



**FHB Center**  
for Health & Human Rights  
at Harvard University



**Ciencia y Tecnología**  
Secretaría de Ciencia, Humanidades, Tecnología e Innovación



Date: February 17, 2025

Mtro. Alejandro López Mercado  
Secretario General  
Instituto de Investigaciones Dr. José María Luis Mora  
Plaza Valentín Gómez Farías, Col, San Juan Mixcoac  
Demarcación Territorial Benito Juárez  
C.P. 03730, Ciudad de Mexico

Dear Team at Instituto Mora:

On behalf of President and Fellows of Harvard College, acting through the Harvard FHB Center for Health and Human Rights ("Harvard"), I am delighted to offer the Institute of Investigations Dr. José María Luis Mora ("Instituto Mora") this Agreement to perform research on the terms described below:

Work with the Harvard FHB team in conducting a project focusing on solidarity of local communities towards distress migrants in Mexico and in disseminating the findings. More specifically, you will:

- a) provide feedback on the research tools, methodology and research plan;
- b) support with the literature review;
- c) jointly run the ethics training of the local researchers;
- d) recruit 380-400 participants and recruit researchers to collect data,
- e) run a pilot study;
- f) run the data collection;
- g) prepare the data for analysis (transcription and translation of the interviews);
- h) support with the generation of recommendations;
- i) provide feedback on the full report prepared by the Harvard FHB team
- j) collaborate with the dissemination of the findings.

Please see Exhibit A for more details of the tasks of Institute of Investigations Dr, José María Luis Mora, Exhibit B for more details on the project timeline and Exhibit C for more details on the project).

9



The pilot phase will involve interviews with 15 participants in one location in Mexico.

During data collection, data will be collected from 380-400 participants in 4 or more locations of interest across Mexico. The specific locations will be determined jointly with you. Data will be collected through interviews or focus groups where needed.

The time frame of the project is March 1, 2025 - November 30, 2026. The time frame for each task performed by you is presented in Exhibit B. You will be in continuous communication with Dr Vasileia Digidiki and Professor Jacqueline Bhabha who will provide feedback as necessary.

### **Deliverables**

1. Literature review in Word document on topics that the Harvard FXB team has difficulty finding information.
2. Feedback in Word document on the research tools.
3. Translated and transcribed qualitative data in Word documents delivered in batches as translations and transcriptions are completed.
4. All data collected both in Spanish and in English in an encrypted google driver.
5. Detailed description of the methodology employed to identify the participants in each location and collect data in Word document, including limitations and challenges faced in the field and the reasons why each location has been chosen.
6. Recommendations upon analysis of the findings in the Word document.
7. Feedback in the form of comments on the final report prepared by the Harvard FXB team.
8. Dissemination material upon discussion with the Harvard FXB team.

1. **Fees.**

- a. You will be paid the following fees as full compensation for research and work product and for all rights granted or assigned by you to Harvard under this Agreement:

**\$60,000 – See Exhibit D for a full budget**



- b. The above-mentioned fees will also compensate you for all expenses incurred by you in connection with the project
- c. You will submit invoices and Harvard will pay your fees on the following schedule:

50% of funds shall be released to you upon fully signing of this agreement. 30% of funds shall be released upon receipt of all data (transcribed and translated into English). 10% will be released upon receipt of feedback on the report. The remaining 10% will be released after the dissemination of the findings will be completed. The invoice will be submitted to the FHB Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University on your official letterhead, duly signed. Unspent funds shall be returned to Harvard within 30 days of completion of scope of work.

Fees and, if applicable and pre-approved, expenses, shall be invoiced and paid in US dollars. Harvard will pay the invoices for the activities properly carried out within 60 days of receipt. Harvard will not be responsible for any applicable taxes, such as VAT, performers tax, or sales tax, unless Harvard has agreed in writing to pay such taxes.

You must have a productive or non-productive bank account, in accordance with current regulations, so that the resources of the support granted can be channeled through it. This account will be used exclusively to manage the resources channeled to the "PROJECT". The resources must remain in said account and may not be transferred to other accounts until the resources are exercised in the terms established in the Agreement.

The resources of this project may be allocated to other functions of the project, in accordance with the development of the research activities and based on approval from Harvard.

## **2. Representations, warranties, and covenants.**

- a. You agree to perform the project with reasonable care, consistent with applicable professional and industry standards and in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, and substantially in accordance with the description set forth in this Agreement. You confirm that this Agreement and your performance of your services will not breach any obligations you have to any other party.

9





- b. If you conduct research on Harvard premises or have access to any Harvard network or other Harvard systems or equipment, you shall comply with Harvard's instructions regarding safety and security of persons and facilities and non-interference with Harvard operations and business.

### **3. Independent Contractor; Taxes.**

- a. This Agreement is not intended to, and shall not be construed to, create a partnership or any other kind of joint undertaking or venture between you and Harvard. You execute this Agreement as an independent contractor and not as an agent or employee of Harvard. You are not authorized to enter into binding commitments on behalf of Harvard and you will not be entitled to receive any employee benefits from Harvard. You will not bring any claims against Harvard under this Agreement as a plaintiff or class member in any class action or other collective proceeding. To the extent permitted by law, you waive the right to bring, participate in, or receive money from any such proceeding against Harvard.
- b. You will be solely responsible for the payment of any and all taxes or fees owed to any US or other government agency relating to payments received by you from Harvard under this Agreement and any business or professional licensing fees.

### **4. Confidentiality; Security.**

You agree that, unless necessary to perform the project research, you will not directly or indirectly disclose or use any proprietary, confidential, or otherwise nonpublic information relating to this project or the affairs, policies, and practices of Harvard that you may receive or learn in connection with your research under this Agreement. You agree that (i) you will use reasonable safeguards to protect the security of such information; (ii) you will immediately notify Harvard upon learning of any breach in the security of such information; and (iii) you will destroy or return all such information, in any format or medium, upon Harvard's request or upon termination of this Agreement.

### **5. Intellectual Property.**

- a. Harvard shall own and you hereby assign to Harvard all right, title, and interest that you have or will have in and to all work product conceived, created, made, or developed by you for Harvard as part of your research and any patents, copyrights, trademarks, and other intellectual property rights embodied in the work product, free of all liens, claims, encumbrances, licenses, and restrictions; provided that all work product subject to copyright shall be considered work made for hire by you for Harvard to the extent permitted by law or, to the extent your perform your





research outside of the United States, copyright shall vest in Harvard to the extent provided by law. Without limiting the foregoing, Harvard will have the irrevocable, worldwide right to use and exploit the work product in any manner and to authorize third parties to exercise any of its rights. You agree to execute and deliver to Harvard all documentation that Harvard reasonably requires to evidence Harvard's rights in the work product.

- b. You confirm that you own or will own all the rights that you are granting or assigning to Harvard under this Agreement and that the work product will not infringe any intellectual property or other rights of any third party. You hereby waive and agree not to assert any "moral rights" in the work product to the extent permitted by law.

## 6. Use of Harvard Names.

You may not use the name "Harvard" (alone or as part of another name, and in any language) or any logos, seals, insignia, or other words, names, symbols, images, or devices that identify Harvard or any Harvard school, unit, division, or affiliate ("Harvard Names") for any promotional purpose, including without limitation in any press release, public announcement, website, or other advertising materials, except with the prior written approval of, and in accordance with restrictions required by, Harvard. You may not register any business or company name, trademark, service mark, domain name, or trade name, or obtain any other type of registration, that contains or is confusingly similar to any Harvard Name. You must cease all use of Harvard Names authorized under this Agreement on the termination or expiration of this Agreement. Without limiting the foregoing, you shall not in any manner suggest that Harvard has endorsed you or the project. If, notwithstanding this prohibition, you register any Harvard Name for any purpose anywhere in the world, then, in addition to any other remedies Harvard may have, Harvard shall have the right to compel you to assign your rights in such registration to Harvard and you shall take such steps as may be necessary to transfer record ownership of such registration to Harvard, at your cost.

## 7. Term.

The term of this Agreement begins as of the date of this letter and will continue until completion of your services. However, Harvard has the right to terminate this Agreement for any reason in its sole discretion upon 60 days' written notice to you. Also, either Harvard or you may terminate this Agreement if the other party breaches any of its obligations or representations in this Agreement and the breach continues uncured for 10 days after receipt of written notice of the breach. Upon completion of the project or upon earlier termination of this Agreement, you will



deliver all your work product to Harvard, and Harvard will pay you undisputed amounts owing to you in accordance with this Agreement.

#### **8. Other general terms.**

- a. The provisions of this Agreement that by their explicit terms or their manifest intent are to survive, including without limitation those which relate to confidentiality, rights in work product and use of Harvard Names, shall survive expiration or termination of this Agreement.
- b. Discrimination with respect to any aspect of Upon completion of the project or upon earlier termination of this Agreement on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex (including gender expression, gender identity, and pregnancy), genetic information, ancestry, religion, caste, creed, veteran status, disability, military service, sexual orientation, or political beliefs shall be grounds for Harvard to terminate this Agreement.
- c. This Agreement states our entire agreement with respect to the project that are the subject of this (and this Agreement applies only with respect to the project superseding all previous communications relating to the project. This Agreement may not be amended except by a further written agreement between Harvard and you.
- d. You may not assign this Agreement without Harvard's prior written consent and any assignment or transfer without such consent shall be void. You may not engage any third party to perform any portion of the research without Harvard's prior written consent. If Harvard approves the engagement of a third party, you will remain fully responsible and liable to Harvard for the performance of the research and all your other obligations under this Agreement, and for the third party's compliance with the confidentiality, use of Harvard Names and rights in work product provisions of this Agreement. Harvard shall not be liable for any payments due to such third party.
- e. This Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (excluding conflict of laws rules).
- f. This Agreement may be signed in counterparts. Signatures may be affixed and exchanged by email or other electronic means.

9



**FXB Center**  
for Health & Human Rights  
at Harvard University



**Ciencia y Tecnología**  
Secretaría de Ciencia, Humanidades, Tecnología e Innovación



Yours truly,

PRESIDENT AND FELLOWS  
OF HARVARD COLLEGE, acting through  
Harvard T.H Chan School of Public Health  
/François-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights/

By: Michelle Cherubin Joseph 07 March 2025  
Name: Michelle Cherubin Joseph  
Title: Associate Director of Research Administration

Accepted and Agreed By:  
Instituto Mora

By: Dr. José María Luis Mora  
*Institute of Investigations*  
Name: María Gabriela Guadalupe Sánchez Gutiérrez  
Title: Director General





## Exhibit A

### FHB Center Project- partners' responsibilities

#### Mexico

##### Purpose

Partners in Mexico will support the Harvard FHB team in conducting a project focusing on solidarity of local communities towards distress migrants in Mexico and in disseminating the findings.

##### Collaboration Details

- Collaboration will start as early as March 1, 2025 and will end in November 2026.
- **Partners in Mexico will collaborate with the Harvard FHB team in every phase of the study, as this is a joint project, however we expect that the partners will lead the data collection, with the support of the Harvard team, and the Harvard team will lead the other phases, with the support of partners.**

##### Timeline

1. **January 1- March 15, 2025:** Research design and planning; Literature review; research tools (led by Harvard team)
2. **March 15- April 15, 2025:** Harvard University Ethical approval (led by Harvard team)
3. **April 15- May 15, 2025:** Sampling plan; translation of tools (led by Harvard team); Ethics training (led jointly by Harvard and Partners)
4. **May 15- June 15, 2025:** Pilot phase (led by Partners)
5. **June 15 – October 15, 2025:** Data collection (led by Partners)
6. **September 1, – December 15, 2025 :** Preparation of data for analysis (led by Harvard)
7. **October 15, 2025- January 30, 2026:** Analysis of data (led by Harvard team)
8. **January 30 – June 30, 2026:** Writing up of the report (led by Harvard team)
9. **June 1- November 15, 2026:** Dissemination of findings (led jointly by Harvard and partners)



## **Activities that the partners will engage with**

### **A) Research design and planning (March 2025)**

- Partners will provide feedback and advice on the locations for data collection in Colombia;
- Partners will provide feedback on research questions and develop, jointly with the Harvard team, the research plan and sampling methodology.

### **B) Literature review (March 2025)**

Harvard team will lead literature review. Partners will compliment this effort, *if needed*, by providing anecdotal data or gray literature in Spanish on 1) the existing efforts of governments and local authorities in Mexico to support migrants and local communities, with a focus on small scale efforts or efforts that may not be widely reported; 2) impact of these policies on local communities.

### **C) Development of research tools (March 2025)**

- Partners will provide feedback and advise on the research tools that the Harvard team will prepare.

### **D) Data collection (April 15- October 15, 2025) – this phase will be mostly run by the partners with the support of the Harvard team**

- The Harvard team will jointly run an Ethics training with the partners;
- Partners will recruit participants;
- Partners will run a pilot study to test the tools; 15 interviews in one location.
- Partners will run data collection in 4 locations that will be identified during phase 1 of the project ( interviews – details of the sampling methodology and size will be decided with the partners ).

### **E) Preparation of data for analysis (April 15, – October 15, 2025)**

The Harvard team will, jointly with the partners, prepare the data for analysis:

- Ensure that the transcription of the interviews, produced with the use of an app, is accurate;
- Ensure that the translation of the data to English, produced with the use of AI, is accurate;

### **F) Drafting of the final report (January 30 – June 30, 2026)**



- Partners will support with the generation of recommendations;
- Partners will provide expert feedback to the whole report;
- Partners may develop some sections of the report, if needed.

**G) Prepare the data for analysis (transcription and translation of the interviews);**

**H) Development of action plan for dissemination and dissemination of findings (June 1-November 15, 2026)**

- a. The Harvard team, with the support of Partners and the donor, will develop an action plan for dissemination of the findings;
- b. Partners will co-organize and participate in videos and webinars, as needed.
- c. Partners will collaborate on preparation of materials for disseminating the findings.
- d. Partners will co-organize and participate in high-level and community-level meetings in Mexico and the US to discuss findings;
- e. Partners will lead community meetings to discuss and disseminate findings.





## Exhibit B

### Project Timeline November 15, 2024- November, 30, 2026

Stage	Start Date	End Date	Activity	Estimated Duration	Deliverable	Comments
<u><b>Research design and planning</b></u>  <b>Total duration: 4 months</b>  <b>Period:</b> <b>Nov. 15, 2024 – March 15, 2025</b>	November 15, 2024	March 15, 2025	Define partners/ experts that will collaborate with the research team.  Decide on locations	4 months		Partners need to be identified. Visits to the countries will take place to communicate with partners directly before collaborations are established.
	November 15, 2024	March 15, 2025	Finalize research questions	4 months	Draft research questions for final report	Discuss and co-develop research questions with partners – this phase may take longer as it depends on identifying partners.
	November 15, 2024	March 15, 2025	Develop research design	4 months	Draft research design for final report	Discuss and co-develop research design with partners
	February 10, 2025	February 14, 2025	Scoping trip to Mexico	5 days		Meet and discuss with the partners, research teams and experts, visit sites of interest, finalize research design
	March 10, 2025	March 14, 2025	Scoping trip to Colombia	5 days		Meet and discuss with the partners, research teams and experts, visit sites of interest, finalize



						research design
<b>Literature review</b>  <b>Total duration: 4 months</b>  <b>Period:</b>  <b>Nov 15, 2024 – March 15, 2025</b>	November 15, 2024	March 15, 2025	Capture and synthesize literature <u>on perceptions of locals towards migrants in Mexico and Colombia</u>	4 months	Draft literature review document	
	November 15, 2024	March 15, 2025	Map existing _____ efforts <u>of government and NGOs to support migrants and locals in Mexico</u>	4 months	Draft literature review document	
	November 15, 2024	March 15, 2025	Map existing <u>efforts of government and NGOs to support</u>	4 months	Draft literature review document	



			<u>migrants and locals in Colombia</u>			
	December 15, 2024	March 15, 2025	Research and map successful efforts of governments to support both migrants and locals across the world	4 months	Draft literature review document	
<b><u>Research Tools</u></b>	February 15, 2025	March 15, 2025	Develop research tools	1 month	Research tools	Co-develop research tools with partners. Research tools development will depend on completion of lit review.
<b>Total duration: 1 month</b>						
<b><u>Ethical approval</u></b>	March 15, 2025	April 15, 2025	Submission of proposal, design and tools to IRB	1 month	Ethical approval submission	Delays may occur depending on the process (expedited, full review etc).
<b>Total duration: 1 month</b>						
<b><u>Data collection</u></b>	April 15, 2025	May 15, 2025	Finalize sampling plan	1 month	Sampling plan	
<b>Total duration: 6 months</b>	April 15, 2025	May 15, 2025	Translate research tools in Spanish	1 month	Spanish version of research tools	Back translation by experts fluent in Spanish and English will take place.
<b>Period:</b>	April 15, 2025	May 15, 2025	Ethics training	1 month		Training of the data collection teams in both countries.
<b>April 15, 2025 – October 15, 2025</b>	May 15, 2025	June 15, 2025	Pilot test research tools/ finalize research tools	1 month	Preliminary result from the pilot/ Finalized research tools	Piloting the survey tools may take more time, so delays





						may occur.
	June 15, 2025	October 15, 2025	Carry out data collection (quant/qual)	4 months	Raw data	
<b>Data Analysis</b>  <b>Total duration: 5 months</b>  <b>Period:</b> <b>Sep 15, 2025 – January 30, 2026</b>	September 1, 2025	December 15, 2025	Prepare data for analysis (transcription, translation, cleaning of quant data)	4,5 months	Translated transcripts, Clean quant datasets ready for analysis	Preparation of data will take place in parallel with data collection
	October 15, 2025	January 30, 2026	Analyze data	3,5 months	Findings from analysis	Data analysis will start as soon as data collection is completed and in parallel with data preparation, particularly the analysis is of qualitative data



<b>Writing up</b>  <b>Total duration: 6 months</b>  <b>Period:</b> <b>January 2, 2026</b> <b>–</b> <b>June 30, 2026</b>	January 2, 2026	February 28, 2026	Draw conclusions/ recommendations	2 months	Recommendations section	Recommendations will be generated along with the actors and experts on the ground. In person meetings may be organized. Delays may occur.
	February 1, 2026	April 30, 2026	Final draft of report	3 months	First draft of the report	The writing up of the report will take place in parallel with the previous phase.
	May 1, 2026	May 30, 2026	Review draft	1 month		The draft will be reviewed by the partners, the donor and experts to provide feedback.
	June 1, 2026	June 30, 2026	Revision of the first draft and final editing	1 month	Final report	Report will be copy- edited and designed
<b>Dissemination of findings</b>  <b>Total duration: 6 months</b>  <b>Period:</b> <b>June 1, 2026</b> <b>–</b> <b>Nov. 30, 2026</b>	June 1, 2026	June 30, 2026	Create action plan for dissemination	1 month	Action plan	Action plan will be created with partners and with the feedback by the donor
	July 1, 2026	September 30, 2026	Preparation of materials for dissemination (training material etc, video transcript etc)	3 months	Materials	Materials and training resources will be prepared in collaboration with local partners
	September 30, 2026	November 30, 2026	Meetings with actors in the US, as well as Mexico and Colombia	2 months		Meetings will be organized with partners in the US and in Mexico and Colombia, meetings will be both in person and in zoom.



	September 30, 2026	November 30, 2026	Creation of short videos and, if possible, organize a webinar	2 month	Video, Webinar	Video and webinar will be created in collaboration with local partners
	September 30, 2026	November 30, 2026	Community meetings in the US, as well as Mexico and Colombia	2 month		If possible, community meetings will be organized by local partners to inform local communities.





## GHG Full Proposal Narrative

### Identifying Information

**Project Title:** Building Solidarity as a Response to Migrant Arrival: A Proposal for Two Case Studies

**Application I.D.:** 139486

**Applicant Name:** Jacqueline Bhabha via Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

**Legal Name of Applicant Organization:** President and Fellows of Harvard College

### **PROBLEM STATEMENT: (Provide a description of the problem you hope to address)**

Large scale distress migration is a permanent feature of the 21<sup>st</sup> century global order. It can no longer be understood or treated as a crisis, a phenomenon that is unexpected or temporary. People all over the world will continue to be forced to leave their homes because they have become unlivable, whether because of conflict, autocracy, or economic destitution (or a combination of these factors). Climate change increasingly intersects with and exacerbates these factors. In Syria, for example, climate-caused changes in water patterns were a precursor to civil war, but that factor was not isolated from persecution and other factors.

Governments and civil society need knowledge and tools to sustainably care for both the arriving people and the receiving communities. Around the world, frontline local communities have met large numbers of distress migrants with spontaneous acts of solidarity, expressed through food, shelter, clothing, and guidance to their new world. They have been willing to share, to adapt and to include, recognizing the common humanity they share with unfamiliar “strangers”. But all too often state entities, both federal and local, fail to support and sustain those local communities. The funding, relevant training and other concrete resources evidently essential to address rapidly changing local needs are denied or, despite promises, never materialize. In some cases (e.g. in frontline local communities in Greece, in Poland, at the US/Mexico border, at the Colombia/Venezuela border) despite a doubling of the target population, no additional medical, educational, or training resources are made available; despite predictable needs for regularization of legal status or infrastructure strengthening (shelter, garbage collection, community safety tools,) no appropriate programs are put in place. As a result, the basic well-being and rights of both receiving communities and newly arrived distress migrants are put at risk, and solidarity is replaced over time with fatigue, resentment and sometimes outright hostility. These preventable governance failures tank the hope and the goal of an inclusive, open and welcoming polity that embodies mutual respect and non-

discrimination.

Both forced dislocation from home as well as radical transformations in one's customary, home environment, including because of the arrival of large numbers of impoverished migrants, have dramatic impacts on human well-being and health: physical and mental trauma, lack of income, overrun health facilities and classrooms are among the predictable sequelae, all too evident in many receiving communities.

Our proposal engages with this issue by developing two case studies, in Mexican and Colombian localities that are receiving large numbers of distress migrants in real time. Such case studies might provide learnings for US policy makers, with models that can be replicated or avoided, as well as succinct and actionable recommendations.

The research will probe how, in the face of changing demands fueled by the arrival of migrants, government engagement (or lack thereof) impacts the community's trust in its local institutions and its willingness to accept and support the newly arrived.

It is important to note that racialized, gendered and other assumptions embedded in prevailing social norms and promulgated by xenophobic leaders, parties and media outlets exert an enduring influence on local responses to distress migration. But well thought through, timely and generous state policies that are carefully implemented have the power to avert local community resentment and instead incentivize inclusion. The example of European Union policy making for Ukrainians fleeing the Russian invasion of their country is a clear case in point. A counter example is the failure of both Greece and the European Union to support local Greek municipalities in the face of refugee arrivals from Afghanistan and Syria. Similarly generous multilateral support to Colombia at the start of the Venezuelan exodus to its territory combined with careful planning and policy making facilitated extraordinary resilience on the part of local Colombian communities despite very large-scale arrivals. Over time, however, that support has waned.

Our hypothesis is that building and sustaining solidarity between different communities is a more generative strategy for securing enduring well-being and promoting solutions than the common policies of blocking access to distress migrants or fostering xenophobic and adversarial stances between locals and those newly arrived. Preemptive policies that anticipate local needs in the face of inevitable migrant arrival may foster local solidarity, a critical democratic resource. We understand "solidarity" to mean the compassion-fueled, inventive and practical engagement with the "other", with whom one has no prior links of personal or social affinity.





## PROJECT NARRATIVE

### Rationale

There is much for policymakers to learn about what does not seem to work, and about what might work better.

The research will focus on key locations in Colombia and Mexico, potentially including two or three Colombian cities such as Bogotá (the capital, home to approximately 590,000 Venezuelan migrants), Cúcuta, and/or Riohacha. The latter are border or near-border cities where Venezuelan migrants make up 28% and 21% of the total population, respectively. In Mexico, our locations may include Mexico City (which receives distress migrants from more than 100 countries) and Ciudad Juárez. These may change after consultation with community partner organizations.

In each of those countries, local community attitudes towards forced migrants have clearly been impacted by government (federal and local). When these policies have catered promptly to refugee and local needs, they have encouraged solidarity and built trust.

We will build on and compare with our case studies in Greece and Poland. Each showed that state and regional (EU) policies impact the extent to which local communities continue to offer solidarity to newly arrived forced migrants.

### Objectives

With the goal of increasing and sharing actionable knowledge about governmental policies that support or undermine solidarity between arriving migrant populations and the local, receiving communities, our main objectives, subject to modification by our local partners, are:

- To create equitable partnerships with local collaborators and partners in Mexico and Colombia, such as *Fundación Partners of the Americas Colombia*, *Derechos Humanos Integrales en Acción*, and *Grupo de Trabajo Sobre Política Migratoria*.
- To document the experiences of frontline communities in Mexico and in Colombia, communities that bear the responsibility and burden of hosting large numbers of distress migrants daily
- To document the response of the local communities in Mexico and Colombia to incoming migrants, answering questions developed collaboratively with local partners, such as:





- What independent variables generate the initial solidarity towards distress migrants in those frontline host communities?
- What factors sustain solidarity towards distress migrants—what benefits does solidarity generate not just for the health and well-being of distress migrant arrivals but for local communities themselves?
- Has solidarity endured or shifted over time and if so why, and in what ways?
- What institutional investments, practical, affective and political, are considered crucial to sustain and replenish solidarity towards distress migrants within local communities?
- How can states work with relevant state parties and local communities to replenish and resupply solidarity?
- To document the role of local and national policies in supporting or undermining local expressions of solidarity
- To analyze our findings and compare them with findings from previous case studies in Greece and Poland
- To create succinct and actionable recommendations for policymakers
- To share our findings with key and various audiences (see communication section)

### Activities

- We will start by building on existing relationships to identify and create partnership agreements with on-the-ground collaborators.
- We will conduct a literature review.
- With the support and participation of the local partners in Mexico and Colombia, we will develop the research tools.
- With the advice and participation of these local partners, we will recruit key informants and conduct in-depth interviews.
- With our local partners, we will conduct focus groups of migrants, of local community members, and of experts.
- We will conduct further data collection based on interviews and focus groups.
- We will analyze our data and create a report, visual materials and such other dissemination tools requested by our partners (briefing points, op-eds, pitches to local news sources) that will be presented to our partners and at local community meetings.



- We will create an action plan for public and targeted dissemination of our recommendations.

### **Who the project will help and how**

The hypothesis driving this proposed research is that learnings from state and local community responses in Mexico and Colombia will be relevant for similarly affected communities in the United States, communities where local people have initially welcomed refugees and others forced to leave their homes but have grown resentful over the economic, environmental and other deteriorations that migration is perceived as causing in their communities. Thus, the project will help both current and future distress migrants and receiving communities around the world by offering public officials, advocates and service providers with guidance and actionable recommendations and good examples, as well as failures and gaps that can be avoided.

### **Deliverables and Outcomes**

Deliverables and outcomes will include a greater understanding of the role of governments in sustaining solidarity as a response to distress migrations, as well as a set of actionable recommendations for policymakers, service providers, and other civil actors.

These will take the form of not just an academic paper, but a public report that will be widely disseminated, and discussed in public meetings with a variety of target audiences, planned in partnership with local collaborators.

Other deliverables may include op eds, mainstream media engagement, videos, gatherings of policymakers and municipal officials at an in-person or online conference for an exchange of best practices and lessons learned. Along with our partners we will create learning communities where non-governmental actors and members of local and migrant communities will meet to continue the process of learning, while facilitating access to critical information regarding access to services and economic opportunities and ensuring an inclusive environment for everyone.

### **Research Methods**

Our research will begin with a literature review to establish a chronology and analysis of government policies toward migrants, a comprehensive understanding of practices on the ground, as well as a review of local media reports. Data collection methodology and tools will be



developed with the service organizations and community members.

Data collection will take place in a variety of strategic settings, such as:

- **Schools**
- **Community Centers**
- **Community-Based and Grassroots Organizations**, including churches and workers' clubs.
- **Other Strategic Locations:** Local and national government institutions, hospitals, employers, and neighborhoods selected for their relevance to the study's objectives.

This comprehensive, multi-site data collection approach is designed to capture a diverse range of insights from key stakeholders in migration-related contexts.

Methods may include focus group discussions, key informant interviews, narrative inquiry, and case studies to identify and document best practices and lessons learned.

- Interviewees will be recruited using a haphazard and snowball sampling methodology.
- Interviews will be conducted in native languages in confidential and private settings of the interviewees' choice. We will use an inductive approach in interviews.
- We will conduct focus groups comprised of members of the receiving community and members of the migrant community.
- We will use a thematic coding scheme to identify primary themes.
- We will further analyze data to identify secondary schemes and concepts.
- We will synthesize our findings in a report that will be shared via various channels and methods (see communication section below).

## **Communications**

Upon the completion of the analysis of the data, we will work with our local collaborators to create a communications plan that will disseminate our findings to audiences who can immediately apply them to solidarity-building policies. If earlier research is validated, we expect to be sharing messages about the importance of government support to sustain solidarity responses to distress migration, as well the significance of addressing the needs of both migrant and local communities. We will identify and highlight replicable governmental actions and policies that support sustained solidarity.





Communications activities may include:

- In-person meetings with governmental actors in Colombia and Mexico (members of both the national and local governments who are responsible for health, education, migration, and human rights)
- In-person meetings with civil society actors (NGOs, service organizations, human rights groups) and members of both the migrant and local communities in Colombia and Mexico
- A zoom meeting with governmental actors from both countries to exchange experience and good examples
- A zoom meeting with members of organizations in both countries to exchange experience and good examples.
- Learning communities where members of the service organizations will meet with members of the local and migrant communities and exchange knowledge. These communities will continue after the end of the project.

We will publish the findings in open access journals and outlets available to wide and diverse audiences. We will use social media to further distribute findings to global public health and human rights officials, and health and human rights NGOs and academics. We will also publish Op-eds and, if funding allows, short videos and webinars that will capture the main findings and the voice of those directly affected by distress migration (locals and migrants alike). The videos and webinars will be developed with service organizations and members of the local communities.

If additional funding is secured, we plan to organize a gathering at Harvard with governmental and nongovernmental actors from different countries (not just Mexico and Colombia) that are facing distress migration to discuss the report and its recommendations and hear about what unique challenges are created by local conditions that we have not yet studied.

## Staffing

The principal investigators from the FXB Center on Health and Human Rights will be Jacqueline Bhabha, Mary T Bassett and Vasileia Digidiki Lucero.

**Jacqueline Bhabha** is FXB Director of Research, Professor of the Practice of Health and Human Rights at the Harvard School of Public Health, the Jeremiah Smith Jr. Lecturer in





Law at Harvard Law School, and an Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School. She received a first-class honors degree and an M.Sc. from Oxford University, and a J.D. from the College of Law in London.

From 1997 to 2001 Bhabha directed the Human Rights Program at the University of Chicago. Prior to 1997, she was a practicing human rights lawyer in London and at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. She has published extensively on issues of transnational child migration, refugee protection, children's rights and citizenship. She is the editor of *Children Without a State* (2011), author of *Child Migration and Human Rights in a Global Age* (2014), and editor of *Human Rights and Adolescence* (2014).

Bhabha serves on the board of the Scholars at Risk Network, the World Peace Foundation and the Journal of Refugee Studies. She is also a founder of the Alba Collective, an international women's NGO currently working with rural women and girls in developing countries to enhance financial security and youth rights.

**Mary T Bassett** is the Director of the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights. She has written on structural racism as it affects people of African descent in the United States, including widely cited articles in the medical literature. Her efforts to build a better understanding of how racism works to harm health continue to at both the New York City and New York State Health Departments where she introduced this programming as Commissioner. Most recently she and others have explored monetary reparations as a public health intervention to address racial inequality in health. An analysis suggests that elimination of the Black-white wealth gap would have a substantial impact on overall and premature mortality. This work includes collaboration with local reparations efforts. Her interest in this project stems from the importance of solidarity as an alternative to racism and xenophobia.

**Vasileia Digidiki Lucero** is a Harvard Instructor, Director of the Harvard FXB Summer Program on Migration and Refugee Studies, and a Health and Human Rights Fellow. She is a psychologist by training with more than 11 years of experience working on issues of distress migration, human trafficking, victim blaming and child protection and serves as a Senior Associate Editor for the Behavioral Medicine. Since 2017, Dr. Digidiki has led the Harvard FXB Center's research agenda on distress migration. Alongside FXB Director of Research Prof. Jacqueline Bhabha, she has conducted research in Greece, Bangladesh, West and Central Africa, Sudan and Mexico focusing on child protection, access to education, access to antenatal care, and the nexus between human trafficking and distress migration. Dr. Digidiki has been



funded by international organizations, including IOM, BRAC and UNICEF, to analyze datasets and conduct research in the field of migration, child protection and human trafficking. In 2021, she was commissioned by IOM to produce the first worldwide report on child trafficking, analyzing the largest worldwide dataset on child trafficking victims.

In 2022, Dr. Digidiki and Prof. Bhabha developed the first international, interdisciplinary summer course on migration and refugee studies in collaboration with the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. Dr. Digidiki also teaches in the FHB Center's Executive Education program for child protection professionals, as well as the Center's Child Protection Certificate Program for students, and has taught for Harvard University's Harvard X online training on Child Protection. In 2017, she advised on and reviewed content for the online course "Caring for Children Moving Alone: Protecting Unaccompanied and Separated Children." Dr. Digidiki has published widely on issues of human trafficking, forced migration, child protection and victim blaming and participated in several conferences and high-level meetings on issues of distress migration and human trafficking. In March 2017, she spoke at the 61<sup>st</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women at the UN, highlighting the current state of child protection, and a few months later, she spoke at the 72<sup>nd</sup> session of the UN General Assembly on the intersection between child trafficking and forced migration.

Dr. Digidiki holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, two master's degrees on Forensic and Social Psychology and a PhD in Social and Clinical Psychology. She is a native of the Greek island of Lesbos where she offered her services as a first responder during the massive influx of distress migrants in 2015 and 2016.

**Service Organization(s) and local experts in Mexico (TBD)**

**Service Organization(s) and local experts in Colombia (TBD)**

## **Timeline**

Based on our experience with case studies in Greece and Poland, we offer the following timeline for a 2-year project start in January 2025 and finishing in December 2026:

### **January 2025- June 2025**

- Conduct literature review
- Establish local partnerships
- Agree on research goals; refine research questions and tools
- Make local hires



## **FHB Center**

for Health & Human Rights  
at Harvard University



**Ciencia y Tecnología**  
Secretaría de Ciencia, Humanidades, Tecnología e Innovación



- Start recruitment of interviewees and focus group members

### **June 2025 – January 2026**

- Data collection
- Conduct key informant interviews
- Conduct focus groups

### **February 2026 – December 2026**

- Compile and code data
- Analyze and interpret data
- Write report
- Conduct dissemination activities

## **STRATEGY**

Distress migration is permanent, and communities are now responding in real time, with or without support and long-range planning from their local and national governments. It is incumbent on us to go into those communities right now, as their response is developing, to understand the variables that make for long-term successful integration, or for failure. The lessons we learn right now are critical tools for the many communities around the world who are now confronting or will confront this problem. Community-based organizations will be engaged as collaborators in every phase of the project. Field-based research will give us information that can inform the development of policies in the US and elsewhere around the world that support community solidarity.

## **RISK AND CHALLENGES**

Each case study will present a unique context in terms of history, cultures, races, climate, politics, and so on. The findings may not be generalizable; but we are looking at municipalities or regions with large numbers of distress migrants to increase the value of the lessons for other communities experiencing distress migration.





## Exhibit C

### Budget 2025-2026 Migration research

Importe USD	60,000.00
A ejercer USD	51,724.14
IVA	8,275.86

Importe del Proyecto USD

60,000.00

Cost	2025-2026				
	Amount USD	Months /Years	Amount USD	Total amount by items	
<b>Personnel</b>					
Senior Assistant	6,000.00	Years 2	12,000.00	12,000.00	
Analyst Transcriptionist-translator (septiembre-octubre)	500.00	Months 2	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Administrative Assistant	2,000.00	Years 1	2,000.00	2,000.00	
<b>IDC (indirect costs).</b>					
Food (internal work team meetings Instituto Mora)				3,000.00	
Stationery				2,500.00	
Project closure				2,500.00	
<b>Conducting surveys</b>					
Survey collectors Entity 1	500.00	Months 4	2,000.00		
Survey collectors Entity 2	500.00	Months 4	2,000.00		
Survey collectors Entity 3	500.00	Months 4	2,000.00		
Survey collectors Entity 4	500.00	Months 4	2,000.00		
Survey collectors Entity 5	500.00	Months 4	2,000.00		
Survey collectors Entity 6	500.00	Months 4	2,000.00		
			12,000.00	12,000.00	
<b>Supervision of activities 2025</b>					
Airline tickets Project Coordinator	1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000.00	
Accommodation and travel expenses Project Coordinator	1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000.00	
<b>Assistance from representatives of Research Headquarters 2025 Mexico City</b>					
Airline tickets for Headquarters Advisors	2,000.00		2,000.00	2,000.00	
Accommodation and travel expenses for Headquarters Advisors	2,000.00		2,000.00	2,000.00	
Catering Service 2025	1,500.00		1,500.00	1,500.00	
<b>Supervision of activities 2026</b>					
Airline tickets Project Coordinator	1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000.00	
Accommodation and travel expenses Project Coordinator	1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000.00	
<b>Assistance from representatives of Research Headquarters 2026 Mexico City</b>					





Airline tickets for Headquarters Advisors	2,000.00			2,000.00	2,000.00
Accommodation and travel expenses for Headquarters Advisors	2,000.00			2,000.00	2,000.00
Catering Service 2026	1,500.00			1,500.00	3,224.14
<b>Total cost</b>					<b>51,724.14</b>