Andrés Manuel López Obrador
Migratory Policy

What impacts have President López Obrador’s migratory policies created?

By Ana Ruiz, Ethan Tenison, and Raymond Weyandt

Who is López Obrador?

2000-2005: Mayor of Mexico City
2011: Formed leftist MORENA party
2017: Campaigned for presidency on a platform of human rights, safe migration, and countering the United States’ influence

Current Development Initiatives

The following are two expanding programs:

Sowing Life
US$250 monthly payments
Technical training
In-kind assistance to farmers

Youth Building a Future
US$180 monthly payments
Job training for youth

Humanitarian Principles
December 2018 to May 2019

- Respect for migrants’ rights
- Safe, orderly, and regular migration
- Regional development funding
- Increased use of humanitarian visas
- More shelters, less detention

The chart below represents the humanitarian visas issued as part of the administration’s commitment to humanitarian issues.

Humanitarian Visas Issued

INM begins granting TVRH cards
INM reintroduces targeted TVRH program
INM stops targeted TVRH program
INM halts TVRH program


10,000

5,000
The graph above represents the shift from humanitarian to enforcement policies overlayed on INM apprehension data.

**INM Timeline of Enforcement Shift**

- United States and Mexico announce agreement
- Mexico deploys National Guard
- National Guard prevents migrants from leaving Tapachula
- National Guard prevents new caravan from entering Mexico

**Policy Effects on Migrants**

- Increased crimes against migrants
- Changes in transit routes
- Increased reliance on guides

**Policy Recommendations**

- Renew INM’s commitment to human rights through trainings, accountability mechanisms, and improved infrastructure
- Improve development projects through funding, partnerships, and evaluation
- Strengthen and expand refugee agency
- Reform National Guard mandate by decreasing immigration enforcement activities and increasing protection for migrants in camps and along transit routes

**COMAR Overwhelmed**

- Funding for refugee agency has not increased at the same rate as refugee applications
- Limited staff and operations
- Absence of integration assistance
- Increased reliance on UNHCR funds

**COMAR Funding Per Application and Refugee Applications**

- Funding for refugee agency has not increased at the same rate as refugee applications