

A quick overview of IOM's Western Hemisphere Program (WHP) progress and key activities from September 1st to December 31, 2023.

Migration Management

WHP supports the development and follow up to the recently approved National Migration Policies in Guatemala and El Salvador



WHP successfully supported the Governments of Guatemala and El Salvador in the development of their national policies ([National Migration Policy in Guatemala](#) and the [Human Mobility Policy in El Salvador](#)) as key milestones that reinforce the institutional frameworks on migration. Currently, the Program is supporting governmental institutions at national and local levels to follow-up and implement these Policies.

Communications

IOM builds C4D² actions after its evaluation process: New campaign in Mexico seeks to prevent xenophobia



Thousands of migrants transit or settle in Mexico and, according to a C4D baseline conducted by IOM, 7 out of 10 migrants have experienced discrimination.

In response to this context, IOM Mexico, in alliance with the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, IOM launched the campaign "Ties that Bring us Together" ("*Hilos que Nos Unen*" in Spanish) as part of WHP's C4D efforts that follow a participatory and evidence-based preparatory process. This campaign targets Mexicans and seeks to foster social inclusion. It also wants to contribute to social change by reducing xenophobia, discrimination and hate speech against migrants.

[Read more](#)



Local Migration Governance

RCM Regional Migration Strategic Plan's implementation is under way with IOM's collaboration

WHP is promoting and facilitating discussion and exchange of ideas and practices between the countries on strategic matters on migration through supporting implementation of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) Strategic Plan 2023-2026.

"IOM through the WHP provided technical and financial support to carry out 5 regional activities [in 2023]. We highlight the approval of the First Regional Labor Mobility Plan, the Workshop on Human Mobility in contexts of Disasters, Environmental Degradation and Climate Change and the Workshop on Human Rights Protection and Humanitarian Action at International Borders within the framework of the USFROH¹."

Johanna Aguirre Frias, Representation of the Republic of Panama in the Pro-Tempore Presidency of the RCM in 2023.

In 2024, the Program continues to contribute with the implementation of the Strategic Plan in key issues, such as labor migration mechanisms and setting a dialogue with local governments on their complementary roles in migration management.

Climate Change

WHP advocates for a human mobility and climate change legislation in the region



Recognizing the present and future challenges around climate change and its link to migration, the Members States of the Forum of Presidents of Legislative Powers of Central America, and the Caribbean (FOPREL) set the path for progressing with the Regional Framework Law to improve the management of human mobility and protection of affected people due to climate change and environmental reasons.

As next steps IOM, through WHP, will present the annotated version of the Regional Framework Law in at least 6 national parliaments in the first half of 2024.

Cross-border dialogue

WHP highlights the importance of cooperation between States for safe, orderly and humane migration. The Program promotes binational exchanges to facilitate cross-border management in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner in the region, such as the following:

IOM has been facilitating working sessions of the Cross-Border Dialogue Table (MDT) representatives from Haiti and the Dominican Republic to enhance cross-border human mobility within the island. Both countries are committed to draft actions that identify strengths and areas of improvement of the benefit of vulnerable migrant populations, local authorities, and civil society.

After the successful implementation of the Labor Migration Traceability System (SITLAM) in Costa Rica, the country is working with Panama to join efforts for improving bilateral labor migration programs. The latest achievement includes the draft of a guide on ethical recruitment in the agricultural sector. This is a valuable source for addressing migrants' needs and recognizing the contribution of the workers from one country in the territory of the other country.

WHP offered technical support to this process partnering with the Ministries of Labor of both countries that led the process.



"The most important thing is that now workers from neighboring countries can move around the country with a document, which they did not have before. They were totally undocumented. Now we give them a card that allows them to enter, work with a temporary permit, receive health services as they should, and the employer can have them on the payroll and registered with the Costa Rican Social Security Fund and the National Insurance Institute".

Renato Alvarado, Ex-Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Development of Costa Rica on the importance of SITLAM implementations.



This quarter in numbers:

From September to December, **2,103** people were trained under the WHP:

1,096 MEN **1,007 WOMEN**



3,764 migrant workers were part of the Labor Migration Traceability System (SITLAM) in Costa Rica, allowing them to work and move regularly.



179,152 people reached out through both C4D community-based activities and virtual channels such as [Migrant Info](#) and [Somos Colmena](#). They received accurate and timely information on migration.



Over **800** self-paced courses were completed in E-Campus as a complementary online learning methodology on migration management. These courses help to consolidate in-person capacity-building processes.



5,939 people assisted by Information Hubs in the region. **2,418** of them were referred to other services, mainly for regularization and asylum services. These referrals ensure a quick response to migrants needs.

Latest Publications

Collecting accurate and disaggregated data for developing evidence-based activities and analysis is one of the core strategies of the Program. During this quarter, WHP published a total of 24 reports including:

- 20 Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) reports to provide data on human mobility. 9 of them included the detection of vulnerability factors, among them mobility caused by climate change.
- 3 Migration Governance Indicators assessment reports: Upala municipality and National profile (Costa Rica), and Cuilco municipality (Guatemala), which are fundamental for devising and updating evidence-based policies.
- Access to legal identity is essential for a safe, orderly, and regular migration. IOM has published the study *Legal Identity Mechanisms for Migrants*, which examines existing procedures, good practices in the region and it offers recommendations aimed at strengthening local, regional, and national legislation.



[Find the study here](#) (available in Spanish only)

Work in progress

- **New National Migration policy on the road:** WHP is offering technical support for the first draft of the National Migration Policy in Costa Rica.
- **Complementary capacity-building sources are expanding:** a specialized course on data protection will be available on E-Campus.
- **C4D arrives to the Caribbean:** IOM joins government authorities in the Dominican Republic to launch a communication campaign that addresses the risks of irregular migration to Puerto Rico and to the U.S. southwest border by sea.

The Western Hemisphere Program is implemented by IOM thanks to generous funding from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM).

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