

A quick overview of the Western Hemisphere Program (WHP) progress and key activities from April 01 to June 30, 2023.



Local Migration Governance

Local governments in Guatemala prepare for the implementation of the national migration policy

Representatives of 20 local governments with the highest migration flows and the central government participated in a forum on migration governance in San Marcos, Guatemala. Upon conclusion of the forum, the local governments gained knowledge on the content of the national migration policy draft and jointly identified potential complementary actions at the local level. [Read more](#)



Partnerships

CDEMA¹ enhances use of data for evidence-based decisions on migration management

In April, 2023 national disaster coordinators from CDEMA Participating States were trained on the DTM² methodology. DTM has been used to collect data on human mobility to devise disaster and crises responses in several Caribbean countries. This action wants to strengthen the capacities of adopting evidence-based decisions on migration management at national and regional levels. [Read more](#)



Climate Change

RCM³ strengthens internal dialogue on human mobility and climate change

Under the RCM's auspices, WHP organized the first Workshop on Human Mobility in the Context of Disasters, Environmental Degradation and Climate Change, held in Panama City. Over 40 delegates from governmental institutions, UN agencies and civil society participated and discussed the subject by enhancing their knowledge and commitment. Besides listing a series of conclusions, participants agreed on joint thematic actions ahead:

- Update the "Guide to Effective Practices for RCM Member Countries: Protection for Persons Moving Across Borders in the Context of Disasters"
- Foster ongoing discussion on climate change displacement within the RCM and on existing regulations present in the region.

[Read more](#)

Communications

WHP launches MigrantInfo, a portal with accurate and timely information on regular journeys for migrants

Migrantinfo is a regional platform to centralize and facilitate information on regular migration pathways and services for migrants at all stages of their journey in the region. The online portal has also been designed based on the feedback received by the direct beneficiaries, hence to make it user-friendly and easily understandable.



VISIT MIGRANTINFO

The information available includes:

- Location and services of Information Hubs
 - Legal migration requirements
 - Institutions and services
 - Migration tips



[Read more](#)

Legal identity services and diaspora mapping tools: key components for migration management



As follow-up to the Seminar on Consular Protection facilitated in 2022, WHP gathered RCM delegations in June 2023 to develop a roadmap for actions to improve diaspora mapping and access to legal identity for migrants under four key strategic areas:

- 1 Development of consular capacities
- 2 Engagement of diasporas
- 3 Strengthening of interinstitutional coordination
- 4 Regional cooperation

This product will be shared with RCM's Member Countries for final validation and incorporation into the regional strategic plan.

SHARING EVIDENCE: WHP shared in this event the preliminary findings of an in-progress regional research study on mechanisms for access to legal identity in eight countries of the region.

WHP promotes exchanges to facilitate intra-regional labor migration agreements and regular pathways

Temporary labor migration flows in the agricultural sector are a common practice and interest in the region. As a contribution to generating and applying more mechanisms to enable migrants to move in the region and work lawfully, the following activities were implemented:



The RCM Member Countries, IOM and ILO joined in Panama in June to exchange experiences on circular migration in the agricultural and domestic work sectors. IOM promoted binational agreements, like SITLAM⁴, to ensure issuance of ID cards and lawful access to basic services for temporary labor migrants in the country of destination. With the IOM support, some countries will follow-up by exploring possibilities of applying a similar system at the national level. In parallel, an analysis of key aspects to ensure application of binational agreement in the respect of migrant worker's rights will be conducted to identify needed actions at the regional level. [Read more](#)



WHP fostered the dialogue between the Ministries of Labor of Belize, Costa Rica, and Panama to exchange own practices on regularizing cross-border migrant workers. WHP follow up actions will include technical support and capacity building to strengthen the decision-making process and definition of roadmaps for the adoption of a system like the SITLAM applied between Costa Rica with Panama and Nicaragua.



The Government of Honduras and the Honduran Institute of Coffee visited Costa Rica to learn about their experience implementing SITLAM as receiving country of temporary migrant workers. Good practices and recommendations are expected to be considered in Government of Honduras' plan to devise and implement a cross-border ID card pilot program for temporary workers from Nicaragua.



WHP presented the study "Labour migration flows in the coffee sector in Costa Rica, Honduras and Mexico: towards a better migration management" offering evidence for decision-making on migration governance and ethical labor recruitment mechanisms in the region. [Read more](#)



Latest Publications

Launch of the study

The integration of migrants: experiences, good practices and challenges

Launch of the study

Labour migration flows in the coffee sector in Costa Rica, Honduras and Mexico: towards a better migration management

Capacity building is at the core of the WHP

In this quarter, **5,140** people were trained.

4 OTHER

2,404 MEN

2,732 WOMEN

More than 100 people were trained on climate change, crisis and emergency issues in coordination with strategic partners such as CEPREDENAC⁵, the General Directorate of Civil Protection in El Salvador and the Federal Government in Mexico. [Read more](#)

Strategic processes: These trainings are key to the advocacy process for the implementation of the framework law on migration and climate change promoted by FOPREL⁶.

A glance of our work



Work in progress



WHP returns to the Bahamas with the organization of an initial training for media professionals to promote ethical media coverage of migration (in coordinating with the Association of Caribbean Media Workers), and afterwards with other planned initiatives.

In August, with the technical support of the WHP, CARICOM⁷ will be discussing the steps forward for the development of the regional policy on migration in the Caribbean, in light of the recently adopted decision on free movement of CARICOM country's citizens.

WHP is finalizing the development of the "Migrants in Transit through the Americas" dashboard, which will provide timely migration data and evidences on the change of flows. The dashboard will be launched in July.

WHP is carrying out a regional study that will map the most dangerous areas for migrants in transit. The study will aim to explore the reasons why these routes are dangerous and identify protection services along the transit countries.

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For more information, please contact Andrea Dabizzi, Regional Program Coordinator at adabizzi@iom.int.

Notes: ⁴ Labor Migration Traceability System | ⁵The Coordination Center for Natural Disaster Prevention in Central America

⁶ Forum of Presidents of the Legislative Bodies of Central America and the Caribbean Basin (FOPREL, as per its Spanish acronym) | ⁷ The Caribbean Community