



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

Migrant Access to Global Humanitarian Aid and Development Efforts

GLOBAL CLASSROOMS DC SPRING 2022 MODEL UN CONFERENCE

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INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE: IOM

The **International Organization of Migration (IOM)** is a UN intergovernmental organization that helps ensure humane and orderly migration and promotes migrant rights. IOM promotes orderly and humane migration management in four broad areas: development, facilitating migration, regulating migration, and addressing forced migration.¹

The agency tackles crises such as the displacement of over 5.6 million Venezuelans in Latin America and the Caribbean, the lack of COVID-19 vaccinations for migrant populations, and the continual detrimental effects of climate change on vulnerable migrant populations. In these crises, IOM offers support to migrants during the transit process, as well as helping migrants adjust after relocation.

BACKGROUND

There are many reasons why someone might choose to move to a different location. Some might move for new job opportunities; others might move to reunite with their families. The process of moving from one place to another is called migration, and those that decide to move are called migrants. The experiences that migrants endure vary drastically between groups of people, depending on whether their migration process was intentionally planned or out of necessity, and if they have the proper resources to migrate safely and legally.

Those that are forced to leave their homes are called forced migrants, and they include **refugees** and **asylum seekers**. According to **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees** (UNHCR), a refugee is someone who has fled war, violence, conflict, or persecution and has crossed an international border to find safety in another country, and an asylumseeker is someone that has requested protection from another country but has not received it yet. Here, refugees have



Image via Migration Network.

acquired legal status within their host country, whereas asylum seekers are still seeking legal protection.

Global humanitarian aid is generally distributed to vulnerable migrant groups that are more at risk of "violence, exploitation and abuse."² This group often includes refugees, asylum seekers, **internally displaced individuals**, and others forcibly displaced due to conflict, economic crisis, natural disasters, and **climate change**, or **human trafficking**.

Currently, humanitarian aid comes in many different forms - some offer basic food and shelter while others offer language classes that aim to help migrants better **integrate** into their new

¹ "Who We Are." IOM UN Migration. <u>https://www.iom.int/who-we-are</u>.

² "Assistance To Vulnerable Migrants." IOM UN Migration. <u>https://www.iom.int/assistance-vulnerable-migrants</u>.



environments. **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)** such as Red Cross teach migrants basic first-aid skills and prepare them for various weather emergencies, whereas official governments can aid migrants by creating policies that allow for easy, legal migration.

UN agencies also play an important role in providing humanitarian aid. IOM provides aid to internally displaced persons and refugees in camps because, in humanitarian crises, camps and/or camp-like settings are often the only places where internally displaced persons and refugees can seek protection and assistance.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Currently, the global environment of increasing **isolationism**, climate change, and the recent COVID-19 pandemic have strongly influenced migration patterns and the difficulties that migrants face.

Isolationism occurs when countries choose to create a distance between themselves and other countries, thereby *isolating* themselves from other countries. For example, under Donald Trump's presidency, the United States had an "America First" approach to foreign policy, leading Trump to pull out of different international organizations and pass policies that discouraged migration. Isolation may lead migrants to have more difficulty integrating into their new environments, and may even force migrants to change their migration routes as different countries close their borders.

Another issue impacting migrants today is climate change. An increase in natural disasters and rising sea levels force people out of their homes, loss of farmable land deeply affects agricultural workers, and decreasing water supplies have forced people to drink contaminated water. All these factors contribute to the increasing number of displaced migrants. With the current trajectory of climate change, the number of forced migrants due to environmental reasons will only increase.



Image via The Guardian.

Finally, the recent COVID-19 pandemic also has drastically shifted migration routes, with many countries closing their borders, placing travel restrictions, and slowing down or halting the legal immigration process. Additionally, COVID-19 has added additional stress to displaced people in dire conditions as closed borders abroad hinder them from migrating, making their situations more critical as essential supplies start to run out. These essential supplies become more and more scarce as the border restrictions cause various supply chain shortages and labor gaps.

These three themes have impacted the types of

migration and the specific needs of current-day migrants. In 2020, there were a total of 281



million international migrants, making up 3.6% of the global population. ³ Of which, 82.4 million of them are **forced migrants** who were forcibly displaced. ⁴ This means that almost 30% of international migrants are moving against their will, and thus much humanitarian aid and development efforts are necessary to ensure that they can migrate in a safe and successful way. The types of humanitarian and development efforts vary depending on geographical location and the specific needs of migrants.

In this committee, delegates will need to assess where the most urgent migrant humanitarian crises exist, and whether or not there is adequate aid given to these areas. They will need to discuss areas in which more aid should be allocated and methods for better allocation of humanitarian aid and development efforts given to migrants. Additionally, delegates will discuss current migrant development efforts and whether these efforts properly address the needs of migrants. To do so, delegates will need to work together to bring new ideas to the conversation, while also looking at what has been done in the past.

TYPES OF MIGRATION

Migration can be categorized into two main types: voluntary migration and forced migration.

Voluntary Migration

Voluntary migration refers to migration in which people choose to relocate from one place to another. This type of migration may occur for many reasons such as better job and education opportunities, or even for retirement. Various **push-pull factors** impact why someone may choose to migrate.

Voluntary migration is prominent within the **European Union** (EU). The EU allows for quick and easy migration between countries as there are very limited restrictions of employment and movement. In 2015, nearly 20 million people lived in a different European country from the one that they were born in.⁵ Generally, people from poorer Eastern European countries like Estonia, Hungary, and Poland migrate to higher income countries such as Germany and Switzerland for more job opportunities and better living conditions.

Forced Migration

Contrary to voluntary migration, forced migration occurs when migrants leave their homeland due to conditions that forced them to leave, including conflict, economic crisis,, famine, religious or political persecution, climate change, and more. Forced migrants generally include refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons, but they do not have to fit into these categories.

Generally, these people are considered a vulnerable group, as they are more susceptible to discrimination and generally lack a socio-economic safety net, and thus have greater need for humanitarian aid. In 2020, the total number of forced migrants reached 78.5 million, which is

³"World Migration Report 2020." IOM UN Migration. <u>www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/wmr_2020.pdf</u>.

⁴"Global Trends in Forced Displacement- 2020". UNHCR. <u>https://www.unhcr.org/60b638e37/unhcr-global-trends-2020</u>.

⁵ "Origins and destinations of European Union migrants within the EU. Pew Research Center."

 $[\]label{eq:https://www.pewresearch.org/global/interactives/origins-destinations-of-european-union-migrants-within-the-eu/.$



almost double the number in 2010.⁶ Increased climate change, prolonged political and economic conflicts, and various other factors have led to this stark increase in numbers. By the end of 2020, there were an estimated 26.4 million refugees, 4.1 million asylum seekers, and over 48 million internally displaced persons.⁷ Of the refugees, 5.7 million are registered by the **United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees** (UNRWA).⁸



The countries with the highest number of refugees are the Syrian Arab Republic, Afghanistan, and South Sudan, all of which recently

experienced a civil war and extreme political instability. As a result, a large number of people fled their home countries. Sadly, half of all refugees are under 18 years old and face a new set of challenges as they have limited, and often inadequate, education and are much more prone to **exploitation**. Each set of forced migrants have unique challenges and difficulties, and thus humanitarian aid is needed to address the specific needs of each group.

However, not all forced migrants flee their homes for extreme violence, and not all forced migrants qualify as refugees. The current humanitarian crisis in Venezuela has forced over 5 million Venezuelans to leave their homes due to the dire economic situation and a lack of job opportunities since 2014. This is the largest exodus in Latin America's recent history and one of the largest displacement crises in the world. While many of these economic migrants qualify for refugee status, some are unable to obtain refugee status for a myriad of reasons, including many foreign countries not considering dire economic conditions as a valid explanation for obtaining refugee status.

For example, while many Venezuelans have obtained refugee status in the United States, to be eligible to apply for refugee status, one must "demonstrate that they were persecuted or fear persecution due to race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group."⁹ Because Venezuelans often emigrate for economic reasons, it can be difficult for them to qualify as a refugee.

In addition to political instability, climate change has led to spikes in the number of natural disasters, which has forced many people out of their homes, leaving them displaced. A UNHCR report shows that there are 30.7 million displaced people due to climate change in 2020.¹⁰ These disasters triggered new **internal displacements**, many of which do not have the resources to rebuild their homes and communities.

⁶ "Forced Migration or Displacement." Migration Data Portal. <u>https://www.migrationdataportal.org/themes/forced-migration-or-displacement#:~:text=According%20to%20UNHCR%2C%20the%20number,million%20forcibly%20displaced%20people%20as.</u>
⁷ "Internally Displaced People". UNHCR. <u>https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/internally-displaced-people.html</u>.

**World Migration Report 2020." IOM UN Migration. www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/wmr_2020.pdf.

⁹"Refugees." USCIS. <u>https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/refugees-and-asylum/refugees</u>.

¹⁰"IOM Calls For Accelerated Action on Environmental Migration at the 2021 International Dialogue ." IOM UN Migration. <u>https://www.iom.int/news/iom-calls-accelerated-action-environmental-migration-2021-international-dialogue</u>.



Most of these natural disasters are concentrated in the Middle East and South-East Asia, with China, the Philippines, Bangladesh, India, and the US accounting for more than 60% of the internally displaced population.¹¹ With rising sea levels that cover up coastal areas, decreasing fertile soil, and various other environmental changes, environmental migrants are projected to increase in numbers, with the UN forecasting around 200 million environmental migrants by 2050.¹²

WHAT DIFFICULTIES DO MIGRANTS FACE?

Unsafe Conditions for Migration

The difficulties faced by migrants often occur during transit and after resettlement. During transit, the journey to the new



Image via The Conversation.

destination can be very dangerous due to a lack of facilities and policies that aid the transit process. Some migrants are forced to choose highly unsafe and unregulated migration routes that put them in harm's way. Many of these migrants are forced to engage in irregular migration, or migration that occurs outside of the law.

Since 2014 at least 44,397 people have been recorded missing while trying to reach their host country. Around 22,000 of them died on the Mediterranean Sea, followed by over 10,000 people in transit in Africa. Of all of the deaths, 44% of bodies have not been recovered.¹³

An estimated 80% of crossings from Africa to Europe through the Mediterranean have been through **migrant smugglers**, who help migrants enter another country without legal status. Migrant smugglers are often very exploitative as they prey on the desperation of those trying to escape poverty and other extreme, vulnerable circumstances.



Image via The Independent.

COVID-19 has added an extra layer of difficulty for irregular migrants. To prevent the spread of the virus, many countries have closed their borders, forcing a shift in the migrant routes. Travel restrictions have forced many Europe-bound migrants to go through the Canary Islands instead of the traditional transit countries like Libya and Morocco, where passage became even more restrictive after the outbreak.¹⁴ NGOs have faced additional restrictions on search and rescue operations in international waters, making it more difficult to search for people stuck at sea. To make

¹¹ "Environmental Migration." Migration Data Portal. <u>https://www.migrationdataportal.org/themes/environmental_migration_and_statistics.</u> ¹²"A complete Nexus." IOM UN Migration. <u>https://www.iom.int/complex-nexus/</u>.

 ¹³ "Missing Migrants Project" Missing Migrants Project. <u>https://missingmigrants.iom.int/</u>.
 ¹⁴ "Top 10 Migration Issues." Migration Policy. <u>https://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/migration-information-source/top-10-migration-</u> issues-2020.



matters worse, many ports have delayed or even denied these ships from entering their ports.¹⁵

Harsh Conditions of Refugee Camps

Aside from the dangers of irregular migration routes, the dire living conditions of **refugee camps** also pose a large challenge for those in transit. While refugee camps provide basic necessities such as food, water, shelter, and some medical services, overcrowding can greatly affect the accessibility of these resources for those living within the camps.¹⁶ Camps are often unable to provide the necessary healthcare and sanitation services, making refugee camps prone to infectious disease.¹⁷ Essential food and water resources are scarce, leading to persistent **malnutrition** within refugee camps.



Image via New York Times.

Additionally, despite refugee camps being designed for the purpose of temporary shelter, COVID-19 and the closure of borders abroad have forced many refugees to live in camps for extended periods of time. Because of this, the already strained resources provided by the camps have depleted even more.

Because refugee camps generally have very limited contact with the local population around them, the COVID-19 transmission rates within the camps have not been very high. However, fears over the potential spread of the virus among

refugee camps have led to much stricter lockdown measures within the camps, making it more difficult for refugees to integrate into the community as they are increasingly isolated.¹⁸

Challenges After Resettlement

After resettlement, migrants tend to face **discrimination** and are much more prone to **human trafficking**. Continued misinformation and **xenophobia**, plagues migrants as they attempt to settle into a foreign land. **Misinformation** about migrants can increase divides between locals and migrants, making it more difficult for migrants to assimilate into the society, and advance socio-economically.

¹⁵ "Migration Data Relevant for the COVID-19 Pandemic." Migration Policy. <u>https://www.migrationdataportal.org/themes/migration-data-relevant-COVID-19-pandemic</u>.

¹⁶"The Impact of COVID-19 on Refugees." Project Ploughshares. <u>https://ploughshares.ca/pl_publications/the-impact-of-covid-19-on-refugees/</u>. ¹⁷"Settlements Living Conditions." Epimonia. <u>https://epimonia.com/blogs/news/refugee-living-conditions</u>.

¹⁸"What We Got Wrong About Covid and Refugees." Norwegian Refugee Council. <u>https://www.nrc.no/opinions-all/what-we-got-wrong-about-covid-and-refugees/</u>.



Xenophobic attacks towards migrants range from hate speech, racial slurs, brutal acts of violence, to discriminating public policies. During COVID-19, xenophobia was exacerbated as local media blamed particularly blamed Asian communities for the origins of the virus, and thus various countries around the world saw sharp increases in hate crimes against Asians.

Xenophobic ideas translate into real policies that hurt migrants --under the Trump administration, the US moved to end the temporary protected status for



Image via CNN.

300,000 individuals from 10 countries as well as ending the DACA program that protected children of illegal immigrants.¹⁹

Aside from facing xenophobia and enduring discrimination, immigrants are also at higher risk of human trafficking, especially those without legal status or of low socio-economic class are especially prone to exploitation. Due to a lack of a support system, these migrants become vulnerable to false promises by traffickers that trap them into illegal and exploitative practices. The most common types of human trafficking include sex trafficking, forced labor, and debt bondage.²⁰

THE EFFECT OF COVID-19 ON MIGRANTS

While COVID-19 has affected people from all walks of life, it has had a major impact on migrants.

In August 2021, over 99,000 cases of COVID-19 had been reported among forcibly displaced people.²¹ The presence of variants of the virus has only prolonged these impacts, such as extending the time that borders are closed, delaying the asylum process, and continuing to relegate refugees in confined spaces of refugee camps.



Image via UNICEF

The economic costs of COVID-19 have also been disastrous, with many migrants now facing more unemployment and loss of income. In March 2021, average monthly wages in Jordan and Syria decreased by 40%. In Malaysia, 80% of refugees reported a loss of income, and more than

¹⁹ "Trump has ended emporary Protected Status for hundreds of thousands of immigrants." AFSC. <u>https://www.afsc.org/blogs/news-and-commentary/trump-has-ended-temporary-protected-status-hundreds-thousands-immigrants.</u>

²⁰ "What is Human Trafficking." San Francisco HRC <u>https://sf-hrc.org/what-human-trafficking</u>.

²¹ "Global COVID-19 Response, 12 August 2021." UN Higher Commissioner for Refugees

 $https://relief web.int/sites/relief web.int/files/resources/UNHCR\%20Global\%20COVID-19\%20Response_August_2021.pdf$



50% of respondents in Turkey lost their jobs.²² Evidently, COVID-19 has hit the migrant and refugee population very hard economically, especially since they were already vulnerable to economic discrimination.

The disproportionate effect of the pandemic has been most apparent in the unequal distribution of vaccines between low-income and high-income countries. While vaccination rates in high-income countries have reached 57.3%, the vaccination rate of low-income countries remains at a meagre 2.14%.²³ The low vaccination rate of low-income countries is especially harmful to the migrant community since over 80% of refugees live in low-income countries.



Image via FDA.

COVID-19's Effect on Women and Children

The pandemic has significantly worsened conditions for displaced women and children. Due to lockdowns that force people to remain indoors, COVID-19 has led to increased gender-based violence. Experts project that for every 3 months of lockdown, an additional 15 million women and girls are subjected to gender-based violence.²⁴

The increased socio-economic strain on the migrant community has increased the number of child marriages. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) predicts that COVID-19 could put up to 10 million more girls at risk of child marriage in the next decade.²⁵ Young girls in socio-economically disadvantaged communities are particularly at risk of being forced into marriage.

In addition to the increased threat of child marriage, COVID-19 has caused many schools to close, pulling more children out of receiving an education. In 2020, 1.58 billion children and youth from pre-primary to higher education were affected by COVID-related school closures.²⁶ Of which, refugee children were twice as likely to be out of school compared to non-refugee children, and half of all refugee girls were predicted to not be returning to schools after classrooms reopen.

²⁴ "COVID-19 deepens threats for displaced women and children." UNHCR. https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/5bf55a1112144d7dafa58fb4ecc8f9a7.

²²"COVID-19 Supplementary Appeal 2021". UNHCR. <u>https://reporting.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/COVID-</u> 19%20Supplementary%20Appeal%202021%20-%2018%20December%202020.pdf.

²³ "COVID-19 immunization in refugees and migrants: principles and key considerations." World Health Organization.

https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/344793/WHO-2019-nCoV-immunization-refugees-and-migrants-2021.1-eng.pdf.

²⁵ "10 Million Additional Girls at Risk of Child Marriage due to COVID-19." UNICEF. https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/10-millionadditional-girls-risk-child-marriage-due-COVID-19. ²⁶ "Policy Brief: Education during COVID-19 and beyond." UN. <u>https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-</u>

content/uploads/sites/22/2020/08/sg policy_brief_COVID-19_and_education_august_2020.pdf.



HUMANITARIAN AID AND DEVELOPMENT FOR MIGRANTS

Humanitarian aid and development efforts work hand in hand to help improve the lives of migrants, both in the short and long term. Humanitarian aid interventions are used to help people in emergencies by providing them with the necessary resources in the short-term. Resources such as water, food, and shelter are provided by humanitarian organizations to help those in need of immediate assistance. For example, the UN has set up various refugee camps around the world to offer basic resources and assistance to refugees. Development efforts, on the other hand, are

focused on solving structural issues in the longterm. These initiatives target large issues such as poverty and hunger that are caused by systemic issues. Therefore, development efforts tend to focus on altering policies to allow for more longterm growth.

Both humanitarian aid and development efforts are vital in the effort to help migrants, and only through mutual cooperation and coordination are they able to address the full extent of migrant issues.



Image via Red Cross.

Cluster Approach used in Humanitarian Aid

Large-scale humanitarian aid organizations adopted the **Cluster Approach** to respond to emergencies. In 2005, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, a forum of UN and non-UN humanitarian partners, adopted the Cluster Approach, in which UN and non-UN organizations are categorized into various sectors of humanitarian action. There are a total of 11 clusters: nutrition; health; food security; education; shelter; protection; logistics; water, sanitation, and hygiene; emergency telecommunications; early recovery; camp coordination and camp management.

Image: state state

Image via OCHA.

Within each cluster, a different UN organization leads the coordination effort. The purpose of the Cluster Approach is to communicate and coordinate between various organizations to provide quick and efficient solutions in emergencies. On a global level, clusters are responsible for overseeing the overall system-wide efforts and preparedness, whereas, on the country and local levels, clusters are responsible for the coordination between partner organizations. The benefits of the Cluster Approach include reducing overlaps between assistance delivered by humanitarian organizations, while also reducing gaps in aid as all facets of humanitarian aid are covered by different organizations.



IOM co-leads the camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) sector with UNHCR and is heavily involved in assisting in the shelter sector.²⁷ Both agencies assist in camp administration, coordination, and management, and they partner with local organizations to provide temporary assistance and protection services to displaced persons in camps and camp-like settings.²⁸

On the global scale, IOM is also responsible for working closely with various state actors such as the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as creating standards and policies of emergency response. To do this, IOM uses a very wide-reaching network, with over 100 member states and over 590 IOM offices worldwide. IOM supports and coordinates partnerships with member states, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia, and the media. On the local level, IOM will act as the cluster lead unless other organizations are more suitable for this role. Here, the IOM focuses on more specific local issues.²⁹

DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

Historically, development initiatives and migrant aid have been seen and operated as separate entities. Since development efforts are usually local and enclosed within a country, and migration is a cross-border issue, local development strategies often do not consider factors related to migration.³⁰

Currently, there are more initiatives that combine local development efforts and migration. These strategies recognize that migration can be used to help bolster local economies and local development efforts also affect migration. For example, deficiencies in socio-economic development such as the lack of employment opportunities and the prevalence of ethnic or religious discrimination may lead to more emigration. Because of this, local development efforts now consider how their policies can avoid emigration and even attract more highly skilled migrants.³¹

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development³²

IOM's Development Approach

The IOM lays out three tools necessary for sustainable development, specifically for better development outcomes.³³

²⁸ "Camp Coordination and Camp Management". UNHCR. <u>https://emergency.unhcr.org/entry/42974/camp-coordination-camp-management-cccm</u>.
 ²⁹ "Where we Work." IOM. <u>https://www.iom.int/where-we-work</u>.

²⁷ "The Cluster Approach." IOM Emergency Manual. <u>https://emergencymanual.iom.int/entry/21212/the-cluster-approach</u>.

³⁰ "IOM Institutional Strategy on Migration and Sustainable Development." IOM UN Migration. <u>https://publications.iom.int/books/iom-</u> institutional-strategy-migration-and-sustainable-development.

³¹ "How Immigrants Contribute to Developing Countries' Economies." OECD iLibrary. <u>https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/9789264288737-</u>

en.pdf?expires=1634748970&id=id&accname=ocid177385&checksum=F02F47975C1E29ACF20BB9253582355F. ³² "How Immigrants Contribute to Developing Countries' Economies." OECD iLibrary. <u>https://www.oecd-</u> ilibrary.org/docserver/9789264288737or pdf?expires=1624748970.%id=id&searceme=ocid177285 %checksum=F02F47075C1E20ACF20BD0252582355F.

en.pdf?expires=1634748970&id=id&accname=ocid177385&checksum=F02F47975C1E29ACF20BB9253582355F. ³³ "Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." UN. <u>https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda</u>.



- (1) IOM is committed to furthering structures that allow human mobility to be a choice. IOM will assist governments and others to assess and address the drivers and structural factors that compel people to move. This includes supporting governments to enhance pathways for safe and regular migration.
- (2) IOM will empower migrants and their families as development actors. This includes protecting the rights of migrants and the displaced population and promoting durable solutions that protect their rights. IOM will help break down barriers that hinder migrants from their full potential such as language and cultural barriers, unfair recruitment processes, and precarious working conditions.
- (3) IOM will collaborate with organizations that lead to better governance of migration. By advocating for policy coherence and systematic governance on the international, national and subnational levels, IOM will advise for more cohesion to make progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.

HOW EFFECTIVE ARE CURRENT HUMANITARIAN AID AND DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS?

Humanitarian Aid

A fundamental issue facing humanitarian aid is persistent underfunding. Humanitarian aid budgeting has continued to increase in recent years, yet the amount of donations has not been able to catch up with humanitarian needs, leading to perpetual underfunding. Within IOM and UNHCR, roughly half of the programs are underfunded.



Image via SOIL Haiti,

There are many reasons why humanitarian aid budgeting has been increasing, including climate change, longer-lasting conflicts, more complex emergencies, and increasing socioeconomic inequalities. Over the last decade, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance tripled, with nearly 235 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in 2021^{34}

Climate change has been a fundamental factor in increasing the number of people in need of aid.

With an increased number of natural disasters around the world, water and food scarcity, shelter instability, and other issues affect low-income and unstable communities on a larger scale, leading to more displaced persons.

Climate crises often occur in conjunction with each other, with one climate change crisis causing the occurrence of another. Humanitarian aid often can only address the immediate aftermath of a climate disaster by providing immediate emergency assistance. While emergency assistance is necessary for the short-term, long-term climate solutions are often very difficult to implement.

³⁴ "Global Humanitarian Review 2021." UNOCHA. <u>https://gho.unocha.org/</u>.



Since natural disasters are rather unpredictable, and the scope of their effects is extremely large, carrying out long-term planning to curb climate effects is very hard.

For example, it is hard to decide if rebuilding infrastructure in a disaster-torn area is more beneficial or if relocating its citizens to an area less prone to disasters is better. Due to the lack of certainty in the future, proper allocation of funds to maximize benefit is difficult to accomplish.

Haiti is heavily impacted by climate disasters. Frequent earthquakes largely impact Haitian people due to their low socio-economic background. However, Haiti's government structures are unable to provide the necessary support for its citizens. Current humanitarian aid in Haiti provides emergency relief such as food, water and sanitation products, but this relief fails to address the long-term effects of climate change. Without the necessary resources to build durable infrastructure or the policy initiatives to move people to less disaster-prone areas, residents of areas with frequent natural disasters will only experience more problems in the future.

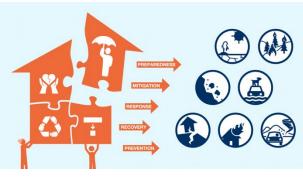


Image via OSCE.

To address this, IOM has implemented policies such as the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Initiatives (CCI) to help those most deeply affected by climate change.³⁵ These initiatives and policies seek to "support the inclusion of migrants and diaspora communities in preparedness, recovery and resilience-building efforts."36 However, these initiatives are not enough to ensure long-term sustainability.

Conflicts are also becoming more complex and involve more actors than ever before, leading to longer conflicts and making it much more difficult to solve these issues and restore peace. Prolonged civil unrest leads to a greater population in need of protection and humanitarian assistance on varying levels and different sectors.

Finally, increasing wealth inequality and the lack of social mobility means that it is becoming increasingly difficult for those in poverty to escape poverty. Globally, over 70% of the population lives in countries with widening wealth gaps, meaning that those at the bottom of the economic ladder are finding it more difficult to break away from poverty.³⁷ Additionally, since 86% of migrants and refugees are living in low and middle income countries, As a result, they require more humanitarian assistance to support their livelihoods.

 ³⁵ "Disaster Risk Education and Resilience." IOM. <u>https://www.iom.int/disaster-risk-reduction-and-resilience</u>.
 ³⁶ "Disaster Risk Education and Resilience." IOM. <u>https://www.iom.int/disaster-risk-reduction-and-resilience</u>.

³⁷ "Wealth gap widening for more than 70% of global population, researchers find." The Guardian https://www.theguardian.com/globaldevelopment/2020/jan/22/wealth-gap-widening-for-more-than-70-per-cent-of-global-population-researchers-find.



Inefficiencies Within Humanitarian Aid

Aside from an increasing need for resources, inefficiencies within humanitarian aid organizations also impact the effectiveness of humanitarian aid. A lack of communication between various organizations, as well as between the needs of the recipients and the donors can slow down the process of delivering aid in time. Without proper measures to ensure effective communication between recipients and donors, the aid provided does not always match what is needed.

Humanitarian aid organizations are additionally plagued with slow allocation of funds, supplies, and processes in general due to **bureaucratic processes**. Because many humanitarian organizations are fairly large, there are many rules and procedures within organizations that are in place to allow for a more structured way of operation. However, the downside of these rules is that they can slow down the processing of different funds and resources that are necessary for time-sensitive situations.

Issues with Current Development Efforts

While development efforts are starting to consider the role of migration, some projects and policies still do not have comprehensive frameworks that protect migrants and allow them to make meaningful contributions. For example, USAID handled foreign development policies and migrant policies in separate departments until 2010, often failing to leverage the beneficial impacts that migrants can have on development.³⁸ When migration and other relevant policies do not consider the needs of migrants, migrants may be put at risk and the development gains can be jeopardized.³⁹

On a smaller scale, migrants are left lacking the necessary social welfare and tools to succeed in their new environment, making them unable to pursue a livelihood or contribute to development efforts in the region. Without legal protection measures, citizenship access, socio-economic inclusion, and policies against xenophobia, migrant communities are more likely to become marginalized and therefore fall into the poverty trap.

CASE STUDY: VENEZUELA

Venezuela is a South American country that is currently experiencing an extreme political and economic crisis. As a result, over 5 million Venezuelans have fled to neighboring countries in Latin American and the Caribbean, with most fleeing to Columbia, Peru, Chile, and Ecuador.⁴⁰ Since 2014, the number of Venezuela requesting refugee status has increased by over 8000%.⁴¹

³⁸ "Leveraging the Link Between Migration and Development." Center For Global Development. https://www.cgdev.org/sites/default/files/leveraging-links-between-migration-and-development.pdf.

³⁹ "IOM Institutional Strategy on Migration and Sustainable Development." IOM UN Migration. <u>https://publications.iom.int/books/iom-institutional-strategy-migration-and-sustainable-development</u>.

⁴⁰ "Venezuelan Displacement Crisis". USA for IOM. <u>https://usaforiom.org/venezuela-displacement-crisis/</u>.

⁴¹ "Venezuela Situation". UNHCR. <u>https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/venezuela-emergency.html</u>.



There are numerous causes for the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, with the ongoing economic and political crises as fundamental causes.⁴² The Venezuelan crisis was not a result of war or conflict, but was caused by a combination of economic collapse and political mismanagement.

The sharp decrease in the economy's size, led to a collapse in the country's public infrastructure and services. For



Image via Freedom House.

example, the national electricity system has been experiencing many problems since 2017, with an average of 158 power failures per day. Almost 10 million Venezuelans have also had their water rationed, where one-third of the population only receives water once a week.

The combination of a lack of clean water and food has led to severe malnourishment, with many basic food items missing from supermarkets. In addition to the lack of public infrastructure, the crumbling healthcare system makes it very difficult for Venezuelans to access the necessary healthcare services. As a result, more than 300,000 people are at risk of developing serious health conditions because they have not received necessary medicines for more than a year. COVID-19 has only exacerbated the health issues that Venezuelans face. Because of COVID-19 related lockdowns and a delayed supply of essential resources, basic food and healthcare supplies have become even more scarce and expensive, making them inaccessible and unaffordable for many Venezuelans.

Humanitarian Aid for Migrants and Refugees

IOM and UNHCR are currently leading the **Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants in Venezuela** (R4V). R4V utilizes the Cluster Approach, which allows for better coordination in all aspects of humanitarian aid. The main clusters of aid provided are education, food security, health, humanitarian transportation, integration, nutrition, protection, shelter, and WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene).⁴³ Various UN agencies, including United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Program (WFP), and the World Health Organization (WHO), lead these sectors to address the challenges that refugees and migrants face.

Each cluster is responsible for addressing different issues faced by Venezuelan migrants and refugees. For example, the education cluster, led by UNICEF and Save the Children, seeks to enhance education systems by working with partner organizations to implement evidence-based

⁴²"Understanding the Venezuelan Refugee Crisis" Wilson Center. https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/understanding-the-venezuelan-refugeecrisis. ⁴³ "About R4V." R4V. https://www.r4v.info/en/.



policies that increase access and retention of refugee and migrant children in education. The food security cluster, led by WFP, focuses on ensuring food security within the region. Because COVID-19 has led to a loss in income and basic services, particularly for women and children, the food security cluster has initiated programs that address this new gender-and-age disparity.



IOM is directly responsible for the transportation, integration, shelter, and protection clusters (IOM leads the human trafficking and smuggling division). Within these clusters, IOM's responsibilities include providing border-to-border, internal, and day-to-day humanitarian transportation assistance, helping to integrate Venezuelan refugees and migrants into their new communities, providing access to temporary and longterm shelter for migrants and refugees, and enhancing border monitoring activities to allow Venezuelans to access asylum and promoting inclusion of migrants in national protection programs. Through these initiatives, IOM and other international NGOs work with local organizations to provide necessary humanitarian assistance.

Development Initiatives in Venezuela

Because of the unstable political landscape in Venezuela, development efforts have significantly stagnated, and the country has resisted foreign humanitarian and development assistance. Many countries have also imposed **sanctions** on Venezuela, especially the United States.⁴⁴ These sanctions were an attempt to stop the government-sponsored violence against ordinary civilians and protestors.⁴⁵

Despite the backdrop of harsh economic sanctions and political isolation, Venezuela has still implemented some development initiatives to try to bolster its economy. Recently, Venezuela has implemented an initiative to restart their metal production industry, with the resumption in operations of five big iron production companies.⁴⁶ Because of persistent underfunding, the economic crisis, and various other factors, Venezuela had previously suspended its metal production industry, which further exacerbated the economic crisis.

⁴⁴"Sanctions by the Numbers: Spotlight on Venezuela." Center For New American Security. <u>https://www.cnas.org/publications/reports/sanctions-by-the-numbers-3</u>.

⁴⁵"Sanctions by the Numbers: Spotlight on Venezuela." Center For New American Security. <u>https://www.cnas.org/publications/reports/sanctions-</u> by-the-numbers-3.

⁴⁶ "Venezuela restarts HBI production under new development plan." S&P Global Platts.

 $[\]underline{https://www.spglobal.com/platts/en/market-insights/latest-news/metals/092221-venezuela-restarts-hbi-production-under-new-development-plan.$





Image via Borgen Project.

Aside from development efforts initiated within the country, the Inter-American Development Bank has approved USD 1.35 billion in loans to help Venezuela's development.⁴⁷ Of these loans, half is used to bolster Venezuela's energy sector, and the other half is split between social investment, and water and sanitation support. Despite these development efforts, many more initiatives are needed to properly rebuild Venezuela's economy and help Venezuelan migrants and refugees.

Additionally, neighboring host countries such as Colombia have implemented various development initiatives to help Venezuelan refugees and migrants. Since the beginning of the Venezuelan exodus to Colombia in 2015, the World Bank has provided USD 1.6 billion and various other analytical and administrative support to Colombia.⁴⁸ Specifically, the World Bank has started different employment programs, integration initiatives, healthcare services, housing projects, and other social security services. These programs have helped Venezuelans in Colombia better integrate into society, increasing their chances of success within the country.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- 1. Is your country a country of origin, transit, or destination?
- 2. What migrant humanitarian aid initiatives has your country initiated?
- 3. What types of development efforts has your country implemented?
- 4. Does your country rely on migrant aid for support? If so, where would more aid be helpful?
- 5. What type of improvements in migrant aid and development would benefit your country?
- 6. How has COVID-19 and climate change affected migration in your country?
- 7. What countries should you collaborate with to create migrant policies?
- 8. What type of policies will benefit migrants (and host communities) the most?

⁴⁷ "Venezuela". Inter-American Development Bank. <u>https://www.iadb.org/en/countries/venezuela/overview</u>.

⁴⁸ "Supporting Colombian Host Communities and Venezuelan Migrants During the COVID-19 Pandemic" World Bank.

https://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2021/10/31/supporting-colombian-host-communities-and-venezuelan-migrants-during-the-covid-19-pandemic.



GLOSSARY

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: 17 global goals (the SDGs) designed for a better and more sustainable future for all; the SDGs were set up in 2015 by the UN and are intended to be achieved by the year 2030.

Asylum seekers: a person who has left their home country and is looking for international protection; not every asylum seeker will ultimately be recognized as a refugee, but every recognized refugee is initially an asylum seeker.

Bureaucratic processes: complex organization that has many systems and processes that can often cause long delays.

Cluster Approach: a set of structures, processes, principles and commitments to coordinate humanitarian action when a national government requests support.

Discrimination: any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference.

European Union: economic and political union between 27 European countries.

Exploitation: the action of treating someone else unfairly for one's benefit.

Humanitarian aid: material and logistic assistance to people who need help.

Human trafficking: modern-day slavery and involves transporting or holding people by threat or the use of force for the purpose of exploitation, such as forced labor.

Internally displaced person (IDP): someone who has been forced to leave their home to avoid the effects of armed conflict, general violence, human rights violations, or disasters, but has not crossed a border into another country.

Integrate: the two-way process of mutual adaptation between migrants and the societies in which they live

International Organization of Migration (IOM): organization that serves as the United Nations Migration Agency, providing humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people, promoting international cooperation on migration issues, and assisting in the search for practical solutions to migration-related issues.

Irregular migration: usually happens when a migrant, for a variety of reasons, cannot meet a country's requirements to enter/leave the country, like having the correct immigration documents (such as a valid visa and/or passport).

Isolationism: a policy to remain apart from other groups or countries.

Malnourishment: lack of proper nutrition.

Migrant smugglers: the procurement of the illegal entry of a person into a nation that they do not have legal status in

Misinformation: false or inaccurate information about a person or an event

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs): typically a voluntary group or institution with a social mission that operates independently from the government

Push-pull factors: reasons that migrants leave their country (push) and reasons that migrants choose to move to a specific country (pull).

Refugee camps: temporary shelter for people who have been forced to flee their home.

Refugees: persons seeking international protection, owing to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.

Regional Inter-agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants in Venezuela (R4V): Interagency operation to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees and migrants in Venezuela **Resettlement:** moving from one place to another.

Sanctions: an action that forces another country to obey international laws by limiting or stopping trade with that country, or by not allowing economic aid for that country

Transit: the temporary stay of migrants in one or more countries, with the objective of reaching a further and final destination.



United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF): UN global organization dedicated to helping the most disadvantaged children and adolescents.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR): UN global organization dedicated to saving lives and protecting rights of refugees.

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA): UN Humanitarian relief and development agency focused on providing assistance to registered Palestine refugees.

Wealth inequality: Unequal distribution of wealth between different people and countries. Xenophobia: intense dislike or hatred of foreigners.



EXTRA RESOURCES

In our Extra Resources section, we provide resources for students to use in their research for the Spring Conference. Students are responsible for researching their position for their assigned countries, and these resources help point them in the right direction

UNHCR: Global Trends, Forced Displacement in 2020

This report offers some basic facts and figures on the situation of forced displacement globally. It's a great resource to gain some background knowledge of the current migration situation. Specifically, it covers the changes in migration pattern due to COVID-19, as well as various other recent events and factors.

Read it here: https://www.unhcr.org/flagship-reports/globaltrends/

IOM: The Cluster Approach

This brief introduces what the cluster approach is, and how it is organized. It also goes in depth about what IOM's priorities are in the cluster approach and the type of work that IOM is involved in. Specifically, it outlines how the IOM is involved in various scenarios, including on the local level as well as the international level.

Read it here: https://emergencymanual.iom.int/entry/21212/the-cluster-approach

WHO: COVID-19 immunization in refugees and migrants: principles and key considerations: interim guidance

This report offers statistics on the vaccination rates of refugees and migrants, and highlights how COVID-19 has impacted the migrant community. It acts as a great resource to understanding the unequal impact that COVID-19 has played on the vulnerable migrant community.

Read it here: <u>https://www.who.int/publications-detail-redirect/covid-19-immunization-in-refugees-and-migrants-principles-and-key-considerations-interim-guidance-31-august-2021</u>

IOM: Countering Xenophobia and Stigma To Foster Social Cohesion in the COVID-19 Response and Strategy

This report goes greatly in depth on a very common hardships that immigrants tend to encounter in their host communities. It outlines why xenophobia exists, and that the impact that COVID-19 has had what xenophobia looks like why it occurs.

Read it here: <u>https://eea.iom.int/publications/countering-xenophobia-and-stigma-foster-social-cohesion-covid-19-response-and-recovery</u>

IOM: IOM Global Reports 2020, Operations and Emergencies



This report introduces the various humanitarian aid initiative that IOM has been involved with globally. It gives a brief overview of the different sectors that IOM engages in, and is a very useful resource to understanding why IOM is important and the type of work that they do.

Read it here: <u>https://www.crisisresponse.iom.int/sites/default/files/uploaded-files/GAR%202020_web%20version%202.pdf</u>

R4V: RMRP 2021, For Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela

This report offers a comprehensive overview of the migrant situation in Venezuela and the different issues that the country is facing. Additionally, it offers how R4V and its partner organizations are helping to mitigate the issues.

Read it here: <u>https://rmrp.r4v.info/</u> Data Visualization: <u>https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/fc308b616de34a129c86f0d658f2ccd3</u>

IOM: Migration and the 2030 Agenda

This report presents the 2030 sustainable development goals and how migration fits into the picture. The 2030 Sustainable Development Goals is an extremely useful and important resource to understanding the types of migrant development efforts that are currently implemented.

Read it here: https://publications.iom.int/books/migration-and-2030-agenda-guide-practitioners

The World Bank: A Development Approach to Conflict-Induced Internal Displacement

This report explains how the World Bank integrates humanitarian aid for international displacement to local development efforts. This offers a perspective of how migrant development can be executed.

Read it here: https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/35505



GLOBAL CLASSROOMS DC POSITION PAPER OVERVIEW AND REQUIREMENTS

What is a Position Paper?

A position paper is a short document that outlines a country's opinion on an issue. The paper includes a short summary of what the issue or problem is, explains why the country is interested in the issue, and communicates the country's stance on what should be done to address the issue. A position paper is written as if you were the actual representative of the country stating its position. Your personal opinions on the issue should not be included. A position paper is not a summary of your country's GDP, government, economy, languages, etc. unless directly relevant to the issue. Only one position paper is written per country, per grade school committee; if there are 2 or 3 delegates representing the same country on a committee, they should write the paper together.

Why write a Position Paper?

Writing a position paper will help you organize why an issue matters to your country and what your country wants done on the issue. The first thing you will likely do in committee is present an opening speech about your country's position. You should be able to pull portions of a well written position paper into an introductory speech on your country's perspective. Also, your delegation is not eligible to win best / outstanding delegation without the submission of a position paper. There are separate awards given for best position paper.

How to Write a Position Paper

(1) Research the Issue. The questions you want to answer are:

- 1. How does this issue affect your country?
- 2. How does this issue affect your country's neighbors or allies?
- 3. Is this a global problem that impacts everyone?
- 4. What would your country like to see done on this issue?
- 5. Are there countries or groups of people who will be particularly sensitive to addressing this issue?
- 6. Are there any conventions or resolutions on the topics that your country has signed or ratified?
- 7. What are UN actions on the issue? Has your country supported or opposed these actions?
- 8. Keep in Mind: What a country says, and what it actually believes should be done may be different. Also, some countries may believe that no action should be taken on an issue. They may disagree with how others feel or may not want international involvement. It is okay if your position is that the international community should do nothing, but you will need to explain why.
- (2) Brainstorm Specific Actions. Come up with 3-4 specific things that can be done to reach the outcome your country desires. For example: "The United States believes we should send a peacekeeping mission to monitor human rights abuses in Syria and encourage talks between both sides." You will present these ideas in committee as possible solutions to the problem and attempt to pass a resolution which includes these actions.



- (3) Outline Your Paper. Make an outline of what points you want to cover in your paper and the order in which you would like to address them. Remember a good paper should briefly explain the problem, explain why your country cares about the issue, and inform others what your country should like to see done. If you know other countries favor a solution that you will disagree with, make sure to include why your country disagrees.
- (4) Write your Paper. Position papers should be no more than one page long and be written from the perspective of the country you are representing. Rather than being a report on the topic, a position paper should explain what your country wants to see done to address the issue. Start by giving a brief summary of the issue and how it impacts your country. Then explain the specific actions you would like to see taken. Close by summarizing your country's overall position. Proper grammar and spelling are a must!

Award Criteria and Eligibility

- One position paper award will be given out per committee.
- The ideal position paper will have a clearly defined and summarized topic with your country's position clearly outlined. Points are also awarded for organization, style and correct grammar.
- GCDC Staff will be fact checking position papers, so be sure to include the most up to date information and a works cited (or list of all the sources you use).
 - Proper source citation: if an idea or quote came from another source, you must provide a footnote / citation.
- Papers will be disqualified if the conference staff has discovered that students did not write their own papers or that content has been plagiarized.
- Make sure your position paper must have the required header below! Do not create any additional title pages points will be deducted for improper format.
- Formatting Requirements: 500 words minimum, 1,500 words maximum. Times New Roman font, 12-point size
- All position papers must be sent to <u>gcdc@unanca.org</u> by March 18, 2022 at 11:59 PM EST.

REQUIRED POSITION PAPER HEADER

Committee:	Examples:	UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
Торіс:	-	Climate Change
Country:		The United States of America
Delegate Name(s) and Grades:		Bob Smith and Jane Doe (gr. 7)
School (Teacher/Coach):		Madison High School (Mr. Jones)

The United States of America believes ...