



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

May 1, 2024

The Honorable
Michael McCaul, Chairman
Committee on Foreign Affairs
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your interest in U.S. humanitarian assistance to refugees, asylum seekers, and vulnerable migrants in Mexico. This letter follows the Department's previous correspondence to you on this issue dated January 12 and December 22, 2023, and January 12 and March 1, 2024.

PRM programs in Mexico focus on the specific needs of refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants in vulnerable situations. As you review program documents, we encourage you to take note of the target population as well as relevant performance measures and targets. For example, during the implementation and re-implementation of the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP), some programs targeted migrants enrolled in MPP, while other programs specifically targeted refugees and individuals seeking asylum in southern Mexico under Mexican law.

The following information addresses requests for information posed by the Committee to the Department regarding humanitarian assistance in Mexico. The Committee asked for additional documentation regarding sexual and reproductive health, MPP-related transportation activities, and the definitions of "capacity building," "legal orientation," "legal counseling," "legal assistance," and "legal representation." In addition to documents the Department previously produced related to sexual and reproductive health information, referrals, and services, the attached documents include additional maternal health care service directories and post-natal kit

brochures. In addition to documents previously produced related to MPP-related transportation activities, the attached documents also include a No Cost Extension to the International Organization on Migration's (IOM) project "Assistance for informed, safe, and dignified return of migrants and MPP participants in Mexico;" and funding decision memo 2022-ECA-02 for IOM's project on "Supporting Humane and Orderly Logistics in Mexico during the resumption of the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP)."

The Committee also asked for further documentation regarding how PRM defines "capacity building." The Department previously sent its definitions of this term in the December 22, 2023 letter to the Committee. The attached production includes documents which explain and support this definition. PRM's General NGO Guidelines for Overseas Assistance define capacity strengthening as "the strengthening of knowledge, ability, skills, and resources to help individuals, communities, or organizations to achieve agreed goals," and outline standard indicators to measure funded capacity strengthening, updated in FY 2023 as follows:

- PRM-CS1. Number of individuals who complete training in international law, international human rights law, and/or international humanitarian law through PRM funding (Recommended)
- PRM-CS2. Number of individuals who complete training on cross-cutting topics through PRM funding (ex. budget, operations, management, humanitarian standards, accountability, monitoring) (Recommended)
- PRM-CS3. Number of government staff who complete capacity strengthening activities through PRM funding (Required if receiving funding for capacity strengthening for local governments)
- PRM-CS4. Number of NGO/CBO staff who complete capacity strengthening activities through PRM funding (Required if receiving funding for capacity strengthening for NGOs/CBOs).

For International Organization (IO) partners, PRM measures capacity strengthening / capacity building efforts through the IO's own indicators and

regular reporting to PRM. Please see the document entitled PRM IO Monitoring Summary Overview.

PRM uses multiple metrics to determine whether capacity building initiatives have achieved intended results. For NGO partners and IO projectized awards, PRM requires quantitative reporting on performance indicators as part of quarterly reports and indicator tables. PRM also requires qualitative reporting as part of quarterly report narratives. For IO partners funded by PRM through voluntary appeals, PRM measures the achievement of intended results using the IO's regular reports to PRM and public reports. For all partners, PRM also conducts routine site visits to monitor activity implementation and progress on intended results. Lastly, PRM conducts evaluations of its programming annually. PRM's FY 2023-2024 evaluation is focused on IOM's Western Hemisphere Regional Migration Capacity Building Program (WHP) and fieldwork is currently underway.

The Committee also requested additional information regarding assertions of an increase in IOM funding from \$5 million to \$30 million between FY 2021 to FY 2022. Information on IOM funding for FY 2021 and FY 2022 can be found in the document PRM Assistance in Mexico FY19-FY23 as well as in foreign assistance award packages for IOM and funding decision memos for IOM submitted with this response. These include:

- IOM project award for "Humanitarian support at the northern border of Mexico to Third Country vulnerable asylum seekers and migrants who are victims of trafficking and violent crimes," including Policy and Program Review Committee (PPRC) Policy Paper 2019-ECA-20 and amendments to IOM project award for "Support toward self-reliance for asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants to the northern border of Mexico," including funding decision memo 2019-ECA-35 and amendments for a No Cost Extension to IOM's "Assistance for informed, safe, and dignified return of migrants and MPP participants in Mexico;"
- IOM project appeal for "Western Hemisphere Regional Migration Program;"

- IOM project award for “Promoting ethical recruitment in the hotel and tourism industry: scaling engagement and enhancing impact;”
- Funding decision memo 2019-ECA-35 for IOM project on “Supporting Humane and Orderly Logistics in Mexico During Resumption of the Migrant Protection Protocols;” and,
- Funding decision memo 2022-ECA-04 for IOM project on “Strengthening the Humanitarian Response for Vulnerable People on the Move in Mexico.”

Additional information on IOM funding for FY 2021 and FY 2022 can be found in the document “PRM Assistance in Mexico FY19-FY23.”

The Committee also asked for further information regarding how PRM defines “legal orientation,” “legal counseling,” “legal assistance,” and “legal representation.” PRM reiterates that it does not fund legal representation for refugees, asylum seekers, and/or migrants seeking asylum or refugee status under the laws of the United States. In Mexico, PRM funds activities including: legal orientation to provide information about relevant laws, policies, and procedures in Mexico, such as what is required to apply for asylum in Mexico; legal counseling to provide expert or professional advice on specific legal issues under the laws of Mexico, such as the rights of migrants who are victims of violent crime in Mexico; legal assistance to provide advice, administrative support, or representation of clients with economic or social needs under the law of Mexico, such as representation of minors undergoing best interest determination processing in Mexico. The Committee asked specific questions regarding a HIAS slide presentation titled “Q10 DYR Situacion en la frontera PRM.” PRM confirms that HIAS did not use PRM funding to create the document “Q10 DYR Situacion en la frontera PRM,” but this document was used at PRM-funded legal orientation sessions provided by HIAS.

The Department will continue to review and process potentially responsive documents and will continue to produce any identified on a rolling basis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Naz Durakoğlu". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "N" and a long, sweeping underline.

Naz Durakoğlu
Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Legislative Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated.

cc: The Honorable Gregory Meeks, Ranking Member
House Foreign Affairs Committee