

Training Program
Protection and assistance to vulnerable migrants: identification of profiles
and reference mechanisms

CONCEPT NOTE

June-July 2021

CONTEXT

The Regional Conference on Migration has worked for the protection of the human rights of migrants in the region, developing a set of documents and actions related to the issue, including the *Regional Guidelines for the preliminary identification of profiles and referral mechanisms for migrant populations in vulnerable situations*.¹

In 2020, the Working Group on Irregular and Mass Migration agreed to update these regional guidelines with the aim of adapting them to the new requirements and guidance established for the protection of migrants in vulnerable situations. The document was updated in December 2020 and was adopted by the Mexican Government, as Presidency Pro-Tempore 2021, in line with the theme "*For a regional framework on migration governance and human rights, for a migration with inclusion*".

The protection of the human rights of migrant populations is a challenge for the countries of the region. In addition to considering the sovereign authority of the States, it must safeguard the fundamental rights of migrants and refugees, including their integrity, security, dignity, and well-being.

Although the Guidelines are non-binding in nature, they recognize that the first step towards effective protection is the identification of those persons or groups of people who, due to their characteristics and/or situation, are considered vulnerable. Because, once identified, it is possible to activate protection and assistance protocols. Therefore, the mechanisms to identify individual

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https://temas.crmsv.org/sites/default/files/Documentos%20Files/lineamientos_para_la_identificacion_de_perfiles_eng.pdf

profiles will facilitate the assistance to and management of migratory movements, especially large-scale arrivals, as well as ensure that people with specific needs are quickly identified.

In its efforts to promote and safeguard the rights of migrants, the IOM supports governments in their role of promoting and enforcing the rights of migrants. This is achieved through the establishment of standards and best practices, conducting studies and analyses, and the development of guidelines for protection and assistance, including collaborating with governments to do so as well.

In 2019, IOM developed the *Handbook on Protection and Assistance for Migrants Vulnerable to Violence, Exploitation and Abuse*². The model of migrant's vulnerability determining factors was developed specifically to identify, protect, and assist migrants who have experienced or are vulnerable to violence, exploitation, and abuse before, during or after migrating, and to guide the development and implementation of interventions to reduce such vulnerability.

Given the importance of capacity building to provide protection and assistance to migrants, this training is expected to deliver an opportunity for beneficiaries to acquire more skills, knowledge, and tools to fulfil their functions.

RATIONALE

In response to the increasing complexity of migration flows in the region, which bring new challenges regarding protection and assistance, the RCM Member Countries have recognized the need to facilitate the protection of migrants in vulnerable situations.

*IOM's Handbook on Protection and Assistance for Migrants Vulnerable to Violence, Exploitation and Abuse*³, introduces a model whose aim is to mitigate and reduce the factors that contribute to the vulnerability of migrants. The guidelines, practices, and standards it describes can be adapted and applied to a variety of situations, including crisis and emergency situations such as those that may arise in the region.

In addition, it has a section developed together with UNICEF: "Guidance for the protection, care and assistance to vulnerable child migrants", which complements the efforts carried out by the RCM in this area.

² <https://publications.iom.int/books/iom-handbook-migrants-vulnerable-violence-exploitation-and-abuse>

³ <https://publications.iom.int/books/iom-handbook-migrants-vulnerable-violence-exploitation-and-abuse>

The update of the Regional Guidelines, performed during 2020, considers new available tools; it constitutes an essential instrument for the Member Countries of the RCM to carry out the preliminary identification of assistance and protection profiles, as well as the referral of migrants and refugees in vulnerable situations to the corresponding instances.

OBJECTIVE

The Programs objective is to promote in the member countries of the RCM, the training of the first line personnel in migrants` protection and assistance to identify vulnerability situations linked to violence, exploitation, and abuse, as well as the implementation of best practices for the identification of profiles and reference mechanisms regarding vulnerable migrant populations through the review of tools such as the *IOM Determinants of Migrant Vulnerability Model*⁴ and the *Regional Guidelines for the preliminary identification of profiles and referral mechanisms for migrant populations in vulnerable situations*.

METHODOLOGY

The training program will include presentations by experts, group activities, and dialogue spaces between the RCM Member Countries. These activities will take place in three virtual sessions of two hours each on June 18th, July 1st, and 2nd. Participants will be asked to complete, in parallel, the self-learning virtual course hosted on the IOM e-campus platform, which has a duration of three hours, and will be able to be coursed between June 18th and 30th.

PARTICIPANTS

The proposal is to invite **5 representatives** per country from institutions with a frontline profile in migrant protection and assistance (consulates, refugee and protection systems responsible entities, migration offices or institutes, police forces). The registration process will be open from June 4th to 18th. Those who attend all the Training Program sessions will receive a participation certificate issued by the RCM and IOM.

⁴ IOM Handbook on Protection and Assistance for Migrants Vulnerable to Violence, Exploitation and Abuse (2019)

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Virtual Session 1: Launch of the Training Program: Protection and assistance for vulnerable migrants

Date of Session 1: June 18th, 2021
(Mexico time GMT-5)

10:00 – 10:30 - Opening Remarks

- *To be defined, Presidency Pro-Tempore*
- *Michele Klein-Solomon, IOM Regional Director for Central America, North America, and the Caribbean*

10:30 – 11:30 - Introduction to the Program (rationale, objectives, methodology, and expected results)

- *To be defined, Presidency Pro-Tempore*
- *To be defined, IOM*

11:30 – 12:00 – Questions and Answers about the Program

Virtual Session 2: Online Course on Protection and Assistance to Migrants Vulnerable to Violence, Exploitation and Abuse

Dates of Session 2: June 18th to 30th, 2021

Participants will have this period to complete the self-learning online course on Protection and Assistance to Migrants Vulnerable to Violence, Exploitation, and Abuse at the IOM e-Campus. The course lasts approximately 3 hours, at the end of which you can earn a participation certificate issued by IOM.



Virtual Session 3: Protection of and assistance to migrants vulnerable to violence,
exploitation, and abuse

**Date of Session 3: July 1st, 2021
(Mexico time GMT-5)**

10:00 – 10:10 - Welcome

- *To be defined, Presidency Pro-Tempore*

10:10 – 11:30 - Protection and Assistance to Migrants Vulnerable to Violence, Exploitation, and Abuse, IOM

- *Conceptual framework for the protection of vulnerable migrants*
- *IOM Model of Determining Factors for Migrant Vulnerability*
- *Application of the Model*

11:30 – 12:00 - Questions and Answers

Virtual Session 4: Regional guidelines for the preliminary identification of profiles and
reference mechanisms on migrant populations in vulnerable situations

**Date of Session 4: July 2nd, 2021
(Mexico time GMT-5)**

10:00 – 10:10 - Welcome

- *To be defined, Presidency Pro-Tempore*



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10:10 – 10:40 - Update of the Regional guidelines for the preliminary identification of profiles and reference mechanisms on migrant populations in vulnerable situations

- *To be defined, Presidency Pro-Tempore*
- *Sandra Chaves, General Directorate of Immigration and Alien Affairs, Costa Rica*

10:40 – 11:00 - Space for Comments

- *To be defined, Presidency Pro-Tempore*

11:00 – 11:15 - Next Steps and Closing Session

- *To be defined, Presidency Pro-Tempore*