



**Comprehensive
Regional
Protection and
Solutions
Framework**

MIRPS 2022

**Annual Report of the Comprehensive
Regional Protection and Solutions Framework**



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CREDITS

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With support from the Technical Secretariat



ACRONYMS

GENERAL

CABEI: Central American Bank for Economic Integration

CAJP: OAS Committee of Juridical and Political Affairs

CAM: OAS Committee on Migration Issues

CENTROESTAD: Migration and Displacement Technical Group of the Central American Statistical Commission of SICA

CIDI: Inter-American Council for Integral Development

COI: Country of Origin Information

CONARE: National Commission for Refugees

COVID-19: SARS-CoV-2 Virus

CSAN: MIRPS Fund High-level Selection Committee

DSI: OAS Department of Social Inclusion

ECLAC: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

EU: European Union

EWRS: Early Warning and Response Systems

GBV: Gender-Based Violence

GI-TOC: Global Initiative against Transactional Organized Crime

GRF: Global Refugee Forum

IDB: Inter-American Development Bank

ICRC: International Committee of the Red Cross

ILO: International Labour Organization

IOM: International Organization for Migration

IRB: Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada

LGBTIQ+: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer

MIRPS: Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework

MMC: Mayors Migration Council

NTT: MIRPS National Technical Team

OAS: Organization of American States

PDD: Platform on Disaster Displacement

PPT: Pro-tempore Presidency

RCM: Regional Conference on Migration

SICA: Central American Integration System

UCLG: United Cities and Local Governments

UN: United Nations

UNDP: United Nations Development Programme

UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund

BELIZE

MSMEs: Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

COSTA RICA

CCSS: Costa Rican Social Security Fund

IMAS: Institute for Social Welfare

EL SALVADOR

DAV: Directorate for Attention to Victims

DGME: General Directorate of Migration and Immigration

MTPS: Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare

GUATEMALA

CAI: Comprehensive Child Care Center

DPI-E: Special Personal Identification Document

DRER: Department of Recognition of Refugee Status

EOUM: Official Urban Mixed School

IGM: Guatemalan Institute of Migration

INEB: National Institute of Basic Education

INTECAP: Technical Institute of Training and Productivity

MINEDUC: Ministry of Education

MINTRAB: Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare

MSPAS: Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance

PDH: Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman

PEX: Electronic Platform of Work Permits for Foreigners

PGN: National Attorney General's Office

SBS: Social Welfare Secretariat

SVET: Secretariat against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons

HONDURAS

AMHON: Association of Municipalities of Honduras

CIPPDV: Commission for the Protection of Persons Internally Displaced by Violence

DIPPDV: General Directorate for the Attention and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons

INM: National Institute of Migration

IP: Property Institute

MAHE: Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Mechanism

MMAHE: Municipal Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Mechanism

SEDH: Human Rights Secretariat

VTP: Housing, land, and property rights

MEXICO

CAIMFS: Coordination for the Comprehensive Care of Migration on the Southern Border

COMAR: Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance

CURP: Unique Population Registry Number

IMER: Mexican Institute of Radio

INEA: National Institute for Adult Education

INM: National Institute of Migration

PNDH: National Human Rights Programme

PRONAPINNA: National Programme for the Protection of Children and Adolescents

RENAPO: National Population Registry

SCJN: Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation

SEGOB: Ministry of Interior

SEP: Ministry of Public Education

SIRE: Refugee Information System

UPMRIP: Migration Policy, Registration, and Identity Unit

PANAMA

CONARE: National Commission for Refugees

HIAS: Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society

INADEH: National Institute of Professional Training and Training for Human Development

ONPAR: National Office for the Attention to Refugees

FOREWORD



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In 2022, five years after the adoption of the San Pedro Sula Declaration, the Government of Honduras assumed the Pro-tempore Presidency (PPT) of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (*Marco Integral Regional para la Protección y Soluciones*, MIRPS) with the conviction of promoting and strengthening regional and national coordination and responses in the areas of prevention, protection, and durable solutions for refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons, and returnees with protection needs in Central America and Mexico.

Providing continuity with the initiatives promoted by the previous Presidencies, Honduras has encouraged political dialogue and exchange based on commitments agreed upon in previously adopted Declarations, seeking to strengthen the MIRPS as a mechanism oriented towards action and high-impact results, which translate into protection and solutions responses for populations that are displaced and/or at risk of displacement and their host communities.

The V Annual Report presents the regional strategic vision of the MIRPS, drawn from the updated National Action Plans of the participating States, Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Panama, reinforcing visibility and regional dialogue on the root causes of displacement, based on regional exchange within the framework of the MIRPS Working Groups and OAS political spaces, while strengthening alliances with strategic partners, including Members of the MIRPS Support Platform, the UN system, development actors, the private sector, and civil society.

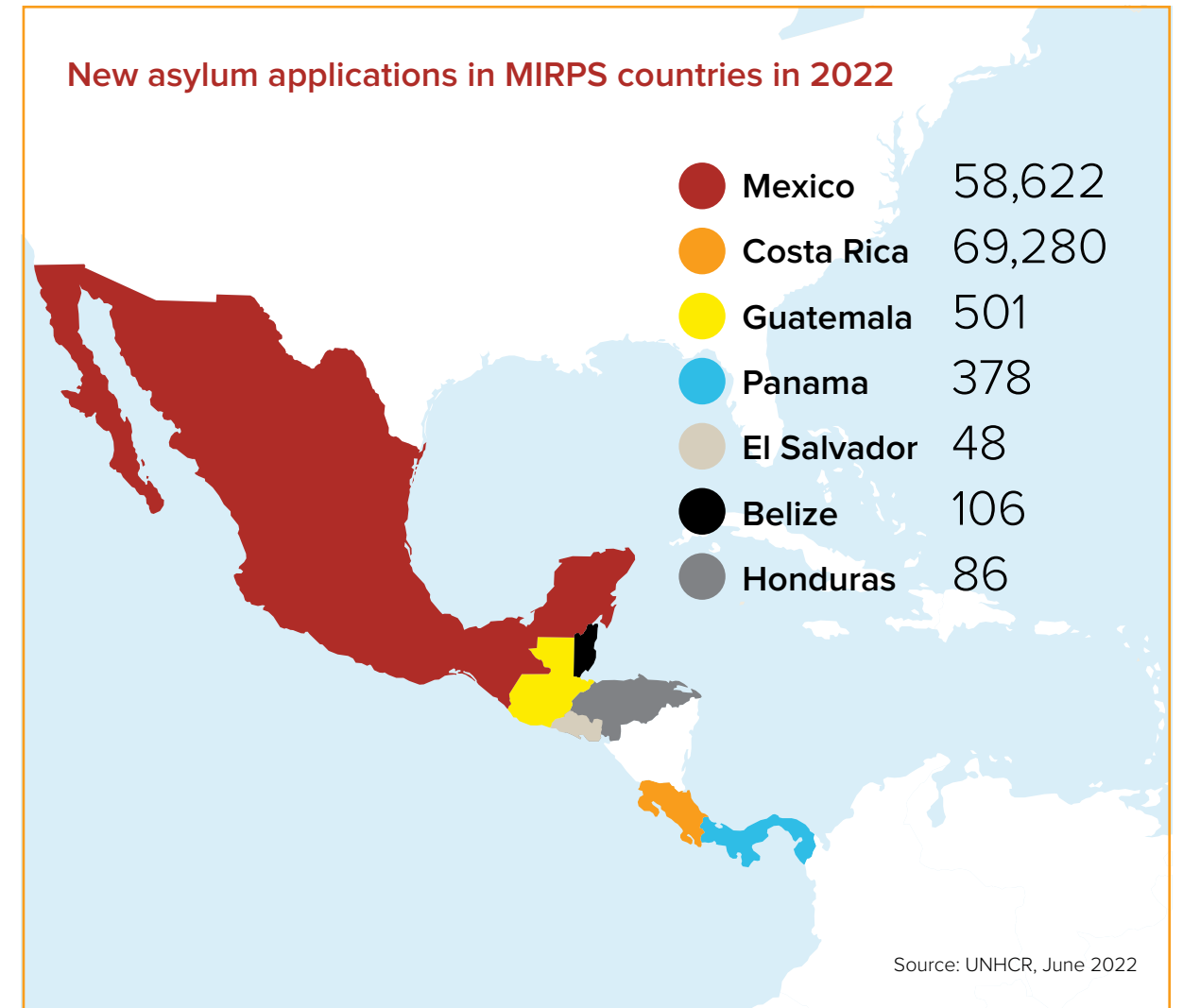
Coordination with the MIRPS Support Platform has made it possible to raise the visibility of the situation and challenges of the region in international forums, fostering alliances with cooperation and development actors and other strategic partners at the regional level.

Through the four MIRPS pillars, i) reception and admission, ii) immediate needs, iii) host countries and communities, and iv) durable solutions, this report is a confirmation that the States that form the MIRPS continue to review progress and challenges at the local, national, and regional levels. This report also articulates the efforts that continue to be promoted at the regional level to inform comprehensive responses based on the principle of shared responsibility in matters of prevention, protection, and durable solutions for refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons, and returnees with protection needs in Central America and Mexico.

As the outgoing Pro-tempore Presidency, Honduras expresses its gratitude to the MIRPS States, Member States and organizations of the MIRPS Support Platform, and supportive International Organizations, thanking them for their support and commitment throughout this year. At the same time, we warmly welcome the new Pro-Tempore Presidency of Panama 2023, to whom we express our support to reinforce the planned efforts, with the objective of continuing to advance together.

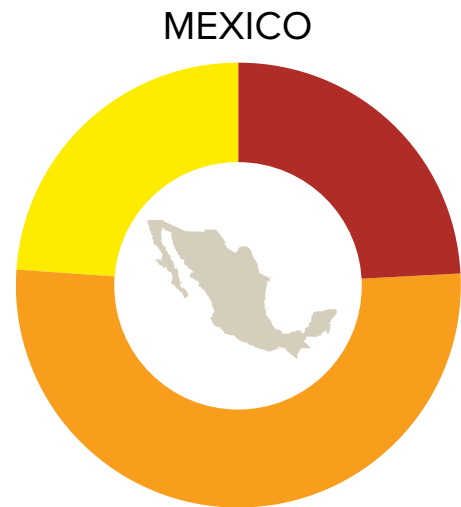
MIRPS 2022 Pro-tempore Presidency

REGIONAL CONTEXT

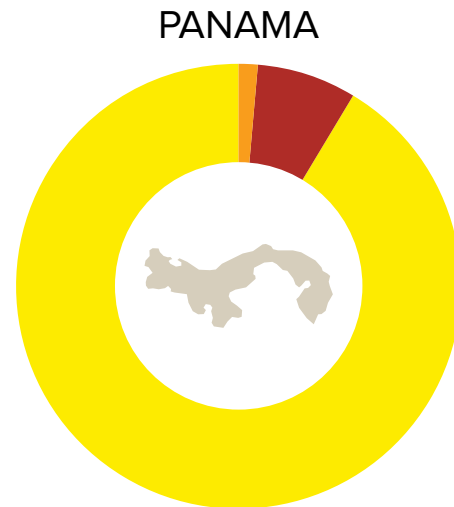


Forcibly displaced persons in MIRPS countries

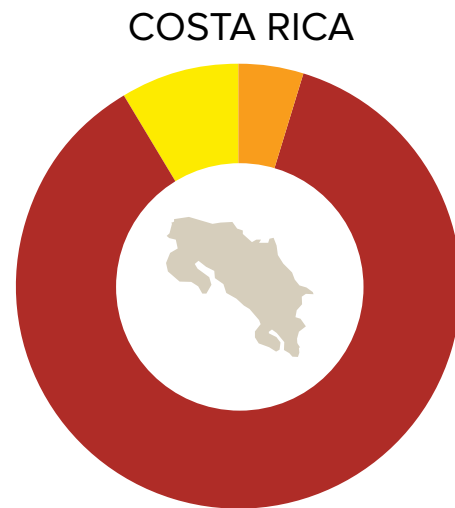
- Refugees
- Asylum-seekers
- Internally displaced persons
- Other persons in need of international protection



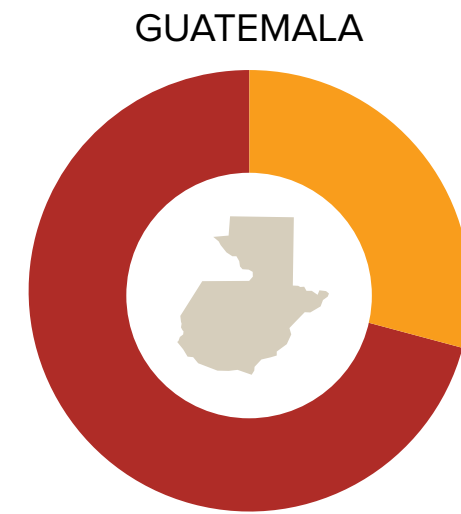
- 84,594
- 180,264
- 0
- 83,130



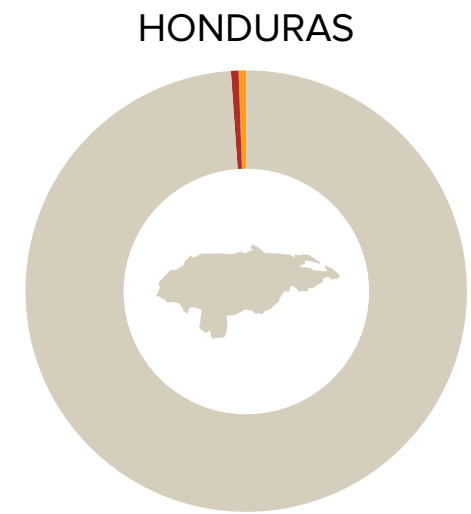
- 2,568
- 11,253
- 0
- 142,031



- 11,187
- 204,730
- 0
- 20,293



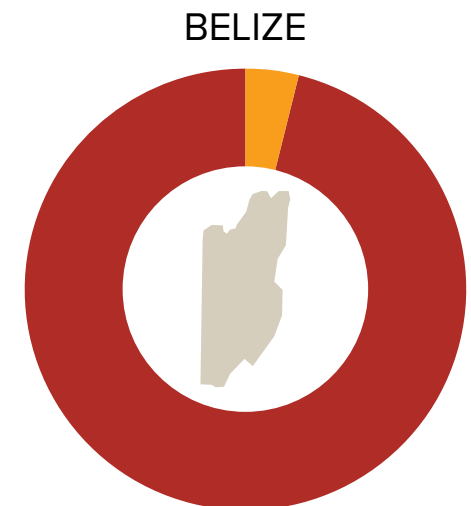
- 611
- 1,472
- 0
- 0



- 164
- 111
- 24,709
- 0



- 84
- 54
- 71,500
- 0



- 89
- 2,071
- 0
- 0

Source: UNHCR, June 2022

At the end of 2022, more than one million people were forcibly displaced to and from Central American countries and Mexico. Insecurity, violence, poverty, and inequality, aggravated by the economic and social impact of the pandemic and global inflation, as well as the adverse effects of climate change and disasters, continued to disproportionately affect people living in insecure and more vulnerable environments, accelerating human mobility in the region. Mobility challenges have also been deepened by a marked increase in the number of people moving through the region involved in mixed movements, increasing pressure on reception and care mechanisms in transit and destination countries.

The number of refugees and asylum-seekers in Central American countries and Mexico has increased year after year since the signing of the San Pedro Sula Declaration, from 44,554 in 2017 to 499,252 in 2022. A total of 128,278 new asylum applications were reported in the subregion this year. Although Mexico has remained a transit country for people involved in mixed movements to the north, the country has established itself as a destination for people in need of protection, hosting 264,858 refugees and asylum-seekers by the end of 2022, an increase in 14% compared to the previous year. The strengthening of registration, documentation, and case management mechanisms has contributed significantly to mitigate protection and exploitation risks and has facilitated access to basic services and the labour market.

Among people moving from northern Central American countries to Mexico, a large proportion have stated that they left their homes due to violence and persecution. The causes of displacement include situations of extortion, the

dispossession of land and homes, forced recruitment, sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls, domestic abuse, and violence against LGBTIQ+ people. While movements in large and loosely organized groups have continued, most people on the move do so individually, in small groups, and in family units. The adverse effects of disasters, exacerbated by the impact of climate change and environmental degradation, represent an additional catalyst for displacement in the region.

Costa Rica is home to 216,145 people in need of international protection, of whom 11,187 are recognized refugees and 204,730 are asylum-seekers (including those with an appointment to formalize their asylum application). Costa Rica was among the top four countries for new asylum claims worldwide in 2021 and in 2022, with 68,537 new asylum applications this year. This high number of people seeking international protection in Costa Rica has put additional pressure on the capacities of the national asylum system and essential services, including education and health care, particularly in the northern border region, with 90% of the asylum-seekers originating from Nicaragua.

In addition to a growing number of people moving across international borders in search of protection, the scale of forced internal displacement in the subregion continues to pose serious challenges. The internal displacement situation includes 318,590 internally displaced persons in El Salvador and Honduras. The response to this phenomenon has seen a strengthened focus on stabilizing displaced and at-risk communities through community-based protection. This has implied expanding state presence and collaboration with civil society and grassroots

organizations, to strengthen prevention and protection responses together with communities. Investments have been made in national human rights institutions, education, prevention, and response to gender-based violence, child protection programmes, provision of temporary protection alternatives and, to the extent where possible, solutions through sustainable local integration.

The region has witnessed increasingly complex mixed and successive movements of people. These are people who travel together, generally irregularly, using the same routes and means of transport, but for different reasons. The profile of the people involved may include asylum-seekers, refugees, stateless persons, victims of trafficking, unaccompanied or separated minors, and migrants. The number of people who irregularly crossed the Darien Gap, the border between Colombia and Panama, between the months of January and September reached 151,582, with a monthly record in September of 48,204 arrivals. This represents an increase of 58%, compared to the same period in 2021. The main nationality of people involved in mixed movements through Darien are people from Venezuela, followed by people from Ecuador, Colombia, Cuba, and Haiti, as well as people from Asian and African countries.

In a context of changing mobility and forced displacement in the subregion, the MIRPS States updated their National Action Plans in the middle of the year, which currently reflect 180 political commitments to continue expanding access to international protection in host countries, countries of origin, protection of groups at risk, the expansion of durable solutions, and increased efforts to integrate

and stabilize displaced populations and host communities. Regional collaboration between States in 2022 has focused on advancing the collective response for the reception and admission of people with international protection needs, internal displacement, collaboration with local authorities and the certification of skills and competencies to facilitate inclusion labour.

A renewed focus of regional dialogue on the root causes of displacement marked an important milestone this year, informing future developmental investments in security and stability in the subregion. This has included the exchange and identification of community interventions against extortion by the Ministries of Public Security of the MIRPS States, together with a first MIRPS consultation on displacement in the context of disasters and climate change, where the environmental agencies and national civil protection, risk management, and emergency care institutions discussed the protection of people displaced across borders due to disasters, and the management of displacement risks due to disasters in communities at risk.

As Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Panama conclude the fifth year of the MIRPS, stabilization and solutions to ensure that people forced to flee have the opportunity to integrate into their communities, access health care and education, and secure meaningful jobs and entrepreneurship opportunities are shared priorities. The commitments and initiatives agreed in the context of the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection represent a positive development, while ensuring complementarity and alignment with the Regional Conference on

Migration (RCM) and the Central American Integration System (SICA) are a common goal. At the end of the year, MIRPS States renewed their joint commitment to protection and solutions and welcomed further international collaboration with the MIRPS Support Platform, ahead of the Global Refugee Forum (GRF), to be held next year.

The region has witnessed increasingly complex mixed and successive movements of people. These are people who travel together, generally irregularly, using the same routes and means of transport, but for different reasons.





THE MIRPS IN THE REGION

—
Regional plan 2022

01. Updates to the national action plans and national coordination groups

In 2022, the MIRPS completed the fifth year of implementation of the National Action Plans that the States adopted when joining the process. Noting that in recent years, the region has experienced increasing challenges, including the pandemic, disasters, different manifestations of violence, and growing humanitarian needs, the first objective of the 2022 Pro-tempore Presidency was to request MIRPS States to review and update their National Action Plans, to reflect the current contexts in the countries of origin, transit, and destination in the region.

The seven States carried out processes that compiled the achieved commitments, adapting the pending commitments to current challenges, and analysing the need to involve new actors in their implementation and the consequent expansion of their National Technical Teams. The updated National Action Plans can be found [here](#).

The National Coordination Groups were established as spaces for dialogue and collaboration between the National Technical Teams and other relevant actors concerning the implementation of the National Action Plans in the MIRPS States, including: diplomatic representations of the Members of the Support Platform at the national level, development cooperation agencies, UN agencies, civil society, and other stakeholders. The country chapters of this report include the progress and achievements of each National Coordination Group, a forum that will continue to be promoted as a common tool for the assessment of protection needs, operational gaps, and response priorities in the context of human mobility, and to discuss policies and explore MIRPS operational opportunities and priorities, based on shared interests and in a coordinated approach.

02. Dialogue on the root causes of displacement

In line with the strategic objective of the Regional Workplan of the 2022 MIRPS Pro-tempore Presidency related to strengthening regional dialogue and increasing visibility on the underlying causes of forced displacement, two online consultation and dialogue sessions were held between seven MIRPS States on displacement in the context of extortion and the impacts of natural disasters and climate change. The sessions were organized in collaboration with the Global Initiative against Transactional Organized Crime (GI-TOC), and the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD).

EXTORTION

A virtual meeting on extortion took place, with representation from five MIRPS National Technical Teams, together with the participation of focal points from the national polices, public ministries, the courts, and members of civil society. The consultation on extortion provided an opportunity for participants to review the

predominant extortion trends, which constitute one of the main drivers of forced displacement in the northern countries of Central America, the current national institutional responses to the criminal phenomenon, and consider the application of best practices from the region and tools to and generate responses from the communities themselves.

Among the main conclusions, it was highlighted that the private sector, one of the main generators of jobs, was particularly affected by extortion, affecting owners of small and large businesses, merchants, and agricultural workers, in addition to teachers and directors of educational institutions, doctors, sex workers, children, teenagers and residents of communities where gangs exercise a considerable degree of control. It was highlighted that in these contexts, some elements that facilitate the implementation of responses include strengthening the specific understanding of the context in which extortion takes place, strengthening of

institutional and community capacities, empowerment of local responses based on existing knowledge and capacities, and the fostering of trust between authorities and citizens.

The consultation also provided an opportunity to highlight the *Action Manual for Community Resilience in Central America*, developed by GI-TOC following a process of regional multi-stakeholder consultations in Guatemala. The Action Manual includes modules focused on concepts, definitions, and information on extortion types and methods, ideas on initiatives in response to the criminal phenomenon, recommendations for how to act in response to a case of extortion in accordance with authority guidelines, and ideas and tools for diagnosis, planning, and monitoring that various community actors can use for registering, reporting, and following up on extortion cases.

Learn more about the meeting [here](#).

DISASTERS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The Consultation on Natural Disasters and Climate Change brought together representatives of all MIRPS National Technical Teams, together with the participation of focal points from the Ministries of the Environment; institutions and services for civil protection, risk management, and emergency response; and academia. The session provided an opportunity for States to share their perspectives on a topic that has gained particular relevance in recent years, as well as to discuss progress in the application of the Nansen Initiative, *Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change*.

The Protection Agenda was approved by a global intergovernmental consultation in 2015 and consolidated the results of a series of regional consultations convened by the Nansen Initiative. It integrates measures to manage the risks of displacement due to disasters in the country of origin, which includes effective practices to reduce vulnerability and strengthen resilience to the risk of displacement due to disasters. To inform the consultation, participants joined parallel group consultations. One group, chaired by Mexico, discussed, *'the protection of people displaced across borders by disasters,'* while a second group, chaired by Honduras, discussed *'disaster displacement risk management in communities at risk.'*

As a result of the consultation, the participating States recommended using the MIRPS as a regional coordination forum between States to promote the exchange of information and good practices to ensure common responses to displacement in the context of disasters and climate change, including the adoption of a transversal approach to displacement in the context of disasters and climate change, to inform harmonized planning in each country.

The document on recommendations can be found [here](#).

03. Working groups and OAS political fora

WORKING GROUP ON RECEPTION, ADMISSION, AND PROCESSING OF PEOPLE IN NEED OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION.

MEMBER COUNTRIES: All MIRPS countries

LEAD COUNTRY: Mexico

TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY: Brazil, Canada, the United States of America, UNHCR

The Working Group on Reception, Admission, and Processing of People in Need of International Protection focuses on strengthening asylum systems and protection of refugees, to improve the care and reception of refugees in situations of mixed movements, including the identification of international protection needs, case management, biometric registration, and the use of differentiated modalities for refugee status determination.

In 2022, the Group held a regional twinning meeting, which brought together the asylum authorities of the MIRPS States with representatives of Brazil, Canada, and the United States, as Members of the MIRPS Support Platform who expressed interest in establishing twinning agreements to strengthen the asylum systems in Central America and Mexico. The meeting resulted in the presentation of concrete twinning projects and/or agreements that seek to



respond to the immediate and long-term needs of the States to strengthen their asylum systems. Since then, the following progress has been made:

- Peer capacity building through Mexico-Brazil and Guatemala-Mexico bilateral experience exchanges, focused on improving differentiated modalities for processing asylum claims.
- A Regional Meeting on Country-of-Origin Information (COI) took place with the participation of the seven MIRPS States, accompanied by Brazil, Canada, the United States, Uruguay, and the European Union as Members of the Support Platform. The participants learned about the different research methodologies, good practices, products, and organizational structures of the participating COI units. Likewise, the establishment of a regional COI network was presented for consideration, to serve as additional support to the CONAREs of the region in the collection and dissemination of COI, and the promotion of good methodological practices for joint activities such as the production of

COI reporting and conducting COI investigative missions in the field. Meanwhile, the use and relevance of the COI was promoted in the framework of prima facie recognition procedures for refugee status in the region, and COI related to Haiti and Venezuela was shared by invited experts.

- A training on refugee status determination with gender considerations, with the support of Canada as a Member of the Support Platform was carried out on the side-lines of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, strengthening the technical capacities of 90 eligibility officials, border agents, and officials from the Governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Panama, in relation to the analysis and resolution of cases based on situations of gender-based violence and on the procedures for handling GBV cases based on the updated guidance of the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) of Canada and UNHCR's guidelines.

Visit the website of the Working Group [here](#).

WORKING GROUP ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

MEMBER COUNTRIES: El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico

LEAD COUNTRY: El Salvador

TECHNICAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY: Colombia, UNICEF, UNHCR, OAS

The MIRPS Working Group on Internal Displacement, which is in its third year of operation, continues to develop as a space to strengthen capacities and develop legal and institutional frameworks that contribute to the response to internal displacement in El Salvador, Honduras, and Mexico. During 2022, and looking ahead to 2023, the Working Group is making progress in:

- Coordination with the National Statistics Offices and with the Migration and Displacement Technical Group of the Central American Statistical Commission of SICA (CENTROESTAD) to improve the mechanisms for collecting, managing, using, analysing, and disseminating data on internal displacement -- The use of information on forced displacement informs the identification of scenarios and risk profiles, as well as, based on the contexts, the characterization of the vulnerability that derives from forced displacement. These investments are in line with the International Recommendations for Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (IRIS) and other pertinent international standards, together with recommendations drawn from the experiences of other countries in the subject.

- Exchange of experiences concerning the identification of displacement mitigation measures -- With the support of the OAS, the Group learned about approaches applied in the region such as Early Warning and Response Systems (EWRS). Such conflict prevention and care mechanisms that focus on the systematic collection (quantitative or qualitative), processing, and analysis of information on situations of violence, to alert political decision-makers to take measures or actions that prevent an emergency or escalate a conflict.

Meanwhile, a work plan has been organized that extends into 2023, with the support of Colombia and UNICEF, to strengthen the coordination and quality of responses to protect and assist people in situations of internal displacement, ensuring their access to public services, focused on documentation, education, livelihoods, land, and humanitarian assistance.

Visit the website of the Working Group [here](#).

WORKING GROUP ON LOCAL GOVERNANCE

MEMBER COUNTRIES: Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, and El Salvador as an observer

LEAD COUNTRY: Guatemala / Municipality of Esquipulas

TECHNICAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY: UCLG, IDB, Municipality of Medellín, MMC, OAS, UNDP and UNHCR

The Working Group convened three sessions focused on: Global Initiatives and Frameworks on Local Governance, Cities of Solidarity, and the Roles and Responsibilities of Regional and International Organizations. The consultations provided a platform for participants to share their experiences, good practices and knowledge on protection and inclusion. The participants also took advantage of the technical experience of other countries and institutions

that have developed experiences relevant to local governance. As one of the results of the consultations, the twelve participating municipalities agreed to consider a 'Collective Commitment under the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees,' in order to align common efforts to implement Solidarity Cities in Central America.

Visit the website of the Working Group [here](#).



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WORKING GROUP ON JOBS AND LIVELIHOODS

MEMBER COUNTRIES: All MIRPS countries

LEAD COUNTRY: Costa Rica

TECHNICAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY: ILO, UNDP, UNHCR, IDB, OAS

FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY: Spain, European Union, OAS

Considering the challenges faced in the region regarding the labour integration of displaced persons, within the framework of the MIRPS, a regional approach was continued through the Working Group on Jobs and Livelihoods. Under the leadership of Costa Rica, the priority during 2022 was to establish a pathway that allows workers in a situation of displacement and mobility to have their previously-acquired skills recognized and obtain essential information to enable their labour insertion and facilitate social and economic integration.

During 2022, the Group has made the following progress:

- Identification and systematisation of the mechanisms of the MIRPS States for the recognition of labour skills that allow migrant workers, refugees and asylum-seekers access opportunities in the labour market of their host country.
- Mapping of the current methodologies that the MIRPS States have for the recognition of labour skills.

- Preparation of a joint roadmap between the MIRPS States, to ensure that migrant workers, refugees and asylum-seekers have access to services for the recognition of their labour skills, which favour their entry and mobility into the labour market of the host country.

A regional network of government specialists from the seven MIRPS States has been formed, represented by officials from the Migration Departments, the Employment Directorates of the Ministries of Labour, and the Vocational Training Institutes in charge of certifying skills in the country. This network will be in charge of the implementation of the roadmap for the construction of the Regional Strategy for the recognition of skills of workers in situations of displacement and mobility.

Visit the website of the Working Group [here](#).

MIRPS STRATEGIC POSITIONING BY THE OAS

The priorities of the MIRPS continue to be positioned in strategic spaces within the hemispheric agenda promoted by the OAS. In 2022, opportunities were sought to disseminate and share the work and progress of the MIRPS across different forums of hemispheric relevance.

In the area of human rights protection, the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) under the Permanent Council of the OAS, the highest political body after the General Assembly, has monitored the progress of MIRPS since its establishment. In 2022, within the CAJP, a stocktaking of progress made by the MIRPS States was presented, giving visibility to the magnitude of the displacement crisis in the region and highlighting the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on forcibly displaced populations, as well as reviewing the current trends in mixed migratory movements in these countries.

In the area of integral development, within the OAS Committee on Migration Issues (CAM), Member States examined the challenges, good practices and opportunities for the development of a comprehensive and hemispheric approach to respond to migration and forced displacement in the region. This was an occasion to highlight the MIRPS as one of the regional mechanisms for comprehensive responses, which in a short period, has achieved tangible and effective results for the benefit of asylum-seekers, refugees, internally displaced persons, and returnees with international protection needs by connecting with development actors. Likewise, before the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CID), the MIRPS Pro-tempore Presidency shared good

practices in terms of forced displacement governance that can serve as an example to other States. In these discussions, spaces for coordination with other sub-regional mechanisms were generated, seeking to promote synergies and the articulation of joint actions.

In the framework of the Ninth Summit of the Americas, which brought together the Presidents and Leaders of the Americas in Los Angeles, California, the MIRPS was highlighted in a high-level side event about Regional Governance on Migration and International Protection. This event aimed to address the importance of strengthening regional governance on migration and international protection, as well as to review various roles to coordinate efforts among the various regional response mechanisms. Likewise, in the framework of the Ninth Summit, all MIRPS States signed the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection, in which the subscribing States reiterated their willingness to strengthen regional and hemispheric efforts to create the conditions for safe, orderly, humane, and regular migration, and to strengthen the necessary frameworks for international protection and cooperation. In this declaration, the MIRPS is one of the State-led regional responses recognized as an effective coordination mechanism contributing in a concrete way to achieve the objectives of this agreement.

Finally, in the framework of the OAS General Assembly held in October, the Foreign Ministers of the Americas acknowledged the MIRPS for the fifth consecutive year in the resolution, referring to the protection of refugees in the Americas. This document highlights how the MIRPS promotes joint actions to mitigate the root causes of displacement in the region and

fosters measures to respond to the humanitarian and protection needs of displaced persons in the MIRPS region.

The General Secretariat of the OAS will continue to support MIRPS countries by making spaces available for dialogue, coordination, and exchange at the hemispheric level, to highlight the advantages of the MIRPS mechanism that places more than one million displaced persons in and from Central America and Mexico at the centre of its response.

MIRPS FUND IN ACTION

The MIRPS Fund is one of the key instruments for obtaining resources and coordinating the support required by MIRPS States, in addition to existing mechanisms to address the displacement crisis in the region. The MIRPS Fund, established by the OAS Permanent Council, was initially presented at the First Solidarity Event that took place in 2021. By the end of that year, the Government of Spain announced a pioneering contribution to the MIRPS Fund, representing a milestone at the regional level in terms of solidarity and shared responsibility to support the responses of MIRPS countries in providing protection and solutions to the situation of displaced persons and host communities in Central America and Mexico.

Thus, in 2022, the entire operating framework of the MIRPS Fund was launched with the participation of the MIRPS States themselves, and the first call for proposals of the MIRPS Fund was opened, so that each MIRPS country could submit a project proposal in line with their MIRPS National Action Plans.

For the review and analysis of the proposals, a High-level Selection Committee (CSAN, known by its Spanish acronym) of the MIRPS Fund was set up, comprised of two independent experts selected by the MIRPS countries, a representative of the MIRPS Support Platform, and a representative of each of the institutions that co-lead the Joint MIRPS Technical Secretariat, UNHCR and the OAS Department of Social Inclusion.

The proposals presented by MIRPS States to the MIRPS Fund and evaluated by the CSAN address various issues to advance the objectives of the MIRPS: the strengthening of institutional capacities for better attention to and protection of asylum-seekers, refugees, internally displaced persons, and returnees in need of protection; and expanding access to humanitarian assistance and livelihoods for these populations, reinforcing mechanisms for the socio-economic integration of displaced populations and improving the processes of recognition of the right to identity and documentation of displaced populations in their host communities; among others. The projects presented by the MIRPS States are aligned with the pillars of the MIRPS and the commitments updated in 2022, which will allow the beneficiary States to advance the implementation of actions defined in their National Plans. Likewise, the projects include a cross-cutting perspective of rights and inclusion, as well as a focus on gender, age, and attention to the differentiated needs of some disadvantaged populations, for example, returned children and adolescents with international protection needs, guaranteeing that at least half of the direct beneficiaries are displaced women.

According to the mandate of the Permanent Council (CP/RES. 1154 (2286/20), endorsed by the OAS General Assembly 2020, the Department of Social Inclusion (DSI) of the OAS is responsible for the administration, financial management, and accountability of the MIRPS Fund. In this capacity, the Department of Social

Inclusion will assist the MIRPS States in the execution stage of their specific projects to ensure the achievement of the expected results. The MIRPS Fund is open to receiving new contributions to continue implementing initiatives and projects in the field in the MIRPS States.



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04. Alliances with strategic partners

PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR

The private sector in the MIRPS countries represents a key actor for taking actions that prioritize investments towards the labour inclusion and integration of displaced persons. In 2022, the MIRPS Technical Secretariat has continued efforts to strengthen dialogue, awareness, and outreach with private sector organizations by promoting good practices for the inclusion of displaced persons.

Part of these efforts included enhancing outreach with representatives of Canadian private sector companies with presence in Central America, at the initiative of Canada as Chair of the Support Platform, to explore possibilities of participation and support for displaced populations in the region.

As a result, the range of actors expanded, reaching 40 private sector organizations at three levels: at the regional level, with business

associations, associations of chambers of commerce, and Corporate Social Responsibility organizations; at the union level, with regional trade groups, national chambers of commerce, and organizations of productive sectors; and at the business level, with private sector organizations, multinationals, and private entrepreneurs with an important presence in the region.

The MIRPS Technical Secretariat has also proposed a framework for the participation of the private sector in multiple areas of MIRPS activities. These include:

- MIRPS regional dialogue and cooperation spaces such as the MIRPS annual meeting and the Annual Solidarity event -- During the 2022 International Solidarity Event, the **“Joint Expression of Solidarity from the Private Sector to Strengthen Protection and Promote Solutions for Forcibly Displaced Persons and Host Communities in Central America and Mexico”** was presented. The expression of solidarity was signed

- by twelve private sector actors in the region.
- Awareness-raising events between governments and the private sector in the region – In 2022, the MIRPS Technical Secretariat organized five events with the participation of the private sector on the situation of forced displacement in the region. These events took place within the framework of MIRPS sessions, the Summit of the Americas, the Annual Convention of Rotary International, and direct dialogue with governments in the region, among others.
 - Fostering private sector initiatives and good practices on the inclusion of displaced populations -- The MIRPS Technical Secretariat advanced in the development of the “MIRPS Toolkit: Contributions from the business community to the situation of forced displacement in Central America and Mexico.” This document includes around 30 initiatives and good practices that are currently being carried out by private sector organizations in the region.
 - **Action 1: Improve employers’ knowledge** of the regulatory framework for the labour rights of refugees, returnees, and displaced persons.
 - **Action 2: Promote public-private dialogue** for the development of joint actions to address the underlying causes of forced displacement.
 - **Action 3: Develop a culture of hospitality, integration, and respect** for displaced populations, seeking to change narratives to eradicate discriminatory and xenophobic practices within business environments.

Guided by the technical work of the MIRPS Working Groups, the MIRPS Technical Secretariat will seek to strengthen the dialogue of these partners in strategic spaces, collaboration with the MIRPS Support Platform led by the United States, and the mobilization of the private sector in MIRPS solidarity events with cooperation agreements and specific commitments. These efforts are aimed toward the progressive establishment of an active and dynamic network of private sector actors contributing to concrete programmes for improving economic opportunities, livelihoods, and self-reliance of displaced persons in Central America and Mexico.

Looking ahead to 2023, the regional strategy with the private sector will focus on continuing to strengthen the avenues of **cooperation from which the private sector can contribute to the responses of the States according to the following lines of action:**

CIVIL SOCIETY

Civil society’s work in supporting the objectives of the MIRPS has been strengthened, through the promotion of rights, dissemination of information and collaborative work, and understanding the national and local challenges of the organizations that are part of the MIRPS Civil Society Dialogue Mechanism.

In 2022, progress has been made in consolidating the MIRPS mechanism for civil society organizations. The Mexican organization, ‘*Programa Casa Refugiado*,’ served as the rotating Presidency and the continuous participation of 40 organizations at the national level was maintained. In this way, coordination meetings were held with the MIRPS Pro-tempore Presidency, and with the governments of MIRPS countries, UNHCR, OAS, and the MIRPS Support Platform. The Mechanism has worked regionally and nationally, developing spaces for dialogue with governments, organizations, and companies.

Likewise, public positions were shared in different events, such as the MIRPS International Solidarity Event, and in different forums where collaboration, networking, and the strengthening of coordination spaces with multiple participation were promoted.

The Mechanism also presented a report resulting from a series of analyses carried out in the seven MIRPS countries (2021). Good practices, challenges, and progress in the region in relation to the approach to forced displacement were presented from the perspective of civil society organizations that contribute to the MIRPS national action plans.

Finally, it is important to recognize that in 2022, the dynamics of collaboration within the MIRPS have been redefined, serving as a space for developing agreements and synergies to improve support and strengthen collaboration in the national context.



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THE MIRPS IN ACTION

—
National Progress



FOSTERING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN SOUTHERN BELIZE

In Belize, ten young asylum-seekers had the opportunity to further their studies at a technical/vocational institution.

The alarm jolts Joe* awake. It is 4:00am, and the 20-year-old asylum-seeker gets up to get ready for school. He walks for twenty minutes on a quiet dirt road, grateful for the opportunity to experience peace in his new community. When he reaches the bus stop, his classmates are waiting for the bus that will bring them to Stann Creek’s Institute for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ITVET). It is about a two-and-a-half-hour trip each day, but it is a sacrifice that they are happy to make.

Joe is one of ten young adult asylum-seekers in Belize who have been given the opportunity to return to school after their high school studies were interrupted when they were suddenly forced to flee their homes because of violence.

“We couldn’t stay there because it was totally unsafe,” Joe recalls. “When a threat like this arrives, the only thing that follows is death. It is something serious. It’s not easy. I was in my last year of high school, and I wasn’t able to finish because we just couldn’t survive in that place anymore.”

Selena*, a 17-year-old asylum-seeker from Honduras, couldn’t finish high school after a group of gang members burst into her family home and murdered her brother. Following this, both she and her other family members received numerous threats to their lives and fled to Belize in search of safety.

“I feel very happy to have been able to go back to school” shares Selena. “I didn’t think I would be able to study anymore until I received this opportunity, and I am very grateful for it.”

After a year of overcoming the challenges of learning in a new schooling system and in an unfamiliar language, the students are graduating with a technical diploma that is the equivalent of a high school degree.

“For me, this should be an opportunity that all asylum-seekers are able to receive in order to have a better future and to be able to find a good job,” says Selena.

Close to half of the world’s refugee children – 48 percent – remain out of school. UNHCR in Belize, along with Government and local partners, work to ensure education is accessible for all children and young people, including asylum-seekers.

*All names have been changed to maintain confidentiality.

“I didn’t think I would be able to study anymore until I received this opportunity, and I am very grateful for it.”



READ MORE ABOUT THIS STORY:



NATIONAL CONTEXT

In 2022, Belize continues to build on the foundation laid in 2021 in terms of strengthening the protection and implementing durable solutions for forcibly displaced people regionally and globally. Belize continues to engage relevant stakeholders, and stimulates salient humanitarian, development, public, and private sector initiatives. With assistance from various stakeholders, Belize has been improving the mechanism for reception and admission, responding to humanitarian and protection needs, and implementing durable solutions for forcibly displaced people. Via various initiatives, Belize continues to work within the MIRPS framework in a coordinated regional response to force displacement. Some 211 referral letters, representing some 408 persons recommended, but not confirmed asylum-seekers were issued by the Refugees Department to Principal applicants for presentation at the Department of Border Management and Immigration Services for the issuance of Special Permits at no cost to

these applicants and their dependents to work in agro industries. The Special Permits allowed them a status to continue residing in Belize and allowed those willing and able to work to do so in the citrus, banana or sugar cane industries of Belize. This special category was granted only to persons who had been previously recommended by the Refugee Eligibility Committee but had not been confirmed up until the end of 2020. Additionally, a project proposal was approved by UNHCR for the expansion and enhancement of the Refugees Department. Furthermore, there was an Amnesty for some 298 irregular migrants whose visa extensions lapsed during the COVID-19-period border closure. 2021 concluded with the announcement of the Belize Third Immigration Amnesty, which focuses on managing migration for the national security and socio-economic development of Belize by providing permanent residents with a pathway to citizenship for approved migrants.

The Government has taken a first step to introduce changes to the current immigration policy regarding asylum-seekers' access to national labour markets.

INDICATORS

4,175 

refugees and asylum-seekers (Gov. of Belize, October 2022)

3,000

others of concern (UNHCR, September 2022)

- **Top reported reasons for not applying to the amnesty:** I didn't have any previous information about the amnesty (45%), I am not interested (18%), I don't fit eligibility criteria (12%), and I fear to be identified by authorities (9%).

- **85%** of the assessed households reported having **positive relationships with their host community.**
- Around **7%** of children between 7 and 12 are not enrolled in school. For those enrolled, 72% are enrolled in Standard 1-4 levels.

- **Top reported reasons for not applying for asylum (among those who didn't apply):** I didn't have the information on how or where to do it (34%), I don't know what it is (20%), I tried but am not allowed due to a lack of documents (9%), and Other (14%).

- **Top reported reasons for entering irregularly to the country:** Lack of documents for adults (13%), Fear of deportation (4%), and Lack of documents for children (3%).
- The main challenges reported to finding a place to stay were lack of financial resources (71%), lack of documents (25%), and rejection because of nationality (15%).

Source: UNHCR Belize Profiling Assessment July 2002

- **1984 amnesty** - 8,680 irregular migrants were registered.
- **1999 amnesty** - 11,168 irregular migrants received Permanent Residency.
- In December 2021, an amnesty program to regularize irregular migrants in Belize was announced. Under Amnesty 2022, irregular migrants who satisfy any of the eight qualifying criteria qualify to apply for permanent residence status to regularize their presence in Belize.

5,097 

principals and dependents applied as of 30 September 2022 (2 months into the 4-month registration period)

4,500 

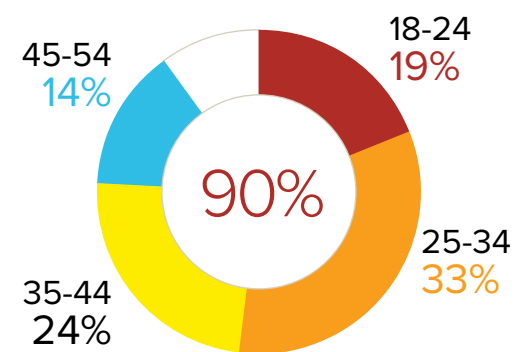
asylum-seekers qualify to apply for amnesty


749

asylum-seekers requested and received the amnesty reference letter from the Refugees Department as of 30 September 2022 (2 months into the 4-month registration period)

- A majority of the applications were received by Amnesty 2022's Urban Offices.
- The majority of the participants are female (54%).
- The majority of the applicants (70%) have no dependents attached to their applications. Thereafter, the second largest category were applicants (20%) with only one dependent.

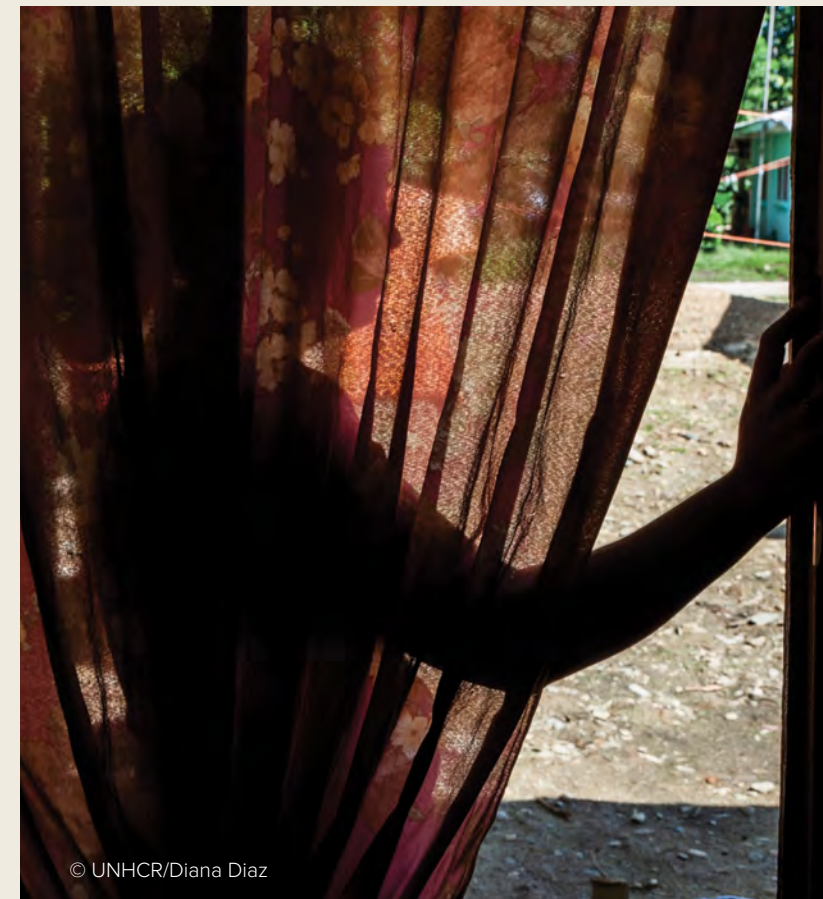
- The online appointment survey informs that a majority (90%) of the applicants are of working age, 18-54.



- Some 70% of the applicants inform that they have English language communication skills. 
- The majority of the applicants came to Belize for family reunification (25%), employment (25%), accompanying a parent or guardian (20%), or as a result of forced displacement because of the crime rate in their country (15%)

- **There are applicants from 32 countries globally.**
- These 32 countries are globally dispersed throughout seven regions, namely Europe (8), South America (5), Caribbean Islands (5), Asia (5), Central America (4), North America (3), and Africa (2).

- In terms of the actual number of applicants per region, it must be noted that **Central America (97%) has the largest number of applicants**, followed by North America (2%). The applications from nationals of the other five regions total 1%.
- Further information informs that some **55% of the applications are from Guatemalans**, 23% are from Salvadorans, 18% are from Hondurans, 1% are from Nicaraguans, and all other nationals' applications are included in the remaining 3%.



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Source: Amnesty Report Government of Belize, September 2002

ACHIEVEMENTS



PROTECTION

2022 represented the first year of the two-year UNHCR-approved project entitled, 'Strengthening Institutional Capacity of the Refugee Department/ Ministry of Immigration.' This project has been essential in the employment of three new eligibility clerks, technical capacity development of all the employees, provision of information technology, office space, office equipment, and database development. This partnership has expanded the asylum processing capacity related to the reduction of the backlog of claims and improved modalities for the management of new asylum cases. Simultaneously, the departments' processes in data registration, storage, and analysis are being upgraded with new hardware and software. The Refugee Eligibility Committee has received in-depth technical training in the adjudication of asylum claims. The review of the refugees-related national legislation has commenced under the auspices of the noted UNHCR project, and the outlook for 2023 includes the conclusion of this process with a modern, streamlined, and updated Refugees Law reviewed and supported by the Executive, and approved by the Legislature. The various focal points of the projects form synergies in terms of having a robust asylum system, being managed by internationally trained employees, utilizing a digitized and modern technological system to provide protection and assistance to stateless persons, asylum-seekers, and refugees in Belize.

Towards the end of 2021, the Government announced an amnesty program for targeted undocumented persons who remain in Belize. At an early stage, the decision was taken to include persons with international protection needs and registered asylum-seekers, for whom the amnesty offers an alternative pathway to regularize their immigration status in Belize. As of 30 September 2022, two months into a four-month registration period, some 749 registered asylum-seekers had requested the amnesty reference letter. IOM and UNHCR have been instrumental in guiding and assisting persons of concern in the application process.



EDUCATION

Increased uptake of vocational and entrepreneurship training services since early 2020. Belize remains focused on expanding technical vocational education services to young refugee and asylum-seeker students, together with national youth from host communities. In 2022, resources were mobilized to place a national focus on the growth of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), to provide new pathways for asylum-seekers and refugees to enroll in formal enterprise development initiatives managed by the Trade and Investment Development Service, the Small Business Development Centre and the Belize Training and Employment Centre continued.



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COSTA RICA



NICARAGUAN REFUGEE LEADS THE SHELTER THAT ONCE WELCOMED HIM

After graduating from law school, Ernesto planned to practice his profession and open his own law firm. However, he had to leave Nicaragua and start a new life in the middle of the socio-political crisis that began in April 2018. Having just graduated, he put his dreams in a suitcase and sought refuge in Costa Rica.


Upon his arrival in Costa Rica, he was cared for in a shelter in San José, the capital, where kind people supported him, and which later became his workplace that he leads with passion.

Ernesto's integration was only possible because he was able to access identity documents granted to him by the Costa Rican government. As an asylum-seeker, Ernesto managed to establish himself as a leader of the shelter. Because of his training as a lawyer, he has not only provided humanitarian assistance, but he has also managed to support other people with securing their access to documentation and other rights granted by the country to asylum-seekers and refugees in Costa Rica.

His work in the shelter has continued for almost four years, providing attention to asylum-seekers in the region. "We have had to assist people from Nicaragua, Haiti, and more recently, Venezuela", he says, satisfied and proud of the help he has provided.

Now, Ernesto, recognized as a refugee, dreams of becoming a psychologist, a career he began in Costa Rica. "I always wanted to be a lawyer or a psychologist. I opted for law without knowing that one day I would give psychosocial help to people who, like me, had to flee their country," says Ernesto.

Without his documentation, Ernesto cannot imagine how he would have spent his time in the country. First, as an asylum-seeker and now as a refugee, Ernesto looks to the future with the hope of continuing to provide help to those who, like him, once needed a helping hand in the country that welcomed them.

A photograph of a man with glasses looking out at a lush green landscape with a red wooden fence. The man is in the foreground, looking towards the right. The background is filled with green foliage and a red wooden fence.

"We have had to assist people from Nicaragua, Haiti, and more recently, Venezuela."

©UNHCR/Austin Ramírez Reyes

NATIONAL CONTEXT

Costa Rica has traditionally been a host country for people who have been forcibly displaced from their countries of origin. Thanks to its democratic stability, robust institutions, and its tradition of respect for human rights, the country offers the conditions for these people to find security and the means to rebuild their lives.

In recent years, Costa Rica has expanded its role as a destination country due to situations of persecution and violence in the region, particularly in Nicaragua, Venezuela, Cuba, and northern Central America. From 2018 to September 30, 2022, the country hosted 218,788 people in need of international protection, of which 12,077 were refugees and 206,711 were asylum-seekers. Additionally, there were 67 people recognized as stateless and 125 in the statelessness determination process (as of September 30, 2022).

The continued rise in the number of people seeking international protection in the country has increased the pressures on Costa Rican institutions and their response capacities. The COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the economic situation deepened the country's challenges in attending to this population in a timely manner. In the first quarter of 2022, 50,224 people formalized their asylum requests.

Despite the fact that the country has a robust asylum system, the current context of displacement poses new challenges for the response to this population, in a context where the supply for services and attention does not advance at the same rate as the demand. When people enter Costa Rican territory in search of international protection, the border communities provide the first response to the needs of forcibly displaced persons. The communities in the northern part of the country, the region with the second least human development in the country, provide new arrivals with basic health care, education, and humanitarian aid services. For this reason, the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica and the United Nations System promote a territorial intervention in which development actors such as international financial institutions and humanitarian agencies participate to strengthen host communities and ensure access to rights and services of all the inhabitants of the territory. Costa Rica appeals to the international community to support the country's efforts for attention and response.

INDICATORS

 **4 YEARS**

Average processing time from the formalization of asylum claims until a formal decision of the applicant's refugee status.

3,225*

Number of asylum-seekers or refugees in a situation of poverty or extreme poverty.

*EXTREME POVERTY: 2,703
POVERTY: 1,050

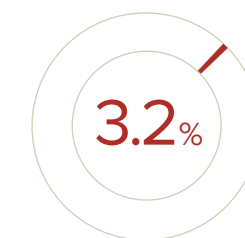


67,175

Number of asylum-seekers with identity documents or legally recognized credentials.

684 

Number of asylum-seekers and refugee minors in a situation of poverty or extreme poverty who are beneficiaries of a study allowance.



TOTAL POPULATION:
5,213,506
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF
ASYLUM-SEEKERS:
167,330

Proportion of asylum-seekers as a percentage of the national population.

57,732

(100% ARE OF THE
LEGAL AGE TO WORK)

Number of asylum-seekers who have a work permit.

PROGRESS



PROTECTION

average approval rate of over 99%

Complementary protection measure for Venezuelans, Nicaraguans, and Cubans. In December 2020, the Government of the Republic approved the complementary protection measure that provides protection to people of these three nationalities whose refugee applications have been denied, yet circumstances prevent them from returning to their countries of origin. This measure was a pilot that was extended until February 2022, which provided legal certainty to these people and authorized them to carry out paid employment activities without any restrictions. This measure was requested by 4,038 people and benefited 3,934, with an average approval rate of over 99%.



SOCIAL PROTECTION

In 2021, support was granted to 4,134 refugees and asylum-seekers.

Access of refugees and asylum-seekers to state poverty reduction programmes. Costa Rica guarantees the access of asylum-seekers and refugees in situations of poverty and extreme poverty to the poverty reduction programmes of the Mixed Institute of Social Aid (IMAS) on the same basis as Costa Ricans. Access to these programmes facilitates the provision of protection and social mobility services. In 2021, support was granted to 4,134 refugees and asylum-seekers.

Costa Rica guarantees the access of asylum-seekers and refugees in situations of poverty and extreme poverty to the poverty reduction programmes of the Mixed Institute of Social Aid (IMAS) on the same basis as Costa Ricans.



JOB AND LIVELIHOODS

In 2021, the platform registered 5,490 people.

Access to documentation that allows asylum-seekers to join the labour market. The Government of the Republic grants work permits to refugees and asylum-seekers to be able to integrate into the labour market and supports their integration through the national employment system, a platform that aligns training programmes offered by the Costa Rican State with the needs of employers. In 2021, the platform registered 5,490 people including 35 refugees and asylum-seekers. Likewise, it developed training activities to increase the employability of 81 refugees.



HEALTH

This agreement currently benefits 6,000 people.

Medical health insurance for refugees and asylum-seekers. The Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS) provides temporary medical insurance to refugees and asylum-seekers as part of an agreement signed with UNHCR. This measure guarantees access of asylum-seekers and refugees to public health services throughout the territory. This agreement currently benefits 6,000 people.

This measure guarantees access of asylum-seekers and refugees to public health services throughout the territory.



EMPOWERING WOMEN, FOSTERING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

As a resident of an urban area besieged by gangs, Letty* saw limited possibilities for her future. However, through courses taught in Ciudad Mujer, she received training in developing small business ideas and increasing the productive capacities of her existing microenterprise.

Letty managed to make her artisanal candy venture stand out from the competition. She achieved this by innovating combinations of flavours, such as her famous grated coconut candy with mint.

“Since I started going to Ciudad Mujer, I feel safer. There I receive psychological assistance and help to strengthen my business”, she said.

Letty’s small business sells candy made from local ingredients, and she often tries different combinations. Letty now has a name and a logo for her brand, understanding its significance for later expansion. “Right now, I have to prepare an order for one of my clients that is going to bring the candy to the U.S.,” Letty shared with excitement.

Ciudad Mujer has a strategy that seeks to strengthen the economic self-reliance of internally displaced women and survivors of gender-based violence. Participants are supported to broaden their client base, expand their market reach, and develop a roadmap for transitioning into the formal economy. The process builds on existing support women have received from El Salvador’s National Commission for Micro and Small Enterprises (CONAMYPE) and includes training in methodologies for creating, expanding, and sustaining small-scale enterprises developed by the International Labour Organization.

Ciudad Mujer, administered by the Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women (ISDEMU), contributes to improving the living conditions of Salvadoran women in areas such as participation in the workplace, sexual and reproductive health, prevention and care for cases of violence, and prevention of teenage pregnancies. It also aims to improve socio-economic opportunities for underage women at risk of forced displacement and returned women with protection needs.

*Name changed to maintain confidentiality.



“Since I started going to Ciudad Mujer, I feel safer. There I receive psychological assistance and help to strengthen my business.”

© UNHCR/Alejandra Romo

NATIONAL CONTEXT

In January 2020, the country passed legislation to protect and provide durable solutions to internally displaced persons, as well as those at risk of being displaced. At the same time, the complexity of the context of human mobility in Central America and Mexico reflects the progressive increase in the number of refugees and asylum-seekers in El Salvador, for which the country is planning a comprehensive response.

Existing advances in legislation and in operational responses for the protection of forcibly displaced persons and refugees represent important progress and must continue, as well as all comprehensive responses to address the underlying causes of such phenomena. El Salvador joined the MIRPS in 2019, and expressed its commitment through a National Action Plan, which is aligned with the commitments made during the 2019 Global Refugee Forum.

INDICATORS

2022



At the end of this report, **2,953 displaced people or people at risk of displacement have received services** in the “A Tu Lado” support centres, providing immediate assistance and information on access to rights.



Between 2021 and 2022, **483** displaced persons accessed the “My First Job” programme of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MTPS).



In the period from January to June 2022, a total of **31 identity documents were provided to asylum-seekers**, while **18 people recognized as refugees were provided with a legally recognized identity document.**

11 MONTHS



Is the maximum processing time from registration to a first instance asylum decision.

PROGRESS



PROTECTION

- The Government of El Salvador concluded a preparatory pilot phase of the characterization study on internal forced displacement. The quantitative and qualitative information on forced displacement to be collected by the study will allow evidence-based decision-making for the design of solid public policies.
- The opening of two new “A tu Lado” service spaces in the municipalities of San Miguel and Santa Ana strengthened the territorial response capacity to displaced populations and provided information on rights and assistance in a free, safe, and confidential manner. In addition, the implementation of the 27 Victim Assistance Points approach continues, which are decentralized in all the country’s departments, located in national hospitals, city halls, and other support spaces.
- The Government of El Salvador has strengthened the capacities of public servants that are part of the Directorate of Attention to Victims, as well as of the institutions that form parts of the care pathway for returnees. To this end, the following topics have been addressed: humanitarian protection, case management, human rights, and assistance to victims.
- The Draft of the National Territorial Planning and Development Policy incorporates preliminary guidelines related to the care of displaced persons.
- The Directorate for Attention to Victims (DAV) has been technically and operationally strengthened in the framework of expanding its strategy for attention to victims, specifically those affected by forced internal displacement.
- The Protection Module of the Single Immigration Information System of the General Directorate of Migration and Immigration (DGME) has been satisfactorily implemented. This tool allows timely referral to specialized services for returnees with protection needs, applying existing pathways.



EDUCATION

- The strengthening of educational modalities has allowed displaced children and adolescents to continue their education through the implementation of: 1) regular modalities; and 2) flexible (accelerated, remote, blended, evening programmes, and virtual), using a range of technology platforms including television, radio, and other communication channels.
- The School Counseling Programme provided improved psychosocial support services to boys and girls in situations of internal forced displacement. The programme works to create safe educational environments, which contributes to educational continuity.
- A model to ensure the continuity of education in shelters, including in closed and open shelters, has provided an inclusive approach for children and adolescents.
- The capacity of the national educational response for the attention, protection, and continuity of education provision for forcibly displaced children has been strengthened, with the improved identification, referral, and management of cases of school-aged children and their families.
- El Salvador has approved and ratified a new regulatory framework for the protection of children and adolescents. To inform its entry into force, the care instruments for the displaced student population or those at risk of internal forced displacement and their families have been reviewed.

Throughout the year, the School Counseling Programme provided improved psychosocial support services to boys and girls in situations of internal forced displacement.



JOB AND LIVELIHOODS

- The “My First Job” programme has continued to allow at-risk young people to strengthen their skills and access employment opportunities, while strengthening collaboration with the private sector.
- Ongoing investments have been maintained with specialized and vocational programmes that support access to employment opportunities for at-risk young people through the development of soft skills and technical training.
- Internally displaced women and/or survivors of gender-based violence have received psychosocial support and strengthened their micro-entrepreneurial skills in specific workshops on strengthening technical skills and business development.
- The Ministry of Labour joined the support space, “A tu Lado,” in the Department of San Salvador to provide face-to-face services once per week in order to ensure access to information and assistance for labour rights, employment, and professional development opportunities. This service is expected to expand throughout the country.



HEALTH

- The Psychosocial Care Protocol for people affected by violence, with an emphasis on internal forced displacement, has been prepared and is the subject of internal review.
- The continuity of the training process for multidisciplinary and first-level health personnel is providing timely care and follow-up on cases of forced displacement. In this regard, 323 officials of the Ministry of Health (221 women and 102 men) took part in a course on forced displacement, law, and health, in order to provide specialized health services in an inclusive manner to those who require medical and psychosocial attention and support.
- From January to June 2022, 315 people (266 women and 49 men) who were at-risk victims of violence have received clinical psychological treatment. 12 psychotherapy and 6 self-help groups have been established, as part of initiatives for collective and restorative therapy.

From January to
June 2022

315
people
received
clinical
psychological
treatment.



SALVADORAN REFUGEE HELPS OTHER WOMEN ACHIEVE FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE

When she first arrived in Guatemala, Alma felt alone and helpless. Yet she overcame her pain and now leads a financial savings group for women in her community.

For Alma, a 35-year-old Salvadoran, the worst part of exile was the loneliness. She had to flee her country to save her life, as gangs had taken control of her community and death threats were received constantly.

In Petén, the area in northern Guatemala where she found protection, she was a stranger. She opened a small garment workshop like the one she had in her home country but was unable to integrate with her host community.

This changed once she could apply for refugee status, a status that allowed her to reside legally in Guatemala, open a bank account, and have access to health and education services. Most importantly, it meant that she would not be returned to her country.

She also received economic support for her entrepreneurship and participated in activities organized by the local mayor's office to integrate and generate livelihoods among Guatemalan and refugee women.

Alma was part of the assistance program of Ixqik, Petén Women's Association, which supports survivors of violence with an interdisciplinary team providing legal, emotional, medical, leadership, and income generation advice.

"I felt confident in myself. I was encouraged to learn new things and to lead," she says. She participated in a community savings training and was encouraged to create a group with the women in her village. "I would never have imagined doing that before," she says with a smile.

The group is now two years old and has eight participants who meet monthly. It works by consensus, and by vote, they decided that Alma would be the president.

Today she is the leading designer of formal dresses in her village and supports others in fulfilling their dreams. "Economic independence enables women to do anything they set their minds to," she says with conviction.



© UNHCR/Ángela Hurtado

"I felt confident in myself. I was encouraged to learn new things and to lead."

READ MORE ABOUT THIS STORY:



NATIONAL CONTEXT

Guatemala is considered to be a country of origin, transit, destination, and return in the context of human mobility. Guatemala currently assumes an important role as a host country for an increasing number of people who have fled their countries to save their lives and are arriving in search of international protection. The member institutions of the National Technical Team (NTT) based on their different mandates contribute to generating the conditions for protection, education, health, employment, and livelihoods for refugees, asylum-seekers and returnees, together with their host communities.


The country, through its institutions, is making constant and directed efforts to attend to refugees, asylum-seekers, and other persons in need of international protection to ensure:


1. The provision of specialized, differentiated, safe, and dignified reception conditions;
2. Strengthening of the institutions that respond to these issues, especially in border areas and transit routes;
3. Attention to returnees with protection needs;
4. The approach and care of groups in situations of high vulnerability; and
5. Work and livelihoods to promote labour inclusion, among other valuable actions for protection and durable solutions.



The actions undertaken by the National Technical Team allow Guatemala to develop a comprehensive response, represented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, according to its competence and role as a coordinating entity, in the different regional and multilateral forums involved in matters of refugee issues.

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INDICATORS

 **4**
Training activities for members of the National Commission for Refugees (CONARE) concerning asylum and international protection.

 **7**
Training activities on matters of asylum, international protection, and case review procedures aimed at officials of the Guatemalan Institute of Migration (IGM).

<p> 54 Work permits granted to refugees</p> <p>537 Work permits granted to asylum-seekers</p>	<p> 25 Officials trained on the use of the PEX platform</p> <p>70 Refugees and asylum-seekers trained on the use the PEX platform.</p>
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MINTRAB

<p> 10 Agreements signed with municipalities and regional governments</p>	<p>765,000 Direct beneficiaries</p>	<p>3,000,000 Indirect beneficiaries</p>
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CITIES OF SOLIDARITY

<p>642 Psychosocial care</p>	<p>20 Adolescents and young people trained through the Social Civic Servant Project</p>
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MODELO CASA JOVEN AMATITLAN DE LA SBS

PROGRESS



PROTECTION

Between
January and
September
2022,
889
cases were
addressed.

To give continuity to the strengthening of the national refugee system, representatives of the National Commission for Refugees (CONARE) undertook an official visit to exchange good practices with the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMAR) in Mexico. During the mission, the differentiated mechanisms, procedures, and tools for the attention, registration, and follow-up of cases of asylum-seekers and refugees were discussed.

As a result of the visit, the Refugee Status Recognition Department (DRER) of the Sub Directorate for the Attention and Protection of the Fundamental Rights of Migrants, of the Guatemalan Institute of Migration (IGM) has developed valuable tools to optimise the review of cases and requests, which include: a) Technical Report Model; b) Registration Model; and c) Country of Origin Situation Profiles. Additionally, as part of its mandate, the DRER continues to carry out coordinated actions with immigration control posts at the borders aimed at guaranteeing access to the national refugee system.

Through the **Casa Joven in the Amatitlán Municipality** recently opened by the Social Welfare Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic (SBS) with the support of UNHCR, between January and September 2022, 889 cases were addressed. Of this total, 41.3% correspond to the cases of young people and adults from 18 to 59 years old; with a similar care rate for adolescents between 12 and 17 years of age at 39.6%; while 17.5% correspond to girls and boys from 0 to 11 years of age. This is considered a comprehensive model, as it offers services and attention to children, adolescents, and young people who, together with their families, can access education programmes, pedagogical support, psychosocial interventions, sports and recreational activities, and training provided by the social civic service, among others. The programme introduces innovative coordination and engagement practices that involve both the community, local authorities, public institutions, civil society organizations,

and the private sector, for the coordination, care, and referral for refugees, asylum-seekers, and returnee families, in addition to Guatemalans at risk.

In March 2022, in Flores, Petén, the **Comprehensive Child Care Centre (CAI)** was inaugurated, built by the Municipality and El Refugio de la Niñez, with technical and financial support

from UNHCR. The Centre, managed by the Social Welfare Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic (SBS) contributes to the development, care, and education of local and refugee children in the municipality. It has a capacity for 80 children and adolescents, and currently supports 28 persons, promoting safe care spaces and facilitating their mothers' ability to engage in gainful employment.



JOBS AND LIVELIHOODS

The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MINTRAB) has undertaken a process of decentralisation and upgraded the Electronic Platform for Work Permits for Foreigners (PEX) in order to streamline its management and ensure its online function throughout Guatemalan territory. Thus, MINTRAB has simplified and automated the process of presenting, issuing, and authorising work permits for asylum-seekers with an average processing time of 4 days.

The “Renaciendo en Guate” Campaign, promoted by MINTRAB, seeks to sensitise the private sector, public officials, and the general public on the reasons that compel people to flee their countries of origin, and the importance of providing labour opportunities to facilitate their integration. The Office for the Elderly of the MINTRAB Departmental Delegation of Petén was renovated with the support of UNHCR, in order to provide dignified care to the residents and refugees who live there.

The Technical Institute of Training and Productivity (INTECAP) made an adjustment to its computer system to provide refugees and asylum-seekers with the Special Personal Identification Document (DPI-E), and access to the services and programmes it offers. As a result, those holding the document can access vocational and technical training, as well as job skills certification. Likewise, INTECAP is developing an education and training course on “Basic Finances for the Home” focused

on vulnerable populations, including refugees and asylum-seekers. This support aims to ensure that the Guatemalan and refugee population can improve their ability to manage their personal finances. For example, in the case of INTECAP in Izabal, which began in July 2022,

six refugees in Puerto Barrios had the opportunity to participate in the Course on Guatemalan Gastronomy and obtain a valid certificate that serves as a useful tool for their integration into the local labour market.



HEALTH

78 people who support the functions of the different municipal departments have been trained in international protection.

As part of the Cities of Solidarity initiative, a new Community Health Centre of San Pedro Cadenas, in Petén, was inaugurated by the South-eastern Petén Health Area of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS). The Centre supports local community residents and people engaged in mixed movements entering the Department. This Centre offers a safe and inter-institutional coordination space, in which institutions such as the Social Welfare Secretariat (SBS), the National Attorney General's Office (PGN), the Secretariat against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons (SVET), the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman (PDH) and civil society organizations can provide information, conduct interviews, and provide other services in order to improve the conditions of reception and entry into Petén. The Project has benefited 1,700 people from the communities of Cadenas and Livingston in Izabal, and supported approximately 4,680 people in need of humanitarian assistance.

In April, the Clinics for Attention to Victims of Sexual Violence of the Hospitals of Melchor de Mencos, Poptún, Sayaxché, and San Benito in the Department of Petén were strengthened with equipment and furniture to provide comprehensive health care for locals, refugees, and asylum-seekers and people in transit.

The Municipality of Esquipulas established a Health Post in the Valle de Jesús community that benefits the inhabitants of the village, nearby communities, and people engaged in mixed movements. In addition, the Esquipulas Health Centre was expanded and equipped to care for patients

with HIV and tuberculosis, and malnourished children, benefiting just over 60,000 people. This was made possible with the endorsement and leadership of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) through the Health Area of the Department of Chiquimula.

The Municipality of San Benito in Petén built and enabled the Municipal Clinic that provides free medical care, including health care, laboratory tests, radiographs and X-rays, and dental care, among others, all for the benefit of the residents and refugees of the municipality.

The Municipality of Livingston, Izabal equipped a boat to respond to emergency situations known as "Ambulancha," which facilitates medical attention and transfers for Guatemalan people and refugees residing along the Sarstún River, areas near the municipality and host communities in the area adjacent to Belize. This is an innovative model that manages to reach the most remote areas that can only be accessed by water, which previously required a journey of more than 6 hours for emergency care. Through this model, the care of women in vulnerable situations and survivors of violence is prioritized, with the strong participation of indigenous women.

The Municipality of Puerto Barrios, with the support of Refugio de la Niñez, built the Comprehensive Care Centre for Women. The Centre provides assistance and protection services

to survivors of violence, regardless of their nationality. It currently has specialized personnel to provide health care, temporary shelter, legal and psychological assistance, with a capacity to attend to 40 patients for an average of 6 days.

The Municipality of Guatemala through the four "Mobile Homes for Women" provides psychological, nutritional, and medical care and legal guidance to women. This initiative promotes the prevention of gender-based violence and seeks to empower women through provision of services and information.

The Municipality of Villa Nueva as a Solidarity City holds bimonthly Inclusion and Peaceful Coexistence Fairs in which health services and legal guidance are provided, awareness-raising activities are promoted for the prevention of gender-based violence, and sports and recreational activities are carried out. The Directorates of Health, Women, Comprehensive Security, and the Secretary of Social Works of the Mayor's Wife support these activities. The Municipality offers these services to the entire community, including refugees and asylum-seekers. These fairs have reached more than 5,000 people to date, including girls, boys, adolescents, youth, women, men, and the elderly. In addition, 78 people who support the functions of the different municipal departments have been trained in international protection, gender-based violence, and referral mechanisms for care and protection cases.



EDUCATION

The Municipality of Esquipulas in Chiquimula with the support of UNHCR through its partner Save The Children, renovated and equipped three schools that provide access to education for Guatemalan children and adolescents at risk, together with refugees, asylum-seekers and returnees. Through these projects, it is estimated that over 90 boys and girls will benefit, with approximately 110 families benefiting indirectly, in the rural communities of La Ranchería, La Rinconada, and El Mirador, Olopita.

The Municipality of Puerto Barrios, in coordination with the Departmental Directorate of Education of the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC), through the Refugio de la Niñez, renovated and equipped three schools (EOUM Mariano Gálvez, INEB Hugo Leonel Sance, and EOUM Mariano Méndez Montenegro) in the municipality with the objective of promoting and facilitating integration into the national educational system for Guatemalan, returnee, and refugee children.

Noting that the Municipality of Guatemala hosts the largest number of refugees and asylum-seekers, the Municipality has made important strides to facilitate their integration through programmes such as *Municipal Libraries*, *MuniEduca Móviles*, *English for All*, and *Workshop School*, spaces that are part of the Social Development, Women and Workshop School Directorates of the Municipality. These activities have been implemented in a phased manner due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and have managed to reach 6,600 beneficiaries including refugees, asylum-seekers, the host community, and female victims of gender-based violence, and with segments ranging from childhood to older adults. In addition, through the Entrepreneurship Centre and the Directorate of Social Development, five fairs for entrepreneurship and economic recovery have been held, resulting in approximately 57,000 quetzales in sales by refugee, asylum-seeker and Guatemalan entrepreneurs. At least 90 people who support the Departments of the Municipality have also been trained on international protection, gender-based violence, human trafficking issues, and case referral mechanisms.



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HONDURAS

WITH INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT, CARLA IS ABLE TO REBUILD HER LIFE IN HONDURAS

Carrying only a bag with their family keepsakes and a few toys, and with the clothes they were wearing, Carla*, her three daughters, and two granddaughters were forced to leave the village where they were born, in a city in Honduras, after Carla's husband was murdered and they received threats against their lives.

"I received a note on a piece of paper that said that if I didn't leave the house that same day, all of us would follow my husband," recalls the mother of the family, who is still in the process of recovering from the loss of her husband and her home. "I had no time to lose, and I couldn't risk my daughters and granddaughters; I had to get them out of there quickly."

With the help of the police and a close family member, Carla and her family gathered what they could fit in their hands and got into the police vehicle to leave the only place they had ever known. First, they arrived at Carla's brother's house in another city in Honduras, but it was clear to her that they would quickly have to find their own place.

Once settled, Carla sought help from the Secretariat of Human Rights (SEDH). "I had heard that there were people who helped when bad things happened to you, but I thought it wasn't true," Carla said. "But a few days after I called, they came to visit me and immediately gave us help, first with vouchers for food and personal items that helped us subsist."

After two weeks, Carla entered the SEDH entrepreneurship program supported by UNHCR, where she received seed capital that allowed her to start generating income to support her family. "I already had experience with a business selling groceries and beverages. With that, I used to support the family economy in my old home," said Carla excitedly, who has found support in the new business that allows her to move forward.

"I started looking for an area where there were no other similar stores, and that's how I found the house where we live now. We are the only pulpería (grocery store) in this neighborhood; all the neighbors buy tortillas from me early in the day. They no longer have to walk so far to get what they need, so they are also happy with our arrival," concluded Carla, who, despite the immense difficulties, has found hope and the strength to move forward.

Carla and her daughters are among the more than 247,000 internally displaced people in Honduras. As part of the response, five years ago, Honduras joined the MIRPS and in 2022 led the mechanism as Pro-tempore Presidency. In this role, the Government of Honduras extended its response to 13 different institutions that promote programs for supporting people in need of protection.

*Name changed to maintain confidentiality.

"I had no time to lose, and I couldn't risk my daughters and granddaughters. I had to get them out of there quickly."

READ MORE ABOUT THIS STORY:



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NATIONAL CONTEXT

According to official data, at least 247,090 people were internally displaced due to violence between 2004 and 2018. The causes are related to threats, homicides, restrictions on mobility, injuries, extortion, sexual violence, dispossession of homes, land, and property, and forced recruitment, mainly affecting women, children, adolescents, youth, community leaders, transporters, merchants and the LGBTIQ+ community. From 2015 to date, there are 573,654 Honduran returnees, while from 2014 to 2022, 546 people requested asylum in Honduras. The increase in the number of people transiting through Honduras in an irregular situation from 2010 to 2022 totalled 281,167, of which 149,837 were registered between January and October 10, 2022. These figures illustrate the pressure on the institutional framework and its response capacity to care for people with protection needs.

In 2013, the State of Honduras recognized forced displacement caused by violence, promoting prevention, care, protection, and policies that search for lasting solutions for displaced persons. This led to the creation of the Inter-Institutional Commission for the Protection of Persons Displaced by Violence (CIPPDV). The new government, through the Migration, Security and Justice and Human Rights Commissions of the National Congress, has discussed the law for the prevention, attention, and protection of forcibly displaced persons. As part of a consultation that led to the adoption of the Los Angeles Declaration, Honduras committed to prioritize the finalization of national legislation on internal

displacement, which is currently pending in the National Congress.

In addition, Honduras has suffered from the impacts of climate change and natural disasters. Between September 1 and October 10, 2022, more than 80,000 people were affected by the frequent rains and the consequential landslides and floods, which led to more than 20,000 people being evacuated, while 3,000 homes were affected, and 130,000 farmers lost their crops. The region of Guillén, in Tegucigalpa, and municipalities in the northern zone were strongly affected by the flooding.

Given this complex context, the Government of Honduras adopted the MIRPS in 2017, thus committing itself to the establishment of a comprehensive response to forced displacement due to violence, and to providing care and opportunities for integration for refugees, asylum-seekers, and returnees with protection needs. In 2022, Honduras promoted the expansion of the National Technical Team (NTT), now expanded to 13 state institutions, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ministry of Human Rights, National Institute of Migration, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women, Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Ministry of Social Development, National Institute of Vocational Training, Institute of Property, National Service of Entrepreneurship and Small Business, Directorate of Children, Adolescents and Family, and the Association of Municipalities of Honduras.

Similarly, it has strengthened its links with the country's universities, together with coordination with civil society, advancing mechanisms for the care of people with protection needs.

These national efforts both in advocating for a regulatory framework, in coordination with local governments, and in facilitating access to services for people at risk of displacement, demonstrate the commitment of the State to:

1. Continue promoting the consolidation of the regulatory and institutional framework;
2. Improve reception conditions and protection and assistance mechanisms; and
3. Link assistance mechanisms to social protection programmes and livelihoods to expand the options for durable solutions, among others.

INDICATORS

(DATA FROM JANUARY 1, 2022, TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2022)

94

Number of people in need of international protection identified, assisted, and referred in border/transit areas

230

Number of people displaced or at risk of displacement assisted by state protection mechanisms¹

1. Information on people assisted by the Directorate for the Protection of Persons Internally Displaced by Violence.

17

Number of abandoned assets that have been identified through community exercises

137

Number of returnees/deportees in priority intervention municipalities that access programmes to support their security and dignity

PROGRESS



PROTECTION

- **The Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Mechanism (MAHE)** for the care of people internally displaced by violence, implemented by the Human Rights Secretariat (SEDH), has continued to guide the response of the State in protection and humanitarian aid to internally displaced persons due to violence in the country.
- Honduras made progress in the consolidation of a **national mechanism for the protection of housing, land, and property rights (VTP)** of people internally displaced by violence, through the leadership of the Property Institute (IP). In 2022, the adaptation of the country's registration and cadastral regulations has been prioritized to provide an effective response in the context of violence-induced displacement in the country. In this regard, the Directorate of Registry and Cadastre, with the supervision of the IP, has implemented a roadmap for the establishment of a Special Registry of Assets Abandoned by Persons Internally Displaced by Violence, as well as the inclusion of the protection approach in the Unified VTP Registration Guidelines applied by the IP at the national level. In cadastral matters, a tool was also developed to include a protection approach in the cadastral survey procedures carried out by the IP, in all areas affected by violence and with indication of significant levels of abandonment.
- Since 2017, the CIPPDIV, through the Human Rights Secretariat, has promoted the **strengthening of technical capacities at the local government level, prioritizing the municipalities of San Pedro Sula, El Progreso, and the Central District**, while expanding coverage to the municipalities of Choloma, Choluteca, Juticalpa and Danlí. In this regard, the Municipality of San Pedro Sula has been considered to be a pilot for the development of good practices and new approaches for collaboration with local governments. A notable achievement has been the delivery of the Municipal Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Mechanism (MMAHE), implemented through the establishment of a Municipal Response Committee, attached to the Mayor's Office.

- To inform municipal plans and policies that respond to internal displacement, the revision of a common methodology to local government planning was undertaken, to include phases of context analysis, situational diagnosis of the context of displacement, and the exchange of best practices between municipal authorities. In addition, based on the scenario of government transition in the country, the awareness and training phase on local responses to forced displacement will resume with all planned municipalities. Participation has also been expanded to include local authorities who were not originally prioritized but have expressed an interest in participation based on the needs observed in their regions. This includes La Ceiba, Danlí, Tocoa, Comayagua, and Ocotepeque.
- As of 2021, the Inter-Institutional Commission for the Protection of Persons Internally Displaced by Violence (CIPPDV) has implemented the **“Specialized Course on Internal Displacement by Violence.”** This is an online training developed by the Human Rights Secretariat with the support of UNHCR, which is available on the SEDH learning platform. The objective of the course is to improve knowledge and strengthen the protection capacities of public officials on internal displacement. The first cohort graduated in the first quarter of 2022 and contributed to strengthening the capacities of the representatives of the institutions that make up the CIPPDV. The five modules focus on basic concepts and international standards, the situation of internal displacement in Honduras, protection, the application of differentiated response approaches, and durable solutions. Established as a permanently available training, the course will contribute to improving the capacities of the key actors of central government institutions and local governments that have specific roles and responsibilities in the protection of internally displaced persons, to ensure a common conceptual and regulatory framework to inform the design of public sector response policies.
- The **Draft Law for the Prevention, Attention, and Protection of Forcibly Displaced Persons**, was delivered to members of the National Congress of Honduras, for their discussion and approval. The bill is consistent with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and with international standards. Likewise, it includes the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur for the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, defined in the Report of his official visit to Honduras in July 2016, and lessons learned from other countries. This bill is comprehensive to the extent that it defines the national structure for the response to displacement, assigning roles and responsibilities, both at the national and local levels. It also defines the design and establishment of specific protection measures for the most affected persons, promotes the protection of assets abandoned as a result of violence, and creates an Early Warning System for the prevention and protection of displacement.
- The National Institute of Migration (INM), through the Human Rights and Migrant Care Management, in the delegations of Danlí, Trojes, and Choluteca, is working to organize and care for a large number of people in mixed movements who enter the country,

providing them with dignified treatment and efficient attention as part of immigration formalities. The INM has strengthened these delegations with Human Rights Officers who have a permanent presence and provide assistance to people in need of international protection, thus expediting asylum claims in the country.

- A national amnesty established on 4 August, which suspends an administrative penalty for those who have not regularized their status in the country, has benefited 80,056 persons, including Venezuelans, Cubans, Ecuadorians, and Haitians. Nonetheless, challenges remain to ensure that all people benefit from protection and that respect

for their rights is ensured. In turn, the Honduran State is reviewing and updating a human-centred migration policy, defining a strategic framework for the next ten years.

- The INM's technical capacities have also been strengthened to manage applications for special status, including the migratory category on humanitarian grounds and asylum claims. To ensure assistance and protection in the Municipality of Danlí, INM has established a temporary shelter for migrants and people in need of protection, providing accommodation, humanitarian assistance, and biometric registration. The shelter has dedicated spaces for families, women, men, unaccompanied children, together with play areas.



JOBS AND LIVELIHOODS

The Human Rights Secretariat, through the General Directorate for the Attention and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons (DIPPDV), has continued to manage the provision of seed capital to forcibly displaced persons, with the general objective to strengthen and create opportunities for those displaced by violence to generate economic activities and further their employability.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Association of Municipalities of Honduras (AMHON) have signed a Mutual Collaboration Agreement, with the aim of coordinating local government actions that ensure the comprehensive care, protection, and re-integration of asylum-seekers and returnees.



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HAVING IDS FACILITATES SALVADORAN FAMILY'S ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION IN NUEVO LEÓN STATE

Obtaining an official government ID has changed the life of Maria, a 30-year-old Salvadoran refugee woman, who lives with her husband and two teenage children in the state of Nuevo León.

By having the Unique Population Registry Code, better known as CURP, Maria and her husband have been able to access formal employment, with Maria working as a packaging operator in a meat processing plant, and her husband as a security guard. The CURP has also allowed their children to go to school.

“When I didn’t have the CURP, it was a bit difficult because they would ask for it everywhere, even for the children’s school, but now that I have it, it’s easier, and I don’t have to struggle,” María said.

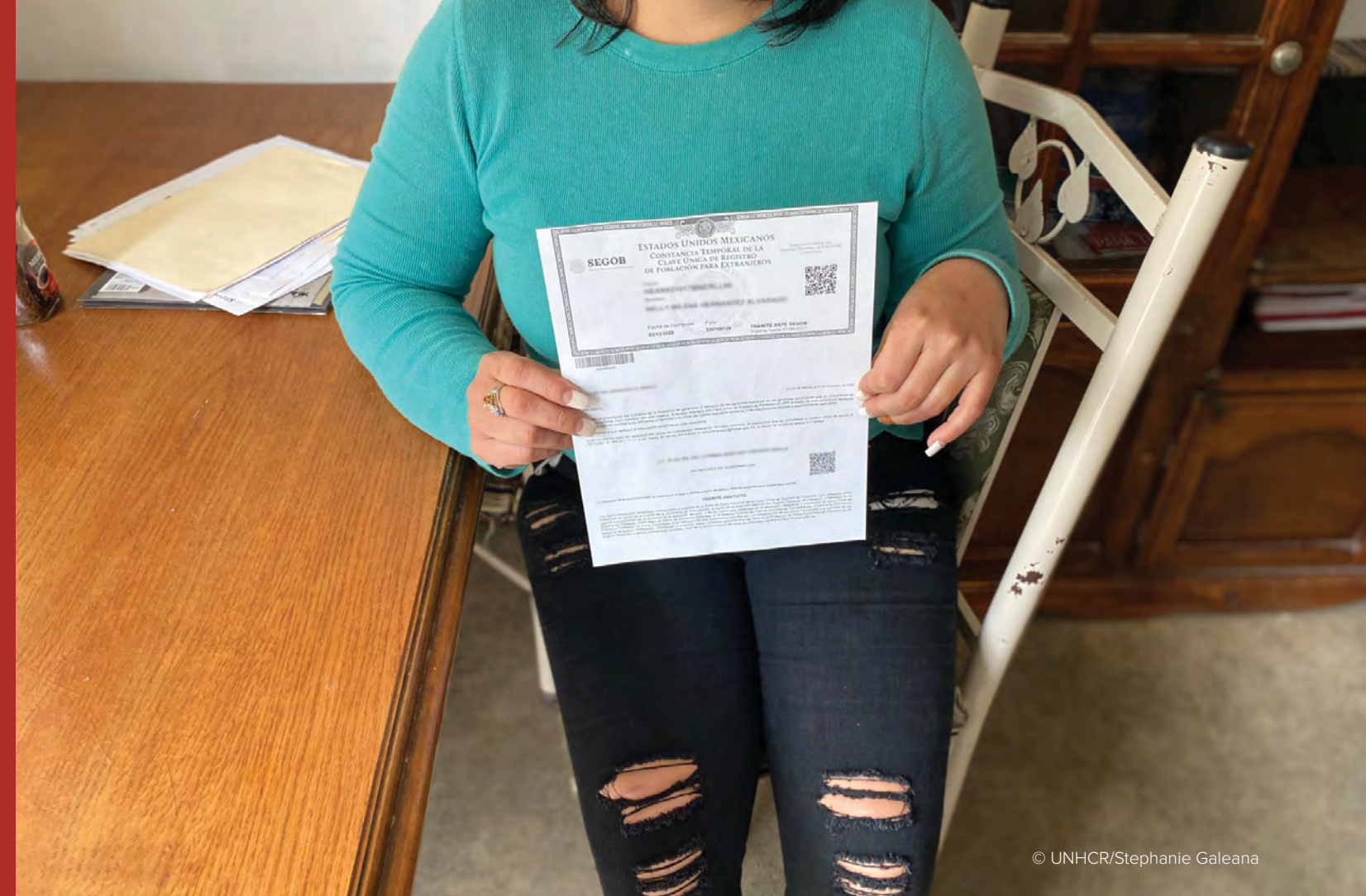
The CURP is used to individually register all persons residing in Mexico -- nationals and foreigners -- to be part of the population registry and is the key to access public programs and services.

Within the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS), the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance, the National Population Registry, and the Civil Registry of Nuevo León initiated a state-wide pilot program that allows asylum-seekers and refugees to obtain the CURP, prove their identity, and access various services such as health, education, and employment. Maria’s family was among the first beneficiaries.

Before having the CURP, Maria said her children could enroll in school but did not have access to report cards. Today, they have no obstacles, and her children are happy to go to school. The youngest, ten years old, wants to be a policeman, and the 13-year-old dreams of becoming a doctor.

“During the pandemic, they took online classes and could hardly study, but now they are in school and enjoy it very much. I see them get up early and arrange their things to go to school, and I am very pleased,” she said.

Since December 2019, more than 700 CURPs have been issued to families and individuals that are seeking asylum in Nuevo León. The scheme has been replicated in Baja California and is expected to come into effect in the states of Mexico, Querétaro, Chiapas, Tabasco, Veracruz, Oaxaca, Puebla, and Coahuila.



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“During the pandemic, they took online classes and could hardly study, but now they are in school and enjoy it very much. I see them get up early and arrange their things to go to school, and I am very pleased.”

NATIONAL CONTEXT

In recent years, Mexico has received increasingly complex mixed flows of migrants and asylum-seekers from the region and beyond. In 2021, it became the third highest country worldwide receiving new asylum claims. Mexico (through the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) has participated in the MIRPS since 2017 and has sought to implement a series of commitments for the design of protection models and solutions for asylum-seekers, refugees, and internally displaced persons, strengthening their self-reliance while also supporting host communities. The commitments made in the MIRPS process are complemented by a series of pledges made during the 2019 Global Refugee Forum.

At the regional level, Mexico took the lead in the MIRPS process, assuming the first Pro-tempore Presidency in 2019. At the national level, Mexico

designed the Inter-Institutional Table on Refugee and Complementary Protection, chaired by the Undersecretary for Human Rights, Population, and Migration of the Secretariat of the Interior, which provides a political forum to validate the proposals made by four MIRPS technical working groups focused on access to education (chaired by the Ministry of Education), access to health (Ministry of Health), employment (Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare), as well as documentation and identity (National Population Registry-RENAPO). At the federal level, the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMAR), supported by UNHCR, plays an important supporting role as the Technical Secretariat of the roundtables. Since 2020, COMAR has expanded the MIRPS work groups to the local level, with the aim of creating a favourable environment for inclusion and integration in the main urban environments.

In recent years, Mexico has received increasingly complex mixed flows of migrants and asylum-seekers from the region and beyond.

INDICATORS

47

Number of refugees and asylum-seekers benefiting from departures from Migration Stations

86,000

Number of asylum-seekers who have a temporary CURP

859

Number of unaccompanied children and adolescents seeking asylum referred by COMAR to child protection authorities

1,629

Number of persons channelled by COMAR to public health services

26,328

Number of refugees and asylum-seekers who benefited from the Local Integration Programme

50

Number of refugees and asylum-seekers supported through the National Institute for Adult Education (INEA) programme

PROGRESS



COORDINATION

Consolidation of the interinstitutional group on asylum and complementary protection. The Inter-institutional Group on Asylum and Complementary Protection has held specialized sessions, through the thematic roundtables on health, education, identity documentation and inclusion in the labour market for asylum-seekers. This forum facilitates coordination between the different Secretariats or competent authorities and the Ministry of the Interior, UN agencies, and civil society organizations.



PROTECTION

Issuance of documents from the population registry for asylum-seekers and refugees. The National Population Registry (RENAPO) has issued 357,000 Unique Population Registry Number (CURP) to asylum-seekers since June 2018, facilitating their access to public services and integration. RENAPO has also installed registration modules that issue temporary CURP.

Improving the efficiency of registration and processing of cases. COMAR has strengthened registration procedures, through the adoption of tools to simplify the management of asylum claims. This has been realized with the support of the UNHCR Quality Asylum Initiative, which facilitates the “triage” of cases. At the same time, adjustments have been made to the Refugee Information System (SIRE), to ensure more agile attention in situ in each of the COMAR Representation Offices. Additionally, the consolidation of the archive units through a process of digitization is underway, to ensure effective follow up of cases through the different branches of COMAR. Similarly, the SIRE platform also seeks to expedite the exchange of information between COMAR and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the prevailing circumstances in each applicant’s country of origin, to streamline the processing of claims.

Increase in the protection of children and adolescents in the context of human mobility.

In January 2021, legal reforms regarding children on the move came into force, which contribute to strengthening the child protection system, preventing children and adolescents from remaining in migration stations or in any other detention centre, to ensure that their best interests are prioritized. COMAR is also part of the National Programme for the Protection of Children and Adolescents (PRONAPINNA), to strengthen care strategies for children and adolescents in a situation of mobility and in need of international protection, which has strengthened communication with the Offices for the Protection of Girls, Boys, and Adolescents at the state and federal levels, to ensure the accompaniment of children and adolescents from the beginning of their asylum claims.

Progress in the protection of internally displaced people.

With the cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Interior (SEGOB), the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons made an official visit to Mexico from August 29 to September 9, to assess the situation of the human rights of internally displaced persons in the country. Its preliminary observations are already available, and its final recommendations will be available in June 2023.

The General Law on Forced Internal Displacement remains under review by the Senate. Parallel to the approval of this regulatory framework, the Migration Policy, Registry, and Identity Unit of the Ministry of the Interior, together with UNHCR, prepared a report entitled “Analysis of the regulatory framework and public policy

in Mexico at the federal level for the comprehensive care and protection of people in a situation of internal forced displacement,” which seeks to identify prevailing legislation and public policies that can inform operational responses, pending the approval of the law.

The National Human Rights Programme 2020-2024 (PNDH) has included specific actions on Internal Forced Displacement, particularly on prevention, risk analysis, information management, awareness-raising, and training for public servants, among others. The Migration Policy, Registration, and Identity Unit (UPMRIP) created a microsite in which it publishes national progress on internal displacement. In 2022, it produced two publications that define a process to develop a response framework. In addition, it invited federal authorities to develop a legislative framework in alignment with national and international standards. The Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation (SCJN), with the support of UNHCR and the ICRC, issued the Manual on Internal Displacement in June 2022, which offers key guidelines to guide the Federal Judiciary in resolving cases of internal displacement.

Within the framework of the PNDH, the Coordination for the Comprehensive Care of Migration on the Southern Border (CAIMFS), together with the COMAR, have carried out awareness-raising activities, including the launch of the book “Forced Internal Displacement in Mexico: from recognition to challenges,” which contains 20 articles written by experts in the field, academics, civil society organizations, international organizations, and public servants from different levels of government.

The National Population Registry (RENAPO) has issued 357,000 Unique Population Registry Numbers (CURP) to asylum-seekers since June 2018.

Aiming to promote the regulatory framework on internal displacement, these institutions have collaborated in the preparation of the draft regulations for the Displacement Law of the State of Chiapas, and in the draft Law on displacement in the State of Oaxaca, as well as in the design of the Comprehensive Care Programme for displacement in the State of Guerrero. In collaboration with UNHCR, a pilot project for the adaptation of the Local Inclusion Programme to incorporate internally displaced persons was implemented, which has facilitated the identification and care of cases, as well as the development of administrative instruments to promote their access to housing, employment, health, and education. Joint activities have also been carried out with authorities from the SEGOB Internal Policy and

Information Analysis Unit, to develop a methodology for cartographic documentation of displacement incidents, with a focus on the states of Guerrero, Chiapas, and Oaxaca, in order to have sufficient information to inform risk analyses, and design and implement prevention programmes. Additionally, a draft Protocol on Forced Displacement has been prepared, which is being shared with various federal and state authorities and is being consolidated based on local experiences. In addition, CAIMF-COMAR has provided training courses on internal displacement to public servants of the National and State System for the Integral Development of the Family, authorities of the states of Chiapas and Guerrero, as well as the Justice Centres for Women, in the southern border States.

Since 2016, more than 27,000 people recognized as refugees in southern Mexico have been relocated to the central and northern regions of the country and linked to job opportunities with 400 companies.



EDUCATION

Inclusion of asylum-seeker and refugee children in the return to school. In line with the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, the Undersecretary of Basic Education of the Ministry of Public Education (SEP), COMAR, UNHCR, and the Mexican Institute of Radio (IMER) launched the campaign “All children to school, given refugee children’s right to education,” which sought to raise awareness on the importance of schools ensuring the admission of school-aged refugee children in Mexico, highlighting the regulations that dictate the inclusion of children and adolescents regardless of their migratory status.



JOBS AND LIVELIHOODS

Labour integration and relocation programme. Since 2016, more than 27,000 people recognized as refugees in the south of the country have been relocated to the central and northern regions, including the cities of Saltillo, Guadalajara, and Monterrey, who have been linked to job opportunities with 400 companies, and provided with access to public education and psychosocial support, which has enabled thousands of families to enjoy livelihood opportunities, and ensure their self-sufficiency and integration.

Training of 700 private sector representatives on labour inclusion. Together with the National Employment Service, COMAR, INM and UNHCR trained more than 700 representatives of private sector companies on the required documentation, while sharing good practices for the inclusion of refugees and people on the move in the Mexican labour market.

Training of
700
private sector
representatives
on labour
inclusion

EMPLOYABILITY PROGRAM STRENGTHENS SKILLS OF REFUGEES IN PANAMA

From the first day Delsy arrived in Panama, she began practicing her talent: the art of sewing. She was an art education teacher in Colombia and had her own handmade pajamas business. After fleeing her country, she found herself in Panama with no choice but to rely on herself to keep going.

The first few months were tough for Delsy. Without access to a decent job that could give her stability, Delsy explained, “The difference is huge when you work without documentation, as you don’t have the rights that a (formal) worker has.”

To improve her customer service skills, Delsy became part of *Talento Sin Fronteras* (Talent Without Borders), an employability program for refugees developed by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, ManpowerGroup, and HIAS. The program seeks to enhance the skills and abilities of refugees and Panamanians in vulnerable conditions, creating opportunities to improve their living conditions through decent work. Given the program’s potential, *Talento Sin Fronteras* was included in the resilience strategy of the Municipality of Panama.

“They taught us that the first thing to do when the client arrives is to ask his or her name, smile, and welcome him or her,” says Delsy, who immediately applied what she learned in her day-to-day life. “What I learned worked for me, as they started complimenting my boss because I was serving them so well.”

Since 2018, more than 500 refugees and Panamanians have been trained by program partners to develop the tools and skills necessary for an impactful job application, aligned with the current labor reality.

In addition to working with refugees, *Talento Sin Fronteras* has sensitized 45 companies in the country, some of which have provided the opportunity for some of its participants to do internships in those companies.

“I hope that many refugees can take advantage of *Talento Sin Fronteras* because it is a program that helps us grow,” says Delsy with a smile.

“I hope that many refugees can take advantage of *Talento Sin Fronteras*, because it is a program that helps us grow.”

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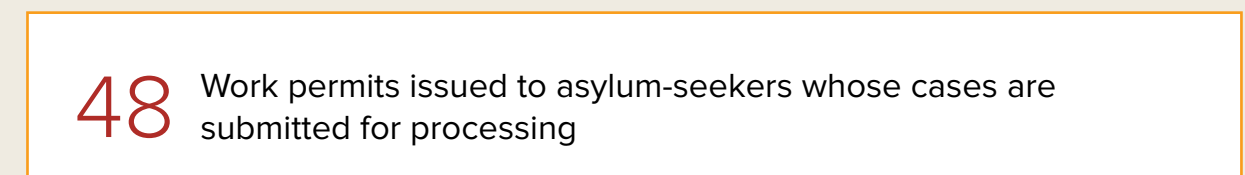
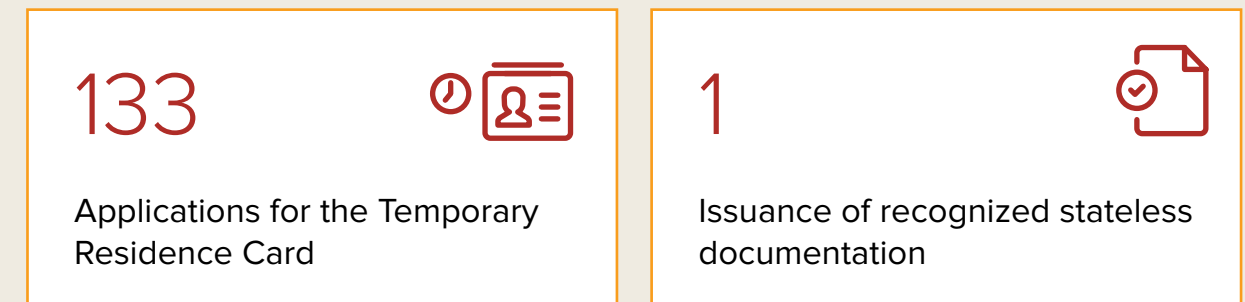
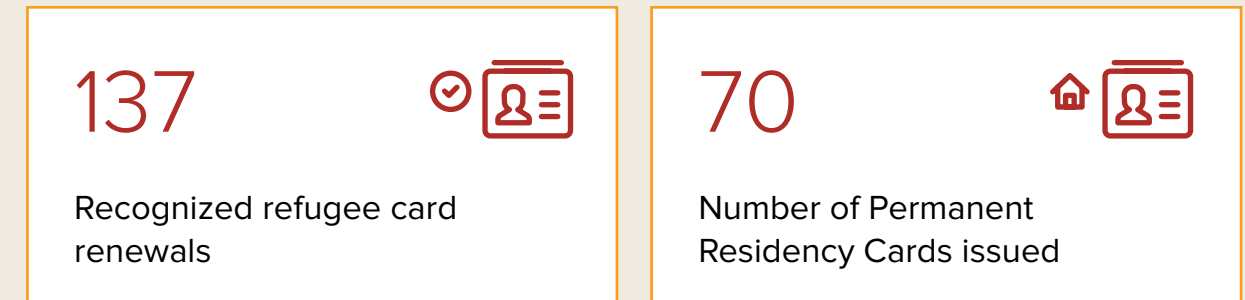
NATIONAL CONTEXT

The Republic of Panama is currently home to approximately 12,027 people in need of international protection, with 2,573 refugees and 9,449 asylum-seekers, predominantly from Colombia, El Salvador, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, who reside mainly in the metropolitan area of Panama City. In addition to being a country that receives people forced to flee, Panama is also a transit country for thousands of people from Venezuela, Haiti, Cuba, Africa, and South Asia who cross the Darien Gap on their way north, in search of new opportunities, family reunification, or protection. In recent years, the Darien has become one of the most significant and risky transit points in the region.

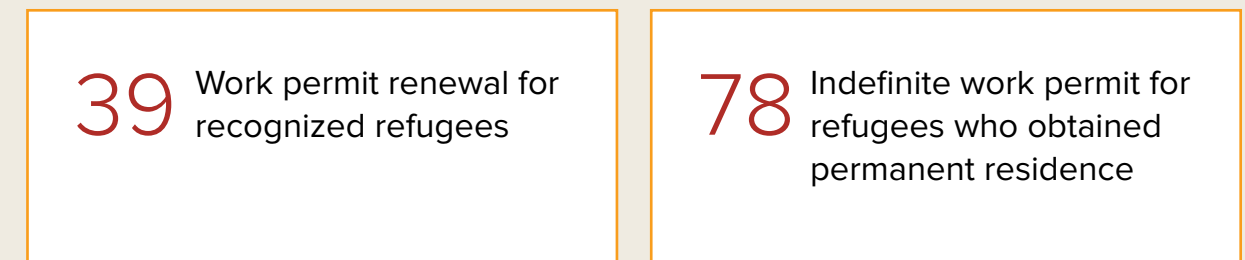
In 2021, approximately 133,726 people entered the country irregularly through this border, a record number of people in mixed movements heading towards the north of the continent. According to the National Migration Service, in the first ten months of 2022, more than 211,355 people crossed the Darien Gap, a considerable increase compared to 2021, with between 1,000-3,000 arrivals per day. In 2022, the most common nationality of those who have transited is Venezuelan. The majority of the people who claim asylum in Panama enter the country by air, and the most common nationality of asylum-seekers in 2022 was Colombian.

INDICATORS (AS OF SEPTEMBER 2022)

NUMBER OF ASYLUM-SEEKERS AND RECOGNIZED REFUGEES WHO RECEIVED AN OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENT DURING THE YEAR 2022



NUMBER OF PERSONS SUBMITTING ASYLUM CLAIMS, AND RECOGNIZED REFUGEES WHO HAVE APPLIED FOR OR RENEWED A WORK PERMIT DURING 2022



PROGRESS



PROTECTION

Greater technical capacity of government officials in international protection. In 2021 and 2022, more than 900 public security officials (from the National Police, National Border Service, and National Aeronaval Service), the Ombudsman's Office, the National Women's Institute, CONARE, ONPAR, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) participated in a training on international protection and the recognition of statelessness. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs continues to implement the commitments agreed at a high-level meeting that led to the creation of an inter-institutional mechanism to facilitate the coordination and implementation of the executive decree approving the statelessness procedure. With this progress, other relevant authorities have become aware of their responsibilities within this legal framework.

Expansion of ONPAR's presence in critical border areas, to respond to the needs of people entering the country as part of mixed movements through the Darien Gap. This investment has made it easier to process persons requesting international protection in Panama and identify others who otherwise would not have done so, without receiving essential information on the asylum process in the country. In coordination with the Civil Registry, the National Migration Service, and the Ombudsman's Office, the registration of 90 new-borns was carried out in the Province of Darien in 2022. This is an important achievement to reduce the risk of statelessness in the future, as it ensures that their birth registration recognizes them as nationals of the Panamanian State given their birth in the territory.



LOCAL INTEGRATION

The participation of asylum-seekers and refugees in public consultations. Last year, asylum-seekers and refugees participated in a national consultation for the creation of inclusive public policies aimed at closing economic, social, educational and health gaps, called the "Bicentennial Pact." Asylum-seekers and refugees submitted 14 recommendations as their contribution to this initiative.

Participation in activities coordinated by local governments. Through an agreement with the Municipality of La Chorrera, asylum-seekers and refugees were included in gender-based violence prevention programmes, not only as beneficiaries, but also as co-creators, empowered to provide support and advice to others in the community. Additionally, spaces for peaceful coexistence were encouraged through sports training focused on the integration and protection of more than 200 boys and girls, through an innovative socio-emotional education programme, implemented by the local education authorities, in collaboration with Fútbol con Corazón.

Asylum-seekers and refugees participated in a national consultation for creating inclusive public policies and presented 14 recommendations for the initiative.



JOBS AND LIVELIHOODS

Effective interventions and durable solutions supported refugees in their inclusion into local markets through employability and entrepreneurship. The implementation of the blended (in-person and remote) employability programme “Talent without Borders,” in partnership with ManpowerGroup and HIAS, continued to strengthen the capacities and skills of people recognized as refugees, promoting their access to the formal labour market, and facilitating their integration in the country. Additionally, together with the City of Knowledge Foundation, a new livelihoods programme called *Emprendiendo Juntos* was launched, which aims to help refugees and asylum-seekers to recover from the socio-economic impact of the pandemic. Promoting innovative approaches for the inclusion of economic ventures undertaken by refugees, these programmes facilitate the integration of the refugee population into the economic and social life of Panama, promoting their self-sufficiency, collaboration, and access to productive resources.

Access to professional training for refugees. The National Institute of Professional Training and Training for Human Development (INADEH) has formally enabled refugees to access its professional training programmes, which used to be available only to Panamanian citizens and foreigners with more than 10 years of residence in the country.

The employability program, ‘Talent Without Borders,’ strengthens the capacities and skills of refugees, promoting their access to the formal labour market and facilitating their integration in the country.



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MIRPS | Comprehensive Regional
Protection and Solutions Framework

THE MIRPS SUPPORT PLATFORM

Three years after its launch on the sidelines of the Global Refugee Forum in 2019, the MIRPS Support Platform stands as an efficient mechanism for bolstering the efforts of the MIRPS countries in offering protection and solutions to forced displacement in Central America and Mexico. In line with the Global Compact on Refugees, the MIRPS Support Platform continues to leverage support from a broad range of actors to promote greater responsibility-sharing.

Support Platform Members currently include Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, the European Union (EU), France, Spain, Switzerland, Uruguay, the United States of America, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank Group, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the Organization of American States (OAS). The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) acts as the Secretariat for the Platform.

MEMBERS OF THE MIRPS SUPPORT PLATFORM



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Canada assumed the role of Chair of the Support Platform in July 2021, following the inaugural Chair, Spain. The ‘International Solidarity Event to Strengthen the Protection and Promote Solutions for Forcibly Displaced Persons and Host Communities in Central America and Mexico,’ in September 2022 marked the culmination of Canada’s tenure and its handover to the United States of America as the incoming Chair.

Canada centred its work as Chair of the Support Platform on the theme **‘Protection and Empowerment of Women and Girls on the Move in Central America and Mexico,’** seeking to draw attention to the protection needs of forcibly displaced women, girls, and LGBTIQ+ individuals who have been placed in vulnerable situations. Canada focused on three main objectives during its tenure as Chair of the MIRPS Support Platform, which in turn promoted the Support Platform’s main objectives as a regional application of the Global Compact on Refugees.

Objective 1: Galvanize political, financial, technical, and material commitments toward the fulfillment of the humanitarian and development needs identified by the MIRPS countries.

Canada generated spaces and dialogues for MIRPS countries and MIRPS Support Platform members to work collaboratively and exchange best practices and expertise. From March to June 2022, **five Technical Workshops** brought together the MIRPS States and MIRPS Support Platform members to facilitate the exchange of best practices on reception and admission, internal displacement, vocational training and labour market participation, local governance, and private sector partnerships. The Technical Workshops resulted in the provision of technical support between MIRPS and MIRPS Support Platform members to advance elements of the MIRPS National Action Plans, including through the MIRPS Working Groups.

The **‘Regional Twinning Meeting on Strengthening Asylum Systems in Panama’** in May 2022 reinforced collaboration between MIRPS countries, reflecting examples of shared responsibility in the region. As a result, collaboration efforts were undertaken throughout the year including field visits and in-person and virtual regional workshops. ([For more information, refer to the section on the Working Group on Reception, Admission, and Processing of Persons in Need of International Protection](#)).

In May 2022, the **‘Signature Event on Resettlement, Complementary Pathways, and Integration,’** brought together the MIRPS Support Platform, the MIRPS States, and other strategic actors to share good practices and lessons learned with regards to resettlement policy and processing, complementary pathways of admission, as well as integration policies and practices. Over three days, 112 participants attended 8 expert panels featuring 41 experts. Participants also underscored the critical need for the international community to expand access to protection for people from Central America and Mexico. The event also laid the groundwork for the organization of a technical workshop in June 2022, where Canadian-based companies, Canadian Chambers of Commerce, and business associations with presence and operations in Central America and Mexico launched discussions around the opportunities to encourage other companies to implement their own inclusive hiring practices or initiatives for refugees and forcibly displaced persons.

The **‘International Solidarity Event to Strengthen Protection and Promote Solutions for Forcibly Displaced Persons and Host Communities in Central America and Mexico,’** co-hosted by Canada and the United States in collaboration with Honduras was held

in New York in September 2022 on the margins of the UN General Assembly. The event generated USD 210M in financial commitments as broad expressions of solidarity and support for operational responses in the region from a range of partners, as well as commitments for other forms of technical and political support

in the region. A wide range of actors, including the MIRPS and MIRPS Support Platform Member States, international financial institutions, private sector representatives, academia, the MIRPS Regional Mechanism for Civil Society, UN agencies, and the ICRC attended the event.

Objective 2: Increase international visibility of MIRPS, and engagement in support of MIRPS from a wider range of actors.

Multiple high-level events increased the international visibility of the MIRPS, beginning with the virtual **‘High-Level Event on Protection and Empowerment of Displaced Women and Girls from Central America and Mexico’** in December 2021, co-hosted by Canada and Honduras. The Platform joined the UN Refugee Agency’s 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, to draw attention to the international protection needs and the importance of empowering refugee women and girls in the region, as well as the need to protect the human rights of migrant women, girls, and LGBTIQ+ individuals in vulnerable situations, and to mobilize the international community to expand support for these regional efforts. At this event, Canada announced a commitment of CAD 10M over the next four years, to work with the IOM and UNHCR to assist women and girls affected by irregular migration and forced displacement in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador.

Canada sought to substantively engage Support Platform members throughout its tenure, while also broadening the base of support by engaging with new actors. At the ‘International Solidarity Event’ in September 2022, the Support Platform welcomed the World Bank as a new Member. Membership by the World Bank and IDB, as well as the engagement of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), represents a significant opportunity to continue increasing the MIRPS’ collaboration with international financial institutions, with a view to aligning poverty reduction and economic development agendas, linking investments in support of displaced people and host communities, and facilitating the creation of durable solutions.

As a result of outreach to the private sector, Palliser Furniture and the Tent Foundation attended the Solidarity Event. Twelve businesses and private sector actors also endorsed a

joint statement that recognized the pivotal role of the private sector in contributing to solutions for displaced populations and committed to exploring ways to enhance economic and training

opportunities, livelihoods and self-reliance of refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees, and other forcibly displaced populations in the region.

Objective 3: Reinforce the Support Platform as an effective mechanism to mobilize comprehensive responses to the regional situation of forced displacement.

As the second Chair of the MIRPS Support Platform, Canada built upon the progress made by Spain as the inaugural Chair, by continuing to strengthen the governance of the MIRPS Support Platform. Canada introduced the Troika Model of Leadership, formalizing the roles of the Chair-in-Office, Past Chair, and Future Chair, with a view to supporting the Platform's sustainability and enhancing its governance.

Throughout its tenure, Canada sought to focus on practical and technical activities, such as roundtables and technical workshops, as well as the exchange of ideas and best practices between MIRPS countries and Support Platform members.

NEXT STEPS

In the course of 2022, the MIRPS Support Platform, together with the MIRPS States made significant progress in adopting an inclusive, whole-of-society approach, bringing together governments, civil society, academia, the private sector, and refugees and displaced persons, and remains a successful example of regional collaboration in support of the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees.

Since assuming the role of Chair of the Support Platform in September 2022, the United States has set out to work with Panama, as the incoming Pro-tempore Presidency, to align the workplans of the MIRPS and MIRPS Support Platforms, to provide concrete support to the MIRPS countries in the implementation of their National Action Plans and regional efforts to offer protection and seek solutions for forcibly displaced populations in Central America and Mexico.



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MIRPS

**Comprehensive
Regional
Protection and
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MIRPS 2022

Annual Report of the Comprehensive
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**Comprehensive
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