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Artículos científicos

# El albergue San Matías de Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, México, una alternativa de modelo sostenible para atención a migrantes

San Matias Shelter in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, an Alternative for a Sustainable Attention Model for Migrants

O abrigo San Matías em Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, México, um modelo alternativo sustentável para o cuidado de migrantes

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#### Resumen

Esta investigación es el resultado de un trabajo exploratorio donde se vinculó la dinámica de la migración en Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, con la necesidad de ofrecer espacios sostenibles para atender el creciente número de personas en movilidad que se encuentran en dicha ciudad fronteriza. El objetivo fue analizar la experiencia de creación de un albergue para migrantes con características de sostenibilidad. Contempló como variable contextual la migración interna y externa frente a la necesidad de crear espacios dignos para la atención de las personas en movilidad que pasan, permanecen un tiempo o se establecen en la ciudad. El supuesto que guio la investigación considera que las características de un albergue sostenible son congruentes con los preceptos del desarrollo sostenible. Se desarrolló a partir de un estudio cualitativo y exploratorio de un caso específico: el albergue San Matías. Los resultados exponen el contexto de vulnerabilidad en el que se encuentran las personas en movilidad frente a la gran necesidad de contar con espacios de atención. Aquí se muestra que





un albergue sostenible reduce la vulnerabilidad, precariedad y transitoriedad jurídica de las personas migrantes. En conclusión, el trabajo muestra una opción para dar salida a los problemas que enfrentan tanto las personas en situación de movilidad como las comunidades de acogida ante el aumento de la migración. El modelo de albergue sostenible podría ser replicable en otros lugares que enfrentan problemáticas similares.

Palabras clave: albergues, Ciudad Juárez, desarrollo sostenible, migración.

#### Abstract

This research is the result of an exploratory work where the dynamics of migration in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, was linked with the need to offer sustainable spaces to serve the growing number of people on the move who are in the border city. The objective was to analyze the experience of creating a shelter for migrants with sustainability characteristics. It contemplated internal and external migration as a contextual variable in the face of the need to create decent spaces for the care of people in mobility who pass through, stay for a while or settle in the city. The assumption that guided the research considers that the characteristics of a sustainable shelter are consistent with the precepts of sustainable development. It was developed from a qualitative and exploratory study of a specific case: the San Matias shelter. The results exposed the context of vulnerability in which people in mobility find themselves in the face of the great need to have care spaces. Here it is shown that a sustainable shelter reduces the vulnerability, precariousness, and legal transience of migrants. In conclusion, the work shows an option to solve the problems faced by both people in a situation of mobility and the host communities in the face of increased migration. The sustainable shelter model could be replicated in other places that face similar problems.

Keywords: shelters, Ciudad Juárez, sustainable development, migration.



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#### Resumo

Esta pesquisa é o resultado de um trabalho exploratório onde a dinâmica da migração em Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, foi vinculada à necessidade de oferecer espaços sustentáveis para atender o crescente número de pessoas em movimento que estão na cidade fronteiriça. O objetivo foi analisar a experiência de criação de um abrigo para migrantes com características de sustentabilidade. Contemplou a migração interna e externa como variável contextual diante da necessidade de criar espaços dignos para o atendimento das pessoas em mobilidade que transitam, permanecem por algum tempo ou se instalam na cidade. O pressuposto que orientou a pesquisa considera que as características de um abrigo sustentável são consistentes com os preceitos do desenvolvimento sustentável. Foi desenvolvido a partir de um estudo qualitativo e exploratório de um caso específico: o abrigo San Matías. O resultado expôs o contexto de vulnerabilidade em que as pessoas em mobilidade se encontram diante da grande necessidade de ter espaços de cuidado. Aqui mostra-se que um abrigo sustentável reduz a vulnerabilidade, precariedade e transitoriedade legal dos migrantes. Em conclusão, o trabalho mostra uma opção para resolver os problemas enfrentados tanto pelas pessoas em situação de mobilidade quanto pelas comunidades de acolhimento diante do aumento da migração. O modelo de abrigo sustentável poderia ser replicado em outros lugares que enfrentam problemas semelhantes.

Palavras-chave: abrigos, Ciudad Juárez, desenvolvimento sustentável, migração.

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#### Introduction

The increase in migration in the cities of origin, transit or destination has drawn the attention of the academic community as a research topic. In Mexico, it has become imperative to create care options for the large number of migrants, especially since 2018, when more than 7,000 people organized in a caravan walked in different directions through the Mexican territory (Mandujano, November 6, 2018). Thousands of people challenged the organized crime networks and the governments themselves with a complex form of mobility due to its dimensions. Civil society organizations saw their ability to receive a large number of people together and at once limited, including religious associations, which have more than 20 years of experience in serving these groups (Varela, 2019). In an investigation consisting of 1000 interviews carried out in 2016, some of the risks that migrants in mobility face were identified





and classified, such as discrimination, violence derived from other migrants, the private security guards of the train in the different railway routes, organized crime and gangs (National Human Rights Commission [CNDH], 2018).

Not only the type of mobility changed: Alarcón (2019) highlights the change in the profile of the migrant, since it went from being defined by men, adults and mostly Mexicans, to one made up of 60% of migrant families, another considerable percentage of minors. who travel without company and the majority of migrants come from the Northern Triangle, that is, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. To attend to this emergency, several shelters have been created in Ciudad Juárez since 2018, however, the attention capacities are still not sufficient. Gerónimo and Sánchez (2021) highlight the importance of shelters as "institutions that ensure and safeguard the human rights of undocumented migrants, at the same time that they function as a scale for the characterization of migration in the country" (p. 309).

Part of the budget for the creation and support of shelters in Mexico comes from the Government, which, with the help of non-governmental associations, private companies and the community, manages the operation and maintenance of these spaces. However, given the growth of the migrant population, it is increasingly difficult to provide comprehensive support to these groups, which is why the need and advantage of having sustainable shelters that give migrants the option of learning and performing a trade are envisioned. that allows you an immediate income through collaboration in the productive activities of the shelter. In this way, upon arrival at their destination, they could reduce the risks faced by the majority, since, according to the CNDH (2018), 49% migrate for economic and labor reasons. At the international level, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development invites States to recognize migration as a powerful driver of sustainable development for both migrants and their communities.

The concept of sustainable refers to "what can be maintained for a long time without depleting resources or causing serious damage to the environment" (Royal Spanish Academy [RAE], 2022). According to the 2030 Agenda, migration is an element that:

It brings very significant benefits in the form of skills, strengthening the workforce, investment and cultural diversity, and contributes to improving the lives of communities in their countries of origin through the transfer of skills and financial resources. (Organización Internacional para las Migraciones [OIM], 2021, párr. 1).





Likewise, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) position education as a determining element to move towards development with these characteristics. For this reason, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) has considered, within the 2030 Agenda, the purpose of achieving sustainable education (UN, 2020, para. 3). The creation of sustainable shelters could reduce the risks and vulnerabilities faced by people on the move during their journey.

Talking about an education for sustainability is a complex issue that involves a paradigm shift in the current educational system and, therefore, requires a synergy and predisposition towards the adoption of new ideologies and teaching models that lead students to solving current and future challenges. Today, the Mexican educational system continues to be engaged in the reproduction of knowledge and the evaluation of evidence, even when the overwhelming challenge is to train critical, reflective and proactive citizens who help to face climate problems, the loss of biodiversity, the shortage of of water, among other global challenges. Eight years from the deadline for compliance with the 2030 Agenda, little has been done in Mexico to achieve this goal. Alvarado et al. (2010) argue that, in fact, education continues to be aligned with the values of the ideology of the neoliberal model: the explicit purpose is to continue responding to the challenges of competitiveness in the global economy.

Formal education is not the only way to achieve a sustainable education, since both nonformal education and informal education promote learning spaces oriented towards sustainability, for example, at home children are taught to take care of water, to respect biodiversity and be more ecological. In the works, recycling, the moderate use of natural resources and the care of water and light are encouraged. It is in the field of non-formal and informal education where this research work is located, since it is a clerical-type shelter called San Matías, which serves a community of 56 people who are waiting for a response to their asylum applications. in United States. The population is made up of 10 men, 18 women, four infants from 0 to 24 months, 20 infants from 2 to 11 years and four adolescents. Of these, 40 are from Mexico, three from Guatemala, six from El Salvador and seven from Honduras. Most of the people in this shelter have been waiting for more than a year for a response to their asylum application.

From the strengthening of migration containment policies, as well as the increase in insecurity in Mexico, the complexity of immigrant journeys has given rise to new ways of settling at the border, temporarily or permanently. Due to the above, it is essential to generate





spaces worthy of humanitarian attention with sustainability characteristics, where the acquisition of skills and the use of their talents are promoted to achieve economic independence, as well as the sustainability of this type of space.

This article is divided into six sections: the first describes the context of the San Matías hostel; the second deals with the state of the art; the third details the materials and methods; the results are presented in the fourth section; Next, there is the discussion section, and in the sixth section the conclusions are presented and possible future lines of research are presented.

According to the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs, in 2017 the number of international migrants worldwide (including refugees) was 258 million. In 2019, the figure grew to 272 million, that is, the number of international migrants increased by 14 million. This situation is worrisome, since it refers to 3.5% of the world population (United Nations [UN], September 17, 2019).

In addition to the above, the phenomenon of extraterritorialization of asylum occurs at the border, the purpose of which is to create camps or processing centers for applications in territories outside the countries where the asylum application is filed (Perrin, 2018). To carry out these asylum outsourcing processes, "safe third country" or "first country of asylum" agreements are established with transit States. These agreements are generally made in exchange for financial compensation or some economic advantage for the countries that agree to receive and process asylum applications. They are also usually based on a relationship of economic, political or military dependency of the countries of transit towards the country of destination and on a great differential in power. This is the case, of course, with the relationship between Mexico and the United States. (Red de Documentación de las Organizaciones Defensoras de Migrantes [Redodem], 2020).

According to Canales, Fuentes and De León (2019), given the increase in human mobility since 2018, we have seen:

The tightening of arrest and deportation policies, both in Mexico and in the United States, has had a double impact. On the one hand, the global flow of migrants is initially reduced, but the proportion of migrants who manage to successfully complete both their journey through Mexico and the crossing of the North American border is also reduced, thereby reducing the probability of success of the migration (p. 53).





This situation generates uncertainty, since many of the migrants must wait in Ciudad Juárez for the response to the asylum request they processed before the United States. During this period of time, it is pertinent to apply a sustainability model that allows them to learn and develop skills for a trade and obtain resources for their support.

Ciudad Juárez has gone through a series of transformations in migratory flows. During 2019, human mobility in the region presented two significant changes. On the one hand, an increase in displacement was observed that exceeded 850,000 people, corresponding to the number of apprehensions by the United States Border Patrol, and on the other, the enormous growth of family units arriving at the northern border stands out. with the objective of requesting international protection in the United States.

However, in the review of the literature, only one shelter with sustainability characteristics was found in Mexican territory. Located in Chiapas, it bears the name of Hermanos en el Camino and offers:

A space for the protection and humanitarian assistance of migrants who pass through Ixtepec, Oaxaca, an almost obligatory transit point for those who enter Mexico from the Chiapas side, starting from Ciudad Hidalgo and crossing that state until they reach Oaxacan territory (the majority of The people are originally from the countries of the Northern Triangle of Central America – Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador). This includes those who come in "the Beast", as the freight train used by several of the migrants is known to cross the country from south to north. (Estrategias de Auto-Sustentabilidad para Iniciativas de Desarrollo, 22 de junio de 2019, párr. 5).

This shelter receives different aids for its support; In addition, it has a small farm and a cornfield from which several of its tenants feed, who are in charge of sustainable activities such as planting and raising chickens. Their vision revolves around the achievement of sustainability, for which they urge migrants to educate themselves and learn farm and crop work in order to survive economically.

In Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico, there is a shelter for migrants with great interest in sustainable education. It is located at 4201 Emilio Campa street, Francisco I. Madero neighborhood, on a property of about a thousand square meters. The director of the shelter, the priest Héctor Trejo, through concrete actions, has initiated a sustainable model where the generation of basic foods stands out.





The San Matías shelter has been providing humanitarian aid to migrants mainly from Central America and Mexico for three years. According to the priest Trejo (comunicación personal, 12 de febrero de 2022):

> Nobody left their country with the intention of being in this shelter, they have aspirations, a project. Just these plans in migrants make it difficult to have permanent human resources to support the sustainable activities of the shelter.

#### Figure 1. Photographs of the sowing and raising pigs





#### Source: self made

It has a small farm where animals such as chickens and pigs are raised; a tilapia farm, zucchini, lettuce and tomato fields, and a carpentry workshop. The goal is for the shelter to be self-sustaining for food and offer learning for life to those who pass through that place.

Training the migrants staying there to tend to the farm, feed the animals or carry out other activities related to carpentry or planting takes time, effort and commitment, a challenge considering the unstable characteristics that the migration situation implies. This leads to the question: how is sustainability achieved in a shelter with mobile populations?

Sustainable development is often oriented towards aspects of environmental quality and carrying capacity. A broader vision, endorsed by the United Nations Center for Human Settlements, also includes aspects of social and economic equity. In this sense, global restructuring presents a significant context. Their associated processes, including international migration, help create and reinforce patterns of socioeconomic polarization and spatial segregation. These patterns find expression particularly in the urban context where migrants find themselves.



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A challenge facing many countries around the world is to sustainably address the problems of increasing numbers of migrants. Al-Husban and Adams (2016) state:

The migrant refugee "problem" is often strongly political, as a high density of migrants in local areas affects communities (eg disrupts local employment, services and culture). Different migrants come with different "baggage" and needs, which can be a significant drain on the resources of host communities. (p. 1).

After studying a large refugee camp in Jordan over a period of three and a half years, the authors conclude that long-term sustainable solutions for migrant refugees require a rethinking of existing dominant models of support and charity (Al-Husban and Adams, 2016).

For their part, Van Houte and Davids (2008) analyzed the supposed relationship between return migration, sustainability and development, and in particular the role of assistance from non-governmental organizations and government policy. Throughout their work, they argue that a different approach to the relationship between migration and development is needed, both theoretically and politically. Theoretically, the need for a transnational approach based on the everyday epistemologies of refugees and their need for a sense of belonging is highlighted; The importance of defining the sustainability of the return is emphasized through the use of the concept of mixed rooting and the different factors that influence this rooting. Regarding the political, the authors criticize the current convenient application of the conjoined twins: migration and development, since the inconsistencies in government policy are emphasized; recommend a more cautious way of linking these concepts by both organizations and governments.

Access to housing is a topic studied by Naseh, Potocky, Stuart and Pezeshk (2018), who highlight the pull factor to end forced displacement, when comparing the housing situation of Afghan refugees in Iran with access to housing for returnees in Afghanistan. The findings suggest that more than 80% of the Afghans surveyed in the study had access to a covered, durable and private living space with minimal living standards in Iran.

Regarding secularization, Angulo-Pasel (2022) analyzes the contrast of the role of the migrant community actively involved in the border dialogue at the same time as being affected by the restrictive policies that are implemented against "unauthorized" migrants in the name of of national security. Her research examines how borders affect the shelters used by migrants in transit, specifically since the Southern Border Plan policy was implemented





in Mexico in the summer of 2014, when shelters began to take on a larger role. committed to migration protection and assistance. Under this migratory context, temporary migrant shelters are being transformed into spaces of greater permanence. However, migrants continue to face particular challenges in shelters regarding restrictive rules, showing the power relations at play in these spaces.

Regarding the economic effects of sustainability on migration, Peixoto (2019) identifies them as positive. Similarly, cultural diversity for the country of destination is a source of innovation and increases productivity (Bove and Elia, 2017). This is achieved through formal education, whose real objective is to regulate people, that is, in educational centers the values, ideologies and skills that are dictated to respond to an economic and social model are transmitted, in such a way that way that individuals respond to the needs of said model and contribute to the achievement of social, economic and cultural goals. However, the UNESCO Deputy Director General for Education, on the subject of sustainable education, points out:

Education for sustainable development arose from the need for education to address the growing challenges related to sustainability. Sustainable education uses an innovative and action-oriented pedagogy so that learners can develop the necessary knowledge and awareness and carry out actions to transform today's society into a more sustainable society. (Giannini, 2020).

The core intention of sustainable education is to guarantee that all the inhabitants of the planet understand the importance of caring for it for their survival. This process requires time, commitment and, above all, adaptability, since it is essential to first achieve a paradigm shift in the educational system and in educators in accordance with sustainable education.

In this regard, it is necessary to underline that access to formal education for people on the move is limited and the situation of vulnerability is worrisome. Mafukata (2015) states that immigrants engage in risky behavior as a means of survival in host countries. In other words, some international migrants go to great lengths to support their lives while abroad. Likewise, Kapur (2005) explains that women sometimes have to agree to prostitute themselves or accept harassment of another type against their person in order to avoid greater risks. This type of vulnerability would be considerably reduced if there were spaces where people on the move could work and learn trades to earn an income while staying in a safe environment. In order to achieve change in educational paradigms, it is important as a first point to train, raise awareness and empower educational authorities, since they will be the ones who



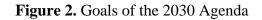


manage to transmit the importance of sustainable education to the population. According to Unesco (2017), this type of education is characterized by being:

An evolution from teaching to learning. (...) A transformative and actionoriented pedagogy, and is characterized by aspects such as self-directed learning, participation and collaboration, problem orientation, inter and transdisciplinarity, and the creation of links between formal and formal learning informal (p. 7).

These elements respond to a competency-based approach that has been implemented in basic education in Mexico since 2004 and encourages students not only to be self-taught, but also to collaborate in teams to solve current problems that affect their communities. One of the most transcendental aspects of this pedagogical approach is that exams that promote memorization as the only form of accreditation have been left in the past and valuable tools such as case studies, problem-based learning, or challenges have been incorporated.





Source: ONU (s. f.).

Competence-based training is aligned with the 2030 Agenda that Unesco proposes, since it promotes people to be more aware of their habitat, the impact of their actions against the environment, collaborative work and the social responsibility they have so that the planet survives. As can be seen in figure 2, education is located as one of the cornerstones of this project.





With the competency-based educational approach, the school system seeks to make students more analytical, critical and purposeful, but the results have not been as expected. Ruiz (2000, cited in Andrade, 2008) suggests that:

The failure of the model to function is fundamentally because (...) there has been a lack of stopping at the methodological, which is ultimately what allows reality to be transformed, if we do not delve into the methodological, fundamentally in the methods of how to do it, we do not access the change and the model remains floating above its main actors (teachers and students) and is configured only in very necessary sociological, epistemological and philosophical aureoles, but still without a path for action, action directed at the pedagogical, and within the pedagogical, to the didactic-methodological, focused on how to conduct the teaching-learning process to achieve competent students in multiple directions (p. 58).

It must be understood that if the school system does not achieve a true transformation from its roots, the results expected by the 2030 Agenda regarding sustainable education will never be obtained. Together, society and school can transcend from an educational simulation to a real education with the benefits that sustainable education poses. According to Unesco, education for all, without any discrimination, is guaranteed by international law as a human right. The principle of non-discrimination applies to all those who are of school age and reside on the territory of a State, including non-citizens, regardless of their legal status. Consequently, migrants in an irregular situation can invoke the right to education, which implies that, regardless of the period of stay, those who so wish must receive education, be it formal, informal or non-formal.

As seen in Table 1, there is a correlation between the SDGs and migration.





 Table 1. Correlation between sustainable development goals and migration strategies

 published by IOM

Objetivo 8.3	Estrategias publicadas por la OIM
Promover políticas orientadas al	Promover políticas que apoyen la creación
desarrollo que apoyen las actividades	de empleo digno, el emprendimiento, la
productivas, la creación de puestos de	innovación y la formalización a fin de:
trabajo decentes, el emprendimiento, la	• Abordar el desempleo y el
creatividad y la innovación, y fomentar	subempleo, las malas condiciones
la formalización y el crecimiento de las	de trabajo y la falta de
microempresas y las pequeñas y	oportunidades de emprendimiento
medianas empresas, incluso mediante el	como posibles impulsores de la
acceso a servicios financieros.	migración.
	• Abordar el desempleo y el
	subempleo de las poblaciones
	migrantes.
	• Proteger a los trabajadores
	migrantes garantizando
	condiciones de trabajo adecuadas.
	• Adoptar un enfoque inclusivo para
	la creación de empleo, la iniciativa
	empresarial, la innovación y la
	formalización que integre las
	necesidades e intereses de todos
	los grupos de migrantes, incluidos,
	entre otros, los refugiados, los
	migrantes de retorno y los
	desplazados internos.
	• Ampliar el acceso de todos los
	grupos de migrantes y empresas
	fundadas por migrantes a los
	servicios financieros, incluidas las





empresas de migrantes retornados y refugiados.

Source: Own elaboration based on International Labor Organization [OIT] (2022) y OIM (2018)

Therefore, this research addresses these two major social problems: migration and sustainability, as well as the dynamics under which both phenomena are related.

# Materials and methods

This article presents an exploratory, descriptive and cross-sectional approach whose main objective is to analyze the experience of creating a shelter for migrants with sustainability characteristics. The reality of the shelters in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, is complex due to the growing number of people who continue to arrive in the city, this phenomenon is analyzed around a process of sustainable development as a key element that enables the shelter to meet the needs of its received from a humanitarian perspective and, at the same time, allow obtaining resources for their maintenance, so that the continuity of activities is guaranteed. The study aims to identify the characteristics of a sustainable shelter planned in Ciudad Juárez. The sample comprises a total of 10 people related to the shelter. The time parameter of the study covers from August 2021 to April 2022. The study is qualitative, exploratory and descriptive. Exploratory studies:

> They serve to familiarize us with relatively unknown phenomena, obtain information about the possibility of carrying out a more complete investigation regarding a particular context, investigate new problems, identify promising concepts or variables, establish priorities for future investigations, or suggest statements and postulates.

> These kinds of studies are common in research, especially in situations where there is little information. (Hernández, Fernández y Baptista, 2014, p. 91).

Therefore, it is a relevant approach to investigate the case of sustainable shelters in Ciudad Juárez. In relation to descriptive studies, it seeks to specify the properties, characteristics and profiles of people, groups, communities, processes, objects or any other phenomenon that is subjected to analysis. It is intended to examine the aspects that encourage the sustainable actions of the shelter under study, based on an in-depth understanding of the



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case, which implies describing the phenomenon and the context under which it manifests itself. Therefore, the independent variable of migratory status is explored to see if this strengthens or encourages participation actions in a sustainable shelter model.

The approach was inductive. The semi-structured interviews were oriented to learn about the experience of creating and living in a hostel with sustainability characteristics. It is intended to make theoretical contributions to the issue of sustainability in migrant shelters through observations and analysis of the phenomenon in the experiential field. Thus, the methodology is qualitative since a case is selected that gives typological representativeness to the phenomenon; it is not based on inferential statistics (Hernández et al., 2006), but on descriptive inference (King, Keohane and Verba, 1994).

Due to the above, the case study was chosen, because, according to Durán (2012), it is a way of addressing a particular fact, phenomenon, event or situation in depth and in its context, which allows a greater understanding of its complexity and, therefore, the greatest learning from the case study. The case study in qualitative research is a process of inquiry focused on the description and detailed, comprehensive, systematic, in-depth examination of a defined case, be it a particular fact, phenomenon, event or situation. The analysis incorporates the context (temporal-spatial, economic, political, legal), which allows a better understanding of its complexity and, therefore, a greater learning of the particular case. (Durán, 2012, p. 128).

The selected techniques were the ideal ones for obtaining information such as the semi-structured interview with public servants focused on attending to the mobility of people, the managers and participants in the creation of the San Matías shelter and the migrants themselves who are in the mentioned place. In the same way, an analysis of documents from immigration records and files was carried out, as well as press releases, YouTube videos and a news portal where the work carried out by the San Matías shelter has been made known.





Categorías de participantes	Entrevistas realizadas
Autoridades de organismos internacionales	2
Directivo del albergue	1
Migrantes del albergue San Matías	7
Total de entrevistas realizadas	10

**Table 2** Participating actors by group of categories

#### Source: self made

Below are several questions selected from the data collection instrument: "What has been your experience in the San Matías shelter?", "What is the objective of having a sustainable shelter?", "What are the resources and sources of financing that the shelter has?", "What are the limitations and scope in the creation of the sustainable shelter?" and "What has been the response of the people in the hostel in relation to the activities of the sustainable model?".

The proposed working hypothesis is considered pertinent when relating the creation of the shelter with the SDGs by 2030. The challenges of these objectives are ambitious and aimed at improving the quality of life and the ecosystem. Will, willingness and knowledge are required to be able to achieve the objectives of the 2030 Agenda. If we manage to sensitize the hostel participants and correctly convey to them the importance of education for sustainable development, it is likely that in a short time we will be able to see the fruits of this proposal for a sustainable hostel model, whose objective is to seek economic and ecological balance through self-management and care of natural resources.

It should be considered that changes occur gradually in societies and more so because example and culture will always be decisive for change. Mexico needs, as previously stated, to work on training, awareness and sensitization of current sustainable models in order to promote quality education aimed at the real sustainability of the country.

## Results

Education for sustainable development suggests that by 2030 individuals will be entities capable of looking after their environments, caring for ecosystems and collaboratively promoting sustainable societies. This is intended to be achieved through formal education, by giving teachers the knowledge so that they are the ones who transmit the objectives of sustainable education to the rest of the population.



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On the other hand, within non-formal and informal education there are projects that exemplify, promote and bring communities closer to self-sustainable development, for example, the San Matías shelter, in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico, on the border with the United States. In this shelter, concrete actions have been initiated to achieve a sustainable space for migrants. It has its own sources of food: a farm where chickens and pigs are raised; tilapia farming; an orchard where zucchini, tomato and various types of lettuce are planted, and various workshops such as carpentry, sewing, jewelry and gel nails, among others. One of the benefits of having a sustainable model alternative is that the hosted population is offered access to a roof and adequate basic services; another is that in the city marginal neighborhoods are improved and inclusion, efficient use of natural resources and climate change mitigation are promoted, without neglecting the economic aspect of said people. The objective of the San Matías sustainable shelter model is:

Offer a place where people in a situation of mobility, whether nationals or foreigners, who have been violated in their place of origin due to poverty, forced displacement due to violence or climate issues, can be received. It seeks to provide their person with elements that could be lacking from their origin, that is, productive capacities, that they learn to develop their own talents and strengthen the family nucleus, provide academic support to children, develop talents in adolescents and strengthen the mental structure in the management of the economy of adults, for example, teaching in resource management, debt resolution and how to undertake through the production of goods or services (Trejo, comunicación personal, 28 de abril de 2022).

The services that are contemplated to be offered to migrants are psychological advice, legal advice, social work, health and dental services. This seeks to alleviate the situations of precariousness and legal transience that characterize urban practices and the patterns of incorporation into places of transit or reception, given that this situation of vulnerability limits the access of both national and international migrants to their human rights. (R.M., personal communication, November 18, 2021)

The people in a situation of mobility that reside in the San Matías hostel express that they are happy with their stay in this place. They also point out that the various activities they carry out and the workshops they offer to learn how to be productive help them occupy themselves mentally, in addition to contributing in some way to the current expenses of the place (Y. S., personal communication, February 8, 2022). Another person commented the following: "By



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carrying out the activities at the shelter we learn to share and see things in a different way, what we are learning would have been very useful to us in our place of origin" (E. Z., comunicación personal, 21 de enero de 2022).

In terms of resources, I learned to be creative to make what was available work, to prepare with what there is, for example, if we have 90 people to feed and there were only 60 pieces of chicken, I would shred it and prepare it in such a way that reach and yield for all. I was in the kitchen for several months and then at the chicken farm (A. S., comunicación personal, 28 de enero de 2022).

"One of the things that I value a lot is overcoming my shyness and learning to talk with other people" (N. I., comunicación personal, 21 de enero de 2022)

In terms of production, in a week I collected about 12 cartons of eggs, but since we are many people, it was still not enough. The plan was to sell the production, but the production that would allow production to be able to sell has not yet been reached. At first there were few chickens, but there are plans to buy more (Y. A., comunicación personal, 28 de enero de 2022).

When asked about his experience of living in a hostel with sustainability characteristics, one of the people interviewed commented:

The workshops that they offer us are very valuable, I learned to make costume jewelery and I really liked it. Coexistence, living with so many people helps us a lot, speaking in public, learning to function. Organizing activities, planning, are things that will help me when I leave. For the sustainable, we donated some drums for garbage, OIM and Unicef. I printed some sheets, I put drawings and colors with photos of bitten apples and banana peels for the organic, and for the inorganic I put photos of cans for aluminum, another with plastic bottles, cardboard and so on, we put them in different areas . At first it was difficult, we had to be re-educating in that area, insisting, but progress is being made. We were learning to be responsible, take care of water, electricity, separate waste (J. G., comunicación personal, 28 de enero de 2022).

Regarding the resources available, another interviewee said:

What we lacked the most was money. Sometimes we did not have enough food to feed the animals. Bags of animal feed were bought, for the pigs, for the chickens and for the baby chicks and sometimes if we needed it, we had





to cook rice to feed the chickens. All people were interested, but not everyone likes to work. There is one in charge of chickens, one of pigs, another of fish, and another of the orchard. We are organizing to have a person and an assistant, to guarantee that there are people who know how to carry out the activities. You have to know how to wash them, how to clean them, know how to care for them if they get sick, how to feed them (F. G., comunicación personal, 28 de enero de 2022).

One of the people interviewed highlighted the tranquility and spirituality that is experienced in the San Matías shelter as a very positive aspect that helps them cope with waiting for a response to their asylum procedures in the United States after forced migration.

> My stay in this hostel has helped me because I have learned many things, but above all, I feel very safe and calmer here, after all that my family and I have been through in our city. The spiritual part is important (J. M., comunicación personal, 26 de febrero de 2022).

Some residents of the shelter commented in a direct interview for the Debate news portal (February 12, 2022) that thanks to the multiple occupations in which they are immersed during the day, they do not have space to think, get depressed or even get angry, because the young of animals, including pigs and chickens, allows them to have occupational therapy. As an example, we retrieve the following testimony:

We have been involved in the activities, raising chickens, little pigs... we already ate two at Christmas. This type of therapy is good for not always thinking about the same thing. This is how time goes by, this place with animal husbandry and crops, looks like the place where I grew up (F. L., comunicación personal 30 de abril de 2022).

The shelter is a dignified place where, after an arduous journey, migrants have food, shelter and a bit of peace; a space to vent the soul and take courage to follow your path. However, more financial support is required.

Currently, there are two main sources of funding that cover aspects such as infrastructure, equipment and maintenance: the Episcopal Diocese of Rio Grande and a non-profit organization called Sleep is Power. In addition, donations are received from other organizations such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (Acnur), the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef] and IOM, which provide support to the shelter network, support consisting of sanitizing items such as face masks, gel alcohol, chlorine,





hygiene items such as pinol, detergent, and support for the acquisition of food."This is a great help, but the truth is, it is not enough" (H. T., personal communication, January 20, 2022). the sustainable shelter model becomes more relevant.

# Discussion

The San Matías shelter offers a decent space for any migrant profile, according to the classification indicated by López (March 11, 2021), which includes children, women, families, the elderly, among others. The need for financial support from various actors in the public policy of attention to migrants is confirmed, such as agencies of the different levels of government, private companies, civil society and religious organizations, mentioned by the CNDH (2018), which confirms the advantage of having sustainable shelters that give the migrant the option to learn and carry out a trade that allows them an immediate income through collaboration in the productive activities of the shelter, since 49% migrate for economic and labor reasons.

Figure 3. San Matías migrant shelter in Ciudad Juárez



Source: self made





Figure 3 shows images of the San Matías shelter in which people on the move have found activities that give them the opportunity to distract themselves from the situation of vulnerability they face every day.

The findings of this research confirm that the relevance of creating sustainable shelters could reduce the risks and vulnerabilities mentioned by the CNDH (2018), which classified some of the risks faced by migrants in mobility. This is consistent with the findings of Mafukata (2015) and Kapur (2005), who stress that migrants engage in risky behavior as a means of survival in host countries.

The San Matías shelter is an alternative that could help reduce the problem mentioned by Al-Husban and Adams (2016), namely that a high density of migrants in local areas affects communities by disrupting employment, services and the local culture. Different migrants come with different "baggage" and needs, which can represent a significant drain on the host communities' resources. In addition, Van Houte and Davids (2008), like Al-Husban and Adams, (2016) point out that it is necessary to move towards a different model in the care of people on the move. Added to this, access to a covered, durable and private space with minimum living standards is an aspect that has been studied by Naseh et al. (2018) as a factor of attraction for migration, characteristics offered by the San Matías hostel.

Similarly, the migrants interviewed expressed that the workshops that have been given to them, such as jewelry, carpentry, sewing, gel nails, farm animal care, among others, will be very useful for the future, whether it is to work or create your own business wherever you are. They also mentioned that the learning obtained in the practice of the activities of the shelter allowed them to learn to plan, to be more organized and to generate a culture of caring for resources, oriented towards sustainability.

The most relevant aspect in relation to the vulnerability of migrants was found in the expressions related to mental and emotional health that is promoted by carrying out the productive activities of the shelter, socialization and economic independence that they obtain given the opportunity to have income from the sale of the products that are generated.

Next, a semantic network is presented that graphically explains the creation of the San Matías shelter from three analysis perspectives: 1) human rights, 2) migration and sustainability, from public policies, and 3) sustainable development. In this analytical framework, the benefit of having shelters with sustainability characteristics can be observed, which could be an alternative to provide better humanitarian care to the large number of people who continue to arrive in Ciudad Juárez every day. In addition, authors such as Van Houte and Davids





(2008) recommend looking for other care models and more innovative policies, since containment and charity seem to be exhausted as options that solve or at least reduce this problem.

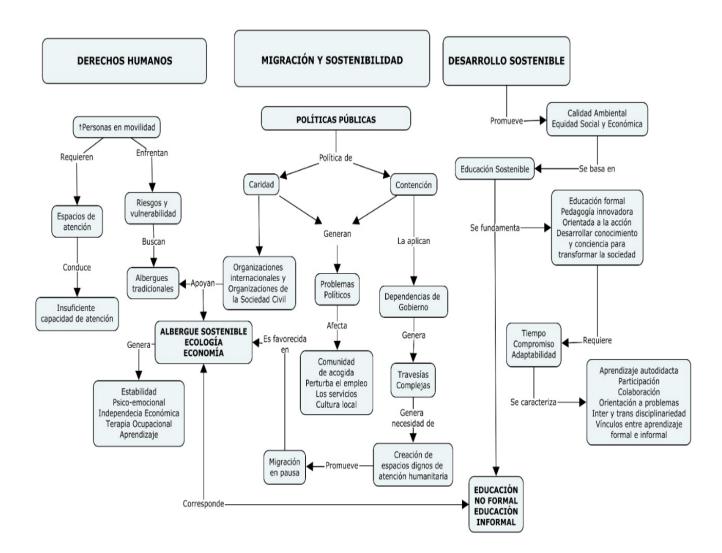


Figure 4. Semantic network of migration and sustainability

Source: self made

## Limitations

Among the limitations that we face in the investigation, it stands out that the information presented is restricted to what was observed in the San Matías shelter, as the experience of the participants and its director. We are aware that the experiences of other sustainable lodges could provide valuable data for comparative analysis. However, we made





every reasonable effort to identify sustainable hostels in Mexico and only found the Hermanos en el Camino hostel in Chiapas.

Having said this, we consider that shelters with sustainability characteristics are key elements to understand the situation of migrants. Likewise, these types of shelters play an important role in the decision-making processes of people on the move, since first impressions are formed while they are contemplating the possibility of staying in Ciudad Juárez, either temporarily while waiting for the asylum application, or permanently.

Another of the limitations that are identified is the lack of resources to have professional personnel with knowledge to supervise the activities that are being carried out, since currently only one person, the director, is in charge of carrying out the planning work. , execution and supervision, which makes it difficult to achieve the goals of the shelter.

#### Strengths

We believe that the work presented serves as a representative example of the areas of opportunity for this type of organization, since in addition to accommodation and food for people on the move, they provide occupational therapy, which facilitates emotional stability in the face of the situation of vulnerability suffered by migrants during their trajectory. Likewise, it enables independence both for the migrants and for the shelter itself through economic sustainability. Our analysis, therefore, is a snapshot that shows advantages for public policy makers in the face of a phenomenon of large dimensions.

## Conclusions

The 2030 Agenda is undoubtedly an ambitious and necessary project in order to preserve and increase the quality of life of the global community. It is imperative to educate citizens aware of their environment and the importance of caring for it, in order to guarantee non-renewable natural resources for present and future generations.

Formal education as the main axis for the transformation of communities through sustainable education could promote, implement and improve living conditions, however, this is not the only form of education to favor the creation of sustainable projects. The types of non-formal and informal education also play an important role, since around these societies come together to create sustainable projects in order to improve their communities.



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A worthy example of education and sustainable development is found in the San Matías shelter, where, thanks to the management of the director, support has been obtained from different organizations, both local and international, to implement the raising of chickens, pigs and tilapia, as well as the cultivation of crops, so that the shelter can generate its own food at low cost and in an ecological way. The work of caring for these animals is carried out largely by migrants, who, grateful for the treatment and the opportunity to host, collaborate in these activities. For people in a situation of mobility, supporting the raising and cultivation is not an obligation, but a way of maintaining sanity in the face of the uncertainty generated by waiting to cross the border.

The director of the shelter has generated the conditions so that self-sustainability is possible and migrants receive the knowledge to generate their own food, even in adversity and anywhere in the world. The actions carried out at the San Matías shelter are an example of sustainable educational projects in the community and a model worth replicating. The importance of observing the role played by the shelter as an actor allows us to measure its importance in the promotion and defense of human rights, in addition to offering, through a sustainable model, a possible solution option to both individual and community problems generated by the migration phenomenon.

The model built by the San Matías shelter favors the economic aspect of the host town and migrants. The acquisition of skills that allow them to be independent favors their self-determination, given that education for sustainable development is not limited to actions of self-feeding, but rather seeks critical, reflective and purposeful education that generates and implements proposals to create quality environments, inclusive, resilient and sustainable. In contrast to charity and support models, whose function is limited to a short period, thanks to this model that promotes self-sustainability, people on the move take active roles and work to become a group that contributes to the host communities. Therefore, it would be attractive to replicate it in other places that receive migrants.





#### Possible future lines of research

This study revealed that people on the move benefit from participating and learning to live in a sustainable environment, since knowing the importance of caring for the environment and acquiring skills that allow them to carry out a trade wherever they are could improve their quality of life. lifetime.

It is necessary to investigate the environment of origin of migrants in each host region to find out the skills and knowledge they probably possess, so that the planning of shelter activities and the assignment of responsibilities within it is more effective to move towards sustainability, once the skills of each person have been identified. This would be a line of research that allows for a diagnosis to obtain results from the training process. That is, training of migrants in transit. Migration and labor market.

Another line of future research is the participation of the Church as an actor in the design of this type of public policy programs, as well as the possibilities of financing from international organizations. The foregoing is related to the identification of practices, products or services that allow them to generate competitive advantages, reduce operating costs, increase the profitability of their current products or services and, in general, make their processes and operations more efficient aimed at achieving a sustainable shelter.





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