



SYSTEMATIZATION OF BEST PRACTICES

MICRO-BUSINESS GRANTS FOR THE MIGRANT POPULATION IN GUYANA



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THE MIGRANT POPULATION
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ABBREVIATIONS

IOM	International Organization for Migration
MEFM	IOM's Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism
SPE	Support Program for Entrepreneurship
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees


CONTENTS


CREDITS AND DOCUMENT PROTOCOL.....	3
ABBREVIATIONS.....	4
CONTENTS.....	5
Best Practice Summary.....	6
Introduction.....	7
Context.....	7
Description of Best Practices.....	8
Implementation of Best Practices.....	9
LESSONS LEARNED.....	11
RECOMMENDATIONS.....	12
ANNEXES.....	13


BEST PRACTICE SUMMARY


Best Practice	Micro-Business Grants for the migrant population in Guyana
Description	The initiative known as the Micro-Business Grants for the migrant population on Guyana focused on securing employment or self-employment to allow migrants and their families to generate income, while supporting the financial security within their communities and generating income opportunities for their members.
Objective	Provide financial support to starting, reopening, or expanding small businesses, revitalizing the economy at the community level, and creating and recovering employment opportunities.
Location	Guyana
Beneficiaries	Venezuelan migrants living in Guyana


MAIN ACTIONS


- 

Evaluation of the country's migratory context and identification of governmental support mechanisms for the migrant population
- 

Revision of the labour and migration legislative framework
- 

Search and partnership with an implementing partner for entrepreneurship virtual training
- 

Preparation and implementation of the training program
- 

Granting of in-kind support for the creation and/or expansion of enterprises
- 

Monitoring the projects on small enterprises

INTRODUCTION

The following Best Practice (BP) was developed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Guyana.

The initiative began as a pilot project and will be called henceforth Support Program for Entrepreneurship (SPE); it is part of the Regional Action Plan to Strengthen Response to Venezuelan Outflows¹ in order to support the Governments that hosted Venezuelan nationals and to respond to the needs and priorities expressed by Governments and migrants, such as: complementing existing national and regional coordination mechanisms supported by the IOM's Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism (MEFM)².

The actions of the initiative Support Program for Entrepreneurship (SPE) contributed to the achievement of the Sustainable

Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, especially focused on the Target 8.5. which makes emphasis in the importance of “achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value”. Regarding the Global Compact for Migration, the strategy contributes to goal 6, which seeks to “Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work”.

The documentation of this experience was made possible thanks to the support of Monserrat Hernández from the IOM Guyana office.

CONTEXT

The Latin American and Caribbean region has faced in recent years a context with unprecedented refugees and migrants whose impact extends to much of the hemisphere. By 2020, it has been projected an increase in Venezuelan migrants worldwide of 6.5 million, and in October 2019 reached 4.5 million, almost 85% would be located in the Latin American region (Data from the Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela)³.

The concern of States began to increase as the growing number of migrants in vulnerable situations that risked exploitation and abuse⁴ increased with these massive flows; specially gender-based violence⁵

and family separation leading to situations of unaccompanied minors or separated from their families⁶.

The Regional Action Plan to Strengthen Response to Venezuelan Outflows was presented in 2019, as a response to the migratory crisis⁷ that occurred as a result of the socio-economic policies and human rights situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have shown continuous solidarity and generosity towards Venezuelan migrants. Most of them maintained an open border policy and some even

¹ More information about the Regional Action Plan to Strengthen Response to Venezuelan Outflows at the following link: <https://rosanjose.iom.int/site/en/news/un-migration-agency-launches-regional-action-plan-strengthen-response-venezuelan-outflows>

² More information about the IOM's Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism: <https://www.iom.int/news/un-migration-agency-launches-regional-action-plan-strengthen-response-venezuelan-outflows>

³ More information at the following link: <https://www.r4v.info/en>

⁴ The act of taking advantage of something or someone, in particular the act of taking unjust advantage of another for one's own benefit. International Organization for Migration. 2019. “IOM Glossary on Migration”. Geneva, Switzerland. p. 68. www.iom.int.

⁵ The terms “victim” and “survivor” can be used interchangeably. “Victim” is a term often used in the legal and medical sectors. “Survivor” is the term generally preferred in the psychological and social support sectors because it implies resiliency (UNFPA, Managing Gender-based Violence Programmes in Emergencies, E-learning Companion Guide (2012) p. 8). International Organization for Migration. 2019. “IOM Glossary on Migration. Geneva, Switzerland. p. 227. www.iom.int

⁶ Children, as defined in Article 1 of the Convention on the Right of the Child, who have been separated from both parents and other relatives and are not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so. International Organization for Migration. 2019. “IOM Glossary on Migration. Geneva, Switzerland. p. 223. www.iom.int.

⁷ The migration crisis is a term that describes complex and generally large-scale migration flows, as well as mobility patterns caused by a crisis that often bring with them considerable vulnerabilities for affected individuals and communities and pose serious longer-term migration management challenges. Source: <https://rosanjose.iom.int/site/es/blog/que-es-una-crisis-migratoria-y-como-atenderla-integralmente>.

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