

In July 2021, the Biden Administration launched the [Collaborative Migration Management Strategy](#) (CMMS) to promote safe, orderly, and humane migration in North and Central America. Children migrating alone are uniquely vulnerable, comprising an increasing number of those seeking protection. To be effective, the CMMS must consider the needs of migrant children and include consideration of children in each of its lines of action.



Assist and reintegrate returned migrants

Reintegration services are essential to ensure returned migrants, including children, can access safety and opportunities for a brighter future and to avoid re-migration. The United States must invest in reintegration programs for children led by organizations with expertise working with children and youth or migrant children which understand their unique needs.



Expand Third Country labor migration programs while improving worker protections

As the United States aims to provide individuals with work opportunities, and enhance worker protections, it must also consider the impact on children and families and mitigate against exploitative child labor, family separation, and other harms that may result absent adequate safeguards.



Foster secure and humane border management

The United States must lead by example with a humane border management that recognizes the vulnerability of children and preserves the right to seek asylum. Collaboration with regional governments must respect the rights of children and cannot impede children from seeking safety and protection at borders. A humane border management approach ensures the appropriate reception of children and recognizes children's need for protection.



Expand access to lawful pathways for protection in the United States

The United States must enhance access to protection and opportunity in the United States by restarting and expanding the Central American Minors (CAM) program and the Protection Transfer Agreement (PTA) that expand refugee processing in the region and provide lifelines to children and families who fear for their safety. The CAM program provides children with the opportunity to reunify with family in the United States without having to take the dangerous migration journey and the PTA permits families to travel safely to the U.S. with the protection of refugee status, also avoiding the dangerous migration journey.



Expand access to international protection

The United States has committed to expanding access to protection for refugees, asylum seekers, and other vulnerable migrants by assisting regional governments, like Mexico, expand the capacity of their own asylum systems and establishing Migration Resource Centers to provide services and resources to those seeking protection – especially children. It is critical that children seeking asylum in Mexico or other countries in the region have access to legal representation and best interest determinations of the child as part of the United States' efforts.



Strengthen regional public messaging on migration

As the United States seeks to communicate information about migration policies, counter disinformation about migration, and discourage use of human smugglers, it must ensure that regional messaging campaigns are rights-based and include information about opportunities for protection for children and families.



Stabilize populations with acute needs

The US must prioritize and invest in programs that can respond to and prevent the leading drivers of child migration. In the last two years, migration has increased, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, intensifying impacts of climate change, food insecurity, and increased gender-based violence. These programs must prioritize the needs of vulnerable children and families.



Expand access to protection in country of origin

By strengthening protection, assistance, and opportunities in countries of origin, the United States strives to provide individuals with the protection they need without having to leave their home country. In line with this goal to provide internally displaced people with safety and sustainable livelihoods, special attention must be given to children and families who are forced to leave their homes. Forcibly displaced children have unique needs that must be addressed.

For our full list of policy recommendations on the Collaborative Migration Management Strategy, please view our [CMMS policy brief](#). The CMMS was launched alongside a Root Causes Strategy to address the drivers of migration from Central America. To learn more about the Root Causes Strategy and recommendations, read KIND's root causes [fact sheet](#) and root causes [policy brief](#).