



**75,000**  
 TARGETED INDIVIDUALS



**14**  
 COUNTRIES COVERED: BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, CHILE,  
 COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, ECUADOR, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, HAITI,  
 HONDURAS, MEXICO, NICARAGUA, PANAMA & PERU



**74.7M**  
 FUNDING REQUIRED (USD)

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

Irregular migration across the Americas, principally towards the United States of America (hereinafter, United States) and Mexico (as a stop before the United States) has significantly increased in recent months. While the majority of those who are undertaking this long and hazardous journey are Haitian nationals, nationals of Brazil, Chile, Cuba and various countries in Asia and Africa have also been identified. **Venezuelan migrants and refugees are covered by the [Refugee and Migrant Response Plan](#) and thus are not included in this response plan.**

Following the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, over 200,000 Haitians migrated to Argentina, Brazil, and Chile where they settled. These countries offered humanitarian visas and other legal options to facilitate migration and regularize migrants from Haiti. However, in recent years, the worsening socioeconomic conditions, the tightening of visa regulations, the difficulties in obtaining information and documents to regularize their status, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the recurrence of natural disasters and increasing xenophobia, among other factors, have profoundly impacted the well-being of the Haitian community in these countries and reduced opportunities for integration. Unfavorable exchange rates affecting remittance transfers and false information about the openness of United States borders have provided further motivations to seek new opportunities in the north. Other non-Haitian migrants have been affected by similar incidents.

As a result, the main migration routes stretch across South America from Brazil, Chile and Guyana where migrants enter and depart before transiting across the continent towards the north. Migration flows pass through either the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (hereinafter, Venezuela) and Colombia, or through the Andean corridor (Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia), crossing the Darien Gap to Central America, onwards to Mexico and ultimately the United States (Figure 2). Between January and October 2021, an estimated 100,000 migrants crossed the Darien Gap, of which 62 per cent were Haitians (up from 23 per cent in 2020), 10 per cent were Haitian descendants with Chilean or Brazilian nationalities, and 14 per cent were Cubans (SNM, 2021). Currently, an estimated average of 800 to 1,000 migrants are crossing every day, moving north to join the approximately 20,000 to 25,000 Haitians currently in transit in Mexico. Irregular border crossings between Chile and Bolivia, between Colombia

and Panama (Darién gap) and between Mexico and the United States expose migrants to extreme risks including violence, exploitation and abuse, gender-based violence, extortion and death.

While in transit, migrants, especially families with children, women, girls and boys, find themselves in situations of extreme vulnerability. This is exacerbated by limited access to basic services, such as shelter, food, water, hygiene products, health care and psychosocial support. The lack of public facilities often leaves migrants to pursue market-based options if they have resources, or to sleep out in the open and depend on the goodwill of by-passers for basic needs. Language is a major barrier for some of the migrants, particularly Haitians and extra regionals, to obtaining information on migration regulations, aggravating the risk of exploitation and abuse, while also limiting communication with authorities. The large flows of Haitians, Cubans and migrants of other nationalities have also stretched the capacity of many host and transit communities (already impacted by the large flows of refugees and migrants from Venezuela), some of which have become hotspots for rising incidents of xenophobia and violence between migrants and host community members and between migrants themselves.

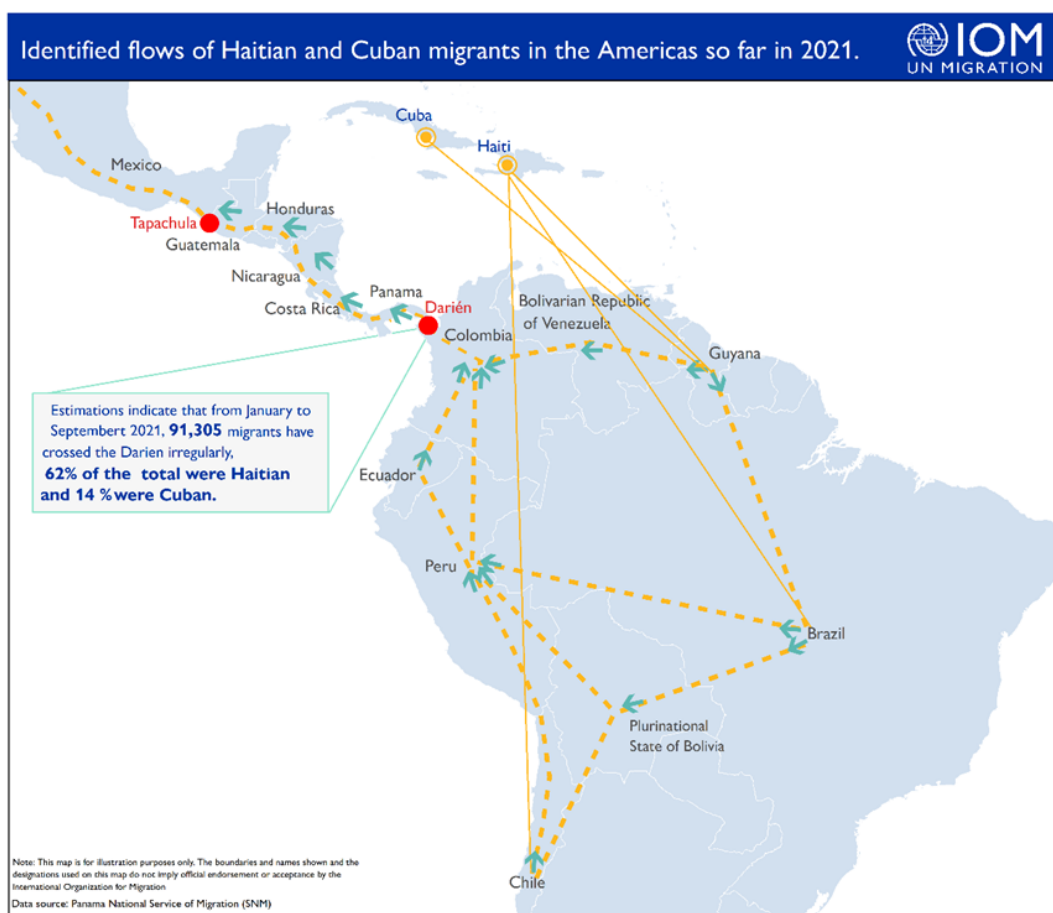
Although national and local authorities as well as civil society and faith-based organizations are providing some basic assistance along the routes, many face challenges in coping with the growing demand and, in the context of the pandemic, have not been able to receive new persons to prevent outbreaks of COVID-19.

Returns of Haitian nationals has been on-going since March 2018, with over 8,500 Haitians returned from the United States, the Bahamas, Mexico, Turks and Caicos, Cuba and Saint Kitts and Nevis. Currently, on average 400 Haitians are returned daily to Haiti from the United States, with Mexico also initiating returns in late September (IOM, Oct 2021). This situation calls for a scale-up of the humanitarian response for returnees upon arrival and to support reintegration and improve migration management long-term.

While protecting all migrants who are in vulnerable situations is an urgent imperative, addressing the adverse drivers of migration and root causes of displacements is a longer-term

effort. Both are essential and need to be complemented by temporary protection mechanisms and flexible pathways for safe and regular migration in a manner that facilitates labour mobility and decent work reflecting demographic and labour market realities, upholds the right to family life, and responds to the needs of migrants in a situation of vulnerability. These efforts require international support, regional coordination, national leadership and private sector engagement with a long-term perspective.

While assessments are on-going, preliminary results already point to clear gaps in humanitarian assistance, such as access to dignified temporary accommodations. Access to basic commodities such as hygiene, dignity kits, clothing, sleeping items and other types of Non-Food Items (NFIs) needs to be scaled up along the routes and in key crossing points where migrants have left all their belongings to make it through difficult crossing points such as the Darién gap. Emergency health assistance will be delivered to the most vulnerable as well as Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS) services. In Haiti, where returns are taking place, post arrival assistance is being provided to cover basic needs and will require scaling up. Core protection activities such as identification and referral of cases of migrants in situations of vulnerability (such as victims of violence including trafficking, and unaccompanied or separated children) will be scaled up. Through this plan, assistance will be provided either in-kind or through Cash-Based Interventions (CBI), where/when feasible and ongoing CBI schemes exist.



# IOM VISION

In view of the developments at various borders across Latin America and the Caribbean, IOM proposes an integrated regional response to the challenges recently evidenced in several countries along the migration routes of highly vulnerable migrants from the Caribbean and other regions outside of Latin America. The following section provides a snapshot of the situation on the ground, followed by IOM’s proposed response.

An estimated 100,000 highly vulnerable migrants, in majority originating from Haiti (62 per cent) or Cuba (14 per cent), have crossed through the Darien gap (Panama) from January to October 2021. This number is expected to reach 200,000+ migrants by the end of 2021 as per SENAFRONT most recent estimates.

Over 13,000 of the highly vulnerable migrants identified crossing the Colombia-Panama border were children and minors with specific needs and vulnerabilities. Some are nationals of a South American country, mainly Chile and Brazil, which indicates that these vulnerable migration flows are not exclusively from outside of Latin America and from the Caribbean.

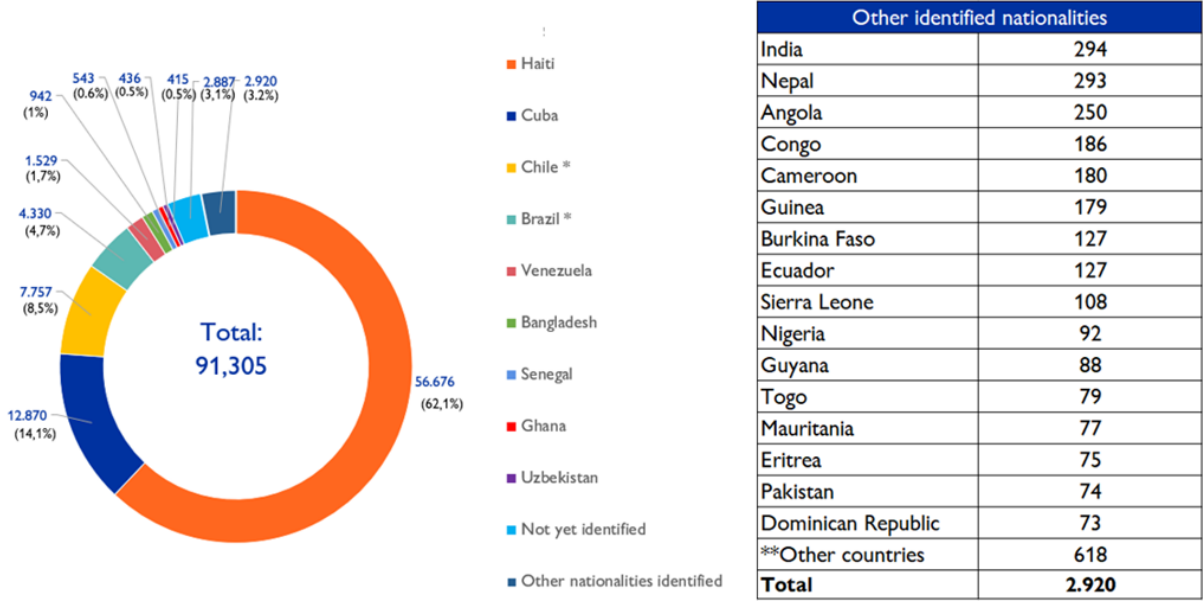


Figure 2. Nationalities of foreign nationals crossing the border from Colombia to Panama at the Darien Gap, January to September 2021<sup>1</sup>

1. October numbers for disaggregated data on sex and age were not yet available at time of publishing.

## IOM CAPACITY TO RESPOND

IOM works with Governments and partners to ensure that migrants - in regular or irregular situations -, returnees, displaced populations and other vulnerable populations are protected, while also addressing the adverse drivers of migration and root causes of displacement. IOM has had ample experience in similar situations involving large flows of migrants in Central America, and in South America such as with the Venezuela flows. There is also ample experience in other continents that IOM will capitalize upon for good practices and lessons learned.

With over 2,000 staff and 33 offices in the Latin America and Caribbean regions, IOM benefits from a strong presence on the ground. This will ensure a coordinated, multi-sectoral, equitable and timely response to increased irregular migration, and to address the risks and dangers migrants face in transit. IOM’s physical presence in the region in general, and in border areas in particular, gives the organization a distinct advantage in carrying out this type of work in line with our mandate in a timely and people-centered manner, informed by first-hand and real-time information.

IOM is liaising with Governments as well as other UN regional offices, INGOs and Civil Society Organizations present in Latin America and the Caribbean to ensure efforts are coordinated and to avoid duplication. Discussions are underway to explore the possibility of an inter-agency response, where the activities from IOM will be complemented and synergies created.

# IOM'S RESPONSE

## Objective I: Save lives and respond to needs through humanitarian assistance and protection



### 1A. ADDRESSING BASIC NEEDS, INCLUDING FOOD

With very few exceptions, most transit countries experience a growing need to provide access to food and clothing for vulnerable migrants in transit. There is an increasing demand for basic services at border crossings and along the routes in key points. This stems from the fact that migrants travel with very few resources and with the minimum they can carry on their backs. This facilitated access to basic services and food and clothing provision will be combined with other types of assistance described below.

Funding Required (USD)

**\$6,000,000**



### 1B. SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS

In order to ensure a timely and efficient response, through this plan, IOM will facilitate access to temporary accommodation centers and/or improve existing ones for vulnerable individuals and families. IOM will support the establishment and improvement of temporary accommodations centers and identify community-based solutions (rehabilitation of infrastructure and provision of household items, furniture and appliances) for migrants throughout the migration routes. In order to ensure gender and culturally sensitive shelters for migrants in entry, transit and exit areas, IOM will strengthen the technical capacities of local partners and public officials to manage effectively temporary accommodation centers, mainstreaming cross-cutting themes such as MHPSS, prevention of gender-based violence (GBV), Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (PSEA) and the implementation of COVID-19 protocols.

Funding Required (USD)

**\$10,000,000**

IOM will also provide direct assistance to vulnerable migrants through the distribution and replenishment of NFIs in the temporary accommodation centers mentioned above, using best practices to determine appropriate NFI kit contents from similar scenarios where IOM has been involved. Where feasible, CBIs will be used in lieu if there is market access and based on availability of existing transfer infrastructure and modalities.



### 1C. PROTECTION

#### **PROVISION OF PROTECTION ASSISTANCE**

IOM will support local and national governments to provide essential protection services to vulnerable migrants in need. This includes immediate and direct assistance to survivors of GBV, victims and/or persons at risk of trafficking in persons (TIP) or other forms of violence, exploitation or abuse, unaccompanied or separated children and LGBTIQ+ persons in vulnerable situations. Further, IOM will provide protection-related information to migrants through the establishment of information points using interactive technology and audiovisual materials in relevant languages along the migratory routes. The information points will be located at points of congregation, border crossing points and municipalities with a high number of migrants. Through direct assistance, case management, and engagement with migrants and host communities, IOM will assess what is known about trafficking and smuggling routes, profiles of VOTs, known profiles of traffickers, smugglers and networks, modalities, risk factors, trends and modus operandi, focusing on key hotspots.

Funding Required (USD)

**\$6,400,000**



At the country level, IOM will conduct screenings of vulnerabilities to provide direct and immediate assistance and referrals for assistance and protection along the migration route, while establishing monitoring and coordination mechanisms/protocols with local authorities to prevent GBV and TIP, and to increase child protection. IOM will also map and promote coordination in case management amongst transit center workers along the routes. This will take place along with the strengthening of migrant reception centers' capacity to deliver services to migrants. At the regional level, IOM will establish an Assistance Fund to provide immediate trauma-informed care to victims of trafficking and other migrants at high risk of violence, exploitation and abuse, along with organizing regional webinars for training and exchange of lessons learned regarding identification and referral of vulnerable migrants, including VoTs and GBV survivors. Moreover, IOM will further strengthen the delivery of essential protection services through training and capacity-building for local and national authorities, partners and health workers on GBV assistance, minimum humanitarian standards, methodologies to conduct vulnerability assessments, PSEA, data protection, identification of TIP, and Psychological First Aid (PFA), among others.

Funding Required (USD)

\$2,600,000

#### **ESTABLISHMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF APPROPRIATE REFERRAL MECHANISMS AND PATHWAYS**

In coordination with national and local authorities and relevant stakeholders, IOM will support capacity strengthening to facilitate access to legal counseling and protection systems for migrants, including to facilitate access to legal identity and forms of regularization, facilitate access to consular protection services by creating a directory of protection services from accredited consulates, as well as developing protocols, SOPs and/or guides with security forces and protection systems for the identification of migrants in vulnerable situations, at risk or affected by different forms of violence, abuse or exploitation in order to identify relevant services, reporting channels, and procedures required for their assistance and protection. Through this response plan, IOM will aim to train and facilitate regional exchange of lessons learned on post-arrival reception and reintegration assistance and screening of vulnerable migrants in the framework of regularization processes. This will also include the strengthening of access to justice for migrant victims of crimes through coordination with institutions in charge of protecting victims, prosecutors, as well as developing tools and communication materials for civil society organizations who provide direct assistance to migrants. IOM will also seek to exchange lessons learned amongst investigators and prosecutors related to challenges and recommendations in the implementation of counter-trafficking prosecution activities at the local level, especially at key border crossings.



### **1D. MOVEMENT ASSISTANCE**

IOM intends to strengthen humanitarian transportation assistance where necessary and feasible, in order to ensure the safe, voluntary and dignified movements of migrants. This will be accomplished through support to relocation programmes including the logistics of intra-country air and ground transportation, in coordination with local and national authorities. For example, in Brazil, where migrants require transportation support back to their previous host communities when they become stranded, or in other countries where they require humanitarian movement assistance to reach designated temporary accommodation centers, IOM will accommodate these needs when responsible authorities are unable to do so. IOM will also facilitate the long-distance in-country movement of migrants from vulnerable border areas to urban or interprovincial centers, as well as the provision of transportation tickets to facilitate integration when migrants cannot afford the costs of living in certain cities or due to insecurity or identified risk. In Haiti, as part of the initial reception and assistance support, this covers onward transportation to areas of destination or return in Haiti. In doing so IOM is reducing the risks that vulnerable migrants face when attempting to reach assistance points.

Funding Required (USD)

\$2,000,000





Overwhelmed health systems due to the COVID-19 pandemic alongside migration routes have left thousands of migrants without access to health services. Health has been identified as a key priority by all actors, including access to high-quality, accessible and appropriate services for all migrants regardless of their legal status. This includes health promotion and education, preventive care and disease screening, and curative and palliative care. To meet the health needs of migrants and to reduce their health vulnerabilities, health services must be available and accessible to migrants. Therefore, IOM will enhance access to medicines, medical consultations, and laboratory testing for migrants in transit and destination countries, either through (a) health system strengthening initiatives by employment of medical staff and provision of medicines, medical supplies and equipment, or (b) through community based interventions that include health promotion, education, and risk communication and community engagement as well as direct assistance by deployment of mobile clinics to provide basic primary health care services. Through pre-established referral systems, IOM will also improve access for migrants to secondary and tertiary health care as required and will support continuity of treatment for those with chronic medical conditions.

Funding Required (USD)

**\$6,000,000**

Systematic collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of health information on events and diseases of public health importance occurring in the communities will also be supported. The collected information, as a core component of disease surveillance, will be used for planning, implementation and evaluation of public health practices as well as predict/detect disease outbreaks and identify the population at risk. To achieve this, IOM will develop and implement capacity building sessions to (a) establish/strengthen the cooperation between different health care providers to report the occurrence of diseases of public health importance for the purposes of passive surveillance, and (b) to increase the knowledge on active surveillance among designated active surveillance staff to identify suspected cases of disease under surveillance. The active surveillance will be supported by a network of community health workers that will be trained to conduct systematic continuous collection of data on events and diseases using simplified case definitions. Finally, IOM will work on improving the flow of surveillance information between the community and local/national health facilities through establishing linkages between the two entities and different actors included in the disease surveillance process. This will be particularly useful in border communities and will assist inter-institutional coordination mechanisms through the provision of real-time information, as envisaged with IOM's Health Border and Mobility Management (HBMM) operational framework.

Through provision of direct health assistance to migrants (mobile health teams and/or community-based health fairs conducted jointly with the national/local health authorities), IOM will facilitate access for migrant women to reproductive, including for family planning services, as well as maternal and child health services to address maternal morbidity and mortality and preventable deaths of newborns and children under the age of five. This will be done through building networks to strengthen the coordination among relevant stakeholders, and capacity building/sensitization of health and non-health professionals in the health sector. Additionally, a mapping will be done to provide information on currently available reproductive, maternal and child health services along the mobility routes. Services for survivors of sexual and GBV will also be provided: screenings for early identification of survivors and prevention including HIV post exposure prophylaxis, post-rape contraception, long-term counselling, and psychological support. A system of referrals to appropriate health and non-health services, as well as co-occurrence of child abuse and its health aspects will also be considered. All the migration and health activities will be conducted in coordination with Ministries of Health, Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and current IOM partners at regional and country levels.



## 1F. MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Given the complexity of the migration context in the region, MHPSS activities in this response will include the identification, training and deployment of interdisciplinary Psychosocial Mobile Teams (PMTs), which include but are not limited to PSS counsellors. The establishment of PMT's will allow for a comprehensive and flexible community-based strategy to improve migrants' access to mental health and psychosocial support, as part of their right to health. PMTs can be part of larger migrant resource centers or programs or can be established as single standing programs. PMTs tailor MHPSS activities according to each context, based on existing IOM tools and manuals that have been implemented in a wide variety of migration contexts at the global level. Aside from the provision of direct MHPSS support, PMT's stand ready to: carry out MHPSS needs assessments and mapping amidst emergencies; carry out basic psychosocial skills training for first responders; develop culturally relevant self-help tools when direct care provision is not possible; and support the strengthening of local referral systems. Previous analysis of patient databases shows that individuals with existing mental health conditions and chronic disabilities are critically at risk during rapid displacements and will therefore be referred to specialized support if needed. Prevention activities by trained professionals can be lifesaving, especially in areas where there are no active CP/GBV actors. In addition, MHPSS capacity building efforts will be scaled up. Personnel directly working with the migrants will be trained in Psychological First Aid (PFA) to be able to emotionally support highly distressed people. Training of key MHPSS responders will be carried out on topics such as basic MHPSS approaches, Psychosocial First Aid, stress management and establishment of referral systems and additional training on IOM's already piloted "buddy system" for supporting vulnerable migrants and returnees.

Funding Required (USD)

\$500,000



## 1G. LOGISTICS

The routes traveled by the vulnerable migrants incorporate some hard-to-reach areas due to the topography (such as the Darien Gap), or isolated areas in Peru and Ecuador for instance. Warehousing, transportation and distribution costs will be required in some places to ensure availability and access to key items. Existing logistical capacities in some countries, such as warehousing, procurement and distribution of key items, will need to be expanded to accommodate and serve the increased demands.

Funding Required (USD)

\$2,500,000



## 1H. POST ARRIVAL ASSISTANCE

As returns to Haiti continue, on-arrival protection and humanitarian assistance to migrants returned by sea or air to the country is urgently needed, including the improvement of reception facilities to welcome Haitian returnees at the two international airports of Port-au-Prince and Cap-Haitien. In order to respond to the urgent needs of returnees in Haiti, through this plan, IOM needs to continue and strengthen the provision of direct assistance and lifesaving services to Haitian migrants returned to the country through direct support including food and beverage during registration process, first aid and referral for medical assistance if needed, NFI kits such as hygiene and dignity kits, psychosocial support and counselling services, communication facilitation to contact relatives, unconditional and multipurpose cash, counselling, child protection, protection from human trafficking and smuggling. In addition, IOM plans to further strengthen the capacities of the National Migration Office in Haiti, as well as the Institute for Social Welfare and Research and the Haitian Coast Guard, also involved in the assistance to vulnerable returnees. IOM is also working closely with partners to develop in a subsequent stage a long-term community stabilization targeting in priority migration-prone areas and reintegration plan for Haiti to prevent further irregular migration from deported Haitians.

Funding Required (USD)

\$7,000,000



Figure 3. Return flights from United States and Mexico to Haiti



## Objective II: Address the drivers and longer-term impacts of crises and displacement through investments in recovery and crisis prevention



### 2A. ADDRESSING ADVERSE DRIVERS IN ORIGIN AND TRANSIT COUNTRIES

Through its Migration Information Data Analysis System (MIDAS), IOM will keep supporting several registration and regularization programs in countries such as Colombia, Ecuador and Peru to ensure migrants have a regular status in those countries. IOM also has been providing since 2015 visa facilitation services for Haitians to migrate regularly to Brazil and Chile. However, socioeconomic difficulties and increasing xenophobia have profoundly complicated integration and inclusion processes for migrants already living in the region, leading some to embark on the long and treacherous journey from South and Central America to the north. For example, Chile and Brazil, two of the countries in South America with the largest Haitian populations, have seen their economies contract and their currency substantially devalue in recent years, with the COVID-19 pandemic accelerating economic deterioration and related recent social unrest aggravating the situation. Peru and Mexico, both transit countries with a growing migrant population, face similar situations.

Funding Required (USD)

**\$7,000,000**

To help address these underlying issues, IOM will implement community-based projects, such as local economic development projects and community-based disaster risk management and climate change adaptation projects, in countries of origin, starting from the community's most pressing needs utilizing IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) to provide an evidence-base for interventions linked to IOM's unique Community-based Planning model. Since some migrants still lack legal identity, IOM will support both national institutions in countries of origin and consular services to facilitate access to documentation (especially birth certificates, ID cards and passports) so that migrants can access those essential documents and hence facilitate their regularization. Furthermore, working with the private sector, IOM will seek to facilitate safe and secure regular opportunities for labour mobility amongst others through strengthening knowledge and capacities on ethical recruitment practices. In addition, IOM will facilitate and regularize (through border ID card) cross-border trade through capacity development and upgrading of border infrastructure to assist cross-border traders in continuing trading activities in a safe manner and maintaining the essential regular back and forth flow of people and goods at borders. This will include sensitization on COVID-19 measures for border officials and cross border traders, strengthening of Cross Border Trade Associations, among other activities. IOM will also continue to support diaspora initiatives that respond to the needs of communities of origin as well as to support those in vulnerable situations along their migratory route leveraging the global hub, iDiaspora.org. Through all these activities, IOM will be working with government counterparts to ensure migration is mainstreamed throughout sectoral policies in order to ensure the institutionalization and sustainability of such initiatives moving forward.



### 2B. ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND KICK-STARTING COMMUNITY-BASED REINTEGRATION

IOM will continue facilitating Assisted Voluntary Return for migrants who decide to return to their country of origin or to a third country where legally applicable and when the socio-economic situation at the receiving end is conducive to reintegration. As per established procedures in this field, voluntary return will take place following an individual screening of each migrant and the development of tailored-made assistance. This is particularly important for migrants in situations of vulnerability who may have been subject to violence, exploitation or abuse, VoTs, children and migrants with health needs.

Funding Required (USD)

**\$15,000,000**







## 2C. SOCIAL INCLUSION AND SENSITIZATION

With the economic difficulties presented above, xenophobic actions have increased in the region. Interventions on bridging existing gaps for social inclusion at the community level in host and transit countries will be needed to reduce those incidents and ensure the coexistence of migrants and their host communities. As such, IOM will aim to build trust among communities and local stakeholders with migrants and returnees by laying the foundations for communication, messaging, sociocultural and socio-relational initiatives.

Through awareness-raising, community-specific sessions, IOM will start to address the lack of information amongst host communities that leads to stereotyping and discrimination, while also providing information that addresses the potential vulnerabilities some migrants face along their journey. Common spaces for empowerment will be created to enhance community-building efforts aimed at promoting belonging within host societies. Such spaces will also be used for periodic training sessions regarding themes such as intercultural communication and best practices for harmonious coexistence.

In collaboration with local governments and local NGOs, IOM will organize cultural, artistic and sports activities where the host communities will be invited to participate with migrant communities to foster intergroup contact which is a proven means of promoting social cohesion and strengthen community ties. Through this plan, IOM will also conduct training sessions with local governments on diversity and social inclusion and migrant integration planning using resources from IOM's Diversity and Social Inclusion Initiative.

Funding Required (USD)

**\$3,000,000**



## 2D. HEALTH SYSTEM STRENGTHENING

In transitional and return situations, IOM will support the recovery, resilience and strengthening of health systems to move from the provision of essential services to comprehensive health services. To contribute to collective outcomes for Sustainable Development Goal 3, and to ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages, IOM will focus on: (1) universal health coverage and access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all, (2) universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, (3) reduction of premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment as well as promotion of mental health and psychosocial well-being for all migrants.

For this, IOM will closely work with regional bodies including but not limited to Iniciativa Conjunta de Salud para las Personas Migrantes y sus Familias Centroamérica y México (INCOSAMI), Organismo Andino de Salud – Convenio Hipólito Unanue (ORAS-CONHU) and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), Ministries of Health, Pan-American Health Organization, migration and border authorities, communities and other relevant stakeholders.

Funding Required (USD)

**\$1,000,000**



MIGRANTS AT THE COLOMBIA-PANAMA BORDER  
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## Objective III: Contribute to an Evidence-Based and Efficient Crisis Response System



### 3A. TRACKING POPULATION MOVEMENTS TO INFORM THE RESPONSE

The current flows of vulnerable migrants span across 13 countries in the Americas, with many migrants travelling through irregular border crossing points. This poses a challenge for local and regional actors to respond in a timely manner, as there is limited capacity to track population movements that can provide an overview of the number of migrants, their location and their most pressing needs.

Funding Required (USD)

**\$2,000,000**

Through this plan, IOM aims to provide evidence-based information and data on the migrant flows across the region to inform the response and recovery efforts of all actors involved in the response. Through its Flow Monitoring Points (FMP), IOM will collect information on the number of migrants, with a breakdown per gender and age, their nationality, transit points, points of destination, including the intended destination, and reasons for leaving, when possible. It will also seek to gather key information about the modus operandi of smugglers to better inform national authorities and enhance regional cooperation in counter migrant smuggling. This information will be generated from direct observations in the points, security permitting, and complemented by other relevant sources, such as existing registries and/or information relayed by key informants. To achieve this, IOM will increase existing data collection personnel in the field and train them in the application of flow monitoring methodologies.

In addition, Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS) will also be conducted to collect data at the individual level, including information on basic socio-economic profiles, the journey (cost, routes, modes of transport, intermediaries), protection needs and some basic data on the intentions, expectations, and perceptions of the destination that migrants have, among others. In this first phase, the FMS will take place in key transit areas along migratory routes. With this data, periodical flow monitoring information products will be generated, both at the country as well as at sub-regional and regional levels, to inform stakeholders and partners of the findings in the FMP and FMS. This will entail expanding regional and country-level capacities for periodic production of information.

Furthermore, information collected in the key mobility points and areas can also involve collecting information on needs and numbers of stranded and transiting migrants, via multisectoral location assessments at the group or household level. IOM will deploy these methodologies as well should it be required by the situation in the field. In future phases, IOM will seek to expand its network of key informants for mobility tracking, to increase the understanding of mobility in origin and destination areas and provide more detailed information regarding changing profiles of the existing stocks of vulnerable migrant populations. IOM will also leverage complementary methodologies for validation of the information, including remote outreach to invisible populations and demographic estimations.



### 3B. SUPPORT SERVICES FOR RESPONSE ACTORS: COORDINATION

In response to the increase in irregular migration throughout the region, IOM is engaged in ensuring strong and efficient coordination among relevant actors at the community, national and regional levels to support the response, particularly in coordinating cross-border efforts. As such, IOM will work to enhance regional migration dialogue and cooperation through existing mechanisms, including the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM), the Central American Integration System (SICA) including the Comprehensive Plan to Address Migration and

Funding Required (USD)

**\$1,000,000**



Displacement (PAIM-SICA), the Commission of Migratory Authorities (OCAM, for its Spanish acronym), the South American Conference on Migration (SACM), the Iberoamerican Network of Migratory Authorities (RIAM), and the Specialized Migratory Forum of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR). Increasing IOM offices' capacity to support these mechanisms will be essential for governments to plan and respond jointly to the crisis. Given that this involves 14 countries of which 13 of them share physical borders, it entails scaling up local coordination on site in hotspots such as border crossings and where assistance will be concentrated. This entails bringing on board additional staff to key IOM offices and increasing logistical capacity for on-site border coordination amongst stakeholders along migration routes.

Likewise, as the UN migration agency and in its role as the Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration, IOM will ramp up its capacity regionally as well as at national level to strengthen the coordination of UN agencies, civil society, faith-based organizations and other partners in the response to the on-going crisis across the continent. IOM will also increase its efforts to support the coordination with local inter-institutional committees for migration issues, ensuring coordination between Ministries of Health, Departments of Social/Child Services and migration management authorities for referral of cases including across borders. This will entail additional specialized staff in border areas as well as staff dedicated to work with relevant entities at central and regional level to develop commitments and help develop public policies to address the whole of hemisphere situation.

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### 3C. COMMUNICATIONS AND ADVOCACY

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Over the past few years, the need to further meaningfully engage with communities in a coordinated manner in all aspects of humanitarian and recovery responses - including in planning and decision-making preparedness interventions, response implementation, as well as monitoring and evaluation processes - has been widely recognized as a necessary means to achieve better short- and long-term humanitarian outcomes in terms of effectiveness and accountability.

Funding Required (USD)

**\$2,700,000**

Ensuring that communication channels exist between affected populations and humanitarian and development actors is paramount. In order to ensure two-way communication, through this plan, IOM will provide information and conduct awareness-raising campaigns in relevant languages (Creole, English, Spanish, Portuguese, among others) in targeted countries using various media, community supports and relevant leaders and stakeholders, and set up feedback mechanisms to hear what migrants have to say to adapt assistance accordingly. The campaigns will be reinforced by partnerships with local associations to ensure that language barriers are reduced and peer-to-peer communication (P2P) is used effectively. Communication with Communities' activities will include topics such as COVID-19 prevention and vaccination, prevention of risks associated with irregular migration, and access to referral mechanisms among others. These will be provided along migration routes, as well as within Migrant Reception Centres in targeted countries.

To facilitate dialogue, participation and engagement with children, families, communities, networks for positive social and behaviour change in both development and humanitarian responses, IOM will also roll-out anti-xenophobia communication campaigns to promote behavioural change. This will be done through a C4D approach in host communities impacted by migration flows. C4D campaigns will be based on community research and message building and focused on actions like cultural integration activities and community-based advocacy through content creation and distribution.

In addition, as part of IOM's efforts in terms of advocacy and policy change, IOM will foster good practices for accurate and responsible approaches to reporting on migration affairs, including situations perceived as migratory crisis by the media with existing online and tutored courses. Those will complement partnerships with key media stakeholders, trainings to journalists and regional journalism and photo contests to recognize outstanding stories that help combating misinformation and xenophobia.

# CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES AND COMMITMENTS

- **Capacity building of national/regional authorities, key stakeholders and systems designed to address migrant flows:** Together with Member States, IOM developed protocols to strengthen the capacities of governments for the attention of migrants in crisis contexts including protocols targeting specific vulnerable groups as migrant children. Key stakeholders in each country will be trained in these protocols to support States to protect all migrants, including families, women, girls, boys, among others, who are in a vulnerable situation and provide them with the safe access to basic services regardless of country of origin, migratory status, the circumstances of travel or the conditions they face in transit.
- **People-Centered Approach, Participation and Accountability to Affected Populations:** IOM puts people at the center of its operations and remains accountable to them, adapting its programs and approaches based on feedback from stakeholders and affected populations. This is based on the understanding that affected people are agents, enablers and drivers of their own resilience, recovery and development at household, community and national levels before, during and after a crisis. As part of its aim to increase accountability to migrants and host populations in targeted countries, IOM will ensure that beneficiaries are involved and informed throughout the project cycle, from the design to the implementation of activities. Referral mechanisms will be in place for beneficiaries to report any problems or abuses during the delivery of services.
- **Centrality of Protection:** IOM adheres to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) definition of protection as “all activities aimed at ensuring full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the relevant bodies of law” and is committed to the IASC Statement on the Centrality of Protection in Humanitarian Action and to the IASC Policy on Protection in Humanitarian Action. In this vein, IOM humanitarian assistance aims to be sensitive to gender, age, vulnerabilities and other socioeconomic considerations, as well as proportional to the magnitude of the situation. Furthermore, IOM abides by internal protocols regarding prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) and has made PSEA commitments that include inter-agency coordination to prevent and address sexual abuse and exploitation and active participation in in-country PSEA networks.
- **Conflict Sensitivity:** IOM’s commitment to effectively confront the mobility dimensions of crises brings the Organization into conflict-affected and fragile contexts. In these environments, no intervention is conflict-neutral, meaning that IOM’s presence and activities, regardless of their intended aims, will almost certainly impact positively or negatively on conflict dynamics. IOM’s conflict sensitivity approach follows certain essential steps: (a) understanding the context in which the program operates; (b) understanding the interactions between the activities and that context; and (c) using that understanding to maximize positive and minimize negative effects of its interventions on affected populations.
- **Gender and Age:** The gender and age perspective will be important cross-cutting priorities of the response to the increased flows of vulnerable migrants in the region. The impacts and implications of irregular migration are different for men, women and people of diverse gender identity, and for children, adolescents and adults and may create greater inequalities for people who are in vulnerable positions. Within its efforts, IOM will continue to apply gender- age sensitive and inter sectional approaches to allow for the identification of these inequalities, incorporate protection and gender and protection lens in the assistance delivery and ensure the participation of all, with specific attention to the needs of women and girls, in response and recovery planning.
- **Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus:** The Nexus aims at strengthening linkages, collaboration and coherence between humanitarian, development and peace actions. The approach seeks to capitalize on the comparative advantages of each intervention, based on the context and needs of the population, to reduce overall vulnerability and the number of unmet needs, strengthen risk management capacities, increase resilience and address the root causes of crises while supporting longer-term solutions. Through the development of collective outcomes that support coherent and complementary coordination, programming and financing, IOM aims to ensure needs-based, environmental, conflict-sensitive and principled humanitarian, development and peace actions that are based on shared risk-informed and gender-sensitive analysis.

## FUNDING REQUIRED BY AREA OF RESPONSE

AREAS OF RESPONSE	TOTAL AMOUNT REQUIRED (USD)
ADDRESSING BASIC NEEDS, INCLUDING FOOD	6,000,000
SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS	10,000,000
PROTECTION	9,000,000
MOVEMENT ASSISTANCE	2,000,000
HEALTH SUPPORT	6,000,000
MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT	500,000
LOGISTICS	2,500,000
POST ARRIVAL ASSISTANCE	7,000,000
UNDERSTANDING AND ADDRESSING ADVERSE DRIVERS IN ORIGIN AND TRANSIT COUNTRIES	7,000,000
ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND KICK-STARTING COMMUNITY-BASED REINTEGRATION	15,000,000
SOCIAL INCLUSION AND SENSITIZATION	3,000,000
HEALTH SYSTEM STRENGTHENING	1,000,000
TRACKING POPULATION MOVEMENTS TO INFORM THE RESPONSE	2,000,000
SUPPORT SERVICES FOR RESPONSE ACTORS: COORDINATION	1,000,000
COMMUNICATIONS AND ADVOCACY	2,700,000
<b>TOTAL FUNDING REQUIRED</b>	<b>74,700,000</b>



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