

COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL PROTECTION & SOLUTIONS FRAMEWORK



Four strategic pillars

ONE

Reception & Admission

Strengthen the capacity to **identify, refer** and **document** people with protection needs.

TWO

Immediate & persistent needs

Provide humanitarian **assistance, legal orientation** and **integration** services for refugees, displaced people, returnees and people in transit.

THREE

Support to host countries & communities

Strengthen the **institutional response** and **coordination** with local authorities, the civil society and private sector in host areas to promote social **inclusion** and socioeconomic **participation**.

FOUR

Enhance opportunities of durable solutions

Promote **public policies** specifically for refugees, displaced people and returnees, while integrating them to existing programmes that encourage their **self-reliance**.



COVID19 RESPONSE

In light of the spread of Coronavirus in Central America and Mexico, MIRPS countries adapted their responses to refugees to address the crisis. Among best practices are:



Guaranteed medical assistance to people of concern under the same conditions as nationals.



Availability of **call centers** to receive consultations and manage appointments.



Extension of asylum seeker **cards** and **work permits**.



Reception of requests for new permits, certifications and travel documents via **e-mail**.



Suspension of deadlines to present a recourse or report incidents.



Refugees maintain their migratory **status** when returning to the country.



Inclusion of people of concern within **social assistance initiatives**.



Coordination with shelters to guarantee **continuity of services and assistance**.

BELIZE



Development of a standard procedure to identify and refer asylum seekers. This procedure is expected to be operational within relevant ministries and departments.



Expansion of the community volunteer network that supports the identification of needs and the promotion of solutions within host communities. The volunteers are equipped with the relevant information to provide a bridge between asylum seekers and service providers.



The Human Rights Commission of Belize joined the MIRPS, and assumed the responsibility of **providing legal services to asylum seekers**. In the effort to provide One-Stop-Shop access to services, the Commission is sharing premises with the local NGO Help for Progress.

COSTA RICA



Inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers with serious health conditions and in a vulnerable economic situation within the **national health system**. A total of **1,136 people now have medical insurance provided by the Costa Rican Social Security System**, which is expected to increase to 6,000 by the end of the year.

EL SALVADOR



Approval of a Special Law for the Comprehensive Response to Internal Forced Displacement. With this Law, a National Comprehensive Attention and Protection System has been created, taking into account the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.



Commencement of the Pro-tempore Presidency period and development of the annual national plan. During 2020, El Salvador will **lead political dialogue and facilitate dialogue between MIRPS countries** with regards to protection, humanitarian assistance, the asylum system, and durable solutions, while encouraging greater collaboration with the civil society, private sector and other stakeholders.

GUATEMALA



Signature of an agreement between the United Nations System, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Guatemalan Migration Institute to create a roundtable on refugee and migration issues. This will facilitate **greater coordination among institutions**.



Opening of a Peace and Solidarity Park with the aim of **promoting safe public spaces and peaceful coexistence between refugees and local communities** in San Benito, Peten. This project, planned and built with the support of UNHCR and 16 Development Community Councils (COCODES in Spanish) benefits nearly 35,000 people.

HONDURAS



Unification of training processes led by the General Directorate for the Protection of Honduran Migrants, in coordination with NRC, ICRC and UNHCR, for CAMR personnel.



Beginning of the process to **review the current Protocol for the attention of returnees with protection needs** implemented at CAMRs.

MEXICO



Presentation of the **law project on Internal Forced Displacement** afore the Deputy Chamber, to begin the drafting of the law. This will facilitate the design of public policies to prevent, assist and establish access to durable solutions for internally displaced people. Civil society organizations and the United Nations have reviewed and presented their comments in line with international standards.



Local issuance of the Unique Population Registry (**CURP** in Spanish) in the Nuevo Leon State, delivering documents to asylum seekers at the beginning of the process with COMAR. It was requested that refugees and asylum seekers be **exempt from presenting documents** required to access health, education and employment services.

PANAMA



A mission took place to **verify the documentation of recognized refugees** who reside in areas difficult to access in the Darien Province and the Guna Yala Region, to renew the documents of 150 people by the National Refugee Agency (ONPAR in Spanish) and the National Service for Migration and Civil Registration.



Participation of **asylum seeker and refugee women in the Entrepreneur Channel Programme** of the City of Knowledge Foundation, for the development of training and mentorships.

DEFINING PRIORITIES OF THE PRO TEMPORE PRESIDENCY FOR 2020

PROTECTION

Asylum systems

Create partnerships with cooperating states to provide technical assistance, particularly to establish national registration systems

Internal displacement

Creation of an expert Working Group to guide activities and actions for interested states on Internal Displacement established

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Local governments

Create partnerships to expand the number of Cities in Solidarity hosting displaced people

Private sector

Increase private sector partnerships to generate employment opportunities and facilitate integration within host communities



REGIONAL COORDINATION ON COVID19

During the second virtual meeting held in the first quarter, members of the technical teams of the seven MIRPS States met to discuss the **response to COVID19**, in line with **international standards** for the protection of internally displaced people and refugees. MIRPS countries shared the measures they were implementing to support displaced communities (see page one).

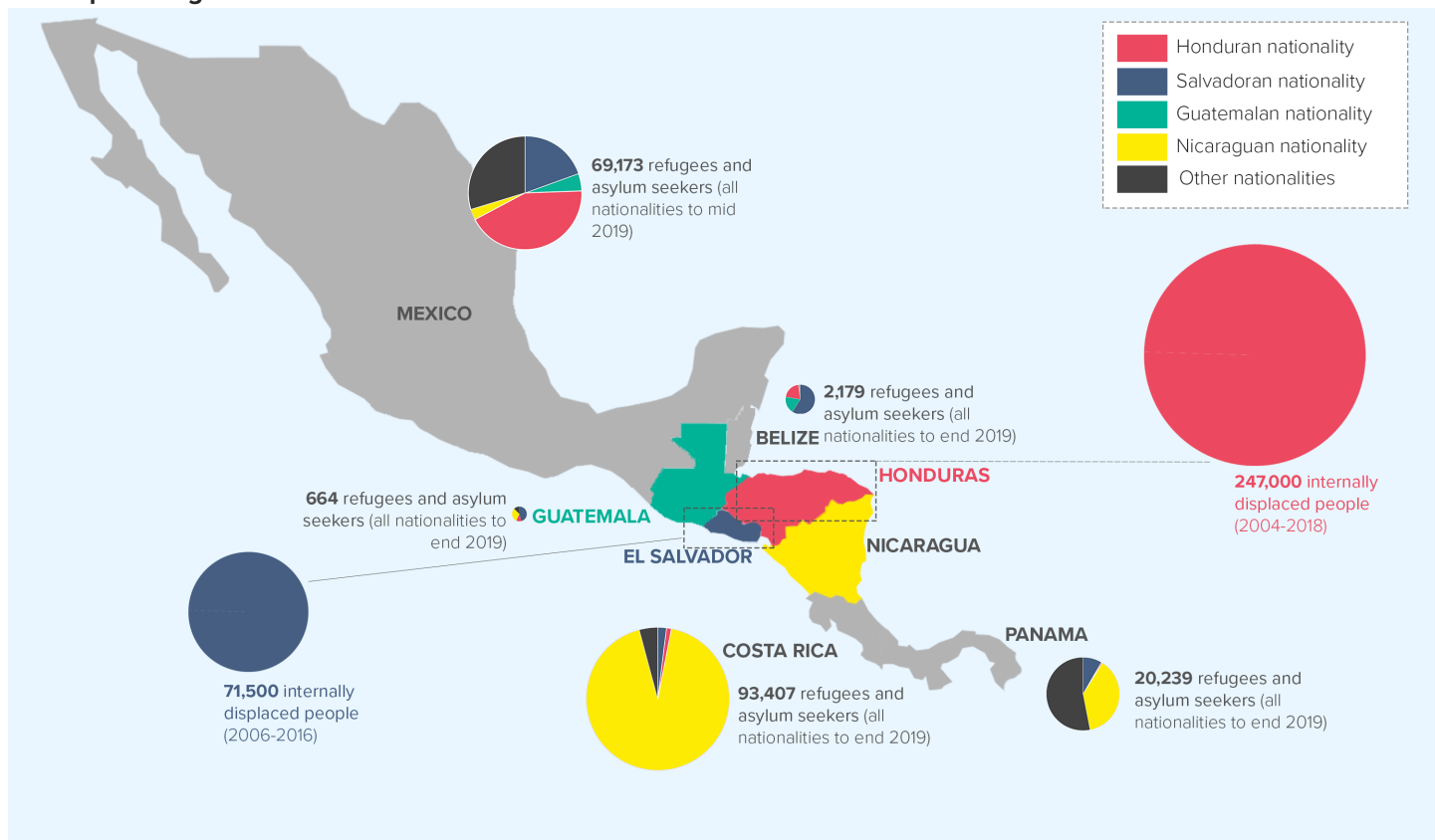
In view of the potential setbacks to the Presidency's work plan due to the pandemic, coordination modalities have been established to allow for the **implementation of priorities**, including those related to internal forced displacement, cities of solidarity and the private sector.

MIRPS AT A GLANCE

©UNHCR/Tito Herrera

Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and **Panama** adopted the **San Pedro Sula Declaration** in 2017, and agreed to jointly implement the **Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS)**. **El Salvador** joined this initiative in 2019. The MIRPS is a concrete application of the **Global Compact on Refugees**, which encourages regional cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination for a greater **responsibility sharing in matters of prevention, protection and durable solutions**.

It also entails a **participatory approach** by directly involving people with protection needs and populations impacted by violence and persecution. On the other hand, it integrates regional and international organizations, as well as cooperating States (Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Spain, Switzerland and Uruguay), which are committed to the **humanitarian and development agenda**.



*Data to end of 2019, unless stated otherwise. Data provided by Governments to UNHCR

nearly **505,000** people of concern

400,261
Refugees & asylum seekers from North of Central America worldwide

188,231
Refugees & asylum seekers in MIRPS countries

318,590
Internally displaced people in Honduras and El Salvador

+110,000
Nicaraguan refugees and asylum seekers in the world

SEVEN
member states

ONE
coordination mechanisms: Pro-tempore Presidency (El Salvador, 2020) supported by the Technical Secretariat (UNHCR-OAS)

THIRD
year of implementation

TEN
regional and international coordination mechanisms: IACHR, SICA, UNSDG LAC, ICRC, CLAMOR, RROCM, REDLAC, GREAT MIRPS, CCPDH, Red Integrase