will be provided with the principles of social participation, technical competence, medical quality, cultural relevance, non-discriminatory, dignified and humane treatment.

In addition to these efforts, the General Health Law was amended last 2019 in its articles²:

- 77 bis 6. Of the free provision of health services, medicines and other associated supplies for people without social security.
- 77 bis 7. On the coverage and scope of the free provision of health services, medicines and other associated supplies for people without social security.
- 77 bis 29. Of the Health Fund for Well-being. The

Health Fund for Well-being, is a public trust without an organic structure, constituted in terms of the Federal Law on budget and fiscal responsibility in a development banking institution, in that the Institute of Health for Wellbeing acts as trustee.

Due to these and other modifications, access to health services in Mexico is free and open to people who request it in Mexican territory. That is why it is important that the current government has a document that is the methodological - operational proposal for the implementation of Primary Health Care (APS for its acronym in Spanish) and that allows the reorganization and concrete implementation of the new model in the State Health Services (SESA for its acronym in Spanish), which adhere to the Federalization Agreement of health services.

The APS-I Mx has all the characteristics to guarantee the right to health protection³. This model becomes relevant, due to the epidemiological transition in the country where chronic diseases have become the main cause of death and morbidities.

Health needs in Mexico and Chiapas

In 2017, due to the epidemiological transition in Mexico, the first cause of premature death in Mexico was interpersonal violence (1,748.27), also for Chiapas (1,490.63)⁴.

Regarding the years lived with disability both at the national and state level in Chiapas, it is due to Diabetes Mellitus. The second cause in the country was due to interpersonal violence (1,787.31), while for Chiapas it was chronic kidney disease (1,561.62)⁵.

At the time of writing this report (November 4, 2020) due to the health crisis caused by COVID-19, Mexico is ranked third in the region of the Americas by number of deaths due to this virus. First, there is the United States with 228,998; followed by Brazil 159,844 and Mexico 91,753 deaths⁶.

With regard to data provided by UNHCR Mexico, since 2018, the main health care needs of the refugee applicant population in Chiapas is due to chronic diseases. It is also observed that 10% of women who requested refugee status were pregnant and in need of sexual and reproductive health attention⁷.

It is also observed that in all age and gender groups it is necessary to attend to people who are victims of sexual, physical and psychological violence, mainly populations at risk such as accompanied and unaccompanied children and

1 DOF. National Development Plan 2019-2024. Available at : https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5565599&fecha=12/07/2019

2 DOF. Decree by which various provisions of the General Health Law and the Law of the National Institutes of Health are amended, added and repealed. Available at: http://www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/ref/lgs/LGS_ref116_29nov19.pdf

3 Ministry of Health. Comprehensive and Integrated primary health care aps-i mx: the methodological and operational proposal. Available at: http://sidss.salud.gob.mx/site2/docs/Distritos_de_Salud_VF.pdf

4 IHME. Main causes of premature death in Mexico and Chiapas. Available at: <https://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare/>

5 IHME. Years lived with disability in Mexico and Chiapas. Available at : <https://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare/>

6 OPS-OMS. COVID-19 Information System for the Region of the Americas. Disponible en: <https://paho-covid19-response-who.hub.arcgis.com/>

7 Results of the consultancy "Mapping of institutional capacities and strengthening opportunities in host communities in southern Mexico".

adolescents, trans women and the LGBTI+ population⁷.

Currently there are 369 registered people applying for refugee and refugee status in Mexico living with physical, visual and mental disabilities⁸.

Health services capacity

According to available information, at the national and state level, the basic indicators in human resources for health are lower than those recommended by the World Health Organization.

Regarding the use of health services, in 2018, 58% of the population nationwide used the health services provided by the Ministry of Health; while in Chiapas it was 60%⁸.

Table 1. Basic hospital resources for the general population in Chiapas, 2018

General Medicine Offices per 1,000 inhabitant	Specialty clinics per 1,000 inhabitants	Census beds per 100,000 inhabitants	Operating rooms for every 100,000 inhabitants
0.41	0.18	0.39	2.86
General doctors per 1,000 inhabitants	Specialist doctors per 1,000 inhabitants	General nurses per 1,000 inhabitants	Specialist nurses per 1,000 inhabitants
0.69	0.33	1.33	0.15

Cost of access to health services for applicants of refugee status in Mexico

In 2019, the total estimated cost for access to health services for applicants of refugee status in Mexico amounted to MXN 24,564,581.92, while in 2013, it was MXN 415,307.35⁹.

These figures show the importance of increasing the state health budget, since it would have to be adjusted in the same proportion. For example, if the current budget for the health sector at the federal level were to be adjusted with these parameters, it would have increased 69% from 2013 to 2019 in terms of access for applicants⁹.

Another implication of the arrival of people requesting refugee status in Mexico is that their arrival exacerbates the pre-existing challenges in the country, since it puts pressure on a health system that, in itself, is insufficient for the Mexican population. In addition, access to healthcare services is determined through formal employment and, in Mexico, the level of informal employment is very high (See annex 2).

Relevant interventions

Comprehensive and Integrated Primary Health Care Mexico (PHC-I Mx). The new model proposed by the current

administration considers the strengthening of the First Level of Care with a direct focus on Primary Health Care (PHC), where the structure of the Integrated Health Services Networks (RISS, for its acronym in Spanish) will meet the restructuring of the Health Jurisdictions by converting them into Health Districts, a coordinating body of actions in their territory of responsibility, which will guarantee the efficient and continuous care of the local population.

Thematic table on health of the inter-institutional table on refugee and complementary protection. On June 30, 2020, the first session of the year of the ‘Inter-institutional Table on Refugee and Complementary Protection’ took place. The Undersecretary for Human Rights, Population and Migration, Alejandro Encinas Rodríguez, stressed that the purpose is to generate the necessary instruments to confront the health emergency due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and comply with the international commitments that Mexico has signed in the Comprehensive Regional Framework for Protection and Solutions (MIRPS), as well as in the Global Compact on Refugees. In this session, the thematic tables were established including the table on health that will be chaired by the Ministry of Health, with the technical secretariat of COMAR.

8 INEGI. INEGI, Intercensal Survey 2015. Available at: <https://www.inegi.org.mx/programas/intercensal/2015/>

9 Unidad de Política Migratoria. Acceso a la salud de las personas solicitantes de la condición de refugio, refugiadas y beneficiarias de protección complementaria. Los costos económicos para el estado mexicano. Disponible en: <http://www.politicamigratoria.gob.mx/work/models/PoliticaMigratoria/CEM/Publicaciones/Revistas/movilidades/movEs/espmov.pdf>

Donations of personal protective equipment (PPE) and medical devices for reception areas in the south of the country. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 emergency, in coordination with INSABI and local health jurisdictions and hospitals, some needs were identified, such as insufficient protective equipment for medical personnel, as well as of mechanical ventilators to treat COVID-19 cases¹⁰.

UNHCR mobilized resources from the international community to invest 5.7 million pesos for the purchase of medical supplies for hospitals and health centers in Chiapas, Tabasco, and Veracruz, the main states receiving refugees, whose health services serve both the local population, refugees and migrants. The materials, acquired with technical assistance from PAHO-WHO, were delivered to five municipalities: Tapachula and Palenque, in Chiapas; Tenosique and Villahermosa, in Tabasco; and Xalapa, in Veracruz¹⁰.

LGBTI+ community applicants of refugee status from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. This is a report published by Amnesty International, which describes the experience of requesting refugee status as people who identify themselves within the LGBTI+ community. In the same way, the challenges they face when they leave their countries of origin are detailed.

Médicos del Mundo (MdM). MdM's COVID-19 response project in Tapachula served approximately 1,168 people in the last six months. Its components included: medical and psychological care and health promotion. Mental health care was implemented both in person and remotely, and the target population was migrants, refugees, applicants of refugee status or persons in other mobility situations. The project also serve people and families affected by COVID-19. Of the psychological consultations given, 43% were conducted at a distance, which highlights the importance of keeping this type of care available despite the limitations.

Almost 70% of the people seen by MdM had a diagnosis of generalized anxiety, which is consistent with global trends regarding the increase of this condition during the pandemic. Through the health promotion component, the project provided information to the local population of Tapachula, in mobility and on the streets, on the prevention of COVID-19 and on how and when to seek medical attention. During these activities, other health, social, protection or

humanitarian needs were detected and were channeled or addressed directly since these needs frequently exceeded the pre-existing capacities locally*

Lessons learned

- *Refugees working in the health sector in Chiapas, Mexico*

During May 2020, ten refugees and applicants of refugee status health professionals were hired in Mexico to contribute to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. UNHCR has identified more than 100 refugee and applicants of refugee status health professionals in Mexico who could be integrated into health services as health professionals¹¹.

- *Guidelines for the implementation of temporary care centers COVID-19 (CAT-COVID19) and mobile hospitals (EMT)*

During the health emergency due to COVID-19, the Ministry of Health at the federal level installed temporary modules with the function of expanding the care capacity of health services¹².

- *Qualitative research and reports that make Gender-Based Violence visible (GBV).*

Women applicants of refugee status from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras face alarming levels of GBV, and this has a devastating impact on their daily lives^{13,14}. Women flee mainly to protect themselves and their children from murder, extortion and rape.

10 Release. UNHCR joins the response to COVID-19 in southern Mexico with the delivery of medical supplies. Available at: <https://www.acnur.org/es-mx/noticias/press/2020/7/5f04abd24/acnur-se-suma-a-la-respuesta-al-covid-19-en-el-sur-de-mexico-con-entrega.html>

11 UNHCR statement. Available at: <https://www.acnur.org/es-mx/noticias/historia/2020/6/5ede49054/al-paciente-le-brindo-todo-lo-que-este-en-mis-manos.html>

12 Ministry of Health. Guidelines for the implementation of temporary care centers COVID-19 (CAT-COVID19) and mobile hospitals (EMT). Available at: https://coronavirus.gob.mx/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Lineamientos_Centros_Atencion_Temporal.pdf

* Text written and authorized to share by MdM.

13 UNHCR. The Silence I Charge: Revealing Gender Violence in Forced Displacement, Guatemala and Mexico, Exploratory Report 2018. Available at: https://www.acnur.org/publications/pub_prot/5c081f094/el-silencio-que-cargo-revelando-la-violencia-de-genero-en-el-desplazamiento.html

14 Women on the run. First-hand accounts of refugee women fleeing from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico. Available at: <https://www.acnur.org/fileadmin/Documentos/BDL/2016/10666.pdf?file=t3/fileadmin/Documentos/BDL/2016/10666>

2. Detailed approach

General objective

Strengthen the health services of the first degree of care for local people, refugees and applicants of refugee status in Chiapas in the period 2021-2022.

Prioritized topics

1. Women's health: Sexual and reproductive health, prenatal care, childbirth and postpartum
2. Mental health: Psychological and psychiatric care for victims of physical, psychological and sexual violence
3. Chronic diseases: Diagnosis, monitoring and control of diabetes mellitus and hypertension

Expected results: Strengthen the absorption capacity in first degree health services of applicants of refugee status and refugees in Chiapas during the period 2021-2022, in order to contribute to the improvement of health care.

Specific objective 1

Diagnose the absorption capacities in 11 health centers in Chiapas, 2015-2021 of refugee and applicants of refugee status population

Expected result 1

Delivery of a report with the diagnosis of absorption capacities of the 11 health centers in Chiapas, with sociodemographic and epidemiological information on the local population, applicant for refugee status and refugees in the period 2015-2021.

Activities

The activities consist of analyzing public information systems and key actors. Indicators of the state health systems will be measured based on four axes: structure, process, results and leadership. This will be conducted in coordination with PAHO-WHO, UNDP, COMAR and the Ministry of Health.

- Activity 1.1: Characterize the sociodemographic and epidemiological profile of the local population, applicant for refugee status and refugees in 2015-2021

- Activity 1.2: Understand the installed and required capacity of the services in 11 health centers in Palenque and Tapachula

- Activity 1.3: Conduct missions to Palenque and Tapachula

Specific objective 2

Improve the infrastructure and supply capacity of health centers in Chiapas with an emphasis on three priority axes: women's health, mental health and chronic diseases in 2021-2022

Expected result 2

Donation of medical equipment, supplies, medical devices and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in 11 health centers in order to contribute to the improvement of services and health care for the local population, refugees and applicants for the refugee status, during the period 2021-2022.

Activities

The activities consist of the acquisition and donation of medical equipment, supplies, medical devices and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the attention of the three priority axes in health for people seeking refugee status according to the needs of the centers of identified health.

For the coordination of these donations, the Ministry of Health will participate, sharing the situational diagnoses of the health centers that mostly receive the population requesting refugee status, as well as the local population. The actions will be implemented in conjunction with the State Health Secretariats, as well as with technical assistance from PAHO-WHO for the acquisition of supplements.

- Activity 2.1: Acquisition of medical equipment for women's health care in 11 health centers (4 in Palenque and 7 in Tapachula)

- Activity 2.2: Acquisition of supplies for women's health care in 11 health centers (4 in Palenque and 7 in Tapachula)

- Activity 2.3: Acquisition of supplies for sexual and reproductive health care in 11 health centers (4 in Palenque and 7 in Tapachula)

- Activity 2.4 Acquisition of medical equipment for mental health care in 11 health centers (4 in Palenque and 7 in Tapachula)

- Activity 2.5 Acquisition of supplies for mental health care in 11 health centers (4 in Palenque and 7 in Tapachula)

- Activity 2.6 Acquisition of medical equipment for control, care and monitoring of Diabetes Mellitus and Hypertension in 11 health centers (4 in Palenque and 7 in Tapachula)

- Activity 2.7 Acquisition of supplies for control, care and monitoring of Diabetes Mellitus and Hypertension in 11 health centers (4 in Palenque and 7 in Tapachula)

- Activity 2.8 Acquisition of medical devices and PPE for COVID-19 care in 11 health centers (4 in Palenque and 7 in Tapachula)

- Activity 2.9 Acquisition and installation of signs for health centers in the Haitian Creole language in 11 health centers (4 in Palenque and 7 in Tapachula)

- Activity 2.10 Bimonthly visits to beneficiary health centers in Palenque and Tapachula

Specific objective 3

Improve human resource capacity in health centers in Chiapas in 2021-2022

Expected result 3

Hiring of a professional in nursing, medicine, nutrition and psychology for each of the 11 health centers in order to contribute to the improvement of health care for the local population, refugees and applicants for refugee status, during the period 2021-2022.

Activities

The activities include the hiring of an interdisciplinary group of health professionals to increase the capacity of care in health centers of the first degree of care in the Sanitary Districts in Palenque and Tapachula. In order to achieve these contracts, it is necessary to coordinate with the health Sanitary Districts the identification of health centers that receive the majority of the population requesting refugee status to prioritize the establishments by geographic area and population concentration.

- Activity 3.1: Hiring of nursing professionals for 11 health centers in Palenque (4), Tapachula (11), 2021, 2022

- Activity 3.2: Professional contracting in medicine for 11 health centers in Palenque (4), Tapachula (11), 2021, 2022

- Activity 3.3: Professional hiring in psychology for 11 health centers in Palenque (4), Tapachula (11), 2021, 2022

- Activity 3.4: Professional hiring in nutrition for 11 health centers in Palenque (4), Tapachula (11), 2021, 2022

Specific objective 4

Design a proposal for a pilot program for job placement in the Mexican health system for health professional applicants of refugee status and refugees in 2021.

Expected result 4

Implementation of a pilot program in 2021 of labor insertion into the Mexican health system for applicants of refugee status and refugee health professionals.

Activities

UNHCR has worked with the identification of more than 100 refugee, refugee and / or refugee-seeking health professionals in Mexico.

It is intended that, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the National Institute of Health and Well-being, health professionals will be channeled to process the revalidation of titles and issuance of professional identification with the Ministry of Public Education, in order to join to health establishments according to the needs of the health authority.

- Activity 4.1: Propose a pilot program of labor insertion to the Mexican health system for applicants for refugee status and refugee health professionals.

- Activity 4.2: Absorb the costs of revalidation and professional license for health professionals applying for refugee status and refugees (100 people).

- Activity 4.3: Temporary accommodation for three months for 100 health professionals applying for refugee status and refugees

- Activity 4.4: Implementation of the pilot program for health professionals seeking refugee status and refugees in Chiapas.

- Activity 4.5: Bi-monthly field visits in Tapachula and Palenque.

Specific objective 5

Strengthen the processes of channeling, inclusion and health care in health services of the first degree of care in Chiapas, 2021.

Expected result 5

Implementation of courses and training by experts in health systems, process and registration of applications for refugee status, PHC and disability, aimed at health professionals and administrators in order to contribute to the improvement of health care for the local population, refugees and applicants for refugee status during the period 2021-2022.

Activities

For the activities of the objective, it is expected to have the support of COMAR, SSA and UNHCR to coordinate a training program on four priority topics:

1. Structure and operation of the Mexican health system. The thematic table on health of the Inter-Institutional Table under the leadership of the Ministry of Health, in conjunction with COMAR, with the support of UNHCR and PAHO / WHO will design and implement a course to strengthen knowledge and skills related to the structure and functioning of the national health system (to be confirmed).

2. Primary Health Care. In coordination with the federal and state Secretariat of Health of Chiapas and through the Virtual Campus of Public Health, a training period will be organized to strengthen the competencies of health personnel at the

first degree of care in the health districts (to be confirmed),.

3. Attention focused on the health needs of applicants for refugee status in Mexico. An inter-institutional group of UNHCR, COMAR, PAHO / WHO (to be confirmed), design and implement a training course for officers in registration / protection / attention directorates and institutional linkage.

4. Adequate attention for people with disabilities and health needs. With the support of PAHO-WHO and the Mexico Coalition for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COAMEX), a training course will be given regarding technical knowledge on disability in Mexico.

- Activity 5.1 Basic virtual course of the Mexican health system for COMAR and UNHCR in collaboration with the National Institute of Public Health (40 people).

- Activity 5.2 Course on the process of requesting refuge and navigation of the Mexican health system for the Federal, State, and Municipal Health Secretariat (25 people)

- Activity 5.3 Activity Virtual course on PHC with health professionals in Palenque and Tapachula (15 people)

- Activity 5.4 Virtual training for officers of registration / protection / management of care and institutional linkage to provide care focused on the needs of the persons of concern (25 people)

- Activity 5.5 Training course for UNHCR and COMAR for adequate care of people with disabilities and their needs (25 people)

Specific objective 6

Promote the inclusion and integration of refugees and refugee applicants into health services in Chiapas through a comprehensive plan.

Expected result 6

Proposal of a comprehensive health care plan for the applicants of refugee status and refugee population, in order to contribute to the improvement of health care for the refugee population and those seeking refugee status.

Activities

Work in coordination with the Federal and State Secretariat of Health, as well as with COMAR, United Nations agencies such as PAHO-WHO and UNHCR to update the content of the Comprehensive Migrant Care Plan so that the applicant population is explicitly included of refugee and refugee status.

- Activity 6.1 Carry out a comprehensive health and COVID-19 care plan for the applicants of refugee status and refugee population through a hiring for a consultancy in the COMAR Care and Institutional Relations Directorate that allows the development and systematization of processes and mechanisms for referral to health services.

- Activity 6.2 Field visits to Tapachula and Palenque.

3. Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of the proposed initiative are refugees, applicants for refugee status and the local community in Chiapas.

In 2019, of the total number of applicants for refugee status in Chiapas was 45,821, of which 2,828 of them (3% of the national total) expressed the need for COMAR's advocacy support to access public health services.

Of the total number of requests for accompaniment nationwide; 60% took place on the southern border of the country. This is based on information collected and shared by COMAR's Office of Attention and Institutional Liaison.

At the moment it is not possible to determine how many people for each priority group will be served, since there is a gap in the systematization of information at the national and state level.

Priority groups

1. Children and adolescents at risk. The health needs of children and adolescents who come to the country requesting refugee status require early childhood care, nutrition, vaccination and attention to acute respiratory diseases, acute diarrheal diseases, mental health, among others.

2. Women at risk. UNHCR has documented the reasons why women decide to leave their countries of origin. Likewise, the need to guarantee respect for health as a right and contribute to effective access to health services has been made visible^{15,16,17}. Because they face different experiences during their trip and arrival in Mexico, the following points are identified:

- Access to comprehensive health care protocols by the health system for victims of sexual violence. There have been cases of women, including girls and adolescents who have been victims of sexual violence in their countries of origin or during their journey, so it is necessary to guarantee access to the corresponding health services.
- Access to family planning. Education for health, including sexual and reproductive health, is essential for women to perceive themselves as their own agents of action, so family planning represents a means by which informed decisions are made.
- Pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum. In 2020, of the total number of women who applied for asylum in Mexico, 10% were pregnant. An increase in the number of pregnant women arriving in the country has been observed, including not only from Central America but also from Caribbean countries that sought refuge and who arrived in the country via Chiapas.
- Disclosure of GBV. It is identified that women (adolescents and adults) applicants of refugee status, international protection and refugees, as well as people belonging to the LGBTI+ community, experience a normalization of violence, since it frequently occurs in the communities from which they come¹⁸.
- People with disabilities. Up through June 19, 2020, 369 applicants for refugee status and refugees living with disabilities were registered in Mexico.²⁹ The main three types of disability that occurred were physical, mental and visual. Men seeking refugee status and refugee men are more affected by disability compared to women. The ages where it occurs with the highest prevalence are the economically productive ones (25 and 49 years).²⁹ Of the total number of applicants for refugee status and refugees who registered having a disability, 10% were children between the ages of five and eleven.

3. LGBTI+ at risk or people with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. This group of people has a gap in access to health services from their countries of origin, so upon arrival in the country a comprehensive approach to care for their psychological, physical and sexual health is required.

4. Elderly people at risk (68+). This group of people generally take different types of medications, among which chronic conditions are more common.

15 UNHCR. First-hand accounts of refugee women fleeing from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico. Available at: <https://www.acnur.org/fileadmin/Documentos/BDL/2016/10666.pdf?file=t3/fileadmin/Documentos/BDL/2016/10666>

16 International Amnesty. No place that protects me: Asylum seekers in Mexico based on their sexual orientation and / or identity from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. Available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/en-ie/5a2ee6754.pdf>

17 UNHCR. The Silence I Charge: Revealing Gender Violence in Forced Displacement, Guatemala and Mexico, 2018 Exploratory Report. Available at: https://www.acnur.org/publications/pub_prot/5c081f094/el-silencio-que-cargo-revelando-la-violencia-de-genero-en-el-desplazamiento.html

18 UNHCR. Situational context of refugees and migrants with disabilities in Mexico. Internal report, June 2020.

4. Estimated budget

OBJETIVE	REQUIRED FINANCING*
1. Diagnose the absorption capacities of the refugee and applicants of refugee status population in 11 health centers in Chiapas, 2015-2021	\$38,572.00
2. Improve the infrastructure and supply capacity of health centers in Chiapas with an emphasis on three priority pillars: women's health, mental health and chronic diseases in 2021-2022	\$263,142.85
3. Improve human resource capacity in 11 health centers in Chiapas in 2021-2022	\$800,000.00
4. Design a proposal for a pilot program of labor insertion into the Mexican health system for health professional applicants of refugee status and refugees in 2021	\$75,714.28
5. Strengthen the processes of channeling, inclusion and health care in health services of the first degree of care in Chiapas, 2021	\$36,071.43
6. Promote the inclusion and integration of refugees and applicants of refugee status to health services in Chiapas, through a comprehensive plan.	\$32,857.14
TOTAL	\$1,246,357.70

* Note. The prices shown are current estimates under assumptions, they will be updated and adjusted based on the year of listing. Amounts in USD. Exchange rate: 21 MXN to 1 USD.

Based on the results of the consultancy “Mapping institutional capacities of health services and strengthening opportunities in host communities in southern Mexico” led by UNHCR with technical advice from PAHO-WHO and UNDP, the sociodemographic and epidemiological conditions of the local population and applicants of refugee status in Chiapas were defined.

This study considered a quantitative and qualitative methodology to analyze the absorption capacities of the refugee and applicants of refugee status population in health facilities in Chiapas from 2019-2020.

The development of the initiative requires a second quantification phase to identify the current and planned financing of Mexican state institutions. This analysis will show the financing gap that requires eternal support to carry out the proposed activities.

a. Quantitative component

Statistical information systems were consulted to obtain national, state and municipal databases for the calculation of the proposed indicators for the local population, in the following areas of interest:

1. Health conditions
 - a. Sociodemographic profile
 - b. Epidemiological profile
2. Institutional capacities of health services
 - a. Structure
 - b. Process
 - c. Results
 - d. Leadership

Similarly, UNHCR's internal information systems were consulted for the sociodemographic and epidemiological characterization of the asylum-seeking population and identification of health needs.

b. Qualitative component

- Strategic documents of the United Nations System, as well as other international, regional, and national agencies / organizations were reviewed to identify rights, commitments, and strategies to improve access to health services for persons of concern to UNHCR.
- An analysis of the participatory diagnoses carried out by UNHCR from 2015 to 2019 was carried out, to identify health needs and solution strategies for people seeking refugee status.
- A mapping of key actors was carried out with the UNHCR offices in CDMX, Palenque and Tapachula, as well as with PAHO-WHO in CDMX and Chiapas, to identify the people who participated in a semi-structured interview.
- An interview guide for key stakeholders identified by UNHCR, PAHO-WHO and UNDP was designed to explore

the following categories of interest: significant health needs of refugee applicants and refugees, lessons learned from the response to the health emergency due to COVID-19, opportunities to improve the absorption capacity of health facilities and solutions to improve the care of people seeking refugee status in the short, medium and long term.

Additionally, COMAR and the Ministry of Health were consulted to determine the health needs of the asylum-seeking population, as well as financial needs in infrastructure,

supplies, human and material resources..

Subsequently, the programs / activities and strategies that UNHCR currently implements in health matters were considered and work meetings were organized to learn more about the operation and their needs.

Technical considerations of the Official Mexican Standards

Finally, considering the three priority topics of this work (women’s health, mental health and chronic diseases), the Official Mexican Standards were consulted that detail the requirements of infrastructure, equipment, supplies and health professionals required for the operation of the establishments. health care at the first degree of care.

Following, the standards consulted:

- NOM-005-SSA3-2018, which establishes the minimum infrastructure and equipment requirements for establishments for outpatient medical care.
- NOM-007-SSA2-2016, regarding the attention of women during pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum, and of newborns.
- NOM-015-SSA2-2010, related to the prevention, treatment and control of diabetes mellitus.
- NOM-030-SSA2-2009, for the prevention, detection, diagnosis, treatment and control of systemic arterial hypertension.

Prioritization: Health centers in Palenque and Tapachula, Chiapas.

Consultations were carried out within UNHCR with the offices of Tapachula and Palenque to identify the health facilities that receive the highest concentration of the population requesting refugee and refugee status in order to focus interventions in these centers.

Similarly, the same inquiry was made at COMAR’s offices in Tapachula and Palenque. Regarding the Ministry of Health, a letter was sent to the Secretary of Health presenting the project and requesting a meeting, still pending a response.

Additionally, meetings were held with the coordinator of attention to the migrant population and natural disasters of Sanitary District VII in Tapachula. With respect to Palenque, a meeting to present the project was held with the head of the VI Health District and health establishments were also identified.

The municipalities where these health centers are located are:

Palenque Benemérito de las Américas, Centro, Frontera Corozal, Pakal-Nah

Tapachula 5 de febrero, Huixtla, Mapastepec, Raymundo Enriquez, Santa Clara and Suchiate

Considerations and assumptions for cost estimates

The cost estimates were made for 11 health centers distributed between Palenque (4) and Tapachula (7), as a first exploratory exercise for the activities related to the acquisition of equipment, supplies and supplements, as well as the hiring of health professionals .

The amounts will be adapted depending on the real needs of each health center once the situational diagnoses of the health centers located in Health Districts VI and VII are shared, in order to identify the installed and required capacity. Once the characteristics of each health center are known in terms of infrastructure, assigned personnel and inventory of supplies, the national investment will be known.

The estimated costs for the case of the diagnosis of installed capacities of health services in Chiapas are based on the current

20 DOF. NOM-005-SSA3-2018, Que establece los requisitos mínimos de infraestructura y equipamiento de establecimientos para la atención médica de pacientes ambulatorios. Disponible en : https://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5596456&fecha=09/07/2020#:~:text=Esta%20Norma%20tiene%20por%20objeto,proporcionen%20servicios%20a%20pacientes%20ambulatorios.

21 DOF. NOM-007-SSA2-2016, Para la atención de la mujer durante el embarazo, parto y puerperio, y de la persona recién nacida. Disponible en : https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5432289&fecha=07/04/2016

consultancy called “Mapping of institutional capacities of health services and opportunities for strengthening in host areas of southern Mexico”.

Regarding acquisitions, the minimum necessary infrastructure was taken into account in accordance with Mexican regulations to provide medical and community care services in health center^{19,20,21,22} with technical support from PAHO-WHO. On the other hand, the information was supplemented from the donations that UNHCR has made to the health sector in Chiapas.

In the case of the hiring of health professionals, the salary and salary tabulator was used for the personnel of the medical, paramedical and branches at the end of May 20, 2020²³.

In the same way, in the proposal of a pilot program in 2021 of labor insertion into the Mexican health system for people seeking refugee status and refugee health professionals, the estimates were made from the call for recruitment of health professionals. health to respond to the health emergency due to COVID-19.

In this regard, UNHCR worked on the identification and channeling of applicants of refugee status who could join the workforce of public health services.

Finally, for the issues of national, state and municipal training to improve the processes of channeling to health services, the costs per participant of the Update Program in Public Health and Epidemiology of the National Institute of Public Health as well as the annual program of trainings at UNHCR Mexico.

5. Stakeholders

INSTITUTION	MISSION	ROLE IN IMPLEMENTATION
Federal, state National Institute of Health and Welfare	Provides the free provision of health services, medicines and other supplies associated with people without social security, guaranteeing the right to social protection in health for everyone established by the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States.	Technical, strategic and operational
Federal, state, local Ministry of Health and health districts	General law of health. Article 10. The Ministry of Health will promote the participation, in the National Health System, of health service providers from the public, social and private sectors, as well as their workers and users of the same. Likewise, it will promote the coordination with suppliers of health supplies, in order to rationalize and ensure the availability of the latter.	Technical, strategic and operational
Federal, state Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance	Manages services in order to meet the temporary needs presented by users from the beginning of the refugee status recognition procedure, or until integration is achieved.	Technical, strategic and operational
National and regional Pan American Health Organization-World Health Organization	It requests its member countries to send promptly and regularly to the Office all data related to the sanitary status of their ports and national territory. You get all the help you can to do complete scientific studies of contagious disease outbreaks that may occur in countries. It provides its greatest help and experience in order to obtain the best possible protection for the public health of the countries in order to achieve the elimination of the disease and to facilitate trade between nations. Seeks to build and maintain strong and resilient health systems, emphasizing governance and financing in the field of health, health policies, strategies and plans, organization, integrated services, focused on the needs of people and good quality; as well as the improvement of access and rational use of safe, effective and good quality medicines, medical products and health technologies; and in the sufficient and adequate availability of competent, culturally appropriate, well regulated and distributed human resources for health.	Technical and strategic

19 DOF. NOM-005-SSA3-2018, establishing the minimum infrastructure and equipment requirements for establishments for outpatient medical care. Available at: https://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5596456&fecha=09/07/2020#:~:text=Esta%20Norma%20tiene%20por%20objeto,proporcionen%20servicios%20a%20pacientes%20ambulatorios.

20 DOF. NOM-007-SSA2-2016, regarding attention of women during pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum, and of the newborn. Available at: https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5432289&fecha=07/04/2016

21 DOF. NOM-015-SSA2-2010, related to the prevention, treatment and control of diabetes mellitus. Available at: https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5432289&fecha=07/04/2016

22 DOF. NOM-030-SSA2-2009, for the prevention, detection, diagnosis, treatment and control of systemic arterial hypertension. Available at: https://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle_popup.php?codigo=5144642

23 Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit. Tabulator of wages and salaries for the personnel of the medical branch, paramedical and branches at the end. Available in: http://www.dgrh.salud.gob.mx/Servicios/TABULADOR_2020.pdf

INSTITUTION	MISSION	ROLE IN IMPLEMENTATION
National and regional UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency	Ensure that all people with international protection needs have the right to request refugee status and find protection; seek durable solutions for refugees and beneficiaries of complementary protection, especially through integration in Mexico.	Technical, strategic and operational
National United Nations Development Program	Support countries to achieve sustainable development by eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, accelerating structural transformations for sustainable development, and building resilience in crisis.	Technical, strategic and operational
Local: Médicos del Mundo	It works to realize the right to health for all people, especially for vulnerable populations, excluded or victims of natural disasters, famines, diseases, armed conflicts or political violence.	Strategic and operational
Local: Doctors without borders	Provides humanitarian assistance with provision of urgent medical care and the option to speak out publicly about the suffering that populations face and the barriers that stand in the way of effective care delivery.	Strategic and operational
Local: Una Mano Amiga	Generate teaching-learning processes in comprehensive sexual health among the populations most at risk to prevent STIs, HIV and AIDS. Advocates at the local, state and national levels to ensure access to prevention, care and treatment free of stigma and discrimination for the populations most at risk. They contribute to the promotion and defense of human rights related to HIV / AIDS, STIs and sexual diversity in the populations most at risk (PEMAR).	Operational

6. Cross-cutting themes

COVID-19. The response to the COVID-19 emergency continues to be a priority within the Ministry of Health. To this day (November 4, 2020) most of the states are still at red and orange traffic lights. This is why it is relevant to continue supporting the health authority in caring for this disease.

Other transmissible diseases. It is important to continue providing attention to other diseases that have a high prevalence in the local population and applicants for refugee and refugee status in Mexico, such as Chikungunya and Dengue, since the southern border due to the humid climate is a place of high occurrence of cases.

Food and nutrition security. Guaranteeing access to adequate and sufficient food contributes to an adequate nutritional status, which is a protective factor for the development of infectious and chronic diseases.

Gender Based Violence. The number of women leaving their home countries for GBV reasons has increased in recent years. Similarly, because of the journey they travel to get to Mexico, they are victims of different forms of violence, which is why it is necessary to incorporate health into all policies with a gender perspective.

Vaccination. The most cost-effective preventive public health intervention is vaccination, as it prevents diseases, disabilities, and deaths from preventable diseases. This, to ensure that people who require them have access, as well as prevent repeated vaccination that can seriously affect the immune system.

7. Risks and assumptions

RISK	PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE	INTENSITY OF IMPACT	MITIGATING STRATEGY
Insufficient budget for the national health sector, particularly for the third level of health	Medium	High	Seek to guarantee a labeling in the health budget for the population requesting refugee and refugee status through a coordinated process between COMAR, UNHCR and PAHO-WHO
Lack of attention to health needs other than COVID-19	Medium	High	In coordination with the Mexican Commission for Refugee Aid, UNHCR and PAHO-WHO, a person is appointed to follow up with the Ministry of Health
Decrease in the COMAR budget of 14.34% for 2021, compared to that authorized in 2020	High	High	Accompany the processes required by COMAR for advocacy for an increase in the budget. Search for international financing

8. Monitoring and evaluation

The activities will be carried out once the participation of each member has been confirmed, ideally in coordination with the heads of Sanitary Districts VI and VII in Palenque and Tapachula respectively, municipal Health Secretariats, technical advice from PAHO-WHO and collaboration from COMAR .

UNHCR will keep a record of the interventions carried out in conjunction with the State Secretariat of Health, as well as municipal, in conjunction with PAHO-WHO.



Annex 1: Logical Framework and Estimated Budget

Activity	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Means of verification	Duration	Required Financing 2021	Required Financing 2022	TOTAL Required Financing
General objective. Strengthen primary level of care for local people, refugees and refugee applicants in Chiapas in the period 2021-2022								
Specific objective 1: Diagnosing the absorption capacities of the refugee and applicants of refugee status population in 11 health centres in Chiapas, 2015- 2021.								
Activity 1.1 Characterize the sociodemographic and epidemiological profile of the local population, refugees and applicants of refugee status in the period 2015-2021.	Sociodemographic and epidemiological profile of the local population, refugees and applicants of refugee status by year, disaggregated by municipality			Databases of dynamic cubes, Databases of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography and Situational Diagnoses of each health centre	2021	\$ 17,143.00	\$ -	\$ 17,143.00
Activity 1.2 Identify the installed and required capacity of services in 11 health centres in Palenque and Tapachula	By health centre:: Number of professionals assigned and required, disaggregated by sex Number and type of equipment and medical supplies installed and required Number of clinics by specialty Number of applicants for refugee status attended by service disaggregated by sex and age group Total number of people served by service disaggregated by sex and age group	Consultancy report "Mapping of institutional capacities of health services and strengthening opportunities in host communities in southern Mexico" and situational diagnoses of each health centre	Delivery of the diagnostic report	Databases of dynamic cubes and situational diagnoses of each health centre	2021	\$ 17,143.00	\$ -	\$ 17,143.00
Activity 1.3 Missions to Palenque and Tapachula in 2021	Number of missions carried out by municipality per year	Currently no missions are carried out	Four missions per municipality	Travel log	2021-2022	\$ 4,286.00		\$ 4,286.00
SUBTOTAL SO 1						\$ 8,572.00	\$ -	\$ 38,572.00
Specific objective 2: Improve the infrastructure and supply capacity of health centres in Chiapas with an emphasis on three priority axes: women's health, mental health and chronic diseases in 2021-2022.								
Activity 2.1 Acquisition of medical equipment for women's health care in 11 health centres (4 in Palenque and 7 in Tapachula)	Type and number of equipment donated per health centre per year	Consultancy report (Objective 1.1)	Contribute to the response capacity in medical	Inventory of health centres, UNHCR donation certificates	2021	\$ 41,904.76	\$ -	\$ 41,904.76

Activity 2.2 Acquisition of supplies for women's health care in 11 health centres (4 in Palenque and 7 in Tapachula)			supplies 2021-2022		2021-2022	\$ 20,952.38	\$ 20,952.38	\$ 41,904.76
Activity 2.3 Acquisition of supplies for sexual and reproductive health care in 11 health centres (4 in Palenque and 7 in Tapachula)					2021-2022	\$ 2,619.05	\$ 2,619.05	\$ 5,238.10
Activity 2.4 Acquisition of medical equipment for mental health care in 11 health centres (4 in Palenque and 7 in Tapachula)					2021	\$ 15,714.29	\$ -	\$ 15,714.29
Activity 2.5 Acquisition of supplies for mental health care in 11 health centres (4 in Palenque and 7 in Tapachula)					2021-2022	\$ 1,571.43	\$ 1,571.43	\$ 3,142.86
Activity 2.6 Acquisition of medical equipment for the control, care and monitoring of Diabetes Mellitus and Hypertension in 11 health centres (4 in Palenque and 7 in Tapachula)					2021	\$ 41,904.76	\$ -	\$ 41,904.76
Activity 2.7 Acquisition of supplies for control, care and monitoring of Diabetes Mellitus and Hypertension in 11 health centres (4 in Palenque and 7 in Tapachula)					2021-2022	\$ 20,952.38	\$ 20,952.38	\$ 41,904.76
Activity 2.8 Acquisition of medical devices and PPE for COVID-19 care in 11 health centres (4 in Palenque and 7 in Tapachula)	Type and number of medical devices and PPE donated by health centre per year		Contribute to responsiveness in medical devices and PPE, 2021		2021	\$ 52,380.95	\$ -	\$ 52,380.95
Activity 2.9 Acquisition and installation of signs for health centres in the Haitian Creole language in 11 health centres (4 in Palenque and 7 in Tapachula)	Number of signs delivered / installed in health centres in Palenque, Tapachula and Tenosique per year		Ten signs installed per health centre		2021	\$ 10,476.19	\$ -	\$ 10,476.19
Activity 2.10 Bimonthly visits to beneficiary health centres in Tapachula, Palenque	Number of missions carried out by municipality per year	Currently no missions are carried out	A bimonthly visit per municipality 2021-2022	Travel log	2021-2022	\$ 4,285.71	\$ 4,285.71	\$ 8,571.42
SUBTOTAL SO 2						\$212,761.90	\$ 50,380.95	\$ 263,142.85
Specific objective 3. Improve human resource capacity in 11 health centres in Chiapas in 2021-2022								

Activity 3.1 Hiring of nursing professionals for 11 health centres in Palenque (4), Tapachula (7), 2021, 2022	Number of nursing professionals hired per health centre per year, disaggregated by sex	Consultancy report (objective 1.1)	Contribute to the response capacity of health professionals, 2021-2022	Health professional contract	2021-2021	\$104,761.90	\$ 85,714.29	\$ 190,476.19
Activity 3.2 Professional contracting in medicine for 11 health centres in Palenque (4), Tapachula (7), for two years, 2021, 2022	Number of medical professionals hired by health centre assigned per year, disaggregated by sex				2021-2022	\$125,714.29	\$102,857.14	\$ 228,571.43
Activity 3.3 Professional hiring in psychology for 11 health centres in Palenque (4) and Tapachula (7) for two years, 2021, 2022	Number of psychology professionals hired by health centre per year, disaggregated by sex				2021-2021	\$104,761.90	\$ 85,714.29	\$ 190,476.19
Activity 3.4 Professional hiring in nutrition for 11 health centres in Palenque (4) and Tapachula (7), for two years, 2021, 2022	Number of nutrition professionals hired at the health centre per year, disaggregated by sex				2021-2021	\$104,761.90	\$ 85,714.29	\$ 190,476.19
SUBTOTAL SO 3						\$439,999.99	\$360,000.01	\$ 800,000.00
Specific objective 4: Design a proposal for a pilot program for job placement in the Mexican health system for health professionals applicant of refugee status and refugees in 2021								
Activity 4.1 Propose a pilot program of labor insertion to the Mexican health system for applicants for refugee status and health professional refugees.	Percentage of progress of the pilot program	There is currently no pilot program for job placement	Pilot program delivery	Report and annexes delivered to UNHCR	2021	\$ 28,571.43	\$ -	\$ 28,571.43
Activity 4.2 Absorb the costs of revalidation and professional license for refugee health professionals and applicants for refugee status (100 people in 2021).	Number of professional certificates revalidated per year. Revalidation costs of professional certificates per year	UNHCR's internal information system	100 certificates revalidated in 2021	UNHCR Mexico's internal information systems in 2021	2021	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Activity 4.3 Temporary accommodation for three months for 100 health professionals seeking refugee status and female refugees in 2021	Number of people benefited by temporary accommodation per year (100), disaggregated by sex		Contribute to the response capacity in human resources for health 2021-2022		2021	\$ 42,857.14	\$ -	\$ 42,857.14
Activity 4.4 Implementation of the pilot program for health professionals seeking refugee status and refugees to health services in Chiapas.	Number of applicants of refugee status/ refugees joining the health services in Mexico, disaggregated by sex		Contribute to the response capacity in human resources for health 2021-2022			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Activity 4.5 Bi-monthly site visits in Tapachula and Palenque, 2021	Number of missions carried out by municipality per year	Currently no missions are carried out	A bimonthly visit per municipality	Travel blog	2021	\$ 4,285.71	\$ -	\$ 4,285.71
SUBTOTAL SO 4						\$ 75,714.28	\$ -	\$ 75,714.28
Specific objective 5: Strengthen the processes of channeling, inclusion and health care in health services of the first degree of care in Chiapas, 2021.								
Activity 5.1 Basic virtual course of the Mexican health system for COMAR and UNHCR in collaboration with the National Institute of Public Health (40 people in 2021).	Total number of people who successfully completed the course.	Training log (HR)	80% of participants complete the course	Attendance list and / or certificates delivered	2021	\$ 8,571.43	\$ -	\$ 8,571.43
Activity 5.2 Course on the process of requesting refuge and navigation of the Mexican health system for the Federal, State, and Municipal Health Secretariat (25 people in 2021)					2021	\$ 7,142.86	\$ -	\$ 7,142.86
Activity 5.3 Virtual course on PHC with health professionals in Palenque and Tapachula (33 people in 2021, three per health centre)					2021	\$ 7,857.14	\$ -	\$ 7,857.14
Activity 5.4 Virtual training for registration / protection / care management officers and institutional linkage to provide care focused on the needs of persons of concern (25 people in 2021)					2021	\$ 7,142.86	\$ -	\$ 7,142.86
Activity 5.5 Training course for UNHCR and COMAR for adequate care of people with disabilities and their needs (25 people in 2021)					2021	\$ 5,357.14	\$ -	\$ 5,357.14
SUBTOTAL SO 5						\$ 36,071.43	\$ -	\$ 36,071.43
Specific objective 6: Promote the inclusion and integration of refugees and applicants for refugee status to health services in Chiapas, through a comprehensive plan.								
Activity 6.1 Carry out a comprehensive health and COVID-19 care plan for the applicants of refugee status and refugee population through a hiring for a consultancy in the COMAR Directorate of Care and Institutional Linkage that allows developing and systematizing	Percentage of progress of the comprehensive plan	There is currently no comprehensive plan	Comprehensive plan delivery	Report and annexes delivered to UNHCR	2021	\$ 28,571.43	\$ -	\$ 28,571.43

processes and mechanisms for referral to health services.								
Activity 6.2 Field visits to Tapachula and Palenque, 2021	Number of missions carried out by municipality per year	Currently no missions are carried out	Four missions per municipality	Travel log	2021-2022	\$ 4,285.71	\$ -	\$ 4,285.71
SUBTOTAL SO 6					2021	\$ 32,857.14	\$ -	\$ 32,857.14
TOTAL						\$835,976.74	\$410,380.96	\$1,246,357.70

Annexes available electronically:

Annex 2: Legal-programmatic framework

Annex 3: Quarterly estimated economic cost for access to health services for persons seeking refugee status, 2013-2019

Panama.

People of concern in Panama


Asylum seekers in Panama*

13,563

Refugees in Panama*

2,588

*Official data provided to UNHCR to October 2020

SECTOR	DESCRIPTION	IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES	FINANCING NEEDS				
 Social protection	Guarantee the extension of social protection as part of a transition towards the consolidation of social protection programs according to the needs of refugees and applicants for refugee status in the Republic of Panama.	Ministry of Government through the National Office for Refugee Care (ONPAR) Ministry of Presidency Ministry of Social Development (MIDES) The Panamanian Chamber of Social Development (CAPADESO) would accompany the process.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>National Financing</td> <td>Financing Gap</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$4,017,229</td> <td>\$ 23,943,111</td> </tr> </table>	National Financing	Financing Gap	\$4,017,229	\$ 23,943,111
National Financing	Financing Gap						
\$4,017,229	\$ 23,943,111						

Context

Panama recorded a 3% economic increase at the end of 2019, showing an economic downturn of the country. Even though it is lowest figured recorded since 2010, Panama is still among the fastest growing countries in Latin America. The effects of the pandemic on economy are significant, and the views of the government point to a GDP decrease of 9% in 2020. With a population of 4.2 million inhabitants and an economy essentially dependent on services, Panama recorded a 7.1% unemployment rate and 45% informal employment rate before the pandemic. Ministry of Labour official figures estimate an unemployment rate that already surpasses 25%, which represents more than 500,000 unemployed people, reaching rates 55% in informal employment. This affects over 800,000 workers that do not have safe employment contracts, employment benefits or social protections. The most recent report of the Panamanian Ministry of Economy and Finances (MEF, by its Spanish acronym) points out that at the end of September 2020, the public debt increased to USD 36,107 million, a figure that increased by USD 6,275 million in only seven months of the pandemic. MEF projections for this year coincide with the those of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). A slow recovery is expected from 2021 onward, but this process is estimated to take 3 years.

The impact of the pandemic is aggravating poverty and inequality levels, mainly in vulnerable populations. According to the multidimensional poverty approach adopted by Panama

in the Sustainable Development Objectives framework, in 2018, 19% of the population, and 32.8% of minors nationally, experienced multidimensional poverty. In turn, the Gini index (an indicator used to measure inequality) showed that Panama is the third most unequal country in Latin America as of 2019 because of strong territorial inequality, among others factors.

This high level of inequality can be explained by social spending, which Panama has kept around 9% of its GDP, three points below the Latin American average, according to data published by the Inter-American Development Bank. At the start of the pandemic, Panama adopted measures to alleviate economic and social consequences, paying special attention to the most vulnerable population. These measures include postponing, temporarily reducing or cancelling tax payments and mortgages; forgiving interest, late fees and fines; and fixing prices of essential products in order to avoid shortage. As part of the measures to assist the most vulnerable population, the Government has implemented a relief social assistance plan (Panamá Solidario Plan) for people affected by measures imposed by the government to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Displacement trends

Panama is the home of nearly 17,000 refugees and applicants for refugee status. The refugee population is mainly made up by persons from Colombia, El Salvador, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela. Especially in the last two years, refugee status applications from Venezuela, and particularly from Nicaragua, have increased exponentially, which has intensified the needs of this target population. In 2020, 622 new applications were received by October, a decrease of more than 90% when compared to the same period in 2019. This is the result of multiple factors, such as border closures due to the health crisis and the fact that the majority of refugees and applicants for refugee status enter through airports.

At the same time, based on National Migration Service statistics, mixed groups entering through Darién (the border with Colombia) increased in 2019 (more than 23,000 people), with small numbers applying for international protection in Panama, and the majority traveling to the north of Panama. So far this year, a total of 2,531 people is stranded in Panama due to COVID-19 and border closures; of this group, 24 have applied for recognition of refugee status in Panama, and the majority is in transit.

While many people are experiencing more vulnerability and need due to COVID-19, the pandemic has brought about socioeconomic consequences that have greatly impacted refugees and applicants for refugee status in Panama, as they have lost their means to earn income (on both the formal and informal labor market). Additionally, there is higher risk of eviction and increased public services cuts, despite legal mechanisms that attempt to prevent them, which increases levels of anxiety, stress and depression. As a consequence, civil society, through assistance programs supported by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), has confirmed a sharp increase in requests for assistance of approximately 80%, including in populations that had achieved financial independence and stability prior to the pandemic. Likewise, ONPAR estimated an approximately 30% population coverage through the program Panamá Solidario, which delivers food bags and cash allowances.

National response

According to Articles 2 and 4 of Executive Decree No. 400 of March 27th, 2020, put forth by the Ministry of Presidency, the Panamá Solidario Plan is intended for people within the national territory who fall into in any of the following groups: people in multidimensional poverty, vulnerable families, people living in difficult-to-reach areas, and people who work for hire or reward. In this way, refugees, applicants for refugee status or migrants in need of protection can benefit from measures developed in this Plan.

Despite the fact that the Executive Decree makes no distinction when it comes to nationality or migrant condition in Panama, which it is reflected by its inclusive scope that covers basic needs based on vulnerability levels, with its application in the field some of the foreign population has not benefited in the same way as the national population, sometimes due to lack of information or discretion of the people that deliver food bags or financial support (known in Panama as bonos solidarios). Additionally, most of the foreign population has not been able to benefit from electronic transfers because

they are not permanent residents with a card issued by the Electoral Tribunal.

The social challenge in times of COVID-19 and the slow economic recovery for Panama, which is estimated to take 3 to 4 years by the MEF, IMF and the Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean (CEPAL, by its Spanish acronym), make it necessary to expand social protection and humanitarian assistance by incorporating vulnerable refugees and applicants for refugee status, and enact a transition program focused on including areas in social protection programs according to the needs of the population.

The MIRPS in Panama

Panama confirmed its intention to be part of MIRPS in June 2017, developing a work plan focused on the following main points: (i) protection and legal affairs; (ii) access to basic needs; (iii) supporting host communities; and (iv) local integration and livelihood. The Panama chapter, developed by the National Technical Team (ETN, by its Spanish acronym) and with the support of UNHCR, highlights important commitments related to protection and assistance with ongoing basic needs due to the pandemic.

In June 2019, a new government was established in Panama. The new authorities, led by the Ministry of Government, accepted and validated the Work Plan developed within MIRPS, reaffirming the commitment to implement it and continuously improve it. Along the same lines, a 2020 revision is being done to address challenges posed by the pandemic. In this way, even though ONPAR was forced to temporarily suspend public assistance and some services, new special channels were implemented so that ONPAR could keep in contact with the people of concern and with partners, in order for it to ensure humanitarian assistance, legal support and psycho-social care. Moreover, ONPAR extended the validity

of identity cards of refugees and applicants for refugee status that are recognized and admitted. In addition, it suspended deadlines for presenting items for consideration and rescheduled planned interviews during quarantine.

Since the beginning of the emergency, ONPAR, in collaboration with the Protection Committee (led by UNHCR and made up by civil society organizations), wrote up an initial list of vulnerable refugees and applicants for refugee status recognized by the Panamanian State in order to promote and facilitate their inclusion in programs put forth by the National Government. Nevertheless, this population's vulnerabilities have increased as the pandemic has progressed and the duration of restrictive measures has been extended.

**COUNTRY: Panama****SECTOR: Social Protection**

Expanding Social Coverage to Meet the Basic Needs of Vulnerable Refugees and Applicants for Refugee Status



Executive Summary

The COVID pandemic has resulted in an increase in vulnerabilities and needs among the population, including refugees and asylum seekers in Panama. As part of measures to support the most vulnerable segments of the national population, the Government of Panama has launched an emergency relief social assistance plan for people affected by the pandemic called Plan Panama Solidario. The Plan has an inclusive approach that does not discriminate against beneficiaries based on their country of origin or nationality.

At the same time, the Plan faces significant challenges in ensuring that the refugee and asylum seeker population is effectively supported. The loss of opportunities to generate income due to the reduction in economic activity in the country has led to an increase of between 55% and 80% for requests for assistance, including people who previously had financial independence and economic stability in the country. The proposed initiative seeks to expand social coverage to respond to the basic needs of the refugee population and refugee applicants in vulnerable conditions, as part of the planned integration of the State within the Panama Solidario Plan.

DURATION

3 years (2021-2023)

IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Ministry of Government through the National Office for Refugee Care (ONPAR, by its Spanish acronym)

Ministry of Presidency, Ministry of Social Development (MIDES, by its Spanish acronym)

The Panamanian Chamber of Social Development (CAPADESO, by its Spanish acronym) would accompany the process.

LOCATION

National

BENEFICIARIES

13,719 refugees and asylum seekers- average per year

ESTIMATED BUDGET

Total Required Financing:	\$27,960,340
National Financing:	\$4,017,229
Financing Gap:	\$23,835,111

1. Social protection sector context

In the Republic of Panama, the Ministry of Social Development is the governing body of social politics and leads social investing in strengthening skills and abilities of human capital in order to achieve sustainable national development. In order to face social challenges, a series of programs to overcome poverty and extreme poverty were implemented in the Social Protection System framework through the Opportunities Network, the Nutritional Benefit, and other initiatives related to severe disability, older adults without pension and in extreme poverty, health and education services, and skills development.

Through the Panamá Solidario Plan, the Ministry of Presidency implemented an emergency social assistance plan for those affected by the pandemic, through which benefits have been given to more than 1,700,000 socioeconomically vulnerable people in the 679 townships of the country. Through the plan, which is developed via 3 methods, monetary resources are delivered so people can meet their critical needs by purchasing food and medicine, either by cash allowances or either by transfers through identity cards. Moreover, through food bags, the government delivers essential, basic food basket items to the most vulnerable families. Because of this

Complementary initiatives

In order to tackle the challenges presented during the pandemic, MIDES has focused on territories with a larger vulnerable populations through the Plan Colmena (Hive Plan) in 63 districts and 300 townships nationally. Among other results, this plan delivered COVID-19 humanitarian assistance to 83 older adults during the pandemic; USD 5.7 million in state subsidies to non-profit organization boards and orphanages, which benefited more than 15,165 people (9,979 women and 5,185 men); consolidated 111 networks; implemented 84 self-management projects; and focused on to 33 districts and 77 settlements, benefiting 4,867 families nationally.

In addition, the national government has implemented supplementary support and inclusive measures for the population, such as the creation of a tariff-stabilization fund which provides electricity bill discounts of up to 40% (the discount percentage decreases according to consumption), the creation of agreements with the bank sector to implement financial relief plans in mortgage and credit card interest payments, the prohibition of loss of rights and evictions for those who cannot afford rent, as well as price freezes of certain basic food basket products.

effort, many national and local organizations and authorities, through provincial technical boards, have committed to make efforts to deliver these products. With the technical support of the Authority for Government Innovation, the platform used to Panamá Solidario Plan is managed, virtual assistance is being provided for, and additional initiatives are being implemented to reduce the digital gap and contribute to social inclusion in the country.

Among the lessons learned is the value of volunteers, most of whom are young people between 18 and 35, but also include foreigners who have helped in the distribution of assistance during the pandemic. In addition, society and the private sector have contributed to the Panamá Solidario Plan through cash donations, essential food, cleaning and disinfection products, and transport or lodging for those affected by the pandemic. The logistical challenges of delivering aid to vulnerable people has been one of the greatest program challenges, especially in regards to vulnerable refugee, applicants for refugee status and undocumented migrant populations, due to their fears of revealing their place of residency.

Finally, there has been noteworthy civil support through the Panamanian Chamber of Social Development, as they distributed food bags to people in extreme poverty, including refugees and applicants for refugee status, who were benefited thanks to contacts provided by UNHCR social organizations. In this regard, UNHCR and its local partners have increased support for humanitarian assistance in order to meet the growing demand for support, especially in areas such as food, medicine, lease payments, psychosocial support and tracking of vulnerable cases. To this effect, some measures have been adopted in relation to the delivery of support in cash and also via electronic means (bank transfers to savings accounts or pre-paid cards and electronic food vouchers) with the purpose of adapting to the restrictions on mobility and exposure to COVID-19.

2. Detailed approach

General objective:

Expand social security coverage to meet the basic needs of vulnerable refugees and applicants for refugee status as part of the state-planned inclusion in the Panamá Solidario plan.

Social vulnerability of the refugee and applicants for refugee status populations is the result of repercussions and fears caused by their forced displacement, but it also shows the poor capabilities of these vulnerable groups to become part of society if they do not receive support and protection on the behalf of the state sheltering them. In this context, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated such vulnerabilities since groups of this population have not been able to join social protection programs and social networks in Panama.

The current public policy on social protection, via the Panamá Solidario Program, makes it possible to compensate for shortages of individuals and families with monthly financial support and/or digital transfers for food and medicine and/or a family food bag, thus ensuring their inclusion in a temporary program as long as the health emergency and its economic impact last in the country, which is estimated to be 3 years. At the same time, this intervention is part of an effort to transition to an inclusive social policy in Panama, with the implementation of compensating social protection policies focused on poverty and social vulnerability that many families and refugees or applicants for refugee status face.

Specific objective 1

Meet essential needs that guarantee the survival of vulnerable refugees and applicants for refugee status

Expected result 1

Improve the information system of ONPAR and the related mechanisms to identify vulnerable populations who are beneficiaries of the intervention while guaranteeing the confidentiality of information that could put their integrity or safety at risk

Activities

- Activity 1.1. Prepare a protocol that establishes delivery methods and vulnerability conditions, which guarantees the confidentiality of the target population and allows for certification by MIDES and/or the Presidency for access to the program.

Prepare a protocol that defines the identifying criteria of the target population in accordance with the delivery methods and vulnerability conditions set by ONPAR, which will be supported by UNHCR. The Authority for Government Innovation (AIG, by its Spanish acronym), by request of MIDES, will develop the application of the program on integrated information systems in order to facilitate target population access through a card provided by ONPAR, or any other document identified by ONPAR in the protocol that allows for access to program benefits just as the national population. The AIG will ensure to protect the confidentiality of the target population by providing an encryption system that guarantees the privacy of personal information that could compromise the safety of the refugees and applicants for refugee status in Panama.

- Activity 1.2. Mapping needs and georeferencing areas where the target population is located.

Through this activity, ONPAR, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), the Panamanian Red Cross, the Refugee Education Trust (RET), the Human Mobility Pastoral (PMH, by its Spanish acronym) and HIAS, the global Jewish nonprofit that protects refugees, with the technical support of MIDES, identify the scale of protection needs based on family and individual profiles of the refugee and asylum seeker population, thus promoting disaggregation by gender and age in order to improve the efficiency of deliveries and facilitate their tracking. After collecting information about the communities with a target population, ONPAR will coordinate with AIG to prepare a system for georeferencing areas with the largest populations according to need. The target data of such actions will be incorporated to the general context of social protection nationwide both within the framework of Panamá Solidario and other MIDES programs that guarantee refugees and applicants for refugee status transition into inclusion into state social protection programs, depending on their specific situation.

- Activity 1.3: Develop an information system for tracking, monitoring and collecting a quantitative and qualitative sampling which guarantees the verification of the intervention results

With the support of AIG, ONPAR will support the development of an information system, developed from the beginning of the implementation to guarantee the inclusion of the target population into the program according to the various established methods; as well as the design of the quantitative-qualitative sampling for evaluations of the intervention and / or any other monitoring mechanism that may be established, especially in view of the transition with MIDES to guarantee sustainability.

Specific objective 2

Improve the responsiveness of social protection services provided to refugees and applicants for refugee status.

Expected result 2

Incorporate refugees and applicants for refugee status into the plan Panamá Solidario and identify complementary initiatives social protection programs of the Ministry of Social Development for the population of concern.

Activities

- Activity 2.1: Deliver food bags according to the inclusion, equity and non-discrimination standards set by the plan Panamá Solidario.

According to the criteria and standards set by the plan Panamá Solidario and the protocol prepared within the framework of Activity 1.1, ONPAR, as part of the implementation team of the Ministry of Government in the technical coordination committee, will identify the target population of concern that will benefit from the delivery of the food bags.

- Activity 2.2: Deliver financial support and digital vouchers to the target population according to the standards set by the Panamá Solidario plan

According to the criteria and standards set by the plan Panamá Solidario and the Protocol formulated within the framework of Activity 1.1, ONPAR/MIDES will coordinate with AIG to include the target population in the implementation of the information system to facilitate the delivery of financial support and digital vouchers according to the residency and identification document status

- Activity 2.3: Conduct awareness workshops with MIDES officials and local governments in charge of Social Protection Programs linked to the protection of the population in vulnerable situations

Awareness workshops for staff of MIDES Departments and local governments will be conducted through 10 sessions of 20 people per session on what international protection and the issue of human rights represent in the support framework for the vulnerable refugee applicants for refugee status populations. In these sessions, UNHCR and ONPAR specialists will present the most relevant factors of the legislation in this regard: Executive Decree No. 5 of January 2018, Convention on the Status of Refugees of 1951 and its respective Protocol of 1967, as well as other relevant instruments in order to facilitate the understanding of the situations identified in Panama, taking into account the situation in Venezuela, Nicaragua and other countries in the region where many people are forced to flee to safeguard their lives and that of their family . This awareness building is part of identifying complementary actions for the incorporation and attention in social protection programs according to special situations that warrant it. The sessions will take place at the main headquarters in Plaza Edison and / or in the regional offices of the areas where refugees and applicants for refugee status are located according to the activities indicated above. Expected participants include 60 to 120 individuals from Senadis, SENNIAF, the Network of Opportunities, universal scholarship beneficiaries and others who manage programs that facilitate social integration.

• Activity 2.4. Coordination of the reporting, monitoring and evaluation mechanism

ONPAR will collaborate with non-profit organizations for coordination visits for monitoring of the intervention, through the information system designed to guarantee the inclusion of the target population. In addition, with the support of UNHCR and MIDES, complementary programs or measures will be identified that will ensure different social protection needs for the refugee population and applicants for refugee status are included in the transition temporary program.

3. Beneficiary population

Refugees and applicants for refugee status are considered beneficiaries of the program depending on their vulnerability according to the estimates for the years of program implementation (2021-2023) ¹.

Table No. 1 Estimated refugees and applicants for refugee status in Panama 2021-2023

Refugee and asylum seeker population	Annual average (2021-2023)
Recognized refugees	2,760
Refugee status applications to be processed	10,959
Total refugees and applicants for refugee status	13,719

Within the framework of the Panamá Solidario Program, the beneficiaries will be people and families belonging to the following groups (i) people in multidimensional poverty, (ii) vulnerable families, (iii) populations living in difficult-to-reach areas and (iv) independent workers who have been affected by the pandemic.

Likewise, on the basis of the methods used to address multidimensional poverty in households of refugees and applicants for refugee status, it can be observed that 15% of households are deprived of education due to non-attendance to education centres, 48% of households display overcrowding conditions in relation to their home and basic services, and 36% lack improved sanitation due to a reported sharing of sanitary services with other families. Regarding employment, deprivation is especially evident in three areas: the 24% who unemployed, the 64% who report job insecurity and the 10% who work in domestic services. Regarding health, 8% report to have some sort of disability and 27% is critically ill. In regard to the home, 65% report renting a house and 41% report lack of access to housing purchases due to insufficient resources and rejection of foreigners. 55% of the households indicate that they only have access to 1 or 2 daily meals; this situation has been exacerbated during the pandemic.

If we take into account the situation of such populations in 2019 and the great impact on the vulnerabilities shown by ONPAR and UNHCR in 2020 among refugees and applicants for refugee status as a consequence of the pandemic, we can conclude that 80% of the family units will be in vulnerable conditions and need to be part of the program’s beneficiary population.

Another aspect to consider when calculating the target beneficiary population is the support methods of the program, and the target population for each method. Through the plan Panamá Solidario, out of the three resource delivery methods meant to meet critical needs, two of them will apply to refugee and asylum seeker populations. The first will be through the delivery of bags of foods from the basic food basket to families in the most vulnerable situations, the second through cash allowances for individuals depending on their socioeconomic level and the how they have been impacted by employment loss and insecurity. Taking into account the results obtained in Panama from the protection monitoring carried out by UNHCR and the NRC between June and December 2019³, it can be observed that family units of refugees or applicants for refugee status larger than one account for nearly 60% and family units equal to one account for 40%.

¹ For more details, see Annex I. Statistic data and possible population scenarios for applicants and refugees within the framework of the quantification process MIRPS 2020.

² Panama’s multidimensional poverty index (2018), available at www.gabinetesocial.gob.pa/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/MED-DAES-Informe-del-C3%8Dndice-de-Pobreza-Multidimensional-de-Panam%C3%A1-2018.pdf

³ Available at https://www.acnur.org/es-es/op/op_prot/5e45adb44/panama-monitoreo-de-proteccion-junio-a-diciembre-de-2019.html

Table No. 2: Target beneficiary population by delivery method and vulnerability

Delivery method	Percentage of target population	Annual average (2021-2023)
Modality: Food Bags		
Family units of refugees and applicants for refugee status larger than one	60%	8,231
Family units of vulnerable refugees and applicants for refugee status larger than one who experience employment and nutritional insecurity	80%	6,585
Modality: Voucher		
Family units equal to one	40%	5,487
Estimated family units equal to one that experience employment and nutritional insecurity	80%	4,390
TOTAL family units of refugees and applicants who experience employment and nutritional insecurity due to COVID-19		10,975

4. Estimated budget

Table No. 3: Quantification of the social protection program Panamá Solidario 2021-2023

OBJECTIVE	REQUIRED FINANCING*	NATIONAL FINANCING	FINANCING GAP
SO 1: Meet essential needs that guarantee the survival of vulnerable refugees and applicants for refugee status	\$ 221, 140	\$196, 140	\$25,000
SO 2: Improve the responsiveness of social protection services provided to refugees and applicants for refugee status	\$27, 739,200	\$3,821,089	\$23,918,111
TOTAL	\$ 27,960,340	\$4,017,229	\$23,943,111

*Amounts in USD

The quantification process developed to estimate the financial needs of social protection which includes people and family units of refugees and applicants for refugee status is outlined within the analysis of components, actual costs, access requirements and implementation mechanisms of the plan Panamá Solidario established under Executive Decree No. 400 of March 27th, 2020 whose inclusive focus does not discriminate against beneficiaries because of their origin or nationality.

This temporary program will last as long as health and economic crisis conditions remain in the country and will allow a systematic transition focused on meeting the specific social protection needs required by refugees and applicants for refugee status in the country.

In this context, we anticipate conversations with the Ministry of Government and the Ministry of Social Development in order to recognize the pandemic as an opportunity to improve the focus of social protection programs and implement new certification processes in areas where the certification process of families of refugees and applicants for refugee status can be studied by MIDES, in order to include these populations in inclusive social policies of the country so that no one is left behind.

In this quantification exercise, Panama has calculated a requirement of USD 26,471,100 for the period of 2021-2023, of which USD 3,438,455 is estimated to be paid with the national budget. The remaining required funding corresponds to the existing financial deficit, equivalent to USD 23,270,538 for the 3 years established by the quantification.

The Panamá Solidario Program has invested USD 765,892,688 in the first 9 months of pandemic, and it is estimated that, by the end of the year, it will have invested approximately USD 1,060,466,798.

Based on this reference point, including refugees and applicants for refugee status in this social protection program is estimated to represent an increase in investment resources of no more than 3% in the 3 years of program implementation, equal to an annual increase of current costs of 1% to assist, on average, 10,900 vulnerable family groups during the 2021-2023 implementation period.

Additional details on the quantification results can be found in the annexes.

5. Stakeholders

INSTITUTION	MISSION	ROLE IN IMPLEMENTATION
The National Office for Refugee Care (ONPAR) attached to the Ministry of Government	In charge coordinating and implementing refugee assistance and protection programs.	Participates in the implementation team as part of the Ministry of Government and coordinates actions within the framework of the program between governmental institutions and participating civil society entities.
Ministry of Presidency	Puts forth the Panamá Solidario plan and promotes the approval of resources in order to strengthen support that benefits the population affected by the pandemic.	Monitors the program's progress and incorporates the results into the achievements of the inclusive approach of the Panamá Solidario plan.
Ministry of Social Development (MIDES, by its Spanish acronym)	In charge of fostering human development through participation, strengthening families and communities, social integration and poverty reduction.	<p>Certifies program beneficiaries in accordance with multidimensional poverty index (MPI) criteria and other vulnerability indicators according to ONPAR's information protocols and system.</p> <p>Defines transition criteria following the Panamá Solidario plan in order to expand inclusion in social protection programs.</p>
Authority for Government Innovation (AIG)	Provides technical support for the management of platforms associated with the Panamá Solidario plan and implements initiatives in order to bridge the digital gap, thus contributing to the social inclusion in the country.	Advises ONPAR on how to improve the identification of applicants for refugee status and refugees within the selection and registration framework of the program in order to improve supply distribution efficiency.
Panamanian Red Cross	Humanitarian organization that provides assistance for people in situations that could threaten their lives or their capacity to live with a reasonable level of socioeconomic security and human dignity.	Helps to identify and locate program beneficiaries and identifies complementary skill and entrepreneurship-strengthening programs that adjust to beneficiary profiles.

INSTITUTION	MISSION	ROLE IN IMPLEMENTATION
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Non-governmental organization with international reach that helps vulnerable people obtain refugees status and other forms of international protection.	Assists with the identification and location of program beneficiaries and provides information and legal assistance to refugees, applicants for refugee status and those in need of international protection
Cámara Panameña de Desarrollo Social (Panamanian Chamber of Social Development, CAPADESO)	Network of non-governmental, non-profit organizations which promote social development in Panama	Assists with the identification of the beneficiary population together with humanitarian organizations as well as, occasionally, with the distribution of food bags, financial support, and digital vouchers to program beneficiaries, and works with entities within its network to enhance the capabilities of refugees and applicants for refugee status.
UNHCR	UNHCR, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, is a worldwide organization dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights, and building a better future for refugees, forcibly displaced communities, and stateless persons.	Works with the state to protect refugees and applicants for refugee status. Also works with the government and civil society to enable these people to exercise all their rights

6. Cross-cutting themes

Disaggregate data from a gender and age perspective. The program will aid in identifying the needs of the beneficiary population based on their characteristics and according to sex and age, with the objective of more effectively meeting their basic social protection needs. Once the interested parties identify challenges to producing information, a capacity-building plan will be established. Said plan aims to both improve the production of disaggregated records and data, which will be used during the implementation of the program, and promote the inclusion of other variables such as ethnic groups, health problems, diseases, disabilities, etc., with the objective of facilitating their inclusion into relevant social state programs.

Building monitoring and tracking capabilities. Development of quantitative and qualitative analytic tools and methods that allow the interested parties to measure and compare the efficiency and relevance of the program indicators and results in a common tracking framework that guides the design of interventions based on resources supplied by the program. During the implementation process, the exchange of best practices and lessons learned will be encouraged. These will then be systematized to allow other entities to repeat, adapt, and improve them with the objective of incorporating an inclusive perspective in their politics and programs.

Creating and consolidating local support networks. The public sector and civil society organization collaborate to promote the creation of local support networks to help with the implementation of inclusive public policies at a local level that guarantee the incorporation of refugees and asylum-seekers. Initiatives are started to bring in micro, small, and medium local businesses, and the academic sector in areas with a target population, to collaborate with the efforts of the program.

7. Risks and assumptions

RISK	PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE 1: LOW 5: HIGH	INTENSITY OF IMPACT 1: LOW 5: HIGH	MITIGATION MEASURES
Poor coordination between interested parties when implementing the program	3	3	Meetings and mediation with the program team to establish coordination procedures from the beginning of the program
Staff changes in the technical teams in charge of implementation	1	3	Collect information on progress to facilitate transitions
Delay in program implementation	4	4	Update data on the target population and analyse the need for revised social protections according to the impact of the pandemic
Logistic challenges to accessing areas where the target population is located	5	2	Previous experiences of the NGOs associated with monitoring in areas where the target population resides, and knowledge access that guarantees the confidentiality of their location

8. Monitoring and evaluation

The program will have a coordinator in charge of creating regular reports on results that show the completion and progress of indicators within the logical framework in order to:

- Guarantee the supply of the information system as well as the instructions and tools developed to identify the coverage of the intervention, clearly establishing the responsibilities for providing such information;
- Support the adjustment of the logical framework, annual plans and completion of the objectives as well as guarantee information is available that allows taking actions to mitigate the risks indicated, carry out monitoring visits, workshops and follow-up meetings, communication activities and visibility of the intervention of the program in agreement with MIDES, ONPAR, PRESIDENCY and non-profit organizations;
- Prepare as a final product a report of lessons learned (of successful experiences or challenges, actions, changes and solutions with the respective analysis and gender review (gender mainstreaming strategy / actions / products).

A program coordination committee with a representative from each participating entity is created to address annual planning and acquisition responsibilities, as well as create operation protocols and regulations to be approved by the majority of committee members. It will meet at least once every six months to review progress, obstructions, challenges and opportunities to maximize the resources of the program and achieve the goals set within the established time frame.

An intermediate evaluation will be conducted after 18 months after initial implementation, and another will take place one month after the execution period has finished. The evaluations will consider:

- The progress of the program according to goals and results achieved, and its relationship with the timeline;
- The preparation and delivery of regular reports within established deadlines, and the quality of these reports;
- The efficiency, accessibility, and transparency of the administration of the resources, in agreement with the parameters set by internal and external audits performed on the matter.

Coordination of monitoring and evaluation activities must include the Coordination Committee in the preparation of the terms of reference for the intermediate and final evaluations and provide relevant information to facilitate their performance, in accordance with the established sampling design.

Annex 1. Logical framework and Estimated Budget

Result / Activities	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Baseline (Dec 2020)	Goal (Dec 2023)	Source and verification method	Term	Required Financing	National Financing	Financing Gap
General objective: Expand social security coverage to meet the basic needs of vulnerable refugees and applicants for refugee status as part of the state-planned inclusion in the Panamá Solidario plan.									
Specific objective 1: Meet essential needs that guarantee the survival of vulnerable refugees and status applicants									
R1. Improve the information system of ONPAR and the related mechanisms to identify vulnerable populations who are beneficiaries of the intervention while guaranteeing the confidentiality of information that could put their integrity or safety at risk	Number of refugees and applicants' households identified as program beneficiaries	Number of households	0	10.975	Reports prepared by ONPAR, databases of refugees and applicants, AIG reports, partners' monitoring	2021-2023			
A1.1. Prepare a protocol that establishes delivery methods and vulnerability conditions, which guarantees the confidentiality of the target population and allows for certification by MIDES and/or the Presidency for access to the program	Number of work sessions conducted for the protocol preparation	Number of work sessions	0	4 sessions	Detailed minutes of meetings, attendance lists, prepared and validated protocol document	2021	\$18.540	\$18.540 ⁸	0
A1.2. Mapping needs and georeferencing areas where the target population is located.	Number of mapped areas (townships, provinces, shires)	Number of townships	0	10.975 30	Georeferenced and mapped information, software-integrated system	2021	\$190.600	\$175.600 ⁹	\$15.000
A1.3. Develop an information system for tracking, monitoring and collecting a quantitative and qualitative sampling which guarantees the verification of the intervention results	Monitoring and evaluation system designed # households participating in the sample	Monitoring and evaluation system # of households according to the sample size	0	200		2021 - 2023	\$12.000	\$2.000	\$10.000
Total, OE 1							\$221.140	\$196.140	\$ 25.000
Specific objective 2: Improve the responsiveness of social protection services provided to refugees and applicants for refugee status..									
R2. Incorporate refugees and applicants for refugee status into the plan Panamá Solidario and identify complementary initiatives social protection programs of the Ministry of Social Development for the population of concern	Number of refugees and applicants' households identified as program beneficiaries	Number of households	0	10.975	Reports prepared by ONPAR, databases of refugees and applicants, AIG reports, partners' monitoring	2021-2023			

⁸ The quantification is carried out by identifying within the budget sheet the 2019 costs of the ONPAR technical group that participates in the analysis of files and design of the protocol for a maximum period of 4 weeks.

⁹ The calculations also correspond to the unit cost of reviewing the files of refugees and asylum seekers by the ONPAR team according to the 2019 schedule and budget, divided by the number of records for the year under review, in order to improve the ONPAR information system and according to the criteria defined in the protocol. It is planned to use the GIS licenses available at the AIG for georeferencing.

Result / Activities	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Baseline (Dec 2020)	Goal (Dec 2023)	Source and verification method	Term	Required Financing	National Financing	Financing Gap
A2.1. Deliver food bags according to the inclusion, equity and non-discrimination standards set by the plan Panamá Solidario	Number of refugees and applicants' households receiving food bags	Number of households	0	6585	Reports prepared by ONPAR, databases of refugees and applicants, AIG reports, partners' monitoring	2021 - 2023	\$11,852,640	\$3,820,089	\$8,032,551
A2.2. Deliver financial support and digital vouchers to the target population according to the standards set by the Panamá Solidario plan	Number of refugees and applicants' households receiving Bono Solidario	Number of households	0	4390	Reports prepared by ONPAR, databases of refugees and applicants, AIG reports, partners' monitoring	2021 - 2023	\$15,802,560	\$0	\$15,802,560
	Number of refugees and applicants' households receiving digital vouchers	Number of households	0		Reports prepared by ONPAR, databases of refugees and applicants, AIG reports, partners' monitoring	2021 - 2023			
A2.3. Conduct awareness workshops with MIDES officials and local governments in charge of Social Protection Programs linked to the protection of the population in vulnerable situations	Number of officials trained in international protection	# of officials (disaggregated by sex)	0	200 (50%)	Minutes and/or reports of lectures completed, photographs, attendance lists	2021-2022	\$8,000 ¹⁰	\$1,000	\$7,000
A.2.4 Coordination of the reporting, monitoring and evaluation mechanism.	#trimester visits	# of monitoring visits # meeting with the Monitoring Committee	0	12	Monitoring and progress reports Reports on innovations and challenges Intermediate evaluation reports Evaluation report	2021-2023	\$76,000 ¹¹	0	\$76,000
	#meetings every six months			6					
	# reports			12					
Total, OE 2							\$27,739,200	\$3,821,089	\$23,918,111
TOTAL							\$27,960,340	\$4,017,229	\$23,943,111

Amounts in USD.

Annexes available electronically:

Annex 2: Quantification methodology

Annex 3: Statistical Data and Projected Population Scenarios for Quantification

Annex 4: Information and Identification of Target Population Profile for the Social Protection Program *Panama Solidario*

Annex 5: Detailed Information and Costs of Protection Program *Panama Solidario*

Annex 6: Funding for Social Protection Program *Panama Solidario* 2021-2023

¹⁰ Training days on international protection are quantified for officials at the national and local level involved with social protection programs. A unit value of US \$ 25 is estimated for coffee or snacks and activities carried out in facilities of public entities; You measure or others. The government contribution for these spaces is calculated at US \$ 1000, likewise, fees for a UNHCR specialist or other entity are estimated, for which a value of US \$ 2000 is expected for the total awareness days.

¹¹ The fees of a Coordinator for monitoring, follow-up and evaluation are quantified at US \$ 2000 per month. This activity is important because it must allow the precision of the beneficiaries who require extended social protection measures between the transition from temporary programs to stable programs defined by the Panamanian Government according to very specific and targeted vulnerabilities.

