



According to the Counter-trafficking Data Collaborative Hub, there are **nearly 18,000 victims of human trafficking in the Americas**. Of these, **71% were sexually exploited**, while around a fifth (**22%**) are victims of trafficking for labour exploitation.

The most common labor sector for victims of forced labor in the Americas is domestic work, representing just over a quarter of victims (26.6%). Other sectors where victims are commonly trafficked into include agriculture (12.5%) and hospitality (11%).

The number of international migrants is estimated at **281 million worldwide** (International Migration Highlights 2020 Report, "International Migration 2020", UNDESA), almost two-thirds of which are labor migrants (IOM 2020 Report). More than 70% of migrants are workers in search of better employment opportunities and higher wages better employment opportunities and higher wages (UNDESA 2020).

Mexico is by far the largest emigration country in Latin America and the Caribbean. Around 12 million Mexicans lived abroad in 2019, making it the second largest migrant-origin country in the world after India, and in 2018, it was the third top remittance recipient country after India and China. Most Mexican emigrants live in the United States, which continues to be the largest country-to-country migration corridor in the entire world. Besides being a prominent country of origin, Mexico is also a significant transit country for migrants travelling northward to the United States border. However, within a context of improving economic conditions and rising educational levels in the country, as well as stricter immigration enforcement in the United States, **Mexico is increasingly a significant destination country for international migrants**.

## FEATURED PROJECTS

*"Strengthening the Capacities of the Government, Civil Society and the Private Sector in Puebla to Prevent, Detect and Assist Victims of Labor Trafficking, Forced Labor and Child Labor"*: IOM works closely with the private sector, in particular with the Delegation of Puebla of COPARMEX and the Delegation of Puebla-Tlaxcala of CANAIVE (National Chamber of the Clothing Industry).

*"Western Hemisphere Program"*: IOM works with government, recruitment agencies, private sector (companies, chambers of commerce), and civil society organizations.

The total number of foreign-born persons in Mexico increased from around 970,000 in 2010 to over 1 million in 2019, an increasingly larger portion of whom were migrants from other Latin American and Caribbean countries, fleeing violence, persecution and poverty (IOM Report 2020).

The alliance between IOM, through the Labor Migration and Human Development Unit, and the private sector aims to **strengthen corporate responsibility** so that the human and labor rights of migrant workers are defended through the operations of companies and their supply chains, with the benefit of improving their business management models, as well as having a positive impact on their corporate reputation.

### IOM's comprehensive expertise:

1. Implementing capacity building programs on topics related to migration, such as migration dynamics, document management, ethical recruitment, as well as combating of human trafficking and smuggling.
2. Reporting on labor migration trends.
3. Providing technical assistance to develop sustainable programs and projects that improve job opportunities, promote the hiring of migrants, promote cultural diversity within companies, and identify and replicate good practices.
4. Developing needs assessments and generating statistical data to develop public policies.

*"Transitional Support Program"*: IOM works with government, private sector, and civil society organizations.



More information  
[Western Hemisphere Program](#)



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## RELEVANT ACTIONS BY IOM MEXICO WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR

### CAPACITY BUILDING

#### 1. LABOR MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Implementation of the Mechanism for Channeling Labor (MECAL) with the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare to coordinate labor migration training sessions on:

- Ethical recruitment, migrant worker protection, combating trafficking, and migrant documentation
- Organization of and participation in national and local labor fairs
- Informative talks on labor migration addressed to Mexican Chambers of Commerce
- Advocacy work and informative sessions on financial inclusion.

#### 2. PREVENTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Development of a preliminary job placement model for victims of human trafficking.

Trainings and awareness-raising workshops on:

- Combating and preventing human trafficking in companies and their supply chains
- Challenges and opportunities regarding the hiring of migrants for Human Resources departments
- Implementation of the protocol for combating human trafficking at the local level
- Labor inclusion of mobile populations and eradicating trafficking.

#### 3. ETHICAL RECRUITMENT AND MIGRANT WORKERS' PROTECTION

Capacity building program on ethical recruitment based on:

- **International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS)**, aiming to bring transformative change to the recruitment industry
- **Corporate Responsibility in Eliminating Slavery and Trafficking (CREST)** initiative, aiming to uphold the human and labor rights of migrant workers in their operations and supply chains.

### “EMPLOYERS OF THE WORLD” SOCIAL NETWORKS’ CAMPAIGN, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND SOCIAL WELFARE

- The campaign was designed by IOM in collaboration with the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare
- Its purpose was to communicate how labor migration has a positive impact on host communities and on the national economy
- The campaign highlighted the business sector as a key player in hiring migrants, and how this benefits companies
- Almost 2.1 million people followed the four-week campaign (august-september 2020) on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.



### DONORS



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### NOTABLE COUNTERPARTS

CANACO, CONCANACO, CONCAMIN, DRISCOLLS, INDEX, ARHITAC, TELEFONICA, CMR, CCE, UNILEVER, RGIS, COCA COLA, CANAIVE, COPARMEX, COMCE, EUROPEAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN MEXICO, ITALIAN CHAMBER IN MEXICO