



McKENNA
MUN

**INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION
FOR MIGRATION**



**CLAREMONT
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COLLEGE
APRIL 20 - 21, 2024**

Letter From the Chair

Dear Delegates,

My name is Nicole Jonassen, and I will serve as your Chair for McKenna MUN XI! This year marks my eighth year participating in Model United Nations and my second time chairing at McKenna MUN. I am very enthusiastic about running this year's Novice Committee with the hopes of exposing new people to the kind of debate and collaboration we get to do at conferences. I am very passionate about migration policy, having pursued the topic through research projects, internships, and coursework. In this committee, we will discuss the role of intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) in global migration governance. We will explore the responsibilities of IGOs to protect migrants in general and vulnerable migrants in particular. We will discuss the opportunities IGOs have to implement new technological advancements, and we will discuss the risks and potential harms that accompany the use of new technologies in migration governance. At the end of the day, I want McKenna MUN XI to be a fun, educational, and exciting experience for all of you. Please feel free to contact me via email before, during, or after the conference with questions, concerns, or feedback. Good luck, and see you in April!

Best,

Nicole Jonassen

Chair of IOM for McKenna MUN XI

Introduction

The International Organization for Migration is the leading intergovernmental organization (IGO) related to migration with 175 member states and offices in 171 country offices.¹ The IOM conducts what it calls “migration management” with the aim of achieving four goals: maximizing the economic development potential of migration, facilitating legal migration of tourists, students, and laborers, combatting unauthorized migration, and aiding forced migrants like refugees and displaced people.² It is of note that the very phrase “migration management” is criticized by some migration scholars who believe the term implies that migration is a problem that must be controlled. For the purposes of our debate, delegates may use the term “migration management” used by the IOM or may use alternate terms like “migration governance” or simply “migration policy.”

Structurally, the IOM is composed of its headquarters, administrative centers, regional offices, and country offices.³ IOM Headquarters, led by the IOM Director General, is

¹ “Who We Are,” International Organization for Migration, accessed January 8, 2024, <https://www.iom.int/who-we-are>.

² International Organization for Migration, “Who We Are”; Fabian Georgi, “For the Benefit of Some: The International Organization for Migration and its Global Migration Management,” in *The Politics of International Migration Management* (London: Palgrave Macmillan London, 2010), 48.

³ “IOM Organizational Structure,” International Organization for Migration, accessed January 8, 2024, <https://www.iom.int/iom-organizational-structure>.

“responsible for the formulation of institutional policy, guidelines and strategy, standard-setting, quality control procedures and oversight.”⁴ The IOM runs administrative centers in Manila and Panama that support the work of regional and country offices.⁵ The IOM runs nine regional



Figure 1: IOM Headquarters
Source: IOM

offices, which “oversee, plan, coordinate and support IOM activities within their region.”⁶

⁴ International Organization for Migration, “IOM Organizational Structure.”

⁵ International Organization for Migration, “IOM Organizational Structure.”

⁶ International Organization for Migration, “IOM Organizational Structure.”

Regional offices review projects undertaken by country offices and provide country offices with technical assistance as needed, often serving as liaisons between country offices and United Nations agencies, regional agencies, or other governments.⁷ IOM country offices implement a wide range of migration projects specific to their country policies.⁸

The IOM conducts five main categories of activities.⁹ First, the IOM supports the movement of emigrants, migrant workers, and resettled refugees by advising them before and after their travel, facilitating air travel and language learning, providing transportation from refugee camps to host countries, forming migrant-employer relationships, and coordinating remittance processes.¹⁰ Second, the IOM builds states' capabilities to control migration by conducting training for civil servants, politicians, or border officials.¹¹ Third, the IOM directly engages in migration control by running mass information campaigns, conducting and publishing studies relevant to migration policy, administering reception or detention centers in conjunction with local state officials, and conducting "assisted voluntary return," a program in which the IOM provides financial assistance to migrants if they agree to return to their countries of origin.¹² Fourth, the IOM conducts humanitarian work, engaging in emergency operations to resettle

⁷ International Organization for Migration, "IOM Organizational Structure."

⁸ International Organization for Migration, "IOM Organizational Structure."

⁹ Georgi, "For the Benefit of Some," 47.

¹⁰ Georgi, "For the Benefit of Some," 47.

¹¹ Georgi, "For the Benefit of Some," 47.

¹² Georgi, "For the Benefit of Some," 47.

displaced people following natural disasters or civil wars.¹³ Fifth, the IOM functions as a site for government-to-government discourse by hosting conferences for governmental knowledge production.¹⁴ Scholars often characterize the IOM's functioning as akin to that of a private enterprise.¹⁵ IOM activities are largely funded based on projectization or activity-based costing, which means that all the staff and office costs associated with undertaking a project are billed to the client – in this case, the government – funding that project. Some scholars believe “projectization implies that IOM is conducting those and only those activities that will definitely be financed by guaranteed project contributions from concrete donors.”¹⁶ Because the vast majority of project funding directed to the IOM comes from Western governments of highly industrialized countries, some scholars argue that the IOM's funding model lends itself to undertake activities that prioritize the policy goals of Western, industrial states over the goals of other states or the goals of migrants themselves.¹⁷

History of the Committee

The organization now known as the IOM was founded as the Provisional Intergovernmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe (PICMME) in 1951.¹⁸

¹³ Georgi, “For the Benefit of Some,” 47.

¹⁴ Georgi, “For the Benefit of Some,” 47.

¹⁵ Antoine Pécoud, “What do we know about the International Organization for Migration?” *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 44, no. 10 (2018): 1629, <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2017.1354028>.

¹⁶ Georgi, “For the Benefit of Some,” 63.

¹⁷ Georgi, “For the Benefit of Some,” 63.

¹⁸ Georgi, “For the Benefit of Some,” 50.

The United States government initiated the founding of PICMME because it viewed UNHCR, which had been founded only weeks before, as a dangerous, potentially communist-influenced organization.¹⁹ In October 1952, PICMME was renamed the International Committee for European Migration (ICEM), which would be the name of the IGO for three decades.²⁰ The organization included 16 original members: states in Western Europe, where migrants were emigrating, and states in North and South America as well as Australia, where migrants were settling.²¹ The ICEM was intended to be a temporary organization to manage only the logistics of resettling migrants from supposedly overpopulated Europe. However, once established, the ICEM became a more permanent apparatus as its leaders sought to take on more and more responsibility and provide more and more state services. The ICEM ran reception camps for refugees leaving the Eastern Bloc in the 1950s and distributed humanitarian relief to migrants leaving Budapest during the Hungarian Uprising in 1956, proving its usefulness to its member states.²²

Following the early 1960s, the ICEM faced a crisis of survival. Canada and Australia questioned the necessity of the organization, and both states withdrew from ICEM by 1973.²³ In response, the ICEM expanded into new areas, initiating research projects and international

¹⁹ Georgi, "For the Benefit of Some," 50.

²⁰ Georgi, "For the Benefit of Some," 50.

²¹ Georgi, "For the Benefit of Some," 50.

²² Georgi, "For the Benefit of Some," 50.

²³ Georgi, "For the Benefit of Some," 51.

seminars on migration policy issues for the first time.²⁴ ICEM also expanded in geographic scope, engaging in migrant transportation and resettlement in non-Western countries.²⁵

In the 1980s, the ICEM was renamed the Intergovernmental Committee for Migration (ICM) in an effort to reflect the organization's shift away from a sole focus on European migration issues.²⁶ The biggest shift in the organization's history, however, came in 1989, when the ICM was again renamed, becoming the International Organization for Migration, or the IOM, as it is now known.²⁷ In 1989, the organization became a formally permanent body, its research and conference activities expanded, its membership grew, and its mandate was to promote "the organized transfer and the regulated mobility of migrant, migrant workers, refugees, displaced persons and other individuals in need of international migration services."²⁸

In the late 1990s, the IOM developed the term "migration management" as a core component of its work, and the term was popularized in the 2000s.²⁹ Then, throughout the 2000s, demand for IOM's migration control services and support for IOM's "migration management" mantra boomed.³⁰ Between 1998 and 2008, the IOM's membership nearly doubled, increasing from 67 member states to 125, and the organization's field offices more than tripled, increasing

²⁴ Georgi, "For the Benefit of Some," 51.

²⁵ Georgi, "For the Benefit of Some," 51.

²⁶ Georgi, "For the Benefit of Some," 51.

²⁷ Georgi, "For the Benefit of Some," 52.

²⁸ Georgi, "For the Benefit of Some," 52.

²⁹ Georgi, "For the Benefit of Some," 56.

³⁰ Georgi, "For the Benefit of Some," 56.

from 119 to 400.³¹ This growth was driven by IOM Director General Brunson McKinley, who had previously served as the US ambassador to Haiti.³²



Figure 2: Former IOM Director General Brunson McKinley
Source: UN Photo

The IOM was founded, and run for many years, independently of the United Nations system. The relationship between the IOM and the United Nations system began developing in the 1990s. In 1992, IOM obtained observer status in the UN General Assembly and joined the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, a humanitarian coordination venue.³³ In 1993, IOM became

³¹ Georgi, "For the Benefit of Some," 56-57.

³² Georgi, "For the Benefit of Some," 57.

³³ Megan Bradley, "Joining the UN Family? Explaining the Evolution of IOM-UN Relations," *Global Governance: A Review of Multilateralism and International Organizations* 27, no. 2 (2021): 256, <https://doi.org/10.1163/19426720-02702002>.

eligible to receive UN Central Emergency Response Fund funding to undertake relief efforts.³⁴ However, the early relationship between the two organizations was strained, and IOM leadership argued that its contributions and expertise were undervalued by the UN system.³⁵ The two organizations signed a 1996 Cooperation Agreement, emphasizing the need for greater collaboration and stronger UN-IOM relations through joint initiatives, trainings, meetings, shared documentation, and research efforts.³⁶ Shortly thereafter, McKinley created an IOM Working Group on Institutional Arrangements for Member States to consider the possibility of integrating IOM into the UN system or other options to facilitate better migration coordination between IOM and the United Nations.³⁷ Consideration stalled until 2015 and 2016, when the UN General Assembly Summit on Refugees and Migration unveiled a new agreement between the two organizations, rebranding IOM as the UN Migration Agency.³⁸ What are the practical implications of this 2016 change? IOM is now largely considered a part of the UN system – though some scholars dispute the legal and institutional particulars of the relationship. The 2016 change also gives IOM full, formal membership in UN mechanisms, grants IOM staff full access to UN resources and privileges, and may curtail redundancies between IOM activities and the

³⁴ Bradley, “Joining the UN Family?” 256.

³⁵ Bradley, “Joining the UN Family?” 256.

³⁶ Bradley, “Joining the UN Family?” 256.

³⁷ Bradley, “Joining the UN Family?” 257.

³⁸ Bradley, “Joining the UN Family?” 258.

activities formerly undertaken by other UN bodies.³⁹ Despite its new UN status, IOM is not a treaty-based organization, and its work does not carry the legal force of a binding treaty.

³⁹ Bradley, “Joining the UN Family?” 259-261.

McKenna MUN XI Sensitivity Statement

Claremont McKenna College's McKenna MUN conference is committed to promoting inclusivity, respect, and diversity among its participants. We recognize that participants come from a variety of backgrounds and experiences, and we are dedicated to creating an environment that is welcoming and safe for all. We also strive to ensure that our conference is accessible to everyone regardless of ability, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or nationality.

For these reasons, McKenna MUN has a conference-wide zero-tolerance policy for any forms of discrimination or bigotry, including but not limited to homophobia, sexism, racism, and xenophobia. We insist that all delegates adhere to our zero-tolerance policy, even when representing characters whose beliefs would not fall in line with that policy. If you have any questions about how you can represent the policies of your allocated position with integrity while maintaining our conference-wide commitment to inclusivity, please ask your Chair, who will be more than happy to help you navigate that challenge.

When navigating General Assembly, ECOSOC, and Crisis Committees, the following restrictions will be imposed:

1. In light of COVID-19, any attempts to use biological warfare is expressly prohibited. Arcs or policies that deny real world events or facts such as COVID-19, genocides, or exoduses are expressly prohibited.
2. Arcs or policies involving the exploitation or oppression of historically marginalized communities, the invocation of ethnic cleansing, or the use of human trafficking are strictly prohibited.
3. Anything else that is deemed inappropriate, insensitive, or offensive by the conference staff will not be a part of proceedings.

We appreciate your cooperation in maintaining a safe and respectful conference environment, and thank you for your commitment to upholding our policies and values. We welcome feedback regarding our efforts to maintain an inclusive environment at McKenna MUN XI at Advisor Feedback sessions.

Rules of Procedure for General Assembly

Scope

The rules of procedure outlined below are offered as a framework for both delegates and conference staff. These rules are not perfect, nor absolute. In the event of confusion or conflict of information in this guide, ultimate discretion is given to the dais for their respective committee.

Plagiarism

McKennaMUN XI has a zero tolerance policy for plagiarism of any kind. This includes plagiarism in position papers, working papers, and draft resolutions. McKennaMUN also has a strict policy against the prewriting of clauses. If it is discovered a delegate has prewritten clauses, they will be disqualified from awards.

Electronics

Electronic devices including laptops, cell phones, and tablets may not be used at any point during the course of committee. All working papers and draft resolutions must be written on paper, and will be typed up by the chairs once all papers and resolutions have been written. Electronics are not permitted during moderated or unmoderated caucuses, and should not be out during committee sessions at any time. Please print any research or notes you may need during committee, and we will provide paper and pens to write the working papers and draft resolutions.

Decorum

Delegates and conference staff must present themselves with respect and decorum throughout the entirety of the conference. This includes appropriate dress, restraint from interrupting other delegates, and interacting in a courteous manner. Conference staff and Secretariat reserve the right to penalize or disqualify delegates who do not adhere to decorous manners.

Working Outside Committee

Delegates in all committees are *not* permitted to work outside committee. The writing of working papers and draft resolutions and meetings to make alliances and cooperate must all be conducted during committee time. This is to ensure that delegates are able to put in the same amount of time into committee, and that all delegates are able to take the time they need to take care for themselves outside of committee.

Sponsors and Signatories

Working papers and directives must be supported by a minimum number of sponsors and signatories to be specified by the dais of each committee in order to be accepted by the dais and introduced in committee.

Points:

- Point of Personal Privilege:

- At any point, delegates may rise to a point of personal privilege to signal to the chair they have a personal concern
- Point of Order:
 - A delegate may rise to a point of order to correct an error in parliamentary procedure during the course of debate. A point of order may not interrupt a speaker unless it pertains to the speaker's right to speak. A point of order is not appealable.
- Point of Parliamentary Inquiry:
 - A point of parliamentary inquiry may be raised at any time the floor is open to points or motions. Delegates may rise to this point to ask a question about parliamentary procedure, and should never interrupt the speaker.

Motions:

- Motion to Open Debate
 - Requires a simple majority
- Motion to Set the Agenda
 - Triggers two speeches in favor and two speeches against, with 30 second speaking time
 - Requires a simple majority

- Motion to Open the General Speakers List
 - Requires a simple majority
 - Has a default speaking time of 30 seconds
- Motion to Enter an Unmoderated Caucus
 - Requires a simple majority
- Motion to Enter a Moderated Caucus
 - Requires a simple majority to pass
 - Motions must specify the total caucus time and the speaking time for each individual speaker
- Motion to Extend a Caucus
 - Requires a simple majority to pass
 - Must contain a specific time for extension, not to exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ of the original length of the caucus
 - Each caucus can be extended a maximum of one time
- Motion to Introduce Working Papers
 - Requires a simple majority
 - This will trigger Author's Panel, per the discretion of the dais
- Motion to Introduce Draft Resolutions/Directives
 - Requires a simple majority
 - This will trigger Author's Panel, per the discretion of the dais (for GA)

- Motion to Enter Voting Bloc
 - Requires a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote from committee
- Motion to Divide the Question
 - Requires a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote from committee
- Motion to Introduce Amendments
 - Requires a simple majority
 - Prompts the dais to introduce all entertained amendments that have been submitted
 - All friendly amendments are automatically added to the draft resolution/directive in question
 - All unfriendly amendments are debated and then delegates take a substantive vote on the clauses
- Motion to Suspend Debate
 - Requires a simple majority
- Motion to Adjourn Debate
 - Requires a simple majority

Yields During Formal Speeches

- Yield to Comments

- A speaker may designate their remaining time to be used for other delegates of the dais selection to make comments on their speech. Delegates will be allotted the time left in the speech
- Yield to Questions
 - The speaker may designate the time remaining in their speech to be used to answer questions from other delegates as selected by the dais. Question time is not counted in the speaker's time.
- Yield to Another Delegate
 - The speaker may designate the time remaining in their speech to be used by another delegate, as specified by the speaker
- Yield to the Chair
 - Speakers may at any time during their speech choose to yield the remaining time to the chair

Right of Reply

The right of reply allows delegates to respond to a specific statement made against their person via motion, and approved speech. The right of reply is not intended to allow delegates to respond directly to an offensive statement about their country. Rather, it is intended to be used to respond to insults against the delegates themselves. Petitions for right of reply are left entirely to the discretion of the chair.

General Precedence of All Motions

When more than one motion is presented, they are voted on in order from most to least disruptive. That order is:

1. Right of Reply
2. Extensions (longest extension first)
3. Unmoderated Caucus (longest first)
4. Round Robin (longest speaking time first)
5. Moderated Caucus (longest first, then by most number of speakers)

In voting procedure, motions have the following precedence:

1. Reordering of the Draft Resolutions
2. Voting by Acclamation
3. Division of the Question
4. Voting by Roll Call

Flow of Debate

1. Roll Call
 - a. At the beginning of every committee session, the dais will take the roll of the delegates
 - b. Delegates may respond with “present” or “present in voting”

- d. If a delegate indicates they are “present in voting” they may not abstain from any substantive vote
 2. Debate is opened
 - a. A delegate may motion to open or resume debate once roll call has been taken
 - b. This must be passed by a simple majority of the committee
 3. The General Speakers’ List is Opened
 - a. A delegate may motion to open the speakers’ list once debate has been opened
 - b. The motion must be passed by a simple majority of the committee
 - c. The delegate who made the motion is offered the opportunity to be the first speaker on the speakers’ list
 - d. The speakers’ list has a default time of 1 minute, unless otherwise stipulated in the motion that is passed
 4. The agenda is set
 - a. A delegate may motion to set the agenda to one of the topics listed in the background guide
 - b. If there is only one topic in the background and committee materials, the agenda is automatically set to that topic
 5. Moderated Caucus

- a. A motion to enter a moderated caucus may be made by any delegate whenever motions are entertained, debate is open, and the committee is not in voting bloc
 - b. If multiple motions are presented, motions will be voted on by most to least disruptive. This applies to moderated and unmoderated caucuses.
 - c. A motion for a moderated caucus must be passed by a simple majority
 - d. The delegate who made the motion is offered the opportunity to speak first or last in the caucus
 - e. The motion to enter a moderated caucus must specify a total time for the caucus, a maximum speaking time for each speaker, and a specific topic of discussion
 - f. The total time for the caucus must be divisible by the specified speaking time
 - g. A motion to extend the moderated caucus may only be made once the caucus has elapsed, have to specify a time for the extension that does not exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ of the original time, and passes by a simple majority
6. Unmoderated caucus
- a. A motion to enter an unmoderated caucus may be made by any delegate whenever motions are entertained, debate is open, and the committee is not in voting bloc
 - b. A motion for an unmoderated caucus must pass by a simple majority
 - c. The motion to enter an unmoderated caucus must contain a total time for the caucus

- d. A motion to extend the unmoderated caucus may be made once the caucus has elapsed, must specify a time that does not exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ of the original time, and must pass by simple majority
7. Author's Panel
- a. A motion to introduce working papers and draft resolutions may be made by any delegate once all working papers have been accepted by the dais and motions are being entertained
 - b. Papers will be presented in the order of submission to the dais unless otherwise specified by the motion that is passed
 - c. An Author's Panel for working papers will be left to the discretion of the dais based on the time left in the conference, but Author's Panel on draft resolutions are mandatory
 - d. A motion to introduce working papers and draft resolutions must pass by a simple majority
 - e. Author's Panel will consist of an allotted amount of sponsors to present their paper and resolution to the committee, followed by an allotted amount of time for committee to ask questions, to which sponsors will answer
 - f. The duration of presentations and Q&A sessions are determined by the discretion of the dais
 - g.

- h. The time delegates take to ask questions will not be counted towards the timing of the Q&A
 - i. The number of representatives from each bloc allowed to present and answer questions are determined by the discretion of the dais
- 8. Voting bloc
 - a. A motion to enter voting bloc may be made by any delegate after draft resolutions or directives have been formally accepted by the dais and motions are being entertained
 - b. A motion to enter voting bloc must be pass by a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of committee
 - c. In crisis committees, a motion to introduce directives is often combined with a motion to enter the voting bloc. Such a motion should specify the procedure for
 - d. the combined introduction and voting bloc, and such a motion constitutes a suspension of the rules which must pass by a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of committee
 - e. The default speakers for/against each directive is two for, two against with 30 second speaking time
 - f. The delegate who makes the motion to enter voting bloc may specify a non-default order or for/against structure in their motion

- g. No person other than the authorized conference staff may pass notes, talk to other people in the room, enter the room, or leave the room during voting bloc unless directed to do so by a member of the Secretariat
 - h. A delegate may motion to leave voting bloc, or the chair may move out of voting bloc at their discretion after all draft resolutions/directives have been voted on
9. Dividing the Question
- a. A motion to divide the question may be made at any point during voting bloc before the draft resolution/directive in question has been voted on
 - b. Divided the question is the process by which one or more clauses of a draft resolution/directive may be voted on separately from the body of the draft resolution/directive
 - c. The motion first must pass by a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority, and is not a substantive vote
 - d. If the vote passes by a simple majority to divide the question, that clause will be substantively voted on
 - e. Preambulatory clauses may not be altered by division of the question
 - f. Multiple motions on specific divisions may be accepted by the dais
10. Amending a draft resolution/directive

- a. At any point when the floor is open after a draft resolution/directive has been introduced and before it has been voted on, a delegate may make a motion to introduce an amendment to the draft resolution/directive
 - b. Time permitting, the amendment is then read out by the dais
 - c. If the amendment in question has been submitted to and entertained by the dais, a procedural vote on the motion to introduce the amendment takes place
 - d. All amendments must garner a sponsor threshold determined by the dais
 - e. An amendment with the support of all sponsors of the draft is a “friendly” amendment, and all other amendments are considered unfriendly and require a vote of $\frac{2}{3}$ to pass
 - f. For unfriendly amendments, for/against speeches are triggered in which two speakers speak for and against, for a default speaking time of 30 seconds
11. Suspend debate
- a. This motion may only be entertained at the end of a committee session
 - b. Passes by a simple majority of committee
12. Adjourn debate
- a. This motion may only be entertained at the end of the conference
 - b. Passes by a simple majority of committee

Voting

- Procedural Voting

- All votes on motions are procedural unless otherwise stated
- All delegates present must vote on procedural matters
- Substantive Voting
 - Voting on draft resolutions, directives, specific divisions of the question, and amendments is considered substantive
 - All delegates must indicate a yes vote, no vote, or abstention during substantive voting
 - The dais may ask for a re-vote if the total number of votes is less than the total number of delegates present
 - Delegates who indicated they were “present and voting” at the beginning of the session must vote “yes” or “no”
- Voting by Acclamation
 - During a substantive vote with for/against speakers, the floor may be eligible to pass by acclamation
 - In such a case, the dais must remind the committee that if no delegate speaks against the matter, it will automatically pass by acclamation
 - The dais must ask the committee once more, and if no delegate speaks against, it is automatically passed
 - A delegate may motion to pass any matter that calls for a substantive vote by acclamation

- Roll Call Voting
 - Immediately preceding a substantive vote, a delegate may motion for a roll call vote
 - If entertained by the dais, a roll call vote will commence in which each delegate's allocation will be called out by the dais and they must either say yes, no, abstain, yes with right, or no with rights
 - All those who vote "with rights" indicate they wish to explain why they voted the way they did. The dais determines if they have the right to speak, and for how long

Any questions? Clarifications? Totally confused?

Please route all questions to zkhera58@students.claremontmckenna.edu, and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Topic I: The Use of Technology in Migration

Management



Figure 3: IOM Joins UN System at Summit on Refugees and Migrants
Source: UN Photo

As described above, one of IOM’s roles is acting as a service-provider to states who engage in migration governance by conducting training and capability-building activities to equip state officials to conduct migration governance, by building state infrastructure related to migration governance, and by directly participating in migration governance. In this role, IOM activities often involve technology use and implementation. In this section, I will briefly describe some of the prominent ways IOM has used technology as a means to achieve migration management. I also encourage delegates to research further examples of the role technology can play in migration from the lenses of border regulation, humanitarian assistance, and efficient government functioning. Many of your allocated countries have implemented technological advancements in their migration management strategies – some of these techniques are described here, but delegates are encouraged to arrive at the conference prepared to discuss additional examples.

Technology and Human Trafficking

Anti-trafficking researchers, advocates, and organizations have discovered that traffickers often exploit technology, especially digital technology, to recruit new and control existing victims of human trafficking.⁴⁰ Traffickers search social media using specific keywords to identify potentially vulnerable targets and connect with potential clients.⁴¹ Evidence also

⁴⁰ “Technology and human trafficking: Fighting the good fight,” Thomas Reuters Legal, accessed January 21, 2024, <https://legal.thomsonreuters.com/blog/technology-and-human-trafficking/>.

⁴¹ Thomas Reuters Legal, “Technology and human trafficking.”

suggests that traffickers are exploiting recent advances in generative artificial intelligence technology to contact victims and clients.⁴²

Observing the tragic ways traffickers have weaponized technological advancements to their advantage, many anti-trafficking advocates have sought to use technological advancements to deter human trafficking. IOM and other IGOs engage in this work, often in tandem with civil society, nonprofit, and religious organizations. However, much of the innovation in this field comes from private sector firms in the technology industry and elite research institutions.

IOM joined a coalition of technology companies, civil society organizations, and UN agencies called Tech Against Trafficking.⁴³ The coalition aims to leverage technological developments to eradicate human trafficking. Anh Nguyen, Head of Migrant Protection and Assistance Division at IOM Headquarters in Geneva, identified the project's motivation in a 2018 statement, saying "traffickers are adept at using new information and communications technologies to exploit people" and urging those seeking to prevent human trafficking to use these same technologies to "better identify and protect victims."⁴⁴ Tech Against Trafficking sought to produce a comprehensive analysis of existing technology-based mechanisms to combat human trafficking and share its findings publicly.⁴⁵

⁴² Thomas Reuters Legal, "Technology and human trafficking."

⁴³ "IOM Enters New Collaboration to Promote Use of Technology to Combat Human Trafficking," International Organization for Migration, accessed January 8, 2024, <https://www.iom.int/news/iom-enters-new-collaboration-promote-use-technology-combat-human-trafficking>.

⁴⁴ International Organization for Migration, "IOM Enters New Collaboration."

⁴⁵ International Organization for Migration, "IOM Enters New Collaboration."



Figure 4: Tech Against Trafficking Conference
Source: Freedom Collaborative

The Tech Against Trafficking coalition launched the Counter-Trafficking Data Collaborative (CTDC), a project managed by IOM. The CTDC was the first global data hub on human trafficking, drawing data from around the world and publishing it in aggregate.⁴⁶ The project is motivated by the belief that a lack of reliable, high-quality information about existing human trafficking risks is a significant barrier to conducting and assessing the success of

⁴⁶ “About,” Counter-Trafficking Data Collaborative, accessed January 8, 2024, <https://www.ctdatacollaborative.org/page/about>.

counter-trafficking efforts.⁴⁷ CTDC seeks to alleviate this barrier by aggregating data collected on the local level in one place.

In 2022, IOM and Microsoft released the Global Victim-Perpetrator Synthetic Dataset on CTDC.⁴⁸ The Global Victim-Perpetrator Synthetic Dataset was the first publicly available dataset linking trafficking victims and their perpetrators while protecting the anonymity and private identities of trafficking survivors.⁴⁹ In many ways this project satisfies the core goal of CTDC – to make information about human trafficking more widely available to the public, law enforcement, and organizations that engage in anti-trafficking work – but it does so with an explicit effort to preserve the privacy and dignity of those who fall victim to human trafficking by using data analysis techniques developed by the team at Microsoft Research.⁵⁰ The project uses real-world case records of human trafficking victims to generate synthetic data points, which “accurately preserve the statistical properties of the original victim data without representing actual victims.”⁵¹

⁴⁷ Counter-Trafficking Data Collaborative, “About.”

⁴⁸ “IOM-Microsoft Release the First Public Dataset on Victims and Perpetrators of Trafficking,” International Organization for Migration, accessed January 8, 2024, <https://www.iom.int/news/iom-microsoft-release-first-public-dataset-victims-and-perpetrators-trafficking>.

⁴⁹ International Organization for Migration, “IOM-Microsoft Release.”

⁵⁰ International Organization for Migration, “IOM-Microsoft Release.”

⁵¹ International Organization for Migration, “IOM-Microsoft Release.”

IOM has also sought to make future projects like the CTDC and the Global Victim-Perpetrator Synthetic Dataset more successful by creating a more standardized data collection method surrounding human trafficking cases. IOM collaborated with counter-trafficking organizations, technology companies, and academics to develop the Human Trafficking Case Data Standard (HTCDS).⁵²

Outside of the IOM's purview, some private researchers have developed methods to use artificial intelligence to track victims and traffickers.⁵³ The MIT team developed machine learning algorithms that analyze commercial sex advertisements to determine whether they are likely to be connected to human trafficking.⁵⁴ Meanwhile, researchers helped UK-based anti-trafficking organization Unseen UK implement an artificial intelligence technology that analyzes hotline calls to detect patterns linked to human trafficking.⁵⁵ Another innovative use of technology to combat human trafficking is the use of web-based extraction software. The University of Southern California's Domain Insight Graph (DIG) system "crawls the web to help investigators find details about human trafficking victims, summarizes that information, and continues to monitor human trafficking websites for changes and updates."⁵⁶ Technologies like

⁵² "Strengthening the Evidence Base on Trafficking in Persons," International Organization for Migration, accessed January 8, 2024, <https://weblog.iom.int/strengthening-evidence-base-trafficking-persons>.

⁵³ Thomas Reuters Legal, "Technology and human trafficking."

⁵⁴ Thomas Reuters Legal, "Technology and human trafficking."

⁵⁵ Thomas Reuters Legal, "Technology and human trafficking."

⁵⁶ "Technology Can Be a Useful Tool for Preventing Human Trafficking," American Military University Edge, accessed January 21, 2024, <https://amuedge.com/technology-can-be-a-useful-tool-for-preventing-human-trafficking/>.

DIG reduce the number of man hours investigators need to spend to gather information about human trafficking activities, making investigations more efficient and hopefully more effective.



Figure 5: USC Researchers Discuss DIG
Source: USC Information Sciences Institute

Technology and Regulation

Technology has become increasingly relevant to migration regulation, especially in historically destination countries for immigration. IOM's Immigration and Border Governance (IBG) Division partners with member states to provide assistance with technical advancements to

bolster border regulation per state policies.⁵⁷ IBG conducts three general areas of activities: Border and Identity Solutions (BIS), Immigration and Visas (IV), and Legal Identity (LI).⁵⁸ Under its BIS activities, IOM assists member states with Border and Information Solutions, which use technology to register and analyze cross-border movements and enhance the security of identity documents.⁵⁹ BIS activities also include supporting member states in their collection and management of data regarding migration through their borders.⁶⁰ This typically includes training member states' officials to use IOM's Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS), which is a system for the collection, storage, and statistical analysis of migrant data.⁶¹

MIDAS is one example of the proliferation of biometric technologies in migration management, creating what some scholars have called “digital borders.” MIDAS “captures and verifies travelers’ biographic and biometric data through the use of document readers, webcams, and fingerprint readers.”⁶² MIDAS also enables what scholars call the expansion of bordering practices. MIDAS is designed to include the “MIDAS Mobile Kit” and the “MIDAS Truck,” which enable government officials to collect biographic and biometric data from migrants in

⁵⁷ “Immigration and Border Governance,” International Organization for Migration, accessed January 22, 2024, <https://www.iom.int/immigration-and-border-governance>.

⁵⁸ International Organization for Migration, “Immigration and Border Governance.”

⁵⁹ International Organization for Migration, “Immigration and Border Governance.”

⁶⁰ International Organization for Migration, “Immigration and Border Governance.”

⁶¹ International Organization for Migration, “Immigration and Border Governance;” “MIDAS,” International Organization for Migration, accessed January 22, 2024, <https://www.iom.int/midas>.

⁶² “MIDAS: A Comprehensive and Cost-Efficient Border Management Information System,” accessed January 22, 2024, https://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl486/files/documents/2023-08/2023_midás-brochure-updated_en-1-161.pdf.

“remote locations where there is no border management infrastructure available.”⁶³ MIDAS is relatively widespread and is currently used in the following countries: Belize, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Gambia, Guinea, Ghana, Haiti, Iraq, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Marshall Island, Niger, Nigeria, Paraguay, Somalia, South Sudan, Timor Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uganda.⁶⁴ Delegates should consider the impact IOM has on migration governance by providing services such as MIDAS to member states.

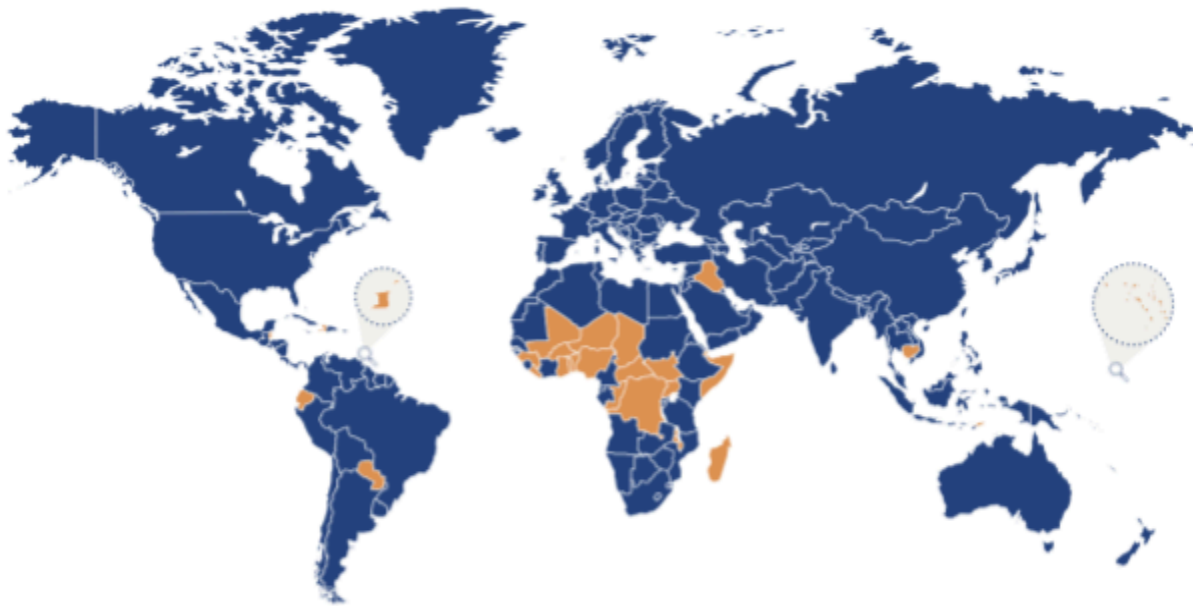


Figure 6: Countries Using MIDAS
Source: IOM

⁶³ International Organization for Migration, “MIDAS: A Comprehensive and Cost-Efficient Border Management Information System.”

⁶⁴ International Organization for Migration, “MIDAS: A Comprehensive and Cost-Efficient Border Management Information System.”

Some IOM member states have integrated algorithmic decision-making into their migration regulation schemes. One prominent example is the risk classification assessment (RCA) used by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).⁶⁵ The RCA is an automated tool designed to recommend to ICE officials whether to detain migrants based on the algorithm’s assessment of the migrant’s flight risk and risk to public safety.⁶⁶ The algorithm draws information from database records and ICE interviews and uses a weighted scoring system to produce flight risk and risk to public safety assessments of low, medium or high.⁶⁷ Based on these risk assessments, the RCA generates a recommendation – typically, to detain migrants but set bail, to detain migrants without bail, or to release migrants.⁶⁸ There is some evidence that algorithmic decision-making in migration contexts produces racially disparate outcomes because the information algorithms use reflect racially disparate realities.⁶⁹ Delegates should consider the legitimacy of states’ use of algorithmic decision-making in migration regulation. How can factors such as the transparency of these algorithms impact public confidence in their appropriate use in regulatory contexts?

⁶⁵ Robert Koulish and Kate Evans, “Punishing with Impunity: The Legacy of Risk Classification Assessment in Immigration Detention,” *Georgetown Immigration Law Journal* 36, no. 1 (July 2021), https://scholarship.law.duke.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=6813&context=faculty_scholarship.

⁶⁶ Koulish and Evans, “Punishing with Impunity.”

⁶⁷ Koulish and Evans, “Punishing with Impunity.”

⁶⁸ Koulish and Evans, “Punishing with Impunity.”

⁶⁹ Koulish and Evans, “Punishing with Impunity.”

Technology and Access to Knowledge Surrounding Migration

As a service-provider, training is a core function of the IOM. One of the ways IOM provides training, knowledge about best practices for migration management, and practical skills for street-level-bureaucrats engaging in migration policy enforcement on a daily basis is through the IOM E-Campus. The IOM E-Campus is a learning platform with courses prepared by IOM experts designed for “migration practitioners, civil servants, civil society, the private sector, students, academics, and anyone who is interested in migration related matters.”⁷⁰ The site includes training and information on a wide range of subjects, including human trafficking, migration physical and mental health, migration crises, and international migration law.⁷¹

In recent years, digital technologies have become more central to IOM’s training activities. The IOM International Migration Law Unit provides capacity building for government officials, civil society, IGOs, and IOM staff specifically on international migration law.⁷² The International Migration Law Unit conducts only two in-person training courses each year, one in Sanremo in conjunction with the International Institute of Humanitarian Law (IIHL) and one in Geneva designed solely for government officials and state representatives.⁷³ The ability to implement virtual learning technologies greatly expands the International Migration Law Unit’s

⁷⁰ “E-Campus,” International Organization for Migration, accessed January 21, 2024, <https://www.ecampus.iom.int/>.

⁷¹ International Organization for Migration, “E-Campus.”

⁷² “Training and Capacity Building,” International Organization for Migration, accessed January 21, 2024, <https://www.iom.int/training-and-capacity-building>.

⁷³ International Organization for Migration, “Training and Capacity Building.”

capacity to deliver training. To that end, the unit has developed virtual courses on international law, human rights, border rights, alternatives to detention, and the rights of migrants and refugees traveling by sea.⁷⁴ Delegates may wish to consider how the IOM's digital presence can be leveraged to increase access to knowledge surrounding migration governance.

In many ways, technology – especially telecommunications advances – democratizes access to migration policy discourse. During the pandemic, many migrant advocacy organizations in civil society realized that platforms like Zoom and Google Meet make it possible to invite new voices into policy discussions. While advocacy coalitions have long leveraged their power by communicating with policymakers and government officials through formal meetings, the pandemic and the proliferation of digital meeting platforms made it possible to include people who typically do not have means to lobbying. In the U.S. context, there has long been a divide between professional policy experts located in D.C. and New York and the needs of migrants themselves. Many criticized the role of migrant rights activists who engaged in lobbying efforts but did not have high levels of contact with migrants themselves and sometimes misunderstood the desires and needs of migrants as a result. Since the pandemic, migrant rights advocates holding meetings with Congressional staffers or Members of Congress have continued to use digital meeting platforms to allow migrants to voice their concerns alongside activists. Delegates may wish to explore how the increase in digital literacy and the proliferation of digital

⁷⁴ International Organization for Migration, “Training and Capacity Building.”

technologies due to the pandemic can be leveraged to change the process behind migration policy development.

Introduction to Delegate Roles

Countries with High Rates of Human Trafficking

Countries with high rates of human trafficking should advance the implementation of technological innovations in the fight to end human trafficking. However, these countries should also maintain the privacy of their citizens who may feel uncomfortable with recent innovations in data collection and aggregation. These countries may favor further IOM projects to capitalize on technology to target human traffickers.

High-Income Countries

High-income countries are more likely to use algorithmic decision-making and other advanced technologies associated with the “digital border” in migration governance and may oppose the implementation of IOM guidelines that deter these activities. High-income countries also have strong ties to the IOM based on long histories of contributing funding to the organization.

Low-Income Countries

Low-income countries are more likely to use IOM services such as MIDAS or IOM training for their immigration officials. Delegates are encouraged to research the history of IOM relations in their countries to determine how those experiences can inform future reforms.

Questions to Consider

1. To what degree should private actors – including multinational corporations in the technology sector – be involved in migration governance? How much transparency should IOM and the international community expect from these actors?
2. How can IOM balance privacy concerns surrounding the release of human trafficking data with the importance of accurate information in thwarting human trafficking perpetrators?
3. What is the impact of the rise of “digital borders,” and how do protections for migrants need to adapt to the digital landscape of migrant processing?
4. Do states have the right to use biometric data to track migrants’ movements?
5. How can technological advances increase access to IOM services and trainings?
6. How do IOM’s role as a service-provider to states and IOM’s funding model impact its relationship to technological innovation and implementation?

Topic II: The Protection of Children in Migration

The international community has been aware of the needs of children in migration for at least a century, but much of international concern and international protection for children in migration has been limited to refugees and asylum-seekers, leaving out children who do not fit into these narrow categories. In 1920, Eglantyne Jebb declared that "the world's children stand in urgent need of better protection," referencing the threat faced by children suffering the consequences of conflict.⁷⁵ The Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and the Additional Protocol of 1977 further recognized the importance of protections for children, and both dealt with the treatment of children impacted by conflict.⁷⁶ In 1989, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) distinctly recognized the rights of refugee and asylum-seeking children.⁷⁷ Article 22 of the CRC provides that refugee and asylum-seeking children are entitled to "appropriate protection and humanitarian assistance."⁷⁸ Despite demanding specific protections for refugee and asylum-seeking children, the CRC notably emphasizes that all children in migration should be treated the same.⁷⁹

⁷⁵ Ruth Brittle and Ellen Desmet, "Thirty Years of Research on Children's Rights in the Context of Migration: Towards Increased Visibility and Recognition of Some Children, But Not All?" *International Journal of Children's Rights* 28 (2020), 39.

⁷⁶ Brittle and Desmet, "Thirty Years," 39.

⁷⁷ Brittle and Desmet, "Thirty Years," 39.

⁷⁸ Brittle and Desmet, "Thirty Years," 39.

⁷⁹ Brittle and Desmet, "Thirty Years," 40.

The CRC Committee has highlighted four general principles regarding the rights of children in the context of migration.⁸⁰ The first principle, derived from Article 3(1) of the CRC, is in the best interests of the child.⁸¹ This principle actually predates the adoption of the CRC – the UNHCR identified best interests as a guiding principle in decisions regarding refugee children in 1987.⁸² The CRC Committee interprets the best interests of the child to have three components: it serves as an interpretative legal principle, as a rule of procedure, and as a substantive right.⁸³ This means that, in the CRC Committee's view, the best interests of the child has an interpretative role in the legal definitions of refugees and child-specific persecution.⁸⁴ It also means that, in the CRC Committee's view, determining the best interests of the child is a procedural guarantee – or a process that must occur during the refugee status determination process and after a final decision has been made.⁸⁵ It also means, in the CRC Committee's view, that the best interests of the child should be considered as a substantive issue in any case involving a child in migration and should be considered as an independent source of protection for that child.⁸⁶ In practice, this principle does not guarantee that every child in migration is or should be granted entry and residence in a host country, nor does it guarantee that every asylum-seeking child is or should be granted entry and residence in a host country – sometimes,

⁸⁰ Brittle and Desmet, “Thirty Years,” 46.

⁸¹ Brittle and Desmet, “Thirty Years,” 46.

⁸² Brittle and Desmet, “Thirty Years,” 46.

⁸³ Brittle and Desmet, “Thirty Years,” 46.

⁸⁴ Brittle and Desmet, “Thirty Years,” 46.

⁸⁵ Brittle and Desmet, “Thirty Years,” 46.

⁸⁶ Brittle and Desmet, “Thirty Years,” 46.

a child's best interest is deemed to entail return to country of origin if doing so would best protect the child's well-being and safety.⁸⁷ Currently, there is a wide range of approaches in use to determine a child's best interest in the context of migration, and delegates may wish to consider ways to standardize this procedure.⁸⁸

The second principle highlighted by the CRC Committee in the context of migration is the child's right to be heard, or the child's right to participate in migration and asylum processes.⁸⁹ In the CRC Committee's view, a child must be able to participate in proceedings because the child must be respected as an agent with stakeholders in the choice of where they live and who they live with.⁹⁰ Some scholars have raised concerns that child participation in migration proceedings is often tokenistic, alleging that children are included but not in a meaningful way that allows their will to be considered in the decision-making process of their case.⁹¹ Furthermore, there are many barriers in practice to realizing children's right to be heard in the context of migration. Some scholars critique the fact that the question of whether a child's opinion has been given "due weight" is often left up to the judge or decision-maker without any

⁸⁷ Brittle and Desmet, "Thirty Years," 46-47.

⁸⁸ Brittle and Desmet, "Thirty Years," 47.

⁸⁹ Brittle and Desmet, "Thirty Years," 47.

⁹⁰ Brittle and Desmet, "Thirty Years," 48.

⁹¹ Brittle and Desmet, "Thirty Years," 48.

accountability imposed by a third party.⁹² Others critique that, when children in migration are not unaccompanied, their interests are "subsumed into the claims of the adults they are with."⁹³

The third principle highlighted by the CRC Committee in the context of migration is non-discrimination, which is derived from Article 2 in the CRC. In the context of migration, non-discrimination aims to deter governments from treating the children of citizens and non-citizens differently.⁹⁴ The fourth principle highlighted by the CRC Committee in the context of migration is the right to life, survival, and development, which comes from Article 6 of the CRC. As some scholars note, these two principles are addressed significantly less by the policies and practices of governments and intergovernmental organizations.⁹⁵ Delegates may wish to consider how non-discrimination and the right to life, survival, and development can be integrated into IOM policies and practices.

Protections for children in migration, especially children deemed refugees or asylum-seekers, have developed significantly since the 1990s. Many of these efforts took place before the IOM had officially entered the UN system, and many of these efforts were headed by the UNHCR, the other major UN body responsible for migration governance but with a narrower focus on refugees. Nonetheless, these developments are an important background to understand the state of play for children in migration today. In the 1990s, efforts emerged to integrate a

⁹² Brittle and Desmet, "Thirty Years," 48.

⁹³ Brittle and Desmet, "Thirty Years," 48.

⁹⁴ Brittle and Desmet, "Thirty Years," 48.

⁹⁵ Brittle and Desmet, "Thirty Years," 49.

children's rights understanding into intergovernmental organizations' approaches to migration. Conflict in former Yugoslavia highlighted specific needs related to the evacuation and relocation of children, and intergovernmental organizations began developing child-specific approaches to refugee protection.⁹⁶ The 1990s also drew international attention to the issue of unaccompanied children in migration.⁹⁷ In the 2000s, the UNHCR disseminated child-specific guidelines to its field staff.⁹⁸ These guidelines were motivated by the UNHCR's acknowledgement that "in the past, an adult-centric interpretation of the Refugee Convention meant claims by refugee children were often 'assessed incorrectly or overlooked altogether.'"⁹⁹ In the 2010s, the CRC Committee hosted a Day of General Discussion about the rights of all children in migration, and the UNHCR published the Framework for the Protection of Children.¹⁰⁰ Toward the end of the decade, the UNHCR updated its child-specific guidelines to reflect work it had done in tandem with UNICEF and other international organizations.¹⁰¹

⁹⁶ Brittle and Desmet, "Thirty Years," 40.

⁹⁷ Brittle and Desmet, "Thirty Years," 40.

⁹⁸ Brittle and Desmet, "Thirty Years," 42.

⁹⁹ Brittle and Desmet, "Thirty Years," 42.

¹⁰⁰ Brittle and Desmet, "Thirty Years," 43.

¹⁰¹ Brittle and Desmet, "Thirty Years," 43.

Children and Migrant Detention

Though there is a lack of reliable statistics on the matter, some advocates for migrant children's rights estimate that over 100 countries detain migrant children.¹⁰² Transparency varies from country to country, and it is difficult to estimate how many children are currently in immigration detention centers. Many advocacy groups are devoted to eliminating the detention of minors because reports have unveiled unsafe conditions faced by children in detention centers.

In June 2013, global human rights advocacy group Human Rights Watch published a report entitled "Barely Surviving: Detention, Abuse, and Neglect of Migrant Children in Indonesia," setting into motion significant international debate about the role of detention centers in migration governance.¹⁰³ The report highlighted examples of detained asylum-seeking minors, and increased international awareness of the conditions faced by children in immigration detention centers.¹⁰⁴ The report stressed the specific vulnerabilities of unaccompanied migrant children in immigration detention centers.¹⁰⁵ According to the report, immigration detention centers in Indonesia were violating the requirements of the Convention on the Rights of the Child because unaccompanied minors were not being provided with guardians or legal

¹⁰² "The Issue," End Child Detention, accessed February 4, 2024, <https://endchilddetention.org/toolbox/issue-child-immigration-detention/>.

¹⁰³ Antje Missbach, "Accommodating Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Indonesia: From Immigration Detention to Containment in 'Alternatives to Detention,'" *Refuge* 33, no 2 (2017), <https://doi.org/10.7202/1043061ar>.

¹⁰⁴ Missbach, "Accommodating."

¹⁰⁵ "Barely Surviving: Detention, Abuse, and Neglect of Migrant Children in Indonesia," Human Rights Watch, accessed February 3, 2024, <https://www.hrw.org/report/2013/06/23/barely-surviving/detention-abuse-and-neglect-migrant-children-indonesia#:~:text=Thousands%20Detained%20and%20Abused,were%20or%20had%20been%20detained.>

representation for their immigration proceedings.¹⁰⁶ Furthermore, the report detailed the physical and psychological abuses faced by children in detention centers. Human Rights Watch interviewed 35 children who had been held in Indonesian detention centers.¹⁰⁷ Interviewees reported frequent beatings by immigration officials, some of which caused migrants to sustain lasting injuries.¹⁰⁸ Human Rights Watch collected accounts of multiple instances of children being beaten by immigration officials.¹⁰⁹ Children were also made to witness beatings. According to the report, “children as young as four years old have been witness to attacks, including one case in which guards forced children to watch as they beat adult migrants.”¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁶ Human Rights Watch, “Barely Surviving.”

¹⁰⁷ Human Rights Watch, “Barely Surviving.”

¹⁰⁸ Human Rights Watch, “Barely Surviving.”

¹⁰⁹ Human Rights Watch, “Barely Surviving.”

¹¹⁰ Human Rights Watch, “Barely Surviving.”



Figure 7: Minors in Indonesian Immigration Detention Centers
Source: Human Rights Watch

Human Rights Watch emphasized the importance of detaining migrant children only under exceptional circumstances and when absolutely necessary. In these exceptional cases, Human Rights Watch urged that states abide by the UN Rules for the Protection of Children Deprived of their Liberty, which require the provision of education, recreation, and medical services.¹¹¹ The organization also condemned the detention of unaccompanied migrant children with unrelated adults, arguing that housing unaccompanied migrant children with these adults made them vulnerable to exploitation.¹¹²

¹¹¹ Human Rights Watch, “Barely Surviving.”

¹¹² Human Rights Watch, “Barely Surviving.”

Psychological Vulnerabilities

Migrant children, especially unaccompanied migrant children, are vulnerable to severe emotional and psychological distress because they encounter traumatic events during each stage of their migration journeys.¹¹³ Furthermore, the migration of these children is often motivated by traumatic events including "economic deprivation, climate disaster, and physical or sexual violence."¹¹⁴ During migration, children are often faced with "robbery, extortion, kidnapping, and physical and sexual violence."¹¹⁵ After migration – or after arriving in a destination country – many children spend time in detention, which has well-documented adverse consequences to physical and mental health.¹¹⁶

A recent psychiatric study used the Refugee Health Screener (RHS-15) to assess the emotional distress of unaccompanied migrant children.¹¹⁷ The study focused on unaccompanied children who migrated to the United States, and subjects were predominantly from Central America.¹¹⁸ The RHS-15 was developed to assess symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder,

¹¹³ Natan J. Vega Potler, et. al, "Persistence of Emotional Distress in Unaccompanied Migrant Children and Adolescents Primarily From the Northern Triangle of Central America," *JAMA Network Open* 6, no. 6 (2023), 2.

¹¹⁴ Vega Potler, "Persistence," 2.

¹¹⁵ Vega Potler, "Persistence," 2.

¹¹⁶ Vega Potler, "Persistence," 2.

¹¹⁷ Vega Potler, "Persistence," 2.

¹¹⁸ Vega Potler, "Persistence," 1.

anxiety, and depression.¹¹⁹ The study initially assessed 176 unaccompanied migrant children.¹²⁰ On initial assessment, 57.4 percent of subjects indicated emotional distress, with unaccompanied girls showing higher rates of emotional distress than unaccompanied boys.¹²¹ This gender disparity is consistent with other studies on the mental health of unaccompanied migrant children.¹²² Some subjects were assessed again in a follow-up assessment about seven months after their initial assessments.¹²³ Based on follow-up assessments, the study observed that emotional distress related to symptoms of PTSD, depression, and anxiety tended to persist or worsen over time.¹²⁴

Education

According to the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), over 3.7 million migrant children face limited access to education in Latin America and the Caribbean alone.¹²⁵ As a result of displacement, migrant children are forced to interrupt their education and

¹¹⁹ Vega Potler, “Persistence,” 1.

¹²⁰ Vega Potler, “Persistence,” 4.

¹²¹ Vega Potler, “Persistence,” 5.

¹²² Vega Potler, “Persistence,” 7.

¹²³ Vega Potler, “Persistence,” 5.

¹²⁴ Vega Potler, “Persistence,” 7.

¹²⁵ “More than 3.7 million migrant children at risk of missing out on school,” UNESCO, accessed February 6, 2024, https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/more-37-million-migrant-children-risk-missing-out-school?TSPD_101_R0=080713870fab20000181cb86c0a33bc654c73d222d2978351086351c350435f8da9cf9fc3ab3fc4c081085b4cf143000d160fbf0d5faed5f9cbbbae995a6667919dc36df144a08ffacd116cfe1c22379f713a7be9277419c77ed665fa93a62fc.

face multiple barriers to continuing their education.¹²⁶ In response to the severity of this problem in Latin America and the Caribbean, UNICEF, UNESCO, Plan International, and other organizations collaborated to launch the Regional Education Group for Latin America and the Caribbean as part of the Refugee and Migrant Response Plan.¹²⁷ The program has stressed the importance of the gendered implications of migration as an interruption in migrant children’s education. According to Claudia Uribe, who directs the program, a fifth of female migrants that flow through the region are minors, and they face “additional barriers to access education to the responsibilities and roles assigned to girls and women in households” among other factors.¹²⁸

The IOM has previously conducted projects for member states related to migrant access to education. In 2021, the IOM produced a report on the best practices for integrating migrant children into schools in Curacao, a territory of the Netherlands.¹²⁹ The IOM also produced a report on creating educational systems informed by an understanding of “the challenges that migrants often face when adapting to a new education system, language, and culture.”¹³⁰ The report was funded through a European Union project and provided guidelines applicable to early

¹²⁶ UNESCO, “More than 3.7 million migrant children.”

¹²⁷ UNESCO, “More than 3.7 million migrant children.”

¹²⁸ UNESCO, “More than 3.7 million migrant children.”

¹²⁹ “Systematization of Best Practices: Integration of Migrant Children into the School System in Curacao,” International Organization for Migration, accessed February 6, 2024, https://kmhub.iom.int/sites/default/files/2022-02/bp_curazao_en_reucida.pdf.

¹³⁰ “Integrating Migration into Education,” International Organization for Migration, accessed February 6, 2024, <https://eea.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1666/files/documents/education-toolkit.pdf>.

childhood and pre-primary education, primary and secondary education, higher education, and vocational education.¹³¹

In addition to these more advisory roles, the IOM has also engaged in direct service in the provision of educational access to migrants. The IOM delivered school materials to migrant children returned to Honduras “to facilitate their access to education and reintegration in the country.”¹³² The IOM takes the position that migrant children have the right to comprehensive education after being returned to their countries of origin due to their unauthorized status.¹³³ This policy aligns with the IOM’s practice of voluntary return. Delegates should consider whether the IOM should do more to provide services to migrant children regardless of whether they have been returned to their countries of origin.

¹³¹ International Organization for Migration, “Integrating Migration into Education.”

¹³² “IOM Contributes to Education of Migrant Children Returned to Honduras,” International Organization for Migration, accessed February 6, 2024, <https://www.iom.int/news/iom-contributes-education-migrant-children-returned-honduras#:~:text=After%20being%20returned%20from%20other,up%20to%20their%20maximum%20potential.>

¹³³ International Organization for Migration, “IOM Contributes.”

Introduction to Delegate Roles

Countries with High Rates of Migrant Detention

Some countries with high rates of migrant detention have demonstrated significant inflexibility in response to international demands to decrease or reform migrant detention. In many countries, the issue of migrant detention is highly politicized, and guidelines that restrict state autonomy regarding detention may be unwelcome. However, some countries with historically high rates of migrant detention are championing alternatives to detention, or other strategies used to ensure migrants appear at court dates without detaining them. These countries may support the adoption of IOM guidelines to steer other states toward these reforms.

Latin American and Caribbean Countries

Latin American and Caribbean countries have been specifically recognized as a region with high rates of migrants who are minors. These countries have the most experience with IOM interventions related to children. These countries may favor steps to relieve the burden of destination or transit countries to provide funding for migrant education.

Questions to Consider

1. Does the IOM have an obligation to align with the Convention on the Rights of Child?
How can the IOM better align with the Convention on the Rights of Child?
2. Does the IOM have a responsibility to steer policy discussions or state policies toward ending the detention of migrant children or ameliorating hazardous conditions for detained migrant children?
3. How can IOM impact the psychological welfare of migrant children through its training and capability-building activities, its direct involvement in migration governance, its building of state infrastructure, or its role in guiding international discussions on migration policy?
4. What other UN entities should the IOM engage and collaborate with when facilitating migrant access to educational services?