

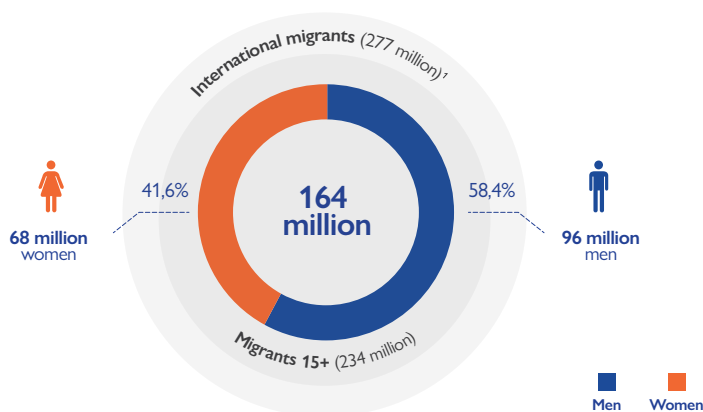


LABOR MIGRATION FOCUS:

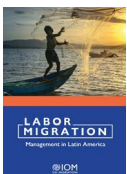
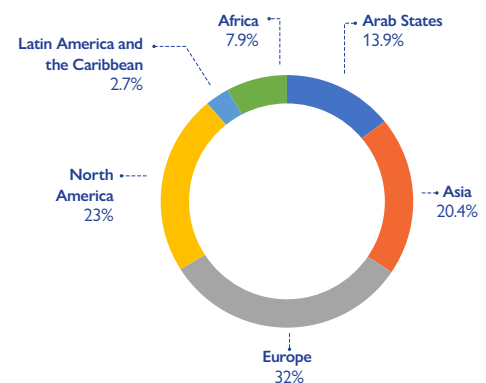
Human mobility is an essential characteristic of the world today and of Latin America. Economic globalization has led many people to seek new opportunities in other countries. In that search, people can face a series of challenges related to the processes of recruitment and hiring, migratory regularization, and the lack of information for employers and migrants. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Labour Migration (ILO) work to protect the labor rights of migrant workers and to maximize the benefits of labor migration for the countries of origin and destination as well as for the migrants themselves.

In order to maximize the benefits of labor migration and reduce its risks, IOM and ILO support effective and fair migration governance to promote legal labor migration paths as an alternative to irregular migration. IOM and ILO jointly implement the Labor Migration pillar of the Western Hemisphere Program, which promotes coordination and participation of key actors for a more effective response to the changing phenomenon of migration. The Program also promotes regular and safe migration in order to protect the labor rights of migrants and reduce their exposure to fraudulent practices during recruitment and hiring stages, as well as to encourage cooperation agreements between countries and the development of policies and public programs.

GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION OF MIGRANT WORKERS, 2017



DISTRIBUTION OF MIGRANT WORKERS BY REGION, 2017



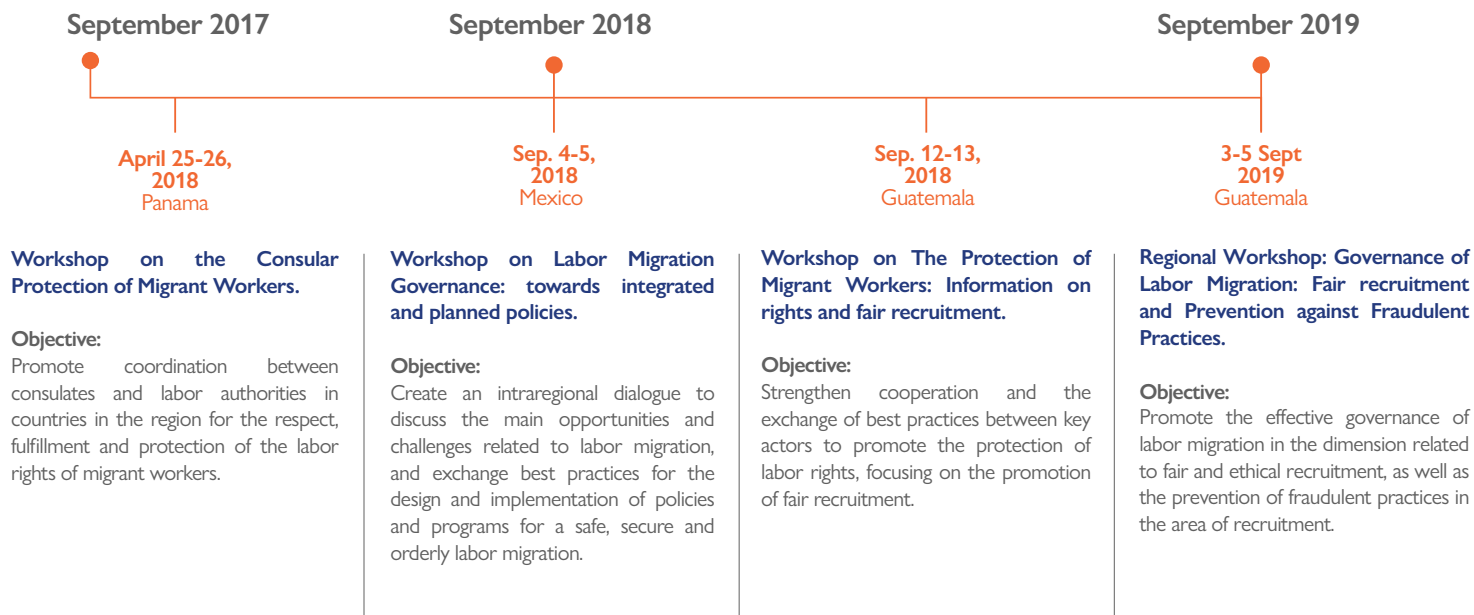
In this framework, the Regional Program on Migration launched an online course on **Labor Migration Management in Latin America** on its online learning platform E-Campus. The course objective is to strengthen the understanding of the migration phenomenon to improve labor migration management in the region.

¹277 million international migrants have been calculated based on 258 million international migrants (UN, 2017) plus about 19 million refugees (UNHCR, 2018).
Source: ILO



BACKGROUND

In 2018, IOM, through the Western Hemisphere Program and the International Labour Organization, undertook various initiatives aimed at promoting safe and orderly labor mobility in the Mesoamerican region. Among these initiatives, several workshops in relation to labor migration stand out:



These workshops, which were organized jointly by IOM and ILO, promoted and strengthened the collaboration between the two agencies in order to give a coordinated response to the challenges for adequate labor migration management in the region. These activities also enabled collaboration with and involvement of other key actors in labor migration, such as employers, unions, and civil society actors.

Likewise, IOM implemented various pilot initiatives in southern Mexico in order to promote the inclusion of migrants in the labor market, and another on developing a model to promote ethical recruitment of temporary migrant workers in Belize.

In 2019, the IOM and the ILO, through the Western Hemisphere Program, are developing a study on the current state of the information systems of labor markets in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, and how such systems incorporate aspects related to migration. In addition, governments in the region are being supported in updating regulations and legislation on labor migration.

MAIN REGIONAL CHALLENGES:

It is estimated that more than **25 million people from Latin America** live outside their countries of origin. Most of these live in the U.S. and Canada, but 4.6 million live in Europe. In addition, **in 2015 approximately 6 million people born in Latin America or the Caribbean** lived in a country within the region different from their own. This demonstrates the importance of intraregional labor migration flows in the region. The main challenges in the region are:

- ✓ The need to exchange reliable and updated data on labor migration flows in the region (profiles and characteristics, labor market trends, employment conditions, etc.);
- ✓ The integration of new and diverse migrant workers profiles in the labor market, and the protection of their rights;
- ✓ The easy-access to information on overseas labor opportunities;
- ✓ The negotiation and implementation of bilateral agreements and programs on labor mobility;
- ✓ The need to verify the effective compliance with labor migration regulations, and the incorporation of aspects on international recruitment and hiring in these regulations.

In order to effectively respond to the aforementioned challenges, new, comprehensive and strategically planned labor and migratory policies, based on an effective analysis of national and regional labor markets, are needed.

IMPORTANCE AND BENEFITS OF LABOR MIGRATION:

Labor migration presents both challenges and opportunities; nonetheless if it is wellmanaged and regulated, it can promote the economic growth and development of countries of origin and destination, as well as of migrant workers and their families.

The Program seeks to reduce the vulnerabilities of migrant workers through a comprehensive and inclusive approach that includes all key regional actors.



REMITTANCES

\$529 000 million
were sent to low and middle-income
countries in 2018

“Remittances are on track to become the largest source of external financing in developing countries.”

(World Bank, 2019)

COUNTRIES OF IMPLEMENTATION

The Western Hemisphere Program implements activities in the following countries: Belize, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico and Panama.



Key activities

Regional:

- Labor Market Information System Assessment in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Mexico that permits:
 - Making recommendations for the integration of statistics/data on migration in the Labor Market Information System (LMIS).
 - Support the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of labor migration policies.
- A workshop to promote regional dialogue on international recruitment.
- A workshop on the development of labor migration policies in coordination with the Caribbean Migration Consultation (CMC).

National:

- Technical assistance for the development and implementation of Bilateral Labor Agreements and Temporary Labor Migration Programs based on fair and ethical recruitment standards.
- Capacity-building to promote the development of labor migration policies and spaces for dialogue with private sectors and unions.
- Workshops to foster dialogue and exchange of best practices to promote inter-ministerial cooperation with public and private entities at the national and local levels for the implementation of labor migration policies.
- Support for the development of campaigns to promote the labor rights of migrant workers.

Who are The Beneficiaries



Migrants, their families and their communities



Private sector and unions



Local and national governments



Regional organizations