

# *Event report*

*TOWARDS JOINT ACTION  
2.0: HUMAN MOBILITY  
FROM AND WITHIN THE  
CARIBBEAN + FOLLOW UP  
OF REGIONAL  
AGREEMENTS*

**actalliance**



# **TOWARDS JOINT ACTION 2.0:**

## **HUMAN MOBILITY FROM AND WITHIN THE CARIBBEAN + FOLLOW UP OF REGIONAL AGREEMENTS**

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, SEPTEMBER 24-29, 2023**

ACT Alliance representatives in 12 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and the global north, and three Communities of Practice (COP) met for four days in the Dominican Republic to propose new strategies to address human mobility, climate mobility and socioeconomic and political instability in the region, through humanitarian response, development programs and advocacy strategies.

### **PARTICIPANTS**

Ammi Pichardo – Servicio Social de Iglesias Dominicanas (SSID), Dominican Republic  
Ana Paxtor – Centro Evangélico de Estudios Pastorales en Centroamérica (CEDEPCA), Guatemala.  
Community-Based Psychosocial Support (APBC) CoP  
Andrew Fuys – Church World Service (CWS), United States  
Anyi Morales – ACT Alliance LAC  
Camila Mariño – ACT Alliance LAC  
Claudia Espinosa – ACT Alliance LAC  
Claudia Gómez – Diakonia, Gender CoP  
Cristian Schlick – United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), United States  
Cruz Calles –Sínodo Luterano Salvadoreño), El Salvador  
Edgardo Chévez – Organismo Cristiano de Desarrollo Integral de Honduras (OCDIH), Honduras  
Edgardo Ramírez - Comisión de Acción Social Menonita (CASM), Honduras  
Edwin González - Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (PCUSA), United States  
Elisa Pérez - Iglesia Luterana Mexicana, México  
Gaya Massink – Kerk in Actie (KiA), Holanda  
Hermilio Soto - Act Iglesia Sueca, Honduras  
Jaime Dubón - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), United States  
Jairo Barriga Jaraba - Fundación PAZOS, Colombia  
Jan Meyer - Iglesia Evangélica Luterana en Chile (IELCH), Chile  
Johana Morales - Iglesia Evangélica Luterana de Colombia (IELCO), Colombia  
Juan Carlos Rodríguez – Centro Cristiano de Reflexión y Diálogo (CCRD), Cuba  
Laura Rojas – ACT Alliance LAC  
Laura Saravia - Sínodo Luterano Salvadoreño, CdP de Juventud  
Lidia Santana – Servicio Social de Iglesias Dominicanas (SSID), Dominican Republic  
Lorenzo Mota – Servicio Social de Iglesias Dominicanas (SSID), Dominican Republic  
Luciano Cadoni – Church World Service (CWS), Argentina  
Marcela Gabioud – ALC Noticias, Argentina

María Luisa Navas – Consejo de Iglesias de Cuba (CIC), Cuba. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) CoP  
 Marie Anne Sliwinski - ELCA, United States  
 Rita García – Centro Cristiano de Reflexión y Diálogo (CCRD), Cuba  
 Roberto Baltodano – Consejo de Iglesias Protestantes de Nicaragua (CEPAD), Nicaragua  
 Stephen Deal - ELCA, Costa Rica  
 Susan Krehbiel - PCUSA, United States  
 Thorsten Göbel – ACT Alliance  
 Tomasa García - Asociación Cristiana de Educación y Desarrollo (ALFALIT), El Salvador

## **CONTENT**

|  |    |
|--|----|
| WELCOME DINNER – September 24 .....  | 3  |
| FIRST DAY – September 25.....  | 4  |
| Welcome and agenda: .....  | 4  |
| Bogota Agreements: .....   | 4  |
| Intersectionality in ACT Alliance:.....  | 5  |
| Climate mobility: .....  | 7  |
| Master class:.....   | 9  |
| SECOND DAY – September 26 .....  | 10 |
| Haiti, a country in crisis: .....  | 10 |
| Migration and displacement in Cuba: .....  | 11 |
| Voices of the Haitian people: .....  | 12 |
| Exchange with the program director: .....  | 14 |
| Challenges and opportunities in responding to the needs of the migrant and<br>displaced population in LAC: ..... | 15 |
| Migration and gender:.....   | 17 |
| VOLUNTARY DINNER – September 26 .....  | 18 |
| THIRD DAY – September 27 .....   | 19 |
| (Out of the) world café:.....  | 19 |
| Tactical prioritization of global advocacy:.....   | 21 |
| Progress in humanitarian commitments:.....   | 22 |
| FOURTH DAY – September 28 .....  | 24 |
| Amparo Network – pastoral care of migrants:.....   | 24 |
| Fundraising discussion: .....  | 25 |
| Forum appropriation: .....   | 26 |
| Commitments towards joint action 2.0:.....   | 27 |
| APBC session: .....  | 31 |
| Feedback and closing evaluation:.....  | 32 |

## **WELCOME DINNER – September 24**

The political contingency between Haiti and the Dominican Republic the week prior to the event, derived from the diversion of a river that passes through both territories and led to the closure of all borders between the two countries, prevented the participation of the delegation of the Haiti forum (four participants) in the meeting. The organizing committee of the event (the SSID of the Dominican Republic, ELCA, PC-USA and the regional team of ACT Alliance) and the Haiti Forum did their best efforts to ensure the participation of at least one representative, however, this was not finally possible due to the shortage of flights, visa applications and other risks associated with the political context.

Under these considerations, in this first meeting, the noticeable absence of Haiti was discussed, reminding us of the historical tension between the Dominican Republic and Haiti. This highlighted the biggest recent problem in terms of human mobility for the island when, in 2013, changes in regulations led to the statelessness of people who had lived there since 1937.

In the face of this crisis, the SSID and other religious organizations were consulted to modify the regularization process, so they indicated difficulties in gathering documentation and Congress simplified the requirements. However, deportations and irregular entry persist, and many people of Haitian origin are still struggling to regularize their status.

Subsequently, the lack of authority of the Haitian prime minister to control activities on the border river was discussed, in the same way the insecurity and governance crisis in Haiti complicates the negotiations and possibilities of reaching an agreement between countries and a prompt opening of the border. In addition, some participants considered the measures by the Dominican Republic excessive, due to the lack of diplomatic focus and dialogue, so that, as a result, many Haitians have decided to return to their country being afraid of suffering any retaliation or forced deportations.

The conversation ended with a review of the conditions of human mobility in Haiti, as violence, the risk of kidnappings, food insecurity and other unfavorable protection factors, have led to a massive migration to the rest of the continent. The United States is one of the main points of destination, with migratory flows passing through the Darien Gap, as a significant number of Haitian people settled in Chile has been identified, from most cross through Brazil, Peru, Colombia and seek to continue their way to Central America.

# FIRST DAY – September 25

## WELCOME AND AGENDA:

**Moderation:** Claudia Espinosa

In the previous event in Bogota, we could not count on several members due to visa issues, there the need for the inclusion of all forums was emphasized and it was when we thought of holding this event especially focused on the Caribbean, since it is the countries of this subregion that unfairly face greater difficulties to access other territories.

*Charity begins where justice ends.*

To address the challenges related to human mobility and climate mobility, the organizing team proposed a flexible approach under which participants can choose the level of support according to their interests and the capabilities of their organizations.

## BOGOTA AGREEMENTS:

**Moderation:** Claudia Espinosa

**Methodology:** presentation

A reminder was made of the eight Bogotá Accords. Regarding the four advocacy proposals, it should be noted that the policy document and the advocacy calendar have been satisfactorily fulfilled, while the exchange of capacities and the identification of good practices in advocacy are in process, since although the concept note promised for the training process is ready, we are waiting for resources to materialize it. In the same way, two documents of good practices from EPES (Chile) and the Lutheran Church of Mexico were presented. The dissemination of these activities will continue to be worked on as part of the capacity-building process.

In relation to humanitarian commitments, stakeholder mapping is well advanced, fundraising discussions have already been launched, as have caregiver care initiatives in the Alliance's activities. The only commitment that is still pending, but whose concept note is already advanced, is training in the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS).

We highlight some positive side effects of the first event in Bogota, such as: a greater rapprochement between members; strengthening joint work; articulation with other regions such as the North American Forum; the hiring of the new Human Mobility and Climate Justice Programme Officer; and the promotion of dialogues on regressive agendas and their impacts on democracy and human rights.

Finally, we list 12 achievements made after the event in Bogota:

- › Internal Policy Paper on Human Mobility in the Region
- › Concept note: Virtual levelling course on advocacy concerning human and climate mobility. This in the framework of a Training of Trainers (ToT) on advocacy
- › Exchange of experiences and good practices related to human mobility advocacy.
- › Human mobility advocacy calendar
- › Members mapping that have work related to human mobility in the region.
- › Conservatory on fundraising
- › Concept note: ToT on CHS
- › More spaces for self-care in the Alliance's activities
- › We are more together as a region and as ACT
- › Human Mobility and Climate Justice Program Officer Recruitment
- › ACT 2024 National and regional dialogues on regressive agendas
- › Appropriation of the agreements by the Central America Forum

Members highlighted the fact that these initiatives have been consulted and led by member organizations. It was also pointed out that the main challenge is to turn the 12 achievements into useful tools for ACT members, as we must ensure that the forums take ownership of these tools and ensure that the material produced is really useful for our members. This is related to changes in the global ACT model and the way in which migratory flows continue to develop in the region, as we face new demands in this evolving context.

## **INTERSECTIONALITY IN ACT ALLIANCE:**

**Moderation:** Thorsten Göbel

**Methodology:** Presentation with emphasis on the Migration and Displacement and Climate Justice programs

The phrase "paper is patient" exemplifies one of our greatest challenges as an Alliance, as it challenges us to think about how to get written agreements implemented and translated into real action to find where these intersections occur in practical life.

Regarding climate justice, as an Alliance we talk about climate justice and not only about climate in general, as it is a debate that combines redistributive justice with procedural justice. That's why one of our main concerns is that:

*The countries that have contributed the least to climate change are the most affected and require the greatest adaptation efforts.*

This regressive logic also applies to the most vulnerable population groups, as they suffer a disproportionate impact due to the conditions of their homes and because they are

generally in areas more prone to suffer from natural events, and also have less access to disaster risk reduction and emergency response mechanisms. This highlights a problem with a historical trajectory that makes us hold the agents provocateurs of this phenomenon responsible so that they contribute in terms of loss and damage, mitigation, and adaptation.

On a more conceptual level, it was discussed the variation in terminologies to describe human mobility related to climate change, including "climate refugees", "climate migrants" and the term "Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change" widely used in the Americas. In addition, it was mentioned that the concepts of "migration" and "displacement" encompass both forced and voluntary mobilities (respecting the position of members and forums to use the terminology of human mobility and climate mobility to refer to the phenomena of migration and displacement, voluntary or forced, involving refugees, migrants, deportees, etc.). displaced persons and returnee people in the region).

The importance of the terminology used was underlined, where "human mobility" is seen as a term that is more appropriate to the regional context from the Inter-American Human Rights System, as opposed to the term "migration and displacement" that we use as an Alliance at the global level. Both seek to include the different categories of people who are mobilized as refugees, stateless persons, irregular migrants, deportees, and returnees, among others.

Likewise, the complexity of distinguishing between voluntary and forced migration was highlighted, especially due to pendulum or temporary movements; Therefore, reference was made to three modalities related to climate change-induced in/mobility: migration, mobility due to disasters and inability to move.

On the other hand, it was reported that there are reference groups within the Alliance that work on advocacy messages at the global level. Although it is clarified that these structures are divided by programs, it is possible to collaborate with any of them to address the problem of human mobility and mobility induced by climate change. Thus, we set out our role and objectives as ACT:

*Where can we move as Alliance?*

*Our focus should be on protecting those who are most vulnerable, even under current conditions without increasing global temperatures by more than 1.5 degrees.*

For this process it is key to promote:

- > The participation into space of climate advocacy.
- > A unifying vision oriented to gender protection.

- › Joint action among forums (not only within LAC): understanding that it is the duty of States to protect rights, while our duty is to demand that attention and provide connectivity with key actors at the national, regional, and global levels.

In this sense, in conversation with the participating members, the lack of awareness and evidence on the relationship between climate change and human mobility in the region was emphasized. An example of this situation would be the case of Honduras, where people do not always link crop loss and displacement to climate impact.

It was also highlighted that the narrative of public opinion, largely permeated by the media, often focuses on the fear associated with mass migrations, ignoring the dignity of the people affected. To change this perception, it was suggested that the forums provide answers, share strategies and arguments to protect these people, as well as work on community and media awareness.

In addition, the need to be proactive and preventive was raised, considering human actions that contribute to climate change, such as deforestation and the irresponsible exploitation of natural resources. This emphasizes the importance of drawing up a proactive roadmap to address these issues before they become unavoidable crises.

Finally, it highlights that as a region we will count with ALC Noticias, that will support the Alliance in strengthening the communications of these messages on intersectionality, since climate justice and human mobility are prioritized for this four-month agreement between the Alliance and ALC Noticias (2023-2024).

## **CLIMATE MOBILITY:**

**Moderation:** Andrew Fuys

**Methodology:** presentation followed by group work to identify the main concerns of the members in the face of this phenomenon, and the responses they have offered to address them.

The session began by addressing the complexity of climate change and its interaction with human mobility, with the caveat that there is a growing understanding of how different ecosystems and natural systems on Earth are interconnected and affected by this phenomenon.

Regarding the broad definition of human mobility, which includes short, temporary movements and between different territories, emphasis was placed on the grey areas between refugees and migrants, as it is precisely people in climate mobility who are in the middle ground, since the level of agency and freedom when deciding to leave their homes is not clear. Similarly, in the case of this population group, the concept of planned



relocation and resettlement<sup>1</sup> is central, so its economic and social viability in the medium and long term was analyzed.

The need to raise awareness of the forces driving human mobility, which are often mismanaged due to traditional and cultural factors, was highlighted. By way of example, we examined the policy interventions of extractive companies that impact global decisions on climate change and human mobility.

In this way, the challenges in the global governance framework on climate change were explored, including the lack of legal protections and specific rights for affected people, so the relevance of promoting initiatives for planned relocation was emphasized, also considering the symbolic and cultural damages linked to forced migration.

In addition, the importance of working and strengthening community leaders to enable them to participate in international advocacy structures was emphasized, and the challenge posed by the lack of accurate data was discussed, and the creation of an observatory to categorize people displaced by climate was suggested.

The presentation was followed by group work to identify the main concerns about this phenomenon and possible responses. Below is a summary of what was said by the participants:

**GROUP 1:** Their concerns include urbanization and its impact on ecosystems, the extractivist economy model, the lack of public investment in rural areas, the threat to environmental leaders, and the absence of effective contingency plans. In addition, they highlighted the lack of knowledge about the relationship between climate change and mobility. They responded through training programs on environmental issues, environmental accompaniment programs for communities, involving youth in advocacy plans, and promoting environmental education and the exchange of experiences. They also highlighted the importance of working on gender justice and inter-agency collaboration.

**GROUP 2:** They noted the lack of awareness about climate change as a cause of human mobility and highlighted the criminalization of environmental leaders. In addition, they mentioned the complexity of the problem due to the extractivist model and the large-scale production that leads to the displacement of communities from their territory. They raised the need for greater public awareness and the use of regional instruments such as the Cartagena Declaration and strategic litigation. Finally, they suggested the creation of an observatory for the continuous monitoring of the situation.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Global Compact on Migration reaffirms the protection of displaced or refugee persons from the coordination of States to avoid a disproportionate burden in a country or region, from the principles of voluntariness and consent of people in situations of human mobility.

**GROUP 3:** This group expressed growing concern about climate change and the lack of national legislation to protect climate displaced persons. They also noted xenophobia and lack of awareness in communities of origin, transit, and host. They proposed an approach towards strengthening local capacities, networking for national and regional advocacy, as well as interdisciplinary conservatories and documentation on the well-being of migrants.

**GROUP 4:** They raised concerns such as food insecurity, gentrification, and lack of infrastructure in host communities. They raised the need to protect the land, establish community gardens and self-sustainability projects. Finally, they highlighted the importance of legal advice, attention to the roots of the problems and the construction of peace teams between the migrant population and host communities throughout the region.

## **MASTER CLASS:**

**Moderation:** Andrew Fuys

**Methodology:** group work to discuss advocacy possibilities on climate mobility and identify the main problems and answers that we can give them.

One of the key challenges is the lack of specific legislation which has, in turn, created a gap in policies related to climate mobility, making it difficult to clarify the problem and the process of finding consensus on solutions. For this reason, it is important to establish strategic alliances between countries to comply with international compacts, allowing affected communities to lead the processes.

Thus, the role of the media is crucial to make climate mobility visible, which is why educational tools and interviews are proposed to raise public awareness, while institutions are urged to take on the problem internally and collaborate directly with the affected communities.

Because the articulation of advocacy and awareness-raising strategies at the local, national, and international levels is essential, it is suggested to establish local observatories with global reach to monitor and generate early warnings. In addition, young people are called upon to put these problems on the table and to advocate for an efficient distribution of resources to prevent new generations from being forced to leave their territories.

In relation to the second question, "what are the tactics that we are already using that have achieved positive results and why?", members from Central America indicated that one of the outstanding achievements is inter-institutional coordination. Likewise, success has been observed in active collaboration in networks and lobbying, along with effective visibility in the local media.

In the area of advocacy and awareness-raising, members suggest the implementation of dialogue tables to bring vulnerable people closer to the rest of the population and to institutional sectors, accompanied by impact campaigns to raise awareness among the population about the influence of climate change on these migrations. Likewise, strategic litigation has proven to be an effective tool that should continue to be promoted in the region.

Protecting environmental leaders, obtaining accurate data on climate change-induced migrants, and operationalizing international climate change agreements at the local level remain significant challenges. Similarly, changes in government and difficulties in establishing advocacy strategies and coordinating actions with funding entities complicate a more effective presentation of initiatives.

On the other hand, the lack of specific information to categorize those displaced by climate change represents an important limitation, as does the absence of participation of these people in relevant government initiatives. This situation affects us even within the Alliance, as it was evident that some organizations do include mobility due to climate change in their work plans, however, possibly due to ignorance, they do not recognize themselves in that agenda.

Among the strategies that we can implement in this process is that there are already links and networks formed that serve as a basis for further work. Likewise, the importance of talking to the unconvinced in the advocacy processes was highlighted: private sector, banks, causes of deforestation, for example. Finally, an input to be used would be the Human Rights Commissioner's consultation (direct survey with communities) on forced displacement, carried out a few years ago.

## **SECOND DAY – September 26**

### **HAITI, A COUNTRY IN CRISIS:**

**Moderation:** Patrick Nelson, Pascal Desmornes, Naomie Beaujour, Susan Krehbiel

**Methodology:** virtual interview and exchange with the Haiti Forum.

The representatives of the Haiti forum presented alarming data on the situation in Haiti. Currently, the literacy rate is 60 per cent, and more than 4 million Haitians live on less than \$1 a day. Corruption is institutionalized and approximately 100,000 people lack adequate shelter and there are no adequate mechanisms for the identification of Haitians who have left and the needs they face on their migratory routes.

Trends in migration and displacement in Haiti are directly related to the economic situation, poverty, high unemployment, political crisis, and the search for better life opportunities. Political instability is identified as the main cause, aggravated by natural events such as hurricanes, insecurity, and the presence of gangs.

In this context, several priorities were raised for the Haiti Forum, including gender justice, attention to persons with disabilities, and the empowerment of minority groups to participate in decision-making processes. The need to make processes more participatory was highlighted, so that public policies are decided with the collaboration of informed citizen groups. The right to stay in the country of origin was mentioned as a priority, which involves ensuring food security, access to water and sanitation, and health care.

In addition, the importance of sharing information with Haitians returning to their country was highlighted, as many of them do not have a clear understanding of the resources available to them. Similarly, the need to consider specific policies, such as interception, settlement, and return, to address this complex situation was exposed, particularly in the face of challenges such as the difficulty in accessing travel documents, the problem of flows of unaccompanied minors and the fracturing of families.

The importance of establishing a joint network on human mobility that allows the visibility of these groups and greater regional coordination to provide effective responses to this Haitian migration crisis was emphasized.

## **MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT IN CUBA:**

**Moderation:** Rita García, María Luisa Navas, Juan Carlos Rodríguez

**Methodology:** Presentation

The presentation began by highlighting the importance of recognizing migration as a right and the right to return to one's country of origin. A change in migratory patterns was observed in Cuba, where in addition to heading to the United States, Cubans migrate to other continents, which has led to a decrease in the population on the island.

People migrate due to precarious living conditions and the need to avoid living "on the edge of the law" due to their dependence on the black market for their livelihoods. Climate change has also exacerbated the Cuban crisis, due to factors such as rising sea levels and land degradation. They also discussed the importance of an adequate policy to receive returned and deported migrants and the current migration crisis facing the country.

Government policies define migration routes, without the forum's organizations in Cuba having any influence on them. The political and economic situation in Cuba has led to a decrease in gratuities and subsidies, and the aging of the population has generated a lack of people of working and reproductive age<sup>2</sup>.

The discussion on the complexities of fund transfers to Cuba was put on the table, since due to protocols of the organizations that do not allow the transport of cash, added to the restriction represented by the inclusion of Cuba as a country that supports terrorism, conventional bank transfers have become even more difficult.

In this context, the need of exploring new legal ways to get the funds safely and with transparent accountability was raised because ACT Alliance does not have established mechanisms that are adequate to this situation in Cuba. The option of paying suppliers abroad directly was mentioned as a viable alternative, as well as a CCRD strategy to respond to this challenge, through the creation of a bank account in the Dominican Republic.

*ACT Alliance is here to be the voice of Cubans and make an impact where they cannot.*

In terms of solidarity and accompaniment, there was a call to the international community to support Cuba and migrants and refugees of Cuban origin in the region. Efforts by the organization of the forum to advocate for the lifting of the embargo by United States and to make immigration policies more flexible were mentioned.

In summary, the session highlighted the complex challenges faced by migrants in the region, from economic and political problems to difficulties in accessing basic resources and services. A call was made for solidarity and international collaboration to address these issues and support affected communities.

## **VOICES OF THE HAITIAN PEOPLE:**

**Moderation:** Saturnino Pérez, Carmela Angel, Zacarías Toussaint, Lorenzo Mota

**Methodology:** Q&A panel

During the session, testimonies of individuals affected by migration policies in the Dominican Republic were presented. One of the testimonies came from Saturnino Pérez, a Dominican lawyer of Haitian descent. His father, who immigrated to the Dominican Republic at age 28, worked on the streets to support his family. In 2013, with Ruling 168/13 of the Constitutional Court of the Dominican Republic, the children of Haitian

---

<sup>2</sup> It was mentioned that Honduras is going through a similar situation, where 76-80% of migrants are young, and the lack of economic security is leading to a decrease in the birth rate. In addition, the issue of remittances was discussed, where difficulties in accessing money have led to the creation of a black market and problems in obtaining basic goods.

immigrants lost their Dominican nationality, which denied them numerous rights, including access to work.

Motivated by his personal experience, Perez leads an organization called JET (Empowered Youth for Transformation), which provides support to young people affected by these policies. He stressed the importance of collaboration and mutual support, emphasizing that young people need to work alongside leaders who act with them, not just give orders.

Zacarias Toussaint, a young second-generation descendant of Haitians, shared his experience of having his academic expectations cut short due to legal restrictions. Despite his outstanding academic performance, regulations left him in a state of statelessness, which seriously affected his future. In addition, he highlighted the problem of racism since, from his personal experience, he indicates that Haitian descendants sometimes face discrimination because of their skin color.

Carmela Angel, an immigrant Haitian health sciences student, shared her experience of economic hardship and discrimination. Despite having a student permit, he says he faces fear of possible police hostility motivated by his origin. Despite these difficulties, he noted that young people will continue to come to the Dominican Republic due to the difficult conditions in Haiti.

The JET organization provides support by teaching various trades and encouraging work flexibility among young people who plan to migrate. Therefore, these testimonies underscored the importance of addressing discriminatory policies and providing support to those affected to overcome the barriers imposed by immigration regulations.

The conversation discussed prejudice in the Dominican Republic against people of Haitian origin and its consequences in terms of development opportunities. The problem of "what is not mentioned does not exist" was also addressed, particularly in terms of racism and statelessness which, according to the speakers, have become normalized in that country.

During the session, panelists stated that they, and other well-known migrants, have adopted evasive strategies to avoid immigration officials for fear of possible action against them. They also said they were afraid to access medical services and COVID-19 vaccines because of the possibility of being deported. The problem was pointed out that many young migrants are unable to marry due to the lack of legal documents, forcing them to live in socially unacceptable conditions. It also identified Monte Plata as a key area, proposing a specific focus on that region, and underlined the importance of considering grassroots organizations to better understand the needs of these communities.

Finally, the panelists mentioned the interest of the international community in conducting a national census of migrants in the Dominican Republic, but it faces challenges due to

the ongoing conflict at the border and the exodus of migrants. In this context, a call was made to the international community to work together with the Dominican government in the implementation of policies that guarantee the rights and dignity of the population of Haitian origin in the country.

## **EXCHANGE WITH THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR:**

**Moderation:** Thorsten Göbel

**Methodology:** presentation

The session focused on the need to overcome existing barriers and to maximize effective collaboration among ACT Alliance members. The importance of adequate emergency preparedness and response, the simplification of policies and procedures, and the need to understand the real value of membership in the Alliance to enhance collaboration and ensure effective humanitarian work in the future were emphasized.

**HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMME AND FUNDING:** There is currently a disparity between growing needs and limited funding. Many ACT members face financial challenges, and different strategies were explored, including the possibility of institutional funding and collaboration with national organizations.

The expansion of anticipatory actions within the humanitarian mechanism is being explored, making the proper completion of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans (EPRP) even more relevant.

**CONSORTIA AND COLLABORATION:** The importance of national consortia under the ACT Alliance brand to access funds and joint projects was highlighted. The need to improve collaboration among members and the importance of sharing successful practices between forums was discussed, as there are *compliance* risks, so as an Alliance we need to increase the quality of our work and reporting, as there are very different levels in this regard.

**MEMBERSHIP:** The model is undergoing changes considering the economic capacity of the members. Mention was made of revising membership fees to make them more equitable and flexible, ensuring that jumps between categories are less drastic.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024:** The ACT General Assembly will take place in Indonesia in 2024. A nominating committee has been established and preparatory processes will be carried out at the regional level, so that members can participate in their respective national forums. Likewise, it is being thought to return to a model of centralization of the forum fee, however, this depends on the governing board, and we do not yet have consensus on this. This issue will continue to be discussed at the regional preparatory

meetings. In the same way, it will be key to address what type of members we are going to have in the Alliance, and we are going to seek an equal level of capabilities.

## **CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF THE MIGRANT AND DISPLACED POPULATION IN LAC:**

**Moderation:** Claudia Espinosa

**Methodology:** fishbowl

### **QUESTIONS TO MEMBERS**

#### **› Motivation and work routine:**

Participants shared that their motivation to work in this field comes from the desire to help families and the satisfaction they find in serving others. Many of them have a personal connection to the issue, as they come from migrant families. On a normal workday, they face multiple meetings, long days, and engage in community and faith work.

#### **› Challenges and priorities:**

The main challenge for organizations involved in human mobility is the receipt and distribution of aid, especially due to the large number of individuals in need of assistance. They also work with people who stay in the country after their family members have left, trying to ensure that migration is a voluntary choice and not mandatory. Another challenge is to advocate for protection regulations to be complied with.

In terms of funding priorities, several important programs were identified, such as supporting regularization processes in countries such as Chile, Peru, and Colombia. The importance of giving a voice to migrants so that they can advocate for themselves was also mentioned, as well as the need to work on labor insertion, the protection of migrants on the route and advocacy for structural changes.

#### **› Value of the forums:**

Participants highlighted that the forums provide opportunities to identify external possibilities, strengthen advocacy at the regional level, and access funds that individual organizations are sometimes unable to obtain. The diversity of profiles in the forums is also an advantage, as it brings a wide range of experiences and knowledge. However, the forums face financial challenges and competition with the same donors, as well as the lack of identification of some organizations with the forum's agenda.



› **Success stories:**

Several success stories were shared, including effective responses to the population on the move, such as the care of migrant families during the pandemic in Colombia and the assistance provided to returnees in El Salvador by the forum of this country. Organizations also need support from the ACT Alliance to strengthen their work on human mobility. This includes sharing experiences on the creation of shelters and connecting with government actors to influence public policies for the protection of migrants.

## **QUESTIONS TO THE SECRETARIAT**

› **Challenges identified by the Secretariat:**

The Regional Office identified several challenges, including building a common language in such a diverse and heterogeneous alliance. Likewise, there is the challenge of coordinating and prioritizing activities due to the limitations in terms of time on the part of the members due to their workload, to which is added the difficulty of scheduling face-to-face meetings to strengthen the interaction of the forums and the relationship with the Secretariat. Finally, the limited temporality of the position of the Human Mobility and Climate Change program officer was exposed, as it is crucial to promote and strengthen these areas in the region.

› **Priority commitments of the Secretariat:**

The Secretariat emphasized the importance of sharing knowledge and improving capacity levels in the field of advocacy. It was also stressed that the role of ACT is to encourage joint action by member organizations, and that the Alliance is not defined by what the Secretariat can provide, but by the commitment of forum organizations to work together towards common goals.

## **MEMBER FEEDBACK COMMENTS**

Members welcomed the usefulness of the ACT platform for advocacy. The limited capacity and multiple responsibilities of each one in their positions was also mentioned, highlighting the need to seek a common goal in which everyone can bet as an Alliance. Members were urged to collaborate and take responsibility for their joint activities.

## **MIGRATION AND GENDER:**

**Moderation:** Claudia Gómez

**Methodology:** case studies in groups

In the working session, four hypothetical cases were analysed using case study methodology, each presenting significant challenges and risks for migrants. Each case is summarized below, along with the biggest risks they face, suggested intervention actions, and potential barriers during implementation.

**CASE 1:** Paola is a Colombian who, along with her daughter, were in Mexico facing various risks, including kidnapping, rape, human trafficking, and street situations. The actions included providing food, shelter, legal advice, medical check-ups, communication with the family, and recreational activities for the daughter. However, barriers included mistrust of the mother due to previous experiences, lack of funds, xenophobia, and problems with health care. Participants mentioned that in Mexico it is common for migrant women to carry contraceptive drugs with them because of the risk of rape.

**CASE 2:** Carolina is a transgender migrant who suffered a physical attack and arrived at an ecumenical organization in Peru. Risks included lack of training by public officials, exposure to organized crime, human trafficking, and xenophobia. Religious resistance and the criminalization of the organization that accompanied it were also identified challenges. There was a debate as to whether their situation was sexual exploitation or the sex trade for survival.

**CASE 3:** Rosalba, a Honduran migrant, was a sex worker in Chiapas. The risks included lack of sanitary control, risks of sexually transmitted infections, mafias and abuse of their children if left alone. Proposed actions included access to condoms, safety assessment, childcare, access to documentation, and comprehensive sexuality education. However, barriers included stigmatization, lack of comprehensive sex education, machismo, and lack of access to adequate health services.

**CASE 4:** Victoria suffered physical violence from her partner on the border between Guatemala and Mexico. Risks included child protection, legal protection, access to justice and lack of documentation. The proposed actions include humanitarian aid, shelter, legal support, psychosocial care, and medical care for her and her children. Barriers include lack of resources, xenophobia, a normalized culture of violence, and a lack of gender-responsive humanitarian care.

**FINAL REMARKS:** In conclusion, the importance of empowering women's groups and working with men to advance the gender agenda is emphasized, underlining the need to deconstruct and strengthen new masculinities within organizations. The importance of working with the new generations to avoid the perpetuation of sexist patterns was

discussed, and the role of Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) in promoting human rights in conservative sectors was emphasized.

Finally, it was recognized that the gender approach is a personal and political issue, and the need for stronger leadership by women and youth in the FBO sector was highlighted. This demonstrates the importance of generating friendly materials and discourses to promote dialogues and synergies with faith communities and foster gender equality in society. She closed by pointing out how traditional family models in Latin America are changing and how this affects gender dynamics in the region.

## **VOLUNTARY DINNER – September 26**

**Moderation:** Anyi Morales and Gaya Massink

**Methodology and theme:** presentation on the synergies between the ACT Humanitarian Mechanism and the Self-Assessment Pilot Project on CHS.

The importance of trainings as a valuable opportunity for collaboration between forums was highlighted. They discussed how regulations emerged from past mistakes, with the aim of taking responsibility to communities, governments, and donors.

There was a review of timelines and criteria for emergency responses, with an emphasis on the need to be realistic and avoid idealizations. The concept of "good enough" was emphasized, recalling that organizations are not heroes or martyrs, but agents who work effectively for the common good.

For its part, the self-diagnosis carried out with CIC Cuba serves as a reference, since it included surveys of the organization, staff, beneficiary communities and key partners, as well as a documentary review. Difficulties in moving forward due to lack of financial resources and how gaps identified during the document review are being addressed were mentioned.

The importance of continuing this process in the coming year to continue learning and improving as a region was underlined. It was emphasized that the CHS process is constantly changing and updating, highlighting its relevance to organizations.

It should be noted that participating in these initiatives not only allows recognition as members of the CHS Alliance, but also increases the credibility of the organizations. Forums and organizations were encouraged to reflect on the benefits of engaging in these trainings and applying the knowledge gained in the year 2024.

On the other hand, the experience has been beneficial in Honduras, promoting a shared desire to work in a management with quality and accountability. In addition, mention was

made of internal modifications made in the organizations as a result of the training process.

Finally, the need to translate the lessons learned into concrete actions and to recognize the differences in capacities between the forums was emphasized, taking advantage of the opportunity to strengthen each other in a comprehensive manner. It is also key to continue inviting administrative staff to these trainings to ensure the participation of all relevant sectors of the organizations.

## **THIRD DAY – September 27**

### **(OUT OF THE) WORLD CAFÉ:**

**Moderation:** ACT Regional Office for LAC

**Methodology:** rotation of participants in groups through four stations

#### **> Humanitarian action**

In this space, it was agreed that the regional office will provide spaces with funders of humanitarian rapid response mechanisms, on the condition that these spaces are not only bilateral. Diversification of partnerships is seen as essential for an effective and holistic response.

A commitment was also made to have updated PRPs until December, especially for forums that have gone through the humanitarian training process. This considering that the focus on the triple migratory nexus at the regional level implies arduous and continuous work. The organizations are looking for bilateral support, and it was emphasized that this can be viable if there is complementarity in the actions.

In addition, the opportunity of having members working in both development and humanitarian fields was highlighted. In the context of forced migration, it was proposed that in the humanitarian field work could be done on prevention and, subsequently, on social re-composition. This integrated strategy is seen as essential to address the complex needs of migrant populations.

On the other hand, the existence of the ACT Emergency Committee, which operates to alert about emergency situations in a particular forum, was reported. This tool is considered essential for a rapid and coordinated response at the Alliance level.

### › **ToT: Training of trainers**

In this station, the components of the concept note on training of trainers – following the Bogotá Agreements – were presented and the need to develop specific capacities for a particular approach was raised, recognizing that capacities in this field within the Alliance are differentiated. The importance of operationalizing this training in a sustainable manner over time was discussed.

Thus, the idea is to organize a first virtual course to level the capabilities of the members by carrying out a mapping to identify the organizations with the most experience and those interested in strengthening their skills. Similarly, the possibility of carrying out parallel courses was raised, and a discussion was generated on the inclusion of members and the opening of the course to non-members. There was a consensus on the possibility of including external organizations that work with migrants, leaving it up to each forum to decide whether to involve them as part of its quotas.

Methodologically, it was agreed that between 20 and 30 people will participate, with approximately 2 representatives per forum, virtually in 2024; with the possibility of being followed by face-to-face training in 2025. At the level of internal strengthening of the forums, it was proposed to carry out a consultation or survey to determine which organizations have experience and the way in which each forum will replicate the information according to its internal logic.

We also committed to maintaining this training for the long term and providing a replication kit for actors who are not members of ACT. In summary, it was agreed to move forward with the proposal and establish a structure that ensures the continuity and long-term impact of this training. It was also agreed to maintain the good practices component within this training process.

### › **Advocacy calendar**

Several strategies to increase the visibility and participation of the Alliance in different events and platforms during the year 2024 were discussed, emphasizing the importance of focusing on local messages that address region-specific issues before considering participation in global platforms.

Regarding the mapping of the working group, it was proposed to carry out simultaneous local activities in front of global events, such as Earth Day and International Women's Day, to mobilize communities, adding that they can be a window to increase our visibility and take advantage of these opportunities as a potential source of financing.

The proposal arose to form specific working groups to address advocacy tactics to work with governments, taking into account the need to coordinate and articulate as an ACT

bloc to avoid dispersed actions and maximize the presence and impact of the Alliance in global events.

One of the conclusions of this space was the importance of a working group to study these opportunities in the advocacy calendar, since it is key to analyze the cost-benefit of these activities, since they involve significant efforts to have an impact. It was also agreed that this timetable will be discussed in the forums and integrated into their work plans.

### › **CoP of Human and climate mobility**

The need to establish a more formal organizational structure to work on human mobility issues in the region was discussed, since so far, we have worked with an *ad hoc* figure since the meeting in Bogota. This also considers the importance of the consensus model emerging from internal agreements of the organizations and forums. The Gender and Youth CoP expressed agreement that there should be a specific CoP for human and climate mobility due to the priority of the topic and the need to generate synergies between the different CoPs.

To this end, a commitment was agreed to meet on a recurring basis to share experiences and learnings, and it was proposed that a voluntary group of stakeholders be responsible for creating the concept note for the CoP, and its guidelines would be approved by the ACT Secretariat to ensure alignment with the Strategic Plan of the Alliance. It was emphasized that CoPs and forums should be complementary and not separate, and that the support of forums is needed to move forward with the creation of the CoP on human and climate mobility.

Finally, we recall that the 12 achievements are a sign of the progress we have as a region in this agenda, reinforcing the importance of establishing a space to work together on this issue, but the need for defined leadership was emphasized. A realistic stance was adopted, recognizing the need to establish achievable commitments in a short period of time, and it was agreed that the CoP moderators would be designated in the future.

## **TACTICAL PRIORITIZATION OF GLOBAL ADVOCACY:**

**Moderation:** ACT Regional Office for LAC

**Methodology:** presentation by Christian Wolff, followed by group work

In this space, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), an intergovernmental agreement adopted in 2018 that addresses all dimensions of international migration, was discussed. This compact, based on human rights, has 23

objectives for action by States and is implemented at the national level, with reviews scheduled every four years.

ACT has been involved in the GCM process since 2016, participating in consultations and negotiations and is also a member of the United Nations Network on Migration (UNNM). During the discussion, concerns were raised about migrants' vulnerability to human rights violations due to restrictive border policies. It was noted that the GCM is a key tool for advocating for the human rights of all people on the move and for overcoming restrictions on refugee protection.

The Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was also addressed as a crucial global space for multilateral climate action. Specific areas of focus for ACT were highlighted, including the need to ensure that high-emitting countries take financial responsibility for the impacts of climate change and the inclusion of human mobility in the implementation of the Paris Agreement, especially in terms of financing for loss and damage, as well as supporting adaptation measures.

With regard to the region, the participation of members in relevant meetings such as COP 29 and the subsidiary bodies (SBSTA and SBI) was encouraged, with a strategy that includes developing joint lobbying points with ecumenical actors, organizing consultation meetings for new participants, implementing joint side events, and coordinating closely with the ecumenical delegation.

In the group work, priority was given to advocacy in the Global Compact scenario, while maintaining preparation activities for COP 29. The importance of establishing alliances with the Latin American Bloc through articulated action with members that already have an agenda in this space, such as the Ammparo Network (ELCA and CASM) and UMCOR, was highlighted. CASM is applying to start working on the pilot towards this action and ALC offers to work from a communication effort.

## **PROGRESS IN HUMANITARIAN COMMITMENTS:**

**Moderation:** Jairo Barriga, Cristian Schlick, Anyi Morales

**Methodology:** presentation

## **CAPACITY BUILDING AND EXCHANGE (TOT IN CHS):**

The face-to-face meeting in Panama this year with the creators of the CHS and a training event in Varadero in 2019, which coincided with the new edition of the Sphere Handbook and resulted in the formation of the DRR CoP (Disaster Risk Reduction), were recovered as background.

In relation to the capacity building process on CHS, with the aim of having at least two representatives per forum and members of the CoPs, it was reported that a training event is planned to be held in April 2024, in Cartagena, Colombia, selected for being the country with the largest number of migrants in the region, as well as its accessibility and costs. This proposal will be consulted with the forums to validate the existing draft concept note.

### **MEMBERS MAPPING:**

The evaluation of this initiative was made from UMCOR's internal compliance criteria, although some deadlines and interviews have not yet been fully achieved, there is solid and firm progress (with the commitment to close the process between October and November of this year). Some key findings are:

- › Some members claimed not to work on climate mobility, even though they do.
- › In terms of policies, most adhere to existing policies, although some have policies of their own.
- › Concrete activities have yet to be established in which members will make use of the mapping.
- › There was a frequent repetition of organizations funding their projects (ELCA, PC-USA and UMCOR)
- › Significant differences in capabilities among members were highlighted.
- › Donors indicated their transition from being donors only to co-implementers.
- › The importance of having data and evidence to support joint work was underlined.

Finally, the inclusion of geolocation and the analysis of how the routes are being covered was proposed, which could be considered within a more global effort to find among the members someone to oversee the graphic design for these initiatives. It was also recognized that this information is very useful in generating informational material, such as graphics and visuals that illustrate the collaboration and expansion of the Alliance, as well as the interconnections and mutual support among members.

### **COMMUNITY-BASED PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT:**

The Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings is the applicable base document, although some areas for improvement were identified, particularly that there was no specific representation or initiatives targeting young people. This material is generally designed for people of all ages and benefits a variety of age groups, including children, seniors, and women.

In the same way, the process was discussed so that each country can adjust the materials to its local needs and circumstances, particularly in contexts such as Colombia, which has different conditions due to the armed conflict. Finally, the importance of varying the



moderation of the COP and finding people to lead these spaces within organizations and forums was underlined.

## **FOURTH DAY – September 28**

### **AMMPARO NETWORK – PASTORAL CARE OF MIGRANTS:**

**Moderation:** Stephen Deal, Jan Meyer, Johanna Morales, Elisa Pérez, Cruz Calles

**Methodology:** panel

During the interactive dynamic, pastorals from different countries that have been accompanying returnees, mainly from the United States and Mexico, were presented. These organizations work in collaboration with churches, lay organizations, and academia. The AMMPARO Network, through awareness-raising, has managed to expand its reach and recognition in the community.

From El Salvador, the work of the Salvadoran Lutheran Synod is focused, in particular, on assisting deportees (who managed to settle for a while and are then returned by the authorities), and returnees (those who do not settle and decide to return voluntarily). Forced displacement due to gangs is also addressed.

In Mexico, the coordinator of the migrant ministry of the Lutheran Church of Mexico and her team work directly with shelters, which take in a large number of Haitian populations. The need to tailor support to different nationalities, including Cubans and Afghans, was highlighted.

In the Colombian context, IELCO is supporting migration regularization processes, providing legal advice and financial education, among other services. In Colombia, they are supporting migration regularization processes and providing support in the areas of legal advice and financial education.

Its actions in Chile, through the IELCH, are deployed in various areas of the country, serving the population from the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Haiti, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. On the other hand, the importance of articulation with various actors, including local authorities, United Nations agencies and other NGOs, was mentioned. The relevance of the advocacy carried out by the network to make the voice of its members heard in the United States was underlined, and the importance of consolidated networks such as AMMPARO joining the ACT Alliance was highlighted.

## **FUNDRAISING DISCUSSION:**

**Moderation:** Edgardo Ramírez

**Methodology:** presentation

CASM manages a sustainability approach to fundraising that is based on: organizational and managerial capacity, accountability, financial diversification and strategic alliances, consortium approach, constant review of the internal structure, national and international networks, links with ecclesial sectors and the generation of own resources.

The fundraising process should be characterized by:

- › Strategic: when you work in a consortium everyone wins, there is no fight but dialogue and cohesion
- › Tactical: it is not always necessary to receive money, but to be placed where we can find it, that is, to connect with opportunities
- › Contractual: having the respective formalities in place

The importance of careful planning of sustainability strategies was highlighted, given that not all calls are strategic or feasible. Among the strengths identified were a functional board of directors, clear procedures (policy implementation), commitment of human talent, geographical positioning and public visibility. Specialization by thematic areas was recommended and the necessary patience was underlined, as the opening of funds sometimes takes time.

For their part, from El Salvador, ALFALIT and the Lutheran Synod are interested in continuing to advance consortium-type initiatives, there are also experiences of this type on the part of ELCA, which is working on the management of transnational cases of asylum applications. However, it was recognized that sometimes differences in the alignment of values can be an obstacle in alliances, and the importance of having a good external manager to avoid disputes over the leadership of the consortium was highlighted.

*Transparency, affinity of objectives and a similar workload are essential for the success of consortia.*

Additionally, one of the challenges presented by the figure of consortia is that churches do not always have the same capacity or the same system of accountability as FBOs, which can create challenges in cooperation and requires prior processes of matching capacities.

## **FORUM APPROPRIATION:**

**Moderation:** ACT Regional Office for LAC

**Methodology:** group work

Ten commitments that emerged throughout the day were discussed for participants to review in the light of the following questions:

### › **How do you ensure that information will be shared with forums?**

It is proposed to share information in forums and within organizations through key messages, in regular meetings, preferably face-to-face, ensuring that information is recorded in meeting minutes for dissemination. You can also present the information at monthly meetings at the national level and have the person in charge of sharing this information not necessarily be the person who coordinates the forum, but someone who has participated in the event in the Dominican Republic.

Another proposal was for the Secretariat to send the same information to all forums, considering the possibility of creating an audio-visual piece. In addition, they suggest sharing the information through the WhatsApp groups of each forum. This modality would ensure that the message is unified and truthful.

### › **How can we ensure that the forums will adopt these commitments in the future?**

They commit to sharing the information in October with the forums and to report back to the Secretariat once the activity is completed, through the selection of focus groups during the meetings shared as a Forum to ensure that the commitments are adopted.

They suggest that calendars be placed on the agenda of the forums and that the forum coordinators or participants from the Dominican Republic report on what commitments have been adopted. Likewise, it is decided to incorporate this information into the forum's action plan, so that each forum has a team specialized in human mobility, preferably made up of an organization that already has experience in that area.

### › **How to ensure forum appropriation?**

It is proposed to follow up on the individuals who acquire commitments, so that the information is installed in the operational plans for 2024. They also highlighted the importance of the entire forum being involved and suggested determining whether a participant in the Dominican Republic or the coordination of the Forum will lead.

### › **What kind of support would be needed from the Secretariat?**

Participants requested support from the Secretariat in the preparation of key messages, coordination, articulation, and follow-up. The support required is logistical, to build bridges and seek funding, as well as to facilitate meetings with focal points for advocacy of the Global Secretariat and within the forums. They also suggest articulation with other forums and thematic mapping with other organizations working on similar issues. A proposal emerges for the focus groups to start from the nascent CoP on human and climate mobility.

Likewise, they call for the continuation of the position of the Human Mobility and Climate Justice Officer in a way that facilitates the work of members in these areas and maintains support in this regard.

In general, they require the Secretariat to continue training, share information at the global level, provide advice on funds and resources, and ensure advice on fundraising and resource procurement.

## **COMMITMENTS TOWARDS JOINT ACTION 2.0:**

**Moderation:** ACT Regional Office for LAC

**Methodology:** plenary

Each of the agreements collected from the previous sessions was subject to comments by the participants. The original text is presented below, along with the main challenges encountered by members. Those with no comments were not discussed.

**FIRST: Commitment of the ACT Regional Office to convene and facilitate a coordination meeting with funding members for the humanitarian response to migration: open effective channels and address potential coordination issues.**

It highlights the need for strategic and coordinated planning to engage multiple members, focusing on bilateral dynamics and prioritizing facilitation as a means to this end. The inclusion of members in the agreement must be cautious to ensure political viability and a transformative and differentiated model is proposed. Validation and clarification of mapping is considered essential to coordinate collaboration efficiently. The importance of defining the objectives of the space is mentioned, involving key members such as UMCOR, PC-USA and ELCA, who have been in previous spaces to establish a methodological line.

Fundación Pazos and CASM pledged to support the fulfillment of this objective.

**SECOND:** The Regional Office will lead a process of Training of Trainers and exchange of experiences in political advocacy of an ecumenical nature and focused on advancing the agenda of rights of the population in human mobility, with a methodology that will include virtual modules, and a toolbox to facilitate its replication to co-parties and allies of the forums. The advocacy course will be open to one or two people per forum with the intention of extending the training opportunity to partners of ACT member organizations. However, a priority will remain for ACT members.

**REQUIRED: Funding for support consulting.**

The importance of studying success stories in advocacy learning processes is recognized. A leveling course will be carried out, as the first instance of a ToT process.

OCDIH and SSID offer to support as instructors in the virtual training.

**THIRD:** The DRR COP will implement a training process on CHS, which will be harmonized with the various initiatives related to it in LAC.

**REQUIRED: Funding for in-person event.**

**FOURTH:** Participants take ownership of the dissemination of UMCOR-led mapping. The Regional Office supports the development of visual materials for infographics, map, etc. (Human Mobility and Climate Justice Program Officer).

It is proposed that a team be created to analyze the findings of the mapping to ensure their practical applicability. UMCOR concludes its commitment to the delivery of the mapping (October-November 2023) and remains an observer. The usefulness of mapping as a tool for the activities of consortia is highlighted, suggesting that the data be made visible in communicative notes and shared with the new COP on Human Mobility and Climate Mobility.

**FIFTH:** As part of our international advocacy efforts, we chose to prioritize, as a pilot, the Global Compact in its regional review through the drafting of a policy document led by CASM and ALC Noticias. We will work together with ongoing processes of the AMMPARO Network, UMCOR and the Latin American Bloc.

It is established that ALC Noticias will support the dissemination, but not the newsroom. Although UMCOR's involvement is confirmed, it is not specified in the agreement. A change of approach is mentioned: instead of giving a voice to those who do not have one, it seeks to facilitate communication channels so that these voices are heard.

**SIXTH: Quarterly meetings between COP moderators to exchange experiences and articulate work on human mobility in their respective communities.**

**SEVENTH: Community of Practice on Human Mobility and Climate Mobility: The Regional Office commits to consult with forums and members to form a team that, if there is interest and commitment, can establish a COP.**

The implementation of new guidelines for the COPs in LAC as of October 1 is announced, which implies possible changes in the structure and operations of these platforms.

**EIGHTH: Reactivation of the Caribbean Forum: CIC + Center for Reflection and Dialogue of Cuba and SSID.**

**NINTH: Continue the conservatories on consortia.**

The initiative to create a rapid response team to address specific crises related to human mobility is ruled out due to a lack of technical capacity. It is suggested to evaluate consortia in other regions to learn from their practices, especially in terms of how appeals are made. The idea of establishing consortia as a third funding path from ACT is being explored, and humanitarian assistance mechanisms are being evaluated to determine their optimization. The possibility of proposing new initiatives to involve partners outside the Alliance in future consortia projects is raised.

**TENTH: Participants commit to be focal points of the process in their forum. Appropriation by the forums for the efforts of all men and women for people in human mobility, publicizing the Bogotá Agreements and their renewal in the Dominican Republic:**

- 1. Mobilizing for the various training and advocacy processes**
- 2. Participate in the calls made by the Office**
- 3. Mobilizing forums for the development of the EPRP**
- 4. Include the calendar of events in the work plans of the national forums and coordinate their efforts with the Regional Office**
- 5. Matrix led by the Secretariat to follow up on the Agreements**

**REQUIRED: The individual commitment of everyone here**

As a result, the participants of the meeting adopted the following agreements and the organizations that will promote their compliance were registered:

## TOWARDS JOINT ACTION 2.0 COMMITMENTS 2.0

---

✓ 1

Commitment from the ACT Regional Office (HPO) to **invite and facilitate a coordination meeting** with member agencies supporting human mobility programs in LAC for the humanitarian response to migration: to open effective channels and address potential coordination issues.

The possible participation of members in this initiative will be validated

---

✓ 2

- Regional Office will lead a **training of trainers (ToT) process in political advocacy of an ecumenical nature and focused on advancing the agenda of the rights of the population in human mobility**, with a methodology that will include virtual modules, and a toolbox to facilitate its replication across the country. -parties and allies of the forum. The advocacy course will be open for the participation of one or two people per forum.
- There is an intention to expand the training opportunity to partners of ACT member organizations. However, we will prioritize ACT members.

**REQUIRED:** Financing for support consulting

---

✓ 3

The RDR CoP will implement a training process on the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS), which will be harmonized with the various initiatives related to the CHS in LAC.

**REQUIRED:** Financing for in-person event

---

✓ 4

- Participants take ownership of the **dissemination and socialization of UMCOR-led mapping**.
  - The Regional Office will support the creation of visual materials for infographics, maps, etc. (Program Officer), will also propose possible uses of mapping within the Human Mobility CoP
- 

✓ 5

Within international advocacy, we chose to **prioritize the Global Compact in its regional review** by building a political document that is led by JOTAY, OCDIH and CASM and ALC Noticias. We are going to work jointly with ongoing processes of AMMPARO and Bloque Latinoamericano.

---

✓ 6

**Quarterly meetings of CoP moderations** to exchange experiences and articulate the work on human mobility in their respective communities. There will be dialogue within each CoP.

---

✓ 7

**Human Mobility Community of Practice:** The Regional Office commits to consulting with forums and members for the formation of a team that, if there is interest and commitment, can establish a CoP.

UMCOR's mapping is going to be a key tool in this dialogue.

The following members will participate in the development: Act Swedish Church, SSID, IELCH, IELCO, OCDIH, ELCA, Cuba Forum. Alfalit and Sinod Lutheran are available and are waiting for endorsement from their Forum. The Peru Forum will also be consulted.

---

✓ 8

**Caribbean Forum Reactivation:**

Consejo de Iglesias de Cuba + Centro Cristiano de Reflexión y Diálogo + Servicio Social de Iglesias Dominicanas

---

**Participants agree to be focal points of the process in their forum:**

✓ 9

Appropriation by the forums of everyone's efforts for people in human mobility: publicize the commitments made in Bogotá and their renewal in the Dominican Republic:

1. Mobilize for various training and advocacy processes.
2. Actively participate in the calls made by the Regional Secretariat.
3. Mobilize the forums for the development of the EPRP.
4. Include the calendar of events in the work plans of the national forums and coordinate your efforts with the Regional Office.
5. There will be a matrix led by the secretariat to monitor the commitments.

**REQUIRED:** The individual commitment of everyone here

## **APBC SESSION:**

**Moderation:** Edwin González, Ana Paxtor

**Methodology:** plenary

The session focused on cultivating resilience among participants, highlighting the importance of bouncing back in the face of challenges and adversity. Specific exercises designed to help manage awareness of the present were conducted, allowing participants to develop skills to cope with stress. During the discussion of stress, we explored its various causes and how it manifests itself in everyday life, often normalized but crucial to address in the context of humanitarian and human rights work.

A prominent focus was the introduction of the "wellness flower" as a visual and symbolic tool to promote holistic wellbeing. This symbol was adopted as a guide to address



different aspects of mental, emotional, and physical health, recognizing the importance of balancing these aspects to strengthen resilience.

In the context of mental health of humanitarian and human rights workers, strategies to care for the mental health of people working in this sector were discussed, acknowledging the unique challenges they face due to the nature of their work. Therefore, the need to create supportive and understanding environments, as well as the development of effective self-care practices, was emphasized.

Ultimately, the session not only provided tools to manage stress and foster resilience, but also served as a reminder of the importance of taking care of the mental health of those who dedicate their lives to helping others. The emphasis on community-based psychosocial support and caregiver care underscores the group's commitment to the holistic well-being of its members, contributing to a healthier and more sustainable environment for all.

## **FEEDBACK AND CLOSING EVALUATION:**

**Moderation:** ACT Regional Office for LAC

**Methodology:** plenary

The event obtained an overall rating of 4.86 out of 5 from participants. In the end, the meeting met expectations and objectives, achieving a total of nine agreements, guided by a concrete roadmap that provides guidance for their fulfillment. That said, participants also recognized that a number of challenges remain that we still face as a region.

The collaborative effort of all participants was applauded, underlining the importance of interpersonal exchange and the valuable learnings shared by pastoral care representatives. Finally, the commitment to comply with the agreements established in the Dominican Republic was highlighted, as well as progress has been made with the Bogotá Agreements, underlining the seriousness and shared responsibility towards the established objectives.

*This event reinforces the cohesion of the group and strengthens our resolve as a region to work together.*

**actalliance**