



APPLYING COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSES (CRRF) IN NORTH & CENTRAL AMERICA

School children walk home from school in the Honduran capital, Tegucigalpa. In some neighbourhood schools, student numbers have halved because of gang violence forcing families from their homes.

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I. THE MIRPS

Building on existing regional cooperation and responsibility-sharing, including the Brazil Plan of Action and the San Jose Action Statement, 6 States have agreed a **Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework** for Central America ("MIRPS" in Spanish). The MIRPS will support States in delivering on their existing commitments, adding depth and sustainability to their interventions, while also contributing to the global compact for refugees.

II. MIRPS COMMITMENTS

6 National Chapters (Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama).
+180 commitments on the 4 pillars of the CRRF by MIRPS countries and cooperating states.

PILLAR 1 – RECEPTION AND ADMISSION

62 commitments

PILLAR 2 – IMMEDIATE AND PERSISTENT NEEDS

45 commitments

PILLAR 3 – SUPPORT TO HOST COUNTRIES AND COMMUNITIES

22 commitments

PILLAR 4 – OPPORTUNITIES FOR DURABLE SOLUTIONS

62 commitments

291,400 refugees and asylum-seekers from NCA countries registered in the world by end-2017, **56% higher** than by end-2016⁽¹⁾

125,500 new asylum applications from NCA countries registered in the world during 2017, **33% higher** than in 2016⁽¹⁾

60,700 refugees and asylum-seekers registered in the region by end-2017, **45% higher** than end-2016⁽¹⁾

174,000 Internally displaced persons in Honduras between 2004-2014⁽²⁾

1 million deportees to NCA countries in the last 5 years, out of which **141,800** in 2017 alone. A significant proportion with protection needs⁽³⁾

Sources:
 (1) UNHCR, based on information provided by governments. Data on new recognitions during 2017 is provisional / projected and can be subject to changes.
 (2) CIIPDV/UNHCR 2015. Characterization of internal displacement in Honduras. Estimation based on a household survey conducted in 20 main municipalities of the country. Regarding internal displacement, Honduras is the only country with official figures available.
 (3) IOM, based on data provided by national authorities (DGME in El Salvador; CONMIGHO in Honduras; DGM and SBS in Guatemala). Figures have been rounded up to the nearest 100th.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.



<p>PILLAR 1 RECEPTION AND ADMISSION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the capacity to identify and refer people in need of international protection in border areas • Provide individual documentation to asylum-seekers and refugees • Strengthen existing programs of identification and reference of returnees • Provide alternatives to the detention of asylum seekers, and ensure no penalty for irregular entry
<p>PILLAR 2 IMMEDIATE AND PERSISTENT NEEDS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide humanitarian assistance and income generation projects for refugees and asylum-seekers • Provide humanitarian assistance and reintegration projects for returnees in need of international protection • Provide humanitarian attention and legal guidance to people with protection needs in transit.
<p>PILLAR 3 SUPPORT TO HOST COUNTRIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote policies and programmes to support communities that receive asylum-seekers and refugees • Strengthen the institutional response and coordination with local actors. Civil society and the private sector in areas that receive refugees and asylum-seekers • Prioritize communities affected by violence in national development plans • Promote institutional presence and protection and prevention mechanisms in communities affected by violence
<p>PILLAR 4 EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR DURABLE SOLUTIONS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote specific public policies for refugees, returnees and displaced persons • Include refugee, returnee and displaced populations in existing programmes • Facilitate self-sufficiency projects for refugees and displaced persons

IV. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- The MIRPS has been developed through government-led consultations with all stakeholders, including persons of concern, UN country teams, civil society, the private sector and academia acquiring a **whole-of-society approach**. Regional networks and organizations complement the national action plans and set up regional and global responsibility-sharing mechanisms to bring a regional dimension to the MIRPS.
- As a direct result of the MIRPS, **Mexico** has taken steps to guarantee access to training, employment programmes and financial services to refugees. **Guatemala** has further advanced in their commitment to provide access to job support services for refugees. **Belize** and **Panama** proposed actions to include refugees in national education services. In **Costa Rica** refugees living in vulnerable circumstances will enjoy access to government-led welfare programmes and **Honduras** started a project to map of potentially contested land in future return areas laying the groundwork for a more participatory solutions approach.
- A **portfolio of 30 priority projects** that dovetail with the longer term operationalization of the three year national plans into joint programming and projects, engaging development partners and other key stakeholders has been developed. This initial investment aims to reinforce and promote the underlining partnerships that form the foundation of the MIRPS.
- The Organization of the Americas States (OAS) secretariat is setting up a **follow-up mechanism** for implementation of the MIRPS and to facilitate the coordination and exchange of best practices.
- United States, Canada, Australia and Uruguay have guaranteed their cooperation through expanding their countries quotas to the **Protection Transfer Agreement (PTA)**. Argentina and Brazil have also have also expressed their commitment to participate in the PTA program in 2018.

V. NEXT STEPS

- States part of the MIRPS need to **institutionalize** a coordination mechanism to oversee implementation.
- The three year action plans that each MIRPS country prepared need to be costed, and national resources identified and re-prioritized to ensure national ownership of this initiative. **Quantification of national priorities and review of national budgets** to meet gaps will be followed by the identification of international cooperation's needs.
- The OAS needs to adopt a resolution for the **institutionalization** of the MIRPS follow-up mechanism.
- **Priority areas of focus** need to be identified and agreed with all stakeholders.
- **Regional actors and networks**, such as the Church and the Central American Council of Ombudspersons, must be financed to start delivering on their plans to support victims of forced displacement along the displacement route.



GET TO KNOW: [Friar Tomás González Castillo and La 72 Shelter](#)

An unusual shelter for migrants and refugees near the Guatemalan border in southeast Mexico is providing a discrimination-free place of safety for LGBTI refugees fleeing violence and homophobia in Central America.