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Migrant Women: Situation and Challenges

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10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



10.7

Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobilization of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

Women are involved in the migration process in different ways:

- As independent migrants;
- Travelling alone;
- With their children;
- With their siblings;
- Accompanied by male migrants;
- As temporary or permanent residents that are the providers of their families in their countries of origin.



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In Terms of Numbers



Photo: Taken from UNIVISION

From 1980 to 2013, migrant populations migrating from Central America to the US increased from 354.000 to 3.2 million.

The three main Central American countries of origin were El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

In 2013, the percentages of migrant women out of the total number of migrants were 52% for El Salvador, 53% for Guatemala and 47% for Honduras. For the majority of Central American migrants, United States is the country of destination.

A light gray silhouette of a world map is centered in the background of the slide.

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs reported that in 2015, 48% of the 244 million migrants worldwide were women.

ECLAC reports that in 16 of the 20 countries in the region, the number of migrant women is higher than the number of migrant men. In Central America, 53% of the migrants are women and 47% are men.



Women migrate for different reasons:



- Seeking employment opportunities;
- Seeking higher living standards;
- Fleeing from social, political and gender-based discrimination;
- Due to gender-based violence;
- Due to citizen insecurity; or
- For the purpose of family reunification.

Risk Factors and Assistance Needs

Women face greater risks and abuses than male migrants:

- Lack of information about their rights;
- Poverty;
- Domestic or partner violence;
- Sexual violence;
- Unwanted pregnancies;
- Femicide;
- Debts acquired due to the need to pay for migration;
- Lack of travel documents;
- Generalized social violence, migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons;
- Precariousness in socio-occupational integration and social exclusion, etc.



Negative Impacts in Every Phase of the Migration Cycle



- Before departure;
- In their family and community context;
- Throughout the entire migration process;
- On arrival in the country of destination and return.

This inequality and gender-based discrimination in migration processes reflects what is happening in society in general and is exacerbated by the double discrimination of being a woman and being a migrant.



According to IOM, migration should contribute to



- **Reduce the gaps between developed economies and developing economies, enabling countries of origin to benefit from the transfer of knowledge, ideas, practices, skills and technologies that are contributed by migrants.**



Photo: suyapamedios-fides

First steps are being taken in this regard. During the term of El Salvador as President pro tempore of the Regional Conference on Migration, with the topic of Migrant Women as its central theme, progress has been made in placing the needs of migrant women at the centre of discussions and identifying some solutions.

Greater support is required from all involved actors, and joint efforts need to be implemented in order to fulfil the aspirations.

Thank you



**LEAVE NO
ONE BEHIND:
END VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN
AND GIRLS**

#16días

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