

Social and Labor Integration of Returned Migrants Study

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



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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

The Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) believes in creating a hemisphere of opportunity, for all. We work across Latin America and the Caribbean to make our region stronger—more healthy, peaceful, just, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable for current and future generations. For nearly 60 years, we have served the most vulnerable communities, investing resources throughout the hemisphere. We partner with and enable civil society, governments, and the private sector for the greater good of the region.