Migration Learning Agenda for the LAC Region

USAID Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)

The LAC Migration Learning Agenda (MLA), launched in 2023, focuses on how USAID can advance its migration and development work through evidence-informed decision-making. The LAC MLA is linked to question six of USAID's Agency Learning Agenda on Migration and Forced Displacement and incorporates learning questions developed by missions in LAC. Further, it fully aligns with the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) policy, and USAID guidance on using learning agendas to generate and use evidence for government decision making.[1]

The learning priorities are designed to help the LAC Bureau and USAID missions make informed programmatic and strategic decisions. Evidence generated through the MLA includes a suite of products and tools, ranging from context- and program-level indicators, surveys, assessments, interviews, and evaluations, among others, as appropriate and feasible.

Next Steps

LAC is engaged in several ongoing activities to address the MLA learning priorities and questions. With the Department of State, USAID develops and submits an annual Root Causes Strategy Results Report to the National Security Council, Office of the Vice President, and the Congress. To monitor and analyze issues related to democratic governance, citizen security, migration intentions, among others, USAID supports Vanderbilt University's AmericasBarometer (partially funded by USAID since 2004). Further, in 2024 USAID is developing and updating migration indicator guidance to help LAC missions track migration metrics and trends relevant for USAID strategies and programs in the LAC region.

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[1] See, for example, OMB Memorandum M-21-27, "Evidence-Based Policymaking: Learning Agendas and Annual Evaluation Plans," June 30, 2021, available at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/M-21-27.pdf

Learning Priorities and Questions

Root Causes

- How does irregular migration and its root causes vary across and within countries, demographics, and over time?

- Do programs[2] influence the drivers of irregular migration (and/or rootedness), as well as migration itself? If so, how?

Migrant Integration (and Reintegration)

- How is "integration" (and reintegration) defined and measured?

- Do policy and programmatic interventions increase migrant integration? If so, how?

- Does integration reduce onward migration? If so, how?

Labor Pathways

- How can labor pathways be scaled and made safer and more accessible?

- Does increasing labor pathways reduce irregular migration? If so, how?

- What is USAID's contribution to expanding labor pathways to the U.S.?

How Migration Influences Development

- What are the positive, negative, and net effects of migration on development?

- How can USAID help channel migration to achieve development results?

LAC will continue to:	
Commission and identify existing research and evidence to address these priorities and questions.	**Share findings and insights** through dissemination products and events, including through workshops and learning exchanges.

How to Engage

We welcome input and engagement. **To get involved, please contact LACBureauMigration@usaid.gov**

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[2] USAID programs contribute to the broader foreign assistance and diplomatic engagement efforts of the U.S. government, partner governments, private sector, other donors, and civil society, as outlined in the July 2021 U.S. Strategy for Addressing the Root Causes of Migration in Central America.