

Migration Network Hub

Repository of practices Migration Information Portal



**United Nations
Network on Migration**

Working Better Together



Conferencia Regional sobre Migración
Regional Conference on Migration



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Migration Information Portal



Title of the Initiative

Migration Information Portal:

migrantinfo.iom.int

Geographic scope

RCM Country Members: Belize; Canada; Costa Rica; El Salvador; United States of America; Guatemala; Honduras; Mexico; Nicaragua; Panama; The Dominican Republic. Also, Dominica, Guyana and Bahamas.

Partners involved

Regional Conference on Migration (RCM), crmst@iom.int

International Organization for Migration (IOM), rosanjose@iom.int

Donor(s) and /or other resources

United States Department of State Office of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM).

Type of practice

Information platform

Objectives of the Global Compact for Migration



3 INFORMATION PROVISION

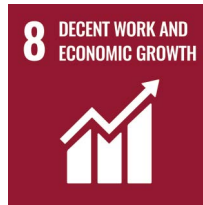


5 REGULAR PATHWAYS



6 RECRUITMENT AND DECENT WORK

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Short Description



Image for illustration purposes only

The Migration Information Portal, migrantinfo.iom.int, is a platform that provides information focused on migration requirements and pathways to migrate for different reasons to another country. Likewise, it provides information and contacts of the institutions linked to the migration process and assistance to migrants. It also provides information for employers of migrants and other informative resources on migration, with a focus on labor migration.

Currently, the Portal offers information (in English or Spanish, depending on the country context) on the migratory requirements and regular pathways of 14 countries: The Bahamas, Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, Dominica, El Salvador, the United States of America, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and the Dominican Republic.

This platform arises in the context of the request of the RCM Member Countries that expressed the need to unify the information on migration and labor migration in the region. This is a space where migrants are able to interact and the countries can distribute up-to-date information of general interest to promote good migration management. Subsequently, additional information from Caribbean countries was added to broaden the scope of the Portal. The portal was launched in 2021 and between July and December 2021, it registered more than 2,600 new users.

Dates of implementation

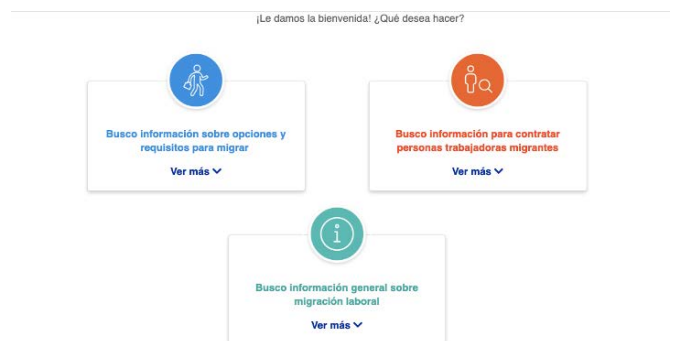
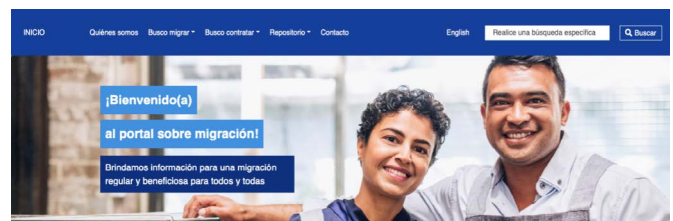
2021, end year not applicable

Key benefit and impact

Since its launch in 2021, IOM and the RCM have taken major steps to keep the portal updated and provide migratory information from 14 countries for user interaction. Thanks to these efforts, the Portal contains country-specific information on labor migration, both for job seekers abroad and potential employers including visa requirements and contacts of key institutions. In addition, it provides recommendations to consider when migrating, mainly in relation to fraudulent job offers, the risks of irregular migration, mobility restrictions derived from the COVID-19 pandemic, among others.

In addition, the Portal has a repository containing articles, research, studies, and a series of information and data on regional and global migration trends in different thematic areas. This repository was requested by RCM Member Countries. It creates a unique space in the region and works as a reference for students, academic professionals, and public officials in charge of migration management.

The portal also increasingly contains information on labor migration which positions it as an advisory platform for migrants when it comes to making the decision to migrate and opting to migrate in a safe manner.



Key lessons learned

IT technical staff needs to be incorporated in the initial phases of the Portal's design. In addition, it was considered valuable that IOM coordinated the development, launch and promotion of the Portal with different teams from RCM Country Member countries.

The COVID-19 pandemic generated differentiated information needs among the migrant population, which required updated information on state provisions in migration management. To meet this demand, a new section was developed that provided useful advice on migration within the context of the pandemic was created. It specifies the type of vaccines and tests required to migrate in the context of the pandemic. It is also where RCM Member Country border openings were announced.

Since its launch, a series of possible improvements have been identified. The possibility of allowing RCM Member Countries and other reached countries to update and upload their own information to the portal is one of them. To do so, RCM Country Members could be provided with general access and specific sections to publish official public and regional content. Currently, IOM is in charge of all content updates.

Recommendations

Since lack of access to official information on migration requirements and opportunities for labor migration is one of the factors contributing to irregular migration, publishing official information in a user-friendly manner for everybody is highly recommended. Considering the possible digital gap and limited access to the Internet in some areas of high human mobility, it is recommended to disseminate the content of the Portal through complementary communication channels that do not depend on the Internet, such as the migrant information hubs that are located in strategic locations along migratory routes in the region.

It is also recommended to involve other partners in managing and disseminating the Portal using an intersectoral strategy with representatives of government institutions, the private sector, civil society and the United Nations system.

For the initial phase, it is recommended to conduct a prior mapping of existing resources and initiatives, user preferences and communication needs. These processes can make an important difference in platform design.

It is recommended that in the design and implementation of this type of initiative, sustainability should be foreseen in the medium and long term. To this end and following the initial development phases and possible collaborative Portal management processes, management could subsequently be handed over to the countries reached, especially to the RCM Country Members.

Including IT technical staff in the internal and early design process of the portal, along with the other teams from the countries reached, under a central coordination of the process, is also recommended.

Similarly, it is recommended to conduct practical trainings for migration management personnel, especially staff of the information hubs, on the advantages of using the Portal when assisting migrants, as it provides them with official and up-to-date information on migration governance from 14 countries in English and Spanish.

Website

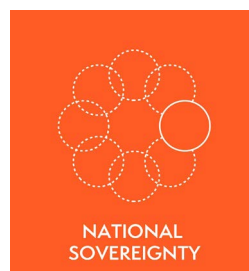
- [Migration Information Portal: migrantinfo.iom.int](http://migrantinfo.iom.int) (link to this practice published on the Repository of the United Nations Migration Network, available only in Spanish)
- [Migration Portal](#)

Innovation

The Portal showcases information on migration requirements, labor migration and relevant institutions related to 14 countries in the Central American, North American and the Caribbean region in a single user-friendly space. It also includes other relevant resources such as migration data and studies. This facilitates access to truthful information quickly and efficiently. It also contributes to regular migration, ethical recruitment, and evidence-based policy development through a simple and useful platform.

The portal is a tool that may easily be adapted to user needs, whether they are employers, migrants, academia, civil society, or governments. The portal provides various resources, information, and multisectoral approaches in one place.

GCM Guiding Principles





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