

10 years about CAMMINA's history and their transition to the HIP Migration Program



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2010

At the start of 2010, Ford Foundation, Avina Foundation and Open Society Foundations began closely observing the increase in migration flows on the Central America, Mexico and United States route. The foundations understood the importance of strengthening civil society organizations in the region in order to respond to an increasingly demanding migration context. They joined forces and created a philanthropic alliance: the Central America and Mexico Migration Alliance (CAMMINA). In 2010, data from the U.S. Census Bureau show that the nation's immigrant population, also referred to as "foreign-born," reached 40 million in 2010, the highest number in American history. Migrants from Latin America accounted for 58 percent of the growth in the immigrant population of the United States from 2000 to 2010.

CAMMINA intended to collaborate with organizations that support migrants who flee their country in search of better living conditions or to safeguard their lives. The Alliance believed that by sharing knowledge, information and resources, the participating foundations could more effectively partner with key allies in this field and thus contribute to a much greater impact than what would have been achieved through separate migration actions in the region.



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2011

In April 2011, 43 remains were discovered in a clandestine grave in San Fernando, Tamaulipas, Mexico and a search began in the entire municipality. In total, 193 remains were found in 47 clandestine graves. The corpses showed signs of arbitrary execution and torture. Most of the victims were migrants en route, some of them Central Americans. San Fernando is an obligatory route from the Gulf to the United States. There was no relevant information to help identify these remains to support relatives to access justice in this matter.

Under this context, CAMMINA began to grow. With the support of the foundations and partners on the ground, the Alliance was able to define its strategy to achieve sustainable changes in public policies that promoted the rights of migrants, like accessing justice and improving the economic conditions of the communities of origin. Addressing these root causes would mean leaving their home was an option, not a necessity.

The Alliance also created different strategies to guarantee that the rights of migrants were part of the political agenda related to human rights throughout the region. CAMMINA started with a budget of \$2.3M USD, of which the strategic regranting totaled \$875,000 for three organizations in Mexico.



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2012

In 2012, the armed combat against drug trafficking cartels in Mexico intensified. The military checkpoints complicated the transit of Central American migrants through the Mexican territory and the arrests by the border patrol in the United States increased by 87% during President Obama's second term.

Migrants were in far more danger. In addition to the risk involved in leaving their homes, they could be kidnapped, murdered or extorted by the cartels and other criminal organized groups during their transit through Mexico.

This year, CAMMINA amplified their regranting strategy for a total of \$1.5M USD distributed to 10 organizations in Central America, Mexico and the United States. These organizations worked on issues related to social and political advocacy, access to justice, institutional and regional strengthening. In this way, the Alliance was able to support both collective groups and families of migrants, mainly in Central America, and increased comprehensive security and psychosocial support for human rights defenders.

Highlights from CAMMINA's achievements in 2012:

Improved economic conditions for job enrollment from the support of eight economic entrepreneurship projects with public-private joint investment schemes in localities of expulsion in Mexico.

Consolidation of six organizational processes for relatives of migrants in Mexico and the United States to streamline communication and participation in public spaces at the local and international level.



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2013

Little by little, the Alliance realized their actions began to generate significant positive changes in the lives of migrants. The Alliance continued its commitment to provide resources from the three foundations in order to expand support for the development of new areas of action, such as the issue of migrant children, support in strategic litigation processes and political advocacy.

The Alliance improved its administrative structure and disbursed the maximum amount of resources up to this point for a total of \$3.3M USD with a wide network of partners from Central America to the United States comprising more than 15 organizations. The Alliance generated tools including reports, instructions and procedural guidelines that helped further develop the Alliance and the organizations supporting migrants during their journey.



Highlights from CAMMINA's achievements in 2013:

Sin Fronteras developed guidelines for those who work in the justice area by providing clarification and interpretation of national and international norms, focused on maximizing protection of human rights of migrants through the creation of the document "Action Protocol for Justice Administrators in Cases Affecting Migrants and People subject to International Protection".

Creation of a Forensic Commission (FC) to identify the remains found in San Fernando, Tamaulipas and Cadereyta, Nuevo León. The FC worked between the Mexican government, the Attorney General (PGR) and non-government organizations. This was a great achievement in order to advance the access to justice for migrants and their families.

CAMMINA's partners continued to strengthen their position in front of decision makers and better define their agendas and strategies for influencing policies. At the same time, partners increased their actions to reach concrete agreements for the benefit of the migrant population in the region. Partners raised their visibility in the media and with decision-makers through campaigns against the detention of migrant minors, advocating for the human rights of migrants and supporting committees of relatives of disappeared migrants.

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2014

2014 was a complex year. Immigration policies in the United States led to a humanitarian crisis as family separations intensified, along with an increase in unaccompanied children and young people arriving in the United States.

The United States proposed the Plan of Alliance for Prosperity in the Northern Triangle to fight against corruption and organized crime. The Mexican government launched the “Southern Border” program to control the immigration flow from Central America to the United States, leading to the detention and deportation of migrants on a larger scale.

Given the rapidly changing political landscapes on all sides of the borders, CAMMINA approved fast track resources to organizations in the region to carry out rapid response actions and strengthen comprehensive protection for migrant children and advocating for access to justice for missing migrants. The Alliance participated in the submission of reports in favor of the human rights of migrants and promoted intersectoral meetings to design a labor strategy in Central America and Mexico, which together with strategic regranting totaled \$1.7M USD.

For International Migrants Day, December 18, 2014, together with the team of Who is Dayani Cristal? CAMMINA carried out a screening in Honduras with public officers, allies and members of the family committees to raise awareness.

Highlights from CAMMINA’s achievements in 2014:

A reform of the General Law for Electoral Institutions and Procedures in Mexico expanded electoral rights for 12 million Mexican migrants living abroad by simplifying procedures.

Our partners used the significant increase in Central American migration in 2014 as an opening to educate U.S. policymakers about the implications of increased enforcement on migrants’ rights in Mexico, sharing CAMMINA’s research and documentation on the issue

Published “Migrant Children and Youth: Factors related to their expulsion and challenges for their reinsertion in Honduras” on the main factors that motivate Honduran children and youth to migrate to better understand the intersectional issues in a comprehensive report.



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2015

The humanitarian crisis due to family separations, plus the context of violence in Mexico and Central America became increasingly complex and had immense impact beyond directly affected migrants. Migration dynamics impacted entire countries, so the Alliance decided to generate sustainable changes to promote the development of the region.

CAMMINA promoted access to information and awareness in society to contribute to the respect and protection of the human rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. The Alliance worked toward the institutionalization of the Regional Protocol for the Protection of Migrant Children, the standardization and certification of competences in Central America, and focused on organizations' strategic opportunities for advocacy. CAMMINA supported 26 partner organizations in the region, for a total of \$2.1M USD.



Highlights from CAMMINA's achievements in 2015:

UNICEF and the Secretary of Foreign Relations in Mexico developed a protocol for the assistance of unaccompanied migrant children and youth. The governments of Central America showed more interest in using it as a basis for the definition of a regional protocol.

On March 3, 2015, the Diario Oficial de la Federación in Mexico published the "Protocol for Identifying the Remains of the People Found in San Fernando, Tamaulipas and Cadereyta, Nuevo León".

From September 8-10, 2015, two representatives of families from El Salvador and Guatemala participated in a collective process to develop a proposal for legislation on forced disappearances in Mexico, along with over 70 groups of relatives from all Mexico. They submitted the proposal to the Mexican authorities, senators and representatives during three events in Mexico City.

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2016

In 2016, the United States escalated its criminalization, racist rhetoric, and discriminatory narrative about migrants. The imminent arrival of the Donald Trump administration led to dehumanizing policies that violated human rights including increasing arrests on the U.S.-Mexico border of unaccompanied children and adolescents.

In Central America, Mexico and the United States, human rights policies reversed in general, translating to serious human rights violations for migrants, and exacerbating vulnerability for many, including, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced people. The United States also externalized its borders, prompting Mexico and Central America to do the same.

Due to this context, CAMMINA created an initiative that facilitated the labor market reintegration of migrants and those potentially migrating from their home country. The Alliance supported regional impact processes on issues of access to justice, such as the creation of the Crime Investigation Unit for Migrants and the Mexican Foreign Search and Investigation Support Mechanism. CAMMINA also began monitoring the strengthening coordination of consular protection between consulates of the United States and Mexico, with strategic regranting of \$1.1M USD to support 14 organizations in the region.

Highlights from CAMMINA's achievements in 2016:

Drafted operational guidelines of the Migrants Unit and Mexican Foreign Search and Investigation Support Mechanism.

In the spring of 2016, the Banco de Datos Forenses de Personas Migrantes Desaparecidas en Oaxaca launched.

In June 2016, the Civil Society Group on Forced Displacement by Violence and Organized Crime of El Salvador presented a Testimonial Report of Forced Displacement in El Salvador Focused on Children and Youth. The objective was to highlight how forced displacement due to violence and organized crime in the metropolitan area of San Salvador impacted families and children. This report uses the tool of testimonies to better visibilize the experience of surviving different violent experiences that cause internally displaced families.



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2017

2017 was the most significant year in terms of the increase in asylum seekers in Mexico, and it became clear Mexico was no longer just a transit country, but also a destination for migrants. The United States announced the termination of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Nicaragua and Honduras, as well as ending the Central American Minors Program (CAM) and the Deferred Action Program for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). The construction of the first prototypes of the wall on the Southern border of the United States commenced.

CAMMINA promoted an emergent, effective and coordinated response to monitor and document the effects of the intersecting anti-immigrant policies, and forged collaborative ties between organizations in Central America and Mexico with those in the United States. The response also included activating the consular networks in the region for the protection of the rights of migrants. Since its inception through 2017, CAMMINA supported 101 initiatives, established a collaborative network with 80 organizations directly and 140 indirectly. In 2017, CAMMINA disbursed a total of \$1.6M USD to support 21 organizations.

CAMMINA co-convened for the first time the Judgment Award for Access to Justice of Migrants or Persons Subject to International Protection and prepared a Diagnosis and Mapping of organizations, groups of migrants, families of migrants, and networks that work on migration, refuge, asylum, and other related issues. This promoted a conversation about transnationality at the Central American Donors Forum (CADF). This year, conversations began about the importance of taking CAMMINA to the next level, in which a new strengthened network of donors could give continuity to the work and expand strategies for greater regional impact.

Highlights from CAMMINA's achievements in 2017:

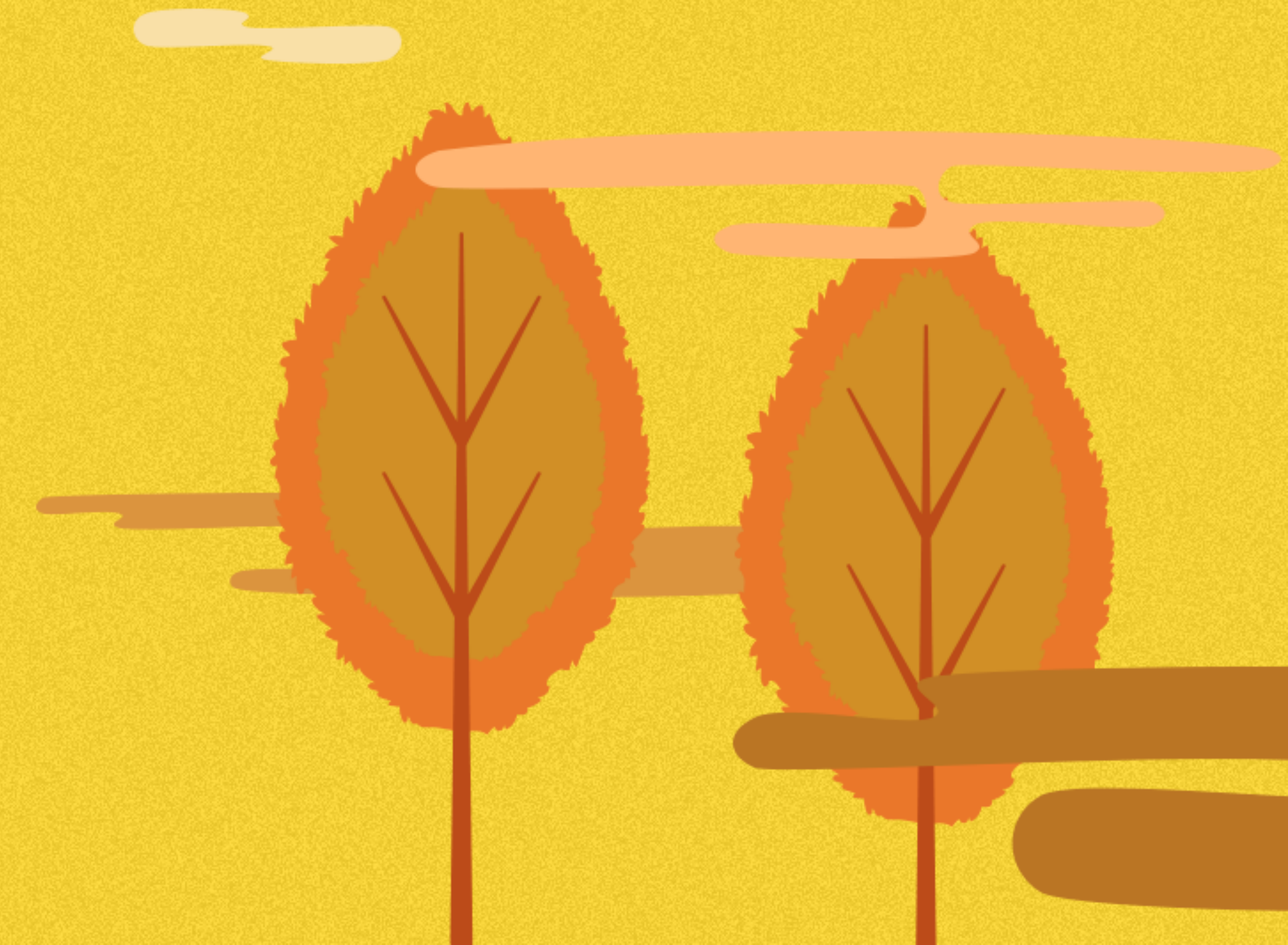
The Unit for the Investigation of Crimes Against Mexican Migrants delivered information on the investigation of 21 migrant complaints.

In July, 2017, in Tapachula, Chiapas, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador through the Chancellor and the Deputy Minister for Salvadorans Abroad, installed the first four Consular and 5 Community Links in Mexico through organizations such as Derechos Humanos Integrales en Acción (DHIA), Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Matías de Córdova, FM4 Paso Libre and Voces Mesoamericanas. The designation constitutes a mechanism of ad honorem cooperation and collaboration for organizations that stand out in defense of the human rights of the migrant population.



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2018

By 2018, asylum applications in Mexico were growing month by month, mainly from people from Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala, but also from Venezuela and the Caribbean. In addition, 2018 saw the first massive exodus of people from Central America fleeing to protect themselves from violence, though many also faced violence while migrating.

The policies of family separation from the United States and their repercussions within the region continued. Thousands of boys and girls were separated from their fathers, mothers and families in an inhumane violation of rights.

In 2018 HIP joined forces with CAMMINA and embraced it as part of HIP's programs, in a transition process that fortified capacities and new resources. This partnership allowed CAMMINA to continue supporting organizations and migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the region.

After carrying out a delegation visit of donors to Tijuana, Mexico and San Diego, California, HIP launched the Family Unity Fund to continue supporting organizations that accompanied children and families of migrant people in the face of family separation policies in the United States.

Highlights from CAMMINA's achievements in 2018:

HIP launched Family Unity Fund that issued over \$1M to organizations that offered key services, advocacy and litigation to return migrant children to their families after being separated at the U.S.- Mexico border through a series of anti-immigrant U.S. policies.

HIP led several funder delegations to the U.S.-Mexico border to bring visibility and increase funding to organizations fighting family separation policies.

HIP incorporated CAMMINA's grantee partners into its membership network, continuing funding, engagement, and capacity building support across Central America, Mexico, and the U.S.



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2019

In 2019 the mass exoduses continued as well as ongoing human rights violations, and countries double-downed on anti-immigrant policies to construct border walls and immigration controls through militarization. In addition to migrants from Central America and Mexico, 5 million Venezuelan refugees were displaced throughout the Americas and Europe. Driven by government corruption, violence, food and medicine shortages (with foreign aid regularly blocked), limited opportunities to earn a living, and an economy suffering from extreme hyperinflation, the Venezuelan refugees formed part of the largest mass migration in recent Latin America history.

Despite increasing challenges, 2019 was a great year for CAMMINA. During 2018 and 2019, HIP continued the Family Unity Fund and supported a total of 38 organizations in the region for a total of \$900,000 USD. The regranting was made possible because of new donors: Annie E. Casey Foundation, C.S. Mott Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, The California Endowment, Casey Family Programs, Walton Family Foundation, Marguerite Casey Foundation, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

With these grants, allied organizations were able to provide timely and proper assistance to a community of migrants to support mental health services, family reunification, shelter and general healthcare. CAMMINA organizations supported 2,200 families, 1,558 boys and girls and 281 fathers and mothers, thanks to the leadership and support of 2,136 legal cases and 660 informative and educational sessions.

This year, HIP began developing its strategy for the Migration and Forced Displacement Program, incorporating lessons learned from nine years of CAMMINA.



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HIP convened its 42 partner organizations from the United States, Mexico and Central America, including those allied to the Family Unity Fund in Cocoyoc, Mexico. The conference allowed partners to share and identify work priorities related to human rights, promote cross-sector networks and shift the narrative about migrants, asylum seekers and refugees.

In November, HIP also convened its first annual Human Rights Summit of partner organizations and donors in San Diego, California. The Summit included a site-visit to meet allies in Tijuana, Mexico. More than 90 allies continued building strategies in favor of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in the region at this conference.

After the Human Rights Summit, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation stepped up to resource the Migration and Forced Displacement Program by granting \$ 5 million dollars for 3 years of work to sustain the work to support the human rights of migrants.

Given the increasing needs of Venezuelans, HIP began its journey for more focused support for the Venezuelan migrant population with #VenezuelansMovingFwd. The strategy focuses on informing and engaging a diversity of donors, highlighting the realities of Venezuelan migrants and their host communities, and providing opportunities for frontline organizations serving migrants and for those led by migrants to create capacity and access funds for their work.

HIP also hosted its first delegation visit of donors to the Southern border of Mexico, in Tapachula, Chiapas. This visit made visible the migratory dynamics of Mexico's southern border and educated funders on the realities of migration. The Seattle International Foundation, MADRE, Roy and Patricia Disney Family Foundation and HIVOS participated, among others who preferred to remain anonymous.

In 2019 HIP granted a total of \$1.1M USD in support of the network of more than 40 allied organizations for the region in the form of emergency funding and structural strategies for migrants.



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2020

2020 will long be remembered as 12 seemingly unending months of constant challenges. But it will also go down as a year in which our Migration and Forced Displacement program and partner organizations met the moment.

We launched the COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund with fully flexible funds so that our network of organizations within the region could perform the necessary adjustments in the face of the pandemic to continue developing their work of accompaniment of migrants in the United States, Mexico, Central and South America. To date, we have supported more than 50 organizations for a total of \$672,500 USD to support the development of protocols that allow these organizations to prepare for and respond to the unprecedented challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2020 seems to give us no peace; however, our motivation is to continue facilitating the work of organizations that -against all odds- continue to accompany migrants who do not stop moving in the region. With our Central American Hurricane Response Fund, we have mobilized a network of donors to support organizations in Central America to face the devastation of hurricanes Eta and Iota, in the midst of the health crisis caused by COVID-19, offering completely flexible funds to carry out their work.



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