



# COMMUNITY PARTICIPATORY APPRAISAL WITH MIGRANT POPULATION IN ECUADOR

Case study

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# 1. BACKGROUND

It is estimated that 330.400 Venezuelans live in Ecuador, mainly in urban areas such as Quito, Guayaquil, Manta, Ambato, Santo Domingo and Ibarra. Although many of them decide to stay in the country, a significant number continue their journey to Peru and Chile<sup>1</sup>.

Generally, migrants enter the country through the northern border with Colombia<sup>2</sup>, but they also fly to Quito<sup>3</sup>. In 2019, migration law was modified, which led to a reduction of formal entry points to avoid the costly and lengthy migratory regularization process<sup>4</sup> and resulted in the use of illegal border-crossings<sup>5</sup>. Currently, legal borders are being used as well as illegal ones, the latter being controlled by gangs and organized crime groups, according to some reports<sup>6</sup>.

The number of migrants that are facing this situation has no parallel in the region, and particularly in Ecuador. Furthermore, this massive entry has gathered different migrant profiles and specific needs to cover. As a matter of fact, from July 2019, the migrant population who has entered the country has been more vulnerable than in the preceding years. They have no savings nor a planned exit from the country of origin<sup>7</sup>. This population faces violent situations and has specific economic needs – a significant number of unaccompanied minors has been reported<sup>8</sup>. These facts need to be identified, analysed, and evaluated to provide an effective response.

Within this context, participatory methods are useful to identify the current needs of existing migrant groups and adapt the interventions to meet those needs. In order to provide a response to this complex issue, the Ecuadorean Red Cross (ERC) has been implementing the Contingency Plan for Migrant and Displaced Persons since 2018, with the aim of helping to reduce the vulnerability of migrant and displaced people within the country<sup>9</sup>.

Within this framework, during the first quarter of 2020 and the second week of September 2020, the ERC implemented community participatory appraisals with migrant population in Guayaquil, Tulcán and Huaquillas (first quarter of 2020), and Guayaquil, Quito and Cuenca (September 2020). Initially, the aim was to obtain a better knowledge and understanding of the main problems faced by the migrant population and identify migrants' resources to deal with such problems. It is expected that this information will enable a relevant and contextualized intervention that can meet the needs of this migrant group by implementing the ERC's actual institutional capacities in the matter of human mobility. During the COVID-19 pandemic, feedback was given to the participants during the second participatory appraisal (September 2020) and a space to inform about the COVID-19 preventive measures was implemented.

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<sup>1</sup> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (2019a). Emergency Appeal 12-months Operation Update. Americas Region: Population Movement. MDR42004. <https://bit.ly/2P9yjVm>

<sup>2</sup> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (2019a). Emergency Appeal 12-months Operation Update. Americas Region: Population Movement. MDR42004. <https://bit.ly/2P9yjVm>

<sup>3</sup> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (2019b). Americas Population Movement Ecuador.

<sup>4</sup> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (2019a). Emergency Appeal 12-months Operation Update. Americas Region: Population Movement. MDR42004. <https://bit.ly/2P9yjVm>

<sup>5</sup> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. (2020a). Revised Emergency Appeal. Americas: Population Movement.

<sup>6</sup> CARE. (2020). Una emergencia desigual: Análisis Rápido de Género sobre la Crisis de Refugiados y Migrantes en Colombia, Ecuador, Perú y Venezuela. <https://bit.ly/2CRiujT>

<sup>7</sup> In previous years, migrants had more economic stability and left the country in an organised manner. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. (2020a). Revised Emergency Appeal. Americas: Population Movement.

<sup>8</sup> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. (2020a). Revised Emergency Appeal. Americas: Population Movement.

<sup>9</sup> CRUZ ROJA ECUATORIANA. (2020a). Diagnósticos Participativos Comunitarios con población en situación de movilidad humana.

## 2. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATORY APPRAISAL<sup>10</sup>

A community participatory appraisal is a method that helps to identify resources, interests, and problems of the target population, facilitating a safe space where participants can voice their opinions. This enables the gathering of a higher number of perspectives to understand people's needs and current situation and brings light to possible courses of action. The participatory appraisal is conducted as a workshop by a facilitator with experience in reflexive dialogue processes.

Unlike a focus group, which is a qualitative research method where questions are asked by a moderator in an interactive group setting to learn about the group's opinions about a subject, a community participatory appraisal is a collective process that enables a space for reflection and dynamic dialogues in order to identify, organize and rank problems and produce relevant and contextualized solutions.

A participatory appraisal is a community empowerment method for identifying community problems and solutions. It is particularly useful because solutions are reached collectively through community engagement and the target population can produce knowledge and demand changes based on the problems they have identified.

The Ecuadorean Red Cross went through the following steps to implement this method with the migrant population.

### a. Aims of the Participatory Appraisal<sup>11</sup>

The Ecuadorean Red Cross defined the following aims:

#### Overall Aim

To gather quality information about the main problems, interests, and capacities of the adult migrant population as a basis for developing relevant work plans.

To gather quality information about perceptions and expectations among migrant children and adolescents.

#### Specific Aims

- To identify the main and/or most urgent challenges faced by the migrant population to be able to address them.
- To understand the main causes and relations among the various issues affecting in-transit or settled migrant population.
- To produce institutional knowledge in matters of human mobility from the perspective of migrant children and adolescents.
- To plan and carry out feasible and contextualized actions based on the needs that have been identified and the current institutional capacity.
- To identify problems, needs, resources and opportunities for development during the pandemic.

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<sup>10</sup> Marín, M.J. (2020, 15 de julio). Diagnósticos Participativos Comunitarios con población en situación de movilidad humana [Case Study Presentation]. Webinar - Cases from IFRC Peru and the Ecuadorean NS. Interviews

<sup>11</sup> Marín, M.J. (2020, 15 de julio). Diagnósticos Participativos Comunitarios con población en situación de movilidad humana [Case Study Presentation]. Webinar - Cases from IFRC Peru and the Ecuadorean NS.

It is worth noting that the use that was going to be given to the collected information was quite clear from the very beginning. The aim was to gain a valuable insight in order to improve the services provided to the migrant population, reformulate and adjust the current operation and meet those needs that were not being addressed. This would involve all programmes by adopting a holistic approach to the issue of migration.

It was the first time that the CRE applied a participatory appraisal method in migration, even though the NS had previously implemented participatory processes in the country, such as a vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) to improve disaster risk management.

## **b. Selection of the Areas of Intervention and the Target Population**

The CRE selected the cities of Guayaquil, Tulcán and Huaquillas in the provinces of Guayas, Carchi and El Oro, respectively, since they were priority areas for the documentation route. These locations have similar in-transit and settlement dynamics as well as a common behaviour among the host population. As for the second participatory appraisal, the CRE selected the cities of Guayaquil, Quito and Cuenca in the provinces of Guayas, Pichincha and Azuay, respectively.

The community participatory appraisal was initially devised for the adult migrant population. However, during the call process it became clear that many migrants were mothers, fathers and guardians of children and adolescents, therefore the ERC set up a safe space for them while their parents and/or carers participated in the appraisal. During this process, it was decided that this child-care space would also become a space for dialogue with children and adolescents to listen to their voices, which had not been recognised during the pandemic response.

For this reason, the target population included:

- Adult migrant men and women of Venezuelan origin, and Colombian migrants in a lesser proportion, because both populations have the largest presence in the country, and they are both highly vulnerable.
- Venezuelan children and adolescents.

## **c. Design of the Methodology: Knowledge Recovery and Creative Workshops**

The participatory appraisal workshops enabled a systematic knowledge recovery among adult participants; as for the child and adolescent workshops, play was the most valuable resource to help them identify their perceptions and emotions about themselves, their families and their relationship with the host community.

To be consistent with the participatory appraisal approach, the process involved the participation of local Provincial Boards, so that the whole intervention could be jointly designed, including the workshops' call, promotion, methodological design, and implementation in the target communities. Their engagement was key to plan appropriate dates and schedules to ensure migrants' participation and to develop an ad hoc workshop aimed at migrant children and adolescents who are permanently in the company of adults during their day-to-day activities.

The gender perspective was a cross-cutting component of the methodology design. This helped to identify different gender-based needs of men and women so that these would be understood and considered in all stages of the workshop. Within this framework, the following aspects were taken into account:

- Gender quotas in every activity
- Gender and age disaggregated data
- Understanding and raising awareness of the different experiences and life conditions of male and female migrants
- All-male, all-female, and mixed group activities
- Balanced male and female participation
- Gender-neutral language
- Understanding and raising awareness among the work team by explaining that men and women are not homogeneous groups, and that their interests and expectations depend on their life experience, age, social environment, etc.

Both workshops were designed to be run simultaneously in 2-3 hours on a single day. There were some changes made to the participatory appraisals that took place during the COVID-19 pandemic. Both participatory appraisal processes will be explained in the following sections.

### **Participatory Appraisals before the Pandemic**

The adult workshops were organized in three blocks, beginning with an individual analysis, and ending with a group analysis for identifying migrants' skills and abilities. The first session named "Person" aimed to recover individual knowledge that was later shared among participants. The second session named "Family-Community" allowed participants to identify problems and challenges, their causes and relationships, as well as actions that could be carried out to overcome them. It also allowed the mapping of key actors in the community environment as well as individual, family and community capacities. Finally, the third session named "Sharing" enabled the integration of the participants and the strengthening of support networks (See Table 1).



Photograph 1: Adult workshops (Source: *Diagnósticos Participativos Comunitarios con población en situación de movilidad humana*).

**Table 1: Adult workshop methodology before the pandemic**

ACTIVITY	OVERVIEW
WELCOME AND PRESENTATION	Welcoming of participants and presentation of the space for dialogue and reflection. Overview of the Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) scope and the importance of developing community processes within the CRE work.
INTEGRATION	Integration activity among migrants, volunteers, and members of the Provincial Board with the purpose of creating a trusting and relaxed environment.
APPRAISAL ACTIVITY	This activity aims to recognize and appreciate resilience and adaptation capacities in both migrant and host communities by sharing anecdotes related with the use of expressions and words that have different meanings in both countries.
<b>"PERSON" SESSION</b>	
KNOWLEDGE RECOVERY	Each participant is given a piece of paper and is asked to write individually 5 positive or negative situations encountered during their migratory journey from Venezuela to Ecuador.
KNOWLEDGE SHARING	Based on the "Stages of the Migrant Journey" method, this activity aims to place situations/experiences at each stage of the journey. It promotes a dialogue among participants guiding an analysis of each of their personal situations and their future prospects, especially for the return stage (situation and prospective analysis).
<b>"FAMILY-COMMUNITY" SESSION (participants were divided into three groups: all-male, all-female, and a mixed group)</b>	
PARTICIPATORY APPRAISAL	<p>The participatory appraisal seeks to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Identify problems, interests, and needs.</li> <li>2) Prioritize problems in descending order: from the most significant to the less significant.</li> <li>3) Analyse the situations that have been identified and find their causes and effects.</li> <li>4) Identify key actors that may facilitate the resolution to these problems or identify our own capacities to solve them.</li> <li>5) Share with all the participants the process and conclusions of each group.</li> </ol>
<b>"SHARING" SESSION</b>	
SHARING SNACKS AND CLOSURE	This activity helps to strengthen the social fabric and integration among participants.





Photograph 2: CHA Workshops  
(Source: *Experiencia piloto: diagnósticos participativos comunitarios con NNA en situación de movilidad humana*).



Photograph 3: CHA Workshops  
(Source: *Experiencia piloto: diagnósticos participativos comunitarios con NNA en situación de movilidad humana*).

On the other hand, the child and adolescent (CHA) workshop had a recreational and participative approach to generate a creative space and allowed CHA to imagine and explore the world around them. The workshop was organized in four sessions developed with the help of a short workbook. The “Person” session was focused on drawing activities to explore CHA perceptions of themselves, their emotions, and their families. The “Family-Community” session explored how CHA see school as their immediate environment. The “Context” session focused on how CHA perceived the host country, and finally, in the “Sharing” session, CHA shared their favourite Venezuelan games (See Table 2).

**Table 2: CHA workshop methodology before the pandemic**

ACTIVITY	OVERVIEW
WELCOME AND PRESENTATION	Short overview of the workshop
BEHAVIOUR	Behaviour rules
<b>"PERSON" SESSION</b>	
KNOWLEDGE RECOVERY	I draw me
KNOWLEDGE RECOVERY	I draw my family
KNOWLEDGE RECOVERY	Draw a happy memory
KNOWLEDGE RECOVERY	What makes us happy?
KNOWLEDGE RECOVERY	What makes us sad?
KNOWLEDGE RECOVERY	What makes us angry?
KNOWLEDGE RECOVERY	What are we scared of?
KNOWLEDGE RECOVERY	Health
BREAK	
<b>"FAMILY-COMMUNITY" SESSION</b>	
KNOWLEDGE RECOVERY	My environment
KNOWLEDGE RECOVERY	How do I feel at school?
<b>"CONTEXT" SESSION</b>	
KNOWLEDGE RECOVERY	How do I see Ecuador?
<b>"SHARING" SESSION</b>	
KNOWLEDGE RECOVERY	Venezuelan games
SHARING SNACKS AMONG PARTICIPANTS	

Before the beginning of every workshop, participants were informed about the following:

- The aims and methodology of the participatory appraisal and the confidentiality and use of the information that was going to be gathered, so as not to create false expectations regarding the solutions that would be identified.
- Voluntary participation: a participant could leave the process at any given time if he/she wished to do so.
- Freedom to share what they decided to, with tolerance and respect to other people's opinions. In addition, participants did not have to provide any information that made them feel uncomfortable or revive memories of traumatic experiences.
- The identity of the facilitating team and office staff.

Moreover, letters of consent were signed by migrant adults, children, and adolescents.

## ***Participatory appraisals during the pandemic***

Several measures were taken in this new pandemic context to ensure the participants' biosafety. The Maslow's hierarchy of needs was incorporated into the PA method to show the multidimensional nature of problems, needs and barriers faced by the migrant population, which are mainly based on unmet physiological needs, but expand to other issues related to safety, self-esteem, and self-fulfilment. Additionally, a space was included to provide information about prevention measures against COVID-19, raise awareness of mental health and self-recognition, and give feedback on the information gathered during the previous appraisals.

**Table 3: Adult workshop methodology during the pandemic**

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>OVERVIEW</b>
<b>WELCOME AND PRESENTATION</b>	Welcoming of participants by the CRE human mobility focal point. Short overview of the Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) scope and about the importance and steps of the participatory appraisal process.
<b>MEASURES COVID-19</b>	Use of masks and hand washing.
<b>RESILIENCE / SELF-ESTEEM ACTIVITY</b>	<p>"Who is the most important person in the world for you?" After participants answer this question, the facilitator says: "I have a magic box. If you look inside you will be able to see the most important person in the world".</p> <p>Participants are asked to look inside the magic box and then return to their seats without telling anyone what they saw (no one can talk after looking inside the box).</p> <p>After everybody has finished, the facilitator asks: "Who was the most important person we saw in that magic box? How does it feel to find out that you are the most important person?"</p>
<b>FEEDBACK</b>	Giving feedback on the main findings and collecting feedback from participants.
<b>"PERSON" SESSION</b>	
<b>KNOWLEDGE RECOVERY</b>	<p>Each participant is given a worksheet of communication channels and 4 stickers.</p> <p>Participants are asked to stick the stickers on the communication channels they prefer to use.</p> <p>Following the "COVID Stages" method, the facilitator initiates a conversation about the information needs at each stage of the response to the pandemic.</p>

<b>"COMMUNITY" SESSION</b>	
<b>KNOWLEDGE RECOVERY</b>	<p>1. IDENTIFYING PROBLEMS - MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What problems/interests/needs does the person/community have? What is the specific problem?</li> <li>• How are these problems visible in the community?</li> </ul> <p>2. IDENTIFYING ACTORS - MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping of key actors. Identifying and prioritizing internal and external actors.</li> </ul> <p>Using the Ecomap tool</p> <p>3. RECOGNITION OF SKILLS - MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognition of individual and community capacities to cope with the crisis.</li> </ul>
<b>FEEDBACK</b>	
<b>FEEDBACK</b>	<p>Assessment of the participatory appraisal.</p> <p>Participants are given post-it notes to stick on a flipchart answering to these questions: "How did I feel when I arrived at the session? How did I feel during the session? How do I feel after the session?"</p> <p>The activity becomes a cathartic experience where participants can express their feelings and emotions. The impact of the group work on each of the participants is assessed during this feedback.</p>
<b>"SHARING" SESSION</b>	
<b>SHARING SNACKS AND CLOSURE</b>	<p>This activity helps to strengthen the social fabric and integration among participants.</p>

The CHA workshops focused on knowledge recovery. The aim was to learn about their situation during and after the COVID-19 lockdown.

**Table 4: CHA workshop methodology during the pandemic**

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>OVERVIEW</b>
WELCOME AND PRESENTATION	Short overview of the workshop
MEASURES COVID-19	Use of masks and hand washing
BEHAVIOUR	Behaviour rules
<b>"PERSON" SESSION - During lockdown</b>	
KNOWLEDGE RECOVERY	Learning about how CHA perceive themselves during lockdown
KNOWLEDGE RECOVERY	Determining the CHA relationship circle during lockdown

KNOWLEDGE RECOVERY	Voicing their experiences during lockdown
KNOWLEDGE RECOVERY	Identifying unfavourable dynamics/situations faced by CHA during lockdown
KNOWLEDGE RECOVERY	Identifying unfavourable dynamics/situations faced by CHA during lockdown
KNOWLEDGE RECOVERY	Identifying unfavourable dynamics/situations faced by CHA during lockdown
KNOWLEDGE RECOVERY	Learning about how CHA perceive their own health during lockdown
KNOWLEDGE RECOVERY	Learning about the CHA perception of their environment during lockdown. Identifying risk factors and negative experiences during lockdown.
<b>"PERSON" SESSION - After lockdown</b>	
KNOWLEDGE RECOVERY	How do I see the world after lockdown?
<b>"SHARING" SESSION</b>	
SHARING SNACKS AMONG PARTICIPANTS	

#### d. Facilitator Training

The workshop facilitators were members of the Provincial Board teams. They have a close and trusting relationship with the migrant population which enabled them to engage in a horizontal and empathic dialogue with the participants and carry out knowledge recovery activities. Each facilitator team received training in the appropriate use of the method. The CHA workshops were organized by volunteers trained in Psychosocial Support (PS) and preferentially with experience working with migrant population.

#### e. Call for Participation and Participant Profile

The call was issued with the help of the Provincial Boards. They also contacted other humanitarian organizations which helped to locate the migrant population willing to participate in the workshops. Additionally, the credibility and trust gained by the Red Cross among migrants helped to succeed in this process.

Participants were invited and their participation was confirmed via phone calls, WhatsApp, and text messaging, which according to the *Evaluación Regional de Necesidades de Información y Comunicación* (R4V, 2019) is one of the preferred channels of communication among the migrant population in Ecuador<sup>12</sup>.

Before the pandemic, the three workshops were attended by 69 adults and 54 CHA. More than half of participants were female (61%): women, mainly aged 18-39, and adolescent and girls aged 6-17. Male participation was lower (39%) and consisted of men aged 18-39 and children under 12 years old<sup>13</sup>.

<sup>12</sup> R4V. (2019). Evaluación regional de necesidades de información y comunicación.

<sup>13</sup> CRUZ ROJA ECUATORIANA. (2020f). Diagnósticos participativos comunitarios con población migrante

Two participant profiles were identified: 1) Population planning to settle in Ecuador, with more than six months within the country and hoping to stay on a permanent basis; 2) And population on the move: with 3-15 days within the country, on their journey to Peru or Chile and with limited access to public services and humanitarian assistance<sup>14</sup>.

As for the workshops carried out during the pandemic, these were attended by a total of 57 adults and 29 CHA. This is a predominantly young population, mainly aged 18-39, who are planning to settle in Ecuador on a permanent basis and have been within the country for more than nine months. This group has professional skills, and secondary and higher education; however, they mostly have informal jobs and/or work in the care sector<sup>15</sup>.

The following measures were taken in terms of information privacy and data protection:

- Letter of consent
- Personal data request form
- Sensitive data must not be shared by participants<sup>16</sup>
- Opinions, experiences, and comments shared by participants remain anonymous.

## **f. Systematization of findings**

The results from the workshops were processed by the CRE. A report was produced for each of the participatory appraisals (in March and September 2020) including results and possible actions to be carried out.

## **g. Use of information collected**

The feedback cycle included the processing of the information collected from the workshops as well as a meeting with the CRE team to present, analyse, prioritize and define the best mechanisms to respond to the findings in terms of programming. Finally, this information was returned to the participants in a meeting. Due to the pandemic situation, the feedback on the first workshops was provided later within the workshops carried out during the pandemic.

The CRE is planning to organize a workshop at their headquarters to analyse the second participatory appraisal in order to adjust the multidimensional response and include key actors on the basis of the workshop results.

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<sup>14</sup> CRUZ ROJA ECUATORIANA. (2020f). Diagnósticos participativos comunitarios con población migrante.

<sup>15</sup> CRUZ ROJA ECUATORIANA. (2020e). Diagnósticos participativos comunitarios con población en situación de movilidad humana y visitas de contextualización en las provincias de Azuay, Guayas, Santa Elena y Pichincha

<sup>16</sup> Sensitive data: Personally identifiable information that affects the privacy of a person and if compromised may lead to discrimination. It includes any data that reveals union memberships, racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious, moral or philosophical beliefs, involvement in social or human rights organizations, political parties and opposition political parties, as well as data concerning health or a natural person's sex life, and biometric data.

### 3. RESULTS

An overall result of implementing the community participatory appraisal is that currently the Ecuadorean Red Cross has a new and validated method to be able to listen to the voices of the migrant population they work with and provide assistance to. This participative and recreational methodology complements other methods and may be applied and adapted to any other intervention and target population.

The most relevant results of the dialogue process with the migrant population are as follows:

- The collection and analysis of gender and age disaggregated data helped to identify the differentiated migrants' perceptions of their problems. According to the male population, xenophobia is the main problem faced by migrant<sup>17</sup>, while for women, in addition to xenophobia, there are other serious problems such as inequitable aid from organizations, gender-based violence, and lack of access to quality social services, among others<sup>18</sup>.
- Both men and women affirm that the problems they are facing are characterised by violent episodes aggravated by the lack of care and protection services. On one hand, "soccer fans"<sup>19</sup> attack men and assault women and girls. Gender-based violence is unseen, and there is a sexualization of girls that expose them to different types of violence. On the other hand, the dangers posed by illegal migration routes cause fatalities during the journey – corpses end up abandoned on the ground with no biosafety measures taken, and children and adolescents witness these tragic events. There is also a lack of clear protocols for protecting and travelling with children, adolescents, and people with disabilities. Moreover, the standards of humanitarian aid are poor, which may have various causes: staff fatigue, an ineffective humanitarian response that does not consider the migrants' differentiated needs, and the migrants' own perception of the poor organization and corruption of the NGOs that participate in the humanitarian response; it seems that selection criteria are not shared with the migrant population, there is a lack of transparency and accountability, and false expectations are being created among this population<sup>20</sup>.
- Migrants' memories from their journey from Venezuela to Ecuador include accidents and violence during the journey, poor working conditions, xenophobia and exclusion, feelings of loneliness and abandonment, muggings and loss of documents and, on the positive side, the experience of knowing new places and being reunited with their families<sup>21</sup>.
- Migrants' information needs vary according to the stage of the journey. For instance, when leaving Venezuela, they need to know the exit requirements and costs for adults, children and adolescents. As for the migratory journey, they reported the need of information about the weather, potential risks and threats, how to send money to Venezuela, route maps, schedules, assistance points, job opportunities, recommendations against swindlers, access to health systems, where to report muggings and situations of violence, access to public and NGOs services and costs, and information about "soccer fans".



<sup>17</sup> They consider xenophobia to be the main cause of their lack of work, which leads to frustration and domestic violence. Marín, M.J. (15 July 2020). Diagnósticos Participativos Comunitarios con población en situación de movilidad humana [Case Study Presentation]. Webinar - Cases from IFRC Peru and the Ecuadorean NS.

<sup>18</sup> CRUZ ROJA ECUATORIANA. (2020a). Diagnósticos Participativos Comunitarios con población en situación de movilidad humana.

<sup>19</sup> "Soccer fans" are groups of more than 5 people wearing soccer uniforms that attack Venezuelan migrants during the migratory journey.

<sup>20</sup> CRUZ ROJA ECUATORIANA. (2020a). Diagnósticos Participativos Comunitarios con población en situación de movilidad humana.

<sup>21</sup> CRUZ ROJA ECUATORIANA. (2020a). Diagnósticos Participativos Comunitarios con población en situación de movilidad humana.



Photograph 5: Adult workshops  
(Source: *Diagnósticos Participativos Comunitarios con población en situación de movilidad humana*).

In the country of transit or final destination, the most relevant information needs are about the access to services and administrative procedures, such as access to health services, prices of basic products and services, procedures for the validation of studies and degrees, job opportunities and general information about employment, organizations that provide services to migrants, labour laws and landlord-tenant laws. As for their return journey, migrants need information about administrative procedures for returning home, humanitarian corridors, safe migratory routes, assistance points, and services provided by organizations<sup>22</sup>. Finally, during the pandemic, migrants ask about information of home remedies against COVID-19, and useful information to tackle rumours and fake news.

- Facebook, WhatsApp, and word of mouth are the main sources of information used by migrants. They don't read booklets, guides or newspapers and they don't listen to the radio either<sup>23</sup>. It is worth noting that national TV, local radio, and digital newspapers have become more relevant during the pandemic<sup>24</sup>.
- The government and the NGOs are the key actors identified by the migrant population. Particularly, NGOs are highly recognised by this population. Enterprises and the host community also play an important role<sup>25</sup>. Churches/religious organizations and migrant associations or groups have gained relevance among the migrant population that is planning to settle in the country<sup>26</sup>.
- A capacity mapping was carried out to identify problems and find solutions. There is some reluctance to knowledge sharing and learning new things among this migrant population.

<sup>22</sup> Migrants are robbed at knifepoint and wounded, and women and girls are assaulted.<sup>22</sup> CRUZ ROJA ECUATORIANA. (2020a). *Diagnósticos Participativos Comunitarios con población en situación de movilidad humana*.

<sup>23</sup> CRUZ ROJA ECUATORIANA. (2020a). *Diagnósticos Participativos Comunitarios con población en situación de movilidad humana*.

<sup>24</sup> CRUZ ROJA ECUATORIANA. (2020e). *Diagnósticos participativos comunitarios con población en situación de movilidad humana y visitas de contextualización en las provincias de Azuay, Guayas, Santa Elena y Pichincha*.

<sup>25</sup> CRUZ ROJA ECUATORIANA. (2020a). *Diagnósticos Participativos Comunitarios con población en situación de movilidad humana*.

<sup>26</sup> CRUZ ROJA ECUATORIANA. (2020e). *Diagnósticos participativos comunitarios con población en situación de movilidad humana y visitas de contextualización en las provincias de Azuay, Guayas, Santa Elena y Pichincha*.



Other issues included the need to collect objective data in order to fight stereotypes and xenophobia; to create support networks to cope with feelings of loneliness; unemployment and job searching; access to housing; and being able to organize themselves<sup>27</sup>.

- It became clear that the migrant population has been significantly affected by the pandemic. Not only has the pandemic situation reduced livelihoods opportunities and sources of income, but it has also increased feelings of loneliness, frustration, fear, stress, and despair among migrants. It is worth noting that cultural differences were widely discussed during the workshops, becoming a relevant topic to understand the interrelationships between the migrant population and the host community<sup>28</sup>.
- The CHA workshops showed that Venezuelan nuclear families attending the sessions have an average of 4 members. CHA see happiness as being with their families and play<sup>29</sup>. The gender-based approach showed that there is a high percentage of girls that are not attending school and they are using social media at a very young age, since girls indicated that they receive criticism via social media. As for boys, they reported physical pain, especially on their knees<sup>30</sup>. Both genders fear death. Girls are scared of losing their relatives, and boys fear death and blood<sup>31</sup>. It is clear that this population experiences feelings of sadness created by issues such as parents' illness, family separation, child maltreatment, and being alone<sup>32</sup>. They get upset for being battered and shouted at, getting the blame, fighting with other children, and not being in their country<sup>33</sup>.



Photograph 6: CHA Workshops

(Source: *Experiencia piloto: diagnósticos participativos comunitarios con NNA en situación de movilidad humana*).

<sup>27</sup> CRUZ ROJA ECUATORIANA. (2020a). Diagnósticos Participativos Comunitarios con población en situación de movilidad humana.

<sup>28</sup> CRUZ ROJA ECUATORIANA. (2020e). Diagnósticos participativos comunitarios con población en situación de movilidad humana y visitas de contextualización en las provincias de Azuay, Guayas, Santa Elena y Pichincha.

<sup>29</sup> CRUZ ROJA ECUATORIANA. (2020d). Experiencia piloto: diagnósticos participativos comunitarios con NNA en situación de movilidad humana.

<sup>30</sup> CRUZ ROJA ECUATORIANA. (2020d). Experiencia piloto: diagnósticos participativos comunitarios con NNA en situación de movilidad humana.

<sup>31</sup> CRUZ ROJA ECUATORIANA. (2020d). Experiencia piloto: diagnósticos participativos comunitarios con NNA en situación de movilidad humana.

<sup>32</sup> CRUZ ROJA ECUATORIANA. (2020d). Experiencia piloto: diagnósticos participativos comunitarios con NNA en situación de movilidad humana.

<sup>33</sup> CRUZ ROJA ECUATORIANA. (2020d). Experiencia piloto: diagnósticos participativos comunitarios con NNA en situación de movilidad humana.

## 4. LESSONS LEARNT

- The involvement of the Provincial Board teams in the overall process allowed them to make contributions to the definition of the methodology and the call for participation. They also led the workshop facilitation. Their knowledge of the region and the trust and credibility they have gained from the migrant population was a determining factor of success. However, it should be considered that their leading role in the workshops might eventually compromise their relationship with the target population, especially when time comes to make decisions based on the participatory appraisal results. Their decision-making power might be beyond their sphere of influence, or they might not be able to give a timely feedback to the migrant population. Due to the pandemic situation, these issues have not been defined yet, but they will be addressed in the very short term.
- Inviting partner institutions/organizations that work with migrants within the region to be part of the participatory appraisal adds value, not only in terms of the call, but also in terms of their support for organizing the workshops. However, it is important to evaluate which institutions should be invited to avoid a potential confrontation with the migrant population due to the poor services provided by such institutions.
- Sharing the results from the participatory appraisal within the organization and with other key partners that work with this population within the country is an urgent task. It is important to have an impact on every aspect that requires immediate attention concerning the migrant population, which not only depends on CRE efforts.
- The National Society and the Provincial Boards have worked as a team to design and implement the community participatory appraisal. This has allowed local teams to work with the Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approach and gain a better understanding of its importance within the work they do in different programmes, and not only in the matter of migration.
- The experience of organizing a differentiated workshop for children and adolescents has provided an insight into their perceptions, feelings, and daily life. This has helped to define strategic differentiated actions of recreational nature focused on this group.
- Specific actions have been adjusted to the migrant population based on the results of the workshops. For instance, the identification of information needs enabled specific information to be updated, such as the pocket leaflet on human mobility, the mapping of services for migrant population, and the redesign of the CEA Blog focused on human mobility. New communication materials have also been produced, such as information capsules for migrant population and the host community, and recreational spaces have been set up for migrant children and adolescents<sup>34</sup>.

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<sup>34</sup> Marín, M.J. (Personal communication, 20 October 2020).

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# ANNEX

## Testimonials – CRE Community Participatory-Appraisal Case Study

### HOW DID I FEEL WHEN I ARRIVE AT THE SESSION?

*"I had many doubts. I was wondering if I would be listened to and if I would get help with some of my needs".*

Isaura, 38

*"I was happy to know a new place, to learn and understand new cultures".*

Angie, 28

### HOW DID I FEEL DURING THE SESSION?

*"I felt good because they listened to all of our needs and to what we have experienced during the pandemic".*

Lesber, 27

*"I felt listened to, my doubts were resolved. I was able to express my ideas and my knowledge, in the hope that some misunderstood situations can be resolved in the future".*

María, 37

### HOW DO I FEEL AFTER THE SESSION?

*"With a lot of faith and hope that we will be considered for future workshops. I also feel relieved that I was listened to because I am under stress".*

Josué, 27

*"I am confident that with your help our stay will be more comfortable. You are a great team".*

Andrea, 23

# **THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

## **Humanity**

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

## **Impartiality**

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

## **Neutrality**

In order to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

## **Independence**

The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

## **Voluntary service**

It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

## **Unity**

There can be only one Red Cross or Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

## **Universality**

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.



**The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 14 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

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