

# Project Title

Central America's Immigrant and Refugee Crisis:  
Limiting Unauthorized Migration through the  
Alliance for Prosperity and Reintegration Efforts

# Project Team Profile

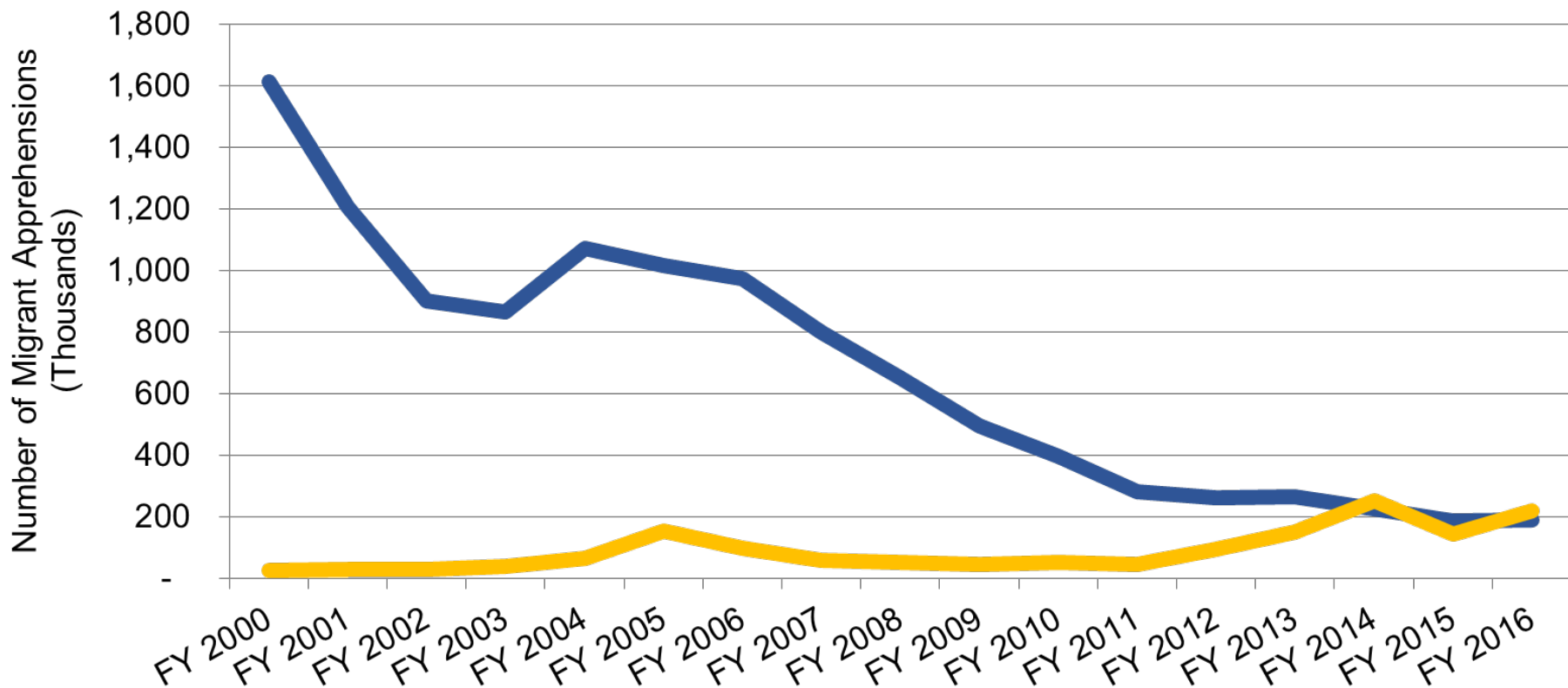
- **Principal Investigator:**
  - Randy Capps, Migration Policy Institute (MPI)
- **Project Start Date:** September 2017
- **Anticipated End Date:** June 2017
- **Project personnel:**
  - Ariel Ruiz, MPI Project Manager, Subject Matter Expert
  - Luis Arugueta, Consultant for Guatemala and El Salvador fieldwork
  - Rodrigo Dominguez-Villegas (University of Massachusetts, Amherst), Consultant for Mexico and Honduras Fieldwork

# Problem Statement

- Central American migrant apprehensions have risen, reached level of Mexican apprehensions on Southwest border.
- Apprehensions of Central Americans also rising in Mexico.
- Many Central American migrants seek asylum, may have valid claims:
  - Can be families, children
  - Not amenable to Border Patrol consequences
  - Often released in U.S. while waiting years for asylum cases
- Thus the new flow from the Northern Triangle may be more difficult to deter and many migrants in the flow, once deported, may return as recidivist illegal entrants.

# Apprehensions of Central Americans on U.S. border have risen to same level as Mexicans

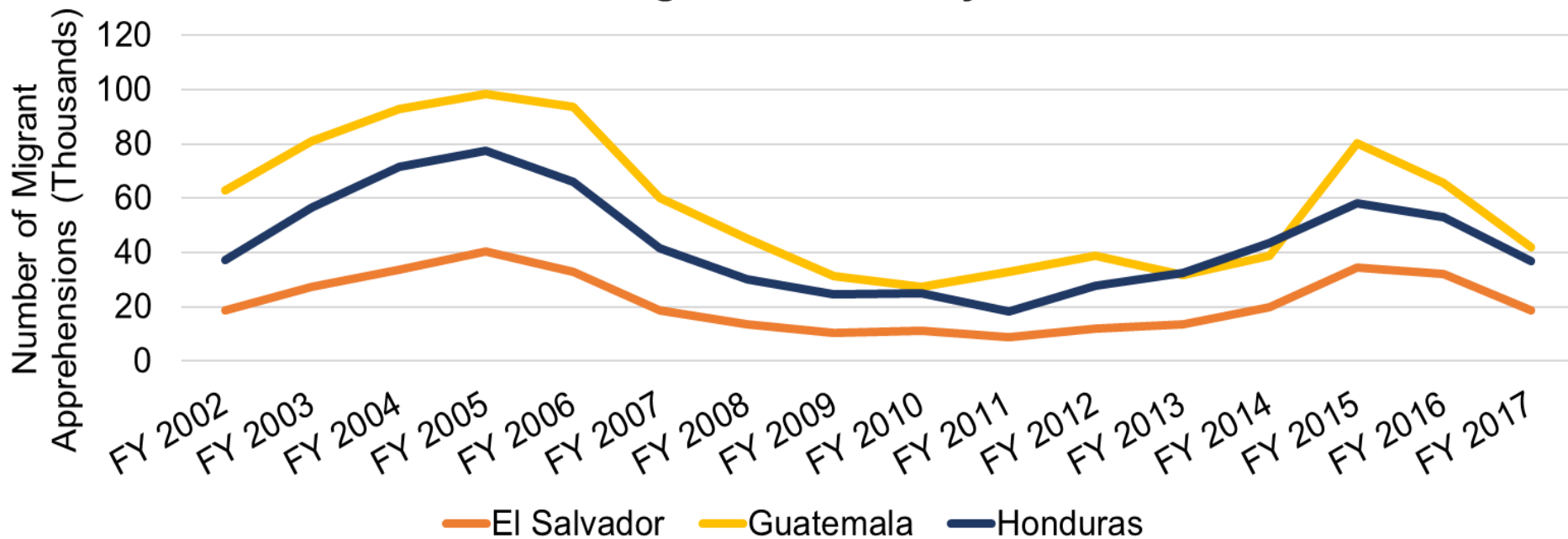
## U.S. Apprehensions of Unauthorized Migrants from Mexico and Other than Mexico along the Southwest Border, by Fiscal Year



Source: U.S. Customs Border Protection (CBP), "United States Border Patrol: Total Illegal Alien Apprehensions by Fiscal Year," [www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/assets/documents/2016-Oct/BP%20Total%20Apps%2C%20Mexico%2C%20OTM%20FY2000-FY2016.pdf](http://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/assets/documents/2016-Oct/BP%20Total%20Apps%2C%20Mexico%2C%20OTM%20FY2000-FY2016.pdf)

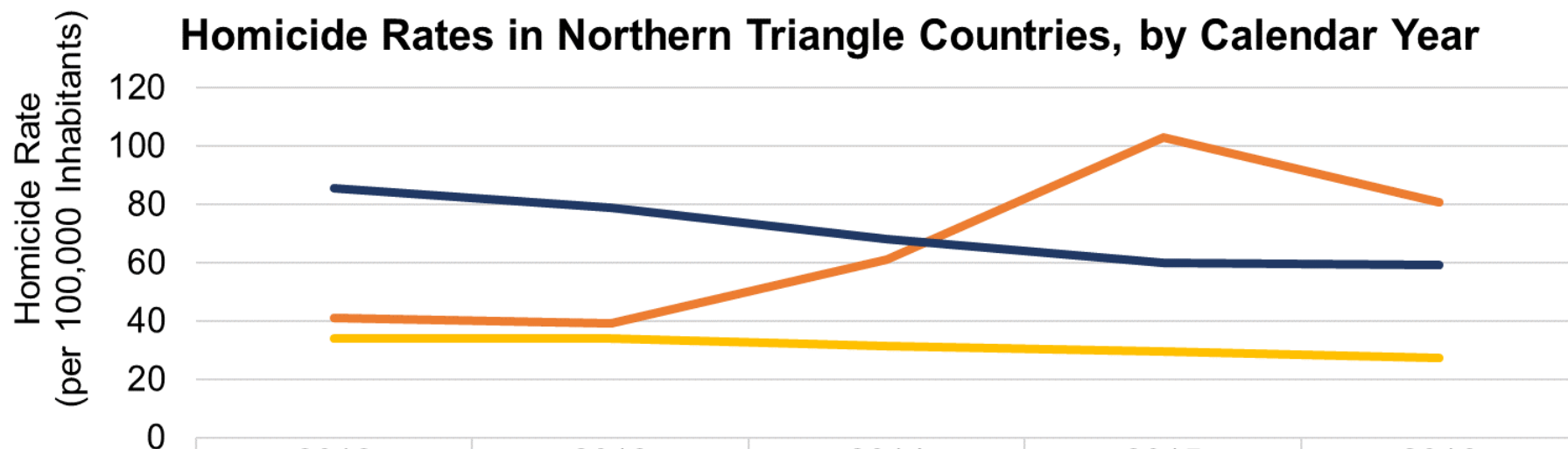
# Apprehensions of Central Americans in Mexico have also risen substantially

## Mexican Apprehensions of Unauthorized Migrants from the Northern Triangle Countries, by Fiscal Year



Source: Secretaria de Gobernación (SEGOB), "Boletines Estadísticos, Cuadro 3.1 a 3.5" 2001-2006, "Boletines Estadísticos, Cuadro 3.1.1," 2007-2017, [www.politicamigratoria.gob.mx/es\\_mx/SEGOB/Boletines\\_Estadisticos](http://www.politicamigratoria.gob.mx/es_mx/SEGOB/Boletines_Estadisticos).

# Violence, other migration pressures in the region remain constant



	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
— El Salvador	41.2	39.4	61.1	102.9	80.9
— Guatemala	34.2	34	31.6	29.5	27.3
— Honduras	85.5	79	68	60	59.1

Sources: Instituto Nacional de Estadística, "Reporte Estadístico," Secretaría Técnica del Consejo Nacional de Seguridad, Enero 2017, [http://stcns.gob.gt/docs/2017/Reportes\\_DMC/reporteneero2017.pdf](http://stcns.gob.gt/docs/2017/Reportes_DMC/reporteneero2017.pdf); Observatorio de la Violencia, "Boletines Nacionales," Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras - Instituto Universitario en Democracia, Paz y Seguridad, 2012-2017, <https://iudpas.unah.edu.hn/observatorio-de-la-violencia/boletines-del-observatorio-2/boletines-nacionales/>; InSight Crime, 2016 Homicide Round-up, [www.insightcrime.org/news-analysis/insight-crime-2016-homicide-round-up](http://www.insightcrime.org/news-analysis/insight-crime-2016-homicide-round-up).

# Beneficiary / End User Profile: Jobs

- **Champions:** DHS's Office of Strategy, Policy and Plans, Mexico and Central America staff.
- **Advocates and stakeholders:**
  - DHS, Office of Immigration Statistics
  - U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, including policy staff engaged in reintegration planning
  - U.S. Border Patrol, Strategic Planning and Analysis
  - U.S. Department of State: Western Hemisphere Affairs (Mexico and Central America), Intelligence and Research, International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
  - U.S. Agency for International Development, Central America and Mexico

# Beneficiary / End User Profile: Desired Gains

- Understanding long-term migration pressures: economic development, violence and security, family and social ties.
- Knowledge of Alliance for Prosperity (AfP) and other investments in the region's development, potential impacts on long-term migration to U.S.
- Review of reintegration challenges for repatriated migrants and programs that can successfully address these challenges, in order to reduce incentives for return migration.
- Review of promising reintegration programs in Mexico that could be adapted to the Northern Triangle countries.
- Development of recommendations for cost-effective U.S. investments to reduce migration pressures from the region.



# Beneficiary / End User Profile: Pain Points

- Ongoing violence and economic deprivation that reduce the quality of life in the Northern Triangle.
- Large and unpredictable unauthorized migration flows from Northern Triangle to the United States.
- Substantial investments in Northern Triangle country development with uncertain prospects and cost effectiveness.
- Minimal investments in reintegration programs and no knowledge about their effectiveness.
- No long-term strategy for reducing migration pressures from the region.

# Products & Services

- Policy briefs on Alliance for Prosperity, other development initiatives, and reintegration programs in the Northern Triangle.
- Recommendations for U.S. investment strategies to reduce initial and return migration from the region.
- Transitioned through a roundtable meeting at MPI and briefings for relevant federal champions and advocates.

# Key accomplishments

- Meetings with DHS, CBP, ICE, USDOS and AID to obtain buy-in and input on study methods, exchange knowledge.
- Literature review on migration trends, push factors, status of women, and reintegration challenges in the region.
- Roundtable at MPI with U.S. government, regional government, academic, and civil society representatives at MPI to discuss migration pressures in the region (held in September 2017).
- Discussions with regional government, academics, and civil society representatives (in person in Washington, D.C., and over the phone with stakeholders in the region).
- Leveraging of additional funding from CAMMINA and the Ford Foundation to support these elements of the “policy scan” for the project, and to support project planning.

# Transition Pathways

- MPI will provide drafts of interim report based on fieldwork to project champions and selected advocates/stakeholders for their review.
- MPI will provide drafts of policy briefs for review.
- MPI will hold a roundtable including project champions, other DHS/US government advocates/stakeholders, and stakeholders from the region to discuss main findings and develop recommendations.
- MPI will brief DHS champions and other stakeholders/advocates on findings and recommendations.
- MPI will disseminate results broadly with U.S. government and other policymakers.

# Transition Engagement

- MPI has met with multiple groups of DHS and other U.S. government stakeholders, including USDOS and USAID.
- MPI will brief DHS champions about project progress on a regular basis.
- MPI has meet with stakeholders from the Embassies of Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.
- MPI will meet with international agency stakeholders such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and International Organization for Migration (IOM).

# Conclusions

- The project is still in the initial planning phases.
- But we have drawn on other resources (Ford, CAMMINA) to begin our policy scan/literature review.
- Next steps include:
  - Completing the policy scan.
  - Visits to the region to meet key informants in governments, academic and civil society
  - Focus groups of returned/repatriated migrants.
- Unauthorized Central American migration is one of the key challenges facing DHS.
- This project should provide additional information about migration patterns and concrete strategies to address recidivism via reintegration programming.

# Disclaimer

- This material is based upon work supported by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security under Grant Award Number 2015-ST-061-BSH001. This grant is awarded to the Borders, Trade, and Immigration (BTI) Institute: A DHS Center of Excellence led by the University of Houston, and includes support for the project, “Central America’s Immigrant and Refugee Crisis: Limiting Unauthorized Migration through the Alliance for Prosperity and Reintegration Efforts,” awarded to the Migration Policy Institute. The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as necessarily representing the official policies, either expressed or implied, of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.