



M8 Alliance Webinar Series on Migrant and Refugee Health

**Organized by the M8 Alliance
under the leadership of the Sapienza University of Rome**

How climate change affects the health of migrants and refugees

30 November 2021, 15:00 – 17:00 CET

Registration (free of charge but compulsory):

https://worldhealthsummit.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SCYtjFykQSeOvLwey8ntkw

The M8 Alliance Webinar Series on **Migrant and Refugee Health**, is a **new format** which aims at bringing together experts from across the M8 Alliance to discuss global, develop innovative and collaborative answers and promote science-based policy advice. Each event will last 120 minutes involving several panelists from within the M8 Alliance and beyond.

PROGRAM

WELCOME by **Luciano Saso**, Sapienza University of Rome, Coordinator M8 Alliance Webinar Series on Migrant and Refugee Health

PANEL SESSION moderated by **François Gemenne**, The Hugo Observatory Department of Geography, University of Liège, Belgium

Intersections between migration, climate change and health: existing research gaps; areas of engagement by Lancet Migration (both research and policy) by **Miriam Orcutt**, Lancet migration, UK (10')

A changing environment and the health security of people forced to move by Manuel Carballo, International Centre for Migration, Health and Development (ICMHD) Geneva, Switzerland (10')

Mobility, social cohesion and health outcomes in transformations to city sustainability by **Anita H. Fábos**, International Development, Community & Environment (IDCE) Clark University, Worcester, MA, USA (10')

Links between climate risks, migration, and health outcomes by Robert McLeman, Department of Geography & Environmental Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, ON, Canada (10')

The health impacts of internal displacement in the context of climate change and disasters: Key findings from case studies in Ethiopia and Somalia by **Louisa Yasukawa**, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Norwegian Refugee Council, Geneva, Switzerland (10')

Climate change, migration and health: interconnected challenges for the 21st century by **Alice Baillat**, Thematic Specialist, Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division, IOM Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland (10')

DISCUSSION (30')

SPEAKERS AND ABSTRACTS



Prof. Luciano Saso (Faculty of Pharmacy and Medicine, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy) is author of more than 300 scientific articles published in peer reviewed international journals with impact factor (H-index Google Scholar 53, Scopus 43). He coordinated several research projects and has been referee for many national and international funding agencies and international scientific journals in the last 30 years. Prof. Saso has extensive experience in international relations and he is currently Vice-Rector for European University Networks at Sapienza University of Rome. In the last 15 years, he participated in

several projects and has been speaker and chair at many international conferences organised by the UNICA network of the universities from the Capitals of Europe (<http://www.unica-network.eu/>) and other university associations. Prof. Saso has been Member of the Steering Committee of UNICA for two mandates (2011-2015) and he is currently President of UNICA (2015-2023). Prof. Saso is a member of the executive committee of the M8 Alliance of Academic Health Centers, Universities and National Academies (<https://www.worldhealthsummit.org/m8-alliance.html>) and Coordinator of the M8 Alliance webinar series on Migrant and Refugee Health <https://www.worldhealthsummit.org/m8-alliance/topics/migrant-and-refugee-health.html>



Dr. François Gemenne is a specialist of environmental geopolitics and migration governance at the University of Liège, where he is a FNRS senior research associate and the Director of the [Hugo Observatory](#). He also heads the [Observatory on Defence and Climate](#) of the French Ministry of Defence, jointly with Julia Tasse at IRIS. He is a lead author for the [IPCC](#) and he also lectures on climate change and migration policies in different universities, including [Sciences Po](#) and Sorbonne University in Paris. His research deals mostly with environmental and migration governance. He has

worked in particular on populations displaced by environmental changes and the policies of adaptation to climate change, as well as on asylum and migration policies. He has conducted field studies in New Orleans after hurricane Katrina, Tuvalu, China, Kyrgyzstan, the Maldives, Mauritius, as well as in Japan after the Fukushima disaster. He is currently coordinating two important European research projects: [MAGYC](#), on migration governance and asylum crises, as well as [HABITABLE](#), on migration induced by climate change. He also coordinated the [DEVAST](#) project, one of the first international projects to examine the social and political consequences of the Fukushima disaster. Furthermore, he has been involved in a large number of international research projects on migration and environmental changes, including [EACH-FOR](#), [HELIX](#), [EDGE](#), [MISTY](#) and [MECLEP](#), for which he was the global research coordinator. In 2015, he was the recipient of a [Fulbright scholarship](#) to pursue research at [Princeton University](#). He has also been a guest professor at the

University of Buenos Aires and the University of Economics in Bratislava, and has spent research stays at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, the University of the South Pacific in Suva (Fiji) and the Australian National University in Canberra. He has also been the scientific advisor of the exhibition '[Native Land. Stop Eject](#)' at the Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain, in Paris. He has consulted for several organisations, including the International Organisation of Migration (IOM), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the British government (Foresight). In 2010, he was awarded the ISDT-Wernaers Prize for achievement in the communication of science to the general public. He holds a joint doctorate in political science from Sciences Po Paris and the University of Liege (Belgium). He also holds a Master's degree in Development, Environment and Societies from the University of Louvain, as well as a Master of Research in Political Science from the London School of Economics, where he also taught. In 2008, he was awarded a post-doctoral scholarship from the [AXA Research Fund](#). He has published in leading journals, including [Science](#) and [Global Environmental Change](#), and has authored several books, amongst which '[The Anthropocene and the Global Environmental Crisis](#)' (edited with C. Hamilton and C. Bonneuil, Routledge 2015) the [Atlas of Environmental Migration](#) (with D. Ionesco et D. Mokhnacheva, Routledge 2016) or [Handbook of Environmental Displacement and Migration](#) (edited with R. McLeman, Routledge 2018). He is also the director of the Politics of the Earth series at [Presses de Sciences Po](#), a leading French academic publisher, and the President of the Board of the NGO [Climate Voices](#), which seeks to connect youth from the global North and the global South around climate issues.

Miriam Orcutt's abstract and bio

A changing environment and the health security of people forced to move

Manuel Carballo

*International Centre for Migration, Health and Development (ICMHD) Geneva,
Switzerland*

Extreme climatic events are not new. What is new is the geographic scope, intensity and speed of the changes that are currently occurring and predicted to continue occurring in years to come. Although all regions of the world are being affected, some are being more impacted than others. In general, the most extreme changes are taking place in countries that have long been environmentally challenged, and have remained low-income, with poorly developed infrastructures that are now unlikely to be able to easily adapt to high temperatures, drought, desertification, rising sea levels, high rainfall and flooding. Some of these regions also have high fertility rates and are densely populated. Climate change is likely to displace well over 200 million of these people in the next twenty-five years. Where they will go is not clear, nor is it clear what other parts of the world will be more open to accepting climate refugees than they have proved willing to accept refugees in general. Some of these people will also be forced to move from areas that are ecologically distinct from the areas they will move to. The diseases they will take with them or come into contact with along the way and when they arrive in new settlement areas, may well produce health and

healthcare challenges that have not been previously foreseen and certainly not planned for.



Dr Manuel Carballo is an epidemiologist and a graduate of Leeds University (UK) and the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and CDC (US). He is Executive Director of the International Centre for Migration, Health and Development in Geneva, and was previously a senior scientist at WHO where he worked in a number of countries. At WHO he led the land mark study on Infant and Young Child Feeding, testified on the results of it to US Kennedy Congressional Hearings, and then led development of the binding WHO/UNICEF Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes. In 1986 he was one of the three-person team asked to develop WHO's Global Program on AIDS, and remained with it until 1992 as its Chief of Behavioural Research. From 1993 to 1995, he was WHO Public Health Adviser in Sarajevo, and after the war he was seconded to

create ICMHD where he has coordinated major studies on migration and public health issues such as viral hepatitis, TB, diabetes, maternal and child health, and mental health. Last year he led a series of Covid-19 Guidance Notes on Community Quarantine, Migrants, Humanitarian Crises, and Midwifery. He has led health-in-crisis assessment missions in Kosovo, Iraq, Iran, the Palestinian occupied territories, and a UN Tsunami response team in the Maldives. Most recently he has prepared reports for WHO on Health and Fragility, and Emergency Preparedness. He has been a Clinical Professor of Public Health at the Columbia University School of Public Health, an Adjunct Professor at the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, and in 2014 he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science by Glasgow Caledonian University for his contribution to global health and academic research. He is also an Honorary Fellow of the Spanish Royal European Academy of Doctors.

Mobility, social cohesion and health outcomes in transformations to city sustainability

Anita H. Fábos

International Development, Community & Environment (IDCE) Clark University,
Worcester, MA, USA

Cities are continuously transformed through economic and social changes including demographic shifts through migration. Progress towards sustainability is often hampered by spatial and social inequality manifest in health and other outcomes. Here we adopt a health systems approach to examine evolving relationships between social cohesion, health outcomes and dimensions of sustainability for new migrant populations. We do so through longitudinal research with new migrant populations in Worcester before and during the Covid pandemic using intensive qualitative methods and survey. The main data suggest that newcomers experienced pandemic-induced mental health stresses that highlighted both socio-economic disparities and mobility-related concerns. These data highlight differences in migrant experiences of well-being due to a disruption to urban systems, and the importance of including migrants and

other mobile people in social, economic, and environmental policies towards transformations.



Anita Fábos is an anthropologist who has conducted research and outreach among refugees and other forced migrants in urban settings in the Middle East, Europe, and the United States. Her scholarship and practice pursues a number of interconnected themes in the area of forced migration and refugee studies: how people make and transform ethnic and racial boundaries and boundary markers, people's experiences of displacement and challenges to gender norms, historical shifts in citizenship and nationality laws, methods and ethics of research with hidden, vulnerable and mobile populations, transcultural

social networks, and refugee narratives and representations. As the Director of the Forced Migration and Refugee Studies program at the American University in Cairo, and later Programme Coordinator for the graduate program in Refugee Studies at the University of East London, Fábos has been involved in developing integrated teaching, research, and outreach programs that have incorporated refugee and forced migrant perspectives into collaborative work with scholars, practitioners, refugee organizations, policy makers, and international organizations. At Clark University, students in her classes have carried out community-based projects that have investigated refugee participation in community development initiatives, refugee access to higher education, and refugee livelihoods in Worcester.

Links between climate risks, migration, and health outcomes

Robert McLeman

Department of Geography & Environmental Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University,
Waterloo, ON, Canada

Considerable research exists on the implications of climate change for health and wellbeing, and on how climate change is likely to influence future patterns of migration and displacement. However, considerably more research is needed on the interconnections between climate, migration and health. Migrants and displaced people are often more vulnerable than other members of a given population to a range of risks to health and wellbeing, as a consequence of being more highly exposed to such risks and/or being less able to adapt. Climate sensitive diseases, climatic impacts on food/water, and/or injuries attributable to climate hazards are among the factors that can erode household wellbeing and contribute to the emergence of migration and displacement in areas with weak or overstretched institutions. In this presentation, Professor McLeman "connects the dots" between climate, health and migration, and identifies important areas for future research.



Dr. Robert McLeman is Professor of Geography & Environmental Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Canada. His research focuses on how environmental change affects population patterns and community wellbeing, and has been published widely in books, scholarly journals and popular media. He has advised the World Bank, OECD, numerous UN agencies, and governments in North America and Europe on the implications of climate change for global migration patterns and security. Professor McLeman is also a Coordinating Lead Author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Sixth Assessment report on

vulnerability and adaptation, where he and his team of international scientists are responsible for assessing climate change impacts on human health, wellbeing, migration and conflict.

The health impacts of internal displacement in the context of climate change and disasters: Key findings from case studies in Ethiopia and Somalia

Louisa Yasukawa

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Norwegian Refugee Council, Geneva, Switzerland

Disaster displacement is a global reality and an everyday occurrence. In 2020, [30.7 million](#) new displacements were triggered by disasters. Displacement not only affects people's security, livelihoods, education and housing conditions, but also their health. This presentation will examine some of the impacts of displacement in a changing climate on the physical health, psychosocial wellbeing, and access to healthcare of IDPs and non-displaced communities. It is based on the findings of two case studies IDMC conducted in 2021 on drought displacement in Ethiopia and flood displacement in Somalia. The findings from both studies highlight various health challenges IDPs face during displacement, including increased risk of communicable diseases and poor access to food and water. After providing an overview of the findings, the presentation will consider how people with disabilities are particularly affected by displacement in the context of disasters and climate change, and discuss ways forward for more inclusive action.



Louisa Yasukawa is a Research Associate at the [Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre \(IDMC\)](#), where she investigates the socioeconomic impacts of internal displacement and leads IDMC's research on people with disabilities. Louisa is a qualified lawyer from Australia and holds a Master's degree in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies from Oxford University. She has previously worked for the UNHCR in Ecuador and as a research fellow for Dejusticia in Colombia, investigating the rights of Venezuelan refugees and migrants. Louisa has authored several of IDMC's publications, written for external outlets, and collaborated with the UNHCR and the International Disability Alliance to produce a joint factsheet on [Disability, Displacement](#)

[and Climate Change](#). She has worked on research projects on displacement linked with conflict, violence and disasters in [Nigeria](#), [Somalia](#), [Ethiopia](#) and led a study on

the impacts of Covid-19 on IDPs in [Yemen](#). Her research has been published in the [Refugee Survey Quarterly](#) of the Oxford University Press and she has presented at various events, including the annual conference of the International Association of the Study of Forced Migration.

Alice Baillat's abstract and bio



Background

This webinar is part of the **M8 Alliance Webinar Series on Migrant and Refugee Health**, organized by the M8 Alliance under the leadership of Prof. Luciano Saso.



The **M8 Alliance of Academic Health Centers, Universities and National Academies** is an unique international network of 30 leading international academic health centers, universities and research institutions, all of which are committed to improving global health and working with political and economic decision-makers to develop science-based solutions to health challenges worldwide.

Migrant and Refugee Health has been a focus topic of the M8 Alliance since 2016. Regular sessions at the World Health Summit and dedicated expert meetings have laid the basis for effective international research networks. The webinar series builds on this tradition and uses the opportunities of digital technologies to involve even more experts from around the world.

Contact:

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Further information:

<https://www.worldhealthsummit.org/m8-alliance/topics/migrant-and-refugee-health.html>

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