

Justification of the study and context

The increasing **complexity of mixed movements in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)** has led to **various initiatives implementation to improve the response through coordination**. This study, under the joint initiative of DG-ECHO, AECID, and IOM, along with UNHCR and OCHA, and with the support of the LAC RMD Coalition, IFRC, and UNDCO, examines inter-institutional coordination mechanisms to respond to mixed movements in the region.

The objective is to identify their strengths, gaps, duplications, and complementarities and, based on the findings and results, to formulate concrete and realistic recommendations to enhance their effectiveness, address gaps, and strengthen aspects recognized as best practices or strengths of existing coordination mechanisms, particularly the Regional Group on Risks, Emergencies, and Disasters for Latin America and the Caribbean (**REDLAC**), the Regional Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (**R4V**), and the Issue-Based Coalition on Human Mobility (**IBC-HM**), to ensure an effective response that adapts to the changing dynamics of mixed movements in the region.

The study, conducted from February to July 2024, involved using various methodological tools with the participation of over 400 individuals.

The study notes the significant **changes that have occurred in recent decades in mixed movements in LAC**, which are now much more complex, driven by various factors, including the search for better opportunities, as well as fleeing armed conflicts and other situations of violence, both in the region and other parts of the world. The **trends** analyzed in the report indicate that **this situation will continue and may even worsen in the future, depending on changes in the international geopolitical landscape**.

Despite the efforts made in the region by states, regional organizations, the United Nations System, and civil society, and the numerous initiatives launched in this area, the study highlights that **current coordination mechanisms are insufficient to cover the entire population in mobility situations**.

Globally Analyzed, coordination mechanisms **have added value to the overall response and contributed to positive outcomes, albeit in a limited way**. The emergence of these mechanisms to respond from various approaches **has caused inconsistencies, duplications, and gaps**, especially evident in information management and sectoral issues.

Furthermore, **the articulation between the regional or subregional dimension** of coordination mechanisms and their application at the country level, including at the local level, presents **significant disparity and lack of homogeneity**. This also occurs in the governance systems, which have limited inclusivity, especially regarding local organizations.

Summary of recommendations

The study's **recommendations** propose gradually adapting the current coordination mechanisms towards a single mechanism that addresses the regional response and is tailored to the realities of each country. That involves adapting the work of the coordination mechanisms, particularly R4V and IBC-HM, to the new reality of human mobility in LAC. **A specific Working Group** should establish a timeline, address the implementation of the recommendations, and monitor their compliance or application.

In terms of coverage, it is recommended **to expand the mandate of mixed movement coordination with a needs and vulnerability-based approach, beyond nationality and place of origin** of the targeted population. It is proposed to decisively adopt a route-based approach as a comprehensive strategy to address the needs and protect the rights of migrants and refugees at every stage of their journey. This approach should be reflected in a **"Mixed Movements Response Strategy in LAC"** that details the expected outcomes of the coordination mechanisms. The Strategy should specify the themes, approaches, monitoring mechanisms, funding strategies, etc., which could be presented at an **International Conference** to highlight the issue of mixed migration in LAC.

Regarding the **structure of the mechanism**, the study advocates for reconfiguring R4V by improving its articulation with other mechanisms and clarifying the various levels of coordination and the synergies that may arise between them. **Two levels of coordination are proposed: one political-strategic and the other operational**, recognizing that both types of actions should be complementary and mutually reinforcing. This should be reflected at the regional geographic level and the national level. The goal is not to have two different structures but one regional structure and one national structure per country. It is proposed to expand the presence and inclusion of development organizations and other agencies and NGOs in the mechanism's governance. The role of the UN Resident Coordinators in each country and UNDCO at the regional level is considered relevant.

Recognizing the importance of **thematic aspects**, steps should be taken to harmonize the existing ones in each area, avoid duplications, and, in the medium term, unify them both at the regional and country levels. It is recommended to follow **the criteria of the IASC and the cluster system** to unify these sectors and thematic groups. Regarding the various information management systems, it is recommended to advance towards a unified system that includes aspects of flow prediction and prevention.

About sustainability, it is necessary to promote the dedication of **specific resources for coordination**. At the same time, efforts should be made to ensure that states take ownership of the response, strengthening their institutions and capacities, as well as those of civil society organizations on the ground.