Social and Labor Integration of Returned Migrants Study

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

OBJECTIVE
Contribute to improving the effectiveness of state and non-state initiatives for the reinsertion of returned migrants in the countries of northern Central America.

METHODOLOGY
In 2020, PADF conducted a qualitative and quantitative study in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras to generate knowledge and evidence about the socio-labor characteristics of returned migrants. The study included the following components:

1. Mapping of state and non-state programs aimed at the social and labor reintegration of returnees
2. Survey of returnees from the United States and Mexico upon arrival
3. Analysis of the situation of the main municipalities receiving the returned population

FINDINGS

MUNICIPALITIES
The municipalities that returnees arrive to vary greatly in location and available services. These need to be accounted for if municipalities are to serve as a driving force for reintegration of returned migrants.

PROGRAMS
There is insufficient response at the national and municipal levels, leaving the drivers of migration unaddressed and migrants more exposed to stigmatization.

PROFILE OF RETURNED MIGRANTS:
6/10 were working prior to their return to their country of origin
Main drivers of migration for men tend to be economic situation and unemployment
Main drivers of migration for women tend to be family reunification and threats of violence
Low expectation of effective reintegration into their communities of origin
1/3 of those interviewed intend to re-emigrate in the short term
6/10 feel insecure in their country and half in their municipality
6/10 had little or no confidence in finding employment
Determining factors for staying included labor incorporation programs, perception of security, and country of origin.
RECOMMENDATIONS

PREPARATION FOR RETURN:
Promote voluntary, organized return, received by family and community; perform advocacy for
development initiatives in the municipality; build linkages with the diaspora.

RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF RETURNED MIGRANTS:
Provide emergency humanitarian assistance, access to basic services, accompaniment, life plans,
entrepreneurship/labor insertion and promote secure coexistence.

GENERATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT:
Link the diaspora with community investment; promote mentorship/knowledge exchange; support
entrepreneurship, migrant chambers of commerce, transnational networks of investment support, and
local community assistance; promote their integration into local communities.

1. Local Development: Strengthen local governments and development plans; reactivate or support
new businesses that include returnees and their families.

2. Private sector: Find new talent; provide mentorship in entrepreneurship; promote productive supply
chains; support training for returned migrants and their families to facilitate hiring after training.

CITIZEN SECURITY FROM A LOCAL APPROACH:
Carry out violence prevention strategies with community members; promote interinstitutional
coordination; build alternate mechanisms for conflict resolution; carry out campaigns against
stigmatization of returnees and support local and national public policy improvement.

ABOUT PADF
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across Latin America and the Caribbean to make our region stronger—more healthy, peaceful, just, inclusive, resilient, and
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investing resources throughout the hemisphere. We partner with and enable civil society, governments, and the private
sector for the greater good of the region.