

Handout 1.2- Human mobility in Central American and Andean Region

Module 1

To introduce the key data of the Regional Assessment “A claim to dignity: Older people on the move” and familiarize the participants with them.

Slide reference - 8

For- Participants as Pre reading for the Module for preparing for the session

In 2020, UNHCR and HelpAge International partnered to develop a regional evaluation, A claim to dignity: Ageing on the move. Regional assessment on the situation and needs of older persons on the move in the Americas

Ageing on the Move Ageing on the Move that analysed the intersectionality between ageing and displacement. The assessment focuses in five countries in the region: El Salvador, Honduras, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. Different data was collected in Central America and the Andean regions, highlighting the situations faced by older persons on the move in these two different contexts.

Based on this regional evaluation and to better address its findings, the training’s module have been developed mainly used as reference, the data and case studies from the assessment complemented by HelpAge and UNHCR and other sources.

Human mobility is no longer a temporary phenomenon, and hence many persons on the move reach old age in situations of forced displacement within and outside of their country of origin

According to UNHCR 2020 global trends, there are about 18M displaced persons in the Americas, of whom 5.6 m refugees and migrants from Venezuela, 549,000 refugees and asylum seekers from Northern Central America and 108,000 refugees and asylum seekers from Nicaragua.

Older persons, including persons with disabilities, face specific challenges in humanitarian and human mobility crises.

Among the countries included in the evaluation, in northern Central America, human mobility is mainly characterised by internal displacement flows resulting from gang or mara violence,



deportees mainly from the United States and Mexico, and the socio-economic difficulties caused by COVID-19.

Main causes for displacement from the countries of northern Central America:

1. Access to work or income opportunities (47%)- mainly affects deportees (70%);
2. with gender difference of 53% among men and 39% among women
3. Need for protection from threats, violence or persecution (28%), this being the main cause for internally displaced persons (36%);
4. Support for the family (25%) - mainly affects deportees (47%).

These are the causes that affected 81% of the older persons on the move and his or her family members.

In the Andean region, mixed movements (refugees and migrants) are mainly observed as a result of the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, which has led to the exodus of millions of persons.

Main cause for human mobility or the countries of Andean region

1. Access to food (76%), which reaches 84% among the refugee and migrant population, with a gender difference of 71% in men and 80% in women.
2. Access to health (73%), reaching 80% persons with disability compared to 68% of those without disability; there are more women (79%) than men (66%)
3. Access to work or income opportunities (58%) – more men (63%) than women (54%), and also with a difference between persons with disability (52%) and those without (62%).

These are the causes that affected 88% of the older persons on the move and his or her family members.

Main cause for human mobility	Most at risk	Northern Central America – 88% of older persons on the move	Andean region – 81% of older persons on the move
Access to work or income opportunities	Deportees	●	●
More men than women affected		●	
More older persons with disabilities affected than others		●	●
Need for protection from threats, violence or persecution	IDP's and refugees	●	●
Support for the family	Deportees	●	
Access to food			●
More women than men affected	Refugees and migrants		●
Access to health			●
More women than men affected			●