

Case Study

Best practices and legislation for social protection and integration of migrants in Central America

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The Congress of the Republic of Guatemala's Committee on Migrants

Working committees are regulated through the Organic Law of the Legislative Branch (LOOL, by its Spanish initials) decree number 63-94, articles 27, 28, 29 y 30

- ▶ The Committee on Migrants' work is guided by two perspectives
- ▶ Humanitarian causes, seeking to ensure human rights protection for migrants, and Causes of forced migration
- ▶ Has a work plan that includes 11 comprehensive work strategies
- ▶ Holds monthly meetings with government institutions, migrant associations, and others committed to the cause, to address various topics to the benefit of migrants



National Migrant Support Council of Guatemala (CONAMIGUA)

Role and mandate

- ▶ The National Migrant Support Council of Guatemala (CONAMIGUA, by its Spanish initials) was created by Decree 46-2007 of the Congress of the Republic
- ▶ Government entity that coordinates, defines, monitors, and oversees actions by State bodies in benefit of Guatemalan migrants
- ▶ The National Migrant Support Council of Guatemala is composed of:
- ▶ The Minister of Foreign Affairs, a Member of the Congress elected by the Congress plenary, the Secretary of SEGEPLAN, the Deputy Minister of the Economy, the Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Security, General Manager of the Bank of Guatemala, the Executive Secretary of CONAMIGUA



Migration in Guatemala

Current situation

Forced displacement

- ▶ Guatemala is a transit and destination country and one of voluntary and forced return
- ▶ According to the IOM (2016), 55.2% of Guatemalan migrants were motivated to migrate by economic reasons
- ▶ According to ENCOVI (2014), 13.33% of the population lives in extreme poverty and 40.38% in poverty, with a total poverty rate of 53.71% in the country
- ▶ It is estimated that 2,301,175 Guatemalans live abroad. 1,860,287 send remittances that benefit approximately 6,212,099 residents; of them, 73% are men and 27% are women



Regional Agreement on Migration Procedures CA-4

As a party to the Central American Integration System (SICA, by its Spanish initials), Guatemala enjoys a public good of free movement between the CA-4 countries known as the Single Central American Visa (VUCA, by its Spanish initials)

- ▶ This instrument guarantees the social, political and economic rights of Central American populations in need of intraregional transit
- ▶ Offers benefits like unrestricted mobility up to the Mexican border
- ▶ Guatemala has Support Centres for migrants in transit



Women migrants in Central America (vulnerability and risks)

Human rights violations
(forced work,
exploitation, and abuses)

- ▶ The situation becomes complicated by the presence and involvement of organized crime on the borders
- ▶ Abuse in their place of origin is one of the causes of forced migration for women
- ▶ Kidnapping in transit, human trafficking



Improving respect
for human rights

- ▶ Non-discrimination against migrants
- ▶ Implementation of migratory policies aligned with international standards
- ▶ The observance of respect for human rights regardless of immigration status
- ▶ The principle of shared responsibility