



Knowledge Sheet

Providing comprehensive protection and assistance to migrant persons during emergency situations

Coordinating responses to emergencies



Background

Between June and October 2021, a series of three workshops took place in the framework of the Costa Rica IV Action (2020-14), implemented by MIEUX+ in collaboration with the Directorate General for Migration and Foreigners (DGME). The events aimed to facilitate the exchange between Costa Rican public officials and officials from administrations of the region and the European Union (EU) and focused on the issue of providing comprehensive protection and assistance to migrant persons during emergency situations. This Knowledge Sheet focuses on the issue on the coordination of mechanisms for preparedness and management of migration emergencies during the COVID pandemic.

<https://www.mieux-initiative.eu/en/>





Lessons Learnt

Creating learning spaces for public administration peers

Lean and flexible administrations are necessary to manage sudden and massive migration flows as humanitarian emergencies. By sharing their experiences among peers, MIEUX+ contributes to creating an environment where the knowledge and praxis of public administrations can be replicated, adapted and contextualised to face the multidimensional nature of mixed migration flows.

Vertical and horizontal cooperation between government departments

In line with the growing role for local authorities in migration management, vertical and horizontal cooperation between government departments and/or ministries is important.



Actors

Brazil

Brazilian Federal government

Belgium

Federal agency for the reception of asylum seekers (Fedasil).



Further Reading

- [Snapshots from the borders](#)
- [Lampedusa Charter](#)
- [EU Consular protection mechanisms](#)
- [Operação Acolhida](#)



Brazil: Operação Acolhida

Coordination mechanisms for preparedness and management of migration emergencies during the pandemic



Identified Challenges

Operação Acolhida is a large-scale reception and relocation initiative set up by the Brazilian Federal government to assist the arrival of large volumes of Venezuelan migrants in 2018, is cited as a good practice among LAC countries.



Good Practices

1. Whole-of-government approach

By applying a whole-of-government approach, the Brazilian Federal government created a framework for diverse ministries, public administrations and public agencies to provide a common solution to the complex challenges at hand.

2. Revision of the existing law

After the revision of the existing law that governed assistance to people in need and the declaration of a state of crisis, the Federal Government was able to take on new responsibilities without exceeding its powers.

3. Creation of the Federal Emergency Assistance Committee

The Federal Emergency Assistance Committee sits under the purview of the Ministry of the Presidency as the main coordination mechanism. It involves eight Ministries (Defence, Citizenship, Justice, Health, Education, Foreign Affairs, Family and Human Rights, Economy and Regional Development, as well as the Institutional Security Cabinet), various international organizations and civil society organizations who participate in four thematic subcommittees.

4. Relocation & Integration

According to [UNCHR](#) [link in Spanish], over 50,000 Venezuelans have been resettled since 2018 through this coordination mechanism and 77% of those surveyed had found employment in municipalities throughout Brazil. Nevertheless, limitations to the current setup have arisen recently, given new flows of Haitians and reverse flows of Venezuelans traveling back from Peru are entering into Brazilian territory.



Federal agency for the reception of asylum seekers (FEDASIL), Belgium

Coordination mechanisms for preparedness and management of migration emergencies during the pandemic



Identified Challenges

In Belgium, Fedasil is the federal agency that works with civil society organisations to support the reception of asylum seekers under the Secretary of State of Asylum and Migration. Their role entails managing reception facilities for up to 20.000 asylum seekers, although in recent years they have accommodated up to double this amount given periodic surges in arrivals of asylum seekers.



Good Practices

1. Declaring the State of Crisis to adapt internal procedures

In order to manage the surges in arrivals of asylum seekers, the Steering Committee of the Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers can adapt internal procedures by declaring the State of Crisis.

2. Creation of indicators to evaluate their reception capacities

FEDASIL has identified a set of indicators to evaluate whether a situation is putting particular stress on the resources of the institution:

1. The volume of the flow;
2. The occupancy rate in reception centres above 90%;
3. The well-being of agency staff (workload, stress);
4. Agency budget to meet demand;
5. Early warning of flows arriving in other European countries;
6. Actions and response of neighbouring countries, such as Germany, Sweden, France, and others;
7. International context and what is happening in countries with an influx of migrants and/or refugees.

