Reception and Reintegration Services in Central America: Ending the Deportee Revolving Door

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Presenters

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Logistics

- Slides and audio from today’s webinar will be available at www.migrationpolicy.org/events

- The report, *Stopping the Revolving Door: Reception and Reintegration Services for Central American Deportees* is available at: http://bit.ly/1NVGUqD

- If you have any problems accessing this webinar, contact us at events@migrationpolicy.org or 1-202-266-1929.

- Use Q&A chat function on the right of the screen throughout webinar to write questions. Or write events@migrationpolicy.org with your question.
1. Context: Deportations to the Northern Triangle
2. Types of services for deportees
3. Five common challenges
4. Policy recommendations
5. Conclusion
Over 800,000 deportations to the Northern Triangle since 2010

Total deportations from the United States and Mexico to the Northern Triangle, FY 2010-2014

Notes: Data on deportations from the United States in 2014 only includes removals.
Source: Victoria Rietig and Rodrigo Dominguez Villegas, Stopping the Revolving Door: Reception and Reintegration Services for Central American Deportees (Washington, DC: Migration Policy Institute, 2015)
More than 40,000 child deportations since 2010

Minors deported to the Northern Triangle, by country of deportation and accompaniment status, FY 2010-2014

New Surge of Unaccompanied Children and Family Units at the U.S.-Mexico Border


Source: Customs and Border Protection (CBP)
The Revolving Door: Reported Intension to Re-Migrate


Four types of services based on two criteria: service duration and target population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Duration</th>
<th>Adults</th>
<th>Children</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>Reception of Adults</td>
<td>Reception of Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long term</td>
<td>Reintegration of Adults</td>
<td>Reintegration of Children</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Reception of Adults: Large Reception Centers at Major Airports and Land Crossings
Reception of Children: Shelters Coordinated by Child Protection Government Agencies to Facilitate Family Reunification
Reintegration of Adults: Training Programs, Vocational Education, Job Boards, and Entrepreneurship Initiatives
Reintegration of Children: School Matriculation, Medical Checkups, Psychological Services, and Some Skills Trainings for Teenagers
Five Common Challenges

1. Few Reception Services for Land Arrivals
2. Long-Term Reintegration Services Are Limited
3. Difficulty Finding Jobs for Deportees
4. Limited Data and Poor Monitoring and Evaluation
5. Patchy Coordination of Service Providers across Programs and Borders
I. Few Reception Services for Land Arrivals

Challenge: Adults deported by land from Mexico receive fewer services than those deported by air.

Policy Recommendations:

• Open reception center for adult land deportees in Guatemala.

• Deepen collaboration with Red Cross and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
2. Long-Term Reintegration Services Are Limited

**Challenge:** Existing reintegration programs reach only a fraction of deportees; funding is limited and many programs depend on international aid.

**Policy Recommendations:**

- Develop reintegration policies, build governmental units, provide realistic funding.
- Expand scope of programs.
- Modify existing programs to target the deportee population.
- Collaborate with municipal governments, civil society, UN organizations, and local businesses to amplify reach (e.g. UNDP/AMHON).
3. Difficulty Finding Jobs for Deportees: Few Connections with Workforce Development Agencies or Private-Sector Employers Lead to Jobs

Challenge: Initiatives that effectively channel deportees into employment are limited.

Policy Recommendations:

• Involve workforce development agencies in skills trainings (e.g. Quédate, CCIT).

• Find employers prior to training deportees, and involve them in curricula design and training provision.

• Decrease stigma and fight clichés about deportees.
4. Limited Data, and Poor Monitoring and Evaluation

Challenge: Lack of consistent monitoring and evaluation measures. Numbers of beneficiaries, budgets, outcomes, and impacts are often unclear.

Policy Recommendations:

• Make basic data collection a precondition for funds.
• Conduct follow-up surveys with beneficiaries to assess outcomes and remigration rates.
• Have external evaluations and make evaluation reports publicly available.
5. Wide Variation in the Coordination of Service Providers across Programs and Borders

**Challenge:** Ineffective coordination among implementing partners and funding agencies both within countries and across borders.

**Policy Recommendations:**

- Increase exchanges with other programs and service providers.
- Involve local partners and deportee networks (e.g. INSAMI, la Red KAT, KIND, AIM).
Conclusion

Some progress, but a long way remains in slowing down the revolving door:

- Short-term reception services and infrastructure have expanded, but still do not reach all deportees.
- Long-term reintegration services only reach a fraction of deportees. Expansion necessary, initiatives nascent, international donor support crucial.
- Promising reintegration elements: Local actors, deportee networks, improved M&E, employer buy-in, increased exchange.
- Growing role for Mexico, with shared responsibility of all countries of the region.
Questions and Answers

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