

Mapping of donor activity on migration in LAC

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Provide a mapping of donor activity on migration in Latin America and the Caribbean?

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Knowledge for Development and Diplomacy (K4DD). Rapid Evidence Review. The K4DD helpdesk service provides brief summaries of current research, evidence, and lessons learned. Rapid Evidence Reviews are not rigorous or systematic reviews; they are intended to provide an introduction to the most important evidence related to a research question. They draw on a rapid desk-based review of published literature and consultation with subject specialists.

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1. Summary

This rapid evidence review provides a rapid mapping of donor activity on migration in the Latin America and Caribbean region. Given its rapid nature, the review should be considered indicative rather than definitive. This report is the third in a three-part series, with associated reports collating evidence on migration flows, causes and issues in the region and drivers of gender-based violence and migration.

The report identifies a range of donor activities in the region including:

Interagency coordination mechanisms such as the Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants (R4V) which adopts a broad-based approach based on the needs identified in the region, in line with the humanitarian-development nexus¹, with strategic objectives related to humanitarian, protection, and integration and inclusion support.

Regional coordination networks such as the United Nations Regional Network on Migration for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNNM-LAC) established to ensure coordinated system-wide support throughout the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration.

Donors have also devised strategies that identify key migration challenges, opportunities and priorities. These include those developed by the following organisations:

- **International Organisation for Migration (IOM):** Structured around the three pillars of addressing the adverse drivers of migration; facilitating safe, regular and orderly forms of migration and serving as a trusted and effective thought leader and partner of migrants.
- **International Labour Organisation (ILO):** Structured around five thematic areas of: labour migration governance and policy coherence; fair recruitment; access to employment and improvement of working conditions; labour mobility, training, certification and recognition of skills; and social protection and social cohesion.
- **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO):** Structured around four pillars of: strengthening multilateral regional education response to human mobility; planning for inclusive and equitable access to education systems; ensuring provision of inclusive and enabling educational and social environments and lifelong learning opportunities; and recognition of previous education.

The review also identifies centres of research and policy excellence such as the **Migration Policy Initiative**, a policy laboratory that develops evidence-based research and innovative, effective policy solutions for the migration challenges, and the **Mixed Migration Centre**, which engages in data collection, research, analysis and policy development on mixed migration in LAC.

¹ The Humanitarian-Development Nexus is the concept of increased collaboration between organizations working in short term humanitarian aid and long term international development.

2. Interagency Coordination Mechanisms

The Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants (R4V)²: The Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants (R4V) is made up by over 200 organizations (including UN Agencies, civil society, faith-based organizations and NGOs, among others) that coordinate their efforts under Venezuela's Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) in 17 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The R4V has a broad-based approach based on the needs identified in the region, in line with the humanitarian-development nexus, with strategic objectives related to humanitarian, protection, and integration and inclusion support, of which many activities contribute to the prevention of distress and loss of life, particularly for those in transit. In 2023, all R4V partners combined helped millions of refugees and migrants to access food assistance, nutritional counselling, safe water, sanitation and waste management services, hygiene items (including menstrual health products), primary health care, mental health and psychosocial services (MHPSS), sexual and reproductive health services, housing, and safe transportation services. R4V partners also supported strengthening access to territory, asylum procedures and regularization initiatives, specialized protection services, recognition of professional degrees and certification processes, and cash and voucher assistance to ensure access to school supplies, meals and transportation.

Monitoring and reporting procedures are agreed in consultation with all the platforms, and the corresponding data are regularly posted on the R4V website R4V.info, while updated financial information is available on the R4V and OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS) websites. The data collected is used to inform decision-making processes, communicate accurately, implement response efforts efficiently, and address any existing response gaps quickly and effectively. R4V monitoring and reporting efforts result in regular Movement Reports detailing population movements and trends on a quarterly basis, people reached through R4V activities (5W Monitoring Dashboard) and special situation reports on significant events related to Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the region.

At the macro level, the Platform is the world's largest example of crisis coordination co-led by UNHCR and IOM and could be replicated in other mixed movement situations. The platform works both at a “high level” in terms of coordination and negotiation, and in the field, having implemented over 16,000 activities in 2023 so far.

3. United Nations

3.1 United Nations Regional Network on Migration for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNNM-LAC)

The United Nations Regional Network on Migration for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNNM-LAC)³ has been established to ensure effective, timely and coordinated system-wide support to Member States, relevant stakeholders and key partners across Latin America and the Caribbean throughout the implementation, review, and follow-up of the Global Compact

² <https://www.r4v.info/en>

³ <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/latin-america-and-caribbean>

for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is an intergovernmentally negotiated agreement, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, that describes itself as covering "all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner".

The Network includes 19 agencies, funds and programmes: ECLAC (co-chair), FAO, ILO, IOM (co-chair), OCHA, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UNOPS, UN Women, WFP, and WHO/PAHO.

United Nations Regional Network on Migration for Latin America and the Caribbean Work Plan 2023-2024⁴

The Work Plan 2023-24 is based on the following four basic priorities. Each priority is broken down into a series of activities that aim to facilitate obtaining results.

- Ensure effective, timely and coordinated support from the whole United Nations System to the Member States in the implementation, follow-up, and review of the Global Compact at regional level in coordination with the Global Network, the Secretariat and the Network's Executive Committee;
- Strengthen technical support for national networks on migration;
- Guarantee the Global Compact's whole-of-society approach by promoting the significant participation of civil society and other relevant stakeholders, particularly the Latin America and the Caribbean Civil Society Permanent Dialogue Mechanism;
- Encourage the adoption of one common voice in the Regional Network regarding the Global Compact.

UNNM-LAC has prepared a report on the **regional review of the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean⁵**.

3.2 International Organisation for Migration

IOM have developed Regional Strategy⁶ 2020-2024 North America, Central America and the Caribbean and South America Regional Strategy 2020-2024⁷.

The IOM Regional Strategy for North America, Central America and the Caribbean provides a forward-looking framework that identifies key migration challenges, opportunities and priorities centred around three pillars:

- Addressing the adverse drivers of migration;

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<https://migrationnetwork.un.org/system/files/docs/Regional%20Network%20on%20Migration%20Work%20Plan%202023-2024.pdf>

5

https://migrationnetwork.un.org/system/files/docs/Report%20on%20GCM%20Regional%20Review%20LAC%20%28final%29_0.pdf

⁶ <https://eea.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl666/files/documents/IOM%20Regional%20Strategy%202020-2024%20North%20America%2C%20Central%20America%20and%20the%20Caribbean.pdf>

⁷ <https://eea.iom.int/latin-america-and-caribbean#:~:text=South%20America%20Regional%20Strategy%202020%2D2024>

- Facilitating safe, regular and orderly forms of migration;
- Serving as a trusted and effective thought leader and partner of migrants, Member States, regional organizations, processes and initiatives, other United Nations agencies, civil society, academia, the private sector, and media, among others.

The IOM Regional Strategy for South America aims for the provision of technical support to governments and assistance to migrants through the development of actions in key aspects that impact migrant populations. IOM, through its strong involvement with United Nations agencies at the regional and national levels, aspires to bolster coordination with different entities within the region by participating in relevant activities. Guided by the IOM Strategic Vision, the 2030 Agenda and the Global Compact for Migration, the Regional Strategy provides advice on how to promote resilience, mobility and effective governance in South America to help address the various socioeconomic challenges that impact migration dynamics and processes in the region.

Inclusive Cities, Communities of Solidarity⁸: Together with UNHCR and UN-Habitat, IOM implementing the initiative Inclusive Cities, Communities of Solidarity, which seeks to reduce the vulnerabilities of refugees and migrants and increase the resilience of host communities in six Latin American countries and Caribbean.

Inclusive Cities, Communities of Solidarity is designed to show that refugees and migrants from Venezuela can make a real contribution to socio-economic and cultural diversity in their host cities and communities across Latin America. Through an inclusive urban planning perspective and action that gives refugees and migrants a voice and a chance to take part, urban communities can promote intercultural dialogue, social cohesion, and integration. The project seeks to help build strategies that local authorities could implement to this effect.

EUROFRONT⁹: IOM, in partnership with the EU, has been working on strengthening Latin America's development and security through the **EUROFRONT** programme.

EUROFRONT contributes to security, the improvement of respect for and protection of human rights and social and economic development at a national and regional level by strengthening effectiveness in the management of borders, and supporting the fight against human trafficking and migrant smuggling. The Programme carries out its activities at four pilot border crossings which, in turn, involve seven Latin American countries, adapting to the particular contexts of each partner country and addressing common challenges from a bi-national and regional perspective.

The borders and countries associated with the Programme are:

- The Rumichaca border (between Colombia and Ecuador).
- The Desaguadero border (between Peru and Bolivia).
- The Triple Frontier region between Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay.
- Aguas Blancas-Bermejo border (between Argentina and Bolivia)..

⁸ <https://eea.iom.int/latin-america-and-caribbean#:~:text=Inclusive%20Cities%2C%20Communities%20of%20Solidarity>

⁹ <https://programaeurofront.eu/en>

African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) Observatory for Migration¹⁰: Past regional cooperation has also included a joint support programme for the EU-LAC Structured Dialogue on Migration and the African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) Observatory for Migration.

This is a reference network of migration research institutions and governmental entities dealing with migration in the six regions of the Africa Caribbean Pacific (ACP) Group of States, namely West Africa, Central Africa, East Africa, Southern Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. It is designed to produce data on South-South ACP migration flows for civil society and policy-makers, and enhance research capacities in ACP countries through networking and cooperation among organisations.

Joint IOM-UNDP Global Programme on Making Migration Work for Sustainable Development¹¹: The joint IOM-UNDP Global Programme on Making Migration Work for Sustainable Development (2019-2023) is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. It aims to harness the development benefits and reduce negative effects of migration for host and home communities, migrants and their family members in 11 countries across the world (LAC countries include Ecuador and Jamaica).

3.3 International Labour Organisation

Regional Strategy on Labour Migration and Human Mobility in Latin America and the Caribbean 2023-2030¹²: The Regional Strategy is firmly grounded in the key global and regional commitments and frameworks on labour migration and human mobility. It is based on an up-to-date analysis of trends, flows and characteristics of the migrant and refugee population along the main intra-regional and extra-regional migration corridors, and it tackles the main challenges in protection, migration governance and development. At the core of the strategy is the pursuit of decent work in labour migration and human mobility, with a view to achieving social justice in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. The strategy focuses on five thematic areas:

- Labour migration governance and policy coherence
- Fair Recruitment
- Access to employment and improvement of working conditions
- Labour mobility, training, certification and recognition of skills, including prior learning
- Social protection and social cohesion

Migration from Venezuela: opportunities for Latin America and the Caribbean Regional socio-economic integration strategy¹³: The Regional Strategy is oriented towards the formulation of concrete responses to meet three objectives:

¹⁰ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/pages/glossary/africa-caribbean-pacific-acp-observatory-migration_en

¹¹ <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/projects/joint-iom-undp-global-programme-making-migration-work-sustainable-development>

¹² https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---americas/---ro-lima/documents/publication/wcms_901558.pdf

¹³ https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---americas/---ro-lima/documents/publication/wcms_775183.pdf

- To reduce the levels of socioeconomic vulnerability of refugees and other migrants from Venezuela.
- To maximize the contribution of this population to the economies of the recipient countries.
- To promote social cohesion through initiatives that also benefit the host communities.

The Regional Strategy is part of a medium and long-term framework because it recognizes that the majority of refugees and migrants from Venezuela will settle for several years and that the only viable option for them to contribute to the sustainable development of their host countries is to promote socioeconomic integration and coexistence with the citizens of those countries. It is based on international standards on labour and human rights. To this end, the Strategy is articulated around seven priority axes:

- Regularisation and profiling of the population from Venezuela
- Professional training and recognition of qualifications and competencies
- Employment promotion
- Entrepreneurship and business development
- Financial inclusion
- Access to social protection
- Social cohesion

3.4 UNHCR

Seeking durable solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons remains a critical priority for UNHCR. The agency prioritizes protection interventions, humanitarian aid, and long-term solutions, including integration and resettlement.

UNHCR works with States to strengthen refugee protection, access to asylum and local integration. They respond to immediate needs by providing basic relief items and cash assistance. They also work with partners to empower communities and include refugees and asylum-seekers in national systems.

To build on the resilience of affected communities, their operations focus on community-centred interventions, including supporting volunteer networks. UNHCR also boosts feedback and complaint mechanisms across the region, allowing for constant communication with the affected population to ensure the response adapts to their needs, particularly in increasingly risky environments such as borders.

Mixed Movements Monitoring¹⁴: This is carried out to generate evidence on mixed movements' dynamics in Central America and Mexico and to identify trends, profiles, protection and food security needs of people on the move.

This report covers several key aspects of mixed movements, including the motivation/trigger factors behind the departure from country of origin or habitual residence, the profiles of people engaged in mixed movements, the journey itself (including protection risks and threats), the situation in the current country (such as documentation, access to territory and

¹⁴ <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/105637>

food security), and the future intentions of individuals. By examining these factors, the report aims to provide insights into the challenges and opportunities associated with mixed movements in Central America, with the ultimate aim of informing policy and guiding effective humanitarian response efforts.

3.5 UNICEF

In 2023, UNICEF¹⁵ provided children and families with access to basic services throughout their migration journey, as well as with integrated interventions to facilitate their access to education, health and protection services in host communities. This includes:

- Working with partners to support governments and service providers expanding access for children to basic services, such as education and health care – especially for the most vulnerable.
- Providing targeted support to help national and local child protection systems prevent, detect and safeguard children from violence, including working with municipal governments, faith-based organizations, communities and schools to reduce violence through the creation of safe spaces and alternative recreational, educational and vocational opportunities.
- Working with partners to support policies and provide services to assist children and families in the region who face hardship, exploitation and, in some cases, mortal danger on the irregular migration journey, including working with shelters to provide tools and training on psychosocial ‘first aid’ for migrant children.

3.6 UN Women

The UN Women Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean is implementing a **multi-country gender-responsive humanitarian programme on human mobility in Panama, Costa Rica and Honduras**. This programme seeks to respond to the human mobility crisis in Central America by addressing gender-specific protection needs and improving social cohesion in border areas.

3.7 UNESCO

UNESCO regional strategy¹⁶ on human mobility for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2022-2025: The strategy establishes the main areas of work for the next four-year programming period of UNESCO based on the following four pillars:

- strengthening multilateral regional education response to human mobility;
- planning for inclusive and equitable access to education systems;
- ensuring provision of inclusive and enabling educational and social environments; and
- lifelong learning opportunities and recognition of previous education.

¹⁵ <https://www.unicef.org/child-alert/migration-latin-america-caribbean#:~:text=In%202023%2C%20UNICEF%20will%20continue,protection%20services%20in%20host%20communities.>

¹⁶ https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000383674_eng

3.8 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Project Turquesa¹⁷: With organized crime groups earning billions of dollars from their operations, Latin American and Caribbean countries serve as territories of origin, transit and destinations for these crimes. Project Turquesa is a two-and-a-half-year initiative funded by the Government of Canada through its Anti-Crime Capacity Building Programme. Under the project, INTERPOL and the UNODC will streamline efforts against the organized crime groups profiting from irregular migration and exploitation.

Based on the successful model of previous INTERPOL-led operations, Project Turquesa will leverage the strengths of both organizations to ensure a whole-of-justice approach to migrant smuggling and human trafficking. Given that human trafficking and migrant smuggling are highly gendered crimes that affect men, women, and children differently, gender considerations will be mainstreamed throughout the project. Furthermore, particular attention will be paid to ensuring full respect for the rights of smuggled migrants and victims of trafficking.

3.9 UNDP

In Latin America and the Caribbean, UNDP works in 26 offices covering 41 countries and territories.

UNDP's focus is to help countries in the Latin America and the Caribbean region build and share solutions in their sustainable development pathways, with inclusive and effective democratic governance, building climate and disaster resilience.

In all their activities, they encourage the protection of human rights, capacity development, knowledge and experience-sharing and the empowerment of women.

A Better World for Migrants in Latin America and the Caribbean¹⁸: This is the product of a joint research initiative with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), whose purpose is to improve the welfare conditions of the migrant population in LAC, by correcting perception errors.

4. Development Banks

4.1 World Bank

The World Bank has supported Latin America's development agenda by tailoring its wide-ranging financial, knowledge, and convening services to the region's diverse needs.

The World Bank seeks to boost sustainable, resilient and inclusive growth in Latin America and the Caribbean by protecting and enhancing human capital, helping countries adapt to climate change and mitigate its impacts, and taking advantage of new opportunities in green industries. It also seeks to promote an inclusive recovery by attracting investment, fostering

¹⁷ <https://www.interpol.int/en/Crimes/Human-trafficking-and-migrant-smuggling/Project-Turquesa>

¹⁸ <https://www.undp.org/latin-america/better-world-migrants-latin-america-and-caribbean>

job creation and interacting with traditionally excluded groups, such as indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants and people with disabilities.

4.2 Inter-American Development Bank

Citizen Perception Laboratory on Migration¹⁹: The Citizen Perception Laboratory on Migration offers information, resources and tools to accompany governments in their response to xenophobia. The laboratory provides information on the evolution of perceptions on migration in the region, provides a comprehensive archive of research and studies on perceptions, xenophobia and public opinion on migration and the results of experiments to learn how to promote positive attitudes towards migration.

DataMIG²⁰: The IDB data portal on migration in Latin America and the Caribbean offers information and statistics on migratory flows and the characteristics of the migrant population in the region, together with indicators related to their integration, the sending of remittances, and the migration policy regimes.

5. Bilateral

5.1 USAID

Project to Address the Challenges of Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean²¹: USAID is providing \$25 million to the IDB's Grant Facility will catalyze additional funding and provide grants to improve the socioeconomic integration of migrants and refugees in their host communities and countries. The IDB will match this contribution with \$25 million in IDB institutional funds. The IDB's Grant Facility will work with eligible countries in Latin America and the Caribbean that lack the financial means to provide development support to refugee and migrant-hosting communities and expand service provision to those populations.

6. Research and policy

6.1 Migration Policy Initiative: Latin America and Caribbean Initiative²²

MPI's Latin America and Caribbean Initiative acts as a policy laboratory to develop evidence-based research and innovative, effective policy solutions for the migration challenges facing Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Initiative produces research, trends and policy analysis, and policy design; provides technical assistance; and organises convenings and public events to inform the decisions of policymakers, the private sector, civil society, and other stakeholders as they respond to evolving trends and policy developments.

¹⁹ <https://laboratoriomigracion.iadb.org/#/en/>

²⁰ <https://datamig.iadb.org/en/>

²¹ <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/nov-06-2023-usaid-announces-25-million-address-challenges-migration-latin-america-and-caribbean>

²² <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/latin-america-caribbean-initiative>

Current focus areas include legal pathways, immigrant integration, migration and development, and regional cooperation on migration management.

6.2 Mixed Migration Centre

MMC²³ engages in data collection, research, analysis and policy development on mixed migration in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Centre's primary objectives are to fill the knowledge gap on mixed migration in the region; to inform programming for migrants, particularly in the area of protection; and to inform policy-making around the rights and protection of people on the move.

MMC's flagship data collection project '4Mi'²⁴ operates in Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico and Peru, focusing on people leaving Venezuela, as well as migrants from across Latin America and the Caribbean, and extra continentals, who are heading towards North America.

7. About this review

7.1 Suggested citation

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7.2 Review overview

This Knowledge for Development and Diplomacy (K4DD) Rapid Evidence Review is based on 6 days of desk-based research. The K4DD research helpdesk provides rapid syntheses of a selection of recent relevant literature and international expert thinking in response to specific questions relating to international development.

Rapid Evidence Reviews are not rigorous or systematic reviews; they are intended to provide an introduction to the most important evidence related to a research question. They draw on a rapid desk-based review of published literature and consultation with subject specialists.

K4DD services are provided by a consortium of leading organisations working in international development, led by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), with the University of Birmingham, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), the University of Manchester Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute (HCRI), Association of Commonwealth Universities, and Royal United Service Institute (RUSI).

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²³ <https://mixedmigration.org/regions/latin-america-and-caribbean/>

²⁴ <https://mixedmigration.org/regions/latin-america-and-caribbean/#:~:text=MMC%20engages%20in,towards%20North%20America.>