



SYSTEMATIZATION OF GOOD PRACTICE
PROJECT:
**STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL
CAPACITIES: MUNICIPAL OFFICE OF
ASSISTANCE FOR MIGRANTS AND
THEIR FAMILIES**





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CREDITS

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ABBREVIATIONS

UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.
CL	Community Links
CONMIGRANTES	National Council for the Protection and Development of Migrants and their Families
DAMI	Migrant Assistance Department
ERRC	Community Return and Reintegration Strategy
GoES	Government of El Salvador
FG	Focus Groups
NNA	Boys, Girls and Adolescents
NTCA	Northern Triangle of Central America
MINEDUCYT	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
OMAPMF	Municipal Office of Assistance for Migrants and their Families
IOM	International Organization for Migration
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
PEES	El Salvador Insurance Plan
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USCRI	United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

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SUMMARY OF THE GOOD PRACTICE

GOOD PRACTICE	Institutional Capacity Building: Municipal Office of Assistance for Migrants and their Families
DESCRIPTION	This implementation is part of a process of strengthening institutional capacities, where a series of actions were carried out with the Government of El Salvador, through CONMIGRANTS and local governments, leading to the creation of the Municipal Office of Assistance for Migrants and their Families.
OBJECTIVE	Strengthen institutional capacities and social infrastructure to facilitate return and reintegration and contribute to the prevention of irregular migration in intervention communities.
LOCATION	El Salvador
BENEFICIARY POPULATIONS	Returning migrants, relatives of migrants, the Government of El Salvador, Local Governments and communities of Zacatecoluca, Usulután, San Miguel, Mejicanos.


MAIN ACTIVITIES FOR THE PROJECT'S IMPLEMENTATION:



Strategy of Return and Community Reintegration.



Situation analysis by the municipality.



Training plan.



Partnership with local governments.



Production of social infrastructure in community spaces.



Creation of the Municipal Office of Assistance for Migrants and their Families.

INTRODUCTION

The good practice presented below consisted of the strengthening of institutional capacities leading to the creation of the **Municipal Office of Assistance for Migrants and their Families (OMAPMF)**, this practice falls within the multi-year Return and Reintegration project in the Northern Triangle of Central America 2016-2019, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The implementation was carried out by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) from its office in El Salvador.

The multi-year Return and Reintegration project sought to contribute to the dignified, integral and sustainable reintegration of migrants who returned to El Salvador. To this end, IOM worked closely with the Government of El Salvador (GoES) to strengthen its institutional capacities, given its lack of preparation to address the cases of returned migrants, in order to improve support for them in their reintegration processes.

This collaboration resulted in an improvement in the procedure for receiving returned migrants. The capacities of local governments were expanded, resulting in the development of public policies and community actions that would support the process of reintegration of migrants who returned to these communities.

During this implementation, a series of relevant actions were carried out that achieved sustainable results, the creation of the OMAPMF managed to institutionalize and install the project's capabilities through a permanent office where support is provided to returning migrants in El Salvador.

This practice contributes to the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), specifically objective 10, Reduce inequalities, focusing on [goal 10.7](#) Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies. To learn more about the SDGs and migration, consult the [guide on migration in the 2030 agenda](#).

Similarly, it is linked to the objectives of the [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#) with a focus on "Creating conducive conditions that enable all migrants to enrich our

societies through their human, economic and social capacities, and thus facilitate their contributions to sustainable development at the local, national, regional and global levels."

The support to carry out this work is thanks to the IOM Office team in El Salvador, led by Natalia Zepeda, accompanied by Jocellyn Ramírez and Juan Fuentes who are part of the project's Community Links team.

CONTEXT

The project emerged in the growing migration context of the last decades in which the region of Central America and Mexico has become a transit corridor to North America and especially in recent years, there has been an increase in the number of children and adolescents who have joined this migration flow.

IOM, in its recent studies on human mobility, points out that there are several causes for the migration of children: lack of employment opportunities, challenges in accessing education, interest in reunifying families in the destination country, and family or community violence in countries of origin.

El Salvador, which is part of the Northern Triangle of Central America, is one of the main countries from which children and adolescents migrate and in recent years, due to changes in the migration policies of the countries of destination, the country is receiving an increase in returning migrants. Therefore, the Government of El Salvador requested support to address this situation, with the aim of ensuring a comprehensive and sustainable response in the different phases of the migration cycle, which included reception, direct assistance after arrival and the return and reintegration into local communities.

The Government of El Salvador expressed important information gaps on the risks of irregular migration, so it requested a specific intervention to constructively address the migration phenomenon and try to eliminate this lack of information through an educational process. IOM, in support of these initiatives, raised four objectives in its multi-year project:

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