



JULY 2020 - JULY 2022

PROMOTING PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE IN THE
COVID-19 RESPONSE FOR MIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND
OTHER VULNERABLE POPULATIONS
IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



Coordinated by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and implemented jointly with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the project aims to promote integration and peaceful coexistence by improving the health response, community participation and the protection environment of affected communities. Thus, vulnerable populations include indigenous populations, migrant women, LGTBI community, stranded migrants, returnees, refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, and vulnerable members of the host/transit communities who have been negatively affected by COVID-19.

The interventions focus on providing greater access to health services and social protection, with the aim of increasing the resilience of vulnerable populations to the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic and supporting their recovery from the crisis. The geographical focus of the project is Central America and the Caribbean, particularly El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and Haiti. This Implementation Update presents an overview of the latest developments in the operating environment, as well as the main progress in the implementation of the project.

ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES AND SOCIAL SAFETY NETS FOR MIGRANTS, REFUGEES, AND PERSONS OF CONCERN

53,846 PROTECTION EQUIPMENT KITS DELIVERED



A total of 53,846 protection kits (PPE) were delivered to migrants, returnees, person if concern, immigration officers and front-line personnel of other relevant institutions in all countries where the project was implemented.

The delivery of the PPE was carried out in coordination with the Ministries of Health and migration institutions, as well as consulates and embassies and civil society organizations (CSOs) that promote the defense of the human rights of migrants, women, girls, boys and adolescents, vulnerable populations and community of sexual diversity (LGBTIQ+).

In Nicaragua, Through the signing of medical service contracts with the IXCHEN and PROFAMILIA medical clinics, medical care was provided to 93 returned migrants and vulnerable populations from the department of Managua, and the El Jicarito community in the department of Chinandega. This medical care consisted of a medical consultation and the provision of medications if necessary.

CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

■ INTERVENTION COUNTRIES





In Panamá, 1,015 migrants (557 women and 458 men) in highly vulnerable situations received orientation for referral services through IOM community promoters in La Chorrera (Barrio Colon and Herrera), San Miguelito (Omar Torrijos), and Panama (Las Mañanitas). Between July 2020 and June 2021, a total of 5,022 (2,340 women and girls; 2,682 men and boys) refugees and asylum seekers, host community members, and persons in mixed movements were provided MHPSS services through individual and group interventions, as well as other activities designed to tackle mental health conditions, including anxiety and stress mainly related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2,500 face masks were distributed to people from the Honduran Moskitia. A donation of medical equipment of high importance against COVID-19 was made, such as gloves, micro droppers, gauze, catheters and other elements that will allow medical and nursing staff to carry out their work in a safer and more effective way at the Hospital de Puerto Lempira, the main care center designed to serve the more than 100,000 people who live in the department of Gracias a Dios.

49

ENTITIES AND HOST COMMUNITIES WHO RECEIVE TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO IMPROVE MHPSS AND MEDICAL SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE REGION.

1,521

MIGRANTS, REFUGEES OR VULNERABLE POPULATION REFERRED TO MEDICAL ASSISTANCE OR SOCIAL PROTECTION VICES

11,598

POC BENEFITING FROM MENTAL AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

In Haití, thanks to the partnership with the Centre d'Animation Paysanne et d'Action Communautaire (CAPAC), between May and December 2021, numerous training sessions on Mental Health and Protection of Migrants were organized in different Haitian communes, namely, Ouanaminthe, Cap-Haitien, Port-de-Paix, Saint-Marc, Mirebalais and Hinche, Cornillon and Croix-des-Bouquets. During these activities, no less than 10,000 members of the communities of origin; 1,000 in each of the communities targeted by the project, participated.



IMPROVING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE CAPACITIES TO ADDRESS CONFLICT-SENSITIVE CHALLENGES CAUSED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

5,525 PEOPLE TRAINED

1,869

COMMUNITY MEMBERS TRAINED IN LOCAL LEVEL ON DISPUTE RESOLUTION GROUPS ENGAGED IN RESOLVING COVID-19 CONFLICTS.

1,813

STAKEHOLDERS TRAINED ON PREVENTION AND RESPONSE OF THE COVID-19 VIRUS

1,843

NATIONAL AND LOCAL INSTITUTIONS WHO SUPPORT INCLUSION OF POC IN ADVOCACY AND DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

In Panamá and Nicaragua, IOM delivered workshops and trainings on COVID-19 prevention and response for, migrants for key stakeholders from the health and migration sectors.

IOM developed communication materials on health facilities and good hygiene, which are currently displayed in some prioritized the health facilities. The materials will be used by Ministry of Health on other health facilities as well.

In Panamá, UNHCR and partners have conducted several capacity building sessions on international protection, access to the territory, and RSD procedure, reaching government officials from various institutions, including SENAFRONT, SNM, INAMU, Jueces de Paz, and community authorities. UNHCR advocated with the authorities for the registration of all the boys and girls from mixed movements born in Panamanian territory to mitigate risks of statelessness. Birth registrations were achieved for 98 children during 2020, and eight in 2021.

In coordination with the General Directorate of Migration and Immigration of Nicaragua, and the Divino Niños Institutional Clinic of the DGME, the training plan for border management and peaceful coexistence in the COVID-19 context was implemented, with the aim of training migration officials located at the headquarters and border posts in Peñas Blancas, El Guasaule, San Pancho and Ocotal, on Regulations No. 162: “Guide for the entry of Carriers, Companions and Personnel of Formal Land Border Posts” and Regulation No 200: “ Guide to Biosafety Measures for the Workplace in the Context of COVID-19.

On the other hand, support was provided to returned migrants with PCR tests. Through coordination with the Ministry of Health (MINSA), accredited Consulates and Embassies in Nicaragua and IOM offices in Panama and El Salvador, 225 PCR tests were carried out (139 women and 86 men) of Nicaraguan migrants who returned to the country and migrants of Salvadoran, Guatemalan, Panamanian and Colombian nationality, who returned to their countries of origin who were stranded in Nicaragua due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

■ 225 PCR TESTS CARRIED OUT ON MIGRANTS AND RETURNED PEOPLE BY NATIONALITY





DATA-BASED EVIDENCE REPORT

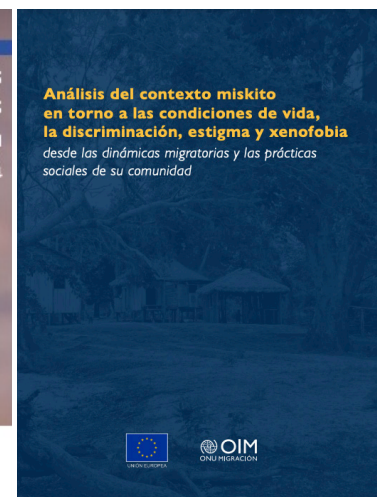
19 DATA-BASED EVIDENCE REPORTS COMPLETED

A total of 17 Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) situational reports were implemented in Haiti, Nicaragua, Panamá.

In Honduras, El Salvador, and Haiti, 2 communitarian assessments related to immediate and long terms needs and impacts of COVID-19.



HAITI JULY 2021 - MAY 2022
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PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE EFFORTS AGAINST
DISCRIMINATION AND XENOPHOBIA

To strengthen social cohesion between communities and contribute to a peaceful conflict resolution, a series of activities have been organized in each commune in coordination with youth, community leaders and Civil Society Organizations (CSO), based on the findings of the COVID-19 impact assessments conducted in the communities of origin.

In Guatemala as part of the actions to prevent irregular migration in the COVID-19 context, a series of seminars called “Migration in the framework of the Covid-19 pandemic” was held. In total, five seminars were held in the departments of Chiquimula, Guatemala City, Quetzaltenango, Petén and San Marcos. 240 leaders and young people involved, including 123 women and 117 men from the ten (10) target communes of the project, received explanations and planned sensitization activities in the field.

95 community leaders, religious leaders, relevant actors, voodoo priests, CSO members and committed youth, including 52 men and 43 women, were trained in conflict management/resolution and intercultural mediation at the four (4) official border points between Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

During socio-cultural events in each of the project’s target communes, IOM in collaboration with the partners organized theater performances on themes of conflict resolution, social cohesion, discrimination and stigmatization, COVID-19 to sensitize the population. 9,820 people (5,036 women, 2,677 men, 1,189 girls and 918 boys) were reached through the reading of texts, dissemination of messages, theatre plays and information kiosks.



+2.2 MILLONES PEOPLE REACHED WITH ANTI-XENOPHOBIA AND ANTI-DISCRIMINATION MESSAGES AS PART OF CAMPAIGNS BY MULTIMEDIA CHANNELS

COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGNS



The objective of Respiramos Miskitu was to promote citizen awareness of the Miskito community and promote peaceful coexistence in communities with high reception rates for the Miskito migrant population, such as Tegucigalpa, La Ceiba and San Pedro Sula.



Cuna de Todos campaign, aimed to contribute to generating a positive behavioral change in communities of origin, transit and destination, in order to prevent and/or reduce discrimination and stigma, promote roots and facilitate the integration and reintegration of this population group.

It reached more than one million people in El Salvador, which means that the goal of 89 thousand people was exceeded, carrying the message of awareness and non-discrimination towards indigenous culture.



Somos lo Mismo is a UNHCR and IOM led, seeking to promote solidarity and integration among nationals, refugees, and migrants who live in Panama. On average, more than 500,000 people were reached monthly through the social media accounts of the “Somos lo Mismo” campaign between June 2020 and December 2021. In addition, the campaign newsletter reaches more than 800 subscribers monthly.



Their objective was the prevention of irregular migration and human trafficking in the context of COVID-19, respectively.

The messages of the campaigns were disseminated through radio cartoons and publications on social networks, reaching more than 25,000 people

DISSEMINATION OF COMMUNICATION MATERIALS

+ 5 MIL EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS ON COVID-19 PREVENTION WERE DELIVERED ON:

- Hand washing techniques
- COVID-19 prevention information guide
- Vaccination priority groups, recognizing COVID-19, variant mutations and strains of COVID-19.



ACCESS TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY EFFORTS FOR MIGRANTS, REFUGEES, AND PERSONS OF CONCERN 1452 BENEFITING FAMILIES OF REFUGEES AND OTHER POC RECEIVING MULTIPURPOSE

1452 BENEFITING FAMILIES OF REFUGEES AND OTHER POC RECEIVING MULTIPURPOSE GRANTS WITH LIVELIHOODS MECHANISMS SEVERELY AFFECTED BY COVID-19.

173

GUATEMALA

280

HONDURAS

999

PANAMÁ

IOM Guatemala signed an agreement with the Central de Organizaciones Indígenas Campesinas Ch'orti' Nuevo Día, in order to establish endogenous processes to rural development projects that increase the economic conditions of the communities; establish humanitarian assistance measures to alleviate the food, economic and social crises in the Ch'orti' communities and strengthen the traditional organizational forms of the Ch'orti' communities for the management of the solution of the conflict in the territory and the reestablishment of the harmony.

The construction of the collection and distribution center for basic grains and food was carried out in Lela Obraje. Portable computer equipment was purchased for this establishment to record information, as well as 90 quintals of corn that serve as food reserves to guarantee the food security of 60 families in the community. Likewise, the community mini-irrigation system that served to harvest corn in summer was repaired. Said grain will be collected and stockpiled in a month at the community collection center, which has the capacity to hold 400 sacks of corn and beans. In total, 130 families are direct beneficiaries who benefit more than 370 families from the Lela Obraje and Guareruche communities.



In Panamá a construction of a dock to facilitate the safe arrival and departure of canoes – (the most used means of transportation in the rainy season to arrive or leave the community). This staircase will allow the use of the structure regardless of the river level, and a roof will offer protection from daily downpours during the rainy season.

UNHCR Panama reached a total of 999 beneficiary families out of a target of 40. Between July 2020 and June 2021, through its partners, UNHCR assisted 999 households (550 woman-led and 449 man-led), representing 2,622 individuals, with multipurpose cash for food, medicine, and housing.

COORDINATION FOR A COMPREHENSIVE AND EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC AND ITS CONSEQUENCES BY NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTORS



Through the project, technical assistance was provided to the member countries of the Commission of Migration Authorities of the SICA Region, OCAM (for its acronym in Spanish) during its LVI ordinary meeting, where they exchanged good practices and lessons learned in the response to COVID-19 in migratory contexts, including the issues associated with the regional coordination that they implemented at the level of prevention and attention to the response to COVID.

A best practices and lessons learned session was implemented in coordination within ROSJ Knowledge Hub, associated to COVID-19 regional and per country response linked to migratory mixed-flows. It was highlighted binational and subregional coordination's such as the humanitarian corridor defined at the COVID-19 SICA's Contingency Plan.

At decision making and dialogue space between Migratory Directorates, allowed them to identify further actions to be taken in response to COVID-19 and tourism reactivation, hence the countries requested to Nicaragua delegation to eliminate the COVID-19 PCR test required to entry the country, while the rest of the Central American countries (at that moment), already eliminated the request of PCR. Two days after the meeting, Nicaragua had announced the updates measures for entry¹. Additionally, OCAM's members had requested to IOM, the need to develop a massive

1. Nicaragua elimina la prueba de PCR y solo pedirá la vacuna a sus visitantes - SWI swissinfo.ch

irregular migration campaign which include regional, national, and local scope with tailored information to migrants and people prone to migrate. Other type of initiative mentioned was the need to updates visas and humanitarian visas, related to 2021-2022 cycle of mixed flows at the region.

In Panamá, Inter-institutional workshops aiming of attaining inputs for the design of the “National Plan against Smuggling of Migrants” and advancing in the priorities defined by Law 36 of May 24, 2013, related to Trafficking, and smuggling of Migrants and Related Activities. Relevant presence of the technical level of 15 institutions took place, which will contribute consecutively to the coordination of the implementation of the National Plan and in parallel, to the strategy of strengthening the Unit for Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants (UATIM) of the National Immigration Service.

Binational Forum for the Exchange of Experiences and Best Practices was coordinated. A total of 36 immigration management and protection services officers had participated from the border of Darién and Chiriquí respectively.

Through the technical assistance provided, a strengthening process of the UN Human Mobility Group is progress and had allowed to consolidate the group mechanism in Darien.

In compliance with the work plan of the Human Mobility Group, joint training actions have been developed for 273 officials from SENAFRONT, SNM, SINAPROC, among others. Likewise, actions have been coordinated on the ground to provide information and legal assistance to people from mixed movements on access to the RSD procedure and referral mechanisms to ONPAR.



In Nicaragua, two training processes were carried out on the use of the online platform ContraTrata.org, aimed at personnel from civil society organizations (CSOs) that work with migrant and vulnerable populations, who were provided with the necessary knowledge for the implementation and start-up of mode of production of the national and cross-border digital reference system for cases of PTPT victims: contratrata.org. In this training process, staff from 21 CSOs were trained, for a total of 47 people (35 women, 9 men and 3 LGBTIQ+).

IOM applied a human mobility monitoring study, using the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) methodology in the context of COVID-19, which aimed to explore the migratory flow of migrants by identifying the incidence of the conditions and problems generated by the health emergency in migratory movements, as well as determining the situation of Nicaraguan migrants who reside in border areas of Honduras and Costa Rica and those who are in the diaspora.

In Guatemala, in all the flights that are received daily, people and/or family units are identified who do not have economic resources to move to their places of origin and when they leave the Reception Center they face serious problems, risking their physical safety.

Through coordination with the private transport company “Cristobal Colon” and the Guatemalan Institute of Migration, a total of 200 transport tickets were delivered, according to the need raised by each person.



Valoremos la riqueza cultural y las contribuciones que las personas Miskitas hacen en nuestra comunidad.

