



**Comprehensive
Regional
Protection and
Solutions
Framework**

Addressing forced
displacement in Central
America and Mexico



TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MIRPS IN PANAMA

Through the quantification process undertaken in 2020, each MIRPS State assessed the financial needs and activities required to implement their priority commitments, highlighting where they can meet their own needs, and where international cooperation is required.

As one of seven countries in who adopted the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS in Spanish), Panama is expanding its operational capacity to respond to forced displacement in the region through the adoption and implementation of the commitments in their National Action Plan.

Panama prioritized one commitment: 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.

DISPLACEMENT CONTEXT

Panama is the home of nearly 17,000 refugees and applicants for refugee status. The refugee population is mainly persons from Colombia, El Salvador, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela. In the last two years, refugee applications from Venezuelans and Nicaraguans increased exponentially. COVID-19 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).

QUANTIFICATION PRIORITIZED AREAS

Total requirement
\$27,960,340

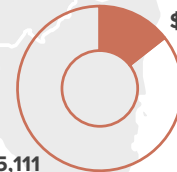
Total gap
\$23,835,111



SOCIAL PROTECTION

**National
Financing**
\$4,017,229

\$23,835,111
**Financing
Gap**



**Asylum seekers
in Panama***

13,563

**Refugees in
Panama***

2,588



SOCIAL PROTECTION

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

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, 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	BENEFICIARIES	IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES	ESTIMATED BUDGET
2021-2023	13,719 refugees and asylum seekers - average per year	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.	Total Required Financing: \$27,960,340 National Financing: \$4,017,229 Financing Gap: \$23,835,111

As one of seven countries in who have adopted the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework, Panama is expanding its operational capacity to response to forced displacement in the region through the adopt and implement national action plans, aligned to country specific commitments and priorities. 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.

Through a State-led quantification process, the inter-ministerial MIRPS National Technical Team have assessed the financial resource requirements and steps required to implement select national commitments, defining specific costed activities in a number of key areas. This was informed by consultations and working sessions 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 served to strengthen the national planning process to implement MIRPS national action plan, 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.



The expanded summaries of the aforementioned programmes can be access with the QR code

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