



MIRPS FUND (COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL PROTECTION AND SOLUTIONS FRAMEWORK FUND)

The Department of Social Inclusion (DSI) of the Organization of American States (OAS), in its role managing and administering the MIRPS Fund, continues to make significant efforts toward its operationalization and implementation. These efforts are aligned with the support requested by MIRPS States and complement existing mechanisms to respond to the challenges of forced displacement in Central America and Mexico.

In this regard, the DSI, in coordination with MIRPS States and strategic partners, has carried out various activities during the first quarter of 2025.



OAS GENERAL SECRETARIAT AND BELIZE SIGN AGREEMENT TO STRENGTHEN REFUGEE PROTECTION

On February 20 of this year, the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Ministry of Immigration of Belize signed an agreement marking the launch of the Refugee Department’s Border Presence Project—an important initiative to enhance protection and assistance for individuals with international protection needs in the country.



GS/OAS Representative in Belize, Luiz Coimbra with the CEO of the Ministry of Immigration of Belize, Tanya Santos.

Through this project, the presence of the Refugee Department will be reinforced at key border points, enabling early identification and response for those in need of protection. The project will ensure that asylum seekers in Belize receive clear and accessible information about the application process, their rights, and available opportunities for integration into society.



Present at the signing were the Head of UNHCR’s Office in Belize, Myrat Myradov; the GS/OAS Representative in Belize, Luiz Coimbra; the Ambassador of Panama to Belize, David Castro De León; the Ambassador of Mexico to Belize, Martha Ofelia Zamarripa Rivas; the CEO of the Ministry of Immigration of Belize, Tanya Santos; and the non-resident Ambassador of Spain to Belize, María Clara Girbau Ronda.



DGME SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES MIRPS FUNDED PROJECT

On March 26 of this year, the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners (DGME) of the Republic of Costa Rica presented improvements and modernization of the Refugee Unit's platform. These were carried out under the project "Strengthening the identification and referral of refugee applicants and/or persons with particularly vulnerable profiles, through the modernization of the Refugee Unit's platform in Costa Rica"—a key initiative aimed at enhancing care and protection for asylum seekers and individuals with special protection needs in the country.



To improve the user experience and streamline workflow, the platform was upgraded using existing infrastructure and incorporating significant improvements. These updates will ensure greater privacy and confidentiality in interactions between applicants and staff. The changes are expected to reduce wait times by approximately 20 minutes per person and increase appointment availability from 600 to 1,500 per week.



Present at the event were the Ambassador of Spain to Costa Rica, Eva Martínez Sánchez; the Vice Minister of Governance and Police and General Director of Migration and Foreigners, Omer Badilla Toledo; and the OAS General Secretariat Representative in Costa Rica, Milagro Martínez.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



The Refugee Department is preparing to launch implementation of the **Border Presence Project**, a key initiative to strengthen institutional response capacity in border regions.



Following the successful implementation of the Project "**Strengthening the Identification and Referral of Persons Applying for Refugee Status and/or with Profiles of Special Vulnerability through the Modernization of Costa Rica's Refugee Unit Platform**," the Refugee Unit will now move into the project's closing phase.



The National Council for Early Childhood, Children, and Adolescents (CONAPINA) will submit the Final Report of the project "**Enhancing the Livelihoods of Returnee Children and Adolescents in need of Protection and their families**." A presentation of the project's main findings and lessons learned will follow.



In Guatemala, the project "**Facilitating the Labor Inclusion of the Population Applying for Refugee Status and Refugees in Guatemala**" will begin implementation in the first half of April. The project aims to strengthen employment opportunities and promote economic autonomy for the refugee population in the country.



In Honduras, the Human Rights Secretariat (SEDH) will submit the Final Report of the project "**Strengthening the governmental response to assist internally displaced persons due to violence**." A presentation of the project's main findings, lessons learned and the actions taken to support this vulnerable population will follow.



In the Darién region, the project "**Strengthening the care, integration and protection of refugees, asylum seekers and host communities in Darién, in line with the MIRPS National Action Plan, with special emphasis on children, adolescents and women**," will conclude during the first half of April. The project will then move into the closing phase, consolidating progress in protecting and supporting vulnerable populations.

These initiatives incorporate a cross-cutting approach to rights and inclusion.



It is expected to benefit more than 100,000 people in the MIRPS States.

JOIN THE MIRPS FUND



The MIRPS Fund remains open to receiving new contributions and continuing the implementation of field projects and initiatives in MIRPS countries.

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