

## **Theme 1: Skilling Migrants for Employment- Policy Brief on Youth Perspectives in Central, South America and the Caribbean**

Migrants have skills and capacities that contribute to the development of the economies in their host countries, but these cannot be taken advantage of when, Like Latin American migrant case, there is a high gap because of non-recognition of their educational and labor qualifications, or integration challenges related to obtaining employment permits, fair remuneration for their work and, in some cases, learning a new language. This specifically affects LGBTIQ women, indigenous and migrant populations.

The UN Major Group for Children and Youth (UN MGCY) has led a Consultation for Central America, South America and the Caribbean on the perspectives and controls of young people on the topic of “Training migrants for employment”. We have consulted 47 local, national, international, youth-led and / or youth-focused organizations. These organizations are located in 16 countries and represent some 20,000 youth, leaders and beneficiaries, on migration issues. The results of the consultation are summarized in this note.

### **Key youth-led and youth-focused projects**

Latin American youth is playing a fundamental role in developing the capacities of the migrant population, which includes:

- Provide technical and professional training for migrants and the host community in key sectors of the economy, with a focus on economic and sociocultural integration.
- Establishment of alliances with higher education institutions to facilitate continuous, online and face-to-face training, focusing on the use of ICT.
- Execution of school leveling projects and accelerated primary and secondary education for deportees, as well as language courses. Also migrant childhood care projects, especially specific to help families whose parents work all day. They are projects focused on the right to care and well-being, especially important for migrant families, including women heads.
- Creation of face-to-face and online support networks for migrants and refugees to share job offers, training opportunities related to employment and entrepreneurship, and development of soft skills.
- Promotion of alliances with national and international employers to facilitate employment opportunities for migrants and refugees.

### **Policy recommendations for governments and other actors**

Latin American youth call on governments and stakeholders to harness the capacities of migrants for sustainable economic development, in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Compact on Migration.

- It is important to invest in the reception and integration of migrants, especially taking into account the economic and socio-cultural aspects of integration. Some of the recommendations include the creation of national programs to speed up obtaining work permits, validate the technical and educational skills of migrants, youth employment exchange programs, language training and specific programs to reduce the digital gap, as well such as the creation of microcredit programs for migrant entrepreneurs.
- The creation of initiatives that involve decent employment with the care of migrant families, especially the children of migrant workers, was specified. For this, the ratification of the International Convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and their families must be promoted.

***Theme 2: Addressing gaps in migrant protection: Policy brief on youth perspectives in Central America, South America and the Caribbean***

The protection of migrants is linked to the fact that this population is able to adapt and integrate to the communities in which they reside, the social relationship they establish with the host communities, how included they feel, and what psychosocial processes they face. Adapting to a new culture with different norms and values, a new territory, climate, and even a new language is a strenuous process that usually has a great impact on your health, education, income, and ways of life. Added to this are the situations of insecurity, deprivation and rejection in front of which boys, girls, adolescents, women and the LGBTIQ + population are especially vulnerable.

The UN Major Group of Children and Youth (UN MGCY) has led a Consultation for Central America, South America and the Caribbean on the perspectives and priorities of youth on the theme of "Training migrants for employment". We have consulted 47 local, national, and international organizations, led by youth and / or focused on youth. These organizations are located in 16 countries and represent some 20,000 youth, among leaders and beneficiaries, on migration issues. The results of the consultation are summarized in this note.

**Key youth-led and youth-focused projects**

Latin American youth is playing a critical role in "Addressing Gaps in Migrant Protection" with initiatives that include:

- Provision of humanitarian attention to the migrant population through shelters, food and personal hygiene supplies. In addition, work has been done on longer-term measures such as social infrastructure and family farming projects.
- Support for migrants, refugees and returnees, which includes physical, sexual and psychosocial health care, and support so that children and adolescents can return to school;
- Creation of communication spaces on the processes for migratory procedures, in which information is provided regarding the rights of migrants and legal figures of protection and services;
- Educational campaigns on the prevention of human trafficking and smuggling and on the risks of irregular migration.
- Holding workshops on interculturality, prevention of discrimination and xenophobia in schools and other training spaces, in order to create inclusive narratives of migration in local childhood and youth.
- Planning and execution of protocols to attend to unaccompanied or separated migrant children, and legal and psychosocial support in family reunification processes;

**Policy recommendations for governments and other actors**

- Let's create regional cooperation programs, with special emphasis on improving the procedures for attending unaccompanied and / or separated children, improving the conditions of the reception spaces, avoiding the separation of families and seeking alternatives to the detention of minors.
- There is an urgent need to speed up the regularization processes, facilitate the obtaining of work permits and guarantee access to health (especially for children, pregnant women and the LGBTIQ + population). It is also recommended to promote projects for access to legal, psychosocial, and education advice for migrants.
- States must train their officials on migration and human rights issues. For this, dialogues with organizations that integrate migrants and experts on these issues are essential.

***Theme 3: Discussing approaches to address irregular migration- Policy Brief on Youth Perspectives in Central, South America and the Caribbean***

Migrants in an irregular situation have particular protection needs related to their immigration status. Although in Latin America and the Caribbean there is no reliable data on immigration and emigration of people in an irregular situation, there is information that shows the preeminence of emigration to Anglo-Saxon America. These migration flows, mixed and complex, are generally formed by people in an irregular migratory situation. In the region, factors such as generalized violence, impoverishment, armed conflicts that generate internal and external displacement, and climate change resulting from extractive economic projects are the main causes of migration. In recent years, Latin American migration flows have diversified: both economic and climate change migrants and asylum seekers move within and outside the region. This complexity of mixed flows demands special attention to irregular migrants and asylum seekers, so that they can be welcomed according to the parameters of international human rights and humanitarian law.

The UN Major Group for Children and Youth (UN MGCY) has led a Regional Consultation for Central, South America, and the Caribbean regarding youth perspectives and priorities on the topic “Discussing approaches to address irregular migration”. We consulted 47 local organizations, national and international, youth-led and youth-focused. These organizations work in 16 countries, and represent some 20,000 youth, between leaders and beneficiaries, in migration issues. The results of the consultation are summarized in this policy brief.

**Proyectos clave dirigidos por jóvenes y enfocados en jóvenes**

Latin American youth is actively participating in “discussing approaches to address irregular migration”, with actions that include:

- Execution of communication campaigns and projects focused on orienting migrants on topics of migrants’ rights, the risks of irregular migration, the care and services migrants can access while in transit, and the importance of regularization.
- Collection of demographic data of the migrant population through demographic registration projects.
- Legal and psychosocial support during regularization processes and asylum application, family reunification processes and search for missing relatives, and repatriation processes of the remains of irregular migrants who died in transit or destination. To do this, the work with governments, migrant’s organizations, local governments and consulates is key.
- Advocacy in which organizations inform governments and stakeholders about the human rights situation of migrants, and the relevance of complying with the provisions of national and international law to protect them.

**Policy Recommendations for Governments and other actors**

- Governments need to guarantee the access to basic human rights, regardless of the immigration status of a person. They should facilitate the regularization process, avoiding documentation requirements that are impossible to obtain for vulnerable populations, asylum seekers, and stateless persons.
- Governments must conduct censuses on migrants on a regular basis, to obtain reliable data necessary for public policies focused on migration. Such policies should consider migrants, local populations, the governments, and civil society to create plans for local and national integration.
- It is recommended that governments and stakeholders provide resources for humanitarian assistance in border areas, supervise the reception of migrants to make sure it adheres to human rights standards, and establish dialogues with other governments in the region to facilitate processes of migratory regularization.