



CWS | Migration Program in Mexico

CWS recognizes that affected people, especially those in more vulnerable situations, such as children, refugees, migrants, and traditionally marginalized groups, may need special attention, support, and protection. CWS promotes the rights to life, liberty, and the security of the person; protection from persecution; including outside a person's country of origin, dignity; a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of the person and their family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services; and education. When these needs cannot be met in a person's country of origin, then CWS supports the right to leave with dignity.

Starting with the displacement of millions of Venezuelans in 2015, regional migration patterns have become increasingly complex with multi-destination, multi-directional movement, and multi-status (with individuals being migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers at different points in their mobility). Mexico serves as an illustration: In 2022, almost 500,000 asylum-seekers, stateless persons and other persons needing international protection, mostly from Venezuela, Honduras, Haiti and Cuba entered the country. Most migrants enter Mexico outside of established pathways, and on their journeys face myriad risks, including robbery, assault, kidnapping and exploitation. Especially Black, Indigenous and non-Spanish speaking migrants (who are a growing proportion of the migrant flow) face discrimination, violence and lack of access to critical services at higher rates. Asylum seekers who have been deported from the U.S. also face a series of economic, safety, legal and socio-cultural difficulties in Mexico. Security risks also affect organizations providing services to migrants.




Unpredictable policy changes have also left many people on the move in limbo, while others have changed their destination of preference and now seek local integration.

Program Overview




CWS aims to strengthen the capacity of individuals to protect themselves and of institutions supporting those impacted by threats to their human rights.

- CWS works with Red de Documentacion de las Organizaciones Defensoras de Migrantes (REDODEM), a Mexican network of 21 shelters and organizations located in 13 Mexican states, serving migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in transit. Most recently, CWS supported REDODEM with the publication of their annual human rights report and a capacity mapping study that will help better connect people on the move with specialized services (legal, health, psychosocial) and identify gaps to be addressed.
- CWS also provides direct funding to Abba House (a shelter in Celaya, Mexico) focused on providing long-term care to particularly vulnerable mobile populations.
- With technical support and funding from CWS, ABBA House offers counseling as well as legal and employment support to migrants, shelter, food, medical assistance, hygiene supplies, clothes, shoes and telephone access. ABBA House is also the only shelter in Mexico that offers access to prostheses and physical therapy for people who have lost limbs by jumping on northbound freight trains on their migration route and other people with disabilities.

Program Areas

-  Local Faith Communities
-  Capacity Building
-  Regional Migration

Program Approaches

-  Strengthen the capacity of shelters providing services to people on the move through the hiring and training of professional staff and ensuring that assistance for people on the move meets relevant humanitarian standards.
-  Improve the physical conditions and services of shelters that provide medium and long-term shelter options and their ability to provide holistic care, including providing orientation on access to legal protections and assisting those who have made an asylum claim in Mexico or the United States.
-  Strengthen the coordinating team of REDODEM by providing core funding to key staff and activities.

dynamic context. Additionally, this provides partners the opportunity to pursue local and national partnerships that complement or replace planned program activities.



ABBA House representatives and program participants

About CWS

Church World Service (CWS) is a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement, and disaster. Our vision is a world where all have food, voice, and a safe place to call home.

CWS has been working in Central America through local partners for the last 50 years. Other programs in the region include Child Protection and Migrant Protection and Assistance.

As a global humanitarian organization, CWS adheres and applies Core Humanitarian and Sphere Standards across all programs and seeks to ensure that it is accountable to all those who participate in and benefit from its program activities. CWS' Accountability to Affected Populations Guidance reflects this commitment and outlines CWS practices and procedures to improve the quality and quantity of feedback within CWS program activities. CWS has PSEA, Child Safeguarding, Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption policies and practices which are IASC compliant.



ABBA House A.C., signing of a multi-party agreement to guarantee the rights of migrants with disabilities.

Local Partnership & Capacity

CWS provides partners in the region with multi-year funding, flexibility for exploring innovative responses, technical advice, support in local and regional advocacy efforts, and funding for capacity building in line with the principles of Trust Based Philanthropy, including multi-year funding with limited restrictions, streamlined reporting, transparent and responsive decision making, and capacity sharing. This approach is critical for the success of partners to respond to a highly

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