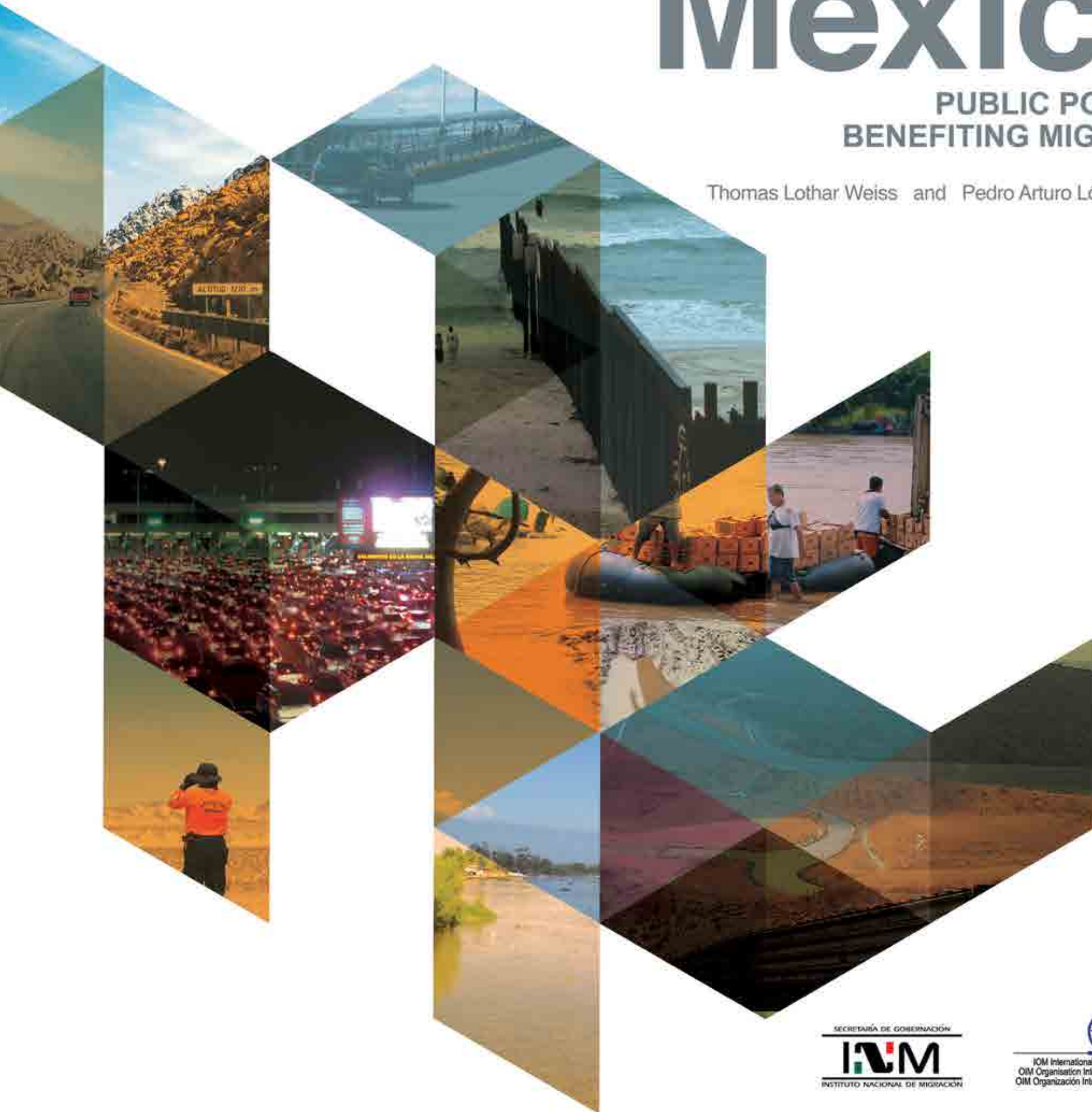


México

PUBLIC POLICIES BENEFITING MIGRANTS

Thomas Lothar Weiss and Pedro Arturo López Chaltelt





Mexico: Public Policies Benefiting Migrants

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Introduction

This book is one of the outcomes of the “Dissemination and Strengthening Project for Grupos Beta and Programa Paisano as Examples of Successful Partnerships Benefiting Migrants”, which was put together and implemented by IOM Mexico, and financed by IOM’s 1035 Facility. This project was designed to disseminate the Mexican government’s experience in the field of attention to migrants and to document the beneficial impact that partnerships with different levels of government and civil society have had on this vulnerable population. It aimed at encouraging and promoting the exchange of practical and operational experience among participants at the fourth “Global Forum on Migration and Development”, which was organized in November 2010 by the Mexican government.

Mexico provides a point of reference worldwide for migration issues, bringing together multiple factors and perspectives relating to migration: it is a country of origin, transit, destination, and return for hundreds of thousands of migrants every year. Documenting the experience and insights developed through the implementation of these two programmes supported by the Mexican government has allowed for the preparation of this document, which outlines the operational underpinnings of both programmes and provides for instances where this knowledge may be valuable in replicating them for the benefit and welfare of migrant populations in similar contexts at other latitudes.

Both Grupos Beta and Programa Paisano have been identified as best practices promoting the protection of migrant communities in Mexico. The field experience of operational personnel of both programmes has been recorded to provide a general overview of the processes that led to the initial establishment of both programmes and the partnerships that were created around each in order to widen the scope, reach, and effectiveness of these initiatives. Both programmes are presented here as well as in the video documentary entitled *Awakening: Public Policies Benefiting Migrants*.

The text and photographs that comprise this book, together with the video documentary, reflect the context and historical background of migration in Mexico and the actions taken by both programmes to offer information to migrants – whether Mexican or from elsewhere – and to protect their human rights. This book also emphasizes the partnership-building done by each programme, an achievement that ensures their continuance and compliance with Mexico’s migration policy.

Mexico: country of migration

Mexico has a long tradition as a country of origin, transit, destination, and return for migrants. Although there are no official figures, it is estimated that every year some 150,000¹ undocumented migrants cross the southern border of Mexico, principally through the state of Chiapas, aiming to reach the United States of America. Most of these migrants are from Central and South America and -to a lesser degree- others come from outside the region, especially Asian and African countries. It is further estimated that 1 million Mexicans travel both as documented and undocumented migrants to the USA each year. In addition, approximately 500,000 Mexicans are repatriated every year from the United States. These figures combine to make the Mexico-US border the most transited in the world, and Mexico a country with exceptional migratory dynamics.

Migration in Mexico has social, political, and economic impacts, which are especially evident in Mexico's border states. This document presents a general overview of migration in Mexico, from its geographic

and demographic characteristics to the historical factors that have made it a country of migration.

The land area of the United Mexican States –as the country is officially known– is 1,964,375 square kilometers and comprises 31 states plus the Federal District. The country has 2,673 miles of land borders to the north and south. The northern border with the United States is 1,959 miles long, extending across the northern edge of the states of Baja California, Sonora, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo León, and Tamaulipas. The southern border is 714 miles long, of which 594 miles border on Guatemala and 120 on Belize. The southern border states are Chiapas, Tabasco, Campeche, and Quintana Roo.

1 Secretaría de Gobernación, Informe del Estado Mexicano sobre Secuestro, Extorsión y otros delitos cometidos contra personas migrantes en tránsito por Territorio Mexicano, 16 de julio de 2010, pp. 14, 44, 46, 94 (DE, 29 de julio, 2010: http://www.seguridadcondemocracia.org/administrador_de_carpetas/migracion_y_seguridad/pdf/INFORME%20MIGRANTES-CIDH.pdf).

→ In addition to the 12 official crossing points on Mexico's southern border, there are informal crossings all along the frontier, such as this river crossing point on the Suchiate River, near Ciudad Hidalgo, Chiapas.



Photo: Pedro A. López Chaltel



Country of origin

According to the most recent census, in 2010 Mexico's population was 112,336,538, of which 57.4 million are women and 54.8 million are men.² Around 11 million people born in Mexico now live in the United States.³ As a country of origin, the Mexican states with the highest levels of emigration to the United States are: Zacatecas, from which 65,631 inhabitants left to live in the United States in the year 2000,⁴ representing 48 of every 1000 persons, or 4.8 per cent of the state's population; Michoacán, with 4.2 per cent of its total population; Guanajuato, with 3.5 per cent; Morelos and Durango, with 2.9 per cent each; Nayarit, with 2.8 per cent and San Luis Potosí, Jalisco and Hidalgo, with 2.7 per cent each.⁵ The average nationwide is 16 persons per 1000.

Due to its geographic location and proximity to the United States, Mexico has long

been the country with the highest level of emigration towards its northern neighbor. According to studies conducted by the National Population Council (CONAPO by its Spanish acronym), between 1970 and 2007 the population of Mexican origin residing in the United States rose from 5.4 million to 30.3 million, of whom some 19 million were born in the United States.⁶

Mexicans residing in the United States represent more than 30 per cent of the total migrant population and are the largest migrant group of Hispanic origin, making up about two-thirds of the total Hispanic population. These figures position Mexico as the country with the most citizens residing in the United States, even more than major world regions, such as Asia (26%), the rest of Latin America and the Caribbean (23%), and Europe (14%).⁷

² Official website of the Mexican National Institute for Statistics and Geography (INEGI in Spanish), <http://www.inegi.org.mx>

³ Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of 2008 American Community Survey: [http://pewhispanic.org/files/factsheets/foreignborn2008/Table 8.pdf](http://pewhispanic.org/files/factsheets/foreignborn2008/Table%208.pdf)

⁴ latest date available

⁵ INEGI. 12th Population and Housing Census, 2000. Data from census sample. http://cuentame.inegi.org.mx/monografias/informacion/zac/poblacion/m_migratorios.aspx?tema=me&e=32

⁶ Migración y Salud. Latinos en los Estados Unidos. National Population Council of Mexico (CONAPO). 2008: <http://www.conapo.gob.mx/publicaciones/migracion/MigracionySalud/cap1.pdf>

⁷ Ibid.

→ Symbolic crosses can be seen all along the Tijuana-San Diego border, placed in memory of migrants who died trying to cross the border to the USA.





Country of transit

On Mexico's southern border, the entry points for migrants from Central America and outside the region are located in different parts of the states of Chiapas, Tabasco, Campeche, and Quintana Roo. During their transit through Mexico on the migration route to the United States, these migrants are highly vulnerable, facing serious dangers to their physical and mental health, which sometimes put their lives at risk. In general, all along the route, migrants are subject to assault, kidnapping and rape, among other serious crimes, at the hands of members of transnational organized crime groups. These risks are concentrated in the states through which the railroad network runs, as these are the major transit routes for migrants, from the states on the southern frontier to the north of the country: Chiapas, Oaxaca, Tabasco, Veracruz, and Tamaulipas.⁸

In order to avoid the migration authorities and the criminal gangs, migrants use the train as their principal means of transport, as well as walking for long hours on remote trails through deserts where they frequently suffer injury, falls, dehydration and, in many cases, death.⁹

On the northern section of the route taken by migrants through the Mexican territory, some of the greatest risks are death from

sunstroke while crossing the deserts on the United States border, where temperatures sometimes exceed 50°C (122°F); drowning in rivers; or suffocating in vehicles, where they are frequently hidden by human smugglers, also known as “coyotes”, who they or their families pay to cross them to “the other side”. It is estimated that every year over 400 migrants die on this last section of their journey to the north. According to data from the Mexican Foreign Ministry, in 2009, 48 people died on the Mexican side of the border, and 369 on the United States side.⁹

In addition to these risks to their life or physical safety on the journey, migrants also face serious abuses to their human rights. Human trafficking, for example, is a crime that especially affects women, girls, and adolescents in Mexico and migrants en route to the United States. According to statistical data on the victims of human trafficking assisted by IOM in Mexico, the most common motives for the crime are for labor exploitation (60%) and sexual exploitation (38%), while false adoptions and forced marriage (2%) are less common.¹¹

⁸ Invisible Victims. Migrants in Movement in Mexico. Amnesty International, 2010.

⁹ El Camino al Norte. Albergue Jesús el Buen Pastor del Pobre y el Migrante: <http://www.alberguebuenpastor.org.mx/index.php/en/heading-northwards>

¹⁰ General Joint Directorate for Protection Policies, Foreign Ministry (SRE). Planning Department: http://portal2.sre.gob.mx/dgpmc/images/pdf/tendencia_fall_2001_2010_jul.pdf

¹¹ Between 2005 and 2010, IOM Mexico provided assistance to over 180 victims of trafficking, of whom women, girls, and adolescents represent over 85 per cent, and are principally of Central American origin. Almost 80 per cent of trafficking cases are international, while the remaining 20 per cent are internal. See also Hélène Le Goff and Thomas Lothar Weiss. *La trata de personas en México: diagnóstico sobre la asistencia a víctimas*. OIM México, 2011.

→ Mexico's northern border is 1,959 miles long. This frontier represents the northern limit of the states of Baja California, Sonora, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo León, and Tamaulipas.



Photo: Lorena Salazar Ocampo



Country of destination

Historically, Mexico has also been a destination country for foreigners who settle here temporarily or permanently.¹² During the 20th century, many Europeans and South and Central Americans sought refuge in Mexico. For example, in 1939 there were around 20,000 Spanish refugees in Mexico.¹³ At the beginning of the 1980s, as a consequence of the political, social, and economic strife in Central American countries, there were over 46,000 refugees in the state of Chiapas, primarily from Guatemala and El Salvador.¹⁴

Nowadays, another trend may be noted with the presence of foreigners who choose to stay in Mexico. Some of them are migrants in transit who failed to reach the United States and prefer not to continue on an endeavor they know is full of dangers, choosing instead to remain in Mexico as their final destination. This migratory flow is most visible in the south of the country, specifically in the Soconusco region in Chiapas. These migrants chiefly originate from the northern Central American triangle countries (El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras).¹⁵

Mexico has been and continues to be a destination country for migrants. Migrants often have social networks that encourage them to travel to Mexico in order to improve their quality of life and, at the same time, support their families back home with remittances. The southern states –Chiapas and Tabasco in particular– have for a long time also received seasonal immigration from Guatemala, which is governed by the economic cycles of the coffee, banana, and sugar cane plantations.

The repatriation of Mexicans from the United States is another factor in Mexico's dimension as a destination country, or more precisely, as a country of return. Though the arrival of Mexicans from the United States has long been a constant in the migratory dynamic, in recent years the reinforcement of border security and operations in the United States in order to detect and deport undocumented migrants have increased the flow of migrants in a southerly direction. In 2010, the National Migration Institute registered a total of 469,273 repatriations. The states that receive the highest number of repatriated

Mexicans are: Michoacan (50,239), Oaxaca (38,605), Guerrero (35,553) Guanajuato (34,621), Puebla (29,656), and Jalisco (28,169).¹⁶

The phenomenon of migration in Mexico entails patterns of transit, origin, destination, and return that no doubt reflect north-south and south-south migratory dynamics associated with deeply rooted social, political, and economic variables. Nevertheless, the risks and hazards faced by migrants in Mexican territory make no distinction between place of origin or destination. The risks to life and personal safety and human rights violations are dangers that all migrants, regardless of their intentions or nationality, are exposed to. The Mexican government has taken due note of the vulnerability of migrant populations in the country and, over twenty years ago, drew up a migrant protection policy that led to the design, implementation, and continuation of the Grupos Beta and Paisano programmes.

¹² Ernesto Rodríguez Chávez (coordinator), *Extranjeros en México. Continuidades y aproximaciones*. Colección Migración, INM, Mexico, 2010.

¹³ Brugar, Dolores Pla. "Ser Español En México, Para Bien Y Para Mal." *Xenofobia y Xenofilia en la Historia De México Siglos XIX y XX*. Comp. Delia Salazar. 2006 ed. Mexico: SEGOB-Instituto Nacional De Migración-Centro De Estudios Migratorios/Instituto Nacional De Antropología E Historia/DGE Ediciones SA De CV, 2006. p. 148.

¹⁴ México: Tradición de asilo y refugio. Comisión Mexicana de Ayuda a Refugiados (COMAR). 2008:

<http://www.comar.gob.mx/index.php?page=mexico-tradicion-de-asilo-y-refugio>

¹⁵ Carmen Fernández-Casanueva, Martha Luz Rojas-Wiesner, and Hugo Ángeles-Cruz, "Trabajo y migración femenina en la frontera sur de México" in Gioconda Herrera and Jacques Ramírez, (eds.), *América Latina migrante: Estado, familias, identidades*, Ecuador, Ministerio de Cultura, 2008, p. 142^o

¹⁶ Number of repatriations of Mexicans from the United States, by state of residence in Mexico, gender, 2010, figure 5.3. Monthly statistics bulletin 2010. Instituto Nacional de Migración: http://www.inami.gob.mx/index.php/page/Repatriacion_de_Mexicanos_de_EUA_01





Photo: Lorena Salazar Ocampo



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Photo: Lorena Salazar Ocampo

Migration policy in Mexico

Objectives and programmes

Migration management represents a major challenge for all countries. The challenges include economic, political, and social pressures that impact governmental decisions and preferences. The political and economic debates today revolve around the benefits that migrants can bring to a country's economy. However, these debates are frequently combined with nationalist interests that often color migration policies with discriminatory and hostile overtones. Even so, beyond the national and international debates, migration demands public policy objectives and tools that respond to migrants' needs. It is crucial to recognize the difference between the two questions: "what kind of migration is desirable for a given country?" and "what is the best way of dealing with this country's migrants?"

Each question relates to distinct situations and challenges. The first requires an evaluation of the political and economic conditions for migration. The second involves a judgment about the treatment that is both desirable and appropriate for migrants actually present in a territory, regardless of their intentions or migratory status. The Mexican government has recognized the fundamental difference between these questions. In the last twenty years, political and administrative institutions involved with migration issues in Mexico have resolved the question of how to deal with migrants by specifying clear public policy objectives for the management of migrant populations in the country.

→ The border between Mexico and the USA is the most frequently crossed in the world. Along the length of its nearly 2,000 miles, millions of documented and undocumented migrants cross every year.

Objectives of a migration policy

In Mexico, federal legislative and administrative practice regarding public policy on migration shows a clearly defined pattern. Since the end of the 1980s, the objectives that today represent well established aspects of the Mexican government's public policy with regard to migration issues began to appear:

- To contribute to national development by means of an appropriate migration management based on a legal framework that facilitates migration flows and upholds respect for human dignity.¹⁷
- To guarantee the protection and defense of migrants' human rights, as well as their physical and patrimonial integrity, regardless of their nationality and their migratory status, in which the three branches of government are involved.¹⁸

There is a clear consensus among Mexican decision makers about the obligations and interests of public institutions with regard to the migrant community in Mexico. As has been indicated by numerous academics and government officials, administrative and legislative practice in Mexico has defined the fundamental public policy objective of the Mexican government on migration issues as **the protection and defense of the rights and physical safety of all migrants in Mexican territory**.¹⁹

This definition and its consequences in terms of assisting migrants in Mexico has been fundamental when it comes to formulating and implementing public policies, which in practice have a direct and positive impact on migrant populations by providing protection and assistance.

17 Mexican Senate. Opinion of the Commission for the Welfare of Vulnerable Groups. Point of agreement on which the federal executive is called upon to reinforce oversight of compliance with the rights of repatriated child and adolescent migrants. LXI Legislature, First Period, Parliamentary Gazette 63, 2009, <http://www.senado.gob.mx/index.php?ver=sp&mn=2&sm=2&id=1363>.

18 Ibid.

19 Rafael, Alarcón. Hacia la construcción de una política de emigración en México, Colegio de la Frontera Norte, Estudios del Desarrollo, http://estudiosdel desarrollo.net/nueva_pag/coleccion_america_latina/relaciones-estado1/RelacionesEstado1_6hacia.pdf.

Operational implementation of public migration policy through the Paisano and Grupos Beta Programmes

There are two governmental programmes in place in Mexico whose existence and operation reflect the fundamental objectives of the country's public migration policy:

The Programa Paisano was created with the aim of ensuring a safe, orderly, and dignified migration for Mexicans who enter, transit, or leave Mexico. This programme promotes lawful and respectful treatment of migrants; it provides information and promotes compliance with the obligations and rights of Mexicans who enter, transit, or leave their country of origin; and protects the physical and patrimonial integrity of Mexican nationals. Likewise, it encourages awareness raising and training of public servants and civil society as a whole, as well as responding to and following up on complaints and allegations made by Mexicans both in Mexico and the United States.

The Grupos Beta for migrant protection have the objective of protecting and defending the human rights of migrants, regardless of their nationality or migratory status. These objectives are fulfilled by assisting and rescuing migrants in dangerous situations or at risk of abuse from organized crime, the authorities, or individuals; providing information and guidance regarding the risks of the journey, with the aim of persuading migrants to return to their place of origin; and offering social and humanitarian assistance to migrants and directing those in need of further attention to other institutions or authorities. Their work is carried out throughout Mexico, from south to north, attending both Mexican and foreign migrants who are passing through Mexico.

Both programmes incorporate the objectives of Mexico's public migration policy and

attend to the needs of migrants, both Mexican and foreign, to avoid abuses of authority and human rights violations, and to protect the lives and physical safety of all migrants. Likewise, the emphasis of the objectives and public policy programmes on basic human rights norms and the protection of life have turned these into examples of best practices with regard to the challenge of protecting and aiding migrants.

Best practices

The term “best practice” is associated with successful public policy initiatives or operational projects that contribute in a sustainable and innovative manner to alleviating a specific problem.²⁰ Furthermore, to be considered as best practices, these projects should incorporate normative principles and activities capable of replication in similar contexts. In the case of Mexican migration policy, the Paisano and Grupos Beta programmes represent these kind of sustainable and innovative projects that incorporate principles and objectives that could benefit other countries and a greater number of migrants in a wide range of contexts.

The characteristics of best practice associated with these programmes emerge from three aspects: 1) the emphasis on human rights protection; 2) the non-discriminatory definition of a migrant; and 3) the partnerships and cooperation mechanisms that provide operational sustainability and the possibility of innovation in the design and implementation of actions. The first two elements are contained in the general objectives of the Mexican government’s public migration policy and are clearly reflected in the programmes. However, the partnerships that gave rise to these programmes at the end of the 1980s and beginning of the 1990s can account for a significant part of their success and longevity.

Partnerships

The success of these programmes will continue to depend on, to a large degree, the development and maintenance of cross-sector and cross-agency coordination and collaboration processes. From the start, both programmes succeeded in breaking down the barriers between governmental institutions and civil society organizations (CSOs). The implementation of the programmes has demanded cooperation between governmental institutions in order to mainstream the migration agenda to the benefit of the broad-based operation of the programmes. Partnerships with other actors have contributed to the successful development of collaborative work among governmental institutions at all levels and with non-profit organizations. The various actors involved make valuable contributions that foster and facilitate the

operation of the programmes, in spite of significant differences in their aims, norms, cultures, and working methods. Regardless of these differences, the actors dedicated to the operation of the programmes have succeeded in generating a shared objective that is taken directly from the general aim of the Mexican government’s public policy with regard to migrants: **the protection and defense of the rights and physical safety of all migrants in Mexican territory**. This congruence between the general objectives of the public policy and the objectives and operation of the Paisano and Grupos Beta programmes, together with the widespread perception of their successful consolidation, allows these programmes to be considered examples of best practices that could be replicated in similar contexts.

20 Synnove Bendixsen and Paul de Guchteneire, “Best Practices in Immigration Services Planning”, *Journal for Public Policy Analysis and Management*, Vol.22, No.4, 2003, pp.677-682.

Replicability

One of the aims of IOM Mexico is to build capacity among institutions directly involved in fostering the welfare of migrant populations. As such, documenting and disseminating best practices in governments – the Mexican government in this case – is an essential task to facilitate the dissemination of practical and operational experiences that can be implemented in other contexts. This supports governments in providing better programmes and services to migrant communities worldwide. Moreover, this reflection on the replicability of the Mexican programmes also engenders a search for innovative solutions to improve these programmes in the country itself.

There is no doubt that the phenomenon of migration in Mexico is highly specific and, as such, the possibility of adapting or replicating the Paisano and Grupos Beta programmes demands more than a cursory evaluation. Nonetheless, it is possible to contemplate

situations where these programmes would be well-received in countries that experience conditions similar to those in Mexico, whether they are countries of transit, destination or origin for migrants. The Programa Paisano, for example, could be adapted to countries with a large diaspora, where great numbers of migrants temporarily return home in a regular and seasonal manner. Likewise, the experience of Grupos Beta could be replicated in countries that have become transit territories for migrants, with populations of both local and foreign migrants in situations of extreme vulnerability.

In the next few sections we present case studies of the Paisano and Grupos Beta programmes. With a detailed presentation of the history, emergence, implementation and development of the programmes over the last twenty years, we are able to show how these programmes have become

useful tools for achieving public policy objectives regarding migration issues in Mexico. Furthermore, the efforts of IOM Mexico to document these experiences are oriented towards showing the objectives, processes, and activities that make these programmes examples of best practices worthy of being replicated.

Photo: Lorena Salazar Ocampo



“Providing appropriate information to migrants and to the authorities is a way of ensuring respect for the human rights of these migrants. Without a doubt, the Paisano and Grupos Beta programmes are good examples from which other countries could learn a lot in terms of institutional best practices.”

Dr. Thomas Lothar Weiss
Chief of Mission,
IOM in Mexico



→ Southern border: the boundary between Mexico and Guatemala in Talismán, Chiapas.

→ Attention module for migrants on the border at Talisman in Chiapas, Mexico.



→ Every day hundreds of people cross the border between Mexico and Guatemala across the Suchiate river on foot, transporting goods or traveling to their homes or places of work.



Photo: Virginia Martínez-Weiss



→ Along with El Salvador, these countries represent a high percentage of the migratory flow that transits Mexico to reach the USA (from left to right, the flags of Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico, at the Migrants' Shelter in Arriaga, Chiapas).







→ Rafts used to transport goods and people across the Suchiate river, as part of the daily flow between Mexico and Guatemala.

Photo: Virginia Martinez-Weiss





Photo: Virginia Martínez-Weiss

→ People crossing the Suchiate river on a raft, from Guatemala to Mexico.

→ The Suchiate river runs along the border between Mexico and Guatemala. In the background the Tacaná volcano can be seen; it lies on the frontier between the two countries.





→ The Programa Paisano personnel offer guidance and information to all Mexicans who enter, transit or leave Mexico. This allows them to receive a more efficient service at the border, speeds up customs procedures, and ensures a safer and more tranquil journey along the highways usually taken by Mexicans returning home.



Paisano
Bienvenido a casa

Programa Paisano

Welcome home



Paisano

B i e n v e n i d o a c a s a

In the beginning

In April 1989, the Federal Executive issued the *Agreement for the Implementation of Actions to Improve the Federal Public Service at the Country's Border Crossings, Ports and International Airports*, which sought to provide greater security to the general public crossing Mexico's borders, to ensure the honest and efficient handling of the nation's goods and resources, to simplify administrative procedures, to disseminate the rights and obligations of the users, and to promote an effective complaints system. Since then, the actions implemented as a result of this Agreement have been known as the "Programa Paisano".

Numerous government departments are involved in the Programme: the Ministry of the Interior (SEGOB); the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SRE); the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (SHCP); the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA, previously SAGAR); the Ministry of Communications and Transport (SCT); the Ministry of Health (SS); the Ministry of Tourism (SECTUR); the National Attorney General's Office (PGR);

Airports and Auxiliary Services (ASA) and the Office of the National Comptroller General (SECOGEF, today the Civil Service Ministry), which originally called the meetings and evaluated progress made.

This initiative was reinforced when, in October of the same year, the Mexican government made direct contact with the leaders of social, business, political, and religious organizations from the Mexican-American community residing in the United States. From there, the idea was born of starting a specific programme to control and gradually eliminate common abuses and crimes committed against Mexicans during their visit home, such as extortion, robbery, and corruption.

Established with the aim of protecting Mexicans, the Programme was set in motion in December 1989, and for several years only operated during vacation periods, seeking to control and gradually eliminate mistreatment, extortion, robbery, corruption, and abuse of power by public servants at border crossings, ports, and airports,

affecting Mexican migrants returning from the United States to Mexico. During the first presidential term of the Programa Paisano (1988-1994) it was known as "Solidarity for a Safe Return to Mexico". After this period it acquired its current name, although on the basis of the project's slogan, it was known colloquially as "Welcome, Countryman". For the National Development Plan 1995-2000 the Programa Paisano took a more significant role as part of the so-called "Mexican Nation" initiative, which sought to dignify the work of Mexicans abroad and to ensure that when migrants returned they received fair treatment, guidance, and respect for their human rights and their patrimony. Thanks to this initiative, the importance of reinforcing cultural networks and social and economic ties between Mexican communities and people of Mexican descent in the United States and Canada was recognized.

In 2000, the year that marked a political shift in Mexico, the Programa Paisano maintained its presence and dynamism. Although periods of transition often entail processes of adaptation in line with political

transformations, the clear definition of a series of minimum standards to be observed in the Programa Paisano as a tool of public policy guaranteed its continuity.

Some of the most easily identifiable standards of the Programa Paisano are related to its transversal nature, supporting as it does several different areas of government and civil society at all levels.

As of 2001, important decisions were taken to further bolster the Programme: 1) to integrate it into the strategic programmes of the National Migration Institute (INM by its Spanish acronym) and 2) to set up offices in Los Angeles, Chicago, and Houston, allowing greater proximity to Mexican nationals abroad, thus permitting better strategies to be designed to cater for migrants' needs.

Módulo de Inf



Paisano

Bienvenido a casa

Si tienes
o denunci
a nosotros

formación

dudas, quejas

as acércate

S.

→ In April 1989 the Programa Paisano emerged when the Mexican government established direct contact with Mexican-American community leaders. An agreement was made to implement actions to improve federal public service at the country's borders crossings, ports and international airports.

Mission, vision, and objective

Mission

- To ensure that all the actions of the departments, bodies, and institutions that comprise the Programa Paisano are put into effect via instruments aimed at guaranteeing that Mexican nationals can enter, transit, and leave their country with full protection for their rights and the security of their property, and in full knowledge of their obligations.
- To encourage in public servants respect for, attention to, and dignified treatment of their fellow countrymen, thus strengthening trust in the Mexican government.

Vision

- To establish the Programa Paisano as a comprehensive system of up-to-date, efficient and expedient information for Mexican citizens.
- To reinforce the service culture of personnel of the departments, bodies, and institutions that comprise the Programa Paisano, eradicating practices of corruption or mistreatment.

Objective

To ensure a dignified and lawful treatment of Mexicans who enter, transit or leave Mexico, through the following actions:

- To inform about and promote compliance with rights and obligations.
- To protect the security of person and property.
- To train and raise awareness among public servants and civil society.
- To respond to and follow up complaints and allegations.



→ In Mexico, information modules for Mexican nationals are located in the main international airports, bus terminals, toll booths, highways, public squares, and in as many places as possible where Mexican migrants are to be found. The photograph shows a temporary module in the state of Hidalgo.





"We left for the United States with nothing, we had nothing when we went but now... I was there for two years and a half and now we have a house there and a house here, and I set up my business. The people from the Programa Paisano helped us to return, and we're very grateful."

Mexican migrant benefited by the Programa Paisano .



Photos: Lorena Salazar Ocampo



→ The majority of the volunteers with the Programa Paisano are young people, mostly students and those doing their social service, as well as handicapped and elderly people.



Photo: Lorena Salazar Ocampo



→ The Programa Paisano has 535 modules around the country. In 2010 they assisted a total of 2,261,714 nationals.

Scope and operation

Migratory activity in at least 0.3 per cent of the population has been observed in all the 31 states of Mexico, plus the Federal District. For this reason, the Programa Paisano has a presence in the whole country.²¹ The Programme operates on a permanent basis, although its presence at a national level intensifies during three periods of the year: Easter, summer (June, July, and August) and winter (November, December, and January), corresponding to the vacation periods in Mexico and the United States.

In 2010, for the summer vacation period (from 28 June to 31 August), 130 fixed modules were in operation²² as well as 405 observation points,²³ making a total of 535 sites providing services to migrants, located in international airports, bus terminals, toll booths, highways, public squares, and other places through

which migrants transit during their stay in Mexico. A total of 1,773 volunteers and staff members were involved in the work of the Programa Paisano during the 2010 summer operation.

The Programme also has three offices in the United States; located in Chicago (Illinois), Houston (Texas), and Los Angeles (California), in order to help migrants better prepare their visit to Mexico from their place of residence in the United States. These three U.S. cities are home to the largest numbers of Mexicans. In these cities, the presence of the Programa Paisano operates in a strategic manner, covering the whole of the United States, with the idea that each office covers one-third of the country, as illustrated by the following map:

²¹ INEGI. XII General Population and Housing Census 2000. Census database. <http://www.inegi.org.mx/est/contenidos/espanol/soc/sis/sisept/default.aspx?t=mpob68&s=est&c=3886&e=13>

²² The Programa Paisano's fixed modules are booths for attending to migrants' needs, set up in coordination with the INM for the duration of an operation at a point of entry by air, sea, or land or in any other place suitable for attending Mexican migrants. They are staffed by civil society volunteers.

²³ The observation points are not necessarily associated to a fixed module. The Paisano Observer groups place themselves in strategic locations suitable for distributing Paisano Guides and for giving information to those who pass through (highways, bus terminals, airports, etc.).



Map with the Offices of
the Programa Paisano
in the United States

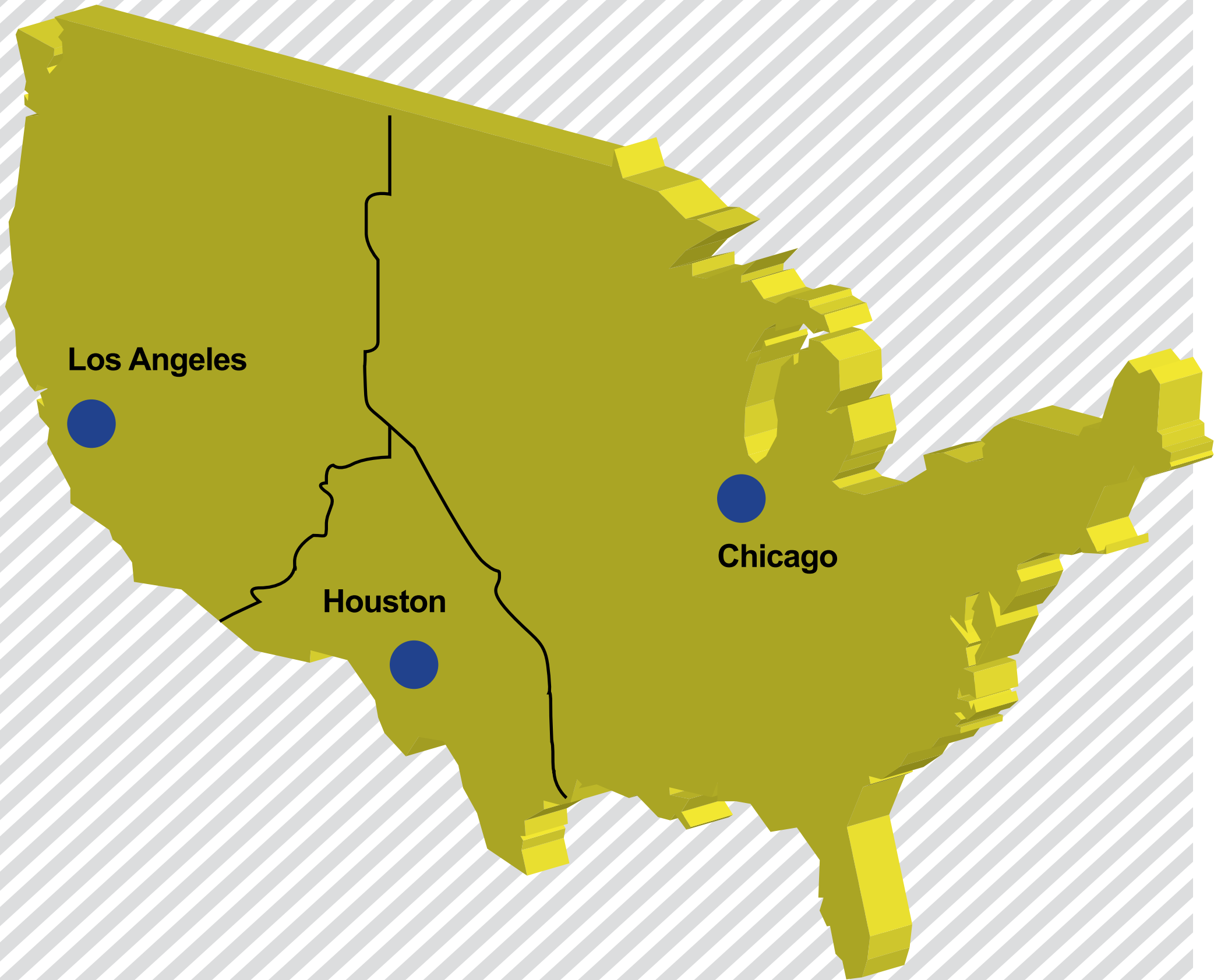






Photo: Lorena Salazar Ocampo

→ The Programa Paisano works with approximately 3,500 civil society observers who are trained to ensure a dignified and respectful treatment of their countrymen. Around 80 per cent of the volunteers are students aged between 18 and 25.

Services provided

The following services are offered at the various Programa Paisano sites:

- Offer guidance to Mexican migrants on facilities, benefits, rights, and obligations in relation to the procedures for entering the country.
- Gather complaints and allegations made by migrants and promote a culture of denouncing wrongdoing.
- Contribute to protecting personal safety and security of migrants' property by offering advice and recommendations.
- Promote social programmes that might be of benefit to migrants or their families (education, health, housing, etc).

The complaints received at these sites are primarily related to:

- Extortion, theft or abuse of authority.
- Mistreatment or arrogance (when a public employee abuses his or her power or vaunts it).
- Misuse of procedure.
- Seizure of vehicles or merchandise.

With regard to the requests for help, these are principally connected to:

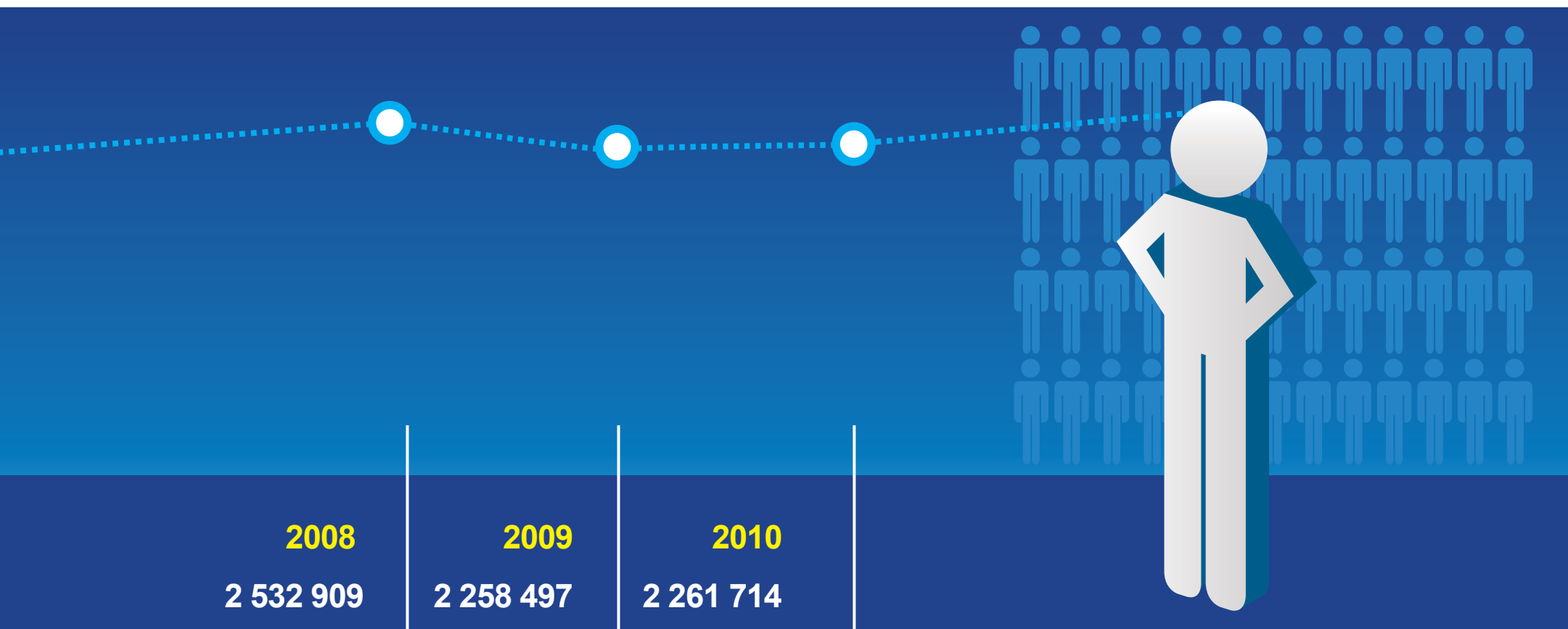
- Locating other migrants.
- Recovering seized vehicles or merchandise.
- Checking vehicle import request documents.
- Obtaining documents (passports, consular identification cards, birth certificates).
- Transport of human remains or ashes.

The graph below shows the number of Mexican migrants assisted each year since 2002. While there was a sharp increase between 2003 and 2005, between 2005 and 2010, the number of migrants assisted remained steady between 2 and 2.5 million.



The infrastructure of the Programa Paisano includes two call centers, staffed by the Programme's own personnel, who provide 24-hour service, 365 days a year. In calls made from the United States and Mexico, Mexican migrants ask questions principally concerning procedures about their passports and other documents necessary to enter or leave the country, the goods permitted to enter Mexican territory, the costs or additional taxes for baggage or excess, and how to import a vehicle. In 2009, 45,692 calls were received, most of which were made before and during the vacation periods. In 2010, the call centers received 47,963 calls.

The Programme also offers a website where the rights of migrants in transit through Mexico are set out, and it is possible to plan the route of the trip and calculate the cost of highway tolls. Likewise, Mexican nationals can find information about how to complete their studies in Mexico, how to request identity documents (e.g. the electoral ID card), contact details for institutions that offer programmes directed at women or elderly people, and social security and medical insurance for Mexicans and their families. In 2010, 164,498 visits to the website www.paisano.gob.mx were recorded.



SEGOB



Paisano
BIENVENIDO A CASA

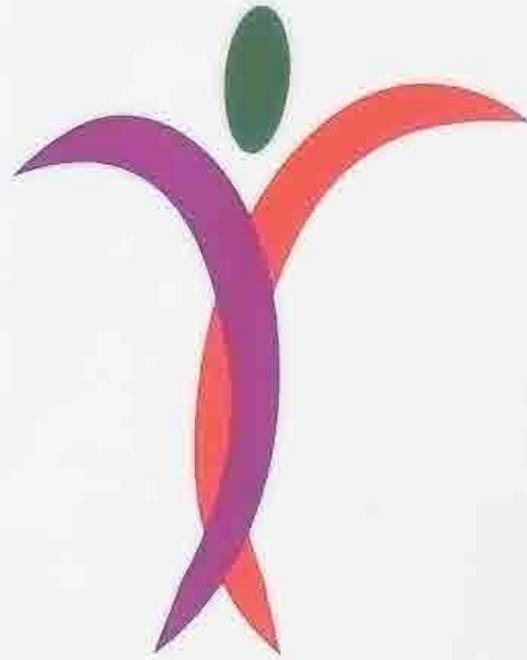
Guía Paisano 2010

Ejemplar Gratuito



Vivir Mejor

SEGOB



Paisano
Bienvenido a casa

Guía Paisano 2010

Ejemplar Gratuito

1 877 210 9469 Desde E.U.A.

1 800 201 8542 Desde México

www.paisano.gob.mx

www.gobiernofederal.gob.mx



Vivir Mejor

Guía Pai

Ejemplar Gratuito

1 877 210 9469 Desde E.U.A.

01 800 201 8542 Desde México

www.paisano.gob.mx

www.gobiernofederal.gob.mx



→ The Paisano Guide includes information about the support offered to Mexicans who reside abroad and who return temporarily or definitively to their country; recommendations about sending money, entry and transit of Mexico; telephone numbers to report complaints; as well as guidance on human rights issues.

The Paisano Guide

The Paisano Guide – one of the Programme’s best-recognized tools – has been created with the involvement of different government partner institutions and is updated every year. It contains practical information about the various procedures, rights, and obligations relevant to Mexican migrants. It also provides important contact details, such as telephone numbers for consulates and customs offices. Furthermore, it offers information about the documents required to enter Mexico, the kinds of goods that may be brought into the country and what taxes need to be paid, as well as the steps to be followed when importing a vehicle or household items.

If the person is coming to Mexico on holiday, tourist information is provided; if he or she is returning to live in Mexico, information is offered relating to issues of health, education, and work. Likewise, advice is given on traveling safely, avoiding abuses of authority, how to file a complaint or report a crime, and how to recognize the uniforms of National Migration Institute agents and the Programme’s observers. The Paisano Guide is a tool that helps guarantee the right to information of all migrants.

Mexican migrants who cross the border in their vehicles often display their Paisano Guide behind their windshields, where it is visible and shows that they are informed. Each year, a print run of 2 million copies is produced, of which 1 million are used in the winter operation alone, the period during which the greatest number of Mexican migrants return to the country. Prior to each operation, that is, three times a year, the information in the guide is updated, according to the season and new data, for example changes in import taxes, etc., is included.



“Those of us who frequently travel [to Mexico] by car place our Paisano Guide on the front console of the car, so that as we are driving people can see that we are well-informed, we know how to report crimes, and that we won’t put up with extortion.”

*Francisco Javier Moreno
Communities Director,
Los Angeles, California, USA.*



“You feel that the government cares about the people who arrive from abroad or those of us who were migrants and are returning to our country, and that makes you feel welcome.”

Mexican migrant returning home, in Mexico City’s North Bus Terminal.



→ A survey carried out during the winter 2009 season indicated that only 4.8 per cent of Mexican nationals returning from the United States reported a problem during their visit to Mexico.



Photo: Lorena Salazar Ocampo



→ The cases attended to by the Programa Paisano include: locating other migrants, recovering seized vehicles or merchandise, checking procedures, obtaining identity documents, and transport of human remains or ashes, among others.

Human resources

The diversity of people who come together so that the Programa Paisano can implement such widespread operations is key to its success. The Programa Paisano has a staff of 65 officials: 23 in central offices, in the capital; 32 distributed around each of the country's states, and 10 in the United States, located in the cities of Chicago, Houston, and Los Angeles.

Each year, more than 3,500 civil society volunteers join forces with the Programa Paisano as temporary assistants and observers. Over 80 per cent are young students and those doing their social service; elderly people also participate (6%) as well as people with handicaps (less than 1%).

The Programa Paisano seeks volunteers and staff with profiles including characteristics such as:

- Spirit of service and commitment to social development.
- General knowledge of migration and the situation of Mexicans living abroad.
- Leadership (pro-activeness, generation of new ideas, capacity to react, etc.)

The Programme's staff are professionals who have degrees in the humanities, international relations or law.



"What I want to say (to my fellow Mexicans) is that I am working for you to experience new opportunities, so that when you come to Mexico you have an enjoyable stay and that if you choose to remain here you have enough opportunities to develop."

Itzel Nayeli Ortiz Zaragoza
National Coordinator,
Programa Paisano,
National Migration Institute



Fotos: Lorena Salazar Ocampo

→ To provide good service, the staff of Programa Paisano is trained to use the Paisano Guide.





Photo: Lorena Salazar Ocampo



→ A telephone number is available for Mexican migrants to request information and to make complaints or report irregularities 24 hours a day, from Mexico or the USA.





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AUTODECLARACIÓN

EXTINTOR



EXTINTOR



ADUANA

SE PUEDE ELIR EL DÍA DE OPORTUNIDAD
DE LA AVALUACIÓN DEL VALOR
COMO OPORTUNIDAD

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→ Most of the complaints received by the Programa Paisano are prompted by: extortion, seizure of vehicles, mistreatment, arrogance, misuse of procedure, theft, and abuse of authority. These cases are attended to and channeled to the appropriate authority to ensure a better stay for Mexican nationals visiting the country.



PEMEX



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Photo: Lorena Salazar Ocampo

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→ The Programa Paisano has partnerships at federal and state level with public and private bodies and with civil society, to ensure a better service and level of attention to Mexican migrants. For example, the Federal Police and the “Green Angels” provide support for highway operations during the seasons when most migrants arrive.



→ The Federal Police watch over the journey of migrants from the border until they reach their destination.



Building partnerships

The Programa Paisano is permanent and operates under the Inter-Ministerial Commission, with a Technical Committee, a National Office, three representations in the United States, and 31 state committees around the country.

To fulfill its aims, the Programme works within the framework of an Inter-Ministerial Commission for which 21 governmental offices, with the backing of their various entities and institutes, commit to and coordinate efforts to promote new projects or modify existing projects, in order to provide a greater and better range of opportunities, attention, and services for the benefit of Mexican migrants. As such, a high-level meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Commission takes place at least once a year.

The Inter-Ministerial Commission is presided over by the Ministry of the Interior. To implement specific actions, it seeks the assistance of the Executive Secretariat, a responsibility which falls under the Commissioner of the National Migration Institute and ultimately on the National Office of the Programa Paisano. The National Office is in charge of organizing the annual meeting or meetings on specific issues of the Technical Committee.

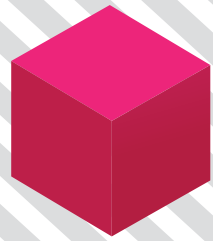
The Technical Committee may be presided over by the Commissioner of the National Migration Institute or the Coordinator of the National Office of the Programa Paisano. This Committee holds sessions on specific issues prior to the meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Commission, held in order to review the overall direction of the actions of the various participating offices, which are then raised at the high-level meeting. Issues considered at these sessions include: problems upon entering the country, traveling on highways, social development programmes, combating corruption and encouraging a culture of denouncing wrongdoing, etc. In the words of the staff of the Programa Paisano, the experience of these issue-based meetings has been a positive one.

Organizations actively participating in the Programa Paisano

Although the INM, SAT, PF, BANJERCITO, and SENASICA are departments of Ministries that formally make up the Inter-Ministerial Commission (SEGOB, SHCP, SSP, SEDENA, and SAGARPA), these departments have their own active participation in the Programme because their nature and mandate demand their direct participation on issues related to entry and departure procedures involving Mexican migrants.

As may be observed from the following list, some agencies are also included that are not necessarily under the authority of any of the departments that form the Commission. These are autonomous public organizations, cross-sector actors such as the Metropolitan Environmental Commission and private organizations such as the Confederation of Associations of Customs Brokers (CAAREM). These allies have joined the cause of the Programa Paisano in their daily efforts to seek greater benefits for their countrymen. In the case of the Mexican Youth Institute (IMJUVE), the National Women's Institute (INMUJERES), and the National Institute for Adult Education (INEA), the possibility of working within the framework of the Commission has also been considered.

- National Migration Institute (INM)
- Tax Administration Service (SAT)
- Federal Police (PF)
- National Bank of the Army, Air Force, and Navy (BANJERCITO)
- National Agro-Alimentary Health, Safety, and Quality Service (SENASICA)
- Mexican Youth Institute (IMJUVE)
- National Women's Institute (INMUJERES)
- National Institute for Adult Education (INEA)
- Federal Electoral Institute (IFE)
- Metropolitan Environment Commission
- Federal Toll Roads and Bridges and Related Services (CAPUFE)
- Mexican Confederation of Associations of Customs Brokers (CAAAREM)



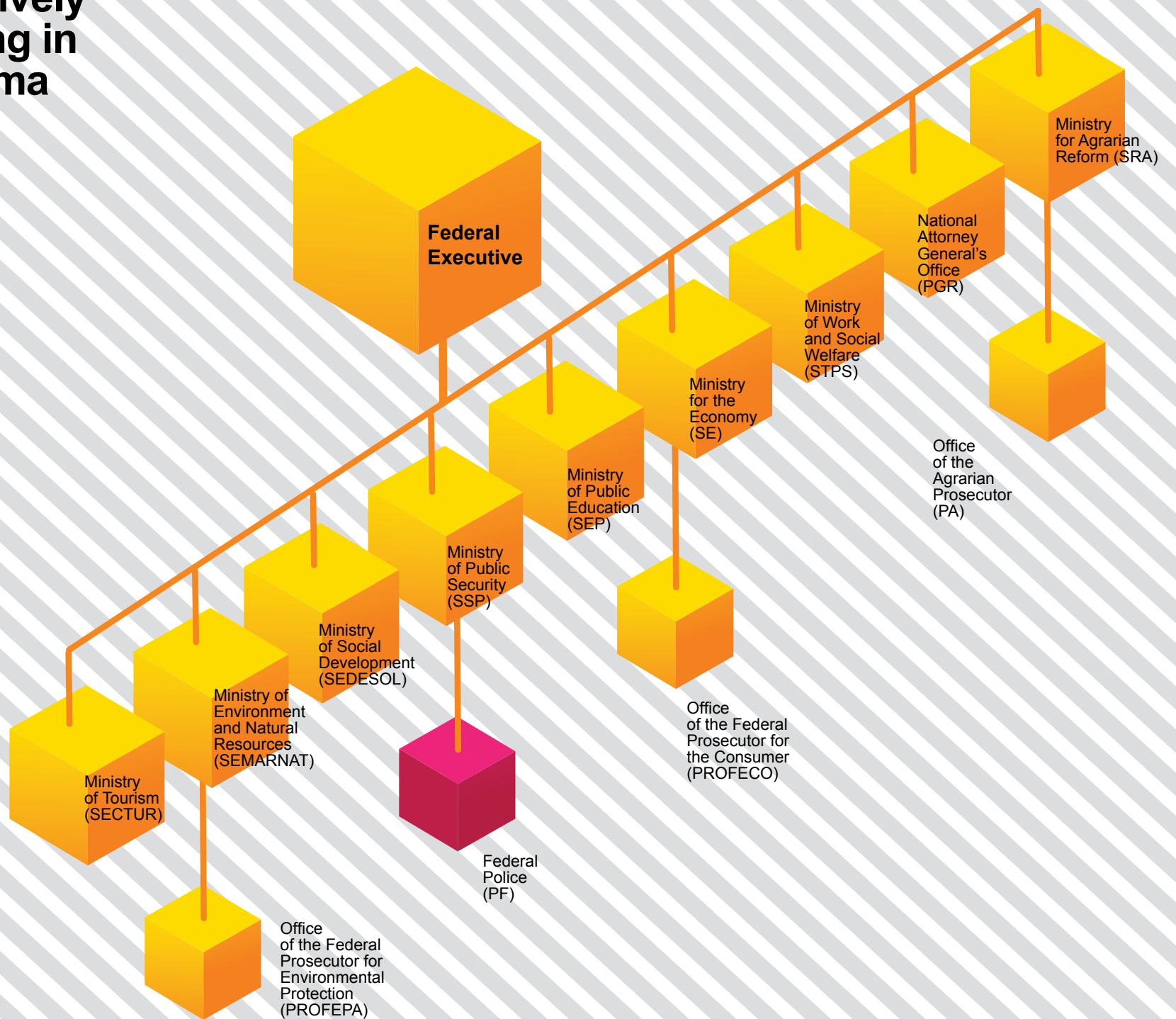
Bodies Actively Participating in the Programa Paisano

 National Institute for Adult Education (INEA)

 Federal Electoral Institute (IFE)

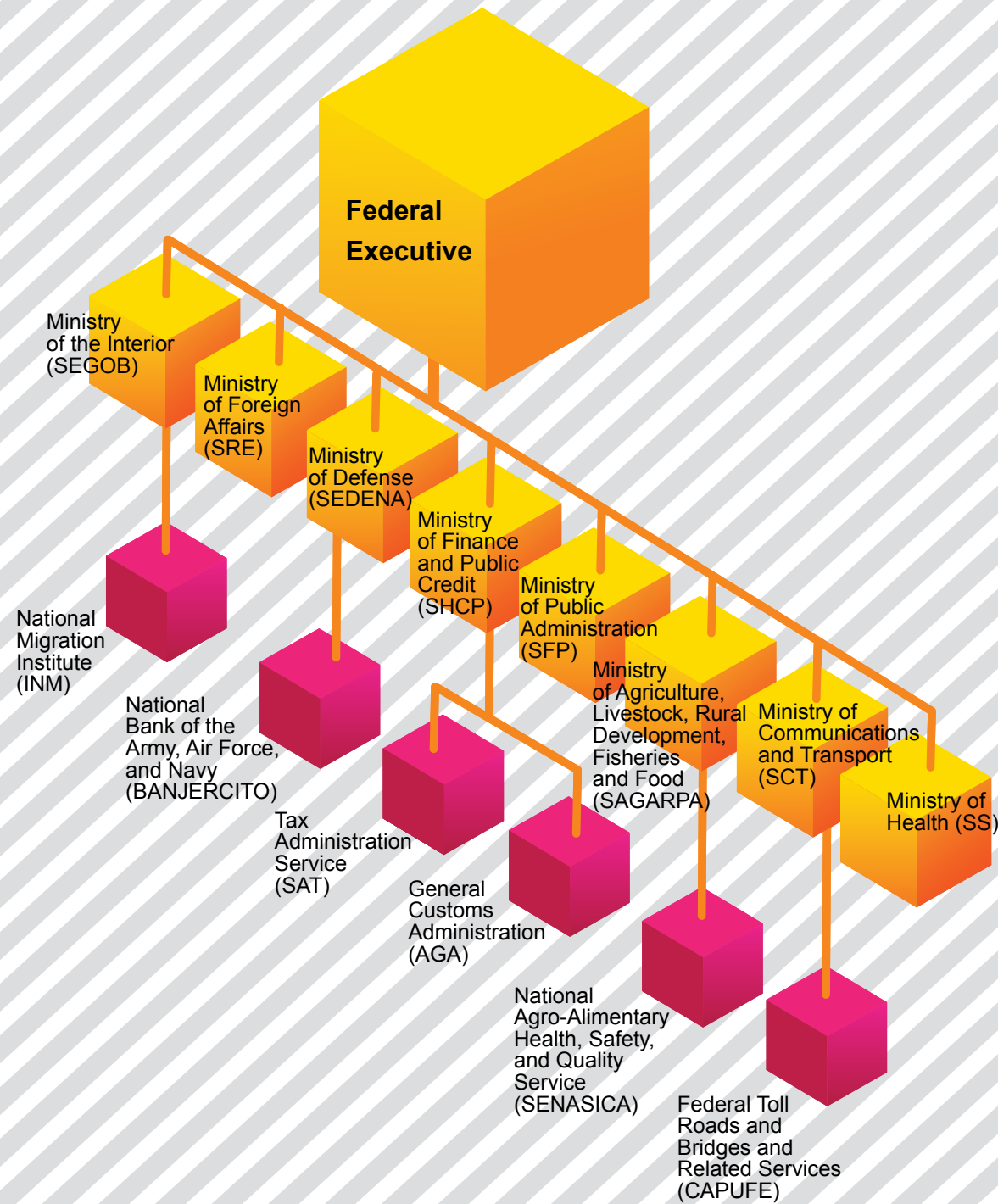
 Metropolitan Environment Commission

 National System for Comprehensive Family Development (DIF)





Members of the Inter-Ministerial Commission



 Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS)

 National Women's Institute (INMUJERES)

 Mexican Youth Institute (IMJUVE)

 Mexican Confederation of Associations of Customs Brokers (CAAAREM)

Involvement by Agency

National Migration Institute (INM)

The National Migration Institute is in charge of regulating the entry of Mexicans and foreigners to Mexico. The Programa Paisano has the task of informing Mexican nationals about their rights and obligations as Mexicans, regardless of their country of residence. The INM heads the Inter-Ministerial Commission of the Programa Paisano and is in charge of following up on the decisions this body makes, as well as implementing the special Easter, summer, and winter operations.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SRE)

The SRE provides guidance and general information about the procedures that may be requested at consular offices and helps to distribute the Paisano Guide in each of these. Furthermore, it facilitates the operation of the General Customs Administration and BANJERCITO in consulates in the United States to provide orientation to Mexican nationals and easing the paperwork for temporary vehicle import licenses.

Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (SHCP) / Tax Administration Service (SAT) / General Customs Administration (AGA)

The SHCP is responsible, through the SAT, of regulating the entry of goods into Mexico. With regard to the Programa Paisano it contributes to facilitating the importing of property, as well as informing Mexican migrants about their rights and obligations in fiscal matters.

Through BANJERCITO (the National Bank of the Army, Air Force, and Navy), AGA takes charge of vehicle import licenses at points of entry to the country and some Mexican consulates in the United States. BANJERCITO commissions personnel in the principal consular representations and at all points of entry to the country to assist, offer guidance, and supervise Mexican migrants completing customs procedures or paying for vehicle permits. Furthermore, it offers continually updated information via the Internet on the characteristics of the different companies that send money to Mexico, and their costs.

Ministry of Public Administration (SFP)

The SFP engages in oversight and supervision at the points of entry to the country, in order to prevent abuse or corruption. With the help of the “mystery client” programme,²⁴ an exercise carried out by the SFP with the aim of identifying personnel who engage in acts of corruption or violate the law at the expense of the users of a service, staff from this department supervise activities at border crossings in order to evaluate the service provided by public officials involved in the entry of Mexican nationals and other visitors to the country. The SFP’s hotline service, “Contacto Ciudadano”, also provides information and guidance and receives and processes complaints made by users.

Ministry of Public Security (SSP)

With the support of the Federal Police force, the SSP carries out a whole range of operations that are aimed at providing guidance and information to visitors. These operations are carried out at airports and bus terminals, and the police are stationed at key points along highways traveled by Mexican migrants as well. They also accompany convoys of migrants returning from the United States to their place of origin. To reduce accidents, the police also carry out awareness-raising activities regarding the risks of traveling on highways, as well as setting up roadblocks on a number of federal highways in order to procure greater security for users.

Ministry of Tourism (SECTUR)

The Ministry of Tourism provides guidance, information, protection, and security to Mexican nationals and tourists who travel the country’s highways. It is equipped with a Comprehensive Tourist Attention Center (CIAT) and a nationwide radio communications network via the 078 number, through which the “Green Angels” provide a rescue service to tourists on highways. Furthermore, it provides observers for each operation.

Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS)

The IMSS offers Mexican nationals residing abroad a preventive health insurance policy to protect the health of their family members (without serious pre-existing conditions) who live in Mexico or for those visiting the country. It further offers those who already had an account with the Institute the opportunity to continue making voluntary contributions, enabling them to receive a state pension.

National System for Comprehensive Family Development (DIF)

The DIF participates in the Programme with the “Welfare of Children on the Border” initiative, on the basis of agreements made between the SRE, the National System for Comprehensive Family Development (SNDIF) and the Ministry of the Interior, through the INM, with the aim of granting minors repatriated by United States authorities assistance and respect for their human rights, from the moment of their arrival to their return to their family or community in Mexico.

Ministry of Health (SS)

The Ministry of Health supports the “Leave Healthy, Return Healthy” programme, which provides health services for migrant populations through information dissemination, trainings, and other services in their places of origin, transit, and destination. It also helps distribute the Paisano Guide in all the consular representations in the United States.

National Attorney General’s Office (PGR)

The PGR is a partner to the Programa Paisano, dealing with complaints related to crimes of federal jurisdiction. Furthermore, it provides information about items that are not allowed to be introduced or removed from Mexico, as well as the maximum amount of money in cash that must be declared when entering the country. The Attorney’s Office includes a programme offering legal advice, with a free hotline number. Finally, it offers information in the Paisano Guide regarding human trafficking and the channels for providing assistance or reporting crimes.

Ministry of Communications and Transport (SCT)

The Ministry of Communications and Transport offers, via the “Telecom-Telégrafos” offices an authorized, inexpensive way of sending money called “Giro Paisano”, guaranteeing Mexican migrants in the United States that the money may be claimed at any of the country’s public telegraph offices. Meanwhile, through the “Ruralsat” service, it ensures that Mexican migrants can stay in telephone contact with their families who live in remote areas of the country. Finally, it offers users access to the service “Traza tu Ruta”, which provides information about routes and tolls on Mexico’s highways.

Office of the Federal Prosecutor for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA)

This office collaborates with the Programa Paisano to inform migrants via the Guide about entering and transiting the country with animals and plants, as well as the procedures and regulations for their import or export. It also provides information about substances that can affect the environment or human health.

Federal Institute of the Public Defender’s Office (IFDP)

This Institute provides legal defense and advice to Mexican migrants who cannot afford a lawyer and have been accused of committing or being involved in a crime of federal jurisdiction. It also provides legal guidance and legally represents those affected by any legal problem, whether civil, fiscal or administrative.

Office of the Agrarian Prosecutor (PA)

This socially-oriented body takes charge of defending agrarian rights against any agrarian authority or individual. With support from the Programa Paisano, it gives guidance to Mexican migrants on the rights and obligations as common land owners, principally by assisting in the preparation of the “agrarian will”, a document that ensures that rights to land are transferred to family members in Mexico.

Social Development Ministry (SEDESOL)

SEDESOL supports Mexicans who live abroad through the 3 x 1 Programme, which allows them to carry out works that benefit their communities with government support.²⁵ Moreover, the “Productive Alternatives” Programme supports Mexican migrants who have an interest in investing in their home community through productive projects that generate self-employment opportunities and diversification of activities.²⁶

Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (STPS)

Through the National Employment Service (SNE), it provides information about employment opportunities in Mexico, while offering guidance and training to Mexicans who return to the country in order for them to increase their chances of employment or to become self-employed.

Ministry of Public Education (SEP)

The ministry provides information regarding the processes that Mexicans – whether residents abroad or having recently arrived in the country – need to know in order to regularize their school record in Mexico. Essentially, it promotes the right of all children to participate in primary education, regardless of their migratory status, or of the time of year that they request access to education services.

Ministry of Economy (SE)

The Ministry of Economy studies, projects, decides, and organizes customs tariffs and fixes the official costs of imported articles migrants bring with them into the country, while providing guidance about the import and export of goods subject to payment of foreign trade tax. It also organizes and promotes programmes oriented towards encouraging investment and the development of productive projects by Mexican migrants in their home country. Finally, it is in charge of managing the automobile trade (import and export of new vehicles) within the framework of the North American Free Trade Agreement between Canada, the United States and Mexico.

Office of the Federal Prosecutor for the Consumer (PROFECO)

Under the authority of the Ministry of Economy, this office protects, informs, encourages and offers guidance and advice to Mexican migrants in the exercise of their rights as consumers, with up-to-date information on its webpage and a hotline number. It promotes a culture of denouncing wrongdoing by providing information and simple procedures for filing complaints. Any complaint may also be presented from abroad. By means of the programme “Who’s who in sending money” it also provides information and guidance regarding the companies and charges for sending money to Mexico. In addition, it organizes and promotes programmes oriented towards encouraging investment and the development of productive projects by Mexican migrants in their home country.

²⁴ The “Mystery Client” system involves staff members disguised as regular citizens, in order to monitor and prove abuses of authority against Mexican nationals who cross the border with the United States, which leads to reports being filed and corrupt government employees being apprehended and punished.

²⁵ The 3 x 1 Programme works with the contributions from clubs or federations of migrants living abroad, from the Federal Government, through Sedesol, and from State and Municipal governments. For each peso contributed by migrants, the Federal, State, and Municipal governments add 3 pesos; hence the name 3 x 1. The funds are applied principally to infrastructure projects, such as highways, drinking water, street construction, electrification, hospitals, schools, etc.

²⁶ “Productive Alternatives” is a programme that supports productive projects for people living in conditions of poverty, incorporating the development of human and technical skills as ways of promoting their economic and environmental sustainability.

→ The “La Rumorosa” highway goes through one of the most dangerous areas crossed by migrants before they reach the desert, just a few miles from the border with the United States. This road links up the cities of Tijuana and Mexicali in Baja California and permits the mobilization of Grupos Beta in their preventive or rescue patrols.



Photo: Pedro A. López Chaltelt



Grupos Beta

The humanitarian arm
of the National
Migration Institute



In the beginning

In 1990, in the state of Baja California a pilot programme operated by the National Migration Institute was launched and first known – unofficially – as *Operativo Bandido*. This was the name by which migrants, locals, and other governmental agencies identified the programme, thanks to its initial aims: to combat delinquency and crimes committed against vulnerable migrants. The earliest objective of the Grupos Beta Programme was to protect migrants from criminals during their journey through Mexican territory. During this first stage, interventions of the Grupos Beta in Baja California were limited to the northern border region, in the area known as *La Rumorosa*.

Once the programme was implemented, the need to protect migrants from other latent risks not directly related to crime became clear. The region of *La Rumorosa* is one of the most inhospitable in the country and a challenge for migrants to cross. In order to avoid being detected, undocumented migrants tend to travel on difficult and risky routes. In this northern part of the country, temperatures reach 50°C (122°F): undertaking long and harsh journeys under such heat can cause migrants to collapse. There are other dangers associated with the mountainous terrain, such as the desert conditions and the flora and fauna that can put migrants' physical health and lives at risk. From its initial stages, the programme demonstrated that constant monitoring of the routes usually taken by migrants can lead to the provision of welfare and protection to those

in situations of great risk. The programme revealed a solid capacity to safeguard and protect the lives of migrants and these results led to the creation of new Grupos Beta around the country. Likewise, regional offices were created in areas that were providing services to migrant communities in Mexico.

Since then, the Grupos Beta have been called by different names depending on the region and the date they were founded: *Operativo Beta* in Tijuana, Baja California; *Grupo Alfa* in Tecate, Baja California and *Grupo Ébano* in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, until they became consolidated as what we know today by the name *Grupos Beta de Protección a Migrantes* (Beta Groups for Migrant Protection), an unarmed humanitarian and rescue group. However, it was not until the year 2000 that the General Population Law was reformed to grant the Ministry of the Interior (SEGOB), through the National Migration Institute (INM), a mandate to cooperate and coordinate, together with municipalities and states, the Grupos de Protección al Migrante, now known as Grupos Beta.²⁷

The Grupos Beta currently comprise representatives of the three levels of the Mexican Government (Federal, State, and Municipal) specializing in search, rescue, life-saving, and first aid. They are also trained to carry out protection and guidance activities and to provide social and legal assistance in defense of human rights.

²⁷ Ministry of the Interior, What is the INM? Background, Mexico: <http://www.inami.gob.mx/index.php/page/Antecedentes>

Objectives

In conformity with Article 137 of the Regulation of the General Population Law, the general objective of the Migrant Protection Groups is “the protection and defense of migrants’ human rights, as well as the security of their physical integrity and property, regardless of their nationality or migratory status”.²⁸

They also work to defend and safeguard migrants’ human rights, providing them with assistance and protection in situations of risk and helping to avoid abuse by the authorities and individuals. The slogan of the Grupos Beta is probably the institutional element that best characterizes the character, values, and purpose of the programme: “Vocation, Humanism and Loyalty”.

It is notable that, while the migrant protection programmes only took on formal unity in the framework of the General Population Law in the year 2000, they already coincided in terms of the objectives and fundamental principles of their operational tasks. Defending the human rights, lives, and property of migrants became an objective for those involved in the groups, and this is what made it possible for them to work towards these aims between 1990 and 2000, without being part of any overarching legal or administrative structure. It is also noteworthy that the political transformation experienced in Mexico in 2000 did not put an end to, nor significantly alter, the programmes. That is, the programmes had by then acquired such a well-grounded logic of their own that rather than being called into question or asked to provide justifications for their continuation, they functioned as models to be followed when setting up new and more robust institutions such as the General Population Law, thereby revealing themselves as examples of best practices.

²⁸ Ministry of the Interior, Grupo Beta for Migrant Protection, Mexico, http://inm.gob.mx/index.php/page/Grupo_Beta

→ The Grupo Beta in the state of Baja California has 28 trained staff for the work it carries out along this border area: 14 are based in Tijuana, seven in Tecate, and seven more in Mexicali.



Operational presence in Mexico

There are currently 17 migrant protection groups operating in Mexico. Another four groups will be formally launched during 2011; one in Ciudad Acuña, Coahuila and the other three along the southern border in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Palenque and Arriaga in the state of Chiapas.

→ 10-meter (33-foot) high orientation towers can be found at a number of points in the desert, equipped with a strobe light visible from 10 kilometers (6 miles) away. To one side of these towers migrants find a roof for shelter and a water tank, while they await help from the Grupos Beta.





Photo: Lorena Salazar Ocampo

STATE	CITY	NUMBER OF STAFF
Baja California	Tijuana	13
Baja California	Tecate	9
Baja California	Mexicali	7
Sonora	Nogales	8
Sonora	Sonoyta	5
Sonora	San Luis Río Colorado	3
Sonora	Agua Prieta	10
Sonora	Sasabe	1
Chihuahua	Ciudad Juárez	7
Chihuahua	Puerto Palomas	5
Coahuila	Piedras Negras	13
Coahuila	Ciudad Acuña	7
Tamaulipas	Matamoros	8
Veracruz	Acayucan	6
Chiapas	Tapachula	18
Chiapas	Arriaga	2
Chiapas	Palenque	2
Chiapas	Tuxtla Gutierrez	9
Chiapas	Comitán	10
Oaxaca	Ixtepec	4
Tabasco	Tenosique	8
Federal District	(Central offices)	8

TOTAL: 22 CITIES IN 10 STATES, 163 STAFF MEMBERS.

→ The train tracks in Arriaga, Chiapas, are the starting point for thousands of migrants on their way to the USA and a place where they receive attention from the Grupos Beta.





Photo: Pedro A. Lopez Chalfeit



β Map showing where the Grupos Beta are located



PELIGRO



TEMPERATURA

→ In the deserts of Baja California, Mexico, temperatures rise to over 50°C (122°F) during the day and fall below 0°C (32°F) at night. The strategic placement of informational signs is one way of warning migrants about the risks of crossing the desert.

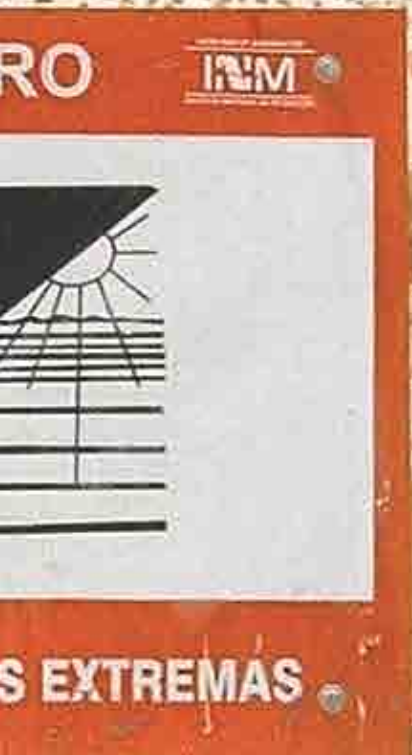




Photo: José Alfredo Ruiz Chamec

→ The cargo trains that cross Mexico are the most common means of transport for migrants trying to get closer to the United States border. This form of transport, popularly known as “the Beast” endangers migrants’ lives. The Grupos Beta warns them and tries to dissuade migrants from making the journey.



Photo: INM

→ Grupos Beta officials collaborate with a variety of counterparts in order to benefit migrant populations.

Services provided

The Grupos Beta mostly operate in Mexico's border states, as well as the states through which the cargo trains pass – this being migrants' most frequent means of transport. The programme sets in motion special operations in periods of extreme temperatures and during periods of natural disasters that impinge on migrants' safety, as was the case with the floods in the Veracruz region in September, 2010. However, the groups operate continuously throughout the year and their functions are crucial to safeguarding the physical safety and lives of people who pass through Mexican territory as migrants and who find themselves in situations of high vulnerability.

The functions of the groups are varied and include such diverse actions as offering legal information or helping victims of drowning or sunstroke. The tasks of the Grupos Beta can be divided into nine major areas that together make up their set of objectives, with a series of services included in each one of these areas:

1. Orientation

- Offer information about the risks faced by migrants as they transit Mexican territory and cross to the United States.
- Let migrants know their rights in Mexico to help prevent abuses against them.
- Persuade migrants to return to their places of origin.

2. Rescue and Lifesaving

- Engage in search, rescue, and assistance tasks for migrants who are lost or in dangerous situations.
- These tasks are carried out in coordination with several bodies and departments involved on both sides of the border.

3. Humanitarian Social Assistance

Provide assistance to migrants through:

- First aid;
- Transfer to hospitals;
- Food and medicine;
- Making telephone calls;
- Discounts on bus fares to return home, among others.

4. Legal Assistance

- Offer legal advice with the aim of ensuring the security of migrants and protecting their property.
- Receive and process complaints.
- Channel criminal allegations to the competent institutional bodies.

5. Preventive Patrols

- Reconnaissance patrols to detect migrants in potentially risky situations.
- These patrols are carried out in the dangerous areas of the border strips in the municipalities corresponding to each Grupo Beta.

6. Orientation Towers

- Installation of 10-meter (33-foot) high Beta orientation towers, the tips of which are equipped with a strobe light visible from 10 kilometers (6 miles) away.
- Beside these towers there is a water tank and a roof providing shade so migrants can take shelter while they await the arrival of Grupos Beta personnel to rescue them.

7. Warning Signs

- Erection of signs warning of risks and providing information useful to migrants' survival.
- These signs contain information according to their location. In the desert, for example, they indicate extreme temperatures and dangerous animals.

8. Location of Missing Persons

- Migrants' journeys follow dangerous routes where their vulnerability increases and leads to them being disoriented and getting lost.
- The Grupos Beta are trained to locate, rescue, and assist migrants lost en route.

9. First Aid

- During rescues carried out by Grupos Beta first aid is given to migrants who need it. For example, on the southern border the most frequent cases are those of injuries or mutilations caused by accidents with the cargo trains used by migrants as a means of transport.
- After first aid has been provided, the migrants are directed or taken to hospitals, health centers or shelters.

According to Grupos Beta reports, during the year 2010 and based on the experience of previous years, the most common instances of assistance to migrants were related to medical conditions such as fractures, sprains, blisters, amputations, twisted or dislocated limbs, and other injuries caused by falls, accidents or assaults. In summer, there are regular reports of cases of dehydration, sunstroke, and skin burns, while in the winter there are reports of hypothermia.

The scope of the services provided by the Grupos Beta is of great significance. In the period from January to December 2010, the Grupos Beta carried out 15,173 surveillance operations, rescued 4,163 migrants, administered first aid care to 791 injured migrants, and offered humanitarian assistance to 186,628 migrants. Many of these actions, surveillance, and rescue operations have a direct impact on the protection of lives and physical safety of those involved: the Grupos Beta are in charge of saving lives and do so on a daily basis as an integral part of their work.

The Grupos Beta offer welfare assistance to migrants who are crossing Mexican territory, whether they are Mexican nationals or foreigners. Figures show that the numbers of migrants assisted remains constant over the years. Considering that migrants tend to alter their routes and in general seek to evade any form of authority, one could expect that these figures vary. However, this not being the case reveals the robustness of the operational capacity acquired by the programme over time. The following table shows the number of migrants assisted by Grupos Beta between 2008 and 2010.

ASSISTANCE TO MIGRANTS

■ In 2010 Grupos Beta attended to:

- Northern border: 159,540 migrants.
- Southern border: 69,269 migrants.
- National Total: 228,809 migrants.

■ In 2009 Grupos Beta attended to:

- Northern border: 153,801 migrants.
- Southern border: 44,830 migrants.
- National Total: 198,631 migrants.

■ In 2008 Grupos Beta attended to:

- Northern border: 120,542 migrants.
- Southern border: 67,660 migrants.
- National Total: 188,202 migrants.



Photo: Lorena Salazar Ocampo

"I think the best words to describe [Grupos Beta] are basically our motto: vocation, humanism and loyalty."

José Alberto Canedo Bernal

*Director of Migrant Protection - Grupos Beta,
National Migration Institute.*

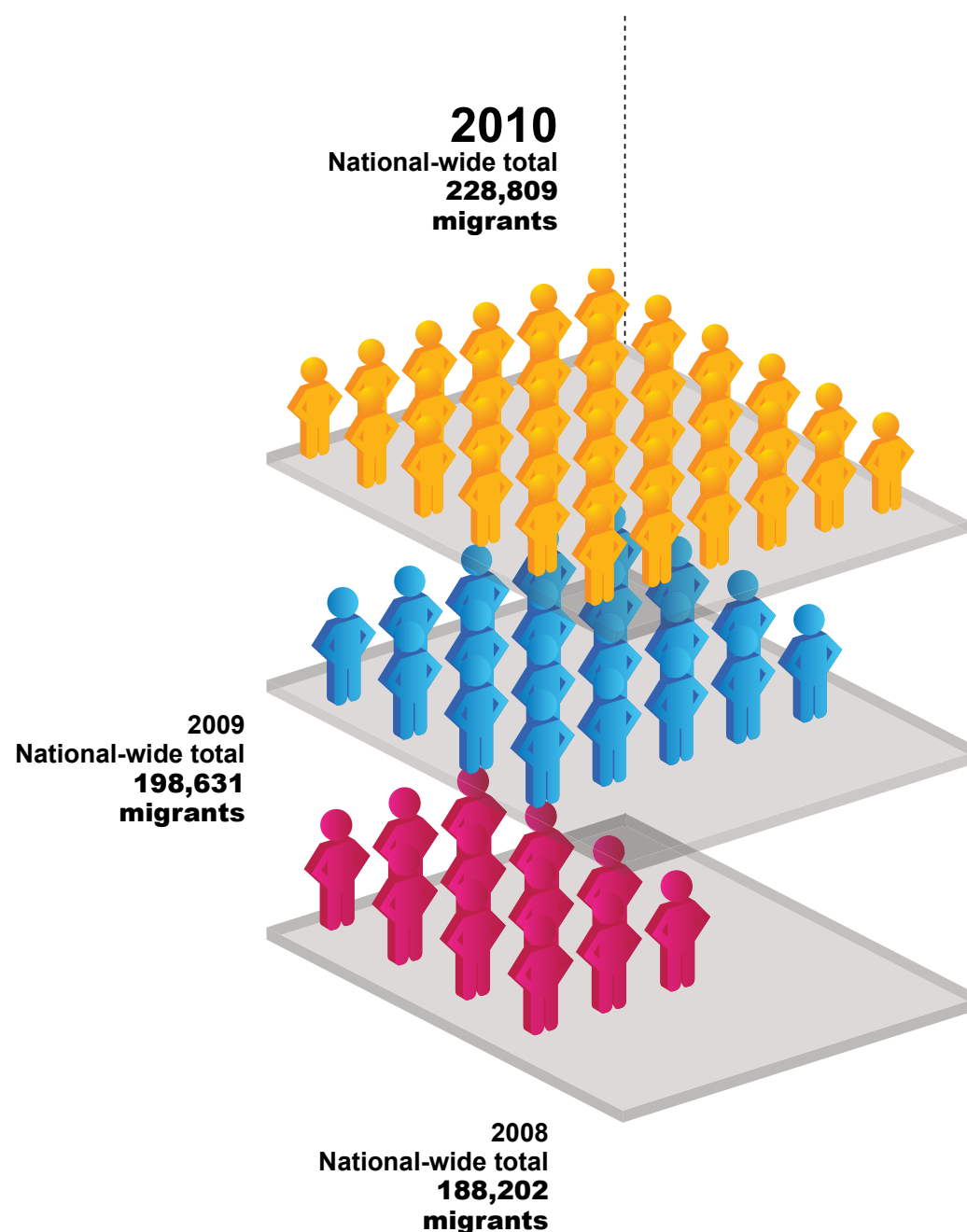




Photo: Lorena Salazar Ocampo

→ Each Grupo Beta is equipped with infrastructure and resources to assist migrants, including specialized all-terrain vehicles, water and land life-saving rescue equipment.

Human and material resources

The numbers of migrants assisted and the services offered by the Grupos Beta are all the more impressive if we consider the technical, human, and material requirements to be able to provide the wide range of services offered by this programme in Mexico. The operational personnel of the Grupos Beta are men and women, both professionals and technical staff in a range of fields, such as doctors, nurses, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, and specialists in rescue, first aid, civil protection or related areas. The age of the staff varies between 20 and 35, and they must be in clinically-proven good physical condition. It is also essential that the staff have a basic knowledge of human rights and migration management, and that they practice a sport or physical activity regularly.

Much of the success of the Programme lies in the provision of the appropriate training and equipment for the groups to enable them to carry out their tasks. Alongside physical training, a priority for Grupos Beta is to keep up to date with the technical aspects of the services they provide. The following table shows the training courses that members of the Grupos Beta usually take to be prepared to carry out their rescue work and offer guidance to the migrant community.

Rescue Training

- Rescue on land and on water
- First aid
- Personal defense and rappel
- Crisis and stress management
- Search and rescue
- Rope systems and medical attention for use in rescues
- Pre-hospital care
- Defensive driving techniques
- CPR
- Swimming and physical training
- Use of GPS

Humanitarian Training

- Legal procedures refresher course
- Trafficking in migrant women, children, and adolescents
- Basic aspects of trafficking
- Identifying victims of human trafficking
- Human rights and migration

For Grupos Beta to carry out their tasks it is also essential that they are well-equipped, especially with regard to materials used in rescue operations that demand highly-specialized abilities, knowledge, and expertise in handling equipment. The following table shows a general list of the kind of equipment at the disposal of the Grupos Beta for carrying out rescues on land and in water, as well as for their everyday tasks.

Equipment used for everyday purposes:

- Jeeps
- pick-ups
- four-wheelers
- automobiles
- trailers
- outboard motors
- ambulances
- inflatable rafts

Equipment used for water rescues

- boats
- lifejackets
- wetsuits
- ropes
- waterproof
- flashlights

Equipment used for land rescues

- stretchers
- first aid kits
- ropes
- GPS systems
- rappelling equipment

The humanitarian norms and principles applied by Grupos Beta enables them to call upon the cooperation and assistance of other national, governmental, international, and non-governmental agencies for support of their operations and in seeking resources.



→ Grupos Beta near San Isidro, Chihuahua.





→ Border between Ciudad Juarez,
Chihuahua and El Paso, Texas.





→ Grupos Beta attend to migrants from Mexico, Central America, and other countries as they cross Mexican territory, attempting to reach the north and cross into the USA.



Photo: Pedro A. López Chaltel



PROTECCIÓN
A
MIGRANTES

REGISTRACION
M
ESTADO DE MIGRACION

ME

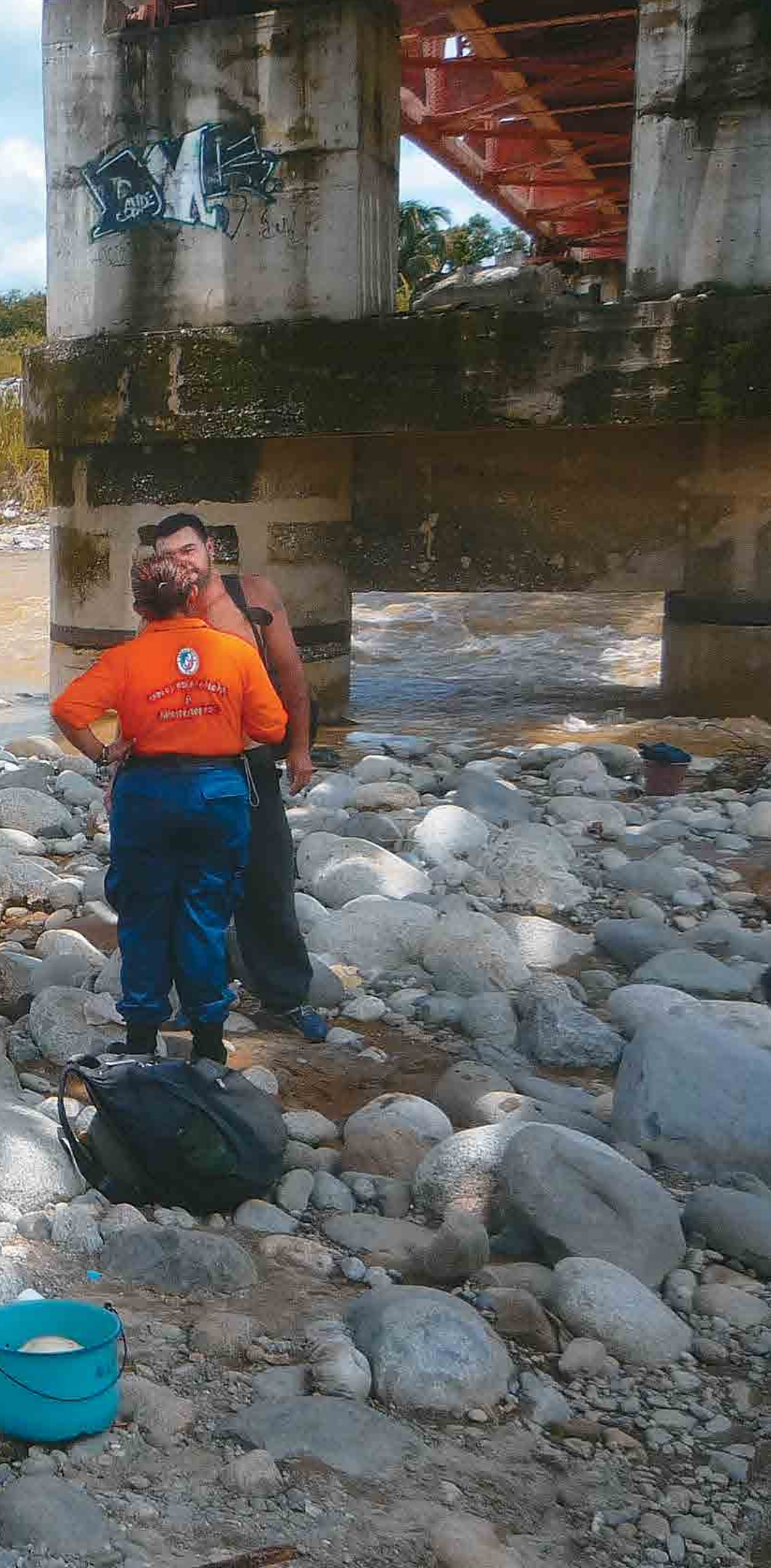
Santitas



→ Grupos Beta attending to migrants on the train tracks in Arriaga, Chiapas.

Photo: Pedro A. López Chaltelt





→ At different points on their journey, migrants seek out places to rest, wash, and eat. The Grupos Beta approach them to offer guidance and provide social and humanitarian assistance.

Building partnerships

Partnerships have been a crucial element in the longevity, consolidation, and operation of the Programme. The courses and training given to Grupos Beta members have been made possible by the cooperation of a wide range of institutions, including:

In Mexico:

- Ministry of the Navy
- Ministry of Public Security
- Mexican Red Cross
- Civil Protection
- Medical Emergency Training Institute
- National Pre-Hospital Care Evaluation Center
- National Human Rights Commission
- Comitán de Domínguez Grupo Gales Cave Rescue
- Department of Public Security of the State of Chiapas

International:

- Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
- Safety Training Equipment Group (STE)
- BORSTAR Group of the Border Patrol of the Customs and Border Protection Service, part of the United States Department of Homeland Security
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)

ON THE NORTHERN BORDER

	MEN	WOMEN
FEDERAL	54	16
STATE	5	1
MUNICIPAL	17	0
TOTAL	76	17
TOTAL NORTH		93

ON THE SOUTHERN BORDER

	MEN	WOMEN
FEDERAL	34	19
STATE	2	0
MUNICIPAL	15	0
TOTAL	51	19
TOTAL SOUTH		70

BOTH BORDERS

	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
FEDERAL	88	35	123
STATE	7	1	8
MUNICIPAL	32	0	32
TOTAL BY GENDER	127	36	
OVERALL TOTAL			163

Furthermore, the operation of the Programme and its focus in bringing together the three levels of government (federal, state, and municipal) are clearly reflected in the composition of the teams and underlines the existence of shared interests and responsibility among the different orders of government. However, much of the responsibility falls onto federal public servants, who make up the largest number of Grupos Beta staff.

Interinstitutional collaboration leads to mainstreaming the Grupos Beta's perspective of protecting migrants and is considered a fundamental objective of the National Migration Institute (INM). In this way, actions taken in favor of the migrant community in Mexico are reinforced through the construction of partnerships with different national and international organizations and institutions.

The construction of partnerships makes it possible for the Grupos Beta to obtain the technical resources and material capacities needed to ensure the protection of the lives and the rights of migrants in Mexico.

Partnerships are also crucial in providing for greater cooperation on the part of municipal governments and in reducing the gender gap, which may lead to innovative ways of implementing the programme aimed at the most vulnerable migrants, such as women and unaccompanied minors.



"Taking advantage of public policies with these actors is fundamental to what we do. This, for example, is how we were able to create a space in the consulate of El Salvador in Arriaga, Chiapas, to bring together the leaders of the migrant shelters on the southern border to evaluate and discuss migrants' options."
Pedro Arturo López Chaltelt
Coordinator of Institutional
Strengthening and Research Unit,
IOM Mexico.

Photo: Lorena Salazar Ocampo



→ The immediate attention Grupos Beta offer migrants includes providing medicine, water, and food.





CAS



→ Most migrants carry deeply-held religious beliefs that are reflected along the routes they travel. The name tags were left behind by Mexican migrants repatriated from the United States (The photo shows the Migrants' shelter in Ciudad Juárez).

→ Migrants' Shelter "Hogar de la Misericordia",
Arriaga, Chiapas.

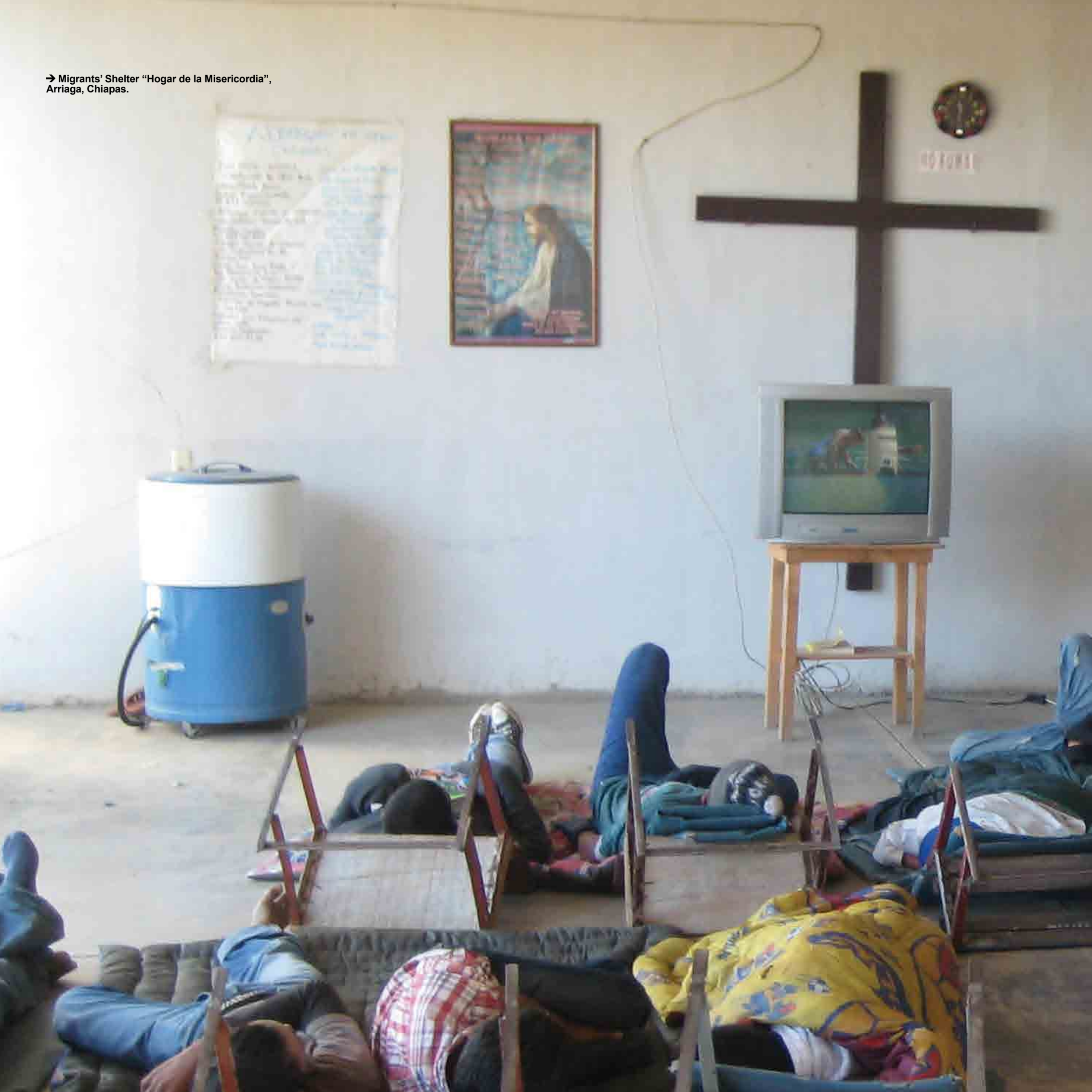




Photo: Virginia Martínez-Weiss



→ The Grupos Beta have formed partnerships at a federal, state, and municipal level, with ministries, special prosecutors, international bodies, the media, universities, civil society, and migrant shelters. (The photos below show the Migrants' Shelter in Arriaga, Chiapas and the "Hermanos en Camino" shelter in Ixtepec, Oaxaca, which is run by Father Alejandro Solalinde, with, to his right, Dr. Thomas Weiss and Luis Flores of the IOM Mexico).



Photo: Virginia Martínez-Weiss



Photo: Pedro A. López Chaltelt

→ The partnership between the Mexican Red Cross and the National Migration Institute includes the donation of vehicles and rescue equipment for the Grupos Beta. Similarly, they offer specialized training courses in first aid.



Photo: Pedro A. López Chaltelt

→ Over the course of the year 2010, the Grupos Beta attended 228,809 individuals, providing information about their rights in Mexico and guidance on how to avoid risks on their journey through Mexico.

Photo: Pedro A. López Chaltit



Grupos Beta partnerships

At Federal Level

Public Bodies:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Public Administration
Ministry of Communications and Transport
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
Ministry of Social Development
Ministry of the Navy
Ministry of Public Security
National Attorney General's Office
Red Cross
ISSSTE
Civil Protection
Health Centers
National Human Rights Commission and Mexican Commission
for Refugee Assistance (COMAR)
National System for Family Development and Casas Hogar
Canal 22 (TV station of the Mexican government)
National Council for Arts and Culture (CONACULTA)

Civil Society:

Volunteers
Shelters

At State and Municipal Level

Public:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Public Administration
Ministry of Communications and Transport
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
Ministry of Social Development
Ministry of the Navy
Ministry of Public Security
State Attorney General's Office
State Hospitals
Red Cross
ISSSTE
Civil Protection
Health Centers
National Human Rights Commission and Mexican Commission
for Refugee Assistance (COMAR)
Bus terminals

Private:

Bus companies

Civil Society

Volunteers
Shelters
State Universities
Media: television and newspapers

At International Level

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Customs and Border Protection, Border Patrol (United States Government)

Universities

Ángeles del Desierto (Desert Angels – a civil society group that helps find lost migrants. They usually work in the desert in northern Mexico. However, they also carry out searches at other regular migrant crossing points, such as the Rio Grande river, Tecate Peak or the coast of California.)

→ Beaches, Tijuana, Baja California, frontier between Mexico and the United States.



Photo: Lorena Salazar Ocampo







→ Northern Border of Mexico. Frontier between Mexico and the United States.



Photos: Lorena Salazar Ocampo





LIMITE DE LOS
ESTADOS UNIDOS
MEXICANOS

COMISION INTERNACIONAL
DE LIMITES Y AGUAS.

BOUNDARY OF THE
UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

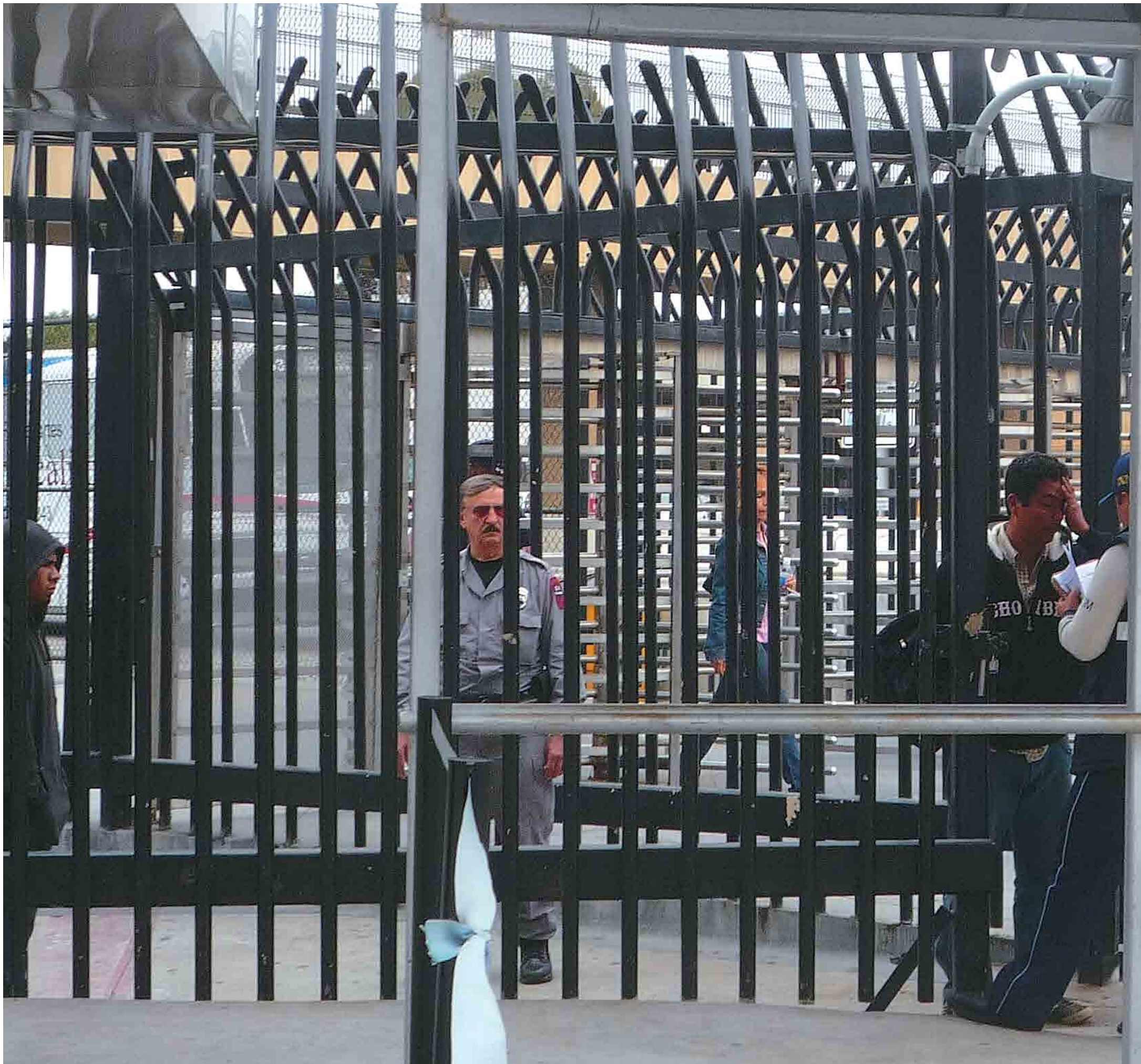
INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY
AND WATER COMMISSION.



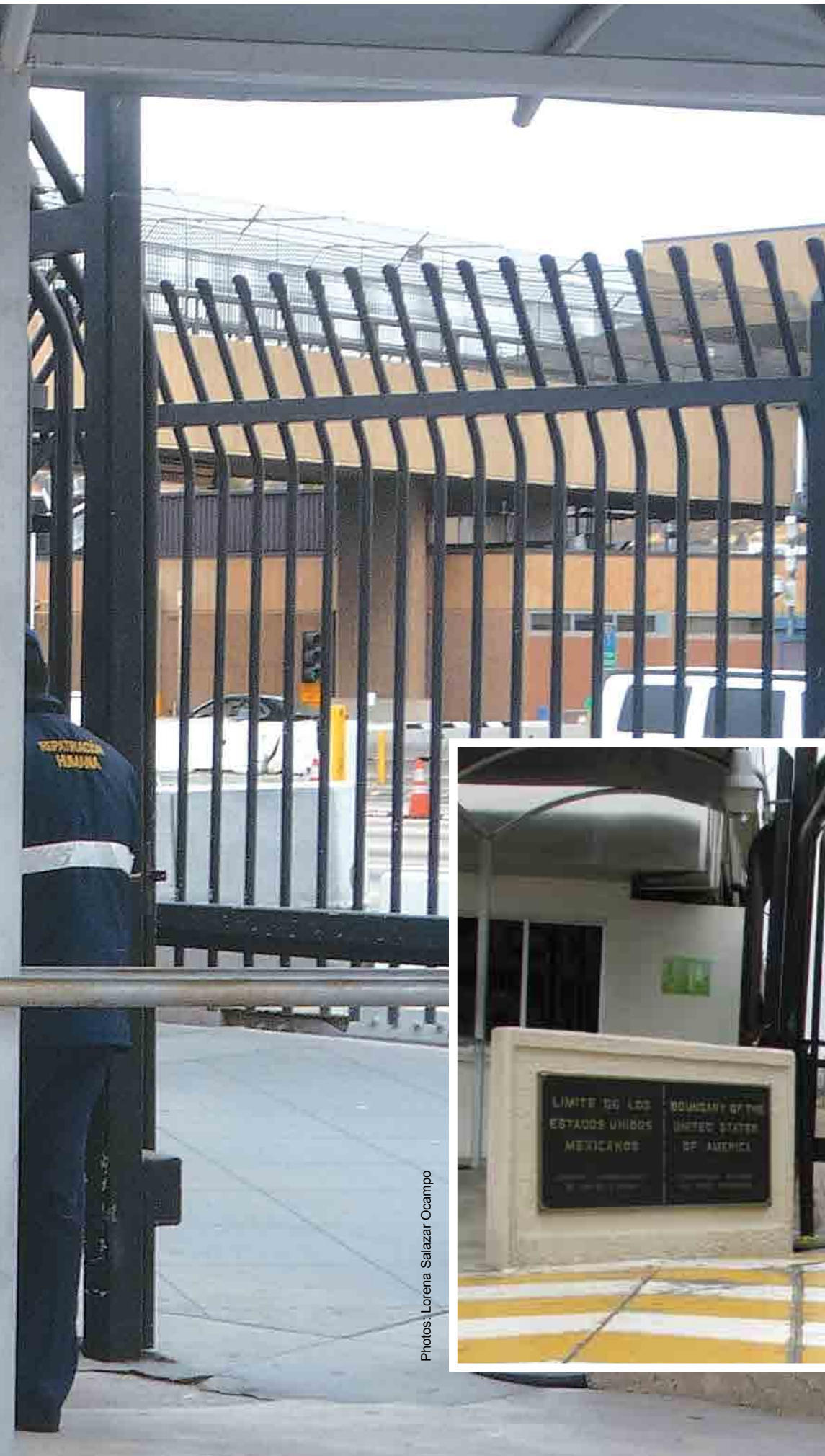
→ Security measures at the vehicle crossing point to enter El Paso, Texas. (Border with Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua).



Photo: Virginia Martinez-Weiss



→ Mexican migrants who are repatriated to Mexico from the USA are received by the Humane Repatriation Programme and, in turn, directed to Grupos Beta to be given assistance. They are able to make a phone call, are offered food, a place in a shelter, medical attention or support to return to their places of origin by land.



Photos: Lorena Salazar Ocampo





Photo: Thomas Lothar Weiss





→ Border bridge between Mexico and USA
(crossing between Tijuana and San Diego).

Conclusions

The Paisano and Grupos Beta programmes are examples of best practices in the implementation of a public policy aimed at protecting migrants in Mexico, regardless of the migrant's origin. The experience and history of the programmes show clear signs of innovation in terms of the design and execution of public policy strategies regarding migration issues. In the first place, it is evident that the programmes make a distinction between the political and economic dimensions of migration and its fundamentally humanitarian aspects. Both programmes seek to safeguard migrants' lives and human dignity, above and beyond any other consideration. It is this humanitarian dimension that without a doubt establishes the basis for considering these programmes as examples of best practices in the realm of migration policy.

This humanitarian vocation –faithful to basic universal human rights principles– has also worked to give momentum and cohesion to efforts by the parties involved to mainstream the migration agenda at an inter-ministerial, inter-sectorial, and transnational level. The level and intensity of cooperation between the most diverse government bodies –Mexican and transnational civil society organizations and international bodies– highlights the rallying power of migrant protection programmes and practices among different audiences.

Finally, the partnerships and robust normative paradigms of the programmes signal that the objectives and strategies of the migrant protection policy are increasingly consolidated as a desirable, appropriate and effective practice for migration management in Mexico and worldwide. The sustainability of the programmes is guaranteed by means of these two elements. Furthermore, the human rights perspective in migrant protection has not only succeeded in creating strategic partnerships but has promoted the mainstreaming of the migration agenda to endow it with an increasingly important role in the considerations of governmental institutions, civil society organizations, and transnational groups that do not usually focus their efforts on migration issues. This mainstreaming ensures that the operations and results achieved by the Grupos Beta and Paisano programmes are sustainable in the long term. They certainly represent examples to be followed in the design and implementation of migration policy strategies in other contexts and other countries.

Mexico: Country of Migration

List of abbreviations

AGA	General Customs Administration
CAAAREM	Mexican Confederation of Associations of Customs Brokers
CAPUFE	Federal Toll Roads and Bridges and Related Services
COMAR	Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance
CONACULTA	National Council for Arts and Culture
CONAPO	National Population Council
DIF	National System for Family Development
ICE	Immigration and Customs Enforcement (USA)
IFE	Federal Electoral Institute
IFDP	Federal Institute of the Public Defender's Office
IMJUVE	Mexican Youth Institute
IMSS	Mexican Social Security Institute
INEA	National Institute for Adult Education
INM	National Migration Institute
INMUJERES	National Women's Institute
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISSSTE	State Employees' Social Security and Social Services Institute
PA	Office of the Agrarian Prosecutor
PGR	National Attorney General's Office
PROFECO	Office of the Federal Prosecutor for the Consumer
PROFEPA	Office of the Federal Prosecutor for Environmental Protection
SAGARPA	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food
SAT	Tax Administration Service
SCT	Ministry of Communications and Transport
SE	Ministry for the Economy
SECTUR	Ministry of Tourism
SEDENA	Ministry of Defense
SEDESOL	Ministry of Social Development
SEGOB	Ministry of the Interior
SEMARNAT	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
SENASICA	National Agro-Alimentary Health, Safety and Quality Service
SEP	Ministry of Public Education
SFP	Ministry of Public Administration
SHCP	Ministry of Finance and Public Credit
SRA	Ministry for Agrarian Reform
SRE	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
SS	Ministry of Health
SSP	Ministry of Public Security
STE	Safety Training Equipment
STPS	Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare

Sites of interest

Administración General de Aduanas (AGA)
http://www.aduanas.gob.mx/aduana_mexico/2008/home.asp

Confederación de Asociaciones de Agentes Aduanales (CAAAREM)
<http://www.caaarem.org.mx/>

Caminos y Puentes Federales de Ingresos y Servicios Conexos (CAPUFE)
<http://www.capufe.gob.mx/portal/site/wwwCapufe>

Comisión Mexicana de Ayuda a Refugiados (COMAR)
<http://www.comar.gob.mx/>

Consejo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes (CONACULTA)
<http://www.conaculta.gob.mx/>

Consejo Nacional de Población (CONAPO)
<http://www.conapo.gob.mx/>

Instituto de Seguridad y Servicios Sociales de los Trabajadores del Estado (ISSSTE)
<http://www.issste.gob.mx/index2.html>

Instituto Federal de Defensoría Pública (IFDP)
<http://www.ifdp.cjf.gob.mx/>

Instituto Federal Electoral (IFE)
<http://www.ife.org.mx/portal/site/ifev2>

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
<http://www.ice.gov/>

Instituto Mexicano de la Juventud (IMJUVE)
<http://www.imjuventud.gob.mx/>

Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social (IMSS)
<http://www.imss.gob.mx/>

Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres (INMUJERES)
<http://www.inmujeres.gob.mx/>

Instituto Nacional de Migración (INM)
<http://www.migracion.gob.mx/>

Instituto Nacional para la Educación de los Adultos (INEA)
<http://www.inea.gob.mx/>

Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)
<http://www.iom.int/> / <http://www.oim.org.mx>

Procuraduría Agraria (PA)
<http://www.pa.gob.mx/>

Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Medio Ambiente (PROFEPA)
<http://www.profepa.gob.mx/>

Procuraduría Federal del Consumidor (PROFECO)
<http://www.profeco.gob.mx/>

Procuraduría General de la República (PGR)
<http://www.pgr.gob.mx/>

Secretaría de Administración Tributaria (SAT)
<http://www.sat.gob.mx/>

Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación (SAGARPA)
<http://www.sagarpa.gob.mx/Paginas/default.aspx>

Secretaría de Comunicaciones y Transportes (SCT)
<http://www.sct.gob.mx/>

Secretaría de Desarrollo Social (SEDESOL)
<http://www.sedesol.gob.mx/index/index.php>

Secretaría de Economía (SE)
<http://www.economia.gob.mx/swb/swb/>

Secretaría de Educación Pública (SEP)
<http://www.sep.gob.mx/swb/>

Secretaría de Gobernación (SEGOB)
<http://www.gobernacion.gob.mx/swb>

Secretaría de Hacienda y Crédito Público (SHCP)
<http://www.shcp.gob.mx/Paginas/Default.aspx>

Secretaría de la Defensa Nacional (SEDENA)
<http://www.sedena.gob.mx/>

Secretaría de la Función Pública (SFP)
<http://www.funcionpublica.gob.mx/>

Secretaría de la Reforma Agraria (SRA)
<http://www.sra.gob.mx/sraweb/>

Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (SRE)
<http://www.sre.gob.mx/>

Secretaría de Salud (SS)
<http://portal.salud.gob.mx/>

Secretaría de Seguridad Pública (SSP)
<http://www.ssp.gob.mx/portalWebApp/appmanager/portal/desk>

Secretaría de Turismo (SECTUR)
<http://www.sectur.gob.mx/swb/>

Secretaría del Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT)
<http://www.semarnat.gob.mx/Pages/Inicio.aspx>

Secretaría del Trabajo y Previsión Social (STPS)
<http://www.stps.gob.mx/bp/index.html>

Servicio Nacional de Sanidad, Inocuidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria (SENASICA)
<http://www.senasica.gob.mx/>

Sistema Nacional para el Desarrollo Integral de la Familia (DIF)
<http://dif.sip.gob.mx/>

I O M



O I M

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Public Policies Benefiting Migrants



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