

# NHSMUN50

National High School Model United Nations



IOM  
UPDATE PAPER



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**Terry Wang**  
**Ellie White**



Dear Delegates,

I am very excited to welcome you all to the International Organization for Migration Committee for NHSMUN 2024! My name is Isabela Alano, and I will be your Assistant Director for Session I of IOM. This is my first year serving on NHSMUN staff, but I did participate in NHSMUN 2021 as a delegate, which means I understand all the feelings you might have right now and I am always available to help with any issues.

I am from Brazil, and I am in my third year of the International Relations program at university and I plan to focus either on Law or Political Science in future studies and work. Aside from studies, I love dancing, playing tennis, reading, and traveling. But also just watching a good movie (Good Will Hunting and Dead Poets Society might be my favorites) or TV show, favoring sitcoms above all! I am also kind of a geek; I love everything sci-fi and anime!

I have been participating in MUNs for the past five years and plan to continue for much longer. I understand that with all the preparation, stress and nervousness might arise, but I will do all in my power to make this the most wonderful experience for all of you, as I know everyone else in the staff is doing as well. And if there is anything that we can do to help you, please do not refrain from asking. In general, MUN conferences are always great experiences that allow us to meet new and interesting people and express our passion for debate and certain topics. Yet, NHSMUN goes even beyond that because it will bring you together with people from all over the world with different perspectives and ideas, which results in the most enticing debates. I truly believe that this can be one of the most inspiring experiences for students to participate in, and it will leave you with much more knowledge and curiosity than you had before. The topics that will be discussed in this committee could not be more important in the time we are living, with all of the impacts from climate change, general conflicts, and technological advancements, among some other incredibly current issues. The Directors have written substantial and informative background guides that will allow you to have the most fruitful debates possible. Also, do not forget to read the Update Papers prepared by us, the Assistant Directors, since it is fundamental that you keep your knowledge on the topics up-to-date with current developments!

I am looking forward to hearing your proposals and research in what I know will be a wonderful experience for all of us. Please remember we are here to help you, looking forward to meeting you all!

Isabela Chaves Alano

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International Organization for Migration

Assistant Director, Session II

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**Amira Samih**  
**Zaheer Sooliman**  
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**Ellie White**

Dear Delegates,

I am so happy to welcome you to the International Organization for Migration committee for NHSMUN 2024! My name is Emily Torres, and I will be your Assistant Director for Session II of the conference. Even though this is my first year serving on NHSMUN staff, I am thrilled to meet everyone and help you have the best time in this incredible MUN experience.

I was born and raised in Bogotá, Colombia. I am a third-year student at Universidad del Rosario, majoring in international relations and law. Aside from school, some of my hobbies are dancing, drawing (even though I'm not an absolute expert), visiting different cafes in my city, and hanging out with my friends. I'm also a fan of TV shows like Bridgerton and Reign (if you haven't seen them, please do). Music is also a big part of my life! Artists like Lewis Capaldi, Ed Sheeran, Kodakid, and Harry Styles are my favorites.

Having the chance to attend NHSMUN is an excellent opportunity in various ways: you can meet a lot of different people from around the world. You will be able to learn a lot about other people with multiple cultural backgrounds and make new friends. Make this experience a chance to come out with new knowledge, perspectives, and ideas from others. In addition, MUN is a chance for personal growth, especially in public speaking skills and working under pressure. I can assure you that coming out of this conference will make you a more confident person. Please, take this as a learning opportunity and don't be afraid, just have fun!

I look forward to meeting every single one of you at the conference! We will have outstanding delegates passionate and motivated to create a great and safe debating space. I will always be looking to help you with anything you need. Feel free to ask for any help at any time. See you soon!

Emily Torres

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International Organization for Migration

Assistant Director, Session II





IOM

NHSMUN 2024

# TOPIC A: ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE AND INFORMATION SERVICES FOR MIGRANTS

Photo Credit: Dorothea Lange

## Introduction

The ideal migration process will lead to prosperity and progress for countries. However, this ideal is not the reality today. Many factors cause several challenges and obstacles for migrants during their travel and arrival to different countries. These include healthcare access, water scarcity, food insecurity, and — worst of all — climate change. Floods, fires, and droughts have been happening at a high frequency over the past year, leaving displaced refugees and big migration waves in all the regions of the world. Between January and November of 2023, over 53 thousand fires burned more than 2.6 million acres of land worldwide, leaving populations homeless and without the necessary infrastructure.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, according to UNICEF, river floods are projected to displace around 96 million children over the next 30 years, while other natural disasters also place them further at risk.<sup>2</sup> This phenomenon currently affects every aspect of human life, especially their health and homes.

Despite the ongoing disasters affecting refugees, several international organizations have doubled their efforts to protect refugees and provide safe passage for migrants from 2024 onwards. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as Doctors Without Borders (MSF) have been one of the most influential organizations to act on migrant health crises. With around 68,000 staff helping with 16 million medical consultations yearly, MSF provides aid to almost 70 countries' refugee populations annually.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, the IOM has just released its 2028 Strategic Migration Plan, which aims to “save lives and protect people on the move” and “facilitate pathways for regular migration.”<sup>4</sup> Director General of the IOM, Amy Pope, says, “There is not a corner of the globe that is not touched by, or is in some way invested in, the issue of migration.” She establishes that the new Strategic Plan will build on past successes while building toward a future that can help all those in need.<sup>5</sup>

Unfortunately, while these sentiments are essential, it is up to individual countries to enhance support for refugees and asylum seekers to ensure that no man, woman, or child is left homeless or without access to basic human needs.

## Climate Change, Water Stress, and Health Challenges for Migrants

Climate change is among the leading “threat multipliers” worldwide.<sup>6</sup> This means it worsens pre-existing challenges such as poverty, food insecurity, economic hardship, and social inequality. This past year, it has affected migrants' access to essential resources such as water. According to the “Global Research Agenda on Health, Migration and Displacement” published by the World Health Organization (WHO) on October 30, 2023, climate change is considered to be “the most under-researched environmental determinant of migrant health.”<sup>7</sup> This means that it is an overlooked factor contributing negatively to migrants' health, including their access to clean water. Although climate change exacerbates the problem, the root causes of water scarcity and insecurity concerning migrant health have to be considered to solve this issue.

Water scarcity is experienced by 10 percent of the global migration population.<sup>8</sup> The World Resources Institute's Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas, published in August 2023, found that a quarter of the world's population and around

1 “November 2023 Wildfires Report,” National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI), November 2023, <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/monitoring/monthly-report/fire/202311>.

2 “Weather-Related Disasters Led to 43.1 Million Displacements of Children over Six Years,” UNICEF, October 6, 2023, <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/weather-related-disasters-led-431-million-displacements-children-over-six-years>.

3 “Our History,” Doctors Without Borders, accessed December 24, 2023, <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/who-we-are/our-history>

4 *IOM Strategic Plan 2024-2028*, (Geneva, IOM, 8 January, 2024) <https://publications.iom.int/books/iom-strategic-plan-2024-2028>

5 “New IOM Strategic Plan: Saving Lives, Driving Solutions, Facilitating Regular-Migration Pathways,” International Organization for Migration, 2021, <https://www.iom.int/news/new-iom-strategic-plan-saving-lives-driving-solutions-facilitating-regular-migration-pathways>

6 “Climate Change ‘a Multiplier Effect’, Aggravating Instability, Conflict, Terrorism, Secretary-General Warns Security Council,” United Nations, press release, December 9, 2021, <https://press.un.org/en/2021/sghm21074.doc.htm>

7 “Launch: Who Global Research Agenda on Health, Migration and Displacement,” World Health Organization, October 30, 2023, <https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2023/10/30/default-calendar/launch-who-global-research-agenda-on-health--migration-and-displacement>

8 “Water's Role in Global Migration,” United Nations, January 3, 2022, <https://www.unwater.org/news/water%E2%80%99s-role-global>

25 countries face “extreme water stress” yearly. A country suffering from “extreme water stress” uses at least 80 percent of its available water supply to satisfy its population’s domestic needs. This is significant because it leaves the country unable to handle the excess demand for water that comes with situations like natural disasters. This is the case with climate change. Long droughts and heat waves are making water less reliable and accessible.<sup>9</sup> This, in turn, increases the stress on a region’s already limited water supply. Reduced rainfall and floods are also negative climate effects that contribute to water distress and scarcity.<sup>10</sup> These uncontrolled climate changes are also found to be why almost 216 million people from six world regions will be displaced by the year 2025.<sup>11</sup>

In 2023, people from the city of Muthanna, Iraq, were forced to migrate due to climate change and water scarcity. Muthanna’s economy mainly relies on agriculture, a sector heavily reliant on access to water and fertile land. Due to the migration.

9 Hafsa Khalil, “A Quarter of Humanity Faces Extreme Water Stress -- and It’s Poised to Get Worse, New Report Finds,” *CNN*, August 16, 2023, <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/08/16/world/water-stress-scarcity-climate-crisis-scn-intl/index.html>.

10 “Climate Change, Water Scarcity and Migration (CWSM),” International Organization for Migration, August 17, 2023, <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd11411/files/documents/2023-09/cwsm2.pdf>.

11 “Declaration of the Committee on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW) on International Migrants Day - World,” ReliefWeb, December 18, 2023, <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/declaration-committee-rights-migrant-workers-and-members-their-families-cmw-international-migrants-day>.

12 “Water Shortages Threaten the Residents of Muthanna and Prompting Their Migration - Iraq,” ReliefWeb, October 4, 2023, <https://reliefweb.int/report/iraq/water-shortages-threaten-residents-muthanna-and-prompting-their-migration>.

13 “El Salvador: Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan Summary 2024 - El Salvador,” ReliefWeb, December 15, 2023, <https://reliefweb.int/report/el-salvador/el-salvador-humanitarian-needs-and-response-plan-summary-2024>.

14 “Drinking-Water,” World Health Organization, September 13, 2023, <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/drinking-water>.

water scarcity crisis, their crops and land are suffering, along with their population. As locals stated in October of 2023, they “...have one of two choices; either to stay and slowly die or to migrate to other cities.”<sup>12</sup> Another example can be found in El Salvador. Due to extreme weather events, including many droughts that led to a lack of clean water, this country has experienced large migration flows. Over 1.1 million people have required humanitarian assistance due to insufficient food and safe drinking water.<sup>13</sup>

When water scarcity and climate change are added to migration flows, health issues begin to emerge. During their travel, migrants may be forced to drink contaminated water during their journey. According to the WHO, this has been linked to migrants contracting different diseases such as hepatitis A, cholera, typhoid, and diarrhea, the last one leaving around 1 million people deceased every year.<sup>14</sup> The lack of sanitation that water scarcity creates also promotes the spread



First women to cross the Darien Gap in July 1996

Credit: Gustavo.ross

of infectious diseases in the migrant communities. Not being able to wash their hands with clean water or using dirty water to cook their meals can significantly impact health. This is the case for Central America, where more than 18 thousand South American migrants have been crossing the border into the city of Danlí, located in Honduras.<sup>15</sup> When migrants arrive at the border after passing through Nicaragua, they receive a transit permit to remain in Honduras for five days. During this period, migrants try to earn money, water, and food to continue their travel to the north of the country. However, the lack of clean water has forced migrants to use raw water to cook, risking their health by eating contaminated food. The doctors assisting these communities report that this is likely causing many digestive infections in their patients.<sup>16</sup>

Another example that has worsened recently is the cholera outbreak in Yemen, which has spread through the country since 2016. However, there have been a total of 917 cases of cholera between October and November of 2023, with 80 percent of the cases coming from the migrant population.<sup>17</sup> The long-standing civil war in the country has mainly damaged healthcare facilities in the country, worsening the outbreak.<sup>18</sup> The consequences have been disastrous since the lack of sanitation and healthcare treatment has contributed to the aggravation of these diseases. In the case of the global cholera epidemics, the WHO states that a many-size approach is the key to controlling the disease. This means that a combination of many factors, such as sanitation and hygiene, as well as vaccines and treatment, are necessary.<sup>19</sup> However, Yemen's current situation makes it difficult for those things to be available, thus leaving the migrants in a perpetual crisis.

For the past year, even countries thought to have well-developed migrant services have fallen short in their healthcare

— including the United States. According to a 2023 survey for immigrants, almost half of the immigrant population who do not have legal documents also lack health insurance coverage. Attaining health insurance can also be a problem due to language barriers and stigma surrounding using public services.<sup>20</sup> The lack of transportation and services are also factors that are worsening the situation. Out of the 50 states of the United States, only five have government-funded coverage for immigrants. This allows the undocumented, migrant, and asylum population health coverage.<sup>21</sup> However, even in these states, this coverage only applies to certain situations based on income.

A better example of positive government programs for vulnerable groups can be seen in Finland. A new law came into force in 2023 which allows the country to expand health care for migrants, even if they lack documentation.<sup>22</sup> This health care covers many conditions, including chronic conditions like asthma and diabetes. It also allows access to pediatric and maternity care. Before this law existed, Finland only allowed urgent care for immigrants without documents, so this new law is a vast improvement for the country's migrant population.

Denying healthcare insurance for migrants can have many negative impacts on society. The health and well-being of migrants can affect local populations in more ways than one. For this reason, it is important for health policies for migrants to be established and respected by governments worldwide. Some countries have acquired a new interest regarding this issue, aiming to control the migration health crisis by different forms of action.

Mexico has become a clear example of this. Considering

15 "Honduras: Humanitarian Response Is Inadequate to Help Record Numbers of Migrants," ReliefWeb, October 6, 2023, <https://reliefweb.int/report/honduras/honduras-humanitarian-response-inadequate-help-record-numbers-migrants>.

16 "Honduras: Humanitarian Response Is Inadequate to Help Record Numbers of Migrants," ReliefWeb, October 6, 2023, <https://reliefweb.int/report/honduras/honduras-humanitarian-response-inadequate-help-record-numbers-migrants>.

17 "Yemen – Cholera Outbreak (DG Echo, DG ECHO Partners) (Echo Daily Flash of 4 December 2023) - Yemen," ReliefWeb, December 4, 2023, <https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/yemen-cholera-outbreak-dg-echo-dg-echo-partners-echo-daily-flash-4-december-2023>.

18 Qin Xiang Ng et al., "Yemen's Cholera Epidemic Is a One Health Issue," *Journal of preventive medicine and public health*, June 10, 2020, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7411249/>.

19 "Cholera," World Health Organization, December 11, 2023, <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/cholera>

20 Elizabeth Hagearty, "Significant Healthcare Gaps Persist for Immigrants in 2023," Boundless, November 2, 2023, <https://www.boundless.com/blog/healthcare-gaps-immigrant-survey/>.

21 "Key Facts on Health Coverage of Immigrants," KFF, September 17, 2023, <https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/fact-sheet/key-facts-on-health-coverage-of-immigrants/>.

22 Chloe Bouvier, "Finland: New Law Expands Health Care for Undocumented Migrants," *PICUM*, September 19, 2023, <https://picum.org/blog/finland-new-law-expands-health-care-undocumented-migrants/>.

the current migration crisis in the Americas, the Mexican government sought international cooperation to help the migrant population. In October of 2023, 11 countries of the region attended a meeting led by the Mexican government. Focusing on the lack of security, medication, and health centers, the Mexican government announced its intention to call for legal avenues and protection for their incoming migrant population. It used trends in the current situation to establish policies that provide health assistance to the migrants. Although this was successful, the region recognized the need for cooperation from the United States. As Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez said: “We need to agree on migration policy, because we can do many things ourselves within Latin America.”<sup>23</sup> Without the cooperation of the United States and other countries in the region, Latin American countries may not know where to start to address this issue. However, as the President stated, the region can carry out many solutions when they work together.

When addressing health challenges for migrants, countries and international actors must be attentive to current climate changes and water scarcity. By cooperating, countries can come together to create innovative solutions that help alleviate the stresses of climate change on migrant communities. The only way forward is to prioritize their health, cooperation, and open minds. Delegates of the IOM are called to bring solutions to address this issue and create a better future for migrants.

## International Action on the Migrant Health Crisis

International organizations and platforms are leading the charge in taking action regarding the migrant health crisis.

Their actions have involved creating guidelines and frameworks that address the situation’s urgency. For example, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been working for the past months to create an action plan for 2024. With a budget of USD 10.6 billion, this organization is looking to assist in displacement situations, planning to help around 130.8 million forcibly displaced people in 133 countries.<sup>24</sup>

Over the past months, the IOM has also taken a stronger leadership role in different migration crises, aiming to accomplish their three main objectives: save lives and respond to humanitarian needs, address long-term crises, and reduce disaster risks.<sup>25</sup> Throughout September 2023, IOM published a position paper regarding mobility, transmission of diseases, and health. The paper focuses on specific case studies that reflect IOM’s current and future actions in the healthcare crisis. One study of note is on Kyrgyzstan (officially the Kyrgyz Republic).

The IOM has been working on launching a project in the Kyrgyz Republic focused on limiting air pollution, which has a “Healthy City Vision” program that includes all migrant populations.<sup>26</sup> The air situation in this country has been far from ideal. Recent studies from UNICEF, IOM, UNDP, and UNEP have shown that the sources of this air pollution are coal heating and road transport.<sup>27</sup> Following 2022, IQAir ranked Jalal Abad, a city in the Kyrgyz Republic, as dangerously hazardous due to its poor air quality.<sup>28</sup> This air pollution can be especially dangerous for the 6,000 labor migrant families that reside on the outskirts of the city.<sup>29</sup> As these communities are impoverished, they often have no infrastructure to deal with poor air quality.<sup>30</sup> Asthma and other lung diseases are prevalent respiratory conditions among these communities.<sup>31</sup>

23 “Latin American Presidents Gather in Mexico for Migration Summit,” *France 24*, October 22, 2023, <https://www.france24.com/en/americas/20231022-latin-american-presidents-gather-in-mexico-for-migration-summit>.

24 “Global Appeal 2024,” UNHCR, 2023, <https://reporting.unhcr.org/global-appeal-2024>.

25 “Our Objectives,” International Organization for Migration, accessed December 18, 2023, <https://www.iom.int/our-objectives>.

26 “Climate Change Impacts on Health - Affecting Development and Human Mobility,” International Organization for Migration, September 18, 2023, <https://www.iom.int/resources/climate-change-impacts-health-affecting-development-and-human-mobility>

27 Jules Hugot, “A Strategy to Address Air Pollution and Climate Change in Bishkek,” Asian Development Bank, December 1, 2023, <https://blogs.adb.org/blog/strategy-address-air-pollution-and-climate-change-bishkek>.

28 “Bishkek Air Quality Index (AQI) and Kyrgyzstan Air Pollution,” IQAir, December 29, 2023, <https://www.iqair.com/kyrgyzstan/bishkek>.

29 “Over 6000 Families of Labor Migrants from Jalal-Abad Included in Database as Part of Pilot Project,” *Akipress*, 2023, [https://akipress.com/news/747457:Over\\_6000\\_families\\_of\\_labor\\_migrants\\_from\\_Jalal-Abad\\_included\\_in\\_database\\_as\\_part\\_of\\_pilot\\_project/](https://akipress.com/news/747457:Over_6000_families_of_labor_migrants_from_Jalal-Abad_included_in_database_as_part_of_pilot_project/).

30 Jyoti Madhusoodanan, “Fixing Air Pollution Could Dramatically Improve Health Disparities,” *Nature News*, September 20, 2023, <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-023-02614-5>.

31 Al-Juhaishi Malath et al., “Educational Interventions in Immigrants for Asthma and COPD: A Systematic Review,” *Patient preference*





An elderly refugee being carried by Colombian National Police from Venezuela into Colombia.

Credit: National Police of Colombia

Because of this, IOM has labeled the condition in these communities as a “public health emergency.”<sup>32</sup> This is why there are several projects in the region to address air pollution as a critical public health concern in Kyrgyzstan’s urban areas, particularly affecting migrants. These projects aim to enhance migrants’ awareness of air pollution and its risks and impacts. It also aims to foster migrants’ active participation in combating pollution. Empowering migrants in these communities to take action leads to community participation and engages critical stakeholders.<sup>33</sup>

Similar to the initiative in the Kyrgyz Republic, other international organizations have also taken action to aid the migrant health crisis. Organizations such as the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) have provided financial support to health services for the refugees.<sup>34</sup> ECHO is providing over EUR 38 million

*and adherence*, December 11, 2023, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38106364/>.

32 “Kyrgyzstan: Enhancing Migrants’ Awareness on Air Pollution and Moving towards a ‘Healthy City Vision’ in Bishkek,” International Organization for Migration, 2021, <https://www.iom.int/kyrgyzstan-enhancing-migrants-awareness-air-pollution-and-moving-towards-healthy-city-vision-bishkek>

33 International Organization for Migration, “Kyrgyzstan: Enhancing Migrants’ Awareness on Air Pollution and Moving towards a ‘Healthy City Vision’ in Bishkek.”

34 “Declaration of the Committee on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW) on International Migrants Day - World,” ReliefWeb, December 18, 2023, <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/declaration-committee-rights-migrant-workers-and-members-their-families-cmw-international-migrants-day>.

35 Paula Dupraz-Dobias, “COP28: Un Agencies Respond to Dubai Workers Heat Stress Controversy,” *Geneva Solutions*, November 26, 2023, <https://genevasolutions.news/climate-environment/cop28-un-agencies-respond-to-dubai-workers-heat-stress-controversy>.

36 “The Health Leaders in the Rohingya Refugee Crisis,” World Health Organization, September 26, 2023, <https://www.who.int/bangladesh/news/detail/26-09-2023-the-health-leaders-in-the-rohingya-refugee-crisis>.

37 “Launch: Who Global Research Agenda on Health, Migration and Displacement,” World Health Organization, October 30, 2023, <https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2023/10/30/default-calendar/launch--who-global-research-agenda-on-health--migration-and-displacement>.

in humanitarian aid. This humanitarian aid includes nutrition assistance and access to water, sanitation, healthcare services, and shelter.<sup>35</sup> The aid also assists in long-term education and resilience, including training multiple healthcare workers from NGOs’ health facilities in the migration camps.<sup>36</sup>

In other regions, the WHO is leading research initiatives. In October 2023, the WHO’s Department of Health and Migration launched its first agenda regarding health and migration titled “Global research agenda on health, migration and displacement.”<sup>37</sup> This agenda has informed the international community about the migration health crisis. This was long overdue because of limited capacity and research and provided essential information to lead migrant health initiatives. Out of the agenda’s core research themes, it is highly valuable for the global migration health crisis. Titled “Generate multi sectoral research on addressing the determinants of health,” this core

research theme has focused on the effective models of health financing and accessibility for migrants.

This agenda is a first for many around the world since it shows the lack of important information regarding the migrant population. Furthermore, the report has created pathways for different countries to publish the health status of their incoming foreign populations from different regions. This creates opportunities for further protection of migrants, including their rights to healthcare assistance and security.

However, international organizations do not often work independently to achieve their goals regarding the migration crisis. For example, the Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V) comprises 200 organizations (including civil society, NGOs, and UN Agencies). All of these organizations focus on coordinating responses to the Venezuelan migration crisis.<sup>38</sup> Due to this RV4 international cooperation, the Refugee and Migrant Response Plan of 2023-2024 Update for the region was published in December 2023. This document presented a very significant health analysis of the Venezuelan migration crisis. It was reported that there are around 4.71 million Venezuelan migrants in need in more than 17 countries in Latin America.<sup>39</sup> Despite efforts by host countries to integrate refugees and migrants from Venezuela, more than four million people still face challenges accessing food, shelter, health care, education, and employment in the region. In addition, the report finds that approximately 19 percent of refugee and migrant children are not attending school and are instead supporting their families through informal and unpaid work. While more than 60 percent of refugees and migrants from Venezuela are documented, this has not been enough to ensure they have access to adequate healthcare and education. “The fact that half of Venezuelans in the region are facing barriers to receiving health care and cannot afford three meals a day or access adequate housing, [...] highlights the urgent need for international support, so they have opportunities to be self-sufficient, effectively integrate into

their host communities, and contribute to the development of the countries in the region,” said Dr. Eduardo Stein, the Joint Special Representative of IOM and UNHCR for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela.

The Response Plan showed a new initiative in healthcare systems for this population, especially focused on building a new framework. In addition, it formulated new health campaigns in the 17 Latin American countries hosting Venezuelan refugees. This initiative also includes delivering WASH cleaning and menstrual hygiene supplies for refugees and migrants.<sup>40</sup> In this update plan, the Health Sector has the second largest percentage of new planned activities in the 2024 plan.

Actions and projects like those outlined in this subtopic are necessary to solve the migrant health crisis. It is important to consider the role of various international organizations (government and civil society) in aiding, regulating, and securing migration crises. Moving forward will require immense international support and collaboration, tackling the migration crisis head-on and ensuring the basic human rights of these vulnerable people. Delegates are encouraged to consider these recent successes to formulate holistic, long-lasting solutions. However, they also must be critical of the initiatives, as they may not always be as helpful as they seem. As further research is needed to determine the specific needs of migrant communities, it is important to prioritize initiatives that will empower these communities to seek the help they need with the aid of governments worldwide.

## Conclusion

In 2024, migrants are being threatened on multiple fronts. Climate change and water scarcity are factors that are forcibly displacing populations and causing refugees to look for asylum in foreign countries. While the IOM cannot control the effects of climate change, it is important to recognize its impacts on these vulnerable populations. Countless men, women, and

38 Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants, “Home,” R4V, August 5, 2023, <https://www.r4v.info/en/home>.

39 “Over 4 Million Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants Struggle to Meet Basic Needs across the Americas,” UNHCR, 2023, <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press-releases/over-4-million-venezuelan-refugees-and-migrants-struggle-meet-basic-needs>.

40 Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants Eduardo Stein, “RMRP 2024 Update,” RMRP, December 18, 2023, <https://rmp.r4v.info/>.

children are left without homes, water, food, and access to healthcare. Controlling fossil fuel emissions and implementing health and climate policies, among other options, can help secure migrants to live a better life, seek better opportunities, and hope for a better future. However, these communities also require many short-term solutions to support them now and for future generations. Support and solutions must come from not only international organizations but also member states. Collaborating across the public and private sectors can build resilient societies and prevent further displacement, regulating and controlling the forced migration crises. Working hand in hand, this committee can help with creating impactful solutions that will shape migrants' healthcare and the humanitarian aid that has been given to vulnerable migrant populations.



IOM

NHSMUN 2024



## TOPIC B: EMPOWERING AND PROTECTING MIGRANT WOMEN

Photo Credit: USA for UNFPA

## Introduction

The situations surrounding the vulnerabilities of migrant women and how to empower them are evolving daily. Around the world, new policies and regulations are developing that have to be considered. These address issues that can affect migrant women to a higher degree because of their vulnerability to abuse, violence, and other relevant matters. These difficulties affect high numbers of migrant women around the world directly and increase year by year. According to the World Migration Report, published in 2022 by the IOM, there were 135 million international female migrants in 2020. This was an increase of five million migrant women compared to 2019.<sup>1</sup> Moving forward in 2024, it is necessary to address the issues that add to migrant vulnerabilities, such as lack of access to healthcare and climate change.

In October 2023, the World Health Organization (WHO) released its Global Research Agenda on Health, Migration, and Displacement. This research aimed to address emergencies related to migrant and refugee health. In this report, the WHO presented priorities for awareness and assistance of migrants and refugees. It also included other concerns regarding the visibility of under-researched and vulnerable groups (such as migrant women), victims of sex trafficking and gender-based violence, and issues of climate change and health.<sup>2</sup> The document also outlines relevant priorities that could be applied to other areas to reduce migration challenges.<sup>3</sup>

These are a few of the most relevant situations that the migrant population has been facing in the last few months. Migrant women are displaced, prone to diseases, and victims of sex trafficking and gender-based violence (GBV) on their journey to a new life. Global efforts to assist these women are imperative to address these situations. In addition, as new situations arise, the need for protecting migrants increases. This committee must ensure they are not forgotten as they reach a new life.

## Effects of Climate Change on Migrant Women

Climate change is an issue without borders. Because of

this, it has brought new alternatives and solutions to light worldwide. Researchers must keep up-to-date with the recent developments in this issue. However, migrants are frequently the ones who suffer the most from extreme climate conditions. This is because they do not have stable housing and are often forced to switch locations depending on the scale of the situation. Already facing hardship, the effects of climate change become multipliers of prior negative factors such as poverty or food insecurity. For that reason, quick solutions with innovation relating to climate change are vital to support migrant women. Greg Puley, the Climate Lead for the United Nations Humanitarian Office, states that the “climate change crisis is not gender-neutral.”<sup>4</sup> Puley believes that donors and humanitarians must remain focused on the different needs women and girls have when aiding in a response.<sup>5</sup> His statement urges the main actors who play a role in migrant assistance to continue recognizing the different needs of women and girls in their response attempts and assistance.

Climate change’s impact on migration is complex, and many aspects must be considered. Natural disasters, from earthquakes to droughts, result in severe forced migration. Beyond forcing more to join this group of people, climate change also harms migrants. In 2023, for instance, floods in Pakistan left around eight million people displaced, leaving over 400,000 pregnant

<sup>1</sup> Marie McAuliffe and Anna Triandafyllidou, *World Migration Report 2022*, (Geneva: International Organization for Migration, December 2023), <https://publications.iom.int/books/world-migration-report-2022>.

<sup>2</sup> World Health Organization, *Global research agenda on health, migration and displacement* (Geneva: World Health Organization, 2023), <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/373659/9789240082397-eng.pdf?sequence=1>

<sup>3</sup> “WHO outlines crucial research priorities for better refugee and migrant health”, World Health Organization, 30 October 2023. <https://www.who.int/news/item/30-10-2023-who-outlines-crucial-research-priorities-for-better-refugee-and-migrant-health>

<sup>4</sup> “COP28: Women and climate advocates driving forward change together”, UN Women, 04 December, 2023, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/12/1144352>

<sup>5</sup> “COP28: Women and climate advocates driving forward change together.”

women without a home or access to medical resources. The situation in Pakistan has created a surge in gender-based violence. Unfortunately, this is a common occurrence during chaotic times such as these.<sup>6</sup> Similarly, just 2,000 kilometers away, the Chattogram Division in Bangladesh was heavily hit by monsoon rain in August 2023. This monsoon created floods and landslides and has caused a severe humanitarian crisis in rural towns in the region.<sup>7</sup> This disaster has left millions of people without access to their basic needs and affected around 630,000 women and 480,000 children.<sup>8</sup> Due to the destruction of infrastructure, many of these people have nowhere to live and have become migrants.

In 2023, a study presented a complex analysis of climate migration in Uganda. Through the author's work, they concluded that socio-economic difficulties (such as hunger, food insecurity, and armed conflicts) are provokers of migration. These difficulties were connected to the degradation of the environment and rising temperatures. The study found that this happens alongside sudden events and disasters, such as droughts and flooding. This shows how climate change does not merely impact migrants through one angle but along many fronts, causing severe environmental and socio-economic harm.<sup>9</sup>

One of the most significant complications during migration journeys is the long-term implications that arise for women. Beyond becoming migrants, these women face many harmful conditions throughout this process. A report launched by UN Women in 2023 suggests that by 2050, climate change may force up to 158 million more women and girls into poverty and see 236 million more face food insecurity.<sup>10</sup> The document

also applies to issues such as economic disparity, anti-migrant discourse, exploitation of cheap labor from poor women, and racism. It explains how the effects of climate change increase these problems, affecting women and their living conditions. Although this report did not only focus on migrant women, it is relevant to all women and specifically addresses issues of importance to this topic. Alongside this analysis, the report also contains proposed methods that could be used to reverse such adverse effects. Because it is based on a feminist view, the document seeks climate justice and a society where everyone has full access to human rights and is free from discrimination.<sup>11</sup> The report expands on proposed solutions according to four principles: recognition of the struggles endured by women, redistribution of resources, representation of women in the decision-making process, and reparation of the harms they have already suffered. These principles guide how countries can manage green transitions while recognizing the leadership of women.<sup>12</sup> One of the practices described within the framework is redistributing resources for strong food systems, which pertains to the issue of industrial farming. The nature of industrial farming harms the environment and diminishes women farmers and food workers, an industry many migrants are prone to enter. Hence, the document highlights that governments must redistribute land and economic resources and invest in gender-responsive models, public services, and social protection as primary solutions for this structural issue.<sup>13</sup> When governments respond this way, they can address the sociocultural challenges that migrant women face daily.

Syria is a prominent example of how natural disasters can affect the lives of migrants, especially migrant women. The country has been dealing with the largest displacement crisis in the world

6 Mashael Shah, "How Climate Change Impacts Women of Colour Across the Globe." *The Wire*, March 24, 2023 <https://thewire.in/women/climate-change-women-of-colour-impact>

7 Shelter Cluster Bangladesh, Displacement Management Cluster, and WASH Cluster, *Damage and Needs Assessment of Chattogram Division's Flash Flood and Monsoon Rain - Final Report* (05 December, 2023), <https://reliefweb.int/report/bangladesh/damage-and-needs-assessment-chattogram-divisions-flash-flood-and-monsoon-rain-final-report-date-05-december-2023>

8 United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, Bangladesh Humanitarian Situation Report No. 6 (Floods and Landslides) (New York: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, 14 December, 2023), <https://reliefweb.int/report/bangladesh/unicef-bangladesh-humanitarian-situation-report-no-6-floods-and-landslides-13-december-2023>

9 Revocatus Twinomuhangi, Hakim Sseviiri, and Arthur Kato, "Contextualizing environmental and climate change migration in Uganda", *Local Environment* 28, no. 5 (18 January, 2023) <https://doi.org/10.1080/13549839.2023.2165641>

10 Laura Turquet, Constanza Tabbush, Silke Staab, Loui Williams, and Brianna Howell, *Feminist Climate Justice: A Framework for Action* (New York: UN Women, 2023), <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/Feminist-climate-justice-A-framework-for-action-en.pdf>

11 "New report shows how feminism can be a powerful tool to fight climate change", United Nations Women, 02 December 2023, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/feature-story/2023/12/new-report-shows-how-feminism-can-be-a-powerful-tool-to-fight-climate-change>

12 Turquet, Tabbush, Staab, Williams, and Howell, *Feminist Climate Justice: A Framework for Action*

13 Turquet, Tabbush, Staab, Williams, and Howell, *Feminist Climate Justice: A Framework for Action*

for over 10 years, with more than 12 million citizens displaced in the region.<sup>14</sup> In addition, in February 2023, earthquakes complicated the situation in the country, destroying vital structures and homes. These earthquakes affected almost nine million people.<sup>15</sup> Internally displaced women and girls now live amongst even more discrimination and differences due to these events. Despite the many obstacles, many projects have been created to provide pathways for people displaced by climate change. For example, in Syria, UN Women started the Oasis program in 2012, which is still running in 2024. This initiative is designed to provide Syrian and Jordanian refugees safe spaces. It consists of refugee centers across Jordan to assist refugees and migrants with development and early childhood services. The initiative strengthens economic empowerment and protection for women against gender-based violence.<sup>16</sup>

Similar to the Oasis program, most initiatives in climate migration situations look to address a specific condition or threat relevant to that situation. Given the issue of rising sea levels, for example, in November 2023, Australia and Tuvalu established a policy agreement that will allow 280 Tuvaluans

to migrate to Australia every year. Tuvalu is a small island state in the South Pacific with only a population of just over 11,000 people. Thus, 280 immigrants yearly represent more than 2 percent of the national population.<sup>17</sup> Further negotiations led to the conclusion that Australia would provide funding for efforts to help the affected country during storms or natural disasters, preventing complications later on.<sup>18</sup> This is one example of how countries less affected by global warming can support those who do not have enough resources to manage these crises.

Relevant to the discussion on climate change is the use of fossil fuels. In December 2023, 200 UN member states met for the twenty-eighth Conference of Parties (COP28). This conference resulted in every country committing to begin the transition away from fossil fuels. General Assembly Resolution 54/19 presented the issue of fossil fuels and its particular effects on migrant children and women. In addition, it focused on young girls and adult women migrants, as they are the most prone to the negative consequences of climate change and the degradation of the environment. Migrant women and girls

<sup>14</sup> “Syria situation,” United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, accessed December 10, 2023, <https://reporting.unhcr.org/operational/situations/syria-situation>

<sup>15</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, “Syria situation.”

<sup>16</sup> “UN Women’s Oasis programme empowers Jordanian and Syrian women,” United Nations Women, 02 December, 2023, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/feature-story/2023/12/un-womens-oasis-programme-empowers-jordanian-and-syrian-women>

<sup>17</sup> Lawrence Huang, “Climate Migration 101: An Explainer,” *Migration Information Source*, (November 16, 2023), <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/climate-migration-101-explainer>

<sup>18</sup> “Sinking nation of Tuvalu signs pact with Australia for refuge,” *The Hindu*, November 10, 2023, <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/sinking-nation-of-tuvalu-signs-pact-with-australia-for-refuge/article67521133.ece>

Women and children waiting to enter Dadaab camp in Kenya after drought  
Credit: Oxfam East Africa



are, unfortunately, the least empowered and equipped, in terms of education, capacity, and resources, to deal with the impacts of fossil fuels.<sup>19</sup> This was reported by UN Secretary General António Guterres. The recent resolution emphasizes how developing countries must receive support throughout the fuel transition. It also highlights the need for justice and equity within this situation.<sup>20</sup> This resolution also described many countries' concerns about the fact that 43.1 million children have been displaced in the last six years, according to UNICEF.<sup>21</sup> This results from weather-related disasters, with floods and storms accounting for 95 percent of those displacements.<sup>22</sup> Although the idea that women and girls are disproportionately impacted by climate change was raised, there is still much to be done in this area, and COP28 fell short in this regard.

The issue of climate change places women in a situation of greater insecurity concerning the problems that have already affected them. Gender-specific dangers, along with waves of forced migration, are exacerbated by climate change. Women—and especially migrant women—must be at the decision-making tables when it comes to climate change, or else their issues will be cast aside. Although COP28 made some progress in this area, it does not come close to the UN Women's ideals for a just, healthy future.

## Case Study: Sex Trafficking of Migrant Women in Central America

Added to the difficulty of navigating the world while being a migrant, women have to face challenges related to gender as well. This makes their migration experience harder than

those faced by men. Sex trafficking and gender-based violence (GBV) are among the greatest challenges women face as migrants.<sup>23</sup> Given the nature of these censored and stigmatized topics, sex trafficking, harassment, and GBV are severely under-researched. Hence, this remains one of the main topics that must be considered when discussing prevalent issues and difficulties of migrant women.

In Central America, the vulnerability of women migrants is strongly evidenced. In Panama in 2023, 500,000 people crossed the Darién Gap. This is nearly double from 2022.<sup>24</sup> Despite the thick jungle and immense hurdles, the Darién Gap remains the only land connecting South America to Central America.<sup>25</sup> For asylum seekers and other migrants heading North, the Darién Gap is the only option.<sup>26</sup> This large jump in numbers has also correlated with increased reports of sexual assaults and GBV. Doctors Without Borders (MSF) reportedly treated 397 cases of sexual violence in the Darién Gap throughout 2023. Most of the victims who reported these crimes were women attempting to migrate. However, the problem does not stop here. Some experts say the problem extends well beyond the Darién Gap, with women and girls facing sexual violence all along the migration route when they begin their journey further South.<sup>27</sup> Unfortunately, this region has a clear link between migration and exploitation.

With thousands of people migrating consistently, sexual exploitation of migrants is, unfortunately, a common occurrence. As migrants attempt to leave their homes undetected, they enter a risky environment. They often must place their lives in the hands of strangers who bypass laws. Many have to pay high prices for their decisions as well. Women are particularly vulnerable here, comprising around

19 General Assembly, Resolution 54/19, Realization of the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl, A/HRC/RES/54/19, (17 October 2023), <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/RES/54/19>.

20 United Nations News, "COP28 ends with call to 'transition away' from fossil fuels; UN's Guterres says phaseout is inevitable", *UN News*, 13 December 2023, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/12/1144742>

21 Tess Ingram and Ricardo Pires, "Weather-related disasters led to 43.1 million displacements of children over six years - UNICEF," *UNICEF*, October 6, 2023, <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/weather-related-disasters-led-431-million-displacements-children-over-six-year>.

22 A/HRC/RES/54/19

23 "Gender and Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Action", United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2021, <https://2021.gho.unocha.org/global-trends/gender-and-gender-based-violence-humanitarian-action/>

24 Alicia Fàbregas, "As Migration to the US Border Rises, Experts Fear Surge in Sexual Violence," *Al Jazeera*, December 21, 2023, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/12/21/as-migration-to-the-us-border-rises-experts-fear-surge-in-sexual-violence>

25 "How the Treacherous Darien Gap Became a Migration Crossroads of the Americas," Human Rights Watch, October 10, 2023, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/10/10/how-treacherous-darien-gap-became-migration-crossroads-americas>.

26 Human Rights Watch, "How the Treacherous Darien Gap Became a Migration Crossroads of the Americas."

27 Fàbregas, "As Migration to the US Border Rises, Experts Fear Surge in Sexual Violence."





UNHCR refugee assistance camp  
 Credit: Dcmcalpine

20 percent of the migrant pool in the region.<sup>28</sup>

The process of migrating from your place of origin to somewhere in search of safety can be caused by many factors. It also forces people to abandon much more than just their houses. People face distance from their family, community, environments, and support systems. This makes them more vulnerable and isolated when settling at their destination. These and other circumstances lead to refugees becoming a continuous target for traffickers, who take advantage of their unstable conditions.<sup>29</sup> These victims of human trafficking and violence have to be protected and must receive support in a safe environment that requires strong and affirmative actions. They also often need emergency assistance in various areas, such as medical, psychological, and judicial services.<sup>30</sup>

Aside from the Darien Gap in Panama, another example can be found in Mexico. Asylum seekers and human rights activists have been warning of an escalating kidnapping crisis in the Tamaulipas region, especially in the city of Reynosa. This is

due to the high activity levels of the infamous Gulf Cartel. The Gulf Cartel currently controls the city of Reynosa.<sup>31</sup> The city has suffered high levels of violence since the Mexican government unsuccessfully launched an offensive to capture Gulf Cartel leaders. Despite the disruptions this operation caused, the Cartel is still in control of the city. In this region, one of the main sources of revenue for the Gulf Cartel is migrant smuggling. In fact, in January of 2024, Mexican authorities had already rescued 31 migrants in Reynosa, the majority of whom included migrant women and teenage girls. These victims were from Ecuador, Venezuela, El Salvador and Honduras.<sup>32</sup> Gulf Cartel gunmen snatched the migrants from a bus on a highway in the city. One Ecuadorian woman reported that while in captivity, her kidnappers repeatedly allowed a drug dealer to sexually exploit her in exchange for his deliveries of drugs. She did not report the attack to police, saying she saw no point.<sup>33</sup>

These are only a few examples of the sad realities many

28 UNTOC, *Transnational Organized Crime in Central America and the Caribbean*, (Vienna: UNTOC, 2012), [https://www.unodc.org/documents/toc/Reports/TOCTASouthAmerica/English/TOCTA\\_CACaribb\\_trafficking\\_womengirls\\_within\\_CAmerica.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/toc/Reports/TOCTASouthAmerica/English/TOCTA_CACaribb_trafficking_womengirls_within_CAmerica.pdf).  
 29 "Trafficking in persons", United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, accessed December 18, 2023, <https://www.unhcr.org/what-we-do/protect-human-rights/asylum-and-migration/trafficking-persons>  
 30 *IOM-UNHCR Framework document on developing standard operating procedures to facilitate the identification and protection of victims of trafficking* (Geneva: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, June 2020), <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5ce22b4f4.html>  
 31 "Gulf Cartel" Utrgv.edu, 2024, <https://www.utrgv.edu/human-trafficking/blog/northern-mexico/gulfcartel/index.htm>.  
 32 "Mexican Authorities Rescue 31 Abducted Migrants," *VOA News*, January 4, 2024, <https://www.voanews.com/a/mexican-authorities-rescue-31-abducted-migrants/7425989.html>.  
 33 Laura Gottesdiener et al., "Migrants Are Being Raped at Mexico Border as They Await Entry to US," *Reuters*, September 29, 2023, <https://www.reuters.com/world/migrants-are-being-raped-mexico-border-they-await-entry-us-2023-09-29/>.

migrant women and girls face on their journey for a better life. Unfortunately, information on the trafficking of migrant women differs depending on the circumstances. Often, people in power refuse to recognize the existence of trafficking activities in their countries. They may also lack regulations and standards for conducting investigations into allegations of sex trafficking. This makes it difficult to assess the extent of the problem in Central America.

To date, there have only been a few international actions against migrant trafficking. One of the most relevant ones was carried out by the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC). This led to the creation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. This document has been signed and ratified by many countries in Central America. There are now special laws in line with the Protocol in the region. Countries have also created special prosecutors and initiated processes for more efficient international cooperation, resulting in a considerable increase in convictions.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees also works in Central America to help women in many aspects. This includes fair aid distribution, access to safe shelters, and assistance in overcoming education and employment barriers.<sup>34</sup> Many inter-agencies address gender issues and sexual violence, such as the UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict. The UN Action was constructed to raise awareness of the abuse and sexual violence women and girls face and put an end to these issues. It works worldwide to develop reports and conferences that debate possible solutions. For the past ten years, the UN Action has created policies, guidelines, and training materials and filled knowledge gaps to support the prevention and response to conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). They also work to protect women and have extensive support for

survivors and at-risk groups. Finally, this Action implements survivor-centered prevention and risk-eliminating measures through assistance and justice services.<sup>35</sup>

In 2023, INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) announced the launch of a new project designed to combat migrant smuggling and human trafficking in the Americas.<sup>36</sup> Project “*Turquesa*” combined the strengths of both organizations to arrest and prosecute migrant smugglers. As organized crime groups earn billions of dollars from their operations, many Central American countries serve as hotspots for these crimes. Given that human trafficking and migrant smuggling are highly gendered crimes that affect men, women, and children differently, *Turquesa* will focus specifically on migrant women and girls.<sup>37</sup>

In addition to the initiatives created by other committees, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has also been working with governments in the region. Currently, IOM is asking governments in Central America and Mexico to collaborate to address the immediate humanitarian needs of migrants. Given the unprecedented numbers of vulnerable migrants in the region, this is urgent.<sup>38</sup> Michele Klein Solomon, IOM Regional Director, emphasized the urgency of this situation.<sup>39</sup>

The stories of exploitation and violence against migrant women in Central America are disheartening. However, they also emphasize the need for comprehensive research, awareness, and action. Ultimately, it is challenging for migrant women to seek better lives and access basic services once they have left their homes. Regardless of what they face along their journey, migrant women deserve access to protection and other basic human rights. Addressing this issue requires international cooperation between governments, international organizations, and local communities. Only by working together can these groups provide victims protection, support,

34 “Women,” United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, accessed December 17, 2023, <https://www.unhcr.org/what-we-do/how-we-work/safeguarding-individuals/women>

35 “UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict”, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, accessed December 23, 2023, <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/about-us/un-action/>.

36 “Americas: New Joint Initiative against Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling,” Interpol.int, 2022, <https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2023/Americas-New-joint-initiative-against-human-trafficking-and-migrant-smuggling>.

37 Interpol, “Americas: New Joint Initiative against Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling.”

38 “Unprecedented Migrant Surge in Central America and Mexico; IOM Calls for Regional Action,” International Organization for Migration, 2021, <https://www.iom.int/news/unprecedented-migrant-surge-central-america-and-mexico-iom-calls-regional-action>.

39 International Organization for Migration, “Unprecedented Migrant Surge in Central America and Mexico; IOM Calls for Regional Action.”

and emergency assistance. This way, the cycle of violence faced by migrant women can finally be broken.

## Conclusion

When migrating, women face many difficulties. Hunger, homelessness, and a lack of healthcare are all common for these women. In addition, migrant women are faced with the impacts of climate change and gender-specific issues, such as GBV or lack of female health resources. This creates an even more dire situation for them. Unfortunately, the issues migrant women face continue to evolve. When observing the gradual increases in these difficulties, the demand to assist and empower these women increases. Despite some initiatives to address their struggles, migrant women are often left to the side during discussions concerning them.

New solutions should incorporate new technology and cooperation between international organizations, member states, the private sector, and other entities. This creates robust and diverse solutions, targeting many of the issues migrants face. Although many topics still lack research, many sources explore the issues faced by migrant women, which must be used to empower these women and end these circumstances. Delegates in this committee should focus on international cooperation to address this issue, as it is relevant to women worldwide. To work towards a planet of peace and justice for all, the IOM must prioritize women's empowerment, as their empowerment will lead to a better tomorrow.

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The National High School Model United Nations Conference (NHSMUN) is a project of IMUNA, a non-profit organization formally associated with the United Nations Department of Global Communications (UNDGC). IMUNA is dedicated to promoting global issues education through simulation.

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