



INTERCULTURAL MOBILITY WEEK 2025



INTERCULTURAL MOBILITY WEEK REPORT 2025

Network of Committees for Integration and
Welcoming (ReCIBE)

U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants,
Mexico (USCRI Mexico)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In a year marked by the closure of the U.S.-Mexico border, the decline in humanitarian aid, and socio-political changes in the region, the 2025 Intercultural Mobility Week (IMW) was a collective declaration of hope, whereby university communities and refugees shared spaces, lessons, and proposals to build a more welcoming Mexico. Through the USCRI Mexico Welcoming Communities program and the Network of Committees for Integration and Welcoming (ReCIBE), seven institutions of higher education carried out activities that focused on the stories, talents, and contributions of asylum seekers, refugees, and immigrants who are part of the country's social fabric.

In this year's edition of the IMW, which took place from September 21st to October 11th, 2025, 2,670 people participated in 25 academic, cultural, artistic, and community activities held on campuses across the country. In addition, 32 immigrant and refugee-led enterprises found a place for promotion and strengthening through markets and cultural fairs, while five refugee students contributed as artists and cultural agents. A prominent academic space generated deep reflections and concrete proposals to improve protection systems and access to higher education.

This year, the IMW became one of the most important events in Mexico during Welcoming Week, an event organized by Welcoming America, a U.S. non-governmental organization dedicated to strengthening the capacities of host communities around the world to integrate newcomers.

USCRI's regional strategy, Still Standing¹, accompanied and framed this year's edition of the IMW, reaffirming that integration is not only an institutional goal, but also a practice that is alive in the university community. Because even in the midst of adversity, solidarity continues to find its way.

¹ Still Standing is the strategy of USCRI's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (USCRI LAC), aimed at supporting more than 8,000 displaced and returned people in Mexico, El Salvador, and Honduras in 2026 by refocusing its protection, humanitarian aid, education, and livelihoods programs. For more information, please visit: <https://refugees.org/stillstanding/>

AN IMW THAT INSPIRES SOLIDARITY AND RESILIENCE

The 2025 Intercultural Mobility Week was, above all, a reminder that coexistence and mutual understanding can transform realities. On each campus, students, faculty, artists, refugees, immigrants, and community allies gathered to learn, create, and reflect together. Through discussions, fairs, workshops, expositions, film forums, awareness campaigns and community activities, the ReCIBE committees created spaces where human mobility ceased to be a statistic and became a shared story.

The strength of this year's edition lay in its ability to reconcile worlds that, on the surface, appear to be different: migration and academia, refuge and art, displacement and creativity. Each university interpreted Still Standing through its own abilities and contexts, yet all shared the same vision: to strengthen host communities through empathy, education, and collective action.



**"WE CROSS BORDERS,
WE SHARE WORLDS"**

Student from BUAP's ReCIBE committee

SEVEN UNIVERSITIES, ONE SHARED PURPOSE

The 2025 IMW came to life in seven universities which, with differing identities and trajectories, converged on a shared objective: to promote integration and intercultural understanding as the pillars of a more just and supportive community. The committee's activities reflected the creativity of the committees as well as the willingness of their communities to open up safe spaces for coexistence.

Universidad Latina de América (UNLA)

In Morelia, UNLA inaugurated the IMW with an event that transcended borders: the International Student Meeting on Migration and Peace Education webinar (see Annex 1), where students across seven countries discussed how to construct more empathetic and cohesive societies. During this discussion, the students decided to write university declarations in favor of access to higher edu-

The cultural fair, which gathered more than 330 attendees, transformed university halls into a mosaic of identities, gastronomy and shared experiences. Through music, narratives, and cultural demonstrations, the university reaffirmed that diversity is not only recognized: it is celebrated.



"What I liked the most was how the talks managed to integrate different perspectives (social, psychological and educational) to reflect on migration and displacement. I found it very enriching to understand how the local and global spheres are connected through these processes."

Participant of the International Webinar

Universidad Panamericana Bonaterra (UP)

In Aguascalientes, UP opted for critical thinking as a means to delve deeper into the challenges of forced migration. Its essay contest (see Annex 2) motivated students to analyze, from a legal and public policy perspective, the implications of asylum systems in Mexico and the United States. Nineteen students, organized into six teams, elaborated six proposals representing a concrete contribution to the binational debate on international protection.

Besides being a competition, the contest became an academic laboratory where reflection became action, and research, a commitment. The winning essay will be published on USCRI Mexico's website.



Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro (UAQ)

UAQ's IMW was profoundly community-centered. It's human mobility myth-busting workshop made space for much-needed conversations on prejudices and realities; the projection of the documentary Kamal's Dream and the subsequent discussion raised awareness on the experience of displacement; and the mural painting day allowed students to express, through art, their vision of solidarity.

Community action at the migrant shelter "Toribio Romo" and the cultural bazaar, in which five refugee-owned businesses participated, counted with more than 350 attendees and strengthened the ties between the university and local actors committed to integration.



Universidad de Monterrey (UDEM)

In Monterrey, UDEM combined creativity, community, and reflection. The ReCIBE and Support campaign invited students and faculty to actively show solidarity. The ReCIBE gallery (see Annex 3) integrated the works of 22 migrants in a workshop that took place in the Casanicolás shelter. The works were presented both in person and digitally, reaching 37 website visits.

The Intercultural Market, one of the most popular events in the network, gathered 856 people and strengthened 15 refugee and migrant led businesses. The ReCIBE in Movement activity, a birdwatching session with reflections on migration, closed the week, connecting nature, art, and human mobility.



Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (BUAP)

BUAP transformed its campus into a stage where art became a refuge. Its film forum, accompanied by the voice of a refugee student from the Habesha Project, sparked profound conversations about identity and displacement. The cultural fair promoted exchange between students and local communities, while Vencejo Fest, a music and cultural festival, brought together hundreds of attendees in a vibrant atmosphere of sensitivity and connection, where three Habesha Project students shared their poems and chronicles.

In total, 360 people participated in BUAP's activities, which combined music, dialogue, memory, and creativity.



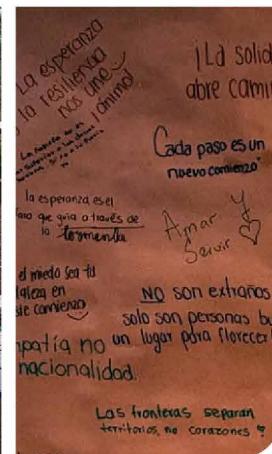
"Participating in the Cultural Fair was a very enriching experience. To represent the migratory part of the United States allowed me to explore the human side of migration and look beyond the dreams and challenges of those who seek a better life."

- UNLA student

Universidad Carolina (UC)

In Saltillo, UC centered its IMW on activities that promoted reflection based on daily life. The conference on the human rights of migrants and refugees strengthened the understanding of protection; the rally and intercultural market allowed attendees to explore the migration realities of five countries; and the mural gathered students and faculty in an artistic experience imbued with a sense of community.

With 98 participants, the IMW left its mark on the campus, promoting urgent conversations about the causes and trajectories of migration.



Universidad La Salle México (La Salle Mx)

In Mexico City, La Salle Mx's IMW was marked by art and community awareness. The Historias Compartidas gallery, made up of works by a Venezuelan artist, gathered 420 attendees. The Voces Solidarias concert and bazaar, although without attendance records, directly benefited seven refugee-led businesses, consolidating the campus as a meeting place for art and resilience.

Academic activities included the Rutas Migratorias open course, which Susie Han of Welcoming America attended, conferences on diaspora and transnational community, and a participatory census on perceptions on migration that received around 100 student responses, demonstrating the community's interest in understanding and accompanying human mobility.



RESULTS AND IMPACT

The 2025 Intercultural Mobility Week produced significant results in both scope and depth. On a national level, 2,670 people participated in the activities organized by the Network of Committees for Integration and Welcoming (ReCIBE), consolidating the model as an effective platform for raising awareness and promoting intercultural gatherings on university campuses.

The first notable achievement was the **connection** with immigrants and refugees: 32 refugee- and migrant- led businesses benefited from cultural fairs and markets in UAQ, UDEM, and La Salle Mexico. Additionally, five refugee students from the Habesha Project participated as artists and cultural agents in BUAP and other campuses' activities, enriching dialogue and learning experiences.

In the academic sphere, the Universidad Panamericana presented six **legal university proposals** prepared by six teams and 19 students, focused on strengthening the protection of asylum seekers and refugees in Mexico and the United States. Similarly, UNLA's international webinar promoted the drafting of five university resolutions advocating for inclusive access to higher education for refugees.

IMW 2025 counted with support from more than 10 partner organizations including: the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Casa Refugiados, Via Educacion, DOQMENTA, the Network for the Integration of People on the Move of Queretaro (RIIPMQ) and Global Partners in Education, who contributed through workshops, conferences, community actions and technical support, broadening the reach and impact of the week.

"The Intercultural Mobility Week at La Salle University opened a profound space for reflection on those who experience transit, searching, displacement, and hope: migrants, whose silent strength sustains stories that deserve to be heard and dignified."

Andris Villareal, Venezuelan artist residing in Mexico.

LESSONS LEARNED AND FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR THE IMW

The 2025 IMW provided key lessons that will strengthen its future operation, coordination, and impact. The first relevant lesson learned was the need to standardize attendance registration mechanisms, especially at events open to the public. While universities such as UDEM implemented robust registration systems, other activities, such as La Salle Mexico's concert, did not record attendance, making it difficult to generate comparable data.

Another significant lesson learned was the importance of expanding the direct participation of refugees and immigrants in the planning and execution of activities. The experiences of BUAP, UDEM, La Salle Mexico and UAQ demonstrated that the participation of this group not only enriches the content but also strengthens the relevance and sensitivity of the processes.

Finally, this year reinforced the need to consolidate the ReCIBE network as a national platform for inter-university collaboration. The universities' declarations are currently being developed, and the growth of partnerships with civil society organizations and international bodies opens new opportunities to institutionalize, expand, and deepen integration in the field of education.



SOCIAL INVESTMENT AND USE OF RESOURCES

IMW 2025 was made possible through a joint investment by USCRI Mexico, participating universities, and partner organizations. This section presents transparent data on investments made by USCRI and external donors.

Total investment:
\$70,667.51 MXN

Investment by university:²

UNLA	\$ 5,506.00 MXN
UP	\$ 9,288.00 MXN
UAQ	\$11,558.01 MXN
UDEM	\$ 11,820.75 MXN
BUAP	\$ 9,607.8 MXN
UC	\$ 2,333.30 MXN
La Salle	\$ 3,958.56 MXN

Additionally, Welcoming Communities staff incurred travel expenses for their participation in activities held in Saltillo and Queretaro, amounting to \$16,595.09 MXN.

CATEGORIES OF EXPENSES FOR IMW 2025	
Production of galleries and cultural materials	\$ 5,402.12 MXN
Logistics for fairs, bazaars, and awareness-raising activities	\$ 5,540.8 MXN
Educational, printing, and outreach materials	\$ 20,662.6 MXN
Local transportation, supplies, and workshop materials	\$ 5,070.8 MXN
Technical services related to expositions and audiovisual activities	\$ 14,326.00 MXN
Prizes	\$ 3,070.00 MXN
Travel for USCRI MX Team	\$ 16,595.00 MXN

74% of investment was allocated to awareness-raising, integration, and community-building activities on campus.

² Funds were allocated according to the material and service requirements outlined in the activity agendas of the ReCIBE Committees at the seven participating universities.

CONCLUSIONS

Intercultural Mobility Week 2025 reaffirmed that Mexican universities are called upon to play a fundamental role in the integration of refugees and migrants. Through concrete actions, student creativity, and strategic alliances, this edition showed that, even amid regional tensions and resource constraints, hospitality can flourish in everyday life.

The campuses that make up ReCIBE demonstrated that they are still standing, creating safe environments for learning, recognition, and encounter. Each activity carried out was more than an event; it was a gesture of accompaniment, an invitation to empathy, and an affirmation that inclusion is possible when it is built from within the community.



ANNEXES

Annex 1.

International Student Meeting Call for Applications

Annex 2.

**Essay Contest on Forced Migration and Asylum in Mexico and U.S. Call
for Applications**

Annex 3.

ReCIBE digital gallery

Annex 4.

Photographs and other audiovisual content of the IMW 2025

