

A quick overview of the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Western Hemisphere Program (WHP) progress and key activities from July 1st to August 31st, 2024.

## Migration Management

### WHP facilitates adoption of new tools to consolidate labor mobility mechanisms in the RCM region



New approaches supported by WHP's evidence and technical guidance are being instrumental to the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) and its member states to develop roadmaps and plans of actions to enhance intra-regional labor mobility. Representatives from the Ministries of Labor and Foreign Affairs, as well as the Directorates of Migration from Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, and the Dominican Republic, validated the needs assessment for intra-regional labor traceability systems during the RCM regional workshop on July 30th and 31st, 2024. Following these findings, each country developed a roadmap outlining tailored actions for improving internal conditions that facilitate the adoption of mechanisms for labor mobility with other countries in the region in the respect of migrant worker's rights. These initiatives aim to modernize legislative frameworks, improve infrastructure, digitalize migration processes, and engage key stakeholders, including central and local government, private sector, trade unions, and others. WHP will continue to advocate for and follow up the roadmaps at both national and regional levels.

[Read more](#)

## Communications

### "Alo Enfo" campaign boosts migrants' access to essential information in Haiti



From February to August 2024, over 172,000 Haitians accessed information on obtaining identification and travel documents in border towns of Haiti, including Malpasse, Anse-à-Pitres, Belladères, and Ouanaminthe. This outreach was part of the "Alo Enfo" (Hello Info in Haitian Creole) public information campaign, jointly launched by IOM Haiti's WHP and a KOICA<sup>1</sup>-funded project. The campaign has been widely disseminated through community-based activities, radio broadcasts, and flyers, and it promotes the toll-free information line 8840.

Plans are underway to expand the campaign to more border communities across the country. "Alo Enfo" is part of the IOM's support to the government's efforts aimed to provide Haitians with legal documents, which are essential for protecting their rights and ensuring safe, orderly, and regular migration.

[Read more \(in French\)](#)



## Partnerships

### Cross-border coordination between Mexico and Guatemala advances by reactivating the GTTI

The intersectoral dialogue between Guatemala and Mexico, organized by IOM through the WHP, brought together government officials, migration authorities, and representatives from chambers of commerce on July 23rd. The meeting focused on developing effective circular migration strategies, diversifying labor profiles, and engaging the private sector in Campeche, Chiapas, Tabasco y Quintana Roo. Key steps included a review of the challenges and opportunities related to the Border Worker Visitor Card and employment-based visas. As a result, the meeting engaged central-level entities from both countries and reactivated the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group (GTTI). The next GTTI session (in October) will receive WHP technical support and will focus on exploring the feasibility of developing a new temporary work program.

## Crises & Climate Change

### Honduran WHP initiative engages private sector as a key player in addressing migration challenges



Twenty-eight Honduran companies responded to the IOM's call by participating in a series of "Honduras for All" workshops. This initiative underscored the vital role of the private sector in creating job opportunities for potential migrants, hence facilitating the integration of migrants living in the country. Furthermore, the workshops allowed companies to explore ways to meet the needs of migrants, including returnees and those in transit. As the next step, WHP will focus on follow-up actions with companies interested in integrating these proposals into their Corporate Social Responsibility plans. In this way, WHP represents an avenue to promote a whole-of-society approach to manage migration.

## Expanding Horizons: SITLAM enhances labor migration management in Panama and El Salvador

IOM is strongly committed to working with partners to make existing and new regular pathways more accessible and inclusive. As part of this strategic goal, the WHP continues to reinforce the Labor Migration Traceability System (SITLAM)<sup>2</sup> as a tool for intraregional circular migration management. Recent advancements of WHP-supported activities in this area include:

- The completion of the first phase of SITLAM installation on Panama's servers in August 2024. It marks a significant milestone, as it is the first time the system is going to be implemented in a country of origin. This achievement facilitates digital record-keeping from the recruitment stage, directly benefiting the Ngäbe-Buglé indigenous population working in Costa Rica's coffee sector. Looking ahead, SITLAM is expected to broaden its scope in Panama to include additional communities, economic sectors, and stages of the migration cycle. The Government continues seeking the support of WHP staff in providing technical advice and training to promote collaboration among stakeholders and ensure ongoing monitoring.
- The adoption of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) by the labor ministries of Costa Rica and El Salvador as part of their 2023 bilateral agreement on workforce mobility. WHP facilitated these negotiations by providing specialized assistance and reviewing the protocol to ensure it aligns with international principles of safe migration and ethical recruitment. An initial pilot project under the SOPs will focus on the transportation sector, with support from the WHP. The project represents a significant progress, as it requires *ad-hoc* logistics to adapt the SITLAM between Costa Rica and non-bordering countries. Additionally, it will include the issuance of migration documents from the outset and the recognition of foreign driver's licenses.



<sup>2</sup> Read the SITLAM infosheet here: [www.programamesoamerica.iom.int/sites/default/files/infografia-sitlam-eng.pdf](http://www.programamesoamerica.iom.int/sites/default/files/infografia-sitlam-eng.pdf)

## Reinforcing migration management with the Border Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS) in Haiti and Belize

### MIDAS office is officially inaugurated in Cap-Haitian Port



The Government of Haiti, through the Directorate for Immigration and Emigration (DIE), is now better equipped to register migration flows, achieving complete coverage of entry and exit points in the country. On August 1st, a sixth MIDAS post was opened during a ceremony with the Ministry of the Interior and Territorial Collectivities of Cap-Haitian, the second largest city in the country. In addition, inspectors, who are going to use the system regularly, completed proper training. As next step, WHP will enhance the DIE's ability to utilize the collected data to inform decision-making processes and will continue to build capacity among operational officials. Additionally, WHP will assess all MIDAS facilities to identify and address their further needs, resulting in stronger border control and management.

### WHP supports initial steps for installing MIDAS in Belize



The Government of Belize is in process of enhancing its capacity to collect and process border crossing data. Thanks to the WHP, the provision of three new primary MIDAS servers to the Ministry of Immigration marks the first step in overhauling the system's infrastructure. This upgrade enhances data exchange, storage, and traveler registration, while also improving its interface with INTERPOL. The next steps, supported by an IOM European Union-funded project, will include additional servers, MIDAS mobile kits, training sessions, and a maintenance plan to ensure the effective use and upkeep of the equipment. In parallel, the WHP will continue strengthening government capabilities in areas complementary to MIDAS, including the support to the Department of Nationality and Passports to digitize permanent residency ledgers and nationality records.

### This bimester in numbers:

Capacity building is at the core of the WHP:

**3,689** people were trained on migration related issues.

**2,106 WOMEN**  
**1,581 MEN**  
**2 OTHERS**

**More than 1,226** people completed E-Campus self-paced courses on key migration topics.

**Over 3,423** individuals received accurate information on migration through the services offered by Information Hubs.

### Work in progress

- The Suriname National Migration Policy has been developed with the support of WHP and includes a baseline assessment of the country's migration situation. Currently, IOM is collaborating closely with the government to facilitate the adoption and official launch of the policy. This framework will represent a milestone in the country's approach to migration, to promote socio-economic growth, and to strengthen cooperation with international partners on migration issues.

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