

## **MIRPS NATIONAL COORDINATION GROUP MEETING: PRESENTING HONDURAS' ACTION PLAN SEPTEMBER 29, 2022**

### *Highlights*

#### **Objective of the Meeting:**

To present the Honduran government's MIRPS National Action Plan to invited bilateral, humanitarian and development actors in the country and encourage different partners and stakeholders to actively participate in its implementation.

The meeting aimed to:

1. Facilitate a space for permanent and regular dialogue between the Government of Honduras (GoH) and representatives of G16 member countries and Support Platform countries to present the government's work in responding to forced displacement.
2. Present the support requirements identified by the GoH for the implementation of the National MIRPS Plan.
3. Expand understanding across the government, donors and development actors on their respective areas of interest and explore opportunities for joint work.
4. Engage with key stakeholders to assess, explore opportunities and operational priorities of the MIRPS, based on shared interests with a coordinated approach.

**Attendees:** See Annex 1 - Attendance List

#### **Summary of the Presentation:**

The government of Honduras presented the update of its National Action Plan under MIRPS, which is composed of 26 commitments (21 in the area of protection, 1 in education and 4 in livelihoods).

Within the government, the institutions involved have expanded to include 13 institutions: the Ministry of Education (SEDUC), the Directorate for Children, Adolescents and the Family (DINAF), the Ministry of Social Development (SEDESOL), the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (STSS), the Ministry of Health (SESAL), the Ministry for Women (SEMujer), the Ministry of Security, the Ministry of the Interior and Justice, the Property Institute (IP), the National Institute for Professional Training (INFOP), and the Association of Municipalities of Honduras (AMHON). The coordination structure of the MIRPS National Team has three levels of coordination (ministerial, managerial and technical level) to ensure the necessary political support and adequate coordination and communication.

Finally, the government presented its priorities and needs, including:

1. Strengthening local governments.
2. Recovery of public spaces as a strategy to prevent displacement.

3. Strengthening the General Directorate for the Protection of Displaced Persons.
4. Modernizing the registration system of returnees with NDP.
5. Training public servants.
6. Access to socio-economic inclusion for returnees through the UMARs.
7. Improved mechanisms for receiving requests through a network of remote care units for persons with protection needs..

### **Open discussion:**

Following the government's presentation, the participants engaged in an open discussion about the situation in Honduras and the government's priorities for investment. Some stakeholders provided general remarks of support for the government's leadership. Other organizations who were newer to the issue raised very technical questions for the government in an attempt to better understand the scope of the issue and approaches to date. In the end, the event was a working session that mixed pre-arranged announcements with rapid-fire exchanges on data, policies and needs.

Details on participants' remarks are in Annex 2. Some central areas of discussion were:

- Identifying protection needs among Hondurans returning from abroad and how to address those needs;
- Structural causes of displacement that involve development, peace and humanitarian considerations, and the shared responsibility to address them;
- The role hurricanes play in sparking internal displacement in the sub-region, and the need to pass the internally-displaced persons law that is currently in the final stages before Congress;
- A reflection that complex environments like Honduras require an integrated framework around the dynamics of migration, forced displacement, immigration, transit and internal displacement.
- New financing tools are available: The Inter-American Development Bank announced the expansion of its newly replenished \$100m Migration Fund to cover countries receiving returnees, including Honduras. The goal is to work with the government and private enterprise to reintegrate young people.
- This work under the MIRPS framework is aligned with the Los Angeles Declaration, connecting Honduras' national priorities to sub- regional and hemispheric efforts to create the conditions for safe, orderly, humane, and regular migration and to strengthen frameworks for international protection and cooperation.

### Annex 1: Meeting Participants

<b>Government</b>	<b>International Cooperation</b>
Secretary of Foreign Affairs	European Union
National Institute of Migration	Brazil
DINAF	USA
Secretary of Education	Canada
Secretary of Labor	Chile
WOMAN	Spain
Secretary of Health	Japan
CONEANFO	Mexico
	France
<b>United Nations</b>	Germany
UNHCR	Sweden
OHCHR	Swiss Cooperation
UNICEF	
UNFPA	<b>Multilateral Development Banks</b>
IOM	Inter-American Development Bank
	World Bank
	Central American Bank for Economic Integration

## Annex 2: Detailed comments by participants

### World Bank Representative, Kinnon Scott

Thank you for the presentation, it seems to me extremely important what Honduras is doing for displaced people and those in a state of migration, I would like to better understand the situation and so I have a couple of questions:

- ✓ How many people is the country receiving, each month?
- ✓ Are you working on certifying the skills acquired by Hondurans when they were working abroad, so that they can use these certificates to integrate into the country's economy?

### General Directorate for the Protection of Honduran Migrants: Director Wilson Paz

- ✓ Currently Honduras is receiving monthly approximately 8 thousand people. So far this year, we have approximately 74 thousand returnees, in August we had 16 thousand nationals in the southern border of the United States, only surpassed by Cuba, Venezuela, Mexico and in fourth position Honduras. Definitely we as a country have a crisis and that is why we insist once again in saying that we do need support and cooperation and that is the approach we are looking for through this meeting, that is why it is very important that you participate, consult, be connected with this government that is willing to move our country forward.

### Canada: Chair Pro Tempore Support Platform, Elizabeth Williams

- ✓ To congratulate Honduras for its leadership in the MIRPS as the current Chair and for its National Plan.
- ✓ Our colleagues in Canada are very grateful for your participation in all the processes and events that have been organized by Canada.
- ✓ We are proud of the work we have done as the Chair of the Platform for Support, to advance the priority of the empowerment and protection of women and girls, we have completed our Chair.
- ✓ Canada remains permanently committed to the platform of support to MIRPS and in support of Honduras in the Pro Tempore Presidency.

### Organization of American States (OAS): Ambassador Catherine Pognat

- ✓ To congratulate Honduras for its management this year for the Pro Tempore Presidency and for the plan that they have designed which is really excellent, I congratulate them.
- ✓ The Member States have indeed established a MIRPS Fund, a non-refundable cooperation fund.
- ✓ Remember that the first call to submit projects is due on October 17, these projects are for each State that makes up the MIRPS can submit their proposals.

### United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR): José Barrera

- ✓ When Honduras assumed the Pro Tempore Presidency, we said that the MIRPS returns home, because this is really where it was born, it is important to emphasize this because Honduras has always been present in this process.
- ✓ Shared responsibility is also important, because we are talking about a humanitarian response, such as the one that took place on the southern border of the United States, we

are talking about mixed movements when many people arrive at the same time, we are also talking about structural causes, such as working on development, peacebuilding, conflicts in Trojes at the community level, that means that there is room for everyone and it is that shared responsibility of everyone and that we can support the Government in the implementation of the commitments that they have adopted in their National Plan.

**Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Honduras (OHCHR), Isabel Albaladejo.**

- ✓ The magnitude of the migration phenomenon will be aggravated by the cyclonic season, we can see it by these rains.
- ✓ It is necessary to insist on the approval of the internal displacement law in the National Congress,
- ✓ The resumption of the Inter-Institutional Commission on Displacement is a propitious occasion, under the leadership of Honduras in the Pro Tempore Presidency of the MIRPS.

**General Directorate for the Protection of Honduran Migrants: Director Wilson Paz:**

- ✓ Honduras, after a decade with 250,000 displaced people, needs the impetus of this law.
- ✓ We want to avoid duplication in the Inter-Institutional Commission on Displaced Persons CIPPDV and the Refuge Commission, so we have held meetings with the authorities of the Ministry of the Interior and Justice to address the issue of the two commissions.

**Director of FLACSO Honduras, Rolando Sierra Fonseca**

- ✓ To communicate that FLACSO and the National Autonomous University of Honduras are currently making an agreement between the University of Honduras and a Mexican University that has the accreditation of migrants' capacities in order to be able to do the accreditations here, of returned migrants.

**Ambassador Antonio García Carranza Undersecretary of State in the Offices of Consular and Migratory Affairs.**

- ✓ As the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we are completely in favour of the Law for the Protection, Attention and Prevention of Internal Displacement due to Violence and we are going to speak to the President of Congress to remind him of its importance.

**International Organization for Migration (IOM) Nicola Graviano**

Congratulations to the Government of Honduras and UNHCR for this initiative. I have 2 queries:

- ✓ What percentage of returnees are in need of international protection measures?
- ✓ How will MIRPS measures for migrants without international protection needs be coordinated, as they continue to have rights and face challenges as MIRPS initiatives fit, but still need access to housing, health, food security, access to all of these from their communities?

**General Directorate for the Protection of Honduran Migrants: Director Wilson Paz**

- ✓ As for the percentage in the migrant care centres, many are not identified.
- ✓ State institutions are working to provide these people with opportunities, because almost 50 per cent of returnees return to the cycle of migration.
- ✓ At the regional level, as President Pro Tempore, we have sought to unite the RCM and the MIRPS.

## **Ambassador Antonio García Carranza Undersecretary of State in the Offices of Consular and Migratory Affairs**

- ✓ UNHCR is supported by UNHCR, which has CAMR staff to protect returnees.

### **Representative of the United Nations (UN) Alice Shackelford**

- ✓ We have two Global Compacts, the global compact for migration and the global compact for refugees, but in a context like Honduras it is important to have a comprehensive approach.
- ✓ There is a lot of interest in the international community to support Honduras in building an integrated framework around the dynamics of migration, immigration, transit and internal displacement.
- ✓ the peacebuilding fund programme should be piloted, it is a very important tool.
- ✓ Many countries are supporting the Humanitarian Response Plan, there are many specific interventions on the issue of internal displacement and migration.
- ✓ The UN cooperation framework could be integrated into the commitments presented here.
- ✓ The aforementioned law, last year we sent a letter that we will have to do again to send to the new Congress.
- ✓ It would be very interesting to strengthen and work with the Secretary of Women's Affairs, because of the commitment of the President herself.

### **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Jose Barrera.**

- ✓ The needs of the returnees are 100%, we follow up as UNHCR, we have followed up on the cases that come to us and of those we have assisted 762 people who have been assisted with the relocation that we do, because they are afraid to return and that is why we provide them with economic aid so that they can move to other parts of the country.
- ✓ Highlight the importance of information management, comment that UNHCR is working on strengthening a project with the World Bank, hopefully this data will be available for next year, it is not only the number of data but the causes of why they do it that serves to know what policies should be implemented.

### **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) María José Barquín**

- ✓ Take advantage of this forum to bring to your attention the non-refundable facility that the Bank has for migrants, which originally was only for receiving countries, now would include countries receiving returnees.
- ✓ Honduras would become a potential beneficiary country.
- ✓ We are anticipating the visit of the Head of the IDB Migration Unit before the end of the year to meet with the government and other actors of the international community to have clarity on what are the needs, priorities and how we could access these resources for the benefit of Honduras.
- ✓ The facility that the Bank has will be in accordance with the projects that are programmed for the year 2023 in accordance with the Secretary of Finance.
- ✓ A comprehensive approach to one of the structural problems for one of the vulnerable groups, specifically young people, in terms of training and employment.
- ✓ We will work with the government and private enterprise to reintegrate young people.

## **Ambassador Antonio García Carranza Undersecretary of State in the Offices of Consular and Migratory Affairs.**

### **Regarding the situation of mixed migratory flows in Trojes**

- ✓ As a government we granted an amnesty so that migrants are not penalized with inhumane fines.
- ✓ We need an open reception centre so that people don't feel they are in a prison.
- ✓ It is a problem that we must all solve.

### **UN Office on Drugs and Crime - Monica Mendoza.**

I had two questions regarding the system for registering returnees:

- ✓ Is there a system in place and is legal guidance connected to the justice system in the work that MIRPS does?
- ✓ I want to know if this system allows intercommunication with the other countries that are on the migration route?
- ✓ About what percentage of the time has implementation begun?

### **UNITED STATES MIRPS Support Platform**

- ✓ Express that the United States agrees on the importance of passing the law on internal displacement as soon as possible.
- ✓ This will demonstrate Honduras' leadership on the world stage.

## **PARTICIPATION OF GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS**

### **Health Secretary Dr. Villa Elvir.**

- ✓ We are working to provide care for migrants in Trojes.
- ✓ At the inter-institutional level, we have a health care guide for the migrant population and we are interconnected with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Migration Institute and other ministries. We need to interconnect with Mexico, which is where most migrants travel to, in order to be able to follow up with them on health issues.

### **National Institute of Migration - Management of Human Rights Joseana Martinez**

- ✓ We created a policy to support internal displacement, migrants and returnees, with the participation of 21 State institutions that participate in the expanded MIRPS roundtable, in order to address them in a comprehensive manner.
- ✓ In trojes as the National Migration Institute (INM) we work with an emergency plan.
- ✓ We also work in an integral center for migrants in the city of Danli.
- ✓ We assist people through vulnerability surveys to provide them with international protection measures.

### **General Directorate for the Protection of Honduran Migrants: Director Wilson Paz**

- ✓ We are working with the support of the IOM, we are meeting with the authorities to promote this migration policy.

- ✓ On the issue of data is ambiguous closed, recently we are approaching to work with the observatory of the vulnerability of poverty, to move forward and as a State to have a better approach and a better response.
- ✓ We are grateful for the support that the United States has given us.

### **Secretary of Women's Affairs**

- ✓ It is important that this Secretariat has these spaces to make women visible.
- ✓ The importance of having mobilization data, in order to work with strategies
- ✓ The Secretariat has a particular interest that systems contribute to measuring.

### **MEETING AGREEMENTS: Director Wilson Paz**

1. Link the G16 with the MIRPS working group and the state institutions that make up the MIRPS, to have better results.
2. Send a letter to Congress to ask them to pass the law on internal displacement.
3. Follow up through UNHCR and UN WOMEN to the Women's Secretariat.
4. Map where the interventions are.
5. Make the support we have more visible in the areas.
6. Clarify the platforms for monitoring international cooperation .

### **Closing of the Meeting: Ambassador Antonio García Carranza Undersecretary of State in the Offices of Consular and Migratory Affairs.**

I would like to deeply thank each one of you, the Ambassadors, the European Union, Financial Institutions, the United Nations Agencies, my government colleagues, this is an issue that matters to all of us, we are all concerned about, today's meeting was very good, I highlight the support of all of us for this Law to be approved.

To conclude this Declaration of Los Angeles, each country has appointed a representative, and everything we have talked about is very much in line with it.

Honduras is globally engaged. Thank you again