Dear Delegates,

Welcome to SRMUN Charlotte 2023 and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Your Director for IOM is Xander Swain, and the committee's delightful Assistant Directors will be Levi Price and Orlando Valdez III. Levi has worked extensively on the staff of other Model United Nations conferences and has attended four SRMUN conferences as a delegate. Levi is currently a junior working on a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture. Orlando has considerable Model United Nations experience and has attended eight SRMUN conferences as a delegate. Orlando will be graduating in the fall with a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs.

The International Organization for Migration is composed of 175 Member States and eight Observer States. The IOM supports migrants by creating plans for the changing dynamics of migration and providing advice on policy and practice. During crisis situations, the IOM aids all people transitioning across Member States and specifically those who are most vulnerable. The organization is a leader in the migration field and is dedicated to the principle that orderly and humane migration benefits both society and migrants.

By focusing on the mission of the IOM and the SRMUN Charlotte 2023 theme of *"Reimagining Peace, Reclaiming Human Rights, and Restoring International Law,"* we have developed the following topics for delegate discussion:

  I. Improving Systems to Assist the Families of Missing Migrants
  II. Combating Multidimensional Poverty within Migrant Populations

This background guide provides an introduction to the committee and the topics that will be debated at SRMUN Charlotte 2023. It should be utilized as a foundation for a delegate's independent research. While we have attempted to provide a holistic analysis of the issues, the background guide should not be used as the single mode of analysis for the topics. Delegates are expected to go beyond the background guide and engage in intellectual inquiry of their own. The position papers for the committee should reflect the complexity of these issues and their externalities. Delegations are expected to submit a position paper and be prepared for a vigorous discussion at the conference. Position papers should be no longer than two pages in length (single spaced) and demonstrate your Member State's position, policies, and recommendations on each of the two topics. For more detailed information about formatting and how to write position papers, delegates can visit srmun.org. ***All position papers MUST be submitted no later than Friday, March 3, 2023, by 11:59pm EST via the SRMUN website.***

Levi and Orlando are thrilled to serve as your dais for the IOM. We wish you the best of luck in your conference presentation and look forward to working with you soon. Please feel free to contact Deputy Director-General Jasmine Sutherland, or Assistant Directors Levi Price and Orlando Valdez, if you have any questions while preparing for the conference.

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History of the International Organization for Migration

Established in 1952, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), originally known as the Provisional Intergovernmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe (PICMME), was mandated to help identify resettlement for an estimated 11 million European people uprooted by the effects of World War II. With early success in the transportation of over a million migrants during the 1950's, the organization then changed its name to the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) before changing its name once again to the Intergovernmental Committee for Migration (ICM) in 1980.[1] In 1989, the ICM changed its name one last time to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to reflect its transition from a more logistics-focused agency to a migration-focused agency within the international community.[2] From its humble roots as an operational logistics agency, the IOM has worked to become the leading international agency for economic development through migration. Outcomes from this committee ensures the human dignity and well-being of migrants in some of the most vulnerable times of their lives.[3]

The IOM comprises 174 Member States as well as eight Observer States.[4] Headquartered in Grand-Saconnex, Switzerland, it is managed by the IOM Director-General's Executive Office, which oversees the IOM's current policies and activities to make sure they are aligned with the IOM's goals.[5] The Executive Office is led by the committee's Chief of Staff, who reports directly to the Director-General while assisting the Deputy Director-Generals.[6] The current Director-General of the IOM is António Vitorino, the Deputy Director-Generals of the IOM are Ugochi Florence Daniels and Amy E. Pope, and the Chief of Staff of the IOM is Eugenio Ambrosi.[7] The IOM has 14 different departments, all having individually tailored divisions, secretariats, and units functioning under their departments to meet specific department goals.[8] The inner workings of the IOM are governed by the IOM's constitution, which was formally adopted on November 30, 1954.[9] The IOM's budget for 2021 was 913,367,000 USD, allocated towards eight mitigation efforts over six global regions and general global support and services.[10]

The IOM has assisted with the needs of migrants during both man-made and natural disasters since its creation.[11] During the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, the International Organization for Migration assisted thousands of Hungarian refugees making the difficult journey out of Hungary to surrounding Member States.[12] The IOM was instrumental in establishing safer migration routes and patterns in crises such as the separation of the Former State of Czechoslovakia in 1968, the events following the coup d'état in the Republic of Chile in 1973, the Displacement of the Vietnamese Boat People in 1975, the invasion of The Kingdom of Kuwait in 1990, and the Asian Tsunami Disasters in the Mid-2000s.[13] Most recently the IOM has been working to support and meet the goals of its mission in the Levant, where there is significant migrant movement due to the area's civil war.[14]

Providing better conditions for vulnerable migrants and refugees in adherence to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) standards is a core focus for the IOM. Aligned specifically with goal ten, to "Reduce Inequality Within and Among Member States," the IOM endorsed its own strategy in 2015 to adequately implement

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[1] "IOM History," *International Organization for Migration,* accessed August 17, 2022. https://www.iom.int/iom-history

[2] "IOM History," *International Organization for Migration.*

[3] "IOM History," *International Organization for Migration.*

[4] "Who We Are," *International Organization for Migration*, accessed August 17, 2022. https://www.iom.int/who-we-are

[5] "IOM Organizational Structure," *International Organization for Migration*, accessed August 17, 2022. https://www.iom.int/iom-organizational-structure

[6] "IOM Director General's Executive Office," *International Organization for Migration*, accessed August 17, 2022. https://www.iom.int/iom-director-generals-executive-office

[7] "IOM Leadership Team," *International Organization for Migration*, accessed August 17, 2022. https://www.iom.int/iom-leadership-team

[8] "IOM Organizational Structure." *International Organization for Migration.*

[9] "Constitution," *International Organization for Migration*, accessed August 17, 2022, https://www.iom.int/constitution

[10] "Governing Bodies," *International Organization for Migration*, accessed August 17, 2022, https://governingbodies.iom.int/

[11] "IOM History," *International Organization for Migration.*

[12] "IOM History," *International Organization for Migration.*

[13] "IOM History," *International Organization for Migration.*

[14] "Phase 1: Safe and Preliminary Identification." *International Organization for Migration,* accessed September 23, 2022. https://www.iom.int/phase-1-safe-and-preliminary-identification.

migration governance, called the Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF).[15] The MiGOF outlines principles to ensure a well-managed, equitable, and optimized migration plan for the mobility of vulnerable people.[16] Using coordinated analysis of international logistics and politics, this framework is also used to evaluate and emphasize objectives focusing on improving the socio-economic status of migrants, quick response times to migration crises, maintaining the integrity of migration by reducing possible migration-related health crises, while managing irregular and illegal migration.[17]

In 2018, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM), an international agreement that created a plan to manage international migration and create in-depth objectives to better understand, implement, and govern migration.[18] Subsequently, the UN Network on Migration was established to carry out the mandates of the GCM and lead consistent, coordinated efforts among Member States prioritizing the needs of migrants.[19] The IOM was granted the role of Secretariat and Network Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration.[20] This appointment gives clarity of purpose to the IOM, and strengthens the efforts of Network Member States in areas of migration and regions of conflict to better protect the people who are seeking safer areas.

In 2019, the IOM drafted a new five-year Strategic Vision to predict the immigration needs of the next century, presented in document C/110/INF/1.[21] Leaning on learnings from the past, the vision outlines three foundational pillars: resilience towards poverty and climate change; mobility to combat evolving migration trends; and identifying migrants during the migration process (governance). Looking into the future, the IOM promotes the values of resilience, mobility, and governance to Member States to build connections with United Nations programs in order to proactively build capacity for the management of forecasted migration trends.[22]

The decision-making process of the IOM is dictated by the 175 Member States within the committee.[23] Each Member State has one vote within the organization to decide on the IOM's current policies and direction of the organization.[24] Understanding the varying factors by which the mass mobilization of migrations is necessary, the first goal is an attempt at safe preliminary identification of migrants and vulnerable persons. When possible, the IOM coordinates with Member States to analyze existing pathways and methods resulting in implementation of sustainable solutions.[25]

[15] "Mission," *International Organization for Migration*, accessed August 17, 2022. https://www.iom.int/mission
[16] "Mission," *International Organization for Migration*.
[17] "Migration Governance Framework - International Organization for Migration," *International Organization for Migration*.
[18] "IOM in the XXI Century," *International Organization for Migration*, accessed August 17, 2022. https://www.iom.int/xxi-century
[19] "About Us." *United Nations Network for Migration,* accessed January 23, 2023. https://migrationnetwork.un.org/about#
[20] "Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration," *Global Compact for Migration.*
[21] International Organization for Migration. *Strategic Vision: Setting a Course for IOM.* Geneva: International Organization for Migration, 2019. https://publications.iom.int/books/strategic-vision-setting-course-iom
[22] IOM, *IOM Strategic Vision: 2019-2023 Setting a Course for IOM.* Geneva: International Organization for Migration, 2019. https://governingbodies.iom.int/system/files/en/council/110/C-110-INF-1%20-%20IOM%20Strategic%20Vision.pdf
[23] "Constitution and Basic Texts of IOM Governing Bodies," *International Organization on Migration.* https://www.iom.int/constitution-and-basic-texts-governing-bodies.
[24] "Constitution and Basic Texts of IOM Governing Bodies," *International Organization on Migration.*
[25] "Phase 1: Safe and Preliminary Identification." *International Organization for Migration.*

I. Improving Systems to Assist the Families of Missing Migrants

"Migration is an expression of the human aspiration for dignity, safety, and a better future. It is part of the social fabric, part of our very make-up as a human family" - Ban Ki-Moon[26]

Introduction

Recognizing individuals migrate to other Member States for a multitude of reasons, a common driver stems from the basic desire to make life better. The perceived opportunity migration brings often includes high risks, such as migrants going missing during their journey.[27] Migrants often take illegal or dangerous routes due to border control measures and migration policies enacted by Member States to deter unannounced entry into a state or territory.[28] Once a migrant loses contact with their families during their journey, there is little that can be done without the cooperation of authorities and between Member States to identify a missing migrant.

A person is considered a missing migrant once they have left their home to travel across Member State borders, but their status is unknown due to an absence in communication or other proof of life to their families, friends, or others whom they have left.[29] This can be due to mutual contact avoidance for fear of discovery or because of a lack of access to resources either within the origin or destination state while in hiding. This is common in areas of conflict and migrants driven by persecution, political or otherwise. Other migrants will be considered missing due to detainment.[30] The IOM and UN fully respect the sovereignty of Member States to set laws related to the regulation of prisoners. It is worth noting, however, varying degrees of access to communication by Migrants adds to the number of missing each year.Others may have perished during the often harrowing journey to their destination, with their remains abandoned by fellow travelers, lost at sea, or otherwise not properly identified or documented.[31]

When migrants are missing, their families enter a state of ambiguous loss. Such loss can lead to direct economic, social, and psychological suffering.[32] Feelings of grief are common among families of missing persons, and those affected can often become isolated from community norms.[33] Logistically, death certificates are sometimes denied due to differences in legal systems of Member States regarding standards pertaining to permissible validity of forensic data collection.[34] Challenges for the families of missing migrants include the right to own or inherit property, general inheritance, certain parental and marital rights, and the right to welfare and other government sponsored social benefits.[35]

The IOM recognizes the importance of adapting current systems to meet evolving needs of families and the evolving political situations in key Member States. There is a lack of research into the needs of families impacted by a migrant missing between Member States.[36] Solutions must be carefully and sustainably developed to locate missing migrants and reunify them with their families. In addition, families will benefit from a coordinated increase in services in the interim while their loved ones are missing.

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[26] Ban Ki Moon. *Secretary-General's remarks to High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development*. New York: UN Headquarters, 2013. https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2013-10-03/secretary-generals-remarks-high-level-dialogue-international

[27] "Missing Migrants and Their Families: The ICRC's Recommendations to Policy-Makers," *ICRC*, accessed December 23, 2022. https://www.icrc.org/sites/default/files/document/file_list/missing-migrants-and-their-families.pdf

[28] "Missing Migrants and Their Families: The ICRC's Recommendations to Policy-Makers," *ICRC*.

[29] "Missing Migrants and Their Families: The ICRC's Recommendations to Policy-Makers," *ICRC*.

[30] "Missing Migrants and Their Families: The ICRC's Recommendations to Policy-Makers," *ICRC*.

[31] "Missing Migrants and Their Families: The ICRC's Recommendations to Policy-Makers," *ICRC*.

[32] "Missing Migrants and Their Families: The ICRC's Recommendations to Policy-Makers," *ICRC*.

[33] "Humanitarian Consequences of Family Separation and People Going Missing," *British Red Cross, et al,* accessed January 23, 2023. https://redcross.eu/uploads/files/Positions/Migration/Family%20Separation/rapport-2019-humanitarian-consequences-of-family-separation-and-people-going-missing.pdf

[34] "Missing Migrants and Their Families: The ICRC's Recommendations to Policy-Makers," *ICRC*.

[35] "Missing Migrants and Their Families: The ICRC's Recommendations to Policy-Makers," *ICRC*.

[36] "Humanitarian Consequences of Family Separation and People Going Missing". *British Red Cross, et al.*

History

People become migrants for a multitude of reasons, including but not limited to: war, economic hardship, the derecognition of their human rights, and family support or accompaniment.[37] While families may migrate as a unit, it is not uncommon for individuals to migrate individually and/or separately from their families.[38] A person may decide to migrate away from their family in search of higher wages or simply access to employment. This migrant provides a financial lifeline to their family through payments back to their country of origin (known as remittances). In 2020 alone, remittances totaled $702 billion.[39] Missing migrants are unable to pay remittances leading many affected families to unexpected hardships.

A 1983 guideline published by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) titled, *UNHCR Guidelines on Reunification of Refugee Families*, recognizes that family separation is an unfortunate factor during the migration process, and highlights how the separation of families often leads to increased adversity when acclimating to a new environment.[40] The importance of a stable family unit is also reaffirmed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, as well as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966, stating that "the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State."[41]

Also outlined in the 1983 UNHCR guideline are multiple officially recognized familial dynamics which the UNHCR advises focusing on reunification efforts. Specifically, monogamous and polyamorous relationships, parents and their children (incl. dependants), and unaccompanied minors.[42] The IOM affirms the statement made by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966 regarding the importance of the family unit, additionally affirming similar legislation found in the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as Articles 7, 24 and 47 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.[43] The significance of the family unit is further affirmed by the IOM in the International Agenda for Migration Management as one of the 20 Common Understandings for the Management of International Migration.[44]

Actions Taken by the United Nations

The IOM is deeply concerned by the growing number of missing migrants.[45] The UN and the IOM have acknowledged the growing issue of the lack of systems, particularly universal systems, in place to aid families in discovering the fate of community and family members that have migrated out of their respective regions.[46] These families and loved ones then experience a multitude of challenges (i.e. psychosocial, legal, and financial) in their

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[37] The Scottish Government. *Family Migration: Understanding the Drivers, Impacts and Support Needs of Migrant Families in Scotland*. Edinburgh, Scotland: St. Andrew's House, 2021. https://www.gov.scot/publications/family-migration-understanding-drivers-impacts-support-needs-migrant-families-scotland/pages/3/

[38] The Scottish Government. *Family Migration: Understanding the Drivers, Impacts and Support Needs of Migrant Families in Scotland*.

[39] "World Migration Report". *International Organization for Migration*, accessed January 23,2023. https://worldmigrationreport.iom.int/wmr-2022-interactive/

[40] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. *UNHCR Guidelines on Reunification of Refugee Families*. Geneva: UNHCR, 1983. https://www.unhcr.org/3bd0378f4.pdf

[41] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Geneva. *UNHCR Guidelines on Reunification of Refugee Families*.

[42] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Geneva. *UNHCR Guidelines on Reunification of Refugee Families*.

[43] "Global Compact Thematic Paper: Family Reunification", *The International Organization for Migration*, accessed November 27, 2022. https://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl486/files/our_work/ODG/GCM/IOM-Thematic-Paper-Family-reunification.pdf

[44] "Global Compact Thematic Paper: Family Reunification," *The International Organization for Migration*.

[45] "Migrant Deaths and Disappearances," *Migration Data Portal,* accessed December 23, 2022. https://www.migrationdataportal.org/themes/migrant-deaths-and-disappearances

[46] "IOM Calls for Action to Support Families of Missing Migrants," *International Organization for Migration*, April 9, 2021, accessed November 27, 2022. https://www.iom.int/news/iom-calls-action-support-families-missing-migrants

daily lives that come with the disappearance of their relatives and community members.[47] Objective 8 of the GCM calls upon Member States to help identify those who have died or gone missing, which would facilitate the constant flow of information with individuals, families, and. communities seeking identification of and communication with missing loved ones.[48] The IOM has set forth programs to further research different qualitative methods, coupled with cooperation with migrant families, to better understand the growing challenges that these families face during their search for relatives. Some such initiatives that have led to statistically significant increases in this mission are the *Missing Migrants Project* and the *Preventing Conflict-Driven Trafficking in Person and Ensuring a Protection Sensitive Approach Across the Levant* (ATIP Levant Project).[49]

The IOM's *Missing Migrants Project* "records incidents in which migrants, including refugees and asylum-seekers, have died at state borders or in the process of migrating to an international destination."[50] It receives tips and reports from third parties, while also collecting data directly, to gather information that would better aid and equip those in their search for missing migrants.[51] To date, this is the only project in existence that has created and maintained a global-level open-access database of records of death during migration.[52] The *Missing Migrants Project* is managed by the IOM and is supported monetarily through the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Germany's Ministry of the Interior, Building, and community, and UK Aid.[53]

To better address the multi-faceted issues that the families of missing migrants are facing, the *Missing Migrants Project* has partnered with a number of Member States' home governments to establish a thorough and accurate record of deaths and disappearances reported from origin communities combined with information gathered about migrants mid-transit and at the end destination .[54] With this data, the IOM has evidenced the continued need to support safe, humane, and legal paths for migration by people leaving hostile and inhospitable regions to safe havens.[55] Additionally, the IOM hopes that through this data on missing migrants, Member States within the United Nations will help reform policies domestically and at the international level to end migrant disappearances and address the needs of those left behind throughout the world.[56]

The IOM recognizes that although Member States have laws that pertain to the reunification of missing migrants with their families, there are still social, legal, and bureaucratic barriers present that continue to keep them from reuniting with their families.[57] Some of these barriers include the issuance of nonpermanent protection, long waiting periods, and red tape, all of which prolong and often inhibit the reunification process.[58] Health experts agree that the prolonged separation of family members from one another can lead to health and developmental problems for migrants, and in recognition of this the IOM has ideated guidelines and suggested courses of action to strengthen reunification efforts across Member States.[59] The IOM encourages Member States to allow easier accommodations for the reunification process across Member States, including minimizing fees, setting more practical deadlines with reasonable expectations to ensure equitable and feasible completion, the exclusion of discrimination, the publicization of government records pertaining to family reunification, greater support for migrant safety, and the expansion of a defined family unit, specifically away from the current traditional standard of the nuclear family.[60]

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[47] "IOM Calls for Action to Support Families of Missing Migrants," *International Organization for Migration.*
[48] "IOM Calls for Action to Support Families of Missing Migrants," *International Organization for Migration.*
[49] "IOM Calls for Action to Support Families of Missing Migrants," *International Organization for Migration.*
[50] "The Project," *International Organization for Migration*, accessed November 29, 2022. https://missingmigrants.iom.int/project
[51] "The Project," *International Organization for Migration.*
[52] "The Project," *International Organization for Migration.*
[53] "The Project," *International Organization for Migration.*
[54] "The Project," *International Organization for Migration.*
[55] "The Project," *International Organization for Migration.*
[56] "The Project," *International Organization for Migration.*
[57] "Global Compact Thematic Paper: Family Reunification," *International Organization for Migration,* accessed November 27, 2022.
    https://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl486/files/our_work/ODG/GCM/IOM-Thematic-Paper-Family-reunification.pdf
[58] "Global Compact Thematic Paper: Family Reunification," *International Organization for Migration.*
[59] "Global Compact Thematic Paper: Family Reunification," *International Organization for Migration.*
[60] "Family Reunification for the Benefit of All: Policies and Practices Supporting Safe, Regular, and Orderly Migration," *International Organization for Migration*, accessed November 27, 2022.
    https://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl486/files/our_work/DMM/IBM/03family_reunification_info_sheet.pdf

In the absence of wide migrant identity tracking databases, the IOM looks toward the use of databases operated by third party organizations to populate data associated with missing migrants.[61] The IOM has established a database called the Migration Data Portal which seeks to provide access to prompt, reliable, and comprehensive migration data, with its main purpose being to supply government workers and journalists with migration statistics.[62] Although limited to the identification of missing migrants who have been found and declared deceased, the Migration Data Portal has been supplied with relevant information in this area from multiple third party groups, including: the Deaths at the Border Database, which collected official data on deceased missing migrants found in European Member States bordering the Mediterranean Sea between the years of 1990 and 2013; the Australian Border Deaths Database which recorded deaths on the Australian border since 2000; and the Migrant Files, which recorded migrant deaths in Europe between 2000 and 2016.[63]

Under the mandate of the *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration* (GCM), which covers the implementation of a multitude of prospective ways different Member States, IGOs, and NGOs can contribute to helping migrant families recover their long-lost family members.[64] The IOM and the international community, through objectives ten and eight of the GCM, provides recommendations of measures international entities can take to save the lives of migrants by implementing policies that provide life-saving humanitarian aid, including targeted strategies for search and rescue efforts for missing migrants who had traveled by land and/or sea.[65]

Current Situation

Since 2014, over 52,000 migrants have gone missing or died while making a journey between Member States. 44% of migrants missing or presumed dead have not been identified by remains or otherwise recovered to date.[66] Since the adoption of the GCM, the IOM hasn't stopped working to find a way to manage missing migrants and their families.[67] A 2021 brief from the IOM encouraged Member States, along with appropriate Inter-governmental Organizations (IGOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), to develop accurate systems and better manage cases of missing migrants to ensure safe and accessible avenues for communities and families to report their missing members.[68] Acting upon a call for better cooperation, representatives from the IOM attended the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) that was held May 17-20, 2022, and encouraged Member States to prioritize cooperative efforts in the search and rescue of migrants regardless of their migration status.[69] Additionally, the IMRF noted that Member States should support efforts in enabling migrant populations to ensure, restore, and establish communication lines within migratory routes.[70]

According to the United Nations News on Global Perspective Human Stories, many families of missing migrants are left to shoulder the task of finding their missing family members alone, and within Member States far away and

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[61] "Migrant Deaths and Disappearances," *Migration Data Portal.*
https://www.migrationdataportal.org/themes/migrant-deaths-and-disappearances
[62] "About the Migration Data Portal," *Migration Data Portal,* accessed December 23, 2022.
https://www.migrationdataportal.org/about
[63] "Migrant Deaths and Disappearances," *Migration Data Portal,* accessed December 23, 2022.
[64] "Act now to save lives and prevent migrants from going missing," *World Health Organization,* March 7, 2022, accessed November 30, 2022.
https://www.who.int/news/item/07-03-2022-act-now-to-save-lives-and-prevent-migrants-from-going-missing
[65] "Act now to save lives and prevent migrants from going missing," *World Health Organization*
[66] "Data: Missing Migrants Project," International Organization for Migration, accessed December 22, 2022.
https://missingmigrants.iom.int/data
[67] Kate Dearden and Marta Sánchez Dionis, *Support Needed for Families of Missing Migratnts: Evidence from IOM's Project "Assessing the Needs of Families Searching for Relatives Lost in the Central and Western Mediterranean."* (Geneva: International Organization for Migration, 2021).
https://missingmigrants.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl601/files/publication/file/policy%20brief_28.09.2021.pdf
[68] Kate Dearden and Marta Sánchez Dionis, *Support Needed for Families of Missing Migratnts: Evidence from IOM's Project "Assessing the Needs of Families Searching for Relatives Lost in the Central and Western Mediterranean."*
[69] "Act now to save lives and prevent migrants from going missing," *World Health Organization,* March 7, 2022, accessed November 30, 2022.
https://www.who.int/news/item/07-03-2022-act-now-to-save-lives-and-prevent-migrants-from-going-missing
[70] "Act now to save lives and prevent migrants from going missing," *World Health Organization*

unfamiliar to them.[71] A study from the IOM's *Global Migration Data Analysis Centre* (GMDAC) shows that many reports of missing migrants are perceived or interpreted as an issue of migrant smuggling, with the focus on the crime of human smuggling (and its' perpetrator/s) and not on the issue of the missing migrant themself.[72] Stories of missing migrants from their families show the full effect of the psychological, legal, and financial instability that the situation can cause within the family unit, beyond just the health of the individual missing.[73]

A challenge still largely unaddressed is the complexity in identifying, documenting, and sharing missing migrant information across Member States. Data collection in the pursuit of locating missing migrants is limited due to a multitude of factors, such as different migration methods, outside stress, lost data resources, and differing regional and official data collection methods.[74] The Migrant Data Portal notes these limits, citing multiple examples of large cache data unavailability.[75] If missing migrants migrate irregularly, they may evade detection for longer periods, which results in a longer ultimate recovery time, if/when found.[76] If missing migrants migrate through sea travel, their status may remain unknown until a ship log or a ledger is found which confirms their identity.[77] Outside stress, such as criminal or bureaucratic pressure, may discourage deaths from being reported as well.[78] Different parties who employ data collection methods, whether public or private, may use different standards and definitions to count missing migrants, which complicates information sharing.[79]

Case Study: The ATIP Levant Project

The IOM has introduced the *Preventing Conflict-Driven Trafficking in Persons and Ensuring a Protection-Sensitive Approach Across the Levant* (ATIP Levant Project).[80] The ATIP Levant Project aims to protect migrant populations across the Levant, specifically in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey.[81] Within the Levant, the effect of long-standing conflict has given way to insecurity, hardship, and forced migration throughout the region.[82] A mass of human rights violations and a very challenging threat of trafficking within the region has led to many disappearances of migrants fleeing from violence and conflict.[83] The ATIP Levant Project was created under the *United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons* to ensure that the people within the Levant would have enough protection and shelter to establish safe and humane migration routes out of the region.[84]

The ATIP Levant Project assists and manages four different sectors culminating in a systematized process to ensure safe migrations and strengthen anti-trafficking efforts within the Levant region.[85] First, the IOM acquires an acquisition of preliminary indemnification of the region of potential victims of trafficking, and follows up on the existing cases of disappearances within the region to form a database of names and records.[86] Next, a team from the IOM must ensure counseling assistance is available for victims in order to aid the victim as well as build a more in-depth evaluation of the current state of the civilian and migrant populations of the area.[87] Following this, the establishment of family tracing and assessment, and instructing IOM personnel with projects to continue to follow up on disappearance cases (such as the Best Interest Assessment and Determination (BIAD) strategy) all must be

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[71] "Families of missing migrants, forced to search alone," *UN News*, September 29, 2022, accessed November 30, 2022.
    https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/09/1101682
[72] "Families of missing migrants, forced to search alone," *UN News*
[73] "Families of missing migrants, forced to search alone," *UN News*
[74] "Migrant Deaths and Disappearances," *Migration Data Portal.*
[75] "Migrant Deaths and Disappearances," *Migration Data Portal.*
[76] "Migrant Deaths and Disappearances," *Migration Data Portal.*
[77] "Migrant Deaths and Disappearances," *Migration Data Portal.*
[78] "Migrant Deaths and Disappearances," *Migration Data Portal.*
[79] "Migrant Deaths and Disappearances," *Migration Data Portal.*
[80] "ATIP Levant Regional Project," *The International Organization for Migration,* accessed December 1, 2022.
    https://www.iom.int/atip-levant-project
[81] "ATIP Levant Regional Project," *The International Organization for Migration*
[82] "ATIP Levant Regional Project," *The International Organization for Migration*
[83] "ATIP Levant Regional Project," *The International Organization for Migration*
[84] "ATIP Levant Regional Project," *The International Organization for Migration*
[85] "ATIP Levant Regional Project," *The International Organization for Migration*
[86] "ATIP Levant Project: Connecting Humanitarian & Counter-trafficking Coordination Mechanism," *International Organization for Migration,* accessed December 3, 2022.
    https://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl486/files/documents/ATIP_Levant-Flowchart.pdf
[87] "ATIP Levant Project: Connecting Humanitarian…," *International Organization for Migration.*

done within a 48-hour time period.[88] At this point, the establishment of a semi-permanent presence within the region by installing on-the-ground case managers to create a development and implementation strategy to better coordinate efforts from service providers and authorities is completed.[89] Additionally, the IOM is tasked with providing a broader swath of people immediate assistance for recovery efforts and assistance with criminal proceedings through granted legal aid and confirmed representation all within a three month period.[90] Finally, within a six to twelve-month period, case managers will establish more sustainable solutions to provide victims with a better structure by establishing access to resettlement programs and complementary pathways for protection.[91]

Conclusion

The IOM and UN recognize the hardship family members and their communities face when searching for missing migrants. Commitments to better aiding both the families and the missing migrants in reunification efforts, as well as consequential legal issues if missing migrants are never found and/or unofficially presumed deceased have made targeted improvements.[92] The IOM, in conjunction with the United Nations Network on Migration, are currently working to improve the framework that was set in 2021 in the form of the GCM.[93] As the GCM, in collaboration with Member States of the UN, NGOs, and IGOs creates productive and ethical measures to ensure the reunification of missing migrants to their families – the IOM and the UN's commitment to their lives and liberties will remain a mainstay mission towards global human rights.

Committee Directive

Keeping in mind the current policies and programs in place, what are some ways Member States can increase the aid for families of missing migrants? How can Member States improve data collection methods and strategies to locate missing migrants faster? What recommendations can be made at the global level to allow some kind of process for migrants to overcome legal barriers to property, inheritance, guardianship, and other rights and protections when missing migrants remain missing for months, years, or decades? What are the ways in which Member States can ease the process of reuniting migrant families? How can the Member States fulfill the goals of the IOM and the UNHCR to create a more equitable and just society for migrants? Delegates should bear in mind the pre-established committees, task forces, and databases and work to expand current programs and frameworks addressing these issues.

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[88] "ATIP Levant Project: Connecting Humanitarian…," *International Organization for Migration*.
[89] "ATIP Levant Project: Connecting Humanitarian…," *International Organization for Migration*.
[90] "ATIP Levant Project: Connecting Humanitarian…," *International Organization for Migration*.
[91] "ATIP Levant Project: Connecting Humanitarian…," *International Organization for Migration*.
[92] "The Project," *Missing Migrants Project*, accessed November 29, 2022. https://missingmigrants.iom.int/project
[93] "The Project," *International Organization for Migration,* accessed December 1, 2022. https://www.iom.int/atip-levant-project

II. Combatting Multidimensional Poverty within Migrant Populations

"We can't deter people fleeing for their lives. They will come. The choice we have is how well we manage their arrival, and how humanely." - Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations[94]

Introduction

The Multidimensional Poverty Measure (MPM) was established to consider poverty implications beyond strictly financial measures. A value is assessed based on monetary policy, education, and basic infrastructure access.[95] This value was established by the World Bank to give a complete picture of poverty including those who experience poverty in nonmonetary dimensions. The World Bank produced a 2022 report noting 39 percent of persons living in poverty are not included when looking at variables within a monetary dimension alone.[96]

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has recognized the need for a better collaborative effort between and within Member States, as seen in the adoption of the *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants*.[97] The *Declaration* recommends a variety of methods and strategies to better incorporate and support the vast populations of refugees and migrants that currently live within each Member State's borders, and how that can be achieved with collaborative international support of one another.[98] The *Declaration* endorses the programs and initiatives stipulated in the IOM's *Global Compact for Safer, Orderly, and Regular Migration*, and highlights the connection between the aims of both documents and the mission of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).[99] As the International Organization for Migration (IOM) outlines in their mission statement, the IOM is committed to upholding human rights for all, especially with respect to migration.[100] The IOM seeks to combat multidimensional poverty, which disproportionately affects the financial wellbeing of migrants.[101]

Migration has historically been a source of opportunities for people to improve their lives and for families to escape economic hardship or persecution.[102] Migration has costs, both economic and social, and requires migrants to use economic, social, cultural, and political resources that the poorest may not have access to.[103] A 2020 study by the ILO found that migrants tend to make 13 percent less on average than citizens, and notes that this wage gap is growing.[104] Data from 36 Member States around the world show that 35 percent of international migrants were in or at risk of poverty in 2015, compared to 23 percent of non-migrants.[105]

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[94] Karolina Lindholm Billing, "70th Anniversary of the Refugee Convention – a Legal Instrument Which Remains as Relevant Today, When Forcible Displacement Has Reached Record Levels," UNHCR, July 28, 2021, accessed December 10, 2022. https://www.unhcr.org/ua/en/36293-70th-anniversary-of-the-refugee-convention-a-legal-instrument-which-remains-as-relevant-today-when-forcible-displacement-has-reached-record-levels.html.

[95] Multidimensional Poverty Measure, *The World Bank*, accessed January 25, 2023. https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/brief/multidimensional-poverty-measure.

[96] Multidimensional Poverty Measure, *The World Bank*.

[97] United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/1, *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants*, A/RES/71/1 (September 13, 2016), https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_71_1.pdf

[98] United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/1, *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants*, A/RES/71/1

[99] General Assembly Resolution 73/195, *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration.* A/RES/73/195 (January 11, 2019) https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N18/451/99/PDF/N1845199.pdf?OpenElement

[100] "Mission," *International Organization for Migration*, accessed August 17, 2022. https://www.iom.int/mission.

[101] "Mission," *International Organization for Migration*.

[102] Jennica Larrison, Edmundo Murrugarra, and Marcin J. Sasin, "Migration and Poverty toward Better Opportunities for the Poor." *World Bank.* (Washington, D.C.: World Bank, 2011). https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/2535/582840PUB0ID231ration09780821384367.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

[103] Jennica Larrison, Edmundo Murrugarra, and Marcin J. Sasin, "Migration and Poverty toward Better…."

[104] "Migrant Pay Gap Widens in Many High-Income Countries," *International Labour Organization*. accessed December 10, 2022. https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/latest-news/migrant-pay-gap-widens-in-many-high-income-countries/.

[105] Elisa Mosler Vidal and Frank Laczko. *Migration and the SDGs: Measuring Progress - An Edited Volume*. (Geneva: International Organization for Migration, 2022). https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/SDG-an-edited-volume.pdf.

Globally, only four percent of Member States reported having fully comprehensive policy measures to facilitate orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration of people.[106] Nearly six out of ten Member States reported having provisions in place for these policy measures, while one out of three had made partial provisions.[107] Developed Member States have the most resources possible to make an impact to reduce poverty within a migrant population. Developing Member States, however, receive a significantly larger proportion of poor migrants and must be included in discussions for sustainable solutions. Many migrants decide to leave for opportunities and to escape poverty within their home country. International remittances create a significant portion of the income for some Member States via the remaining family members.[108] Increasing access to tools to pull migrants out of poverty within Member States can be a multiplier to reduce poverty worldwide.

History

In 2015, the World Bank set the international poverty line to 1.90 USD a day, which represents the daily cost of living for food, shelter and clothing.[109] It is estimated that 700 million people fall on or below this poverty line.[110] According to a 2019 study by EuroStat, 32 percent of migrants from non-European Member States and 38 percent of migrants from European Member States were at risk of poverty or social exclusion.[111] A 2018 estimate by the World Bank shows that 433 million Africans live below the international poverty line, accounting for 40 percent of the total African population.[112] According to the Pew Research Center, there were 44.8 million immigrants living in the United States of America, of which 14.6 percent were officially below the poverty line.[113] In 2017, the World Bank developed the Multidimensional Poverty Measure (MPM), which looks to "to understand poverty beyond monetary deprivations by including access to education and basic infrastructure along with the monetary headcount ratio at the $2.15 international poverty line."[114]

The establishment of the Global Migration Group (GMG) in 2006 by the former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan has created avenues of collaboration within the UN family on the issues that refugees and migrants face on a daily basis.[115] The GMG is comprised of the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR), the IOM, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and 12 other subsidiary UN bodies, all of whom have recognized the need for better international collaboration to combat the many issues and problems, including multidimensional poverty, that many migrants and refugees face.[116]

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[106] Elisa Mosler Vidal and Frank Laczko. *Migration and the SDGs: Measuring Progress - An Edited Volume*.
[107] Elisa Mosler Vidal and Frank Laczko. *Migration and the SDGs: Measuring Progress - An Edited Volume*.
[108] Migration and Poverty, *World Bank,* accessed January 25, 2023.
      https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/2535/582840PUB0ID231ration09780821384367.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y
[109] Will Kenton, "What Is the International Poverty Line?" *Investopedia*. December 23, 2020, accessed August 18, 2022,
      https://www.investopedia.com/terms/i/international-poverty-line.asp#:~:text=The%20international%20poverty%20line%2C%20which,needed%20to%20sustain%20one%20adult
[110] Emmaline Soken-Huberty, "10 Common Root Causes of Poverty." *Human Rights Careers*, accessed August 24, 2022.
      https://www.humanrightscareers.com/issues/root-causes-of-poverty/#:~:text=The%20United%20Nations%20Social%20Policy,minorities%20are%20the%20most%20vulnerable
[111] "Statistics Explained." *Eurostat,* October 2022, *a*ccessed November 30, 2022.
      https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Migrant_integration_statistics_-_at_risk_of_poverty_and_social_exclusion
[112] Marta Schoch and Christoph Lakner, "The Number of Poor People Continues to Rise in Sub-Saharan Africa, despite a Slow Decline in the Poverty Rate," *World Bank Blogs*, December 16, 2020, accessed August 31, 2022,
      https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/number-poor-people-continues-rise-sub-saharan-africa-despite-slow-decline-poverty-rate
[113] Abby Budiman, Christine Tamir, Lauren Mora, and Luis Noe-Bustamante, "Facts on U.S. Immigrants, 2018," *Pew Research Center*, March 11, 2021, accessed October 15, 2022,
      https://www.pewresearch.org/hispanic/2020/08/20/facts-on-u-s-immigrants/
[114] "Multidimensional Poverty Measure," *World Bank.*
[115] "Global Migration Group," *UNHCR*, accessed December 23, 2022. https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/global-migration-group.html.
[116] "Global Migration Group," *UNHCR*.

Actions Taken by the United Nations

The transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is to "leave no one behind."[117] To accomplish this goal, the SDGs are to be taken into account in efforts by the international community to combat poverty during migration crises.[118] The IOM is adamant in proactively working with Member State governments to design and implement policies and interventions specifically utilizing SDGs to increase the likelihood of meeting relevant SDG targets effectively and sustainably.[119] The IOM is currently applying data collected from the *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration* to address challenges migrants are facing regarding discrimination against their gender, age, disability, job access, health care, and housing.[120]

The information collected is used by Member States and other migratory agencies in partnership with the UN, such as the UNHCR, to better combat the discrimination these migrants face on a daily basis.[121] The IOM has also utilized disaggregation to help identify factors which contribute to the financial instability of migrant populations, to propose policies for Member States to prioritize and address the needs of host communities within their own borders, and to compare outcomes between migrants and non-migrants to better understand the disparities between the specific needs of the former population against the latter.[122] At the heart of the effort to "leave no one behind," Member States must ensure the beneficiaries of sustainable development include those demographics most often forgotten or discriminated against, such as migrants.[123] It is imperative that Member States ensure the safeguarding of migrant populations by providing safe means of living and safe passage to and from while remaining in compliance with their duties under international human rights laws and address what barriers migrants face.[124]

In order to address some of these challenges exacerbated by COVID-19, the IOM focused its resources towards creating the Covid 19 Strategic Response and Recovery Plan (SRRP).[125] This SRRP employs four strategic objectives consisting of building blocks meant to adapt to the area of their deployment and 12 specific objectives which are designed to create collective action and cooperation to ensure completion.[126] The SRRP's four strategic objectives focus on the continuation of pre-existing services and mobility, enhancing public health programs and response, and mitigating the ill effects of Covid 19 in a socio-economic background as well as general risks.[127] Included in this SRRP is a budget of $822,868,000 USD with budget breakdowns by use and area of deployment.[128]

Current Situation

Although the number of people living in poverty has decreased since 2015, the World Bank estimates that the Covid-19 Pandemic increased the amount of people below the international poverty line by 75 - 95 million.[129] In looking at direct impacts of COVID-19 on migrants, remittances, and poverty in China, the International Food Policy Research Institute estimates that in China alone, "70 percent of migrant workers lost part of their wage income during the pandemic lockdown period", which led to about 50 percent remittance-receiving households – most often receiving remittances from migrants abroad – had a more than 45 percent decline in average remittance

[117] Elisa Mosler Vidal. *Leave No Migrant Behind the 2030 Agenda and Data Disaggregation*. (Geneva: *International Organization on Migration, 2021*). https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/Migrants-in-the-SDGs.pdf
[118] Elisa Mosler Vidal. *Leave No Migrant Behind the 2030 Agenda and Data Disaggregation*.
[119] Elisa Mosler Vidal. *Leave No Migrant Behind the 2030 Agenda and Data Disaggregation*.
[120] Elisa Mosler Vidal. *Leave No Migrant Behind the 2030 Agenda and Data Disaggregation*.
[121] General Assembly Resolution 73/195, *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration*. A/RES/73/195 (January 11, 2019) https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N18/451/99/PDF/N1845199.pdf?OpenElement
[122] Elisa Mosler Vidal. *Leave No Migrant Behind the 2030 Agenda and Data Disaggregation*.
[123] Elisa Mosler Vidal. *Leave No Migrant Behind the 2030 Agenda and Data Disaggregation*.
[124] Elisa Mosler Vidal. *Leave No Migrant Behind the 2030 Agenda and Data Disaggregation*.
[125] "Global Crisis Response Platform," *International Organization for Migration*, 2022, accessed January 1, 2023. https://crisisresponse.iom.int
[126] "Global Crisis Response Platform," *International Organization for Migration*.
[127] "Global Crisis Response Platform," *International Organization for Migration*.
[128] "Global Crisis Response Platform," *International Organization for Migration*.
[129] "Understanding Poverty: Overview," *World Bank*, accessed September 4, 2022. https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/overview

income.[130] In its seminal report titled "Covid-19 Crisis Through a Migration Lens", the World Bank Group outlines the lasting impacts of COVID-19 on the employment of "foreign workers" [migrants] and their earnings, and in turn, the remittances they send back home.[131] Through region-specific data collection and analysis, the report succinctly connects how the decline in employment, pay, and therefore remittances disproportionately plunges migrants into poverty, but the families that rely on their remittances as well.[132] Taking this view at the macro-level, the number of migrants pushed into poverty can be directly connected to an even larger population of dependent individuals and family units around the world, exacerbating the fight against global poverty.[133]

Looking through a multidimensional lens, the IOM encourages considerations for nonmonetary resources including human (entrepreneurship), social (networks), cultural (language), and political capital with equal importance.[134] Many migrants are excluded from social protection programs due to stated "ineligibility" with little to no further explanation or aid.[135] Social protections denied include but are not limited to: lucrative work opportunities, healthcare, access to food and water, education, and, in some areas, basic human rights.[136] It is estimated that 22 percent of international labor migrants aren't legally covered by any social protection programs by their host Member States, and they aren't entitled to eligibility.[137] The percentage of international labor migrants entitled to social protection programs drops to under one percent in migrants moving between globally southern Member States, and that percentage drops even lower when immigrating to Member States with higher standards of living.[138]

IOM works with Member States to promote the protection of migrants' rights and empower them through the provision of services and support they need to become an integral part of their new society as well as contribute to their home communities. This means helping governments engage, enable and empower their diaspora and migrants' in development efforts.[139]

Case Study: The Migration Relationship between Costa Rica & Nicaragua

In the 1960s and 1970s, the Sandinista National Liberation Front led a revolution against the Somoza Dictatorship, which resulted in a large refugee crisis.[140] Thousands of Nicaraguans left their home to find better living conditions and better work opportunities that the new Nicaraguan government couldn't provide for their people.[141] Current-day asylum seekers have shown a connection between levels of migration and multidimensional poverty within these new internal migrant communities in Nicaragua and external migrant communities across Costa Rica.[142] Currently,

[130] Zhang, Yumei; Zhan, Yue; Diao, Xinshen; Chen, Kevin Z.; and Robinson, Sherman. 2021. The impacts of COVID-19 on migrants, remittances, and poverty in China: A microsimulation analysis. China and World Economy 29(6): 4-33. https://doi.org/10.1111/cwe.12392

[131] World Bank. *COVID-19 Crisis Through a Migration Lens. Migration and Development Brief ,no. 32;.* World Bank, Washington, DC.:World Bank, April 2020.

[132] World Bank. *COVID-19 Crisis Through a Migration Lens. Migration and Development Brief ,no. 32*

[133] World Bank. *COVID-19 Crisis Through a Migration Lens. Migration and Development Brief ,no. 32*

[134] Migration and Poverty, *World Bank.*

[135] Elisa Mosler Vidal. *Leave No Migrant Behind the 2030 Agenda and Data Disaggregation.*

[136] Elisa Mosler Vidal. *Leave No Migrant Behind the 2030 Agenda and Data Disaggregation.*

[137] Elisa Mosler Vidal. *Leave No Migrant Behind the 2030 Agenda and Data Disaggregation.*

[138] Elisa Mosler Vidal. *Leave No Migrant Behind the 2030 Agenda and Data Disaggregation.*

[139] "A Comprehensive Approach to Migration and Development," *International Organization for Migration,* accessed January 23, 2023. https://www.iom.int/migration-sustainable-development-and-2030-agenda

[140] Tanya Harmer and Eline van Ommen, "Internationalizing Revolution: The Nicaraguan Revolution and the World, 1977–1990." *Cambridge University Press,* October 29, 2021, accessed October 2, 2022, https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/americas/article/internationalizing-revolution-the-nicaraguan-revolution-and-the-world-19771990/E27B6B2468CFA2931372E7B5E35BF56D

[141] Tanya Harmer and Eline van Ommen, "Internationalizing Revolution: The Nicaraguan Revolution and the World, 1977–1990." *Cambridge University Press,* October 29, 2021, accessed October 2, 2022,

https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/americas/article/internationalizing-revolution-the-nicaraguan-revolution-and-the-world-19771990/E27B6B2468CFA2931372E7B5E35BF56D

[142] Jennica Larrison, Edmundo Murrugarra, and Marcin J. Sasin, "Migration and Poverty toward Better Opportunities for the Poor." *World Bank.* (Washington, D.C.: World Bank, 2011). https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/2535/582840PUB0ID231ration09780821384367.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

there are more than 150,000 Nicaraguan refugees that live within Costa Rica and represent a full 3 percent of Costa Rica's total population of 5 million people. Costa Rica, being on the border with Nicaragua has accepted and housed these refugees with the help of the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR). A study from the World Bank shows that these new migrant communities who fled Nicaragua to Costa Rica are poorer, less educated, and more likely to come from rural areas than those migrating to the United States. Migrants wanting to find other opportunities such as the ones in the United States must find different and more expensive ways to make it to more developed Member States.[143]

The results of this study by the World Bank show that if a migrant immigrates to the United States, that said migrant most likely has greater financial means, a social network to assist along the way, enhanced employment skills, and knowledge of the culture and language.[144] According to the UNHCR, border monitoring in Costa Rica has revealed that many of the new refugees are finding work opportunities in the coffee harvests of rural regions throughout Costa Rica.[145] However, these opportunities tend to only be offered seasonally and do not provide the refugees with economic security once the harvest is over.[146] Coupled with the rising levels of worldwide unemployment and social isolation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of these migrants do not have the access to the income that would adequately provide for their families and community.[147] In response, the UNHCR continues to support Costa Rica and the communities that host asylum seekers and refugees by providing legal aid, income assistance, housing, psychosocial support, employment training, and donating hygiene and food to these asylum seekers and refugees. [148]

Conclusion

Through aid programs and access to higher incomes, migration is often seen by individuals as a potential solution to make their lives better.[149] However, migrants are more likely to end up in poverty than their non-migrant counterparts.[150] Exposure to poverty is often at a higher frequency for specific groups of migrants, such as those who have migrated to Member States directly outside of borders they are originally from, as well as migrants following a South-South Migration path.[151] The IOM has implemented a number of efforts that work to increase the financial wellbeing of migrants, but recognize there continue to be many challenges unsolved.[152] Some successes can be counted through programs such as the MPM and GCM, partnerships with organizations such as the OECD, ILO and UNHCR, and trained focus on aligning work on migration with the SDGs.[153] Recently, the IOM drafted and implemented a Strategic Vision which works to identify risks, and although its term of service is expiring in 2023, the IOM is working tirelessly to identify new areas of need.[154] Still, the IOM has identified many regionalized and localized areas of attention with estimated levels of migrants, remaining committed to prescribing the best solution, whether the incoming migration crisis results from political, economic or ecological hardship.[155]

Committee Directive

One of the biggest factors leading individuals to migrate is to flee financial insecurity and to create a new life for themselves, but with poverty rates rising since the COVID-19 Pandemic, there are now over one billion people living in extreme poverty and migrants represent some of the most vulnerable. Because of this, proper due diligence should be taken on behalf of the international community to protect migrants. With respect to international law and

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[143] Jennica Larrison, Edmundo Murrugarra, and Marcin J. Sasin, "Migration and Poverty toward Better…."
[144] "Number of Displaced Nicaraguans in Costa Rica Doubles in Less than a Year," *UNHCR*, March 25, 2022, accessed
September 6, 2022,
https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/briefing/2022/3/623d894c4/number-displaced-nicaraguans-costa-rica-doubles-year.h
tml.
[145] "Number of Displaced Nicaraguans in Costa Rica Doubles in Less than a Year," *UNHCR*.
[146] "Number of Displaced Nicaraguans in Costa Rica Doubles in Less than a Year," *UNHCR*.
[147] "Number of Displaced Nicaraguans in Costa Rica Doubles in Less than a Year," *UNHCR*.
[148] "Number of Displaced Nicaraguans in Costa Rica Doubles in Less than a Year," *UNHCR*.
[149] Elisa Mosler Vidal. *Leave No Migrant Behind the 2030 Agenda and Data Disaggregation*.
[150] Elisa Mosler Vidal. *Leave No Migrant Behind the 2030 Agenda and Data Disaggregation*.
[151] Elisa Mosler Vidal. *Leave No Migrant Behind the 2030 Agenda and Data Disaggregation*.
[152] "IOM's Strategic Vision: Resilience, Mobility, Governance," *International Organization for Migration,* accessed December
21, 2022, https://www.iom.int/strategy.
[153] "IOM's Strategic Vision: Resilience, Mobility, Governance," *International Organization for Migration*.
[154] "IOM's Strategic Vision: Resilience, Mobility, Governance," *International Organization for Migration*.
[155] "Global Crisis Response Platform," *International Organization for Migration*.

the 2015 SDGs, what actions can the IOM take to reduce financial inequality between migrants and citizens? How can the IOM ensure a smoother and safer migration process for migrants fleeing their home Member States? What are ways to reduce income and social inequality among migrants during both the emigration and immigration process? How can the IOM protect the well-being of migrants, especially in regard to the GCM? Many migrants do not have access to the basic needs to sustain human life such as shelter, food, water, and healthcare. Additionally, in professional studies, there are often significant margins for error in data analysis, as certain data pieces are difficult to collect, and/or aren't well-documented. How can the IOM create more precise data collection methods in line with its values? The IOM urges delegates to look at improving or implementing programs that would further assist those migrant populations in Member States where support for these communities is most needed.

Annotated Bibliography

Topic I. Improving Systems to Assist the Families of Missing Migrants

Kate Dearden and Marta Sánchez Dionis, *Support Needed for Families of Missing Migrants: Evidence from IOM's Project "Assessing the Needs of Families Searching for Relatives Lost in the Central and Western Mediterranean".* (Geneva: International Organization for Migration, 2021). https://publications.iom.int/books/support-needed-families-missing-migrants-evidence-ioms-assessing-needs-families-searching

Between 2019 and 2021, several governments, under the coordination of the IOM, spoke with 76 families whose loved ones have gone missing while migrating, as a part of the Missing Migrant Project. These families explained their experiences with disappearing family members. Understanding their experiences at an emotional, psychological, and practical level provides the international community with insight into how to help locate missing migrants, how to help families who have lost loved ones during migration, and how different demographic features determine the experience of families trying to find lost loved ones. Crucial to the mission of delegates on this committee, this report includes guidelines for the response governments, NGOs and the UN should consider when establishing policy on this issue.

"Families of Missing Migrants Speak," *Global Migration Data Analysis Center,* August 23, 2021, accessed September 1, 2022, https://missingmigrants.iom.int/stories/families-missing-migrants-speak

As a part of research conducted by the Global Migration Data Analysis Center, the families of missing migrants were recorded describing the events and effects of their family members going missing. This page includes stories provided by those families. A Somalian woman talks about her fear of the police in England, despite her need for investigative help in finding her father. A Somali man in England talks about the economic dilemma of tracking his missing brothers down and the financial burden of caring for them once he did find them. An Ethiopian mother shares her struggle and inability to approach the government in her home Member State to help her find her son. These anecdotes provide real world examples for delegates to use during debate, and as starting points for their resolutions.

"Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration," *Global Compact for Migration,* accessed August 18, 2022. https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180711_final_draft_0.pdf

Considered one of the most important UN agreements on migration, the Global Compact on Migration elaborates on the goals of the IOM and the topic at hand. The Compact outlines several objectives that Member States ought to have when addressing migration, with several objectives pertaining to the safety of migrants and the information their families need. Objective three states "We further commit to use this information [migration-related] to develop migration policies that provide a high degree of predictability and certainty for all actors involved"—actors including the families. Objective eight stating, "Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants," establishes a protocol for finding the missing by incorporating the families. Delegates may use the Global Compact on Migration as a foundation or justification for solutions presented in their own proposals.

Ottila Anna Maunganidze and the International Committee of the Red Cross. *Where are they? Searching for missing persons and meeting their families' needs*." (Institute for Security Studies, 2021). https://reliefweb.int/report/world/where-are-they-searching-missing-persons-and-meeting-their-families-needs

Focusing on West Africa, this research program interviewed families with missing persons and identified ways to help track down the missing. While not all discoveries made investigating missing persons end happily, this report stresses the importance of knowing where missing persons end up. The report suggests that the first step is acknowledging the tragedy of missing migrants. From there, the report suggests identifying gaps in the current migration process and establishing norms to fill those gaps.

Kaitlin Ostling and Jacob Palmer. *Missing Migrants in the United States: International Responsibility, The Search for Accountability and Legal Lacunae*. (Boston: Boston University, August 30, 2021). https://www.bu.edu/law/files/2021/11/Missing-Migrants-in-the-United-States.-BU-Clinic-Report.pdf

> This article presents the situation on the US-Mexico border from an international and legal perspective. It is divided into sections. Section two explains why migration is so irregular along the border. Section three explains the intricacies of international law and how that interacts with the laws of the United States and Mexico. Sections four through seven explain what the process for handling missing migrants is. Finally, section eight offers remedies for irregular migration.

<center>**Topic II. Combating Multidimensional Poverty within Migrant Populations**</center>

"Global Multidimensional Poverty Index," *Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative*, accessed September 2, 2022, https://ophi.org.uk/multidimensional-poverty-index/

> In order to combat multidimensional poverty, delegates must first understand what it is. This index from the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative acts as a measure of household poverty from the perspectives of health, education, and standards of living. "Health" observes the nutrition and child mortality levels in the family. "Education" is viewed as how much school the household has completed and how regularly children attend school. "Standards of living" include access to sanitation, cooking fuel, drinking water, electricity, and housing, along with owning certain assets like home appliances or bicycles/motorcycles. By understanding the dimensions of poverty, delegates can create multidimensional responses to poverty among migrants.

Arjan de Haan and Shahin Yaqub. *Migration and Poverty: Linkages, Knowledge Gaps and Policy Implications.* United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, 2009.

> An in-depth analysis of migrant poverty, this paper explains the data existing around migrant poverty as well as migrant children and how relief efforts affect change. In discussing current data, the authors go over the history of how this data was collected and understood. They then break down the various factors of migration (who is traveling, how money returns home, the impact of migration). Finally, the paper shows how the data surrounding migrant poverty can be applied to policy decision making.

Dilip Ratha, "What Are Remittances?" *International Monetary Fund*, accessed September 2, 2022, https://www.imf.org/external/Pubs/FT/fandd/basics/76-remittances.htm#:~:text=Remittances%20are%20typically%20transfers%20from,thus%20tend%20to%20reduce%20poverty.

> Remittances are one of the driving factors of migration. They are described as money sent home by migrant workers from their host Member State to support their family. Understanding migrant poverty requires, in most cases, an understanding of remittances. This article from the International Monetary Fund explains how remittances work and challenges an individual faces when trying to send them. The page also addresses the gray-market that remittances often travel through. Remittances also cost money themselves, and the page explains the many ways fees and charges make their way into migrant money, drawing away from migrant use.

General Assembly resolution 218, *Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027),* A/RES/76/218, (December 17, 2021), https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2FRES%2F76%2F218&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False

> This resolution sets out the poverty eradication mission of the United Nations for this decade. The resolution views poverty in three forms: economic, social, and environmental. It references several other resolutions also pertaining to these three forms of poverty. Delegates reading this resolution will find past UN action to combat global poverty, which can be used to address migrant specific poverty. Using the resolution against poverty, delegates can understand the UN stance on poverty.

Melissa Siegal, "Migration and Poverty," *Youtube*, January 25, 2022, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S7K2RG4B75c

> This video explains how poverty and migration interact. After explaining what poverty and migration are, the author explains how poverty is understood and measured. The author also explains how migrants may move to escape poverty, but potential migrants may also be unable to afford migration because of the poverty they would escape. The video also explains financial and social remittances. However, while remittances do increase poverty relief in home countries, migration also risks losing a family member, or losing the money to theft. The video concludes that migration is a net benefit to reducing poverty.