

REVIEW PAPER

THE MIGRATION CRISIS IN THE MODERN WORLD AND THE ROLE OF THE IOM IN THE MIGRATION PROCESS

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ABSTRACT

Spatial mobility of the population is at the center of the sphere of global interest, considering that migration is a constant of every society whose causes can be economic, religious, ethnic or political. Migration has become one of the key global problems of the modern world, and the aim of the paper is to explain their complex economic, social, political and cultural problems and to understand the basic causes and consequences of international migration. In many Western countries, the practice is that the policy must be aimed not only at limiting the number of migrants entering the country, but also at implementing certain security measures. The fight against illegal migration requires an effective policy of return and readmission of illegal migrants. However, the concrete activities undertaken on the issue of migration in South Sudan from 2013 to 2015 illustrate the commitment to solving the complex challenges of migration in crisis environments, especially by IOM, which should serve as a good example to all other organizations globally.

Keywords: Migration, Globalization, Crisis, IOM, South Sudan**MAP SOCIAL SCIENCES**

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1. INTRODUCTION AND LITERATURE REVIEW

Migration is a constant in every society, the causes of which can be economic, religious, ethnic or political, and in the crisis that has escalated in Europe in the last few years, all the mentioned causes are evident. This global process of migration is considered the biggest threat to Europe in recent times, which represents a great challenge for all states, as well as state and humanitarian organizations. The crisis is the result of events in the Middle East, where many people emigrated and sought refuge on European soil.

Migration essentially represents the survival instinct of every living being, given that adaptability and mobility have always connected living beings in search of better living conditions or as an escape from danger and insecurity. Migrations, whether of long or short distance or duration, are central to the human experience. They represent a change in the living space, a change in association, society, norms and customs and culture. They can be divided according to several factors such as duration, distance, cause and the like. According to the duration, we distinguish between temporary and permanent migration, but sometimes it is very difficult to determine which type it is, given that the migrants themselves are not sure whether they will return or not, especially because it was not their wish, but they were forced to leave their homes. Sometimes decision is not belonging to migrants, and it is made by leaders of the family or wider community (Manning, 2020).

Countries that accept migrants strive to provide living conditions for basic human needs and life, even though the citizens of those countries feel fear and intolerance towards migrants. On the other hand, migrants are also in an unenviable position considering the uncertainty of their movement and non-acceptance by certain countries. The causes of migration are often cited as push-pull factors (Lee, 1966), i.e. pushing and pulling factors, whereas push factors are cited conditions that can force people to leave their homes and related to the country (poverty, hunger, fear from political persecution, natural disasters, poor health care system, etc.). Opposite of them is pull factors that attract people to a certain location, such as better living conditions, guaranteed political or religious freedom, a better health care system, and the like.

A special challenge during the migrant crisis is represented by different policies and approaches

to the actions of migrants arriving on European soil. The media reported daily that German Chancellor Angela Merkel advocated an "open door" policy for a certain period (Horn, 2015), while on the other hand, German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere told transit countries to slow down the flow of migrants to Germany. (Eddy et al., 2015). The most important aspect of migration adopted by the European Union is the focus on preventing migrants from reaching the territory of the Union in the first place (Mitsilegas, 2015).

The European Union did not show the best response to the migrant crisis, as evidenced by the public appearances in the media by the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, who points out that the migrant crisis is what causes tensions between the member states of the European Union and neighboring countries. He also emphasized the necessity of coordinated action (Mikac, Dragovic, 2017). This is supported by the statements of the Commissioner for Migration, Internal Affairs and Citizenship, Dimitris Avramopoulos, who points out that the European Union was founded to provide its citizens with an area of freedom, security and justice without internal borders (European Commission, 2016). The internal security of one-member state means the internal security of all member states. The analysis of questions about the political economy of migration policy in Europe cannot ignore the questions of politics, religion, ethnic and cultural characteristics and they must be considered when considering the state of migration (Hillman, 1994).

The common European migration policy is an area that requires the development of partnerships with the countries from which migrants come, the achievement of the principle of fair treatment of citizens of third countries and the management of migration flows. It is also necessary to cooperate with transit countries on a comprehensive approach to migration to fight poverty, prevent conflicts and ensure better living conditions. Migration has become one of the key global problems of the modern world, and the aim of the work is to highlight and explain their complex economic, social, political and cultural problems and to look at the basic causes and consequences of international migration.

In many Western countries, the practice is that the policy must be aimed not only at limiting the number of migrants entering the country, but also at implementing certain security measures.

The fight against illegal migration requires an effective policy of return and readmission of illegal migrants. Migration is a macro economically relevant political issue at the global level. Better management of the external borders is necessary to address the current migration challenges, and all measures should be taken to ensure enough legal ways to enter the EU. The member states of the European Union asked Macedonia to stop the influx of migrants, as a large number came from Greece, to protect the European Union. There are four areas of migration management, namely migration and development, enabling migration, regulating migration and addressing forced migration, with the most important issue being labor migration. Current trends indicate that Europe, that is, the entire area of the European Union, will have an influx of many migrants and that managing the mentioned problem will be one of the priorities of the European Union. In this regard, the European Union must develop an efficient and fair migration policy that will be adapted to future challenges, and in addition, the management of external borders must be strengthened, then the networks of human traffickers and people smuggling must be broken, and a strong EU asylum policy and the introduction more legal ways of arrival for asylum seekers and more efficient legal channels for legal migrants (International Organization for Migration, 2024).

Due to the complexity of the problem of migration, and its presence and importance in the study of social movements in the modern world, it is necessary to synthesize previous knowledge and practices and create new ones that will serve as SOP-Standard Operating Procedure- in the future. Migration, like any other complex social process, has its own genesis with causes and consequences, as well as specifics according to the time and place of origin. So far, research on migration has mostly related to individual migration flows, but given that they have proven to be insufficient, it would be necessary to conduct research that will focus on the social changes within the countries that migration has brought, and then investigate the existing reactions of the countries on migrations and based on these studies, plan future mechanisms of the state's response. The purpose of that research would be multiple, considering that it will make a great contribution to science and literature, considering that every state and humanitarian institution that has a role in the migration process will have clearly defined guidelines in acting as a kind of referral pathway.

2. RESEARCH METHODS

The methodology of researching the phenomenon of migration is a challenge, given that in this situation it is very difficult to distinguish which qualitative or quantitative methods are the most effective in researching the migration process. It is considered that quantitative methods do not provide enough descriptive data, and it is best to combine them with qualitative ones, although the situation in the migration process is very unpredictable, so it is difficult to predict anything.

In order to better understand the migration process itself, it is necessary to take into account and examine the different policies and processes of action of individual countries in relation to the migrant crisis that has affected the entire world since 2015. Some international or state actors of the countries most affected by the migration crisis should be analyzed, where the policies and mechanisms that were applied during the migration crisis should be compared. It would also be necessary to review and compare the response plans of the country in the event of an increased influx of migrants, and to define its weaknesses with recommendations for improving the plan.

The concept of this paper explains the concept and types of migration, policies and mechanisms that some states use in response to the migrant crisis. During the research, a combination of several scientific methods will be used, i.e. methods of description and analysis. On this occasion, an international organization whose main task is to respond to the everyday challenges of migration will be presented, and the results of its work in South Sudan in the period 2013-2015 will be presented.

3. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION - IOM

Migrations, both voluntary and forced, have always been a significant aspect of human history. In recent decades, globalization, economic disparity, conflicts and climate change have intensified migration trends, making them a complex global phenomenon. In this context, international organizations play a key role in managing and solving challenges related to migration. Among the most important organizations, IOM stands out as a key actor related to migration.

Migration is an everyday event and process that has an impact on the global labor market and

workforce. They represent a great challenge for all state actors, as well as for international organizations dealing with migration issues. Due to the events in the Middle East, there was a major migration crisis in Europe, which many saw as a refuge and expected the states to take care of them. Although Europe is not to blame for the events that led to migration, it is still expected to respond to this challenge. International migration mainly occurs in three forms: legal or free migration of individuals who want to change their country and place of residence in accordance with the law and regulations; forced migration where individuals are fleeing persecution or due to violation of basic human rights; illegal migration refers to illegal border crossing or illegal stay in a certain country (Rischard, 2005).

Given that the European Union has its ups and downs, expectations are too high for individual member states to cope with the influx of migrants on their own, and for this reason, most member states received very few migrants. The member countries that made an outstanding contribution to migration are Germany, Sweden and Italy. According to the "open door" principle, Germany invited migrants, while Sweden received the largest number of migrants in relation to the number of inhabitants (Albarosa & Elsner, 2022). In Italy, there is a large influx of migrants to its shores almost every day.

Given that there were no clearly defined guidelines, mechanisms and policies, individual countries of the Western Balkans approached this problem in their own way, to facilitate the passage of migrants. Although it was clear that the migrants were "passing" through certain countries, and that they had no intention of staying, certain countries had surprising reactions, such as the barbed wire set up by Hungary towards Serbia and Croatia, Slovenia towards Croatia, Austria towards Slovenia, while certain countries transported migrants across their territory. The member states of the European Union asked Macedonia to stop the influx of migrants, as a large number came from Greece, to protect the European Union (Galpin, 2016).

IOM estimates that in 2000 there were around 150 million migrants in the world, in 2010 around 214 million, and they predict that by 2050 that number will grow to 405 million (International Organization for Migration, 2010). As an international organization for migration, IOM, together with its partners, helps the migration process by responding to the operational challenges of migra-

tion, working to improve the issues and challenges that arise during migration, encouraging social and economic development with the help of migration, protecting human dignity and the well-being of migrants.

The IOM was created in 1951 because of the displacement of Western Europe after the Second World War and was called the Provisional International Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe (PICMME). The mandate was to help European countries identify countries of immigration for an estimated 11 million people displaced by the war, and they arranged the transport of nearly a million migrants during the 1950s. In 1952, it changed its name to the International Committee for European Migration (ICEM), and in 1980 to the International Committee for Migration (ICM), and only in 1989 it received the name International Organization for Migration (IOM). It had its roots as an operational logistics agency, and has expanded its reach to become a leading international organization working with governments and civil society to advance understanding of migration issues, foster social and economic development through migration, and support the human dignity and well-being of migrants. There are currently 173 member states and another 8 states that have observer status (IOM, 2024).

Given that there is no universally accepted definition of a migrant at the international level, the IOM has developed a definition for its own purposes that *reflects the common understanding of a person who moves away from his or her habitual residence, either within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for various reasons* (IOM, 2024).

This term includes numerous well-defined legal categories of people, such as migrant workers, persons whose specific types of movement are legally defined, such as smuggled migrants, as well as those whose status or mode of movement is not specifically defined by international law, such as international students.

IOM has many active projects whose activities relate to all areas related to the promotion of migrants' rights and their protection, migrants' health, and the gender dimension of migration.

IOM's purpose in labor migration is to facilitate the development of policies and programs that individually and mutually benefit governments,

migrants and the societies to which they relate: provide effective protection and support services to migrant workers and their families; promote economic and social development and promote legal forms of labor mobility as an alternative to illegal migration. IOM's labor migration programs include strengthening the capacity of authorities; guiding migrants before departure, raising awareness and providing information; facilitation of bilateral labor agreements and implementation of labor migration programs; improving the impact of labor migration on development; assistance in international dialogue and cooperation (IOM Handbook, 2015).

IOM helps strengthen the capacity of countries that seek to adopt policies and laws for the employment of migrants, while establishing protections for migrants. Given that many migrants are unprepared before leaving, IOM helps them overcome certain difficulties, and thus organizes certain courses for migrants that will help them to integrate as easily as possible in the countries of destination. They also actively work to raise migrants' awareness of risks and realities and improve access to information. They also help countries in need of labor to conclude bilateral agreements with partner countries or to develop related programs.

In partnership with other international and regional organizations, IOM promotes dialogue on migration issues with the aim of exchanging information and experiences and finding best practices to be applied in the future.

Therefore, it can be concluded that the primary role of the IOM is to enable orderly and humane migration. This is achieved through a multifaceted approach that includes policy development, capacity building, direct assistance, research and advocacy. The IOM works closely with all international organizations, civil societies, but also with the migrants themselves to solve the various challenges posed by migration.

One of the key activities of the IOM is aiding migrants, including refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), and this assistance ranges from emergency assistance to long-term resettlement and reintegration programs. Also, IOM plays a key role in managing migration flows, promoting legal migration routes and fighting human trafficking and migrant smuggling. This organization is also involved in political dialogue with the aim of advocating that migration remain a priority on the global agenda and to ensure that the rights of migrants are protected.

3.1 The Role and Significance of IOM in South Sudan (2013.-2015.)

South Sudan, as one of the youngest countries in the world, has been struggling with significant migration challenges since gaining independence in 2011. The period from 2013-2015 was particularly turbulent, marked by internal conflicts, political instability and humanitarian crises, where IOM played a key role in responding to the dynamics of migration in South Sudan.

In December 2013, conflict, violence and food insecurity erupted in South Sudan, displacing more than 2.2 million people within the country and into neighboring countries, leaving millions more in need of humanitarian assistance. The International Organization for Migration (IOM), which was already active in South Sudan before the crisis, has responded quickly to the rapidly growing humanitarian needs and continues to implement an integrated, multidisciplinary approach to resettle displaced and conflict-affected populations across the country.

One of the primary focuses of IOM in South Sudan was aiding internally displaced persons and refugees. The outbreak of conflict in December 2013 led to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people who left their homelands in search of safety. IOM, in cooperation with other UN and humanitarian agencies, reacted quickly to ensure shelter, food, water and health care for the affected population.

IOM responds to humanitarian needs throughout South Sudan through the following program areas: camp coordination and camp management, migration management, health protection program, migration management, psychosocial support, logistics, rapid response fund, shelter/non-food items, as well as the WASH program.

Camp coordination represents the coordination of activities in UN camps, where civilians have sought refuge, and represents the provision of life-saving services to internally displaced persons, shelters in displaced places throughout South Sudan. IOM serves as the main point of contact in the most vulnerable areas of South Sudan and collects data on displacement.

IOM is also in charge of logistics for IDPs, which is a major challenge as conflicts and seasonal hazards in South Sudan make logistics a complicated undertaking. During the rainy season, more than 60 percent of the country is cut off from

passenger travel, and access organization often disrupts logistical activities due to violence.

Years of war and armed conflict in South Sudan have led to the complete collapse of the country's healthcare system, with more than 4.6 million people in need of healthcare in 2015 alone. The goal of the IOM health initiative is to improve the well-being of migrants, mobile populations and communities affected by migration. The programs cover a range of issues including new and emerging infectious diseases, malaria and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. To reach remote populations or respond to sudden disease outbreaks, IOM has rapid response teams in health.

When it comes to psychosocial impact, experiences of violence, displacement and imprisonment among IDPs have contributed to emotional instability in the entire community. IOM administers a program of providing psychosocial assistance to internally displaced persons, with a focus on youth and adults, at the location of the UN camps, where internally displaced persons sought refuge.

IOM, in collaboration with other partners, has the capacity to quickly implement specific emergency interventions that respond to the immediate needs of the affected population. Since the crisis erupted in December 2013, IOM has deployed more than 50 mobile teams to distribute shelter and relief materials, conduct assessments and register households for assistance. To reach populations cut off from humanitarian aid due to conflict and restricted access, IOM works with other partners to provide life-saving survival kits. Lightweight, easily portable kits can include mosquito nets, seeds, fishing tackle, water containers, water purification tablets, dehydration salts, nutritional biscuits and kitchen sets.

Organization also implements the WASH program, which establishes, rehabilitates and uses water systems in UN camps to ensure that internally displaced persons have access to safe drinking water. They also establish and maintain toilets and other sanitation facilities to ensure access to safe and hygienic living environments.

IOM is committed to promoting the humane and orderly movement of people across borders by regulating migration and protecting migrants within state borders. In South Sudan, IOM works closely with the government, humanitarian and development partners and migrants to improve migration

management. Organization offers policy guidance, supports institutional capacity building and works to improve immigration and border management. In addition, IOM supports voluntary assisted return and provides support to vulnerable and crisis-affected migrants. IOM South Sudan receives technical guidance and support from IOM headquarters in Geneva and the regional office in Nairobi, as well as from the IOM Africa Center for Capacity Building in Tanzania.

South Sudan inherited one of the weakest border and migration management regimes in Africa after its independence in 2011. From 2010 to 2014, IOM conducted a general assessment of the country's migration management regime and carried out 16 border assessments, which showed that South Sudan suffers from a chronic lack of infrastructure, equipment, training, policies, processes and coordination. These challenges significantly affect the country's ability to promote humane and orderly migration and pose a threat to the achievement of regional security goals.

In this regard, IOM has developed a strong partnership with the Ministry of Interior of the Government of South Sudan – in particular the Directorate of Citizenship, Passports and Immigration (DNPI) – to improve immigration and border management practices and policies. IOM's capacity-building approach seeks to develop South Sudan's immigration policy and operational capacity in line with international standards.

Some of the achievements include the construction of land border crossings, the construction of an immigration training academy, training of police on migration management, installation of a border management information system at Juba International Airport and the development of South Sudan's immigration policy and procedures into a handbook, as well as immigration training in South Sudan.

Since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005, South Sudan has become a transit and destination country for migrants from the East and the Horn of Africa. The different economic opportunities in South Sudan and the demand for skilled and unskilled labor are the main drivers of migrants traveling to South Sudan. In the process, some were sold or smuggled into South Sudan, leading to irregular status in the country and contributing to migrants' vulnerability and exploitation. Most of these migrants mainly

contribute to the local economy and at the same time send part of their savings to their families back home.

When the crisis erupted on December 15, 2013, millions of people in South Sudan were displaced within South Sudan and beyond its borders. Since 2011, IOM has worked closely with the Government of South Sudan and UN and NGO partners to address illegal migration through capacity building and training and assistance to victims of trafficking and other vulnerable migrants, including those affected by the current crisis. Cooperation was achieved with international partners, including the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the World Food Program (WFP), to coordinate humanitarian aid and ensure a coherent response to the crisis. These agencies made joint assessments, exchanged information and coordinated interventions, to facilitate the life of internally displaced persons in the given conditions, which at that time were extremely inhumane.

IOM has also established a Transition and Recovery Unit that develops programs that address the root causes of instability and conflict in South Sudan through a community peacebuilding and conflict mitigation strategy.

Existing transition and recovery programs promote dialogue, strengthen local economies by facilitating trade and income-generating projects, build or rehabilitate key infrastructure, and support the dissemination of messages of peace and impartial reporting through the mass media.

A rehabilitation initiative is also active in South Sudan, which aims to mitigate the risks of conflict and promote recovery. The initiative was launched in January 2013 in response to the illicit needs arising from the armed conflict surrounding South Sudan's independence referendum in 2011 and the long-term tensions between the Nuer and Dinka tribes.

After the security situation in certain parts of South Sudan stabilized and improved, IOM played a key role in enabling the return and reintegration of displaced persons, as they expressed their desire to return to their homes and rebuild their lives. IOM provided logistical support, transportation assistance and reintegration services to facilitate their return and ensure a sustainable life.

In addition to its humanitarian efforts, IOM also supported the government of South Sudan in strengthening its capacity for migration management, which included the provision of technical assistance, training and capacity-building support to relevant government agencies responsible for border management, migration policy development and protection.

4. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The common European migration policy is an area that requires the development of partnerships with the countries from which migrants come, the achievement of the principle of fair treatment of citizens of third countries and the management of migration flows. It is also necessary to cooperate with transit countries on a comprehensive approach to migration in order to fight poverty, prevent conflicts and ensure better living conditions.

Individual and smaller group migrations are a historical constant and a human need and are responsible for numerous achievements, but also negative phenomena that have occurred throughout history. Migration has an impact on the global labor market and workforce. The mass migration crisis that the European Union has been facing since 2015 is the result of decades of policies that partly caused the situation that caused people to flee, and the development of gray events indicated the absence of a common mechanism for the mass influx of migrants and underdeveloped capacities for their reception. Previous experiences have shown that it is necessary to eliminate unknowns and provide a better approach in responding to the next mass migrations, based on previous experience. It is also necessary to look at certain migration crises in the modern world, compare the conditions and messages they send, the presentation of policies in the field of migration and, based on the above, make recommendations for the improvement of certain processes in the field of migration in the future.

The question is how to effectively protect countries globally during such crises, and how to deal with migrants, to ensure and protect their human dignity, and to adequately respond to the migrant crisis. Based on the above, it would be necessary to conduct research that should provide an answer to the current situation in relation to the policy regarding the migration crisis that is shaking the whole world, to perform an analysis of the responses or reactions undertaken by the states

so far. After the analysis and comparison, based on the observed weaknesses, plan new policies and mechanisms that will provide an adequate response to the migrant crisis, and plan the coordinated action of the countries, which is necessary to approach the current migrant crisis.

However, IOM's concrete activities in South Sudan from 2013 to 2015 illustrate the organization's commitment to solving the complex challenges of migration in crisis environments, which should serve as a good example for IOM and all other organizations globally. By providing emergency aid, promoting peace and reconciliation, enabling return and reintegration, and supporting capacity building efforts, IOM has made a significant contribution to alleviating the suffering of displaced persons and promoting stability in South Sudan. However, the constant instability and fragility of the situation emphasizes the need for permanent international support and cooperation to solve the root causes of migration and build resilient communities.

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