

APPLYING THE COMPREHENSIVE REFUGEE RESPONSE (CRRF) IN NORTH & CENTRAL AMERICA

December 2018

Woman bakes in a community centre supported by UNHCR in a high risk area in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. © UNHCR/Tito Herrera

I. THE MIRPS

Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama adopted the **San Pedro Sula Declaration** in 2017, agreeing to work together in the implementation of a **Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework** (MIRPS in its acronym in Spanish). The MIRPS is a pioneering initiative in the application of the CRRF and a concrete contribution to the Global Compact on Refugees, which fosters regional cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination for greater responsibility sharing on prevention, protection and solutions. It also provides for an inclusive approach as it involves the constant participation of regional and international organizations, 10 cooperating States and entities, asylum-seekers, refugees, internally displaced persons, deportees with protection needs, as well as populations affected by violence and insecurity.



II. IMPACT INDICATORS BETWEEN 1 AND 30 NOVEMBER 2018



III. WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

- As part of the commitments made by the **Organization of American States (OAS)** in providing a follow-up mechanism for the MIRPS, the first annual follow-up meeting was held on 8 November 2018 at their headquarters to exchange best practices among participating states. As a result, MIRPS states have endorsed their first [annual report](#), thus establishing their priorities for 2019 and formally recognizing the Friends of the MIRPS as their Support Platform, as envisaged by the Global Compact.
- The involvement of the **Central American Integration System (SICA)** has been key in the capacity-building of national institutions, support for regional policies and greater operational cooperation. In this regard, and under the leadership of the SICA as follow-up to the MIRPS, the refugee commissions from Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic and Panama [met](#) to exchange experiences and concerns on issues around asylum and displacement across the region. These spaces allow States to foster their empowerment in complying with their international commitments towards refugees and asylum-seekers.
- The **Central American Council of Ombudspersons** held its [second field mission](#) of the year along the southern migration route (Costa Rica and Panama) to monitor and learn of the protection challenges faced by hundreds of refugees and migrants on the move. Based on key findings from both missions, the CCPDH (for its acronym in Spanish) agreed upon a [Resolution](#) that highlights key recommendations to states in support of their protection efforts along migration routes. Among key recommendations, the CCPDH highlighted the need to create or revise comprehensive state policies for the protection of refugees with specific vulnerabilities – e.g. children, adolescents, women, survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, and LGBTI persons.
- The **UN Development System (UNSDG-LAC)** through a comprehensive Joint Initiative endorsed by the UNSG as an innovative application of the New Way of Working, has continued to address the violence as the root cause of forced displacement in the North of Central America. In order to provide key recommendations that inform humanitarian and development-oriented interventions, the UNSDG-LAC has managed to develop a common and multi-dimensional indicator to measure violence. This joint initiative has allowed Resident Coordinators to map existing UN initiatives across the region that seek to reduce violence, an exercise which was finalized this month. A total of 75 initiatives have been identified and the UNSDG-LAC continues to work on adjusting interventions to avoid overlaps, maximize the resources and prioritize adjustments within the framework of UNDAFs and Country Programme Documents.
- The regional protection working group RED LAC, led by NRC and UNHCR, is currently taking the lead in the analysis of violence and protection risks across the North of Central America. Having published their [first report](#) and with two more underway, the RED LAC, as part of their MIRPS commitments, seeks to give visibility to the situation in the sub-region, coordinate better responses at the regional and sub-regional levels and to provide a tool to monitor the level of violence as a root cause of forced displacement.
- In the past month, Brazil and Argentina have confirmed their interest in supporting the **Protection Transfer Agreement (PTA)**, joining Australia, Canada, the United States of America and Uruguay. To the [end of October](#), 899 individual cases have been submitted, of whom 288 have already been resettled through the PTA.
- The **CLAMOR Network**, a group of parishes with presence from Honduras to Mexico, has been essential in facilitating immediate assistance to persons in need of protection through its shelters along the region. To date, 65 [safe spaces](#) across the region have been supported through the MIRPS, while plans are underway to enhance the number of shelters available to refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants on the move.

IV. PRIORITIES FOR JANUARY 2019

- As agreed during the first annual follow-up meeting, MIRPS states will establish a rotational presidency in order to mobilize in a more predictable and self-sufficient manner the priorities identified among themselves. The first presidency term will be selected in January 2019, that will allow MIRPS countries to develop programmes that foster regional cooperation and generate support for the implementation of regional plans.