



SYSTEMATIZATION OF GOOD PRACTICE

**LABOUR MIGRATION
TRACEABILITY SYSTEM (SITLAM)**



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CREDITS

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ABBREVIATIONS

GP	Good Practice
DGME	Directorate General of Immigration in Costa Rica
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MAG	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica
MINSA	Ministry of Health of Costa Rica
MTSS	Ministry of Labor and Social Security of Costa Rica
SIRA	Integrated Shelter Registration System
SITLAM	Labour Migration Traceability System
WHP	Western Hemisphere Program

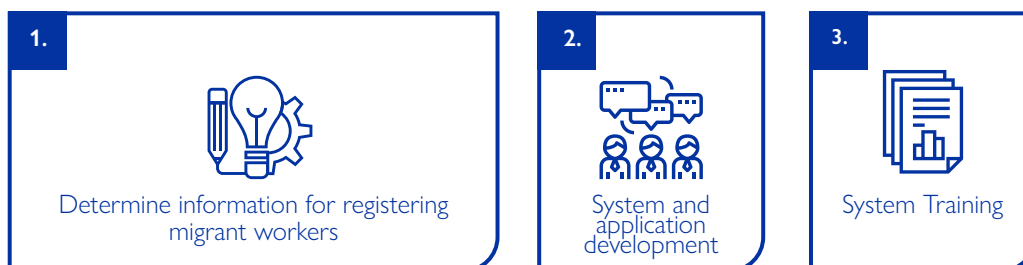
CONTENTS

CREDITS.....	3
ABBREVIATIONS.....	4
CONTENTS.....	6
Introduction.....	7
Context.....	7
Description of the Good Practice.....	8
LESSONS LEARNED.....	10
RECOMMENDATIONS.....	10
ANNEXESS.....	11

GOOD PRACTICE SUMMARY

Good Practice	Labour Migration Traceability System (SITLAM)
Description	In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Costa Rica temporarily closed the land borders to prevent the contagion. This limited the entry of migrant workers from Nicaragua and Panama who entered the country to work in agriculture, affecting the economy of the three countries. Under this scenario, IOM Costa Rica, in coordination with the government and the agricultural sector, both industrial and exporting, developed SITLAM, an application, and a system. This system monitors the transit of migrant workers to detect possible COVID-19 cases and refer them to health services. In addition, the system provides an identity document in real-time, which makes it possible for migrant workers and their families to maintain a regular migratory status in Costa Rica and improve access to their rights.
Objective	Generate a system and a mobile application to provide migration and labor traceability, with early warning functions for possible cases of COVID-19, to facilitate the governance of temporary agricultural migration in a safe, orderly and regular manner.
Location	Costa Rica. Southern border: Rio Sereno and Northern border: Peñas Blancas.
Beneficiaries	Working migrant population in Costa Rica, Costa Rican agricultural industry and export sector, and Government of Costa Rica.

MAIN ACTIONS



INTRODUCTION

The Labour Migration Traceability System (SITLAM) consists of an application and a computer system that facilitates the regularization of migrant workers. It provides an official migratory document that allows the traceability of this population through the monitoring of entry, destination, and possible contacts; to track the exposure to COVID-19. The Good Practice (BP) was developed jointly by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Costa Rica, the Government of Costa Rica, and the agribusiness and export sector and is part of the Western Hemisphere Program (WHP).

The BP contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, focused on goal 8: “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all” which in its target 8.8 indicates: “Protect labor rights and promote safe and secure working environments of all workers, including migrant workers, particularly women migrants,

and those in precarious employment.” And to goal 10: “Reducing inequality within and among countries.”, which in its target 10.7 highlights: “Facilitate orderly, safe, and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed policies.”

As for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, the initiative provides the following objectives: objective 5 - Increase the availability and flexibility of regular migration channels (actions B, C and D); objective 6 - Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work (action G) and objective 7 - Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration (action H).

The systematization of this document was made possible thanks to Fabiola Miranda and Sergio Jimenez from the IOM Costa Rica office for their support in systematizing this experience.

CONTEXT

Costa Rica receives migratory flows of agricultural migrant workers, who seasonally enter the country to work in the harvesting of different crops. These populations come mainly from Nicaragua and Panama, including the cross-border Ngäbe and Buglé indigenous populations. Their movement usually coincides with the ripening of the coffee bean, and their migratory route is southeast northwest.

Labor mobility between these three countries is fundamental to their economy. On the one hand, the Costa Rican agricultural industry benefits from the necessary workers allowing income generation in countries that do not have a constant employment pattern.

During the COVID-19 health crisis, as a measure to prevent the spread of the contagion, the Costa Rican Government kept its land borders closed, limiting the hiring of migrant workers to harvest crops. The socioeconomic vulnerability of these populations also increased the risk of infection and virus spread among local populations during their migratory route.

Under this context, the Costa Rican Government and the agro-industrial sector expressed the need to establish a traceability

system for adequate prevention and containment of the virus and to promote the economic reactivation of the agricultural sector by hiring migrant workers. Therefore, IOM office in Costa Rica coordinated with the Government to develop the SITLAM, based on an adaptation of the [Integrated Shelter Registration System \(SIRA\)](#)² developed by IOM in Guatemala.

The system made it possible to monitor the transit of migrant workers to detect possible cases of COVID-19, contacts, and establish quarantine measures and referrals to local health services. Additionally, it exceeded its initial functionality by facilitating an identity document for the migrant population, allowing them to maintain a regular migratory status in Costa Rica.

As of May 2021, the General Directorate of Immigration and Foreigners of Costa Rica homologated the identity card issued through SITLAM as an official migration document. As a result, from October 2020 to June 2022, 35,632 migrants will be registered: 30,959 adults and 4,673 children have used SITLAM to enter Costa Rica at its northern and southern borders. Currently, all temporary labor migrants working in the agricultural sector in Costa Rica obtain a work permit through SITLAM.

¹ More information in this link: [Western Hemisphere Program \(iom.int\)](https://www.iom.int/western-hemisphere-program)

² System developed by IOM Guatemala to assist internally displaced population caused by the eruption of the Volcán de Fuego, to facilitate shelter registration, distribution of humanitarian assistance and post-emergency family reunification. More information in the [Good Practice document: Integrated Shelter Registration System: SIRA](#).

If you want to access to complete document of this good practice
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