



PRESIDENCIA PRO-TEMPORE 2021
GUATEMALA
"Unidos por una región solidaria e inclusiva para las personas refugiadas"
MARCO INTEGRAL REGIONAL PARA
LA PROTECCIÓN Y SOLUCIONES
MIRPS

Regional work plan 2021

(Final document)

TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT



Organización de los
Estados Americanos

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Acronyms

COVID-19: Virus SARS-CoV-2

CSO: Civil Society Organization

ECLAC: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

IACHR: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

ILO: International Labor Organization

IOM: International Organization for Migration

MIRPS: Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework

NGO: Non-Governmental Organization

NTT: National Technical Teams

OAS: Organization of American States

OHCHR: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

PADF: Pan American Development Foundation

PPT: Pro-tempore Presidency

RCM: Regional Conference on Migration

SICA: Central American Integration System

UN: United Nations

UNDP: United Nations Development Programme

UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund

UNS: United Nations System

Context

The Comprehensive Regional Framework for Protection and Solutions (MIRPS) begins its fourth year of implementation as a consolidated mechanism that has positioned itself globally as a pioneering initiative for the coordination of responses to common challenges, making visible the displacement crises faced by Central American countries and Mexico, generating spaces for the exchange of relevant experiences and lessons learned of member states.

Since its inception, MIRPS countries have taken important and vital steps to give shape and meaning to this initiative that emerges from the Global Compact on Refugees and the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants.

Member states have assumed a role that is highly consistent with the increase in the number of cases and the presence of asylum seekers, refugees, internally displaced persons, and persons with international protection needs. This leadership has been key in shaping this mechanism and proposing ad-hoc responses and solutions, especially as countries of origin, transit, and destination.

During the year 2020, the MIRPS reported important progress both at the regional and national levels. Under the pillars of the 2020 Pro-tempore Presidency, it achieved

the incorporation of new partners and fostered collaborations with donors interested in supporting the financial, technical and material needs of MIRPS countries in the fulfillment of their national and international commitments.

The COVID-19 pandemic still persists globally and in the region. Likewise, the impact that MIRPS countries have suffered due to natural disasters and climate change, as well as the insecurity caused by organized crime, and food insecurity situations, drives the Government of Guatemala to continue building on the foundations of the previous Presidencies and create new coordination and participation mechanisms that are relevant to the needs of the countries, and in line with the current global content.

The MIRPS member countries are committed to continue promoting the generation of comprehensive solutions and coordinated responses based on the shared responsibility principle to address forced displacement in Central America and Mexico.

For 2021, the Government of Guatemala as MIRPS Pro-Tempore Presidency, with the support of UNHCR and the OAS as the MIRPS Technical Secretariat, is committed to serve as a facilitator in the generation of opportunities, conditions and solutions for the protection and attention of asylum seekers, refugees, internally displaced persons and persons in need of international protection. All this will be possible through innovative methodologies, coordination

efforts as well as joint initiatives with the various actors in this process.

The support and contributions of civil society organizations, the private sector,

international multilateral and regional organizations are essential to advance in this process and achieve the proposed and planned results.

“It is our intention to include and address issues of this shared agenda, and as Pro-Tempore Presidency we are ready to initiate the deliberations and prioritizations for 2021 in tandem with our counterparts from the MIRPS countries and with the assistance of the Technical Secretariat and the MIRPS Support Platform. Representatives from international cooperation, the United Nations system, international and regional financial organizations and the private sector are necessary and essential partners. The participation of civil society organizations is crucial, especially religious organizations and academia, which we consider to be very important partners that can add and complement the commitments of this comprehensive model”

Objectives

The 2021 Pro-tempore Presidency, along with MIRPS member states and accompanied by the Technical Secretariat, establishes the following objectives:

Articulate and facilitate the commitments of the Member States and MIRPS national action plans from a regional perspective in response to the differentiated needs of refugees, applicants for refugee status, internally displaced persons, returnees and deportees with protection needs;

Facilitate the exchange of information and good practices among MIRPS countries;

Make the displacement situation in the region visible to the international community;

Lead joint efforts for the mobilization of international cooperation;

Show the contribution of refugees and applicants for refugee status in host communities.

Priorities for 2021

Protection, solutions and strategic partnerships

The 2021 Pro-tempore Presidency will have the following focus areas:

Protection

- Strengthening national asylum systems;
- Reception, processing and admission of people with protection needs; and
- Internal displacement (following-up on effort made by El Salvador, Honduras and Mexico)

Solutions

- Consolidation of efforts made in local governance
- Inclusion of displaced people in need of protection in socio-economic recovery strategies, especially concerning their access to the labor market and professional training
- Strengthening local integration of refugees (especially in terms of documentation, work, access to programs, certification of skills, training, among others)



Strategic partnerships

- Civil society organizations
- United Nations System
- Inter-American System of Human Rights
- Private Sector



◆ Monitoring, collaboration and Exchange with Civil Society Organizations

2021 will be a key year for the consolidation of permanent dialogue mechanisms with civil society both at the national and regional levels.

The Pro-tempore Presidency and the Technical Secretariat will prepare terms of reference for all national dialogue mechanisms and for the regional mechanism, defining objectives that may be common to all MIRPS countries and adaptable to national contexts and mechanisms.

The Technical Secretariat will accompany the national meetings to validate the guiding documents for each mechanism and to define national workplans. These documents will determine the number of annual meetings and joint outcomes, to implement complementary efforts in favor of the populations prioritized by the MIRPS.

At the regional level, two meetings will be held between MIRPS countries and CSOs. The inclusion of academia in these regional meetings could also be considered.

◆ United Nations System

Under the leadership of the MIRPS PPT, the National Technical Teams -NTT- will hold meetings with the United Nations teams in each country, to explore the synergies between the national commitments of the MIRPS and the mechanisms of the United Nations System, such as the Framework of Sustainable Development Cooperation (formerly UNDAF). At the regional level, the PPT and the Technical Secretariat will facilitate the work with the UNS through the integration of experts in the Working Groups, while at the national level, UNHCR and the OAS will accompany the technical teams to identify local synergies and accompany the meetings.

◆ Inter-American Human Rights System

Under the leadership of the PPT, synergies will be explored between the Inter-American System - the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights- by inviting them to participate in the annual meeting, to report on how they have been supporting the work of the MIRPS.

◆ Strengthening alliances with the Private Sector

Under the leadership of the PPT, we will work to consolidate the signing and launching of a strategic partnership with a broader coalition of companies and associations that can be positioned, and can contribute to solutions by connecting with the MIRPS Support Platform led by Spain and Canada, based on the results of the quantification and prioritization carried out by the MIRPS Countries and with the efforts to raise resources through the MIRPS Voluntary Contributions Fund.

With the support of the OAS, national meetings can be held with representatives of the private sector (1 per country) and a regional meeting within the framework of the IV Annual Meeting of the MIRPS or as a side event to another strategic event.



Support Platform

The 2021 Pro-Tempore Presidency will guarantee constant communication with the Support Platform, through its Presidency, participating in technical meetings and facilitating two plenary meetings between both mechanisms throughout the year. The Technical Secretariat will facilitate the coordination strategy to ensure the articulation of both work agendas.

One of the functions of the Support Platform is to seek financial and technical support for initiatives and projects in the MIRPS countries. To this end, the PPT will work with the Platform to organize a MIRPS solidarity event. This event will be closely coordinated with other fundraising proposals for Central America, such as the Comprehensive Development Plan articulated by ECLAC. In addition, with the support of the UNHCR-OAS Technical Secretariat, the PPT will identify alternative models of fundraising (taking advantage of the OAS Voluntary Contribution Fund) and in-kind contributions that involve different actors including the private sector, the diaspora, civil society organizations, academia, and refugees and / or displaced persons themselves.

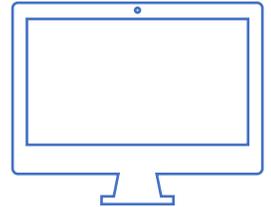
Coordination with other regional mechanisms

- ◆ After the workshop held in 2020 between the MIRPS and the **Regional Conference on Migration (RCM)**, there was consensus to improve coordination and complementarity between both mechanisms. A key area of collaboration in 2021 will be the joint organization of trainings for border officials, on mixed flows and based on the UNHCR 10-Point Plan, for the identification of people with protection needs and referral between institutions. The MIRPS Pro-tempore Presidency, along the MIRPS Technical Secretariat, will coordinate with the Government of Mexico as RCM's Pro-tempore Presidency 2021, to identify joint actions to be developed in 2021 and will be presented to the MIRPS plenary for approval.
- ◆ The PPT will seek for opportunities for synergies and coordination with other regional mechanisms such as the **Central American Integration System (SICA)**.
- ◆ Likewise, spaces will be created for dialogue at a high political level between the most representative mechanisms at the regional level, including the **Comprehensive Development Plan**, in order to address the structural causes of human mobility in the North of Central America and Mexico.

Methodology

MIRPS virtual plenary meetings

- The virtual meetings between the MIRPS States will remain as a central coordination tool for the implementation of the PPT work plan;
- The draft annual plan will be discussed and approved during the first meeting between the MIRPS Pro-tempore Presidency and the National Technical Teams;
- The National Technical Teams will decide on the Working Group they will join, according to their priorities and workplans for 2021;
- Virtual plenary meetings will be held every two months;
- A preparatory meeting between the PPT and the Technical Secretariat will be held before each plenary session.



Bilateral virtual meetings

- MIRPS States may request a bilateral meeting from the Pro-tempore Presidency when they deem appropriate.

Working Groups and experts

- The Presidency will build upon the Working Group model, based on the consultations within the one on Internal Displacement, that benefited from the support of a renowned group technical experts in 2020.
- Three additional groups will be created to work on priority areas in protection and solutions, involving relevant experts and MIRPS countries. Recommendations for the thematic focus areas of these groups will be presented by the PPT in plenary session.
- Working Group sessions will be distributed throughout the year. Each Group will be formed by national technical experts from relevant ministries in MIRPS countries, depending on the thematic focus. A panel of international experts will accompany each Group, e.g. members from the Support Platform, development agencies, UN entities, etc.

Objectives of the Working Groups

1. Provide a platform for MIRPS States to share their experiences and knowledge, to identify joint solutions in different thematic areas.
2. Develop practical recommendations to strengthen protection responses and solutions at the national level, through bilateral cooperation and peer-to-peer learning.

Organizational structure of the working groups

Chair: An individual MIRPS State who has volunteered to provide overall leadership of the activities of the working group. The Chair is responsible for hosting plenary sessions between the Members of the Working Group, and for providing oversight for the completion of the shared deliverables during the course of the year. The Chair is also responsible for representing the group's Members during plenary sessions with the Pro-Temporary Presidency, and provided regular updates in line with key milestones, aligned with the Working group's objectives.

Expert Panel: Technical subject matter experts providing advisory support to the Members of the Working Group. The Experts will provide this advice *ad-honorem*. Experts may be identified by individual MIRPS States, Members of the MIRPS Support Platform, and the OAS/UNHCR MIRPS Technical Secretariat. The Expert Group is expected to lead individual sessions in support of the Working Group's objectives. This may include highlighting best practice from non-MIRPS States, and showcasing relevant methodologies, approaches, guidelines, and tools as may be relevant.

MIRPS Technical Secretariat (OAS-UNHCR): The Technical Secretariat is responsible for providing overall coordination and logistical support to the Chair of the Working Group, to ensure the successful implementation of the agreed annual workplan for the Working Group. This may include identifying relevant subject matter experts, preparing draft content for individual meetings, convening of meetings, liaising with relevant regional mechanisms, humanitarian and development cooperation agencies, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, and academia.

Group Members: Members are comprised of individual States who volunteer to participate in the functions of the Working Group. This includes contributing to defining shared objectives and key deliverables for the Group during the year. In line with the preparation and adoption of shared policy recommendations related to the groups thematic focus, individual Members are responsible for providing leadership to national implementation and contributing to related annual reports. Representation from individual States is expected to be drawn from the concerned national ministry, government department or body, together with members of the MIRPS National Technical Team.

Methodology and deliverables

Each Working Group will hold the sessions it deems necessary during the course of the year. In turn, the members are expected to provide technical inputs and recommendations on the implementation of specific actions, in favor of the vulnerable population according to each Working Group and in line with the National Plans.

The deliverables of the Groups will be:

- Systematize the efforts made by the different Working Groups, in the documents the good practices and lessons learned by the MIRPS States can be reflected; as well as, the contributions provided by the Panel of Experts, who contribute to the National Work Plans of the States that make up the Working Groups in response to persons seeking refugee status, refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees and persons with protection needs.
- Present recommendations so that the next Pro-Tempore Presidency can give continuity to the processes or actions started.

Thematic areas

Working Group on **Admission, reception and processing of persons with protection needs**

The focus of this WG could include: identification of the specific needs of people within mixed movements, response to priority humanitarian needs (shelters, accommodation, water and sanitation and hygiene), referral to services that respond to the needs of individual protection, such as applicants for refugee status and refugees, returnees / deportees with protection needs, children and adolescents in contexts of displacement, among others. The members of this group could be from the Ministries of the Interior, Migration and those that each country deems appropriate. This Group will participate in the round tables organized by the Support Platform for the Strengthening of Refuge/Asylum Systems in MIRPS countries, through exchanges of experiences and bilateral cooperation, with the support of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, AECID.

Working Group on **Internal Displacement**

The Working Group on Internal Displacement was created in 2020, made up of El Salvador, Honduras and Mexico; the latter expressed their interest in continuing their joint work in 2021. After reviewing the central elements of a national response to internal displacement, information and registration systems, planning and budgeting, inter-agency coordination, participation, accountability and durable solutions, the WG will focus in 2021 on a limited set of products to offer practical recommendations within its responses to internally displaced persons. The members of this group could be from the Ministries of the Interior and Justice of the MIRPS countries that consider it so.

Working Group on **Local Governance**

Building upon the identification of urban locations in the region for their inclusion in the Cities of Solidarity initiative in 2020, the Group of Experts will provide a basis for technical coordination and facilitate direct investments in support of local responses to protection and solutions. One of the priorities from the regional approach will be the integration of all cities as a network, strengthening the structure and identity as a group and as part of the MIRPS. Collaboration with SICA, under its social integration pillar, will be sought, together with relevant UN agencies, including UNDP. At the same time, synergies will be sought with the project "Strengthening the capacities of local authorities in the reception and integration of migrants and refugees in the Americas" ", led by the OAS, in conjunction with UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, UNDP, ILO, OHCHR, PADF, Ryerson University and the Club of Madrid. This is also in line with the work that Guatemala promotes at the inter-American level in the field of social development through the 2019-2021 Guatemala Action Plan adopted during the IV Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development held in 2019. The members of this group could be representatives of the Municipalities, Ministries of Local Development, and Ministries of Social Development.

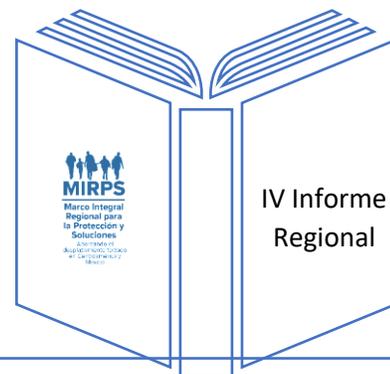
Working Group on **Labour Market Access and Vocational Training**

The MIRPS States agree on the need to prioritize investments that promote access to employment and expand opportunities for technical, vocational training and employment for refugees and displaced persons in need of protection, especially in the context of the post-COVID-19 pandemic economic recovery. Key considerations that could be the focus of the working group include: legal and regulatory provisions, inclusion of displaced persons in vocational training programs, certification of job skills, skills matching with job opportunities, inclusion of displaced populations in post-pandemic socio-economic recovery strategies. Collaboration with technical cooperation agencies, including the ILO, will be sought. The members of this group could be from the Ministries of Labor. Representatives of the private sector could also join this Group.

2021 Pro-tempore Presidency expected outcomes

At the end of its term, the 2021 Pro-Tempore Presidency will have facilitated the following products and events:

- **Regional Annual Report** (electronic and printed) as the main accountability mechanism, the MIRPS countries will prepare the report that systematizes and highlights the achievements and challenges of the year, while identifying priorities for the future.



- **Publications** (such as reports, newsletters, protocols, guides, directories, executive summaries, infographics, systematizations, etc.) and social media products (videos, radio spots, social media content, etc.) that compile good practices, lessons learned and achievements of the MIRPS countries and the Support Platform as a result of bilateral and / or multilateral alliances, as well as the different efforts of the Working Groups and Panels of Experts.

- **Interships and exchanges** (between directors, national officers) of the MIRPS countries for the exchange of experiences and innovative models (of registration, documentation or others) especially related to the refugee/asylum system; labor inclusion; refugee children and adolescents with protection needs; local integration; among others.

- **Certified virtual trainings** on issues of the refugee/asylum system, international protection, mixed flows, among others.



- **Reports from Working Groups** each group will prepare an executive report once the main activities during the year have concluded, which will be presented during the virtual meetings and will be included as annexes in the annual report.
- **Annual Regional Meeting** as the culmination of the work of the presidency during the year, the meeting will convene member states for a technical and political dialogue of vital importance for the vision of the MIRPS.
- **Political Declaration of Guatemala** to be adopted during the Annual Meeting highlighting the achievements of the Pro-Tempore Presidency and the most relevant commitments.
- **High-level side events** a MIRPS side event will be held within the OAS General Assembly to take place in Guatemala in 2021. Moreover, participation coordinated with the MIRPS agenda will be promoted in the United Nations General Assembly and in the Ministerial Meeting in follow-up to the commitments of the Global Refugee Forum in Geneva.

Visibility

- **MIRPS website**
Established in 2020, the website is an important tool for sharing key information about the MIRPS and protection and solutions in the region.
This space may be updated by the MIRPS Technical Secretariat on a quarterly basis according to a format that highlights the particularities of each context and the progress of the MIRPS National Plans.
- **Other materials**
A MIRPS dashboard will be created and a Factsheet will be updated twice a year.

Monitoring and evaluation

The MIRPS Annual Report will continue to be the main accountability mechanism, in which progress and challenges are reported at both the national and regional levels: the narrative of the national chapters reflects progress qualitatively, while the indicators measure progress quantitatively. Likewise, each national dialogue mechanism with the civil society may agree to include indicators to reflect the contribution of the organizations to the MIRPS commitments.

Timeline

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1. Virtual meeting 1/2021			03									
2. Session of the OAS Committee of Juridical and Political Affairs			11									
3. Virtual meeting 2/2021					13							
4. Private sector roundtables on opportunities and positive effects of the inclusion of refugees and returnees with protection needs				27								
5. Roundtables for partnerships with the private sector												
6. WG on Reception, processing and admission of persons with protection needs - working sessions				Starts: April 8								
7. WG on Internal displacement - working sessions							Starts: April 29					
8. Solidarity event (to be confirmed)												
9. High-level meeting to address structural causes of human mobility in the countries of North of Central America and Mexico (to be confirmed)												
10. Virtual meeting 3/2021 - Meeting with Spain as the Platform's Presidency; Report from the WG on reception and admission						24						
11. Side event on World Refugee Day 2021 (to be confirmed)						20						
12. WG Access to the Labour Market and Vocational Training - working sessions							Starts: July 6					
13. WG Local Governance - working sessions							Starts: July 13					
14. Bilateral meetings PPT- MIRPS national technical teams (to be confirmed)												
15. I regional meeting with civil society							22					
16. Virtual meeting 4/2021 - Meeting with Canada as the new Platform's Presidency; Report from the WG on Access to the Labour Market								26				
17. Virtual meeting 5/2021; Report from the WGs on Internal Displacement and Local Governance										28		
18. Elaboration of MIRPS annual report starts									2			
19. Virtual meeting 6/2021											18	
20. Side event to the OAS General Assembly (TBC)												
21. IV MIRPS Annual Meeting												9-10