

## WORKWAYS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

### Report - Session 1

As part of the development of the GFMD regional consultation in Latin America, the Caribbean and North America, it was decided to hold small discussion groups with delegates from civil society organizations, governments and other interest groups to promote discussion of proposals and concrete initiatives that promote alliances between organizations.

#### Agenda / Planning:

1. – Introduction: Easton Williams/ English – Johnny Pereira/ Spanish
2. Session moderation: Presentation of the participants and conducting the discussion: José Arturo Ruiz Trhamppe.
  - English-Spanish translation (vice versa): Grazia Silva.
  - Note taking - report: Johnny Pereira
3. Preliminary conclusions: Easton Williams/ English – Johnny Pereira/ Spanish

#### Summary of contributions by participant:

- Lisa Smith – Glen Haven Manor, Canada:
  - It presents the Canadian experience in the implementation of projects to improve the mechanisms of reception and integration of refugees in the province of Nova Scotia in Canada. The organization develops advocacy exercises at the local and national level to bring its proposals with the provincial government and the prime minister, in order to support the viability of migratory regularization of displaced persons and refugees in the province through job placement. As an example she highlighted the recent reception of a group of nurses with refugee claimant status, who have been relocated to regularize their insertion in the health sector. As is the case of populations with different backgrounds and job skills, they must be evaluated and she considers it convenient for other groups to join together to work in a regulated manner at least in her Province.
- Gary Slaiman – Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, United States:
  - He highlights the need to provide technical scopes in the construction of routes that promote the conditions to encourage regular migration. In addition, he considers it necessary to improve the effectiveness of regular migration routes, which will then reduce incentives for irregular migration. He highlights the experience of the more than 20,000 applicants for refugee applications by the displaced Syrian population, which could be managed through work visas given their high job and professional qualifications.
  - They seek to make alliances with other organizations to facilitate the insertion of displaced people with multiple talents together with HIAS in Peru. In addition, connect

with other organizations to promote the integration of displaced persons with skills and qualities for different jobs.

- Among the main challenges, it stands out the management of assertive and updated data on the conditions of the different communities, for the construction of livelihoods that contribute to the monitoring of each case or family, as well as for the construction of routes to make viable the migratory regularization through labor. He proposes that we work on making partners in order to develop this contribution.
- Vinicio Sandoval. GMIES. Technical Secretary of the Regional Network of Civil Organizations for Migration, RROCM.
  - He highlights the Central American regional initiative for the assignment of work visas through formal mechanisms from the labor ministries to regularize the processes of recruiting workers. The objective of this experience is to formalize the application and processing of work visas mainly in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, through a structured and regulated process, to avoid irregularities related to influence peddling, irregular migration and labor exploitation, all this under international standards that provide protection mechanisms for the population that is displaced for work reasons. There are labor markets for regulated migration between the northern triangle of Central America, with Mexico, the United States and Canada, which must be strengthened by building alliances between partners that can support these initiatives.
  - One of the main gaps found in the technical and labor training of the migrant community is in services and the agricultural sector, language, and on legislation and regulatory mechanisms for their own protection.
- André Saramago – Regional Office FAO:
  - He highlights as experiences from his organization, the comprehensive development plan between Mexico and Central America, which is focused on addressing irregular migration in the northern triangle in Central America. Moreover, it indicates an assistance plan for the Reintegration of returned migrants in Central America, through political advocacy based on seasonal and agricultural migration. Finally, he emphasizes an assistance program for the Venezuelan refugee community in Colombia, which provides comprehensive care and political advocacy to promote gradual integration into the country's economic dynamics. The initiatives are developing an emerging focus on addressing the multiple gaps generated during crisis governance and response capacity, including the current COVID-19 crisis.
- Arturo Ruiz Trhamppe – Public Services International:
  - We have to work on knowing and establishing a baseline on the professional qualities of migrants. Ask that they join this work instance in search of partners where civil

society organizations, multisectoral groups (including trade union organizations), employers' organizations and governments participate

- He also proposes the possibility of designing a study that contains these variables.
  - We must strengthen regulated migration to guarantee minimum services to the migrant population and reduce irregular migration.
- Discussion and preliminary conclusions.
    - Need in data collection:
      - Identify which are the main gaps for the development of focuses in the collection of data for the use of the same in the support of projects and agendas. Experiences such as data collection in Costa Rica with IOM and other NGOs in Guatemala show results with good practices in the regionalization of migratory flows.
      - Monitoring of the different data platforms such as the regional and national reports we carry out by ECLAC and IOM. As well as the R4V (Response for Venezuelans) platform of the Coordination Platform for migrants and refugees from Venezuela.
      - Promote the approach to irregular migration from the interpretation of labor dynamics, defining what is understood by irregularity and how it develops between countries. For example, the relationship between worker mobility between Guatemala and Belize. As well as, to evaluate and understand the different elements that encourage the mobilization of the population. For example, the impact of the Venezuelan crisis on the massive exodus of its population.
    - Approach to regular migration:
      - Understand migration as an opportunity to mobilize local economies in destination countries. Canada's experience in identifying the links between job skills, qualifications, and available jobs in the different regions of the country was addressed.
      - Promote the exchange of experiences between different local stakeholder such as unions and migrant organizations. Through the identification of the different gaps in local economies in Central America, particularly in countries such as Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador, to understand what are the elements that encourage the sustained "export of labor".

#### Actions from governments:

- Take into account the recommendations of the GCM, as a mechanism to promote the flexibility of regularization. Therefore, regularization through labor is a powerful element in the creation of viable proposals in the creation of conditions for orderly, regular migration, and with greater guarantees regarding human rights, including labor rights.
- Consider the different impacts generated by the COVID-19 crisis on the response capacity of different countries. This situation generates one crisis after another. The

case of Venezuelan migration is highlighted, mainly in South America and the Caribbean, it presents a very dramatic reality, given that recent studies show that the drastic loss of jobs, exercising economic activities in high-risk and begging conditions, the lack of access to basic health services, and the latent threat of being evicted from their residences, this places the Venezuelan migrant community in a situation of extreme vulnerability, which requires an urgent approach in terms of direct assistance and follow-up.

- Strengthen alliances with the consular entities of the countries of origin, with the objective of promoting the monitoring of the situation of migrant nationals in other countries and supporting the implementation of programs and policies for their care and protection. These alliances must be linked to local stakeholder in each host country and local and national governments.

The implementation of programs and initiatives that address the promotion of education and the creation of family projects, for the formation of life projects that stimulate personal entrepreneurship in different alternatives, including intentions to migrate, accompanied by the necessary information.

- Agreements and conclusions:

- There is a general interest in continuing to generate new spaces for discussion including other stakeholders who may get involved. In this case, Vinicio, proposes to share the work experience of the training processes of the GMIES organization, with the aim of exposing the training experience aimed at public officials, civil society, and grassroots communities in the matter of migratory regularization.
- A specific opportunity was not resolved with the interest of providing follow-up, however, there is a willingness to respond for new calls generated by the GFMD president to generate new discussion groups.
- The problem was identified as "Unregulated Migration"
- It was defined to continue working with the GFMD to seek partners and seek to solve this problem through the arguments presented by the participants.
- That it be sought first to build this multisectoral alliance, to later define the necessary resources to be successful in combating the problem.
- In the cases presented by the participants, there are several weaknesses that must be turned into opportunities and joint work to help solve the unregulated migration crisis.