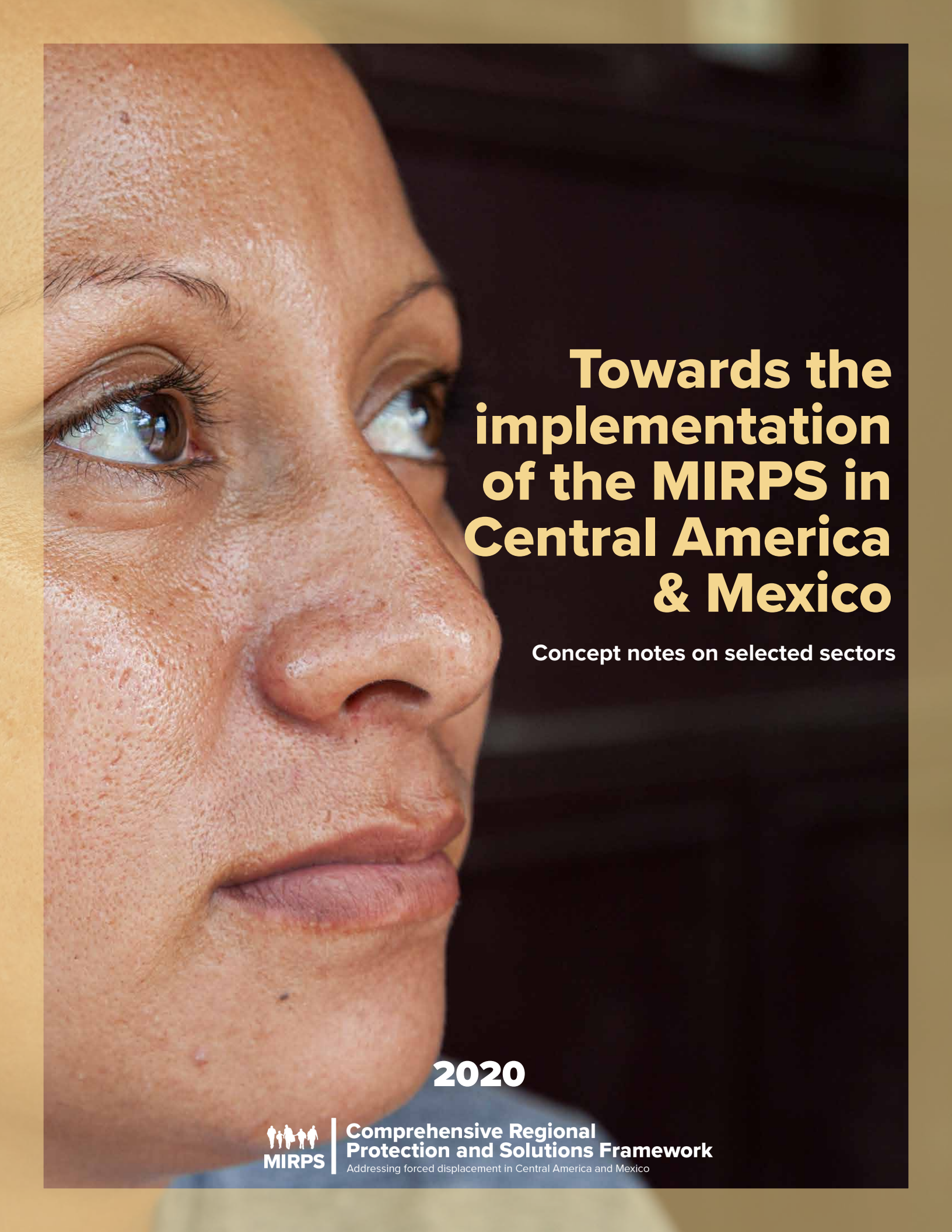




Towards the implementation of the MIRPS in Central America & Mexico

Concept notes on selected sectors

2020



**Comprehensive Regional
Protection and Solutions Framework**

Addressing forced displacement in Central America and Mexico

Context

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

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

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

Identification of resources required

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

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

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



Find out more about
the Annual Report
in the new [MIRPS
webpage](#)

Prioritized focus areas

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

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

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

Total Required Financing

\$7,042,800

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

Total Required Financing

\$1,246,358

HONDURAS

Total requirement \$3,999,725



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

Total Financing Required

\$3,999,725

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



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

National Financing

\$4,546

Financing Gap

\$39,935



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

National Financing

\$4,286

Financing Gap

\$232,208



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

National Financing

\$3,896

Financing Gap

\$61,299

BELIZE

Total requirement \$2,596,861



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

National Financing

\$0

Financing Gap

\$2,596,861

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



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

National Financing

\$1,513,561

Financing Gap

\$6,854,890



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

National Financing

\$0

Financing Gap

\$3,266,520



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

National Financing

\$143,211

Financing Gap

\$215,500

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



Voluntary temporary insurance for asylum seekers and refugees in Costa Rica

National Financing

\$0

Financing Gap

\$3,033,333



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

National Financing

\$836,397

Financing Gap

\$641,655



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

National Financing

\$2,149,613

Financing Gap

\$1,305,227

PANAMA

Total requirement \$27,960,340



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

National Financing

\$4,017,229

Financing Gap

\$23,943,111

Education

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

Social protection

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

Protection

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

Child protection

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

Health

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

Jobs and livelihoods

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



Social protection | Protección social

Costa Rica.

Persons of concern in Costa Rica

Refugees*

6,204

Asylum
seekers*

87,153

*Official data provided to UNHCR

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

Context

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

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

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

Trends in displacement

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

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

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

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

1 In its Continuous Employment Survey (ECE, by its Spanish acronym), the National Institute of Statistics and Census reported an unemployment rate of 24.4% in May, June and July 2020, which represents 557,000 unemployed people, 270,000 more people than the same period in 2019. This data compares to the study of the International Labor Organization (ILO), "Labor Overview in times of COVID-19: Impact on the labor market and income in Latin America and the Caribbean", which presents data from nine different countries in the region and shows that Costa Rica's approximate employment rate is twice than that of nine other countries of the region (11.5% for the second 2020 semester) https://www.ilo.org/americas/publicaciones/WCMS_756694/lang-es/index.htm

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

National response

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

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

The MIRPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Executive Summary

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

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

DURATION

2021

IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Social Welfare Institute (IMAS, by its Spanish acronym)

LOCATION

National

BENEFICIARIES

2,306 refugees and asylum seekers

ESTIMATED BUDGET

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

1. Social Protection Sector Context in Costa Rica

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Impact of COVID-19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Complementary initiatives

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

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

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

2. Detailed Approach

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

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

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

General Objective

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

Specific objectives

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

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

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

3. Beneficiaries

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chart 2. Refugees and Asylum Seekers Beneficiaries

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Estimated budget

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. Stakeholders

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

6. Cross-cutting themes

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

7. Risks and assumptions

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

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

8. Monitoring and evaluation

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

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

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



Annex 1: Calculation of Required Funding per Program

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

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

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

Annex available electronically:

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

Honduras.

Persons of concern in Honduras

Honduran asylum seekers in the world*

138,040

Honduran refugees in the world*

29,964

Internally displaced people in Honduras**

247,000

*Data provided to UNHCR by end of 2019

**Internal displacement profiling study 2004-2018

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

National context

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

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

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

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

Displacement trends

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

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

National response

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The MIRPS in Honduras

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

1 ceniss.gob.hn/migrantes/

2 TPS: Temporary Protected Status

3 DACA: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival

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

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

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



Executive Summary

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

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

TIMEFRAME

5 years (2021-2026)

IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

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

LOCATION

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

BENEFICIARIES

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

ESTIMATED BUDGET

Total Financing Required: \$ 3,999,725

1. Context in social protection sector in Honduras

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

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

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

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

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

Lessons learned from previous interventions

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

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

¹ Economically active population

² NiNis, World Bank 2016. UNDP Project

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

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

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

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

Complementary Initiatives

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. Detailed approach

General objective

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

Specific objective

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

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

Expected result

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

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

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

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

3. Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of this initiative are:

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

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

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

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

4. Estimated budget

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

* Amounts in USD.

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

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

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

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

5. Stakeholders

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

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

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

6. Cross-cutting themes

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

7. Risks and assumptions

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

Assumptions:

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

8. Monitoring and evaluation

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

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

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

Annex: Logical Framework and Estimated Budget

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

1.7 Develop and implement a project sustainability strategy	Strategy developed	HNL 150,000					HNL 150,000	
1.8 Development and implementation of a project legal logical framework	Legal framework executed	HNL 250,000					HNL 250,000	
1.9 Development and implementation of a project operation manual	Operation manual implemented	HNL 250,000					HNL 250,000	
1.10 Support business ventures of returnees (200 people per year, 25,000 Lps each).	Number of beneficiaries who have found work or opened a small business	HNL 5,000,000	HNL 5,000,000	HNL 5,000,000	HNL 5,000,000	HNL 5,000,000	HNL 25,000,000	SRECI
1.11 Support business ventures of asylum seekers (25 people per year, 25,000 Lps each).	Number of beneficiaries who have found work or opened a small business	HNL 625,000	HNL 625,000	HNL 625,000	HNL 625,000	HNL 625,000	HNL 3,125,000	INM
1.12 Support business ventures of refugees (50 people per year, 25,000 Lps each).		HNL 1,250,000	HNL 1,250,000	HNL 1,250,000	HNL 1,250,000	HNL 1,250,000	HNL 6,250,000	INM
1.13 Support business ventures of internally displaced persons (200 people per year, 25,000 Lps each).	Number of internally displaced persons in vulnerable conditions benefitting from education projects	HNL 5,000,000	HNL 5,000,000	HNL 5,000,000	HNL 5,000,000	HNL 5,000,000	HNL 25,000,000	SEDH
1.14 Migrants in irregular conditions in transit through national territory	Number of migrants in irregular conditions in transit assisted	HNL 4,252,500	HNL 6,123,600	HNL 7,348,320	HNL 8,817,862.50	HNL 10,581,435	HNL 37,123,717.50	INM
1.14 Recapitalizable fund for vulnerable populations	Recapitalizable fund executed		HNL 100,000	HNL 100,000	HNL 100,000	HNL 100,000	HNL 400,000	INM-SEDH-SRECI
Total Required Financing LPS		HNL 18,052,500	HNL 18,123,600	HNL 19,348,320	HNL 20,817,863	HNL 22,581,435	HNL 98,923,718	
Total Financing Required (USD)							\$3,999,725	

Panama.

People of concern in Panama

Asylum seekers in Panama*

13,563

Refugees in Panama*

2,588

*Official data provided to UNHCR to October 2020

SECTOR	DESCRIPTION	IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES	FINANCING NEEDS
 Social protection	Guarantee the extension of social protection as part of a transition towards the consolidation of social protection programs according to the needs of refugees and applicants for refugee status in the Republic of Panama.	Ministry of Government through the National Office for Refugee Care (ONPAR) Ministry of Presidency Ministry of Social Development (MIDES) The Panamanian Chamber of Social Development (CAPADESO) would accompany the process.	National Financing Financing Gap \$4,017,229 \$ 23,943,111

Context

Panama recorded a 3% economic increase at the end of 2019, showing an economic downturn of the country. Even though it is lowest figured recorded since 2010, Panama is still among the fastest growing countries in Latin America. The effects of the pandemic on economy are significant, and the views of the government point to a GDP decrease of 9% in 2020. With a population of 4.2 million inhabitants and an economy essentially dependent on services, Panama recorded a 7.1% unemployment rate and 45% informal employment rate before the pandemic. Ministry of Labour official figures estimate an unemployment rate that already surpasses 25%, which represents more than 500,000 unemployed people, reaching rates 55% in informal employment. This affects over 800,000 workers that do not have safe employment contracts, employment benefits or social protections. The most recent report of the Panamanian Ministry of Economy and Finances (MEF, by its Spanish acronym) points out that at the end of September 2020, the public debt increased to USD 36,107 million, a figure that increased by USD 6,275 million in only seven months of the pandemic. MEF projections for this year coincide with the those of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). A slow recovery is expected from 2021 onward, but this process is estimated to take 3 years.

The impact of the pandemic is aggravating poverty and inequality levels, mainly in vulnerable populations. According to the multidimensional poverty approach adopted by Panama

in the Sustainable Development Objectives framework, in 2018, 19% of the population, and 32.8% of minors nationally, experienced multidimensional poverty. In turn, the Gini index (an indicator used to measure inequality) showed that Panama is the third most unequal country in Latin America as of 2019 because of strong territorial inequality, among others factors.

This high level of inequality can be explained by social spending, which Panama has kept around 9% of its GDP, three points below the Latin American average, according to data published by the Inter-American Development Bank. At the start of the pandemic, Panama adopted measures to alleviate economic and social consequences, paying special attention to the most vulnerable population. These measures include postponing, temporarily reducing or cancelling tax payments and mortgages; forgiving interest, late fees and fines; and fixing prices of essential products in order to avoid shortage. As part of the measures to assist the most vulnerable population, the Government has implemented a relief social assistance plan (Panamá Solidario Plan) for people affected by measures imposed by the government to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Displacement trends

Panama is the home of nearly 17,000 refugees and applicants for refugee status. The refugee population is mainly made up by persons from Colombia, El Salvador, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela. Especially in the last two years, refugee status applications from Venezuela, and particularly from Nicaragua, have increased exponentially, which has intensified the needs of this target population. In 2020, 622 new applications were received by October, a decrease of more than 90% when compared to the same period in 2019. This is the result of multiple factors, such as border closures due to the health crisis and the fact that the majority of refugees and applicants for refugee status enter through airports.

At the same time, based on National Migration Service statistics, mixed groups entering through Darién (the border with Colombia) increased in 2019 (more than 23,000 people), with small numbers applying for international protection in Panama, and the majority traveling to the north of Panama. So far this year, a total of 2,531 people is stranded in Panama due to COVID-19 and border closures; of this group, 24 have applied for recognition of refugee status in Panama, and the majority is in transit.

While many people are experiencing more vulnerability and need due to COVID-19, the pandemic has brought about socioeconomic consequences that have greatly impacted refugees and applicants for refugee status in Panama, as they have lost their means to earn income (on both the formal and informal labor market). Additionally, there is higher risk of eviction and increased public services cuts, despite legal mechanisms that attempt to prevent them, which increases levels of anxiety, stress and depression. As a consequence, civil society, through assistance programs supported by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), has confirmed a sharp increase in requests for assistance of approximately 80%, including in populations that had achieved financial independence and stability prior to the pandemic. Likewise, ONPAR estimated an approximately 30% population coverage through the program Panamá Solidario, which delivers food bags and cash allowances.

National response

According to Articles 2 and 4 of Executive Decree No. 400 of March 27th, 2020, put forth by the Ministry of Presidency, the Panamá Solidario Plan is intended for people within the national territory who fall into in any of the following groups: people in multidimensional poverty, vulnerable families, people living in difficult-to-reach areas, and people who work for hire or reward. In this way, refugees, applicants for refugee status or migrants in need of protection can benefit from measures developed in this Plan.

Despite the fact that the Executive Decree makes no distinction when it comes to nationality or migrant condition in Panama, which it is reflected by its inclusive scope that covers basic needs based on vulnerability levels, with its application in the field some of the foreign population has not benefited in the same way as the national population, sometimes due to lack of information or discretion of the people that deliver food bags or financial support (known in Panama as bonos solidarios). Additionally, most of the foreign population has not been able to benefits from electronic transfers because

they are not permanent residents with a card issued by the Electoral Tribunal.

The social challenge in times of COVID-19 and the slow economic recovery for Panama, which is estimated to take 3 to 4 years by the MEF, IMF and the Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean (CEPAL, by its Spanish acronym), make it necessary to expand social protection and humanitarian assistance by incorporating vulnerable refugees and applicants for refugee status, and enact a transition program focused on including areas in social protection programs according to the needs of the population.

The MIRPS in Panama

Panama confirmed its intention to be part of MIRPS in June 2017, developing a work plan focused on the following main points: (i) protection and legal affairs; (ii) access to basic needs; (iii) supporting host communities; and (iv) local integration and livelihood. The Panama chapter, developed by the National Technical Team (ETN, by its Spanish acronym) and with the support of UNHCR, highlights important commitments related to protection and assistance with ongoing basic needs due to the pandemic.

In June 2019, a new government was established in Panama. The new authorities, led by the Ministry of Government, accepted and validated the Work Plan developed within MIRPS, reaffirming the commitment to implement it and continuously improve it. Along the same lines, a 2020 revision is being done to address challenges posed by the pandemic. In this way, even though ONPAR was forced to temporarily suspend public assistance and some services, new special channels were implemented so that ONPAR could keep in contact with the people of concern and with partners, in order for it to ensure humanitarian assistance, legal support and psycho-social care. Moreover, ONPAR extended the validity

of identity cards of refugees and applicants for refugee status that are recognized and admitted. In addition, it suspended deadlines for presenting items for consideration and rescheduled planned interviews during quarantine.

Since the beginning of the emergency, ONPAR, in collaboration with the Protection Committee (led by UNHCR and made up by civil society organizations), wrote up an initial list of vulnerable refugees and applicants for refugee status recognized by the Panamanian State in order to promote and facilitate their inclusion in programs put forth by the National Government. Nevertheless, this population's vulnerabilities have increased as the pandemic has progressed and the duration of restrictive measures has been extended.

**COUNTRY: Panama****SECTOR: Social Protection**

Expanding Social Coverage to Meet the Basic Needs of Vulnerable Refugees and Applicants for Refugee Status



Executive Summary

The COVID pandemic has resulted in an increase in vulnerabilities and needs among the population, including refugees and asylum seekers in Panama. As part of measures to support the most vulnerable segments of the national population, the Government of Panama has launched an emergency relief social assistance plan for people affected by the pandemic called Plan Panama Solidario. The Plan has an inclusive approach that does not discriminate against beneficiaries based on their country of origin or nationality.

At the same time, the Plan faces significant challenges in ensuring that the refugee and asylum seeker population is effectively supported. The loss of opportunities to generate income due to the reduction in economic activity in the country has led to an increase of between 55% and 80% for requests for assistance, including people who previously had financial independence and economic stability in the country. The proposed initiative seeks to expand social coverage to respond to the basic needs of the refugee population and refugee applicants in vulnerable conditions, as part of the planned integration of the State within the Panama Solidario Plan.

DURATION

3 years (2021-2023)

IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Ministry of Government through the National Office for Refugee Care (ONPAR, by its Spanish acronym)

Ministry of Presidency, Ministry of Social Development (MIDES, by its Spanish acronym)

The Panamanian Chamber of Social Development (CAPADESO, by its Spanish acronym) would accompany the process.

LOCATION

National

BENEFICIARIES

13,719 refugees and asylum seekers- average per year

ESTIMATED BUDGET

Total Required Financing:	\$27,960,340
National Financing:	\$4,017,229
Financing Gap:	\$23,835,111

1. Social protection sector context

In the Republic of Panama, the Ministry of Social Development is the governing body of social politics and leads social investing in strengthening skills and abilities of human capital in order to achieve sustainable national development. In order to face social challenges, a series of programs to overcome poverty and extreme poverty were implemented in the Social Protection System framework through the Opportunities Network, the Nutritional Benefit, and other initiatives related to severe disability, older adults without pension and in extreme poverty, health and education services, and skills development.

Through the Panamá Solidario Plan, the Ministry of Presidency implemented an emergency social assistance plan for those affected by the pandemic, through which benefits have been given to more than 1,700,000 socioeconomically vulnerable people in the 679 townships of the country. Through the plan, which is developed via 3 methods, monetary resources are delivered so people can meet their critical needs by purchasing food and medicine, either by cash allowances or either by transfers through identity cards. Moreover, through food bags, the government delivers essential, basic food basket items to the most vulnerable families. Because of this

effort, many national and local organizations and authorities, through provincial technical boards, have committed to make efforts to deliver these products. With the technical support of the Authority for Government Innovation, the platform used to Panamá Solidario Plan is managed, virtual assistance is being provided for, and additional initiatives are being implemented to reduce the digital gap and contribute to social inclusion in the country.

Among the lessons learned is the value of volunteers, most of whom are young people between 18 and 35, but also include foreigners who have helped in the distribution of assistance during the pandemic. In addition, society and the private sector have contributed to the Panamá Solidario Plan through cash donations, essential food, cleaning and disinfection products, and transport or lodging for those affected by the pandemic. The logistical challenges of delivering aid to vulnerable people has been one of the greatest program challenges, especially in regards to vulnerable refugee, applicants for refugee status and undocumented migrant populations, due to their fears of revealing their place of residency.

Complementary initiatives

In order to tackle the challenges presented during the pandemic, MIDES has focused on territories with a larger vulnerable populations through the Plan Colmena (Hive Plan) in 63 districts and 300 townships nationally. Among other results, this plan delivered COVID-19 humanitarian assistance to 83 older adults during the pandemic; USD 5.7 million in state subsidies to non-profit organization boards and orphanages, which benefited more than 15,165 people (9,979 women and 5,185 men); consolidated 111 networks; implemented 84 self-management projects; and focused on to 33 districts and 77 settlements, benefiting 4,867 families nationally.

In addition, the national government has implemented supplementary support and inclusive measures for the population, such as the creation of a tariff-stabilization fund which provides electricity bill discounts of up to 40% (the discount percentage decreases according to consumption), the creation of agreements with the bank sector to implement financial relief plans in mortgage and credit card interest payments, the prohibition of loss of rights and evictions for those who cannot afford rent, as well as price freezes of certain basic food basket products.

Finally, there has been noteworthy civil support through the Panamanian Chamber of Social Development, as they distributed food bags to people in extreme poverty, including refugees and applicants for refugee status, who were benefited thanks to contacts provided by UNHCR social organizations. In this regard, UNHCR and its local partners have increased support for humanitarian assistance in order to meet the growing demand for support, especially in areas such as food, medicine, lease payments, psychosocial support and tracking of vulnerable cases. To this effect, some measures have been adopted in relation to the delivery of support in cash and also via electronic means (bank transfers to savings accounts or pre-paid cards and electronic food vouchers) with the purpose of adapting to the restrictions on mobility and exposure to COVID-19.

2. Detailed approach

General objective:

Expand social security coverage to meet the basic needs of vulnerable refugees and applicants for refugee status as part of the state-planned inclusion in the Panamá Solidario plan.

Social vulnerability of the refugee and applicants for refugee status populations is the result of repercussions and fears caused by their forced displacement, but it also shows the poor capabilities of these vulnerable groups to become part of society if they do not receive support and protection on the behalf of the state sheltering them. In this context, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated such vulnerabilities since groups of this population have not been able to join social protection programs and social networks in Panama.

The current public policy on social protection, via the Panamá Solidario Program, makes it possible to compensate for shortages of individuals and families with monthly financial support and/or digital transfers for food and medicine and/or a family food bag, thus ensuring their inclusion in a temporary program as long as the health emergency and its economic impact last in the country, which is estimated to be 3 years. At the same time, this intervention is part of an effort to transition to an inclusive social policy in Panama, with the implementation of compensating social protection policies focused on poverty and social vulnerability that many families and refugees or applicants for refugee status face.

Specific objective 1

Meet essential needs that guarantee the survival of vulnerable refugees and applicants for refugee status

Expected result 1

Improve the information system of ONPAR and the related mechanisms to identify vulnerable populations who are beneficiaries of the intervention while guaranteeing the confidentiality of information that could put their integrity or safety at risk

Activities

- Activity 1.1. Prepare a protocol that establishes delivery methods and vulnerability conditions, which guarantees the confidentiality of the target population and allows for certification by MIDES and/or the Presidency for access to the program.

Prepare a protocol that defines the identifying criteria of the target population in accordance with the delivery methods and vulnerability conditions set by ONPAR, which will be supported by UNHCR. The Authority for Government Innovation (AIG, by its Spanish acronym), by request of MIDES, will develop the application of the program on integrated information systems in order to facilitate target population access through a card provided by ONPAR, or any other document identified by ONPAR in the protocol that allows for access to program benefits just as the national population. The AIG will ensure to protect the confidentiality of the target population by providing an encryption system that guarantees the privacy of personal information that could compromise the safety of the refugees and applicants for refugee status in Panama.

- Activity 1.2. Mapping needs and georeferencing areas where the target population is located.

Through this activity, ONPAR, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), the Panamanian Red Cross, the Refugee Education Trust (RET), the Human Mobility Pastoral (PMH, by its Spanish acronym) and HIAS, the global Jewish nonprofit that protects refugees, with the technical support of MIDES, identify the scale of protection needs based on family and individual profiles of the refugee and asylum seeker population, thus promoting disaggregation by gender and age in order to improve the efficiency of deliveries and facilitate their tracking. After collecting information about the communities with a target population, ONPAR will coordinate with AIG to prepare a system for georeferencing areas with the largest populations according to need. The target data of such actions will be incorporated to the general context of social protection nationwide both within the framework of Panamá Solidario and other MIDES programs that guarantee refugees and applicants for refugee status transition into inclusion into state social protection programs, depending on their specific situation.

- Activity 1.3: Develop an information system for tracking, monitoring and collecting a quantitative and qualitative sampling which guarantees the verification of the intervention results

With the support of AIG, ONPAR will support the development of an information system, developed from the beginning of the implementation to guarantee the inclusion of the target population into the program according to the various established methods; as well as the design of the quantitative-qualitative sampling for evaluations of the intervention and / or any other monitoring mechanism that may be established, especially in view of the transition with MIDES to guarantee sustainability.

Specific objective 2

Improve the responsiveness of social protection services provided to refugees and applicants for refugee status.

Expected result 2

Incorporate refugees and applicants for refugee status into the plan Panamá Solidario and identify complementary initiatives social protection programs of the Ministry of Social Development for the population of concern.

Activities

- Activity 2.1: Deliver food bags according to the inclusion, equity and non-discrimination standards set by the plan Panamá Solidario.

According to the criteria and standards set by the plan Panamá Solidario and the protocol prepared within the framework of Activity 1.1, ONPAR, as part of the implementation team of the Ministry of Government in the technical coordination committee, will identify the target population of concern that will benefit from the delivery of the food bags.

- Activity 2.2: Deliver financial support and digital vouchers to the target population according to the standards set by the Panamá Solidario plan

According to the criteria and standards set by the plan Panamá Solidario and the Protocol formulated within the framework of Activity 1.1, ONPAR/MIDES will coordinate with AIG to include the target population in the implementation of the information system to facilitate the delivery of financial support and digital vouchers according to the residency and identification document status

- Activity 2.3: Conduct awareness workshops with MIDES officials and local governments in charge of Social Protection Programs linked to the protection of the population in vulnerable situations

Awareness workshops for staff of MIDES Departments and local governments will be conducted through 10 sessions of 20 people per session on what international protection and the issue of human rights represent in the support framework for the vulnerable refugee applicants for refugee status populations. In these sessions, UNHCR and ONPAR specialists will present the most relevant factors of the legislation in this regard: Executive Decree No. 5 of January 2018, Convention on the Status of Refugees of 1951 and its respective Protocol of 1967, as well as other relevant instruments in order to facilitate the understanding of the situations identified in Panama, taking into account the situation in Venezuela, Nicaragua and other countries in the region where many people are forced to flee to safeguard their lives and that of their family. This awareness building is part of identifying complementary actions for the incorporation and attention in social protection programs according to special situations that warrant it. The sessions will take place at the main headquarters in Plaza Edison and / or in the regional offices of the areas where refugees and applicants for refugee status are located according to the activities indicated above. Expected participants include 60 to 120 individuals from Senadis, SENNIAF, the Network of Opportunities, universal scholarship beneficiaries and others who manage programs that facilitate social integration.

• Activity 2.4. Coordination of the reporting, monitoring and evaluation mechanism

ONPAR will collaborate with non-profit organizations for coordination visits for monitoring of the intervention, through the information system designed to guarantee the inclusion of the target population. In addition, with the support of UNHCR and MIDES, complementary programs or measures will be identified that will ensure different social protection needs for the refugee population and applicants for refugee status are included in the transition temporary program.

3. Beneficiary population

Refugees and applicants for refugee status are considered beneficiaries of the program depending on their vulnerability according to the estimates for the years of program implementation (2021-2023) ¹.

Table No. 1 Estimated refugees and applicants for refugee status in Panama 2021-2023

Refugee and asylum seeker population	Annual average (2021-2023)
Recognized refugees	2,760
Refugee status applications to be processed	10,959
Total refugees and applicants for refugee status	13,719

Within the framework of the Panamá Solidario Program, the beneficiaries will be people and families belonging to the following groups (i) people in multidimensional poverty, (ii) vulnerable families, (iii) populations living in difficult-to-reach areas and (iv) independent workers who have been affected by the pandemic.

Likewise, on the basis of the methods used to address multidimensional poverty in households of refugees and applicants for refugee status, it can be observed that 15% of households are deprived of education due to non-attendance to education centres, 48% of households display overcrowding conditions in relation to their home and basic services, and 36% lack improved sanitation due to a reported sharing of sanitary services with other families. Regarding employment, deprivation is especially evident in three areas: the 24% who unemployed, the 64% who report job insecurity and the 10% who work in domestic services. Regarding health, 8% report to have some sort of disability and 27% is critically ill. In regard to the home, 65% report renting a house and 41% report lack of access to housing purchases due to insufficient resources and rejection of foreigners. 55% of the households indicate that they only have access to 1 or 2 daily meals; this situation has been exacerbated during the pandemic.

If we take into account the situation of such populations in 2019 and the great impact on the vulnerabilities shown by ONPAR and UNHCR in 2020 among refugees and applicants for refugee status as a consequence of the pandemic, we can conclude that 80% of the family units will be in vulnerable conditions and need to be part of the program's beneficiary population.

Another aspect to consider when calculating the target beneficiary population is the support methods of the program, and the target population for each method. Through the plan Panamá Solidario, out of the three resource delivery methods meant to meet critical needs, two of them will apply to refugee and asylum seeker populations. The first will be through the delivery of bags of foods from the basic food basket to families in the most vulnerable situations, the second through cash allowances for individuals depending on their socioeconomic level and the how they have been impacted by employment loss and insecurity. Taking into account the results obtained in Panama from the protection monitoring carried out by UNHCR and the NRC between June and December 2019³, it can be observed that family units of refugees or applicants for refugee status larger than one account for nearly 60% and family units equal to one account for 40%.

¹ For more details, see Annex I. Statistic data and possible population scenarios for applicants and refugees within the framework of the quantification process MIRPS 2020.

² Panama's multidimensional poverty index (2018), available at www.gabinetesocial.gob.pa/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/MED-DAES-Informe-del-%C3%8Dndice-de-Pobreza-Multidimensional-de-Panam%C3%A1-2018.pdf

³ Available at https://www.acnur.org/es-es/op/op_prot/5e45adb44/panama-monitoreo-de-proteccion-junio-a-diciembre-de-2019.html

Table No. 2: Target beneficiary population by delivery method and vulnerability

Delivery method	Percentage of target population	Annual average (2021-2023)
Modality: Food Bags		
Family units of refugees and applicants for refugee status larger than one	60%	8,231
Family units of vulnerable refugees and applicants for refugee status larger than one who experience employment and nutritional insecurity	80%	6,585
Modality: Voucher		
Family units equal to one	40%	5,487
Estimated family units equal to one that experience employment and nutritional insecurity	80%	4,390
TOTAL family units of refugees and applicants who experience employment and nutritional insecurity due to COVID-19		10,975

4. Estimated budget

**Table No. 3: Quantification of the social protection program
Panamá Solidario 2021-2023**

OBJECTIVE	REQUIRED FINANCING*	NATIONAL FINANCING	FINANCING GAP
SO 1: Meet essential needs that guarantee the survival of vulnerable refugees and applicants for refugee status	\$ 221, 140	\$196, 140	\$25,000
SO 2: Improve the responsiveness of social protection services provided to refugees and applicants for refugee status	\$27, 739,200	\$3,821,089	\$23,918,111
TOTAL	\$ 27,960,340	\$4,017,229	\$23,943,111

*Amounts in USD

The quantification process developed to estimate the financial needs of social protection which includes people and family units of refugees and applicants for refugee status is outlined within the analysis of components, actual costs, access requirements and implementation mechanisms of the plan Panamá Solidario established under Executive Decree No. 400 of March 27th, 2020 whose inclusive focus does not discriminate against beneficiaries because of their origin or nationality.

This temporary program will last as long as health and economic crisis conditions remain in the country and will allow a systematic transition focused on meeting the specific social protection needs required by refugees and applicants for refugee status in the country.

In this context, we anticipate conversations with the Ministry of Government and the Ministry of Social Development in order to recognize the pandemic as an opportunity to improve the focus of social protection programs and implement new certification processes in areas where the certification process of families of refugees and applicants for refugee status can be studied by MIDES, in order to include these populations in inclusive social policies of the country so that no one is left behind.

In this quantification exercise, Panama has calculated a requirement of USD 26,471,100 for the period of 2021-2023, of which USD 3,438,455 is estimated to be paid with the national budget. The remaining required funding corresponds to the existing financial deficit, equivalent to USD 23,270,538 for the 3 years established by the quantification.

The Panamá Solidario Program has invested USD 765,892,688 in the first 9 months of pandemic, and it is estimated that, by the end of the year, it will have invested approximately USD 1,060,466,798.

Based on this reference point, including refugees and applicants for refugee status in this social protection program is estimated to represent an increase in investment resources of no more than 3% in the 3 years of program implementation, equal to an annual increase of current costs of 1% to assist, on average, 10,900 vulnerable family groups during the 2021-2023 implementation period.

Additional details on the quantification results can be found in the annexes.

5. Stakeholders

INSTITUTION	MISSION	ROLE IN IMPLEMENTATION
The National Office for Refugee Care (ONPAR) attached to the Ministry of Government	In charge coordinating and implementing refugee assistance and protection programs.	Participates in the implementation team as part of the Ministry of Government and coordinates actions within the framework of the program between governmental institutions and participating civil society entities.
Ministry of Presidency	Puts forth the Panamá Solidario plan and promotes the approval of resources in order to strengthen support that benefits the population affected by the pandemic.	Monitors the program's progress and incorporates the results into the achievements of the inclusive approach of the Panamá Solidario plan.
Ministry of Social Development (MIDES, by its Spanish acronym)	In charge of fostering human development through participation, strengthening families and communities, social integration and poverty reduction.	Certifies program beneficiaries in accordance with multidimensional poverty index (MPI) criteria and other vulnerability indicators according to ONPAR's information protocols and system. Defines transition criteria following the Panamá Solidario plan in order to expand inclusion in social protection programs.
Authority for Government Innovation (AIG)	Provides technical support for the management of platforms associated with the Panamá Solidario plan and implements initiatives in order to bridge the digital gap, thus contributing to the social inclusion in the country.	Advises ONPAR on how to improve the identification of applicants for refugee status and refugees within the selection and registration framework of the program in order to improve supply distribution efficiency.
Panamanian Red Cross	Humanitarian organization that provides assistance for people in situations that could threaten their lives or their capacity to live with a reasonable level of socioeconomic security and human dignity.	Helps to identify and locate program beneficiaries and identifies complementary skill and entrepreneurship-strengthening programs that adjust to beneficiary profiles.

INSTITUTION	MISSION	ROLE IN IMPLEMENTATION
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Non-governmental organization with international reach that helps vulnerable people obtain refugees status and other forms of international protection.	Assists with the identification and location of program beneficiaries and provides information and legal assistance to refugees, applicants for refugee status and those in need of international protection
Cámara Panameña de Desarrollo Social (Panamanian Chamber of Social Development, CAPADESO)	Network of non-governmental, non-profit organizations which promote social development in Panama	Assists with the identification of the beneficiary population together with humanitarian organizations as well as, occasionally, with the distribution of food bags, financial support, and digital vouchers to program beneficiaries, and works with entities within its network to enhance the capabilities of refugees and applicants for refugee status.
UNHCR	UNHCR, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, is a worldwide organization dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights, and building a better future for refugees, forcibly displaced communities, and stateless persons.	Works with the state to protect refugees and applicants for refugee status. Also works with the government and civil society to enable these people to exercise all their rights

6. Cross-cutting themes

Disaggregate data from a gender and age perspective. The program will aid in identifying the needs of the beneficiary population based on their characteristics and according to sex and age, with the objective of more effectively meeting their basic social protection needs. Once the interested parties identify challenges to producing information, a capacity-building plan will be established. Said plan aims to both improve the production of disaggregated records and data, which will be used during the implementation of the program, and promote the inclusion of other variables such as ethnic groups, health problems, diseases, disabilities, etc., with the objective of facilitating their inclusion into relevant social state programs.

Building monitoring and tracking capabilities. Development of quantitative and qualitative analytic tools and methods that allow the interested parties to measure and compare the efficiency and relevance of the program indicators and results in a common tracking framework that guides the design of interventions based on resources supplied by the program. During the implementation process, the exchange of best practices and lessons learned will be encouraged. These will then be systematized to allow other entities to repeat, adapt, and improve them with the objective of incorporating an inclusive perspective in their politics and programs.

Creating and consolidating local support networks. The public sector and civil society organization collaborate to promote the creation of local support networks to help with the implementation of inclusive public policies at a local level that guarantee the incorporation of refugees and asylum-seekers. Initiatives are started to bring in micro, small, and medium local businesses, and the academic sector in areas with a target population, to collaborate with the efforts of the program.

7. Risks and assumptions

RISK	PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE 1: LOW 5: HIGH	INTENSITY OF IMPACT 1: LOW 5: HIGH	MITIGATION MEASURES
Poor coordination between interested parties when implementing the program	3	3	Meetings and mediation with the program team to establish coordination procedures from the beginning of the program
Staff changes in the technical teams in charge of implementation	1	3	Collect information on progress to facilitate transitions
Delay in program implementation	4	4	Update data on the target population and analyse the need for revised social protections according to the impact of the pandemic
Logistic challenges to accessing areas where the target population is located	5	2	Previous experiences of the NGOs associated with monitoring in areas where the target population resides, and knowledge access that guarantees the confidentiality of their location

8. Monitoring and evaluation

The program will have a coordinator in charge of creating regular reports on results that show the completion and progress of indicators within the logical framework in order to:

- Guarantee the supply of the information system as well as the instructions and tools developed to identify the coverage of the intervention, clearly establishing the responsibilities for providing such information;
- Support the adjustment of the logical framework, annual plans and completion of the objectives as well as guarantee information is available that allows taking actions to mitigate the risks indicated, carry out monitoring visits, workshops and follow-up meetings, communication activities and visibility of the intervention of the program in agreement with MIDES, ONPAR, PRESIDENCY and non-profit organizations;
- Prepare as a final product a report of lessons learned (of successful experiences or challenges, actions, changes and solutions with the respective analysis and gender review (gender mainstreaming strategy / actions / products).

A program coordination committee with a representative from each participating entity is created to address annual planning and acquisition responsibilities, as well as create operation protocols and regulations to be approved by the majority of committee members. It will meet at least once every six months to review progress, obstructions, challenges and opportunities to maximize the resources of the program and achieve the goals set within the established time frame.

An intermediate evaluation will be conducted after 18 months after initial implementation, and another will take place one month after the execution period has finished. The evaluations will consider:

- The progress of the program according to goals and results achieved, and its relationship with the timeline;
- The preparation and delivery of regular reports within established deadlines, and the quality of these reports;
- The efficiency, accessibility, and transparency of the administration of the resources, in agreement with the parameters set by internal and external audits performed on the matter.

Coordination of monitoring and evaluation activities must include the Coordination Committee in the preparation of the terms of reference for the intermediate and final evaluations and provide relevant information to facilitate their performance, in accordance with the established sampling design.

Annex 1. Logical framework and Estimated Budget

Result / Activities	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Baseline (Dec 2020)	Goal (Dec 2023)	Source and verification method	Term	Required Financing	National Financing	Financing Gap
General objective: Expand social security coverage to meet the basic needs of vulnerable refugees and applicants for refugee status as part of the state-planned inclusion in the Panamá Solidario plan.									
Specific objective 1: Meet essential needs that guarantee the survival of vulnerable refugees and status applicants									
R1. Improve the information system of ONPAR and the related mechanisms to identify vulnerable populations who are beneficiaries of the intervention while guaranteeing the confidentiality of information that could put their integrity or safety at risk	Number of refugees and applicants' households identified as program beneficiaries	Number of households	0	10.975	Reports prepared by ONPAR, databases of refugees and applicants, AIG reports, partners' monitoring	2021-2023			
A1.1. Prepare a protocol that establishes delivery methods and vulnerability conditions, which guarantees the confidentiality of the target population and allows for certification by MIDES and/or the Presidency for access to the program	Number of work sessions conducted for the protocol preparation	Number of work sessions	0	4 sessions	Detailed minutes of meetings, attendance lists, prepared and validated protocol document	2021	\$18.540	\$18.540 ⁸	0
A1.2. Mapping needs and georeferencing areas where the target population is located.	Number of mapped areas (townships, provinces, shires)	Number of townships	0	10.975 30	Georeferenced and mapped information, software-integrated system	2021	\$190.600	\$175.600 ⁹	\$15.000
A1.3. Develop an information system for tracking, monitoring and collecting a quantitative and qualitative sampling which guarantees the verification of the intervention results	Monitoring and evaluation system designed # households participating in the sample	Monitoring and evaluation system # of households according to the sample size	0	200		2021 - 2023	\$12.000	\$2.000	\$10.000
Total, OE 1							\$221.140	\$196.140	\$ 25.000
Specific objective 2: Improve the responsiveness of social protection services provided to refugees and applicants for refugee status..									
R2. Incorporate refugees and applicants for refugee status into the plan Panamá Solidario and identify complementary initiatives social protection programs of the Ministry of Social Development for the population of concern	Number of refugees and applicants' households identified as program beneficiaries	Number of households	0	10.975	Reports prepared by ONPAR, databases of refugees and applicants, AIG reports, partners' monitoring	2021-2023			

⁸ The quantification is carried out by identifying within the budget sheet the 2019 costs of the ONPAR technical group that participates in the analysis of files and design of the protocol for a maximum period of 4 weeks.

⁹ The calculations also correspond to the unit cost of reviewing the files of refugees and asylum seekers by the ONPAR team according to the 2019 schedule and budget, divided by the number of records for the year under review, in order to improve the ONPAR information system and according to the criteria defined in the protocol. It is planned to use the GIS licenses available at the AIG for georeferencing.

Result / Activities	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Baseline (Dec 2020)	Goal (Dec 2023)	Source and verification method	Term	Required Financing	National Financing	Financing Gap
A2.1. Deliver food bags according to the inclusion, equity and non-discrimination standards set by the plan Panamá Solidario	Number of refugees and applicants' households receiving food bags	Number of households	0	6585	Reports prepared by ONPAR, databases of refugees and applicants, AIG reports, partners' monitoring	2021 - 2023	\$11,852,640	\$3,820,089	\$8,032,551
A2.2. Deliver financial support and digital vouchers to the target population according to the standards set by the Panamá Solidario plan	Number of refugees and applicants' households receiving Bono Solidario	Number of households	0	4390	Reports prepared by ONPAR, databases of refugees and applicants, AIG reports, partners' monitoring	2021 - 2023	\$15,802,560	\$0	\$15,802,560
	Number of refugees and applicants' households receiving digital vouchers	Number of households	0		Reports prepared by ONPAR, databases of refugees and applicants, AIG reports, partners' monitoring	2021 - 2023			
A2.3. Conduct awareness workshops with MIDES officials and local governments in charge of Social Protection Programs linked to the protection of the population in vulnerable situations	Number of officials trained in international protection	# of officials (disaggregated by sex)	0	200 (50%)	Minutes and/or reports of lectures completed, photographs, attendance lists	2021-2022	\$8,000 ¹⁰	\$1,000	\$7,000
A.2.4 Coordination of the reporting, monitoring and evaluation mechanism.	#trimester visits	# of monitoring visits # meeting with the Monitoring Committee	0	12	Monitoring and progress reports Reports on innovations and challenges Intermediate evaluation reports Evaluation report	2021-2023	\$76,000 ¹¹	0	\$76,000
	#meetings every six months			6					
	# reports			12					
Total, OE 2							\$27,739,200	\$3,821,089	\$23,918,111
TOTAL							\$27,960,340	\$4,017,229	\$23,943,111

Amounts in USD.

Annexes available electronically:

Annex 2: Quantification methodology

Annex 3: Statistical Data and Projected Population Scenarios for Quantification

Annex 4: Information and Identification of Target Population Profile for the Social Protection Program *Panama Solidario*

Annex 5: Detailed Information and Costs of Protection Program *Panama Solidario*

Annex 6: Funding for Social Protection Program *Panama Solidario* 2021-2023

¹⁰ Training days on international protection are quantified for officials at the national and local level involved with social protection programs. A unit value of US \$ 25 is estimated for coffee or snacks and activities carried out in facilities of public entities; You measure or others. The government contribution for these spaces is calculated at US \$ 1000, likewise, fees for a UNHCR specialist or other entity are estimated, for which a value of US \$ 2000 is expected for the total awareness days.

¹¹ The fees of a Coordinator for monitoring, follow-up and evaluation are quantified at US \$ 2000 per month. This activity is important because it must allow the precision of the beneficiaries who require extended social protection measures between the transition from temporary programs to stable programs defined by the Panamanian Government according to very specific and targeted vulnerabilities.