

Municipality of Coto Brus (Costa Rica) |
PROFILE 2022

MIGRATION GOVERNANCE INDICATORS LOCAL



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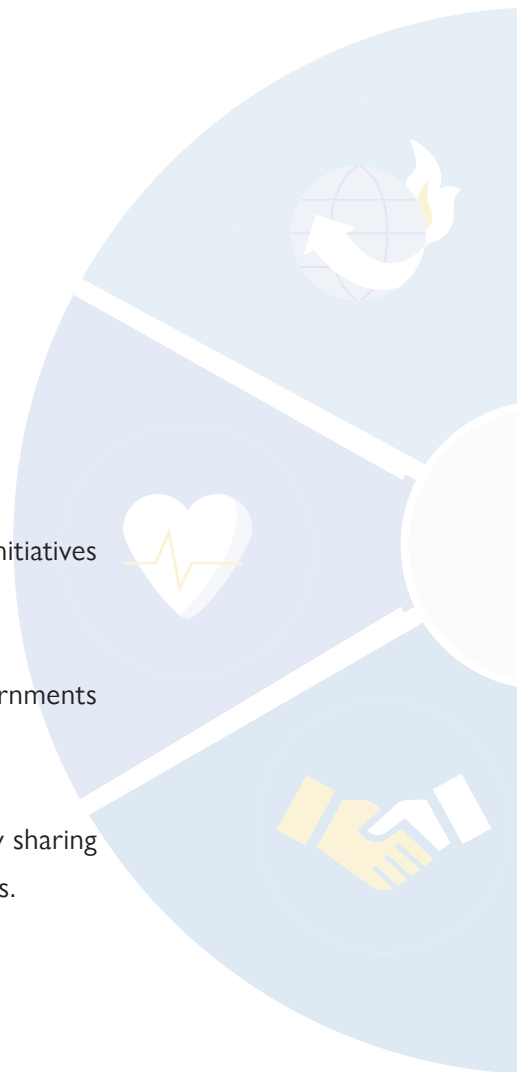
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OBJECTIVES

- 1 Help local authorities take stock of the migration initiatives they have in place.
- 2 Foster dialogue on migration between national governments and local authorities.
- 3 Enable local authorities to learn from one another by sharing common challenges and identifying potential solutions.



“Rapid urbanization continues to transform the demographic landscape of many countries around the world. Cities are already home to the majority of international migrants, driven by opportunity as well as necessity, and local authorities are becoming leaders in finding creative solutions for rapid social change, supporting communities through innovation.”¹

¹ António Vitorino, IOM Director General, [Report to the 109th Session of the IOM Council](#) (November 2018).

ACRONYMS

CCSS	Costa Rican Social Security Fund (<i>Caja Costarricense de Seguro Social</i>)
CME	Municipal Emergency Committee (<i>Comité Municipal de Emergencias</i>)
CNE	National Commission for Risk Prevention and Emergency Response (<i>Comisión Nacional de Prevención de Riesgos y Atención de Emergencias</i>)
CONATT	National Coalition against the Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons (<i>Coalición Nacional contra el Tráfico Ilícito de Migrantes y la Trata de Personas</i>)
COVID-19	coronavirus disease 2019 (novel coronavirus disease, SARS-CoV-2)
DGME	General Directorate of Migration and Aliens (<i>Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería</i>)
IMAS	Inter-agency Institute for Social Assistance (<i>Instituto Mixto de Ayuda Social</i>)
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MAG	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (<i>Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería</i>)
MGIs	Migration Governance Indicators
MiGOF	Migration Governance Framework
MINSA	Ministry of Health (<i>Ministerio de Salud</i>)
MTSS	Ministry of Labour and Social Security (<i>Ministerio de Trabajo y Seguridad Social</i>)
PANI	National Child Welfare Institute (<i>Patronato Nacional de la Infancia</i>)
SITLAM	Labour Migration Traceability System (<i>Sistema de Trazabilidad Laboral Migratoria</i>)

INTRODUCTION

The Migration Governance Indicators

The need to maximize the opportunities and face the challenges that mobility brings has been recognized with the inclusion of migration in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and with the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The incorporation of target 10.7 into the 2030 Agenda created the need to define “planned and well-managed migration policies”. This is why, in 2015, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) developed the Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF). This Framework offers a concise view of an ideal approach that allows a State to determine what it might need to govern migration well and in a way that suits its circumstances. That same year, IOM in collaboration with Economist Impact developed the Migration Governance Indicators (MGIs), a set of almost 100 indicators that help States assess the comprehensiveness of their migration governance structures.

The indicators constitute a starting point to engage governments in a consultative process that allows them to identify areas that are well-developed and others that would benefit from further development, and most importantly, priorities that are in line with the specific challenges and opportunities that a given country is facing.

The MGIs are characterized by three main fundamental attributes:

1. The MGI process is a **voluntary** exercise: The MGIs are conducted in countries that have requested to be part of the process.
2. The MGIs are **sensitive to national** specificities: The MGIs recognize the different challenges and opportunities of each context, and therefore, do not propose a one-size-fits-all solution, but rather aim to spark a discussion on what well-governed migration can mean.
3. The MGIs constitute a **process**: The MGI process is not a static tool to collect data on countries' migration frameworks. It is rather the first step of a dynamic exercise that can enable governments to identify areas of their migration policy in need of further development, or that could benefit from capacity-building.

Migration Governance Indicators: From national to local

The role of cities and municipalities in migration governance² has grown significantly in recent decades, given the rapid pace of urbanization and the importance of cities as destinations for all forms of migration and displacement. Researchers, policymakers and international development agencies have all highlighted the crucial role of cities and municipalities in both accommodating migrants and formulating sustainable responses to migration-related matters.

The role of local governments, not only in the management of migration at the local level, but also in realizing the urban dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, has been recognized in the New Urban Agenda at the Habitat III Conference in Quito (Ecuador), the Global Compact for Migration, and the Call to Local Action, to mention a few.

To support the discussion between levels of governments on migration governance, IOM has adapted the MGIs³ to the local level. The Local MGIs seek to offer a more comprehensive picture of a country's migration governance landscape by juxtaposing a local dimension to MGI national assessments. The [Local MGIs](#) are based on a set of about 80 indicators helping local authorities take stock of local migration strategies or initiatives in place and identify good practices as well as areas with potential for further development.

² “Migration governance” refers to the system of institutions, legal frameworks, mechanisms and practices aimed at regulating migration and protecting migrants. It is used almost synonymously with the term “migration management”, although the latter is also sometimes used to refer to the narrow act of regulating cross-border movement at the State level.

³ The [Migration Governance Indicators](#) were developed in 2015 by IOM in collaboration with Economist Impact.

The aim of the exercise is to foster dialogue on migration between national governments and local authorities and enable local authorities to learn from one another by discussing common challenges and identifying potential solutions.

While the Local MGIs retain the attributes of the National MGIs, they are also anchored in the notion that cities and local authorities have different capacities, competencies and added value when it comes to governing migration. Therefore, the methodology has been adapted to reflect the fact that the degree of fiscal and political autonomy of participating cities influences the kind of migration governance they can practically and legally engage in. Furthermore, new indicators of the level of autonomy and capacities have been added to give some context to the results of the assessment.

Given the differences outlined between the MGIs at the national and local levels, the purpose of the Local MGIs is to be a tool for government authorities to use in taking an introspective look at the measures they have in place to manage migration, as well as to share their experiences. Furthermore, the Local MGIs recognize that good practices can take different forms depending on the division of competencies between local and national authorities. Therefore, the Local MGI analysis should not be interpreted as an invitation to change the division of competencies, but rather be understood as a catalyst to open dialogues on what cities can do with regard to migration within the scope of their mandate. A comprehensive picture of migration governance can be captured only by looking at the different levels of government.

Start of work with the municipality of Coto Brus

In the framework of the work done, IOM proposes to introduce the MGIs in the municipality to gauge local migration governance. Two local MGI assessments were carried out simultaneously in 2021 for the municipalities of San José⁴ and Heredia⁵ in Costa Rica, which complement the national MGI assessment of 2019.⁶ Three local MGIs were done in the municipalities of La Cruz, Coto Brus and Desamparados in 2022. Cooperation began between IOM and the municipality of Coto Brus in 2008⁷ as specific projects were mounted in communities that were hosting migrants, in order to improve both their quality of life and life together in the communities.

This report is the outcome of the local MGI process conducted in the municipality of Coto Brus (in the canton of the same name⁸ in Puntarenas Province). This profile summarizes key examples of well-developed migration governance structures as well as those with potential for further development.

⁴ The 2022 Migration Governance Profile for the municipality of San José is available [here](#).

⁵ The 2022 Migration Governance Profile for the municipality of Heredia is available [here](#).

⁶ The 2019 Migration Governance Profile for the Republic of Costa Rica is available [here](#).

⁷ IOM has been supporting the resettlement of Italian immigrants since 1952.

⁸ Under Article 3 of the Municipal Code, the territorial jurisdiction of the municipality is its respective canton, the capital of which is the seat of the municipal government.



CONTEXT

Migration trends

National context

Since the twentieth century, Costa Rica has been a country of destination for intraregional migration flows, especially from Central America, Colombia and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Over the past decade, it has become a country of transit for migration movements from outside the region, especially from countries in Africa and Asia, and over recent years, for regional migrants from Haiti, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Cuba.

According to official Costa Rican government data, up to December 2020, there were approximately 557,351 regular immigrants registered in the country, coming mainly from Nicaragua (66% of the total, with 367,984 migrants), Colombia (5% with 28,887) and the United States of America (5% with 28,731) (Chaves-González and Mora, 2021). Of the remaining 24 per cent of the migrant population, one half comprises people from other countries of Latin America,⁹ while the other half consists of people from other countries, including European countries.¹⁰

Similarly, recent years have witnessed an increase in the percentage of migrants in Costa Rica, who are in situations of human mobility across the Americas, originating mainly from Cuba and several African countries. Their numbers rose from 8,961 in 2016 to 19,628 in 2018. The main language of communication among migrants is Spanish (64%); other languages are also in use, albeit to a lesser extent, including Portuguese, French, Haitian Creole (*Kreyòl*) and English (IOM, 2019).

As pertains to migrants under international protection, a total of 59,450 applications for asylum were received in 2021, of which 561 were approved. Some 32,593 refugee applications were received between 1 January 2022 and 31 May 2022, and 526 were approved (233 Nicaraguans, 247 Venezuelans, 20 Salvadorans, 11 Hondurans, 3 Colombians and 12 Cubans).¹¹ These numbers do not include approvals in the complementary category;¹² between 1 February 2021 and 30 April 2022, a total of 3,934 requests of this kind were approved (60% Nicaraguans, 34% Venezuelans and 6% Cubans) (Chaves-González and Mora, 2021).

Local context

The canton of Coto Brus is located in the province of Puntarenas, which forms part of the Brunca Region, and is bordered on the east by the Republic of Panama. The canton has an area of 933.91 sq km (Municipality of Coto Brus, 2019a), which is 1.3 per cent of the national territory (IFAM, 2003). This canton comprises six districts (San Vito, Sabalito, Agua Buena, Limoncito, Pittier and Gutiérrez Brown) (Municipality of Coto Brus, 2019a), and its population is projected to be 44,280 inhabitants for 2022, of which 50.5 per cent (22,341) are women and 49.5 per cent (21,939) are men (INEC, 2018). This population represents 9 per cent of the total population of the province of Puntarenas (510,566) and approximately 1 per cent of the national population (5,213,362) (*ibid.*).

Although the 2011 census (the latest from the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses)¹³ provides no data broken down by nationality for migrants in the canton of Coto Brus, such data do exist for the province of Puntarenas (INEC, 2016a), which is home to 6.3 per cent (24,195) of Costa Rica's migrant population. Of this total, 61 per cent (14,779) come from Nicaragua, 16 per cent (3,838) from Panama, 8.5 per cent

⁹ Especially from El Salvador (13,631 migrants), the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (12,480), Cuba (9,357), Panama (7,541), Honduras (6,519), Mexico (6,509), Peru (5,439) and Guatemala (4,525).

¹⁰ The category "other countries" does not provide data disaggregated by region.

¹¹ See the 2021 and 2022 annual reports of the General Directorate of Migration and Aliens.

¹² The complementary category was created to assist persons whose asylum claim had been denied. This category was available over a specific period, namely from February 2021 to March 2022.

¹³ The next census is scheduled for 2022.

(2,053) from North America,¹⁴ 5 per cent (1,253) from South America, 4 per cent (905) from Europe and 1.5 per cent (363) from El Salvador, and the remaining 4 per cent (1,004) comprise people from Asia, Africa, Oceania and the Caribbean.

According to the 2021 National Household Survey (INEC, 2021), 0.1 per cent (393) of the residents of the Brunca Region are from other countries (67% men and 33% women). The data are not broken down either by nationality or at the cantonal level.

The 2011 census showed the canton of Coto Brus to have a population of 1,898 foreign immigrants (5% of the canton's total population), of which 47 per cent are women and 53 per cent are men (INEC, 2016b). As pertains to internal emigrants, the same census states that Coto Brus had a population of 15,889 internal emigrants in 2011 (41% of the canton's total population), of which 53 per cent are women and 47 per cent are men. This canton was home to 13,058 internal immigrants (34% of the canton's total population), comprising 50 per cent women and 50 per cent men (ibid.).

In a 2020 assessment conducted by the Costa Rican Supreme Electoral Tribunal's Institute for Training and Studies in Democracy (*Instituto de Formación y Estudios en Democracia del Tribunal Supremo de Elecciones*) (Castro Ávila, 2020) in municipalities across the country to provide information on local policies and examine asymmetries in development opportunities, equality and well-being, Coto Brus obtained a low score in cantonal human development¹⁵ (ranking 77th out of 81), and it was the municipality with the worst cantonal poverty level (81st of 81). That same evaluation identified Coto Brus as a canton with middling social development, according to the 2017 Social Development Index (placing 71st of 81); and fair municipal management (44 of 100), according to the 2018 Municipal Management Index (ibid.).

¹⁴ There are no data disaggregated by country for South and North America, Europe, Asia, Africa and the Caribbean.

¹⁵ Although Costa Rica has 84 cantons, the municipal assessment or cantonal file presents just 81. This is because it is based on *Costa Rica's Atlas of Cantonal Human Development for 2016*, when the eighty-second canton (Rio Cuarto) had not yet been created. This canton was created in 2017 by Law No. 9440.

Competencies of the municipality

Level of decentralization of local authorities

Costa Rica has two levels of government, namely the national and the local. Local governments or municipalities are the political structures of public administration at the cantonal level. These structures enjoy political, administrative, regulatory and financial autonomy in the pursuit of their aims, goals and objectives. They also maintain ties of coordination and cooperation with higher-ranking bodies, such as central government institutions.

Costa Rica is territorially and administratively divided into seven provinces and 84 cantons. The cantons are divided into districts, which are in turn subdivided into neighbourhoods, and represent the smallest planning and operational unit of urban management. After the national Government, the cantons constitute the country's next most important administrative unit, as they have local governments, known as municipalities. There is a direct relationship between canton and municipality, as there is necessarily and automatically a municipality for each canton. Under Article 3 of the Municipal Code (1998), the territorial jurisdiction of the municipality is the respective canton, the capital of which is the seat of the municipal government. Furthermore, Article 170 of the Political Constitution of Costa Rica (1949) states that the municipal corporations are autonomous.

According to Article 4 of Law No. 7794 (Municipal Code) (1998), the municipality's functions include the following: (a) issuing the autonomous organizational and service regulations, as well as any other provision that is authorized under the legislation; (b) approving and executing its budgets; (c) managing and providing municipal public services, and ensuring their oversight and control; (d) approving rates, prices and municipal contributions, and also putting forward proposed municipal tax rates; (e) as the tax administration, collecting and managing taxes and other municipal revenues; (f) entering into covenants, agreements or contracts with national or foreign persons or entities, as required for the discharge of its functions; (g) convening popular consultations in the municipality, for the purposes stipulated in the above-mentioned Law and its regulations; (h) promoting participatory and inclusive local development that takes into account the diversity of the population's needs and interests; and (i) implementing local public policies to advance women's rights and citizenship, as well as gender equality and equity.

The General Law on the Transfer of Powers from the Executive to the Municipalities (Law No. 8801) (2010) created the Cantonal Councils for Institutional Coordination and the District Councils for Institutional Coordination to coordinate the formulation, implementation and oversight of public policy with local implications. For these purposes, the executive power coordinates the municipality or Municipal District Council and public bodies with cantonal or district-level representation, as appropriate. The council members vote to elect the President and Vice President of the Council. In this case, it is called the Coto Brus Municipal Council.

The competencies of municipalities in relation to migration

Under the General Law on Migration and Aliens (Law No. 8764) (2009), migration policy design and formulation fall within the remit of the General Directorate of Migration and Aliens (DGME), in conjunction with other constituent institutions of the National Migration Council (CNM). Article 11 provides for municipalities to participate in a consultative capacity, should the CNM so decide. However, despite the opportunity for local participation in the formulation of such policies, there is no evidence that this is currently taking place.

Costa Rica's Comprehensive Migration Policy (2013) aims to lay out the State's commitments for the purposes of managing and controlling migration flows, adequately integrating migrants, and promoting national development by creating a system that regulates and coordinates inter-agency activities relating to migration. The Policy comprises three main strategic planks: developing and strengthening migration services, fostering the integration and personal development of migrants, and ensuring that their human rights are protected. The aims of the National Integration Plan for Costa Rica 2018–2022 (2017) include integration and social inclusion for the country's migrant and refugee communities. The Migration Policy and the Comprehensive Plan for Managing Mixed Migration Flows 2018–2022 (2017) envisage a possible role for local governments in executing some of their strategic priorities and implementing activities or programmes with local ramifications. The Comprehensive Plan is therefore transversal to the National Integration Plan for Costa Rica, and it is intended to pave the way for dealing effectively with as many scenarios as may arise in the context of mixed migration flows. The Comprehensive Plan expressly provides for municipal participation, thus opening the door to local government involvement in institutional efforts in this area.

The DGME is the competent body with respect to the return, reintegration and inclusion of Costa Rican nationals. Article 13(34) of the Law on Migration and Aliens tasks the DGME with the following: "Repatriate Costa Ricans from abroad, when this is warranted on humanitarian grounds, and also with repatriating the mortal remains of Costa Ricans, provided that the families are unable to meet the costs of transporting the body, owing to extreme necessity. Both cases are subject to a reasoned decision." Furthermore, Article 243 states: "Likewise, the humanitarian repatriation of Costa Ricans shall be the responsibility of the General Directorate and shall be paid for with funds from the Migration Social Fund, which belongs to said Directorate. If the funds are lacking, this obligation shall be covered by the institution's own resources." Repatriation implies the reintegration and inclusion of migrants, these being matters contemplated under the National Integration Plan. Costa Rica stands out for its endeavours to include the migrant population in its various development policies, and to promote their economic contributions to the country, in a framework of respect for human rights.

There are no migration-related public policy areas in which the national Government has formally delegated authority to local authorities. The municipalities and other players support the various central government institutions in national migration matters through cooperation or inter-agency coordination.

Local governments serve the different segments of the population, including migrants, albeit subject to legal constraints (regarding irregular migrants, for example), as well as financial ones, in that they lack the requisite resources. Moreover, the available national legal instruments allow local governments to offer programme-related inputs into these public policies. More specifically, Article 4(h) of the Municipal Code reads: “Promote participatory and inclusive local development that takes into account the diversity of the population’s needs and interests.” The Municipal Code further stipulates in Article 13(a) that the Municipal Council may “[s]et the municipality’s development policy and priorities, in keeping with the government programme registered by the mayor of the municipality for the term of office to which he was elected, and with the participation of citizens”.

The Municipal Migrant Centres (CMMs) operate, with IOM’s support, in municipalities in the cantons of Desamparados, La Cruz, Mora, Upala and Talamanca. They provide services for returning Costa Ricans and for the migrant population in general. CMMs are also spaces for outreach to communities, and they assist with the implementation of various measures to strengthen local migration governance.

Local financing mechanisms and the restrictions on their use

The local governments are funded through two mechanisms – namely, through current transfers from the central Government pursuant to Article 170 of the Political Constitution, and through the collection of territorial taxes or rates for municipal services, as prescribed in Title IV of the Municipal Code. These budget allocations are reflected in the ordinary budgets approved by the Municipal Council (the highest-ranking collegiate body in local governments or municipalities) and by the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic, which is the subsidiary body of the Legislative Assembly responsible for the oversight of public funds.

Although Coto Brus does not have an open-data section on its website,¹⁶ the municipality’s public budget is available for viewing on the website of the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic.¹⁷ According to data available in the municipality’s 2022 Annual Operating Plan, approximately USD 368,249.92¹⁸ has been allocated to the strategic area concerned with local social policy. Those activities include operating the Social Management and Human Development Office, supporting the Childcare and Development Centre, supporting the Cantonal Council for Young People, responding to cantonal emergencies and promoting a Municipal Agency for Development Projects.¹⁹

¹⁶ For more information, visit the [official website of the municipality of Coto Brus](#) (accessed September 2022).

¹⁷ For more information, see the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic’s [consultations on the public budget](#).

¹⁸ This is equivalent to 236,965,141 colons (the exchange rate was USD 1 = CRC 643.49 on 12 April 2022).

¹⁹ This information is from the 2022 Annual Operating Plan of the municipality of Coto Brus (not available online).



KEY FINDINGS

The Local MGIs are composed of approximately 80 indicators grouped under the six different dimensions of migration governance that draw upon the MiGOF categories:²⁰



MIGRANTS' RIGHTS PAGE 20

Indicators in this category look at the extent to which migrants have access to certain social services such as health, education and social security. They also examine measures to ensure integration and access to work.



WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH PAGE 22

Indicators in this category assess the institutional frameworks of cities, municipalities or states for migration. This area also examines the existence of migration strategies consistent with development objectives, as well as institutional transparency and coherence in migration management.



PARTNERSHIPS PAGE 24

Indicators in this category focus on cities', municipalities' or states' efforts to cooperate on migration issues with the national government as well as other cities and relevant non-governmental actors, including civil society organizations and the private sector.



WELL-BEING OF MIGRANTS PAGE 25

Indicators in this category assess cities', municipalities' or states' initiatives in terms of international student mobility, access to the labour market and decent working conditions for migrant workers. Aspects related to diaspora engagement and migrant remittances are also included in this domain.



MOBILITY DIMENSION OF CRISES PAGE 26

Indicators in this category examine the type and level of readiness of cities, municipalities or states to deal with aspects of mobility crises. The questions focus on the processes in place for citizens and non-citizens in relation to disasters and climate change, especially whether humanitarian assistance is available for migrants and citizens.



SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION PAGE 28

Indicators in this category look at the cities', municipalities' or states' approaches to migrant safety as well as return and reintegration policies and the fight against trafficking in persons.

²⁰ IOM Council, *Migration Governance Framework*, 106th Session, C/106/40 (4 November 2015).



1

ADHERE TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND FULFIL MIGRANTS' RIGHTS

1.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

Under Costa Rican legislation, the entire migrant population of Coto Brus is entitled to Government-run health services, irrespective of their migration status. Decree No. 41187 of the Executive Power (2018) requires the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS) to provide all migrants with primary care for illnesses and disease, and also in urgent and emergency situations, with the cost being borne by the State. The Government of Costa Rica has signed up to the “Joint programme to improve the human security of Ngäbe and Buglé temporary migrants in Costa Rica and Panama”,²¹ which encompasses a range of activities that benefit the migrant population. One such activity consists of centres for child support, care and development, meant to benefit the children of migrant agricultural workers; they are called *Casas de la Alegría* and are authorized under Decree No. 41381-S (2018). Their purpose is “to provide concrete and sustainable benefits to migrant, indigenous communities, especially the Ngäbe–Buglé community,²² in the areas of health, capacity-building, productive activities and access to justice”.²³ Participants in this Programme include public institutions such as the CEN-CENAI, the CCSS, the Inter-agency Institute for Social Assistance (IMAS), the Ministry of Health, the National Child Welfare Institute (PANI) and the municipality, as well as private enterprises and cooperatives.

Since the year 2014, Coto Brus has operated the *Casas de la Alegría* 16 times, with 7 set to operate in 2022. These *Casas* were set up to assist the children of migrant agricultural workers, and besides offering childcare and support, they also serve as a means of ensuring that migrant minors are protected. The Coto Brus Municipality participates in the initiative by granting building permits and tax waivers, providing administrative assistance for preparing applications for admission addressed to IMAS, and organizing training courses for women caregivers. The *Casas de la Alegría* are funded by IMAS, which provides food subsidies, in conjunction with the Sabalito Coffee Growers, Agro-industrial and Multiservice Cooperative (*Cooperativa de Caficultores, Agroindustrial y de Servicios Múltiples de Sabalito*). The municipality also operates a Childcare and Development Centre, which looks after children up to the age of 12 years, including newborns. The services on offer include feeding programmes, language therapy, early stimulation, English and Italian courses, and corporal expression. Access to this Centre’s services is provided on a case-by-case basis for migrant minors who need them.

The General Directorate of Migration and Aliens provides legal aid and legal advice to foreign nationals entering the country at its Río Sereno border post in the canton of Coto Brus. According to data from the Migrant Labour Traceability System, more than 23,437 people, including children, entered the country between October 2020 and April 2022.²⁴ At the national level, migrants may also turn to the Directorate for Equality and Non-discrimination in the Office of the Ombudsman (subsidiary public agency of the Legislative Assembly, which ensures the effective enforcement of rights) in order to file complaints about violations of rights and interests.

The municipality collaborates, as needed, with non-governmental organizations that provide additional assistance and information services for migrants. In its 2020 Report of Activities, the Women’s Affairs Office

²¹ For more information, see: IMAS, 2014.

²² These are indigenous peoples originating from north-western Panama.

²³ The *Casas de la Alegría* are run by PANI, the Ministry of Public Education, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, the Inter-agency Institute for Social Assistance, the Ministry of Health, the National Institute for Women, the Costa Rican Social Security Fund, the National Institute of Apprenticeship, the National Directorate of the Education and Nutrition Centres and Integrated Childcare Centres, the National Directorate for Community Development, and the municipalities.

²⁴ More specifically, between October 2020 and April 2022, 13,731 men, 5,049 women and 4,673 children entered the country.

– attached to the municipality’s Department of Social Management and Human Development – reports on a training course organized by the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (Costa Rica) for representatives of the Cantonal Council for Institutional Coordination in the Department of Social Management on “capacity-building in international protection issues”. The course comprised three workshops on refugee status, conducted virtually between June and August 2020.

1.2. Areas with potential for further development

The municipality still lacks specific measures for ensuring access for foreign nationals to primary and secondary public education. The local body responsible for primary and secondary education is the Coto Brus Regional Directorate of Education, which reports to the Ministry of Public Education. In its Cantonal Development Plan 2019–2023 (2019), the municipality focuses on improving the quality of education at educational institutions with shortcomings and “improving the award of student scholarships and controls for their use”. Even so, there is no evidence of the operation of the scholarship programme or of access by the migrant population. Furthermore, although the *Casas de la Alegría* provide care, there is no evidence of the component of access to education or training facilities.

Coto Brus has not yet introduced measures to facilitate access for foreign nationals to subsidized housing. Housing solutions are provided by the National Financial System for Housing.²⁵ At the national level, there is limited access to subsidized housing for foreign migrants with permanent residence status. However, it should be noted that there are *baches* or *barrancas*, which are houses with a kitchen and basic services, used mainly during the harvesting season. The *baches* are used both by Ngäbe–Buglé migrants from Panama and by other people harvesting coffee in the canton.

Municipal social services are provided to the entire population irrespective of their migration status. For example, as part of the activities scheduled under the Work Plan²⁶ of the Cantonal Council for Institutional Coordination,²⁷ information fairs were held in 2019 to publicize the services provided by institutions in the canton of Coto Brus. However, there are still no specific mechanisms for helping all foreign nationals gain access to municipal services.

Up to the time of this report, there were no local information and awareness-raising campaigns to combat xenophobia and exclusion, and encourage acceptance of migrants, as well as social cohesion. The Safe Spaces initiative is nonetheless operational in the canton’s Sabalito District.²⁸ Safe Spaces are a working model used to cope with flows of people in situations of human mobility; they are located in Costa Rica’s host communities where there are large numbers of migrant children, high levels of poverty, physical and sexual violence, exclusion from school, or problems of social integration, among other things. These spaces foster social cohesion and are inclusive, equitable and non-discriminatory. They offer remedial teaching; recreational, sports and artistic activities; counselling; and information, among other services. The services are open to the general public, regardless of their migration status.

Migrants may approach the Department of Social Management and Human Development (*Departamento de Gestión Social y Desarrollo Humano*) to request general information about municipal services or to be referred to other competent bodies. One area with potential for further development is the introduction of orientation and welcome programmes for recently arrived migrants.

²⁵ This is a public body that brings together institutions responsible for regulating human settlements and ensuring access to housing for people in situations of vulnerability.

²⁶ This internal document is not available online.

²⁷ The Cantonal Councils for Institutional Coordination are set up “for the purposes of technical and political inter-agency coordination”.

²⁸ At the national level, this model is under the responsibility of the National Child Welfare Institute, the General Directorate of Migration and Aliens, and the United Nations Children’s Fund.



2

FORMULATE POLICY USING EVIDENCE AND
WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH

2.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

In August 2022, the municipality adopted a local migration policy²⁹ designed to “buttress a coordinated system of inter-institutional and intersectoral actions in the canton of Coto Brus, which ensures protection of the human rights of migrants and refugees transiting, arriving in or returning to the canton during the period 2022–2032”. The migration policy lays out the following strategic priorities: local migration governance, the protection of human rights, the protection of labour rights, integration, and legal and humanitarian assistance. The formulation process was undertaken by the Office of the Deputy Mayor and the Cantonal Council for Institutional Coordination, under the supervision of the Municipal Mayor.³⁰

The municipality of Coto Brus provides clear and transparent information regarding the rights and duties of migrants and access to municipal public services. Material is delivered to migrants in Spanish and Ngäbere, as most of them understand both languages. In 2019 and 2020, for example, information material on health and migration issues was made available to indigenous Ngäbe–Buglé cross-border migrants, through the Labour Migration Traceability System (SITLAM), which operates at the Río Sereno border post.

2.2. Areas with potential for further development

Enhancing the vertical coherence of migration policies is deemed an area with potential for further development. In each canton (or district with a District Municipal Council) across the country, there is a council comprising all public bodies operating in the locality (canton), as well as public companies. Since 2010, each canton, including Coto Brus, has been operating a Cantonal Council for Institutional Coordination. These councils were set up³¹ to coordinate the formulation, implementation and oversight of public policy with local implications. The Cantonal Council is the forum in which the Coto Brus Local Migration Policy was formulated, following a participative approach.

The municipality has provided ad hoc training for municipal officers in the realm of cultural sensitivity. In 2019, for example, the Municipal Women’s Affairs Office, which reports to the Department of Social Management and Human Development, took part in the vocational and labour training exercise titled “Local governments’ approach to migration” (*Abordaje de la migración desde los gobiernos locales*). This activity was intended “to provide information and raise awareness about the work of institutions, and the importance of safeguarding the rights of children and adolescents through communal projects designed to protect the human rights of migrants”.

Locally, no data are regularly compiled or published on migration or migrants. However, through SITLAM, which operates at the Río Sereno border post, records are kept of people involved in circular migration, which coincides with the coffee harvesting and collection season. At the national level, the

²⁹ More information on the [local immigration policy](#) is available on the website of the municipality of Coto Brus.

³⁰ The participants in the formulation process included representatives of the following institutions and organizations, some with a presence in the canton of Coto Brus: the Ministries of National Planning and Economic Policy, of Agriculture and Livestock, and of Health; the Costa Rican Social Security Fund; the National Institute for Women; the Inter-agency Institute for Social Assistance; the National Child Welfare Institute; the Institute for Municipal Development and Advisory Services (*Instituto de Fomento y Asesoría Municipal*); the National Council of People with Disabilities; the Costa Rican Institute of Aqueducts and Sewers; the Costa Rican Coffee Institute; the Department for the Technical Management of Road Infrastructure (*Departamento de Gestión Técnica de Infraestructura Vial*); the Department of Complementary Social Services (*Departamento de Servicios Sociales y Complementarios*) (Women’s Affairs Office); the Municipal Department of Environmental Management and Control (*Departamento de Gestión y Control Ambiental de la Municipalidad*); and the organization Hands for Health.

³¹ The Councils were created by the General Law on the Transfer of Powers from the Executive to the Municipalities (Law No. 8801) (2010) and are chaired by the Mayoral Offices of their respective municipalities.

General Directorate of Migration and Aliens (n.d.) publishes annual and monthly statistics on its website, covering entries and departures, with data broken down by nationality. Furthermore, the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses is the technical agency in charge of national statistics and the coordinator of Costa Rica's National Statistical System, the body tasked with documenting a range of national data, including statistics on the migrant population, when national censuses are being conducted.

3

ENGAGE WITH PARTNERS TO ADDRESS MIGRATION AND RELATED ISSUES

3.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

The municipality of Coto Brus cooperates with the private sector in implementing migration-related policies and programmes. The Sabalito Coffee Growers, Agro-industrial and Multiservice Cooperative collaborates with the *Casas de la Alegría* project as an operator of temporary shelters for migrant children during coffee harvesting in the canton of Coto Brus. This Cooperative is the body authorized by the Inter-agency Institute for Social Assistance (IMAS) to administer the subsidy, and it acts as a link between coffee producers, the beneficiary population and institutional players. The municipality facilitates the formalities entailed in the building of each *Casa de la Alegría* and provides specific training to the staff tasked with caring for the children. For its part, the Costa Rican Network of Physical Activity for Health (*Red Costarricense de la Actividad Física para la Salud*)³² organizes physical and recreational activities for children.

The municipality participates on an ad hoc basis in international networks for the sharing of knowledge and best practices relating to migration. In 2021, for example, it participated in the “Training programme in migration policies and governance with an emphasis on the local and municipal levels” (IOM, 2021a), organized by the Regional Conference on Migration. The aim of the Conference is to build the capacities of public players in the areas of formulating, implementing and assessing public migration policies at the local level in member countries. In May 2022, the municipality also took part in the Regional Meeting on Best Practices in Migration Policy, held between local governments from Mexico, Honduras, Panama and Costa Rica, and organized by the National Coordinator of Migrant Assistance Offices (*Coordinación Nacional de Oficinas de Atención a Migrantes*, CONOFAM) of Mexico and IOM.

Local authorities cooperate actively with IOM on migration matters. Supported by the municipality, IOM and the General Directorate of Migration and Aliens set up two migration regularization units in two border districts in southern Costa Rica (Río Sereno), to process indigenous Panamanian migrant workers between 2019 and 2020. In addition, between 2021 and 2022, IOM provided support by preparing information material on migration, labour and health matters for distribution to migrant workers in transit centres at entry points in Río Sereno; bilingual (Spanish and Ngäbere) cultural advisers were also made available.

3.2. Areas with potential for further development

One area with potential for further development is the creation of bilateral programmes for cooperation on international migration issues between cities in Costa Rica. At the national level, neither the Comprehensive Migration Policy (2013) nor the National Integration Plan 2018–2022 (2017) makes mention of programmes for bilateral cooperation among cities in the country. One of the aims of the Comprehensive Migration Policy, however, is that of developing “a system of inter-institutional coordination by the Costa Rican State designed to promote the effective management of the realities of migration, in a manner consistent with the country’s overall development needs, with national security imperatives and respect for human rights”.

³² The network’s participants are the Cantonal Sports and Recreation Committee (*Comité Cantonal de Deportes y Recreación*), the municipality, the Ministry of Health, the Costa Rican Social Security Fund, the Costa Rican Institute of Sports and Recreation, the State Distance Learning University, the Ministry of Public Education, and the Institute on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (*Instituto sobre Alcoholismo y Farmacodependencia*).



4

ADVANCE THE SOCIOECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF MIGRANTS AND SOCIETY

4.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

Coto Brus has a Women's Affairs Office that reports to the municipality's Department of Social Management and Human Development, and its aim is "to further the inclusion of women's needs and interests, locally and in municipal management, to strengthen their organizations and leadership, and promote the management of public policies and affirmative actions that favour gender equality and equity".³³ Moreover, the Local Policy for the Prevention of Gender-based Violence 2015–2020 covers all women in the canton, including migrant women.

The municipality implements national guidelines to promote the orderly and safe migration of persons seeing to agricultural crops, including from a migration, labour and health perspective. In 2021, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) published the General Protocol on Labour Migration for the Harvest Season in the Framework of the COVID-19 Alert, 2021–2022. Its overall purpose is to ensure the orderly entry into and departure from the country of migrants from Nicaragua who harvest crops in the agricultural sector, bearing in mind the need to mitigate the risk of being infected with the COVID-19 virus. Similarly, the Migrant Labour Traceability System (SITLAM) has been operating locally since 2020 and generating the information required for the purposes of registration with the social security system. It also enables institutions like the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MTSS) to improve labour inspections on farms and better coordinate with government agencies whose remit encompasses the situation of migrant workers and the management of the pandemic. These agencies include MTSS, MAG, the Ministry of Health, and the General Directorate of Migration and Aliens (DGME).

4.2. Areas with potential for further development

One area with potential for further development is the conduct of municipal-level assessments to monitor the labour market demand for immigrants, the local labour supply and the impacts of emigration on the labour market. SITLAM enables MTSS, MAG and the DGME to gauge the labour demand for coffee harvesting and the number of migrants entering from Panama.

Because it is not a local function, the Coto Brus Municipality has no programmes to improve the financial acumen of migrants and their families or that of persons receiving remittances. The National Financial Education Strategy (2019), which is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Economy, Industry and Trade, does not identify strategies for the financial inclusion of migrants. This is clear from the low level of migrant participation (38%) in the financial system (BCCR, 2018). Similarly, the substantial level of informal work done by migrants results in low levels of participation in the banking system and also restricted access to the country's financial services and products.

³³ More information is available on the web page of the Municipality of Coto Brus for [municipal departments](#).



5

EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS THE MOBILITY DIMENSIONS OF CRISES

5.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

The National Law on Emergencies and Risk Prevention (Law No. 8488) (2005) provides for national responsibility when it comes to managing emergencies and crisis situations, and creates the National Risk Management System. Under this structure, the municipalities coordinate the Municipal Emergency Committees (CMEs).³⁴ The functions of the Coto Brus CME include disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery in the canton.

In crisis situations in which irregular migrants require assistance, the municipality coordinates with the CME to provide humanitarian aid subsidies through the Inter-agency Institute for Social Assistance (IMAS). IMAS deposits the allowances with a Comprehensive Development Association³⁵ – such as the *Asociación de Desarrollo Integral de Santa Elena de Pittier* (Comprehensive Development Association of Santa Elena de Pittier) – or through someone trusted by the migrant and who has a bank account.

There are local communication systems for receiving information on evolving crisis situations and ways of reaching assistance services. The Cantonal Risk Prevention and Emergency Response Plan (2021) includes the following communications-related actions: managing relations with the collective communications media, establishing links with the communications media present in the canton and keeping them abreast of the work of the CME, maintaining communications equipment in optimum conditions, and managing the communications essential to the functioning of the Committee, among other things. All affected persons, irrespective of their migration status, may communicate their needs during and after a crisis via the 911 telephone service operated by the national emergency system, which is a mechanism from which needs are communicated to the CME or to the rescue services present in the canton. Similarly, people may communicate directly with the CME or the Communal Emergency Committees via dedicated telephone lines or WhatsApp. Likewise, the municipality uses local communications media such as radio, television and social networks to provide information about evolving crisis situations and to disseminate protocols and guidelines. It is worth noting that all communications media are available in Spanish.

The National Commission for Risk Prevention and Emergency Response manages the early warning system both nationally and locally. The National Communications Network is a system of radio communication via the CMEs, and which links up various institutions as observation and surveillance posts throughout the country, with a view to speeding up the sharing of information for decision-making purposes during emergencies or states of alert. The National Risk Management Plan 2021–2025 (2021) lays out a programme for enhancing local organization for emergencies, by establishing one CME per canton, with warning systems in place, and including other operational components such as measuring and monitoring instruments, communication, activation, response and training.

³⁴ The Municipal Emergency Committees are permanent coordination bodies comprising public and private institutions, non-governmental organizations, and civil society, and they deal with local emergencies or disasters.

³⁵ These are public-interest bodies governed by private law, authorized to engage in activities for the social, economic, cultural and environmental advancement of the residents of the area, in collaboration with institutions, municipalities and any other public and/or private bodies.

5.2. Areas with potential for further development

The implementation of coordination agreements, partnerships or referral systems with key players in order to provide assistance to foreign nationals in the event of local emergencies is deemed to be an area with potential for further development.

The municipality still has no contingency plan for managing large-scale population movements in times of crisis. The 2022 Annual Operating Plan and the Cantonal Development Plan 2019–2023 (2019) do not specifically address this topic. However, as previously mentioned, the municipality applies the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock's General Protocol on Labour Migration for the Harvest Season in the Framework of the COVID-19 Alert, 2021–2022. Its purpose is to ensure that migrants from Nicaragua can enter and exit the country in an orderly manner, bearing in mind the mitigation of the risk of infection with the COVID-19 virus.

Areas deemed to hold potential for further development include the design of local emergency response strategies that are gender-sensitive and mindful of the specific needs of migrant women, and also the implementation of local measures in times of crisis to protect migrant children, unaccompanied minors and minors left behind.

There are no procedures or measures at the local level aimed at guaranteeing the protection of girls, boys, and unaccompanied migrant adolescents and those left behind in times of crisis. The National Risk Management Policy 2016–2030 (2015) establishes in the response plans the comprehensive care committees for children and adolescents, in charge of guaranteeing the best interests of the child, avoiding risk situations, and promoting their rights and duties.



6

ENSURE THAT MIGRATION TAKES PLACE IN A SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MANNER

6.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

There are some local programmes for the training of public servants on the rules of migration and the rights of migrants. Under the 2018 joint programme to improve the human security of Ngäbe and Buglé temporary migrants in Costa Rica and Panama,³⁶ government officers and coffee farmers were sensitized and trained with respect to the Ngäbe–Buglé population. This programme was designed to improve the human security of the Ngäbe and Buglé migrant population, with special reference to their safety at work; their health, economic, food and personal safety; as well as their community and political security – by empowering them and improving their access to public services. In addition, between 2017 and 2019, and in the framework of the *Academias de Crianza* project, the municipality joined forces with the Ministry of Health and the National Child Welfare Institute to provide training on the rights of minors, for caregivers in the *Casas de la Alegría* in the canton of Coto Brus. Lastly, a representative of the Department of Social Management and Human Development took part in the seventh edition of the course Online Certificate in Psychological First Aid for Migrants, Refugees and Displaced Persons (*Séptima Edición del Diplomado en Primeros Auxilios Psicológicos para Personas Migrantes, Refugiadas y Desplazadas*) titled “Building dignity: Human rights, empathy and solidarity” (*Construyendo dignidad: derechos humanos, empatía y solidaridad*), run by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Health Initiative of the Americas of the School of Public Health of the University of California in Berkeley.

6.2. Areas with potential for further development

The Department of Social Management and Human Development serves the population as a whole, both in person and by phone, irrespective of nationality and migration status. Nevertheless, there is no evidence of any action being taken to facilitate the arrival of refugees and migrants in Coto Brus, as this is a central government function.

No measures are as yet in place locally to counteract the exploitation of migrant labour. At the national level, government authorities apply the following regulations on labour migration: the General Law on Migration and Aliens (2009), the Law against Trafficking in Persons (2013), the Comprehensive Migration Policy (2013) and the 2018–2022 National Integration Plan (2017). These instruments all aim to curb labour exploitation, trafficking in persons and acts of discrimination against migrants, and they are guided by a comprehensive human rights approach.

Up to the time of this report, the municipality had not deployed a local strategy against trafficking in persons. It also does not publish information on activities to combat this crime. At the national level, the National Coalition against the Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons (CONATT) is the body responsible for the prevention, investigation, tracking and detection of the crime of human trafficking; the comprehensive care, protection and social reintegration of victims of human trafficking; and the overall fight against the crime of migrant smuggling. CONATT also publishes the Annual Report on Trafficking in Persons. However, the reports published so far are not available online, and the data are not disaggregated geographically.

³⁶ This is implemented by IOM, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund, together with the Mayor's Office.



PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROTOCOLS ON THE RISKS OF THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

This annex summarizes key local COVID-19 policy responses in the municipality of Coto Brus from a migration governance perspective. It is based on 11 questions that were added to the standard [Migration Governance Indicators \(MGIs\)](#) assessment in the municipality, to effectively assess local migration governance in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Broadly speaking, the COVID-19 pandemic response has been managed by the central Government of Costa Rica. The Municipal Government of Coto Brus, for example, is not directly responsible for health services, nor does it grant financial or other assistance to residents of the municipality.



Migrants living in the canton may access COVID-19-related health services, which are managed by the central Government of Costa Rica through the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS).¹ All migrants may access the vaccine, regardless of their migration status, provided they can demonstrate that they are based in the country.²

The Municipal Emergency Committee is responsible for local COVID-19 prevention and care, pursuant to Executive Decree No. 42227-MP-S issued by the Government of the Republic³ and the General Emergency Plan drawn up by the National Commission for Risk Prevention and Emergency Response (CNE),⁴ which provide for inter-institutional cooperation in the phases of health emergency response, rehabilitation and reconstruction, and also for the loan of officers, equipment or assets for the benefit of CNE, the CCSS and the Ministry of Health (MINSA).



On the municipality's website is a section in Spanish devoted to COVID-19⁵ and containing the following documents, among others: CNE's "Communication strategy: Comprehensive proposal for the protection of seniors from COVID-19",⁶ the infographic "Handwashing technique 20–30 seconds" (*Técnica lavado de manos 20–30 segundos*), CNE's "Guide for prevention, mitigation and business continuity at workplaces in light of the COVID-19 pandemic",⁷

¹ Legislative Assembly of the Republic of Costa Rica, *Ley constitutiva de la Caja Costarricense de Seguro Social* (1943).

² SWI swissinfo.ch, *Costa Rica abre la vacunación contra COVID-19 a migrantes irregulares* (Costa Rica makes COVID-19 vaccination available to irregular migrants), 18 September 2021.

³ Office of the President of the Republic of Costa Rica, *Decree No. 42227-MP-S* (2020).

⁴ National Commission for Risk Prevention and Emergency Response (CNE), *Plan General de Emergencia – Decree Nos. 42227-MP-S and 42296-MP-S, Estado de Emergencia ante la situación provocada por la enfermedad del COVID-19* (2020) (General Emergency Plan – State of Emergency due to the situation created by the COVID-19 disease).

⁵ Municipality of Coto Brus, *COVID-19* (2020).

⁶ CNE, *Estrategia de comunicación : propuesta integral para la protección de personas adultas mayores* (2020).

⁷ CNE, *Guía para la prevención, mitigación y continuidad del negocio por la pandemia del COVID-19 en los centros de trabajo* (April 2020).



PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROTOCOLS ON THE RISKS OF THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

the *Practical Guide to Occupational Health and Safety: COVID-19 Prevention and Mitigation at Places of Work in Costa Rica*,⁸ and the “General guidelines for coffee plantations that hire migrant labour (Indigenous Ngäbe–Buglé people) in the framework of the COVID-19 alert”.⁹



Locally, the Labour Migration Traceability System (SITLAM) operates a computer system developed with the help of IOM, and which provides early warnings of COVID-19 cases among migrant agricultural workers by reporting cases via the SITLAM application for mobile devices.



There are no specific mechanisms for gathering statistics at the municipal level, as this is a central government function. MINSA compiles and distributes national health statistics relating to COVID-19. The data are broken down by canton (political/administrative unit) and district (cantonal administrative unit). Furthermore, the statistics report cumulative, recovered, fatal and active COVID-19 cases, broken down by nationality (whether Costa Rican or a foreign national).¹⁰

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¹⁰ Ministry of Health, *Situación nacional COVID-19* (accessed September 2022).



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MIGRATION
GOVERNANCE
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ANNEXES

MiGOF: Migration Governance Framework³⁷

In an attempt to define the concept of “well-managed migration policies”, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) devised a Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF), which was welcomed by the IOM Council in November 2015. For the purposes of the Migration Governance Framework, IOM defines governance as “the traditions and institutions by which authority on migration, mobility and nationality in a country is exercised, including the capacity of the government to effectively formulate and implement sound policies in these areas”.

The Framework sets out the essential elements of “good migration governance” – three principles and three objectives which, if respected and fulfilled, would ensure that migration is humane, safe and orderly, and that it provides benefits for migrants and societies.³⁸ IOM’s view is that a migration system promotes migration and human mobility that is humane and orderly and benefits migrants and society:

When it:

- (i) Adheres to international standards and fulfils migrants’ rights;
- (ii) Formulates policy using evidence and a “whole-of-government” approach;
- (iii) Engages with partners to address migration and related issues;

As it seeks to:

- (i) Advance the socioeconomic well-being of migrants and society;
- (ii) Effectively address the mobility dimensions of crises;
- (iii) Ensure that migration takes place in a safe, orderly and dignified manner.

The MiGOF does NOT create new standards or norms. In drafting the Framework, IOM relied on its expertise and analytical work, as well as on existing commitments, non-binding declarations and statements. It does NOT address global migration governance that is the international architecture for dealing with issues related to migration and human mobility. Instead, the focus is on the governance and management of migration from the point of view of the State as the primary actor. It does NOT propose one model for all States. The Framework presents a “high road” or ideal version of migration governance, to which States can aspire.

The MiGOF is based on the understanding that, as the primary actor in migration, mobility and nationality affairs, a State retains the sovereign right to determine who enters and stays in its territory and under what conditions, within the framework of international law. Other actors – citizens, migrants, international organizations, the private sector, unions, non-governmental organizations, community organizations, religious organizations and academia – contribute to migration governance through their interaction with States and each other.

³⁷ IOM Council, [Migration Governance Framework](#), 106th Session, C/106/40 (4 November 2015).

³⁸ [Migration Governance Framework infosheet](#), 2016.

The MGI process



1 Launch of the Local MGI process

The first step of the process is to explain to key national and local government officials what the Local MGIs entail, in order to ensure full understanding of the project and complete buy-in at both levels.



2 Data collection

The second step of the process is to start the collection and analysis of data based on adapted indicators from the MGIs. A draft local migration governance profile based on analysis of the findings is then shared with the government counterparts.



3 Multi-stakeholder discussions on the results of the MGIs

The third step of the process is to convene a consultation where local and national government officials and other stakeholders discuss the good practices and main gaps identified in the draft local migration governance profile. It is also an opportunity for them to comment on and provide suggestions to the draft profile.



4 Final report

The last step is to finalize the local migration governance profile, obtain final validation from the local authorities, and publish a printed version of the report as well as an online version on the [Migration Data Portal](#) and upload it on the [IOM Publications Platform](#).



www.migrationdataportal.org/mgi

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