

BTI Institute

Borders • Trade • Immigration

A Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence

UNIVERSITY of **HOUSTON**

Kickoff: January 27, 2020

Developing a Regional Approach to Managing Migration Flows from the Northern Triangle through Mexico to the United States

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Project Overview: Goals

Goals: assess the capacity of the Mexican and Central American governments to implement current migration partnership agreements and to manage migration flows, provide asylum, and reintegrate repatriated migrants; and identify other regional approaches to managing migration effectively

Project Overview: Objectives

Objectives:

1. Assess Mexico's capacity to manage migration flows, cooperate with the United States in combatting smuggling, provide protection for migrants where warranted, settle and integrate some migrants, and continue removing migrants to their countries of origin
2. Assess the capacity of the Salvadoran, Guatemalan, and Honduran governments to manage migration flows, address root migration causes, accommodate repatriated nationals, and enhance their asylum systems
3. Understand how Costa Rica and Panama can enhance roles in regional migration management
4. More fully understand factors driving current migration flows to better predict their intensity and impact on capacity of the Mexican and Central American governments to implement cooperative migration control strategies.
5. Recommend policy options to manage flows from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras through Mexico to the United States, as well as other flows through Central America.

Data

- Use publicly available data on migration flows to the United States and Mexico from
 - DHS
 - Mexico's National Immigration Institute (INM)
 - International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Conduct follow-up with government officials and service providers to obtain non-public data and verify public data
- Cross-check data through interviews with other government officials and international organizations

Field Work

- At least one researcher or consultant will carry out field work in Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, and Panama
- While there, researchers will conduct interviews with key informants in government (local and national), non-governmental organizations (civil society, service providers, academic), and international organizations
- Interview topics to include
 - National migration policies and politics
 - Institutional structures of government agencies
 - Capacities to follow through on existing efforts and agreements
 - Efforts to address root migration causes
 - Potential avenues for further cooperation on migration with the United States

Tasks

T.1	<p>Task title: Meeting with the project champion (every 2-3 months)</p> <p>Task description: Set objectives in first call; evaluate progress and brief champion in subsequent calls.</p>
T.2	<p>Task title: Quantitative research on migration flows from source countries (including outside the Western Hemisphere) and sub-regional/sub-national areas of origin within Central America and Mexico.</p> <p>Task Description: Quantitative analysis of publicly available data sets.</p>
T.3	<p>Task title: Field research in Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, and Panama</p> <p>Task description: Research travel and interviews of government, non-governmental, and international organization informants in the countries relevant to the study. One research trip to each country.</p>
T.4	<p>Task title: Draft report for roundtable discussion</p> <p>Task description: Analyze findings from tasks 2 and 3 in a report to be discussed at the roundtable.</p>
T.5	<p>Task title: Roundtable to review study findings and develop policy options</p> <p>Task description: Develop agenda, plan roundtable, invite attendees, send draft report to attendees, and hold roundtable discussion at MPI in Washington, D.C. (Roundtable in month 11 but with planning over a 2-3 month period.)</p>
T.6	<p>Task title: Publication of final report</p> <p>Task description: Revise draft report and incorporate comments and recommendations from roundtable; conduct internal review, editing, layout, and publication of report.</p>
T.7	<p>Task title: Launch of final report (2 months)</p> <p>Task description: Release event at MPI and dissemination through media, social media, and web, with additional briefings for U.S, and other regional stakeholders as needed (funded outside the project).</p>

Deliverables

ID	Description	Date
D.1	Internal memo on findings from quantitative research	6/20
D.2	Draft report for roundtable	10/20
D.3	Roundtable on findings and policy options	10/20
D.4	Final project report	12/20
D.5	Launch of final report (in-person release media outreach, and social media)	1/21

Milestones

ID	Description	Date	Means of verification
M.1	Quantitative research completed	6/20	Internal memo completed, forwarded to DHS
M.2	Draft report for roundtable	10/20	Draft completed, forwarded to roundtable participants and DHS
M.3	Roundtable discussion on findings and policy options	10/20	Meeting held
M.4	Final project report	12/20	Report published
M.5	Launch of final project report (in-person release event, media outreach, and social media)	1/21	Launch completed

Performance Metrics

Research and Innovation KPIs		Date	Means of verification
KPI-RI-1	Roundtable to review research findings and discuss policy options successful	10/20	Key stakeholders represented. Discussion useful to Project Champion, stakeholders, and research team.
KPI-RI-2	Project report useful to the project champion and broader public	12/20	Report useful to USG, key stakeholders, and mentioned in press.
Dissemination KPIs (HSE, scientific community, public)		Date	Means of verification
KPI-D-1	Launch of final report	1/21	Event held
KPI-D-2	Media and social media outreach in English and Spanish	1/21	Media mentions, social media feedback, in region and in US

Transition Plan

Stakeholder Engagement

- U.S. government
 - DHS: Office of Policy; CBP; ICE
 - Department of State
 - Congress
 - USAID
 - Embassy personnel in key countries
- Latin American government representatives
- Key academics and NGOs in the countries of study and the United States
- International organizations (e.g., UNHCR, IOM, IDB)

Transition Plan, cont.

Notional Transition Plan

- Roundtable facilitates productive discussions between stakeholders inside and outside U.S. government
- Ongoing conversations with DHS throughout project allow for adjustment of findings to new realities
- Findings presented in accessible reports
- Researchers distill findings in U.S. and regional press through op-eds and media interviews to ensure dissemination to a broad public
- Events at MPI provide close access to DC stakeholders
- Conversations with DHS Office of Policy ensure timely reporting of findings to DHS

Programmatic Risks and Mitigation Plans

ID	Description of Risk	Tasks	Severity*	Proposed mitigation measures
R.1	Rapidly changing circumstances	All tasks	Moderate	Adjust findings as needed to reflect new realities; keep close contact with key stakeholders.
R.2	Inability to meet with certain governmental and nongovernmental stakeholders in the region.	Field-work	Moderate	Use other information sources within governments or in Washington, D.C., or international organizations, as available.

Next Steps

- Project Start Date: January 27, 2020
- Monthly Report: February 5, 2020
- Monthly Report: March 5, 2020
- Monthly Report: April 5, 2020
- 1st Quarterly Meeting and Report: April 2020