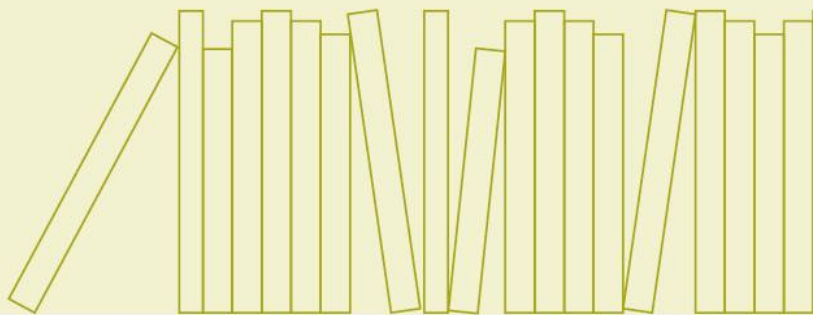


Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

**ECLAC SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS
FOR THE CARIBBEAN**



Report of the expert group meeting: a study on a gender perspective on environmental migration and disaster displacement in the Caribbean



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Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

Expert group meeting: a study on a gender perspective
on environmental migration and disaster displacement
in the Caribbean

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Virtual meeting, 5 November 2020

**REPORT OF THE EXPERT GROUP MEETING:
A STUDY ON A GENDER PERSPECTIVE ON ENVIRONMENTAL
MIGRATION AND DISASTER DISPLACEMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN**

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A. MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Gender is a fundamental factor in understanding climate migration and disaster displacement. Traditional gender stereotypes and roles not only amplify the particular vulnerabilities of women and girls, indigenous persons, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons in times of crisis or transition, but also determine access to resources in communities of origin, during migration, in the temporary or long-term destination and in potential return processes.
2. Disaster situations, displacement and temporary accommodations require gender-responsive interventions. Inadequate standards of emergency shelters, heightened susceptibility to gender-based violence (GBV), and security concerns in displacement scenarios further compound the gender-differentiated impacts of disaster displacement
3. Timely, reliable evidence and data are required to facilitate more and improved gender-responsive policymaking. Gender and age disaggregation of data on displacement and other disaster impacts is crucial to highlight inequalities between women and men before, during and after disaster situations.
4. Stronger engagement of women in emergency situations, as exemplified by the best practices of the Bahamas and Cuba in utilizing women's leadership and expertise in climate change and disaster risk mitigation policies, should be further encouraged. As women often play a central role in creating inclusive community structures in the Caribbean, their involvement in disaster preparedness and response management is a key factor to prevent harm and losses. This can be promoted through women's bureaus and collaboration with civil society organizations.
5. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought attention to the informal economy in which women are overrepresented in the Caribbean. In many Caribbean countries, migrant women work in the informal sector and do not have access to social protection and health services. There is the need for more policy discourse to ensure the human rights of all persons in situations of disaster displacement and environmental migration regardless of gender, nationality and immigration status.

B. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. Place and date of the session

6. The expert group meeting: a study on a gender perspective on environmental migration and disaster displacement in the Caribbean was held virtually on 5 November 2020. The online meeting was jointly convened by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) subregional headquarters for the Caribbean and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

2. Attendance¹

7. The expert group meeting was attended by government officials from the Bahamas and Dominica, with responsibility for disaster management, environment, climate change, indigenous persons, social development, sustainable development, citizen empowerment and resilience planning.
8. Other organizations, including non-governmental and academic institutions, represented were the Bahamas Red Cross Society, Dominica Red Cross, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Project Mujeres Tarea Vida, International Migration Initiative - Open Society Foundation, Columbia

¹ See Annex I for a full list of participants.

University, International Studies Association (ISA), the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLASCO), the University of the West Indies (UWI), the University of the Bahamas and the University of Puerto Rico.

3. Provisional programme

1. Welcome remarks and introduction
2. Overview and presentation of the study
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4. Documentation

9. The draft study entitled “Advancing gender equality in environmental migration and disaster displacement in the Caribbean”, prepared by ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean and IOM, served as the background document for the meeting.

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

1. Welcome remarks and introduction

10. The Coordinator of the Statistics and Social Development Unit (SSDU) of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, welcomed all participants to the meeting to discuss the study that was conducted by ECLAC and IOM. The purpose of the study was to introduce the gender dimensions of disaster displacement and environmental migration in the subregion, outlining the current and projected future gendered impact of these events, relevant regional and international human rights frameworks, and the importance of collecting gender-disaggregated data on displacement and environmental migration. It provided case studies on the gendered impacts of disaster displacement in Dominica after Tropical Storm Erika and Hurricane Maria as well as in the Bahamas following Hurricane Dorian. The gendered impacts of slow-onset environmental changes were also discussed and analysed in the context of case studies on Cuba and Jamaica. The Coordinator informed the participants that the authors would share the study’s findings and share general recommendations for the consideration of other countries in the subregion wishing to promote women’s participation and leadership in policy and community action to address disaster displacement and environmental migration.

11. The Director of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean welcomed all participants and encouraged them to engage in the much-needed discourse on how Caribbean governments can advance gender equality when devising policies, plans and actions to address the phenomena of disaster displacement and environmentally-induced migration. She noted that, due to high exposure and vulnerability to extreme weather events and the impacts of climate change, Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) experience population displacement all too often. In fact, during the 2017 Atlantic hurricane season alone, three major hurricanes resulted in the internal and cross-border displacement of approximately 3 million Caribbean people in a single month.

12. She indicated that significant changes in migration patterns are further expected as storms and hurricanes become more intense, and families and communities come under increasing economic and social stress from the impacts of climate change. ECLAC’s longstanding work in conducting damage and loss

assessments following disasters in the Caribbean has highlighted that girls and women are more adversely affected by these events. Disasters exacerbate the inequalities experienced by women and girls, as well as the discrimination and exclusion faced by certain groups, including persons with disabilities, migrants, indigenous and LGBTI persons. She noted, however, that the gendered impacts of disaster displacement and environmental migration are not well understood in the subregion, due to a lack of gender-disaggregated data on these processes and a corresponding lack of focus on their impact on women and girls and other marginalized groups.

13. ECLAC's Gender Equality Observatory is one of the regional data platforms which encourages the production of sex-disaggregated data as an essential input to gender policies, national development plans, and monitoring progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Furthermore, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean has provided training to Caribbean policymakers on better mainstreaming gender in national sustainable development planning.

14. She thanked all experts for their participation, as well as IOM for their partnership and rich expertise in the preparation of the joint study, which aims to empower Caribbean people to make transformative adaptation decisions in the face of disasters and climate change.

15. The Regional Coordination Officer for the Caribbean of IOM mentioned how pleased he was to introduce the joint study on the gender dimensions of environmental migration and disaster displacement in the Caribbean. He reiterated the observations made by the Director of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean that the subregion is highly exposed to the impacts of sudden onset hazards and climate change and this trend is only likely to increase in the coming decades and further amplify negative trends in water scarcity, coastal erosion and sea level rise. He also reminded the participants of the devastating impact of the 2017 hurricane season in places like Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica, while other sudden onset hazards, such as volcanic eruptions and earthquakes, have also taken a high toll on the lives and the economies of other Caribbean countries.

16. He highlighted the fact that most urban centers and production sites are located near the shorelines, while the tourism and agriculture sectors, which dominate most Caribbean economies, are very sensitive to climate change, and when adversely impacted could result in significant rise in unemployment and greater reliance on food imports. This puts a strong and ever-increasing pressure on Caribbean societies, echoed in the following words of the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres: “the uniqueness of the voice and way of life of each of the Caribbean islands is threatened”. All these different events and processes are closely related to different forms of human mobility and disaster displacement. Slower onset environmental migration driven by the degradation of rural livelihoods is harder to isolate but remains a crucial component of urbanization trends. Certain Caribbean countries have also experimented processes of planned relocation to reduce the exposure of their most vulnerable communities, with various levels of success. Women and girls and men and boys are differently affected by the impacts of climate and environmental change and their experiences of human mobility are also greatly influenced by gender. And yet, the available evidence and policies on these issues remains relatively weak.

17. The Regional Coordinator believed that the international community is increasingly considering the importance of addressing the gender dimensions of migration, including in relation to climate change and disasters. The Global Compact on Migration, which guides international efforts on migration governance, reflects this priority, as stated in Objective 2 that is devoted to minimizing the “adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin”. Furthermore, it calls upon the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aimed at eliminating the adverse drivers of forced migration, including goals on “gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, resilience and disaster risk reduction, climate change mitigation and adaptation”.

18. He felt that this joint study was carried out at a very fitting moment as countries are currently reporting on the progress made since the adoption of the Global Compact on Migration in December 2018. As a result, the publication of the study should serve to bring attention to the gender dimensions in environmental migration and promote enhanced action from authorities. Caribbean countries have developed national and regional frameworks to address the needs of environmental migrants, and mainstreaming gender in these strategies should have a strong positive impact to meet the needs of affected populations.

19. He thanked ECLAC for partnering with the IOM in the preparation of the study as well as the specialists who provided their insight to greatly contribute to its success.

2. Overview and presentation of the study

20. The Lead Researcher, IOM, gave a gendered overview of the Caribbean subregion within the context of environmental migration and disaster displacement. She informed the meeting that the Caribbean is home to 16 of the world's 38 Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which are identified as having "unique and particular vulnerabilities" to climate change and natural hazards (General Assembly of the United Nations, 2012), in particular hurricanes, tropical storms, earthquakes, droughts and flooding. While internal and international movements due to these environmental causes were not a new phenomenon in the subregion, extreme weather events and slow onset environmental changes were expected to change migration and displacement patterns in the Caribbean.

21. Although Caribbean countries have made some positive strides in achieving gender equality, persistent gender inequalities are still evident in households, workplaces, the labour market, and society as a whole. As such, climate change and natural hazards exacerbate these existing inequalities and vulnerabilities, particularly of women and girls and marginalized groups, by reducing the resources available to communities, threatening livelihoods, and displacing families and communities. Gender is one of the main factors that determines the overall experience of climate change and the migration processes that flow from it, including environmental migration and climate-induced displacement.

22. The Associate Programme Management Officer and Gender Focal Point, ECLAC, presented the case studies on the gendered impacts of disaster displacement in the Bahamas and Dominica. In the Bahamas, disaster displacement has become a yearly occurrence as 80 per cent of the country's landmass lies within 1.5m above sea level, with some 700 islands dispersed over 800 square kms of ocean. Despite the disproportionate impact of disasters on women and girls, gender is not currently mainstreamed or given special consideration in climate change or disaster risk reduction laws or policies in the Bahamas.

23. In 2019, category 5 Hurricane Dorian was recorded as the strongest hurricane to hit the country causing USD 2.5 billion damage and USD 717.3 million losses, a death toll of 74 persons with 282 people still missing and 9,800 people displaced. She pointed out that it was important to note that the death toll as well as the number of people missing and displaced were likely higher, as persons with irregular migration status are often difficult to account for and enumerate. The islands of Abaco and Grand Bahama were severely affected, and recovery efforts have been hampered by the unexpected shock of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has further raised the country's public debt.

24. The aftermath of Hurricane Dorian resulted in the displacement of more women than men in Grand Bahama and Abaco. In these circumstances, male property owners were more likely to remain in place or return quickly after the hurricane to perform traditional male roles of property protection and repair, while women fulfilling gendered care and reproductive roles temporarily vacated the islands to find state emergency shelter with children. In most cases, the emergency shelters fell short of Sphere Standards as there was a lack of access to separate spaces for sleeping, safe and separate toilet and bathing facilities, and sexual and reproductive health services. Since disaster displacement generally amplifies pre-existing

vulnerabilities and inequalities, women and girls were more adversely impacted by poor living conditions and inadequate protection in emergency shelters following Hurricane Dorian. Furthermore, vulnerable groups, including Haitian migrants and female-headed households, were likely to stay longer in temporary accommodations.

25. The study highlighted the disproportionate impact of Hurricane Dorian on persons of Haitian descent which made up over a quarter of the population in Abaco. Women and girls of Haitian descent are among the most marginalized in the Bahamas, facing discrimination based both on their ethnicity and gender. Many Haitian migrants and persons of Haitian descent live with irregular status in the Bahamas as a result of strict limitations on their residency and citizenship and a government policy of repatriation. In disaster situations, Haitian women and girls are at particular risk of gendered-based violence and have more limited access to justice due to fears of mistreatment and possible deportation. Approximately a third of settlements reported visits from Immigration Services following Hurricane Dorian, suggesting that Haitian returnees may have faced particular insecurity due to the risk of harassment and family separation. It is reported that fears of deportation drove Haitian persons to hide in bushes in New Providence during the recovery phase.

26. Although women experienced the most barriers to disaster recovery, they protected and cared for children and elderly persons and managed the return of their households to pre-Dorian communities, usually with fewer resources than men. The ability of women to mobilize social networks and lead community groups also contributed to effective shelter management and better outcomes for displaced persons. Women of Haitian descent displayed particular resilience in meeting the care and protection needs of families, while rebuilding their lives in new communities and islands amidst marginalization and insecurity.

27. The Associate Programme Management Officer also spoke about Dominica, for which it is projected there will be an annual average of 2,393 displaced persons in the future due to sudden-onset hazards, as 90 per cent of Dominica's population lives in coastal cities and villages, which leaves many communities, businesses and infrastructure highly vulnerable to extreme weather events and slow-onset changes to coastal ecosystems, including sea level rise and erosion. Tropical Storm Erika in 2015, killed more than 24 people and displaced 710 persons, while Hurricane Maria in 2017 accounted for 31 deaths, with 37 persons still missing and approximately 35,000 displaced. The country already has a gender-responsive national development plan and climate change plans and policies, but an opportunity exists to revise the country's disaster risk reduction (DRR) plans and policies in a gender-responsive manner following updates to the National Policy and Action Plan for Gender Equity and Equality.

28. After Tropical Storm Erika, members of female-headed households represented 45 per cent of displaced persons in the most affected communities, with women accounting for 72 per cent of persons displaced from two of the worst affected communities. Furthermore, a disproportionate number of shelter occupants were from female-headed households, and members of these households were more likely to stay longer in emergency shelters. The disaster pushed many below the poverty line, and members of female-headed households were particularly vulnerable on account of their typically larger family size, more limited skills and loss of assets. Government resettlement policies were not gender-sensitive, putting single women with children at a greater economic disadvantage.

29. The gendered impacts of displacement after Hurricane Maria saw elderly persons and children accounting for the main population groups across government-run shelters, in addition to several pregnant women, single-male and single-female headed households, and breastfeeding mothers. Women and girls in shelters reported increased vulnerability to GBV as shelter design was not gender sensitive. Five months after Hurricane Maria, only 20 per cent of the country's population had electrical supply and 82 per cent had access to clean water which had a disproportionate impact on women and girls. Women, especially

elderly female heads of households, reported being unable to leave emergency shelters because they did not have home insurance or savings to pay for housing materials or skilled labour to rebuild homes.

30. The disproportionate impact of Tropical Storm Erika and Hurricane Maria on the Kalinago community resulted in 90 per cent of its members being displaced. Kalinago women experience marginalization twice over because of their gender and indigenous status, and their reliance on the agriculture and tourism sectors resulted in a complete loss of livelihood for many female-headed households following Hurricane Maria.

31. In the aftermath of extreme weather events, women play a pivotal role in mobilizing support networks and ensuring better outcomes for displaced persons in Dominica. The full and effective participation of women in Dominica's plan to become the world's first climate resilient country will be central to its realization.

32. The Climate Adaptation and Migration Specialist presented the connections between disaster displacement, environmental migration, and gender in the case studies of Jamaica and Cuba. She described Jamaica's natural hazards that are relevant in the context of climate change - from decreased precipitation, droughts, intense rainfall events, increased temperatures and sea-level rise. These changes affect how Jamaicans earn their livelihoods, leading some to migrate internally as a response to environmental pressures.

33. Environmental factors and the impact of climate change affect livelihoods and represent a key concern among women farmers in the agriculture sector. Evidence suggested that women in the agriculture sector often take a coordination-based approach, focusing on helping individuals earn more income, diversifying activities on the farm, engaging partners, and accumulating cash reserves. However, differences between men and women in economic resources, land ownership, and access to banking have consequences in terms of women's disaster resilience and climate change adaptation, and on processes of urbanization.

34. Jamaica has experienced an increase in internal migration to urban areas in the last five decades based on push factors of degradation of rural livelihoods and environmental and economic reasons. These push factors can also impact rates of poverty. Among persons who are classified as poor in Jamaica, there is a higher percentage of females, indicating that poverty in Jamaica is feminized. Poverty strongly increases vulnerability to the impact of disasters, and women tend to be overlooked in disaster preparedness and response, which adversely affects their resilience. Additionally, women encounter multiple physical and social hazards in urban environments, including less access to housing and green space, limited social support and greater levels of insecurity.

35. While national climate change policies and strategies vary in the extent to which they mainstream gender, it is worth mentioning that the Third National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) does refer to the intersection of gender and climate change, however the intersection of gender and environmental migration is not reflected. As Jamaican women move within the country, there is an opportunity to ensure that the benefits of environmental migration are shared equitably among all Jamaicans, regardless of gender.

36. The Cuban case study looked mainly at women's leadership and gender-responsive planning for evacuation and environmental migration. Similar to Jamaica, internal movements within Cuba are related to urbanization, economic factors and access to services, but they are also related to environmental factors such as hurricanes and drought. During the 2016 and 2017 Atlantic hurricane seasons, 2.8 million new displacements in Cuba were recorded by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC). In Cuba, these numbers were typically driven by widespread mandatory evacuations when approximately 80 per cent of citizens relocated temporarily to the homes of friends and family, and 20 per cent went to shelters. In national regulations, Cuba generally employs the terms "evacuees" and "protected persons" instead of

“displaced”, which reflects the complexity of human mobility resulting from disasters, in which evacuations can be a valuable part of disaster risk management and may prevent losses of life and property.

37. The national strategy for the management and reduction of disaster risk does demonstrate some gender mainstreaming and notes that sexual and reproductive health services are a priority during disasters. Social capital defined as “the relationships of cooperation that have been built up through the experience of collaboration” plays a vital role in disaster management, by building local resilience and collective action. Women in Cuba have been integral in these relationships and serve as decision-makers, planners, and agents of change, even though these structures may still perpetuate traditional gender roles. Women are still confined to roles of helpers, caregivers, cooks, and cleaners, while men may typically be assigned functions related to security and protection, resource allocation, and post-disaster reconstruction.

38. Cuba has been a leader among Caribbean countries in preparing for and responding to sudden-onset hazards; the country’s proactive and inclusive strategies for disaster risk reduction are widely recognized. Cuba has also made significant progress in climate change adaptation and mitigation planning, and Cuban women have described themselves as independent and empowered in challenging situations related to natural hazards and mobility. While the country has not yet created a gender-responsive framework for environmental migration, it may be able to draw from its experience in conducting evacuations and its strong climate change policy framework to advance policies and programmes that support safe migration and resilience for people of all genders.

39. The Regional Thematic Specialist on Migration, Environment and Climate Change, IOM, outlined the key findings and recommendations that can be drawn from the study:

- Gender is a fundamental factor for understanding climate migration and disaster displacement. Traditional gender structures and roles not only amplify the particular vulnerabilities of women and girls, indigenous persons, and LGBTI persons in times of crisis or transition, but also determine access to resources in communities of origin, during migration, in the temporary or long-term destination and in potential return processes.
- Disaster situations, displacement and temporary accommodations require gender-responsive interventions. Limitations in emergency shelter standards, vulnerability to GBV and security concerns in displacement scenarios further compound the gender-differentiated impacts of disaster displacement.
- Limited access to resources and opportunities influences gender-specific vulnerabilities and capacities to return to communities of origin after displacement. As such, mitigating or eliminating the impact of gender inequality on access to resources is key to preventing forced or involuntary migration. This includes the capacity of women and girls to access livelihoods to ensure their wellbeing and the resources required to build resilience.
- GBV is a critical issue to be addressed in environmental migration and disaster situations, given that it is a prevalent threat to women and girls in areas of origin and through the mobility continuum. It may also be especially prevalent in displacement shelters and temporary accommodations, as a result of limited attention to gender-sensitive protection needs and design considerations.
- Improved evidence and data are required to facilitate gender-responsive policymaking. Disaggregation of disaster, migration and displacement statistics based on key characteristics, including gender, age, migration status and disability, is crucial to highlight inequalities between women and men before, during and after disaster situations.

- Building on the capacity of national stakeholders to collect, analyse and utilize gender-disaggregated data in disaster and climate migration situations for evidence-based policy making, must be a priority.
- The creation of opportunities to promote and recognize women's knowledge, empowerment and leadership is important. As women often play a central role in creating inclusive community structures in the Caribbean, their involvement in disaster preparedness and response management is a key factor to prevent harm and losses. Examples of countries with women in management positions and community organizations demonstrate the positive impact of these trends.
- Specific policies are still required on the gender aspects of climate migration in slow-onset scenarios. Evidence and policy responses are still missing with regards to the gendered dimensions of slow-onset environmental migration. On one side, gender integration in climate and disaster policies is nascent and, on the other, climate policies also barely incorporate mobility elements. As a result, actual gender considerations in environmental migration strategies are non-existent.
- The situation of specific groups requires attention to account for multiple, compounded vulnerabilities. As documented in this study, people may experience multiple layers of vulnerability, and gender-based discrimination may interact with other forms of marginalization, such as irregular migration status or lack of access to resources. Persons with disabilities, indigenous populations, LGBTI persons, migrants with irregular status, and other marginalized groups are especially impacted by disaster and climate shocks and experience poorer recovery outcomes.
- Gender-responsive disaster risk reduction, recovery and response must address displacement. This would include gender-responsive design, construction and management of emergency shelters and other temporary accommodations in accordance with the Sphere Standards; addressing the protection needs of cross-border displaced migrants from a gender perspective; mainstreaming gender into livelihood training, reconstruction assistance and other support for people and communities that are displaced or evacuated for long periods of time; and promoting stronger involvement of women and other groups with specific needs, such as indigenous and LGBTI persons, in DRR but also in climate change adaptation and urban planning.
- Gender-responsive climate migration policies, planning and responses to better map and understand the gender implications of climate migration in slow onset processes, such as those related to sea level rise, coastal erosion and land degradation, are needed, while also addressing specific gender vulnerabilities in climate sensitive economic sectors, such as agriculture and tourism.
- Synergies with research institutions that have advanced the study of climate migration and disaster displacement in the Caribbean and are at the forefront of the integration of gender considerations into data collection and analysis should be further promoted.
- There are further research opportunities to identify the specific needs of women and girls in climate migration and disaster displacement contexts and address data gaps in these areas.

3. Discussion on presentation and study

40. The value of cross-governmental work and partnerships on disaster management, climate change and gender was underscored. The participants welcomed the partnership with ECLAC and IOM to ensure the dissemination of the information in the study to all relevant governmental and civil society stakeholders, especially in the areas of disaster management, climate change, environment, social development and gender affairs, throughout the Caribbean subregion.

41. Both ECLAC and IOM have conducted national and regional workshops on disaggregating data and disaster assessments, and countries were encouraged to make formal requests if interested in more training and capacity building in these areas.
42. The intersectional approach of examining the gender impacts of disaster displacement and environmental migration in the Caribbean is a critical discourse that needs to take place. Research and academic institutions should also develop study courses on gender mainstreaming and emergency management.
43. Improving gender-disaggregated data for disaster displacement and women's participation in disaster risk and climate change management requires tackling the negative gender stereotypes that exist in Caribbean societies and addressing patriarchal norms.
44. The promotion of stronger engagement of women in emergency situations as exemplified by the best practices of the Bahamas and Cuba who utilize women's leadership and expertise in climate change and disaster risk mitigation policies, was applauded. This can be encouraged through women's bureaus and collaboration with civil society organizations.
45. Older persons, in particular older women, were considered to be more vulnerable in the face of disaster emergencies. The case studies of the Bahamas and Dominica both showed that there were more elderly persons as well as elderly female headed households in shelters after the hurricanes. Furthermore, older persons tend to have prevailing health conditions which may be exacerbated after a disaster as access to medicine and health services can be compromised and limited, with elderly women competing for already scarce resources and services. The experience of Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria showed the vulnerability of elder women, for instance when electricity supply was disrupted.
46. The COVID-19 pandemic has placed focus on the informal economy and its heavy reliance on the labour force participation of women. In many Caribbean countries, migrant women work in the informal sector but do not have access to social protection and health services. There is the need for more policy discourse to ensure the human rights of all persons in disaster and environmental emergency situations regardless of gender, nationality and immigration status.
47. It was suggested that the Caribbean should conduct research on how disaster displacement further exacerbates gendered disparities in the prevalence of chronic diseases such as diabetes and hypertension which is one of the most cited vulnerabilities of displaced persons. Access to sexual and reproductive care also appears as a crucial priority.
48. The Bahamas has been strained by the dual crises of Hurricane Dorian and the COVID-19 pandemic. The study should help government stakeholders in the country make recommendations and requests to management for effective action in the face of these crises. Close cooperation has been established with the IOM Mission in Nassau and exploring the concrete implications of the study for policymaking would be useful.

4. Closure of the meeting

49. The Associate Programme Management Officer and Gender Focal point, ECLAC, thanked all participants for their active contributions as well as IOM colleagues for their collaboration on such a timely and useful study. The Regional Thematic Specialist on Migration, Environment and Climate Change, IOM, also thanked the participants for their positive feedback on the study as well as their useful recommendations that will be used to finalize the publication.

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- Jeniffer Sankar-Sooknarine, Team Assistant, Programme Support Unit, email: jeniffer.sankarsooknarine@eclac.org

Annex II**Programme**

0930 hrs – 0940 hrs **Welcome remarks and introduction**

Moderator: Abdullahi Abdulkadri, Coordinator, Statistics and Social Development Unit, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean

- Diane Quarless, Director, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean
- Robert Natiello, Regional Coordination Officer for the Caribbean, IOM

0940 hrs – 1040 hrs **Overview and presentation of the study**

- Briana Mawby, Lead Researcher, IOM
- Cristina Liberati, Climate Adaptation and Migration Specialist
- Amelia Bleeker, Associate Programme Management Officer, Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre (CKMC) and Gender Focal Point, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean
- Pablo Escribano, Regional Thematic Specialist on Migration, Environment and Climate Change, IOM

1040 hrs – 1150 hrs **Discussion on presentation and study**

1150 hrs – 1200 hrs **Closure of the meeting**

- Amelia Bleeker, Associate Programme Management Officer, CKMC and Gender Focal Point, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean
- Pablo Escribano, Regional Thematic Specialist on Migration, Environment and Climate Change, IOM



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