

# Migration

## An economic and social crisis

CMT designed a strategy to make positive impacts on the life of migrants living in the United States of America

Congregación Mariana Trinitaria has decided to implement a series of strategies aimed at improving the quality of life of migrants, which will be directed to remittances, to promote savings, education, bonding and social security.

In migration issues, Mexico is a source country of migration, but it is also a place where transit, destination and return of migrants take place. Migration in Mexico is connected to a set of diverse phenomena, between them we can mention economic problems, poverty, an increase in inequalities, and the continuous struggle to get a better quality of life.

Generally, Mexican people and migrants from other countries in Central and South America pretend to get to the United States, but migrants from Central America also use Mexico as a country of transit. However, we all know that the dream of a prosperous reality in the United States is not an immediate fact that happens right after crossing the international border.

Migration in Mexico is the history of the exercise of individual rights of people who look for opportunities in other countries, mainly the United States of America; but in the meantime, it is also a long story of abuses and violations to human rights.

According to the National Council for the Prevention of Discrimination (CONAPRED), the most discriminated groups are migrant people in irregular transit conditions in Mexico, that is to say, people who travel across the country without official documents to get to their destination. Another group in similar conditions consists of migrant people returning (Mexican or foreigners) from the United States of America. In both cases, girls, boys, and teenagers traveling on their own become the most vulnerable ones.

All migrant people have in common different problems that are a result of structural discrimination: the violation of their human rights by officials working in all levels in the government; violence caused by criminal groups (robberies, kidnapping, rape, and human trafficking); arbitrary detentions; the lack of basic services such as medical assistance, and no access to justice; lower wages compared to the ones received by non-migrant people doing the same job, among others.



- INEGI estimates that more than a million people living in Mexico were born in another country (0.84% of the national population), **42.6% of those people have Mexican nationality and 46.8% of them have a foreign nationality.** In other words, **4 out of 10 foreign people in the country are Mexican people who were born in other countries**
- It is estimated that about **12 million Mexican people live in other countries**, most of them **(97%) in the United States**

The United States of America is the country that receives the most migrants from Mexico and Central America, and even its economy depends on these groups, especially on Mexican because in a population of almost 57 million Latin people in that country, more than 63% is from Mexico, which represents more than 36 million people. This number includes Mexican people living in the USA, as well as North American citizens that in the census mentioned they consider themselves as Mexican.

Migration of Mexican people to the United States of America has been impulsed for several years by workers with no studies who join the agricultural or construction sectors. Nevertheless, the current picture changed lately because the sons of that generation of people who travelled to the first economic power in the world, now have more possibilities of having access to higher level education; and more possibilities of earning, spending and investing money.

It is important to mention that we must conceptualize migration as the displacement of people from a usual origin to a new permanent destination, where they have to establish a new home. It is a phenomenon that has happened since ancestral times because we always had groups that for several reasons, had to leave their residence to either establish new communities or join existing communities.

The main reasons that cause human migration are economic crisis, poverty or famine, wars, armed conflicts and violations to human rights, exiles and prosecutions, natural disasters, and cultural migration. However, migration does not have consequences for migrant people only, but it also has consequences on different areas such as the social and cultural ones.



With work, with respect and with confidence we have shown that poverty can be fought”.

Dra. H. C. Catalina Mendoza Arredondo. Founder of Congregación Mariana Trinitaria.

## CMT and migrant groups

In this area, Congregación Mariana Trinitaria (CMT) is aware that migration is a result of the lack of opportunities and growth in their countries of origin. That is the reason why people have to leave their countries, put in danger their patrimony and physical integrity; to get to other countries to do the jobs that local people do not want to do.

For that reason, and as a result of the signing of a collaboration agreement with Fuerza Migrante, CMT decided to implement a series of strategies in order to improve the quality of life of migrants. Those strategies are focused on remittances, the encouragement of savings, education, alliances, and social security.

In terms of remittances, and thanks to community groups; it will be possible to invest in actions focused on housing, food, water, productive projects in rural and urban areas, distance education, social security and health services. It will be also possible to develop different actions in basic services, health, ecotechnologies, environment, sanitation in drainage systems and drinking water networks by making public and social investment on those projects. All the projects mentioned are just some examples of the results produced by actions and joint interest.

In issues related to savings, it will be possible to provide support on interests and refunds of taxes. Actions in this area might be used to develop programs to improve housing, education, and different actions performed by CMT through community groups.

On the topic of education; online education for universities and high schools will be developed, as well as training in those areas to allow migrants to complete their studies on basic education, high school and university degrees. This way, they could improve their quality of life by having a professional profile that may provide them with more opportunities to get a job, and also to improve employability and entrepreneurship on both sides of the border.

Moreover, Congregación Mariana Trinitaria will open programs for migrant groups living in the United States to provide insurance policies, medical insurance policies, repatriation in case of death and funerary expenses. In addition, migrant groups will be able to link CMT to other groups, organizations in civil societies, federations and local governments in Mexico and USA in order to encourage more investment on their different settlements.

All those programs will be performed with due respect for the federal legislation in the United States, and the different states they live in. By doing that, it will be possible to analyze carefully each case so as to provide responses and efficiency to those actions.

## DATA

About **82.3% of Mexican migrants who decided to return to Mexico, do not have access to health services**, and about a third part of them **find their first job in informal sectors**