The MIRPS Support Platform was launched on December 2019, on the occasion of the first Global Forum on Refugees to support the efforts of the MIRPS countries (Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama) in offering protection and seeking solutions to the forcibly displaced in Central America and Mexico, and to mobilise support for other players, whether international or national, public or private, in these efforts.

The Support Platform exists as a mechanism for greater responsibility sharing, as provided for in the Global Compact on Refugees. It seeks to leverage support from the broadest possible range of states, international financial institutions, the private sector, regional bodies and other stakeholders to offer further protection and solutions to forcibly displaced people.

In July 2021, the Government of Canada assumed the leadership as Chair of the MIRPS Support Platform for a period of one year.

A key focus of Canada’s term is to advance the empowerment and protection of women and girls on the move, and press for enhanced and focused international cooperation through a series of high-level events and thematic workshops on key issues identified in the MIRPS national action plans, including a further MIRPS solidarity event.

The main objectives outlined in the work plan are:

- Galvanize political, financial, technical and material commitments toward the fulfillment of the humanitarian and development needs identified by the MIRPS countries
- Increase international visibility of MIRPS, and engagement in support of MIRPS from a wider range of actors (i.e. State and non-State actors)
- Reinforce the Support Platform as an effective mechanism to mobilize comprehensive responses for the forced displacement situation in the region
THE MIRPS

In 2017, the governments of Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama decided to follow a joint approach at managing forced displacement in their region. With the adoption the San Pedro Sula Declaration, the states agreed to strengthen protection and promote solutions for affected persons, address the underlying causes of forced displacement by promoting a stable environment that ensures security, economic development and prosperity. Through the Declaration, countries agreed to implement the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS) as a regional contribution to the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) to strengthen regional cooperation and shared responsibility. All 6 states committed to adopt and implement national action plans, aligned to country specific commitments and priorities. In July 2019, El Salvador joined the MIRPS. Guatemala hosts the Pro-Tempore Presidency (PPT) until December 2021 when Honduras will take the leadership of the MIRPS for a period of 12 months.

PLATFORM MEMBERS

Borne from the experience of the Friends of MIRPS Group, the Support Platform is currently composed of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, the European Union, France, Spain, Switzerland, Uruguay, the United States of America, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Organization of American States and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

HOW MEMBERS SUPPORT THE MIRPS

✓ Provide technical support in one or more focus areas; education, jobs, and livelihoods, strengthening the asylum systems, child protection, etc. based on the MIRPS national action plans.

✓ Identify their pledges made at the Global Refugee Forum that align with the MIRPS national action plans.

✓ Provide financial support to MIRPS countries to cover financial gaps of the MIRPS national action plans, in line with the quantification process.

✓ Help bring additional actors into the response through the Platform to broaden the support base.

✓ Become a MIRPS Ambassador and facilitate engagement with development actors.

✓ Map private sector actors within their country that can be engaged in supporting the MIRPS.

✓ Become part of the Cities of Solidarity initiative: Municipalities in Platform members countries and those in MIRPS countries can strengthen local responses together, including safety nets for displaced people.

✓ Increase the number of resettlement places and complementary pathways such as education grants and private sponsorship programmes for asylum seekers and refugees from Central America.

Current platform members:

For more information:
Elisabet Diaz San Martin, Senior Policy Officer, diazsanm@unhcr.org