



**Comprehensive
Regional
Protection and
Solutions
Framework**

Addressing forced
displacement in Central
America and Mexico

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROTECTING AND CREATING LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS FOR
INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE IN EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS, AND MEXICO**

THE MIRPS WORKING GROUP ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

DECEMBER 2020

I. INTRODUCTION

The Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS) is a responsibility-sharing mechanism created to strengthen protection for refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced people, and deportees in need of protection, to provide lasting solutions and to work collaboratively to address forced displacement between all participating countries. One of its objectives is to establish forums for dialogue and the exchange of experiences and best practices, bilateral assistance, and technical cooperation between national authorities to enhance the response to situations of displacement that affect countries in Central America and Mexico, including internal displacement.

Since joining the MIRPS, El Salvador, Honduras and Mexico, have made progress in defining and implementing measures to recognize and respond to the impact of internal displacement. They have also developed national plans that include specific activities for the prevention and response to situations of internal displacement. The MIRPS Working Group on Internal Displacement (hereinafter “the Group”) was established as a platform through which government officials share their experiences and knowledge in seeking to prevent and address internal displacement in their respective national county contexts, in keeping with international standards.

Specifically, the function of the Group facilitates the sharing of best practices and lessons learned between MIRPS countries and other States with vast experience in preventing, responding to, and resolving internal displacement, drawing upon on the support of a panel of relevant subject matter experts. The work of the Group this year serves as a regional contribution to the GP20 Plan of Action for Advancing Prevention, Protection and Solutions for Internally Displaced People and will inform the global consultations led by the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement of the United Nations Secretary General.

II. THEMATIC PRINCIPALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following reflects key conclusions that resulted from four working meetings that members of the Group and the panel of experts conducted between July and October of this year. The Working Group on Internal Displacement supports the following recommendations, which aim to inform the design or enhancement of public policies, national planning, and operational responses in the year ahead:

Information systems implementation should take into account that:

1. Records, profiles, polls, administrative data, community opinion surveys, and other information collection methods are instruments that should be selected and adjusted depending on what the data is to be used for (designing policies and laws, implementing programmes, monitoring progress toward lasting solutions, etc.); and this information, ultimately, should support a public management tool and inform direct responses.

2. Collaboration between different actors, as well as the participation of victims of displacement in information management is paramount and should cover all humanitarian, development and peace-building dimensions. Thus, there should be a coordination system (including joint analysis and shared assessments) in order to ensure consistency, quality information, and interoperability, in keeping with the following principles: (a) timely provision of administrative records that report on measures regarding the process of reestablishing rights; (b) transformation of administrative records into statistical data, using several sources with comparison and pairing processes; (c) consistency and coverage of populations to ensure coherence in the estimates obtained.
3. It is important to develop standardized and parameterized criteria and procedures to ensure the quality and coverage of information systems on a regular basis. It is similarly important to create legal and institutional conditions that provide for the institutional, procedural; and information and communications technology (ICT) settings in the public and private entities that participate in the collection, analysis, management, and use of data.
4. The implementation of these basic principles also requires legal regulations for the recurrent and regular flow of information, ensuring the confidential handling and use of private data, the careful selection of appropriate methods for information-gathering, the establishment and consolidation of administrative statistical records to be used, the application of rules for coverage and quality of the population and related variables, and protocols for access and dissemination.

Resource planning and allocation should be based on:

5. A realistic assessment or projection of the circumstances of the persons to be assisted, either through a record, survey, or other available means. Additionally, determination of the measures to be provided, according to the needs and rights of displaced families and communities, will allow for differentiated methods of care that are sensitive to ethnic, age, or gender differences.
6. A mapping of national and local entities that should be involved in planning and monitoring goals. The competences and responsibilities of the entities identified should be defined, as well as the resources they need to fulfill their duties. Furthermore, there is a need to ensure a participatory process for the victims, taking care to clearly manage expectations, distinguishing between what is desirable and what is possible for the legitimacy and relevance of the processes.
7. The adoption of measures grounded in indicators with a human rights-based approach— i.e., indicators for measuring effective reestablishment and enjoyment of the rights of people who have suffered from displacement.

8. An evaluation of resources of every kind which are required to effectively implement policies and define evaluation mechanisms and periodic adjustments as needed. Furthermore, in contexts where resources are limited, this evaluation will allow for appropriate prioritization without leaving out what is critical for the response.

Appropriate inter-institutional coordination entails:

9. Establishing an institution in charge of leading the inter-institutional effort, preferably at a high level and, in any case, with the capacity to adopt the decisions required for the appropriate functioning of the team of public entities involved.
10. Having ongoing dialogue with key actors: firstly, with displaced people, as well as government agencies, the international community, academia, and civil society in order to create partnerships that produce concrete results.
11. Regular inter-institutional coordination, with appropriate planning processes focused on accomplishing specific goals, which can measure the effective guarantee of the rights of the displaced population using verifiable timelines and clearly defined resources.

Inter-institutional coordination with local entities should ensure that:

12. There are legal, regulatory, and financial frameworks as a foundation to support the adoption of measures and clearly define the responsibilities of agents that intervene nationally, regionally, and locally, as well as to provide for a proper budget.
13. Displaced populations are included in plans for local development, goals, and resources for providing care to victims.
14. Collaboration is based on the principles of concurrent competences and subsidiarity between the different levels of government and includes preparation and use of planning and monitoring instruments and appropriate resources for local agencies.
15. A coordinating entity is specified with the power to certify or decertify national or subnational entities based on compliance with their obligations. Nevertheless, the relationship between entities should not be limited to oversight and evaluation, but rather, should include positive incentives to foster commitment and teamwork.

Horizontal inter-institutional coordination should ensure that:

16. Entities have defined roles and feel involved in the entire process. It should be clear what their responsibilities, allocated resources, and goals are so they can meet their stated objective. There should also be coordination bodies and tools available to make it easier to focus on specific outcomes.
17. Institutional mechanisms are designed that fuel, value, and reward the efforts of entities that achieve results or work efficiently.

18. Information systems agreed upon by the relevant entities provide evidence of the steps such entities have taken in implementation, and people's access to their rights, making it possible to assess progress in guaranteeing rights and overcoming displacement through lasting solutions. This requires standardizing and updating data.
19. Those responsible for assisting victims receive effective training and are able to incorporate a crosscutting psycho-social approach into the assistance they provide. This means moving away from welfare-based responses and recognizing the capacity that people and communities have to manage the situation they are in.

Mechanisms for participation should be developed based on:

20. Ongoing, crosscutting, genuine, and meaningful dialogue and response processes with displaced individuals and communities.
21. The public's acknowledgement of displaced persons and respect for their autonomy, recognition of their capabilities, and strengthening of their potential for individual agency, avoiding a welfare-based focus.
22. Balanced gender representation and a diverse composition in participatory forums, along with incentives for training and education. Likewise, specific forums should be made available for other groups with special needs, such as children and adolescents, older adults, persons with disabilities, and others who may need them based on the context.

Accountability mechanisms should:

23. Lend legitimacy and transparency to policies, while also making it possible to measure progress and discern setbacks and challenges, so that actions can be taken and the necessary adjustments can be made.
24. Involve actors other than the government, such as civil society, the private sector, academia, etc.

Responses for moving toward lasting solutions:

25. Are understood to have been made when a displaced person: (a) Does not need emergency humanitarian assistance or protection related to being displaced; (b) is able to exercise his or her rights without being the target of discrimination because of being displaced.
26. Are achieved when displaced persons are: sustainably reintegrated into their places of origin or permanent residences (return); sustainably integrated into host areas (local integration); or sustainably integrated into relocation areas in another part of the country.
27. Should include inclusive government support and, with a view toward full equality, take into account all those who have been displaced, particularly, women, children, adolescents

(based on age and level of maturity), persons with special needs, and those who may be marginalized.

28. Are considered to have been achieved when internally displaced persons enjoy, without discrimination: (1) safety and freedom of movement; (2) an adequate living standard, which includes, at a minimum, access to proper nutrition, water, housing, health care, and basic education; (3) access to jobs and livelihoods; (4) access to effective mechanisms for having their homes, land, and property restored, or to offers of compensation therefor; (5) access to personal documentation; (6) family reunification; (7) participation in public life; and (8) effective reparations and access to justice. In different contexts, for persons displaced internally to be beneficiaries, without discrimination, of lasting solutions, the following will also be necessary: (a) access to and replacement of personal and other documentation; (b) voluntary reunification with relatives from whom they were separated while displaced; (c) participation in public life at all levels and on equal terms with the local population.
29. Should be implemented through community-based approaches, with both national and local leadership and buy-in, appropriate levels of coordination, joint analyses, and processes aimed at securing collective outcomes and flexible financing; they should also be context-specific. Communities should also be involved to ensure that the process is legitimate and accepted.
30. Should set out strategic, clear, quantifiable, measurable, and achievable collective outcomes, pursued in a way that is inclusive, with indicators that track all humanitarian dimensions of development and the consolidation of peace, and that are supplemented by context-specific follow-up tools. These outcomes should also be integrated into the relevant planning instruments, namely, national development plans, as well as local and other development plans, supplemented by United Nations planning tools.
31. Should create regulatory and institutional frameworks that enable collective outcomes to be achieved and are results-oriented to guarantee rights: multi-year interventions that strengthen displaced persons' self-sufficiency by providing them with opportunities for stable livelihoods (proper housing, access to health care, education, jobs, income).
32. Should ensure crosscutting, flexible, multi-year, and coordinated financing that cuts across the humanitarian and development gap to drive collective outcomes.
33. Are more effective when led by the country – central and local authorities – and take an approach that involves the whole of government and support from international and cooperation organizations. They are also more relevant when they are person-centered and reflect the preferences of displaced communities.

III. COMPOSITION OF THE PANEL OF EXPERTS

- Ms. Paula Gaviria Betancur, Former Director of Colombia's National Unit for Comprehensive Reparations and Assistance for Victims, and current member of the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement.
- Ms. Gladys Prada, Former Director of Information Management and Registration at Colombia's Victims' Unit, and former National Director for Access to Justice for Victims of Internal Displacement at the Norwegian Refugee Council in Colombia. She currently works for the Special Jurisdiction for Peace in Colombia.
- Ms. Iris Marín Ortiz, Auxiliary Judge, Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP). Previously served as Auxiliary Judge on Colombia's Constitutional Court and as Deputy Director General and Director of Reparations of the Unit for Comprehensive Reparations and Assistance for Victims.
- Ms. Martina Caterina, Former Senior Legal Advisor to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons. Currently working with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

IV. LIST OF OFFICIALS FROM MIRPS COUNTRIES

MEXICO

- Ana Laura Martínez De Lara, Director General for Forced Internal Displacement
- Paula Sepúlveda Kischinevsky, Director for Forced Internal Displacement
- Norma Díaz Godinez, Secretariat for Foreign Affairs

EL SALVADOR

- Roberto Cárcamo, Director of Victim Assistance and Forced Migration
- Ana Irma Rodas, Director of Assistance and Protection for Salvadorans Abroad
- Karla de Palma, International Cooperation Liaison

HONDURAS

- Issis Saucedo, Coordinator of the Directorate for the Prevention of Internal Displacement due to Violence, Secretariat for Human Rights
- Glenda Nortiza Maradiaga, Office of Assistance for Returned Migrants, Secretariat for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation