



Duration:

Length:	56 months
Start Date:	March 2021
End Date:	November 2025

Budget:

TOTAL:	\$ 3.10 million
UNHCR	\$766,113.34
IOM	\$766,113.33
UNDP	\$1,571,093.33

Implementing Agencies and Partners:

Implementing Agencies: UNDP, UNHCR, IOM

National counterparts: Lead institutions for migration, justice, social protection, human rights and planning; municipal governments in prioritized territories

CONTEXT

Human mobility in Northern Central America represents a structural driver of fragility, influencing social cohesion and territorial governance and potentially exacerbating conflicts. Mixed flows of migrants in transit, returnees, refugees and internally displaced persons have placed sustained pressure on protection systems, public services and relations between host communities and populations on the move, particularly in border areas.

The absence of comprehensive legal frameworks, inter-institutional coordination mechanisms and peacebuilding-oriented approaches has limited States' capacity to address peacebuilding risks associated with human mobility. The PBF Trinational project implemented in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador responded to these gaps through an articulated intervention at the local, national and regional levels.

OBJECTIVES

To strengthen the institutional and territorial capacities of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador to address peacebuilding challenges associated with human mobility from a human rights based, conflict prevention and peacebuilding approach, by supporting the development of legal frameworks, public policies, information systems and multisectoral coordination spaces that promote peaceful coexistence and social cohesion in high-mobility contexts.

KEY IMPACT AND RESULTS

The PBF trinational project, implemented by UNDP, UNHCR and IOM, contributed to stronger laws, regulations, information systems and national strategies for addressing human mobility with a focus on peace; these include a new law on Internal Displacement in Honduras and reintegration strategies and plans for returning migrants in all three countries, in partnership with more than 25 institutions and organizations. At the local level, multi-sector dialogue spaces have been installed in municipalities with high levels of human mobility, to better plan services and coordinate responses to the information, protection, social and economic reintegration needs of people affected by human mobility including migrants in transit, returnees, refugees and internally displaced persons.

These spaces have led to an enabling environment for respect for the dignity and human rights of people in human mobility and a reduction in intolerance, prejudice, discrimination and xenophobia, which have historically triggered social tensions and violence, especially in transborder areas. For example, in the prioritized municipalities of Guatemala, including Esquipulas, on the Guatemalan-Honduran border, 92% of local officials and community leaders confirmed through surveys that the project's initiatives had led to more peaceful co-existence and social cohesion between migrant populations and local communities.

CATALYTIC EFFECTS

Catalytic financial effects The PBF trilateral project generated a significant catalytic financial effect, leveraging more than USD 3.1 million in non-PBF resources to complement and scale up interventions on human mobility, protection, reintegration and social cohesion in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. Resources were mobilized from sources such as AVINA; USAID (IRM Programme); AECID; ECHO; the Government of the Balearic Islands; IRCC Canada; the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM/MIRPS); the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF); the Solidarity Action Programme (PROASOL); and the Municipality of Choloma in El Salvador. These contributions reflect the PBF's role as an enabling donor, building trust among strategic partners and creating the institutional conditions necessary to attract complementary investments, thereby expanding territorial reach and sustainability beyond the PBF funding cycle.

Catalytic non-financial effects The project generated a significant non-financial catalytic effect by removing institutional barriers and enabling sustained structural change in high human mobility contexts, particularly in access to justice and community reintegration. In El Salvador and Honduras, mechanisms for access to justice for people in situations of human mobility were institutionalized, laying the groundwork for regulatory and administrative reforms aimed at ensuring their sustainability and expansion. In Guatemala, the project positioned the active participation of people on the move as a central pillar of community reintegration, through the design and adoption of strategic instruments currently under pilot implementation and with potential for national scale-up. Taken together, these advances consolidated inclusive approaches to social cohesion and peaceful coexistence that extend beyond the project's lifecycle.

Voices from the Field

"That's why the support we've received is so important, because it enables dialogue with the communities, and through community dialogue, we can effectively strengthen development, peace, harmony, and overall progress." **Danilo Rivera, Director General of the Guatemalan Migration Institute, Guatemala.**

"Sharing with classmates of other nationalities, such as Hondurans, was an experience that opened many doors, because here in Esquipulas there are many people who refer to migrants in a negative way. But we need to coexist with other people to understand their reality and avoid judging them by their skin color or where they come from", **Cristina Vásquez, Guatemalan participant in the technical training initiative in Esquipulas, Guatemala.**

"Before, we had no communication with counterpart institutions in other countries. Today, we coordinate on a daily basis with our counterparts in Guatemala and Honduras." **Government representative, El Salvador.**

"These initiatives seek to create spaces for healthy coexistence and an environment of peace, culture, and integration. It has allowed us to incorporate migrants, returnees, locals, and foreigners." **Evelyn Díaz, Member of the El Zonte Tourism Development Committee (CDT), El Salvador.**

"The Roundtable has helped me become an active voice in supporting other women in situations of vulnerability." **Nidia Briceño, displaced woman with a disability, member of the Roundtable of Migrant and Displaced Women.**