

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY



FACT SHEET: DHS AGREEMENTS WITH GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, AND EL SALVADOR

INTRODUCTION:

There is an ongoing humanitarian and security crisis at the Southwest border due to historic levels of irregular migration and human smuggling. Over 72% of all the migrants apprehended at the Southwest border through August of Fiscal Year 2019 were from the countries of the northern region of Central America, El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala. In recognizing the push and pull factors which cause irregular migration to the U.S., DHS has entered into agreements and arrangements with each of these countries to further expand asylum capabilities and improve safety, security, and prosperity throughout the region. With these agreements and arrangements, the U.S. is committed to being a good partner to its Central American neighbors and will work to develop an economically vibrant region. Together, DHS and its partners are developing a safer and more prosperous region so that Central Americans can feel confident in creating futures in their home countries, rather than putting their lives in the hands of smugglers and criminal organizations to make the dangerous journey across the U.S. border.

AGREEMENT TYPES:

Asylum Cooperative Agreements (ACAs):

These agreements with Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, once brought into force, will allow migrants to seek protection within the region by facilitating cooperation between the U.S. and host nation governments or international organizations to expand their systems for offering humanitarian protections.

Border Security Arrangements:

The purpose of these arrangements is to deploy officials from U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to advise and mentor host nation police, border security, immigration, and customs counterparts.

Biometric Data Sharing Program (BDSP) Arrangements:

These arrangements aim to enhance cooperation between DHS and Northern Triangle countries to prevent and combat crime and other threats to public security, by expanding biometric data collection and information sharing. The exchange of biometrics and identity data will enable DHS and Northern Triangle countries to more easily verify the identities of irregular migrants in order to detect the activities of transnational criminal organizations, human smugglers, and wanted criminals.

Temporary Agricultural and Non-agricultural Workers Programs Agreements:

Department of Labor agreement to improve non-immigrant visa program operations and implementation. These agreements strengthen bilateral cooperation between the U.S. and Northern Triangle countries. This is key to ensuring that vulnerable populations are not victimized as they seek legal temporary employment by further establishing safe and lawful recruitment, employment, and working conditions.



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GUATEMALA



Border Security Arrangement (Guatemala Arrangement on Irregular Migration):

Signed: May 31, 2019

"Memorandum of Cooperation between the Department of Homeland Security of the United States of America and the Ministry of Government of the Republic of Guatemala on Security Activities that Make it Possible to Address Irregular Migration"

***H2A Agreement:**

Signed: June 30, 2019

"Agreement between the United States of America and the Republic of Guatemala concerning a Temporary Agricultural Workers Program"

Asylum Cooperative Agreement:

Signed: July 26, 2019

"Agreement between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Republic of Guatemala on Cooperation in the Examination of Protection Claims"

Biometrics Data Sharing Program (BDSP) Arrangement:

Signed: Aug. 22, 2019

"Memorandum between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Guatemala on Enhancing Border Security through the Exchange of Information"

HONDURAS



Asylum Cooperative Agreement:

Signed: Sept. 25, 2019

"Agreement between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Republic of Honduras for Cooperation in the Examination of Protection Claims"

Border Security Arrangement:

Signed: Sept. 27, 2019

"Memorandum of Cooperation between the Department of Homeland Security of the United States of America and the Ministry of Government of the Republic of Honduras on Security Activities that Make it Possible to Address Irregular Migration"

Biometrics Data Sharing Program Arrangement:

Signed: Sept. 27, 2019

"Memorandum between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Honduras on Enhancing Border Security through the Exchange of Information"

***H2A and H2B Agreement:**

Signed: Sept. 27, 2019

"Agreement Concerning the Temporary Agricultural and non-Agricultural Workers Programs"

**Note: These agreements were signed between the U.S. Department of Labor and Honduras, not DHS.*

EL SALVADOR



Asylum Cooperative Agreement:

Signed: Sept 20, 2019

"Agreement between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Republic of El Salvador for Cooperation in the Examination of Protection Claims"



The number of migrants moving from the northern region of Central America through Mexico to the United States has created a security and humanitarian crisis at our Southwest border. Many of these migrants are vulnerable populations from the Northern Triangle countries, exploited by transnational criminal organizations and pushed into the very long and dangerous journey. DHS is seizing a historic opportunity to work with our partners in the region to help identify and confront many of the problems that allow for human smuggling and trafficking to occur and to provide vulnerable populations protection as close to home as possible.



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