



Regional Workshop: The Key Role of Coordination and Knowledge Management for the Assistance to Migrants in Disaster Situations

Launch of the Regional Study: “Migrant Populations in the Reduction of Risk and Attention of Emergencies in Central America”

CONCEPT NOTE

CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

Central America and Mexico’s geographic location constitutes one of the world’s most important migration corridors. All countries share characteristics of origin, transit, destination and return of intra-regional migrants as well as of migrants from other parts of the Americas and other continents, with migration becoming each time a more complex dynamic in the region.

This high migration dynamic is what makes the region one of the biggest migratory routes in the world. According to the World Migration Report 2018 (IOM), in 2015, Mexico was the largest emigration country in Latin America and the Caribbean. That year, over 12.5 million people born in Mexico lived abroad, making it the second largest migrant origin country in the world after India. Most Mexican emigrants lived in the United States, which explains why the migration corridor that joins Mexico and the United States continues to be the largest country-to-country migration corridor in the entire world. Many other Central American countries such as El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras also have large migrant populations in the United States.

This international migration dynamic takes place in a highly volatile environment and natural context. Due to climate, geological and geomorphological conditions, there are multiple natural threats in the region, increasing the risk of natural disasters such as earthquakes, droughts, floods, landslides, hurricanes, among others. The natural disasters cause every year losses costing from 20 to 30 billion dollars in this region, considered the second region in the world “more vulnerable” to this phenomenon, according to data from the Mesoamerican Comprehensive Risk Management Network.¹

The link between migration and vulnerability to natural disasters in the region, in hydrological, meteorological, geophysical, biological and even anthropogenic forms such as forest fires, hazardous materials, etc., denotes the need to develop comprehensive

¹ <https://www.efe.com/efe/america/sociedad/los-desastres-causan-perdidas-por-hasta-30-000-millones-de-dolares-en-mesoamerica/20000013-3741746#>





prevention and preparedness solutions by responsible protection agencies, with the purpose of reducing the risk and improving the response, thus enabling a fast and comprehensive recovery. Good migration governance is based, among other objectives, on effective responses to the mobility dimensions of crises.

Considering the above, the international community has forged a series of international agreements and instruments to build national capacities in this area, particularly the Guidelines to Protect Migrants in Countries Experiencing Conflict or Natural Disaster (MICIC Initiative) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework). The Sendai Framework outlines global commitments in this topic from a broad and people-centered preventive approach (including migrant populations), recognizing the importance of considering multiple threats and the reduction of risk through multi-sectoral actions.

Likewise, the Central American Integration System (SICA), through specialized Secretariats and Bodies, has addressed the issue through specific actions, such as the Central American Social Integration Secretariat (SISCA) as part of the strategic lines of the Intersectoral Regional Agenda for Social Protection and Productive Inclusion (ARIPSIP by its Spanish acronym).

In this context, the concerted action of governments, private sector and the international cooperation is needed to build capacities to prevent and prepare for migration crises, thus supporting migrants, displaced persons and crisis-affected communities, guided by humanitarian principles and in compliance with international standards; to promote durable solutions for migrant populations; to address the root causes of the crises and other related causes, and to strengthen the resilience of individuals and their communities of origin.

BACKGROUND

At the regional level, in 2016 an innovative and creative process was initiated, led by the Guiding Entities of Civil Protection and/or Disaster Risk Management of the Center for Natural Disaster Prevention in Central America and Dominican Republic (CEPREDENAC, by its Spanish acronym), resulting in the drafting of the Central American Policy on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management (PCGIR), harmonized with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.²

The PCGIR outlines the commitments made by regional authorities in representation of the Guiding Entities of Civil Protection, which has been approved at the highest level by the Presidents of the SICA member countries. Under core element A, it contemplates information management as a key element for decision-making, stating that data should be disaggregated and include migrant populations. It also highlights the crucial

2 <http://www.ceprendenac.org/index.php/pcgir>





importance of having quality information for decision-making and formulating and implementing necessary measures: *“For this reason, the collection, analysis, management and use of data and relevant information, as well as ensuring its dissemination considering the financial and economic needs of the Region, must be promoted”*.

Core element C of the PCGIR highlights the opportunity of collaborating among different bodies, which may also involve discussion scenarios related to migration management in emergency contexts. Core elements A and C of the PCGIR are consistent with two of the principles of the Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF), which establish the importance of formulating policy using evidence and “whole-of government” approach, as well as engaging with partners to address migration related issues.

In addition to this fundamental framework for the region and countries, in the context of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) a series of trainings aiming towards improved coordination between the sectors of migration and emergencies were developed:

- In February 2017, the regional workshop “Protecting Nationals Abroad Affected by Crisis” took place, organized by the Technical Secretariat of the Regional Conference on Migration (TS-RCM), the Government of Costa Rica and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), with the collaboration of the MICIC Initiative and the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) of the U.S. State Department, through the Regional Program “Strengthening Capacities to Protect and Assist Vulnerable Migrants in Mesoamerica”, implemented by IOM.
- On June 6-7, 2018, the “Workshop on the prevention and assistance to migrants and people displaced across borders in the context of disasters” was held, organized by the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, the RCM, MICIC, IOM and the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD), during which experiences related to the assistance and protection of migrants in countries affected by disasters were exchanged.

Also, one of the key IOM cooperation areas to contribute to improved migration governance and to promote the protection of migrants in countries affected by disasters, has been capacity building³, at the regional, national and local level, through workshops on the implementation of the Migrants in Countries Experiencing Conflict or Natural Disaster (MICIC) Initiative. These workshops enabled identifying the need to strengthen coordination mechanisms, including the revision of protocols, between migration and civil

³ More than 22 workshops implemented in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, México, Belize, Nicaragua, Panama, with staff from diverse institutions and organizations involved in the risk management and assistance of migrant populations.





protection sectors; and on a repeated basis, have identified the need to strengthen the information management mechanisms on migrants.

Finally, IOM has developed the regional study “Migrant Populations in the Reduction of Risk and Attention of Emergencies in Central America” that identifies in which ways migrant populations are included in the normative and institutional frameworks of the National Systems for Risk Reduction at the regional and national level. This study recommends the establishment of commitments for a joint work agenda, the creation of registration mechanisms for the exchange of information on migrant populations in areas of risk, as well as the importance of sustainable actions.

Following-up on this regional and multi-sectoral comprehensive strategy, the Regional Workshop “**Incorporating Migrants in Emergency Situations: The Key Role of Knowledge Management in the Assistance to Migrants in Disaster Situations**” aims to contribute to strengthening intersectoral actions between CEPREDENAC, OCAM and the RCM, to address emergencies in an inclusive manner, incorporating migrants in disaster preparedness, response and recovery activities. The workshop’s dialogue will focus on the creation of necessary mechanisms for the collection, analysis and exchange of information to enable the planning of comprehensive strategies at the regional and country level.

OBJECTIVES

General Objective:

Promoting coordination spaces between the existing regional mechanisms for migration management and risk management, with the aim of contributing to capacity building on information exchange for the protection of migrants in the context of disasters of different nature.

Specific Objectives:

1. Analyzing the migratory dynamics of the region and the risk factors in the context of natural disasters and humanitarian response.
2. Promoting dialogue on the alignment of national strategies on information management of migrants in crisis according to the regional and global frameworks on the subject.
3. Identifying and exchanging successful experiences on information management of migrants in crisis by using the cases of participant countries.
4. Identifying the information gaps and needs for the inclusion of migrants in risk management.
5. Exploring new uses for methodologies, new technologies and non-traditional information sources in the management of migration crises caused by disasters (such as DTM).





PARTICIPANTS

Participation from OCAM, CEPREDENAC and Member Countries of the RCM, SG-SICA, SISCA, and other Secretariats and specialized organs, as well as humanitarian actors such as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), among others, is expected. The participation of 3 officials per country who are directly related to disaster response and information management for the responsible entities of:

- 1 officer from an institution in charge of migration management,
- 1 officer from the governing entity in charge of risk management
- 1 officer from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in charge of assistance to fellow citizens abroad.

LOGISTICAL MATTERS

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) will cover air travel from and to Guatemala City for three participants from each country. Furthermore, the workshop organizers will cover meals, materials and accommodation costs during the days of the event.

The Technical Secretariat of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) will send the designated officers a logistical guide with all the administrative information regarding the workshop, which will include dress code, hotel, internal transportation, as well as a methodology guide that will contain guidelines for presentations and working groups.





The Key Role of Coordination and Knowledge Management for the Assistance of Migrants in Disaster Situations

Regional Workshop

Guatemala City, Guatemala
August 21 and 22, 2019

AGENDA

Date: August 20, 2019	
Participants arrive to Guatemala City	
Date: August 21, 2019	
8:00 – 8:30	Registration of participants
8:30 – 9:00	Session I: Opening: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, PPT of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM). • International Organization for Migration (IOM) • Central American and Dominican Republic Coordination Center for Natural Disaster Prevention (CEPREDENAC) • Representative from the PPT of SICA (El Salvador)
9:00 – 10:00	Review of Workshop Agenda, Objectives and Methodology <i>IOM, OCAM and CEPREDENAC</i>
10:00 – 10:15	Coffee Break
10:15 – 10:30	Introduction of participants
10:30 – 11:00	Session II: Launch of the Regional Study: “Migrant Populations in the Reduction of Risk and Attention of Emergencies in Central America” <i>IOM and CEPREDENAC</i>
11:00 – 12:30	Session III: Global Presentations Linked to the 2030 Agenda, Sendai Framework and PCGIR <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CEPREDENAC and its Contribution to Disaster Risk Reduction in the Region 2. SCSA: Regional Efforts Linked to the Assistance of Migrants





	<p>3. Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD): Regional Initiatives on the Assistance of Migrants and Humanitarian Assistance</p> <p>4. UNDRR: Migrants and Displaced Persons in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030: Implementation Guide of Goal (E) in Disaster Displacement.</p> <p>5. IFRC: Preparedness and Response to Humanitarian Needs Caused by Displacement.</p>
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Session IV: Country Presentations</p> <p>Forum: good practices and regional challenges on intersectoral work and information exchange</p> <p>Representatives of the RCM Member Countries <i>(Aspects regarding the format and content of the presentation shall be indicated in the methodology guide of the workshop, which will be shared soon)</i></p>
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee Break
15:45 – 17:00	<p>Session V: Country Presentations</p> <p>Forum: good practices and regional challenges on intersectoral work and information exchange</p> <p>Representatives of the RCM Member Countries</p>
17:00 – 17:30	Information management and characterization of the region in terms of migratory flows <i>OCAM</i>
Date: August 22, 2019	
8:30 – 9:00	Review of the first day <i>TS-RCM</i>
9:00 – 10:45	<p>Session VI:</p> <p>Technology and Non-Traditional Information Sources <i>IOM</i></p>
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:00	Working Groups by Country: Identifying Strengths and Needs in the Subject of Information Management and Regional Coordination for the Protection of Migrants in Emergency Contexts





	<i>(The work methodology for the group sessions and the expected results for the sessions will be included in the methodology guide of the workshop, which will be shared soon)</i>
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:30	Session VII: Working Groups by Country: Recommendations to Continue Strengthening Joint Work and Emergency Responses through Integrated Knowledge Management in the Region
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee Break
15:45 – 16:30	Group feedback and workshop evaluation
16:30- 17:00	Session VIII: Workshop Conclusions and Closing

