



**University of Azuay**

**Faculty of Legal Sciences**

School of International Studies

**Social Effects of Migration in the Province  
of Cañar (2010-2022)**

Author:

**Katerine Liseth Macera González**

Director:

**Mgst. Diana Alexandra García Orellana**

**Cuenca – Ecuador**

**2024**

**DEDICATION**

This work is dedicated to my mother, a brave woman, a dreamer, a tireless warrior, who has been my greatest pride and my source of inspiration in moments of doubt and discouragement. Without her support, I would not have been able to achieve this goal. I am infinitely grateful for everything you have done for me.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

DEDICATION .....	i
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	ii
INDEX OF FIGURES, TABLES AND APPENDICES .....	iii
Index of Figures .....	iii
Index of Tables .....	iii
Index of Appendices .....	iii
Resumen .....	iv
Abstract .....	iv
1. Introduction .....	1
1.1 General objective .....	1
1.2 Specific objectives .....	1
1.3 Theoretical framework.....	1
1.3.1 Theory of world systems. ....	2
1.3.2 The perpetuation of international flows.....	2
1.3.3 Network theory.....	2
1.3.4 Institutional theory.....	3
1.3.5 Social effects of migration.....	3
2. Literature review .....	4
2.1 National Regulations.....	5
3. Methods.....	6
4. Results .....	7
4.1 Remittance flows in the province of Cañar and its relationship with family dynamics.....	7
4.2 Impact of male migration on demography and gender dynamics in Azogues .....	9
4.3 Social effects of migration in Azogues 2010-2022.....	9
4.3.1 New family structure .....	11
4.3.2 Mental health .....	11
4.3.3 Identity.....	12
4.4 Legal incentives for the return of the migrant.....	12
5. Discussion .....	13
6. Conclusion.....	14
7. References .....	15

## INDEX OF FIGURES, TABLES AND APPENDICES

### Index of Figures

Figure 1 Remittances received in the province of Cañar, in millions of dollars, second quarter 2022 and 2023 respectively.....	8
--	---

### Index of Tables

Table 1 Case Study Plan Design .....	7
Table 2 Projections of the femininity index and masculinity index in the Canton of Azogues 2010-2025.....	9
Table 3 Social effects of migration in the canton of Azogues .....	10

### Index of Appendices

Appendix 1 Interview format .....	18
-----------------------------------	----

# **Social Effects of Migration in the Province of Cañar (2010-2022)**

## **Resumen**

La tesis "Efectos sociales de la migración en la provincia del Cañar (2010-2022)" aborda la influencia de la migración en las estructuras sociales y familiares de esta región. La investigación utiliza un enfoque cualitativo, empleando métodos como una revisión de literatura exhaustiva, entrevistas en profundidad con migrantes y sus familias, y un estudio de caso específico en la ciudad de Azogues. La revisión de literatura se complementa con datos de remesas y demografía para evaluar el impacto económico y social de la migración. Las entrevistas proporcionan perspectivas en la vida de los migrantes y sus familias. Estos métodos facilitaron la exploración de cómo las dinámicas de género y familiares se han visto alteradas significativamente, modificando las responsabilidades y roles dentro de los hogares. Los hallazgos indican que la migración ha generado tanto oportunidades económicas a través de remesas como desafíos culturales y sociales, influenciando la autonomía de las mujeres y alterando las dinámicas familiares tradicionales. La investigación concluye que la migración, mientras ofrece mejoras económicas, también exige un alto costo emocional y social para los individuos y comunidades afectadas, subrayando la necesidad de políticas más integradas que aborden tanto los beneficios como los desafíos asociados a este fenómeno.

**Palabras clave:** Migración, familia, sociedad, impacto, factores.

# **Social Effects of Migration in Cañar Province (2010-2022)**

## **Abstract**

The thesis "Social effects of migration in the province of Cañar (2010-2022)" explores the influence of migration on social and family structures in this region. The research uses a qualitative approach, employing methods such as a comprehensive literature review, in-depth interviews with migrants and their families, and a specific case study in the city of Azogues. The literature review is complemented with data on remittances and demographics to assess the economic and social impact of migration. Interviews provide insights into the lives of migrants and their families. These methods facilitated exploration of how gender and family dynamics have been significantly altered, changing responsibilities and roles within households. The findings indicate that migration has generated both economic opportunities through remittances and cultural and social challenges, influencing women's autonomy and altering traditional family dynamics. The research concludes that migration, while offering economic improvements, also exacts a high emotional and social cost for affected individuals and communities, underscoring the need for more integrated policies that address both the benefits and challenges associated with this phenomenon.

**Keywords** Migration, family, society, impact, factors.

# Social effects of migration in the Province of Cañar (2010-2022)

## 1. Introduction

The motivation to carry out this research arises from the personal need to know how this phenomenon of migration can have significant effects and changes in terms of the social and cultural structure in the province of Cañar. Given its extensive history of migration, I find it of great relevance to analyze how this migratory movement has transformed the social fabric of that province; and in turn allows us to resolve questions about: What happens to the family nucleus? Which human beings are formed from these life experiences? These questions will be resolved later through the opinions and experiences of the people who have been affected by this situation, either directly or indirectly. I also believe that delving into this topic can generate awareness and expand knowledge about the reality that is lived day by day, with this situation and the gaps that human mobility leaves in society, thus promoting empathy and interest between different social groups.

### 1.1 General objective

To determine the social effects of migration in the province of Cañar in the period 2010-2022.

### 1.2 Specific objectives

- Analyze migration and its social effects in the given period
- Analyze migration data specific to the Cañar province from 2010 to 2022.
- Analyze the existing legal framework on migration in the country

### 1.3 Theoretical framework

Today the world is in a time of great confusion, frustration and chaos. Rising geopolitical tensions are changing international relations, causing deep divisions within countries, giving way to phenomena such as migration.

In recent years, progressive transformations have been observed in migratory movements, such as an increase in the global magnitude of migration and the movement of people. However, these changes are not considered "radical." Rather, they appear to be an intensification of established migration trends, driven by factors such as increased opportunities from economic reforms and growth, trade liberalization, and long-term stability. There is also growing evidence that while the overarching concept of international migration may seem simple and clear, as presented in the media, the phenomenon encompasses complexities that are becoming more noticeable. However, it must be recognized that part of this growing complexity is due to the large amount of information available on the subject. But it is evident that the deeper notion of "complexity" applies to the myriad changes that are occurring in the world (Ferrick & Nero, 2019).

Migration reflects profound social transformations and is driven by disparities between countries of origin and destination in income, quality of life, opportunities and rights. While economic development can reduce voluntary migration, it also attracts more migrants. This dynamic varies by country and social class, since per capita income does not reflect inequality in the distribution of wealth (Loterio Echeverri & Perez Rodríguez, 2019).

It is due to this inherent complexity of migratory flows, where multiple economic and social factors intervene in the countries of origin as destinations, that it is essential to also consider the serious cultural implications that they entail. When people leave their place of origin in search of better life opportunities, whether out of necessity, specific threats or aspirations, they face a culture shock that can significantly impact their identity. The process of adapting to a new social and cultural environment can transform fundamental aspects of migrants' identity. This cultural clash transforms their spirit of identity, their cultural roots and even their beliefs and rights that they have as human beings. Migrants often adopt new customs and lifestyles that differ from their original cultural pattern. They may feel more identified with the country to which they have migrated than with their place of origin. Even eating patterns, musical preferences and it can even influence their social and family circle, who are urged to adopt the new customs of the country where they live as an immigrant, legal or illegal. This phenomenon is a cause for concern, as it can lead to a loss of cultural roots

and a continuous mutation of identity. As a result, there is a risk of having culturally empty individuals, with a deformed identity and prone to self-destruction as men and women in social and value terms (Rivas, 2016).

In the province of Cañar at present there is a great cultural change that this ethnic group has suffered, this due to several processes and historical factors but mainly due to the emigration of its members who are in foreign countries, which has caused a great influence on their customs, traditions, rites, clothing, architecture, which little by little due to this great phenomenon has been changing. For example, in the typical clothing of the Cañaris, which is black for daily use, and combined with red for festive or ceremonial use, today you can see only adult people with this costume, since the youngest are seen with other types of clothing, more modern, similar to those used in large cities, the hat or other typical ornaments are no longer used (Casa de la Cultura Núcleo del Cañar, 2010, 229). Thus, this coexistence of thoughts, culture and society, caused by each of the events that occurred throughout each historical period, has created a certain instability in the social structure.

Continuing with this analysis, various theories have emerged that seek to explain their causes, patterns and consequences as a result of the study of migratory movements. Each of these theories provides useful conceptual perspectives for understanding a phenomenon as complex and integral as migration. Among the theories that will be taken into consideration for the development of the research are the following:

### **1.3.1 Theory of world systems.**

According to this theory, migration is not simply a matter of individual choice, but a response to much larger global economic forces. When observing how capitalism has expanded from its traditional centers in Western Europe, North America, Oceania and Japan, it is evident how it has transformed economies and societies around the world, generating displacements and migratory movements that are often not voluntary, but a response to the needs and opportunities created by the global market; which is why thousands of people seek opportunities outside their places of origin influenced by complex networks of economic and social factors (Massey et al., 1993).

The advance and territorial expansion of world capitalism inevitably leads to economic, social and demographic imbalances in the affected areas. This theoretical perspective sees migration as a systemic by-product of the progressive spread of capitalist production and market relations globally.

All these aspects are directly linked to globalization, which through a series of events has been transforming global relations and transactions. Expansion, as well as the growth of trade and communications, have accelerated and deepened interaction between regions, reconfiguring social and economic connections. (Estévez López, 2009).

### **1.3.2 The perpetuation of international flows.**

Many factors drive migration, including the search for better incomes, diversification of family economic risks, and recruitment initiatives. However, the reasons for the initial migration may differ from those driving these flows, due to a number of influencing factors and conditions over time (Massey et al., 1993).

While this theory suggests that a variety of factors may initially drive international migration. The original causes of migration often differ from the conditions that perpetuate migration flows over time. These include social networks of migrants that assist new migrants, institutions that facilitate regular or irregular migration, and a positive assessment of the migration process and associated socio-economic achievements in communities of origin. The structural and cultural transformations derived from the migratory process itself increase the probability of new displacements, which maintains the population flow between countries.

### **1.3.3 Network theory.**

Migration networks are based on family ties, friendships and community connections in both the place of origin and destination; which facilitate the migration process by reducing costs and risks, as well as increasing economic benefits. Thus, building social capital capable of providing crucial support to find employment and adapt to the new destination (Massey et al., 1993).

The migration network plays an essential role in migration. Since its importance lies in the social structure and relationships that people have been developing throughout their lives, which, although it is not a determining factor, is an important factor when making the decision to migrate.

### 1.3.4 Institutional theory

As a result of migration, institutions have emerged that seek to meet the high demand in the face of the low number of visas offered by capitals in rich countries, promoting a market of exploitation towards migrants in order to obtain their own advantage. At the same time, humanitarian organizations in developed countries work to protect the rights and improve the conditions of all immigrants regardless of their legal status (Massey et al., 1993).

As mentioned, although specialized humanitarian institutions emerge, there are also others that are profitable. However, both are in favor of facilitating migratory flows between countries through a variety of services, constituting true transnational migration networks. The characteristics of the two institutions mentioned are explained below:

For-profit organizations and businessmen provide, in exchange for payments, services to facilitate irregular border crossing, clandestine internal transport, irregular labor contracts, falsification of documents, marriages of convenience.

Humanitarian groups guide and assist migrants on migration regularization, social services, legal advice, and protection from administrative persecution. For example, (International Organization for Migration).

### 1.3.5 Social effects of migration

Starting from the main objective of this study, which is to determine the social effects of migration in the province of Cañar with a particular focus on disintegration and family tensions, since the household and its composition is the reflection of the development of each individual in society.

Among the effects on the nuclear family, Suarez Nuñez del Prado (2008) points out that migration, especially when it involves the separation of one or both parents from the family, can have a significant impact on communication and, above all, on the family structure. The physical distance created during migration changes the relationships between family members, as well as gender and kinship roles, child-rearing and emotional stability.

While migration can provide families with economic and social opportunities, it can also cause stress, uncertainty, and emotional pain for both migrants and their family members in their home countries. This is demonstrated by studies such as that of Andrade Santamaría et al. (2019). It indicates that the main factors are family disintegration and the deterioration of living conditions in the home. Young people are the most vulnerable and this is reflected in misguided behaviors such as: frequent participation in parties, school dropout, the adoption of bad habits and even lack of respect for those who take care of them, in addition to materialistic and consumerist behavior; The vulnerability to which they are exposed can lead to prostitution and drug use in extreme cases.

Another study also shows that migration especially affects women and children who are left behind when men migrate. Teachers, public health workers, and local religious leaders have noticed that poorer communities have undergone a change in their school performance and have used more drugs, triggering violent events and cases of depression among young people. All these problems are due to the disintegration of families, considered the basic unit of society (Rosero Barzola, 2012).

In order to analyze this topic in depth, it is important to define some key concepts that will be addressed. The study and revision of these terms will allow me to establish a common basis and vocabulary, which will facilitate further analysis. The terms to be defined are as follows:

**Migrant:** The term migrant, not defined in international law, refers to any person who moves outside his or her usual place of residence, either within a country or across borders, for various reasons and temporarily or permanently. It includes specific categories such as migrant workers, victims of trafficking, and international students, although some types of migration are not expressly defined in international law (IOM, 2019).

**Migration:** Movement of people out of their usual place of residence, either across an international border or within a country (IOM, 2019).



**Emigration:** From the perspective of the country of departure, movement by a person from the country of nationality or habitual residence to another country, so that the country of destination effectively becomes their new country of habitual residence (IOM, 2019).

**Vulnerability:** In the context of migration, limited ability to avoid, resist, cope with, or recover from harm. This limited capacity is the result of a confluence of individual, family, community, and structural characteristics and conditions (IOM, 2019).

## 2. Literature review

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (Canales et al., 2019). They are crucial to addressing the challenges and maximizing the benefits of migration in Latin America and the Caribbean. This alliance is especially valuable because it seeks to generate analysis and evidence that can illuminate the migratory dynamics between the countries of Northern Central America, Mexico and the United States. This collaboration is seen as a regional public good, offering a comprehensive approach to address such a complex and vital phenomenon that directly affects the development of nations.

Some authors have analyzed what have been the main factors of displacement to be taken into consideration. Among them are the political instability that has been a very marked feature in the region for decades, as well as the high levels of violence and insecurity, precarious living conditions that reduce expectations of a promising future, widespread poverty, economic and productive underdevelopment, and the perception that adverse circumstances will hardly improve. These elements have led to high volumes of migration from the countries of northern Central America to the United States.

However, beyond the causes, it is essential to understand the profound social and demographic implications that migration entails. Among the main ones is the invaluable loss of the most essential human capital for the nations and communities involved. Migration is above all a human process that directly impacts the lives, roots, identities, and personal, family, and community projects of those who undertake it (Canales et al., 2019).

All these consequences are based on the configuration of subjects excited to make the much-coveted "American dream" a reality, a project of capitalist modernity in disguise. Migrants, lured by this promise, risk their lives and face harsh travel conditions. In the country of destination, the legal power labels them as illegal and deportable, forcing them to live clandestinely in order to maintain their safety and well-being, which reflects a mechanism of control and administration over their lives (Minchala, 2021).

Faced with this complex migration problem with profound human implications, international organizations such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) play a key role; created in 1951, it is the main intergovernmental entity in the field of migration. With 175 Member States, 8 Observer States and offices in 171 countries, it promotes humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all (IOM, 2024). In addition, it promotes international cooperation on migration issues, which is why it is in close collaboration with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners to offer services and advice to governments and migrants, playing a fundamental role in the management of migration processes at the global level; always recognizing respect for the right to freedom of movement.

This international organization also operates in Ecuador, where migration is a complex social phenomenon that involves various causes and consequences at the individual, family and community levels. This is demonstrated by the study carried out by the authors Trujillo and Costales (2023) where 93 families were surveyed reflecting specific data, such as that most households have at least one migrant. The main causes of migration were identified, including lack of employment and low income, family problems, aspiration for better education, and above all, the desire for family reunification. Although 70% agree that migration has fractured many families, they maintain contact, becoming part of daily life and normality, leaving children in the care of relatives and even acquaintances, in the hope of being reunited in the future. In fact, 99% still have the hope of emigrating. Thus, exposing a complex social dynamic where migration is both an effect of structural problems and economic, labor, educational, as well as a cause of transformation in social and family structures.

Migration is a multidimensional phenomenon that can be analyzed and classified from various perspectives. Two of the main criteria for ranking are reasons and legal immigration status. In the following

paragraphs, we will delve into these types of migration, understanding both their meaning and their characteristics.

### **Types of migration:**

#### **According to the reason:**

Voluntary: Today this type of migration is especially observed in those people whose main motive and motivation is economic (Micolta León, 2005).

Forced: These include:

Slaves: In times of colonization, large contingents of human beings were taken to be exploited by the colonizers. This practice lasted for years (Micolta León, 2005).

The deported or exiled: They are those who are forced to leave their country or region because their land is taken away from them. Although they suffer all the vicissitudes of emigration and generally decrease in their social status, they can often be helped by other compatriots or by social or political organizations (Micolta León, 2005).

Refugees: Those who have to leave their country because otherwise their immediate means of livelihood or even their very lives are in danger. Like the previous ones, they tend to have more difficulties in settling in the host country, since they often make the change hastily (Micolta León, 2005).

#### **According to the legal regime:**

Regular migration. Movement of persons that occurs in accordance with the laws of the country of origin, transit and destination (IOM, 2019).

Irregular migration: Irregular migration occurs when a person enters or resides in a country, violating its immigration laws. Many irregular migrants are workers, but they may also include those who join family members or migrate to improve their lifestyle. Rejected asylum seekers can also fall into irregularity. (Castles, 2010).

Migratory dynamics in Ecuador are a phenomenon that encompasses various types of population movements. In this context, it is important to analyze the facts and figures that reflect the migratory reality of the country. At present, Ecuador is recognized in its legislation as a country characterized by emigration, immigration, transit and refuge; the various forms of mobility that exist highlight the emigration of Ecuadorians, mainly to Spain, the United States and Italy. According to estimates by the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC), around 2 million people have emigrated in the last two decades. Considering a total population of around 17 million inhabitants, this means that between 8% and 10% of Ecuadorians reside abroad. This significant proportion reflects the importance of migration in the country's demographic dynamics (Herrera, 2022).

## **2.1 National Regulations**

Given the relevance of these population movements, the Republic of Ecuador, through the National Assembly, incorporates the Organic Law on Human Mobility into its constitution, this regulation has ratified certain articles, texts and definitions on migratory conditions and categories; of which the following have been taken into consideration for the development of the research:

Article 392 of the Constitution of the Republic states that the State shall ensure the rights of persons in human mobility and shall exercise the direction of migration policy through the competent body in coordination with the different levels of government. The State shall design, adopt, execute, and evaluate policies, plans, programs, and projects, and shall coordinate the action of its agencies with that of other States and civil society organizations working on human mobility at the national and international levels. It is essential to have legislation that comprehensively develops the constitutional precepts on the rights and obligations regarding the recognition, care and protection of people in human mobility (National Assembly, 2017, p.3-4).

Chapter 1 of the Organic Law on Human Mobility also highlights the following articles:

**Art. 1.- Purpose.** The purpose of this Law is to regulate the exercise of rights, obligations, institutionality, and mechanisms related to persons in human mobility, which includes migrants, immigrants, persons in transit, Ecuadorian returnees, those who require international protection, and their families (National Assembly, 2017, pp. 4-5).

**Art. 1.A.- Scope.** The provisions contained in this Law are applicable to Ecuadorians inside and outside the territory of the Republic, and to foreigners in the national territory (National Assembly, 2017, p. 4-5).

Ecuadorians who are outside the country, especially those who constitute priority groups, shall be subject to protection in accordance with the provisions of this Law, through assistance through the various diplomatic and consular missions, under the terms and scope in which Ecuadorian jurisdiction is applicable and in accordance with the legislation of the host country and international instruments (National Assembly, 2017, p. 4-5).

### **3. Methods**

This research will use a qualitative approach that integrates a triangulation of data that includes different methods of information collection. The literature review will serve to synthesize existing findings on the topic and identify key concepts, themes, and debates documented in previous research. Subsequently, this review will be complemented with in-depth interviews to capture perspectives and direct experiences of the people involved. Finally, the case study will be carried out in the province of Cañar in the canton of Azogues where all the literature reviewed at the beginning of this research project is based.

#### **Literature review**

The existing bibliography represents an important element in all research. When we have come across a topic or question that interests us. This is why, according to Bryman (2015, p. 8), we need to answer the following questions: What is already known about the subject;

- What is already known about the subject?
- What concepts and theories have been applied to the subject?
- What research methods have been applied to the subject?
- What controversies exist on the subject and its study?
- What confrontations of evidence (if any) exist?
- Who are the main contributors to research on the topic?

#### **Case Study:**

The case is the situation, the individual, the group, the organization, or whatever it is that interests us. The case study has been around for a long time and traces its history within the social sciences (Hamel, 1993). The various strategies developed to deal with cases in different disciplines offer useful lessons, suggesting solutions to the problems posed by case study, including the thorny problem of generalization from the individual case. The intention is to offer guidance for conducting rigorous case studies. This involves data, analysis, interpretation, and reporting.

#### **Case Selection:**

The migratory phenomenon is presented in the province of Cañar as in the rest of the country as a long process of upward and downward cycles that date back more than a century.

This town has been chosen because Cañar is one of the 10 cantons with the highest historical incidence of emigration (Observatory of the Rights of Children and Adolescents, 2008). Being one of the main groups with the highest rate of migration abroad, it seeks to analyze how experiences have changed both the nucleus and the composition of the family, to the point of transforming the identities of individuals, constituted from this social phenomenon.

One of the cities in this province that has been affected by this event is Azogues, located in San Francisco de Peleusí, capital of the Province of Cañar. The city is made up of 8 rural parishes and 4 urban parishes. According to the latest census carried out in Ecuador, until 2009, 813,637 Ecuadorians have left the

country, of which 13,454 are from the province of Cañar; of these, 3,947 belong to the canton of Azogues (INEC, 2010, as cited in Minchala, 2021).

### **The case study plan:**

It is very desirable that those involved prepare and agree on an explicit plan with the full knowledge and expectation that some aspects may change as the work progresses.

The following sections may be helpful:

**Table 1**

#### *Case Study Plan Design*

<b>1. Description general</b>	It covers the background of the project; the context and perspective and why it is taking place; the topics being researched and the relevant readings on the topics.
<b>2.Procedures</b>	It covers the main data collection tasks, including: (a) access agreements; (b) available resources; and (c) timing of data collection activities and specification of the time periods involved.
<b>3. Questions</b>	The set of research questions with the corresponding list of probable sources of evidence.
<b>4. Reports</b>	It includes the following: (a) description of the case study report(s) (b) processing of the entire "database" (i.e., all exhibits obtained); and (c) hearing(s).

Source: Based on Robson & McCartan, 2015, p. 155

### **Research through interviews**

It is probably the best method for the social researcher interested in collecting or collecting original data to describe a population too large to observe directly. Careful sampling provides a pool of interviews whose characteristics may be from the wider population, and questionnaires should be carefully conducted so that it is identical for all respondents (Babbie, sixth edition, p. 261).

In this study, in-depth semi-structured interviews will be conducted with the aim of discovering the social effects of migration in the province of Cañar. At the discretion of the researcher, the interviews will be held in a comfortable and private environment, in person or virtually according to the preferences and possibilities of the participants. The confidentiality and anonymity of the interviewees will be guaranteed to encourage their openness and honesty during the conversations.

During the interviews, the researcher will adopt an empathetic and respectful attitude, avoiding value judgments and encouraging an open and fluid dialogue. In addition, detailed notes will be taken and, with the consent of the participants, the interviews will be recorded to facilitate further analysis. After each interview, a preliminary analysis of the data collected will be conducted, identifying patterns, recurring themes, and divergent perspectives. Finally, all the data collected during the interviews will be analyzed exhaustively, using qualitative analysis techniques such as coding and identification of thematic categories. The results obtained will be interpreted in the light of the theoretical framework and the objectives of the study, in order to obtain an in-depth understanding of the social effects of migration in the province of Cañar.

## **4. Results**

The results obtained from the analysis of migration and its social effects in the province of Cañar during the period 2010-2022, support the objectives set in terms of the study of the specific migration data of the region, such as the remittances received and the demographic changes reflected in the indices of femininity and masculinity shown below. These quantitative data show the impact of migration on the local economy and the transformation of family dynamics in the city of Azogues, revealing significant findings that contribute to a deeper understanding of the phenomenon studied. The results are presented in a structured way, aligned with the objectives of the research, which facilitates their interpretation and discussion.

### **4.1 Remittance flows in the province of Cañar and its relationship with family dynamics.**

The flow of remittances from recipient countries to countries of origin is the most visible aspect of the migration phenomenon, not only because of its tangible nature, but also because these economic transfers are

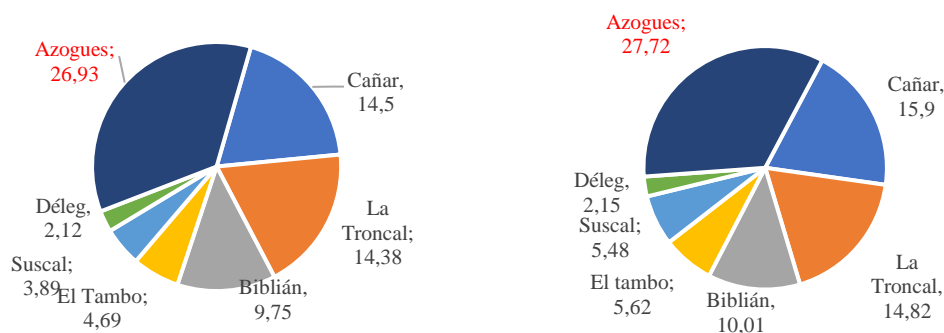
becoming factors that drive development in the cities and countries from which migrants come. In addition, it allows us to maintain bonds based on feelings of solidarity, mutual help and a moral commitment to support each other, representing a bridge that unites people across borders, keeping alive family ties, friendship and a sense of belonging despite physical distance.

Remittances are part of the family income, where one of the members has been forced to migrate elsewhere due to the difficult economic conditions in their community; or for other reasons that have been mentioned above, this in order to obtain a job that allows them to contribute to the sustenance and well-being of the relatives who remain in the place of origin. Therefore, the main objective of remittances is to cover the expenses associated with the maintenance and economy of the home.

The following graphs below represent a visual way of analyzing the systematic relationship between migrations and remittances, by showing the distribution of remittances sent from different places, which is directly linked to migratory movements. Each colored section of the graph corresponds to the cantons of the province of Cañar, and the size of each section is proportional to the number of remittances sent to each one. Azogues being the greatest beneficiary of them.

**Figure 1**

*Remittances received in the province of Cañar, in millions of dollars, second quarter 2022 and 2023 respectively.*



Source: Based on the Central Bank of Ecuador

As can be seen in both figures, in the second quarter of 2022 the figure for Azogues is 26.93, while in the second quarter of 2023, the figure for Azogues is 27.72; which is higher than in the first image. This increase in the number of Azogues may be an indication that there has been an increase in remittances received in the city, probably due to the high migratory phenomenon that exists in the region. An increase in remittances could suggest that more people from Azogues have gone abroad in search of better economic opportunities and are sending money back home. It is important to note that remittances are a key economic factor in communities with high migration rates, as they represent a vital source of income for families left behind. Therefore, the observed increase in Azogues figures could reflect a greater impact of migration on the local economy.

While remittances sent to countries of origin have a positive impact on key social areas such as health, education, housing, and the general well-being of migrants' families, they can also lead to economic dependency that negatively affects the local labor supply. This is because these financial flows can replace income that would otherwise be generated by local work, also making the country's economy susceptible to economic fluctuations in destination countries (Gutiérrez Silva et al., 2020).

Therefore, it is crucial that families receiving remittances do not rely exclusively on this income. It would be beneficial to train recipients in financial management and entrepreneurship so that they can use these funds in ways that generate a lasting impact. Investing in the creation of small businesses can be a great way to use remittances, not only to improve the quality of life of the migrant's family but also to stimulate local economic growth and create new employment opportunities. This strategy could help transform dependence on remittances into a catalyst for economic and social development in communities of origin.

## 4.2 Impact of male migration on demography and gender dynamics in Azogues.

One of the indicators to calculate the demographics of a population is the index of femininity and masculinity, which have the following definition:

Femininity/masculinity index: indicates the number of women for every 100 men. The feminization index plays a similar role, which expresses the number of women for every man. (National Institute of Statistics Chile, pg. 15, 2019)

These indices presented in the following table show us how the migration of men from the city of Azogues during the period from 2010 to 2025 has had a significant impact on local demographics. These indices show a trend toward a gradual increase in femininity and a corresponding decrease in masculinity. This demographic shift suggests that the migration of men, considered as "heads of households", who traditionally occupy important roles in the family and society, has left a void in the city's male population. As a result, women who remain in Azogues are forced to take on additional roles and responsibilities both within the household and in the community. In addition, the economic autonomy acquired by these women, mainly through remittances sent by their migrant husbands, has contributed to a change in gender dynamics and greater financial independence of women in the city best. However, in the event that their husbands do not return or stop sending remittances, they must assume even more responsibilities for themselves and their children, leading them to seek a livelihood to support and support their family. This migration has also generated additional challenges for women, including uncertainty about the return of their husbands, inconsistency in economic support, and the need to face surveillance over their sexuality and family care in the absence of migrant men. Therefore, it can be said that the continuous migration of men has had a profound impact on the demography and daily life of women and the community in general in Azogues.

**Table 2**

*Projections of the femininity index and masculinity index in the Canton of Azogues 2010-2025*

Period 2010-2019										
Indexes	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Femininity	114	114	113	113	112	112	111	111	110	110
Masculinity	88	88	88	89	89	90	90	90	91	91
Period 2020-2025										
Indexes	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025				
Femininity	109	109	109	108	108	107				
Masculinity	91	92	92	92	93	93				

Source: Population and Housing Census, 2010

## 4.3 Social effects of migration in Azogues 2010-2022

In order to better understand the social effects of migration in the province of Cañar, in-depth interviews were conducted with seven people, both migrants and their relatives from this region. The objective of these interviews was to capture the personal experiences, challenges faced, and significant changes in the lives of migrants and their families as a result of migration. Each interviewee provided their unique perspective on how migration has directly impacted different areas of their existence.

Below is a table summarizing the main observations collected during these interviews. This information provides a direct and personalized view of the challenges and realities faced by migrants in the province of Cañar.

**Table 3***Social effects of migration in the canton of Azogues*

	<b>Relationship with the migrant</b>	<b>Mental health</b>	<b>Family structure</b>	<b>Influence on identity</b>	<b>Personal challenges</b>	<b>Financial support</b>	<b>Influence on the decision to migrate</b>
<b>E1</b>	Son of a migrant	Sadness and parental distrust.	His parents' marriage broke up, her mother assumed responsibilities for the home.	Medium, the influence of Italian culture is evident, due to his father's work, changes in clothing.	Friction and conflicts with his mother due to the fact that he has had to assume the roles of father in certain activities.	High, receives constant remittances from his father to cover his education and personal expenses.	High, contemplates migrating to obtain U.S. citizenship.
<b>E2</b>	Former spouse	Abandonment, sadness and loneliness.	Marital breakup and taking on the role of head of the family, transmitting feelings of sadness to her daughter.	High, Influence on clothing and technology through gifts.	Social pressures as a single mother, in addition to questions from her ex-spouse's family regarding the upbringing of her daughter.	Medium, Initially and during much of the child's upbringing, she received remittances, but then they stopped.	Medium, although she considers migrating it would be to help her daughter complete her higher education, otherwise she does not contemplate it.
<b>E3</b>	Returned migrant	Feelings of regret and sadness over family separation.	Marital separation, deterioration of emotional ties with their children, his ex-partner assumed the responsibilities of the home.	High, adoption of new customs and habits, noticeable changes in his lifestyle.	Difficulties in cultural adaptation when she arrived in the new country; in addition to the complicated and risky journey she undertook when migrating irregularly.	High, during the 25 years he lived abroad, sent constant remittances to support his household.	Low, rules out migrating again at least irregularly, however, he remains hopeful that his daughter will help him obtain U.S. citizenship.
<b>E4</b>	Son of a migrant	A feeling of abandonment and nostalgia for the absence of a father.	Family disintegration, his mother assumed the responsibilities and roles of the home.	High, influence of foreign fashion in his clothing.	Because of his father's absence, he learned several lessons about independence, and the power of family support, shaping his courageous personality.	High, both his father and his brother migrants send constant remittances, which means help in the face of the mother's job instability.	Medium, considers migrating due to the crisis and uncertainty that the country is going through, although it explores local opportunities in the first instance.
<b>E5</b>	Daughter of migrants	Longing and emotional distance from her father.	Changes in roles within the home, the responsibilities fell on the paternal grandparents.	She does not mention any notable changes.	In the absence of both parents. The grandparents assumed the responsibilities. She dropped out of school to become a mother at an early age.	High, receives periodic remittances from her parents, allowing her a good standard of living for both her and her son.	Medium is contemplating migrating to be reunited with her parents.
<b>E6</b>	Returned migrant	Sadness, uncertainty about the life of his family that he left behind.	It did not affect the family relationship, because they maintained constant communication; His wife managed the household.	Baja does not consider that the stay in the United States has had a great impact on her life, since she always kept her customs intact.	The process of adapting to the culture was difficult for him; however, despite the adversities, he managed to fulfill his main goal of building his own house.	High, during the 15 years he was abroad, sent constant remittances to his family.	Low, is currently satisfied with his achievements, but above all he feels happy with his family.
<b>E7</b>	Former spouse	Sadness, abandonment and mistrust.	Abrupt family breakdown, she took on all the roles and responsibilities of the home and the upbringing of her children.	She does not mention any notable changes.	Questions from society and her ex-partner's family regarding her lifestyle.	Low, since the departure of the father of her children he abandoned them completely.	Low, believes that, although his current situation is complicated, migrating is not within her present or future plans.

In complementarity with the theoretical framework and the state of the art, the following points stand out:

#### **4.3.1 New family structure**

In our society, the family represents the essential nucleus where we grow and develop, it is the vital space in which essential values for the growth and development of each person are instilled and practiced. It represents a safe place where we are valued and supported. In the past, the notion of family was limited to a unit composed mainly of parents and children, in which the parents assume the care and protection of the home. However, this vision has evolved significantly over time, due to migratory dynamics that alter the stability of roles and responsibilities assumed for family development. Within the migratory process, established family dynamics are broken, altering their daily activities and routines, even compromising the emotional stability of individuals.

This distance between household members with the same project is called "transnational families" and according to Restrepo-Pineda et al. (2019, as cited in Zabala, 2022) they are households with members who live in different countries but maintain interdependent relationships in terms of security, affection, and family norms. These families adapt to political, social, and economic differences to sustain their connections, reflecting resilience and the importance of family ties in migration. Communication plays a crucial role in maintaining these ties, allowing emotions to be shared, conflicts to be reconciled and family relationships to be kept alive.

Transnational practices allow families to stay emotionally present in two places at once. These practices range from sending remittances to exchanging photos and gifts, known as "connection rituals." These not only provide economic support but also reinforce a moral order that supports traditional family values and roles (López, 2022).

The interviews conducted in this paper show how geographical separations incite profound redefinitions within the family nucleus. In particular, it is observed how, as a result of migration, mothers have been left in charge of the home, assuming the responsibilities of raising and educating their children. Likewise, grandparents have had to take care of their grandchildren, changing the traditional roles within the family by reconfiguring previously established family dynamics and routines.

This analysis demonstrates that while migration poses significant challenges to family structure, the adaptability and resilience of these transnational families highlight their ability to navigate and adjust to these complexities, maintaining cohesion and mutual support despite physical distances.

#### **4.3.2 Mental health**

Traditionally, migration studies focused on economic and social aspects have been privileged, leaving aside the implications for the mental health of migrants and their families. However, it is crucial to understand that the economic, social, cultural, and environmental changes that migration entails have a profound impact on mental representations, generating adaptive processes that are difficult to process psychically. The mind of the migrant and their loved ones suffer impacts that cannot be digested normally, due to the anxiety and stress that occur (Martínez Alarcón & Hernández Leyva, 2023).

That is why in this work the migratory phenomenon has been taken into account not only from a social perspective but also as a phenomenon that affects the emotional well-being of the people involved; since it is necessary to address it not only as a psychopathological manifestation, but also as a range of problems that directly affect mental health that, if it is not attended to in a timely manner, it can worsen. As evidenced by the interviews carried out. In them, deep emotional effects are observed both in the migrants and in their relatives who stayed, among them emotions and feelings such as: sadness, abandonment, anxiety, depression, difficulty in adapting to the new country among others, thus showing the importance of delving into mental health.



### 4.3.3 Identity

The Cañari culture, with its rich history and indomitable legacy, emerges as one of Ecuador's most fascinating pre-Columbian civilizations. Not surprisingly, there are a large number of studies carried out in order to learn more about this people. From the first appearances in historical records during the conquest of the Incas, the Cañaris stood out as a nation already fully formed and formidably brave. Their steadfast resistance against the expansion of the Inca Empire testifies not only to their bravery, but also to their strong sense of unity and autonomy. Such was their influence that even the Incas used the term "Cañari" to refer to them as guards or soldiers (Burgos Guevara, 2003, 16). In addition to their military endurance, the Cañaris exhibited remarkable cultural independence from Inca influence. Instead of being absorbed by the expansion of the empire, they maintained and defended their identity and traditions, so much so that to this day in several regions of the Cañar their native Kichwa language is still spoken; a testament to their indomitable spirit and strong togetherness as a community.

The legacy of the Cañari people continues to be a pillar of pride and an example of resilience in Ecuadorian history not only for their resistance in the face of adversity, but also for their cohesion and bravery, characteristics that defined this remarkable civilization over the centuries and even to the present day, where the descendants of the Cañaris keep that brave identity alive. always in the constant search for both personal and family improvement. This unwavering determination has led them for several decades to make the decision to migrate in search of better opportunities, even when this means a huge sacrifice by having to leave their family, their very life behind, all for the desire to be able to provide a more promising future to their families; this being one of the fundamental reasons why migration rates are high in this region.

The migratory phenomenon of the Cañaris not only reflects their determined character, but also the profound impact they experience when adapting to new cultures. The interviews show the various cultural influences that migrants experience, ranging from changes in their clothing to adopting new customs and technological habits. As Rivas (2016) indicates, this cultural exchange in some cases has the potential to change or even damage their identity, but it can also go unnoticed, since, as has been shown in fieldwork, it does not always imply the total loss of it; Many migrants are able to maintain their customs while incorporating aspects of their adopted environment. This capacity for simultaneous adaptation and preservation highlights their resilience since despite migratory challenges, they continue to enrich their cultural identity with a mixture of the new and the ancestral thus maintaining the balance between integration and preservation.

## 4.4 Legal incentives for the return of the migrant

### Welcome Home Return Plan

In 2008, former President Rafael Correa launched the Welcome Home Plan, designed to incentivize Ecuadorians living abroad to return to their country. This plan includes programs aimed at facilitating the transition of migrants from their host country back to Ecuador, offering employment opportunities and support for entrepreneurial initiatives. However, it is based on the premise that all migrants are successful and enterprising, capable of integrating without difficulties. (Acosta, et al., 2014 in Zurita Núñez, 2019).

The Voluntary Return Plan for Ecuadorian Migrants establishes certain fundamental requirements. First, the migrant must have resided abroad for a period of more than two years and not have stayed in Ecuador for more than three consecutive months per year. In addition, they must express their desire to return to the country to settle permanently, complying with the provisions of the Organic Law on Human Mobility and its Regulations. Ecuadorian migrants who left the country for study purposes and remained abroad for more than two years can benefit from the import benefit of household goods, excluding the importation of a motor vehicle. This Plan was proposed under certain edges: voluntary, dignified and sustainable (Andrade Herrera, 2019).

The "Welcome Home" program was theoretically a well-structured initiative to facilitate the reintegration of returned migrants in Ecuador, however, its implementation revealed several institutional weaknesses. Designed as an inter-institutional effort, the program was expected to offer robust support for diversification of reintegration, with a special focus on vulnerable groups such as women and people with disabilities. However, the lack of effective coordination between government institutions and national and regional agencies compromised its effectiveness. The following are the most visible aspects that led to the failure of the Welcome Home plan:

- Insufficient funding and resources: Resources allocated for support initiatives have been inadequate compared to demand. This has created high competition for limited funds, leaving many migrants without the support needed to effectively reintegrate.
- Lack of strong institutional support: The program was designed as an inter-institutional effort, but has suffered from a lack of coordination and collaboration between the different institutions involved.
- Deficiencies in the implementation of public policies: The policies and procedures implemented for the reintegration of migrants have not adequately considered the specific realities and needs of returnees, which has led to policies that are neither practical nor beneficial to migrants.
- Inadequate response to migrants' needs: Despite the program's intentions, there has been a significant lack of empathy and understanding toward the specific challenges migrants face. This is reflected in the numerous complaints about the lack of information and assistance, as well as the perception that the authorities are not genuinely interested in their well-being.
- And last but not least, the lack of control fostered corruption in the administration of the project.

## 5. Discussion

The results obtained show that remittances have played a crucial role in improving the living conditions of families residing in the province of Cañar. This finding is in line with what was mentioned by Lotero Echeverri & Pérez Rodríguez (2019), who highlight that the economic factor can contribute to development in the migrants' communities of origin. However, a significant economic dependence on remittances was also observed, which can be detrimental in the long term, coinciding with the concerns of Gutiérrez Silva et al. (2020) about the possible negative impact on the local labor supply due to this dependence.

On the other hand, migration and the consequent change in the demographic and family structure of Azogues reflect a phenomenon widely discussed in the literature. Suárez Núñez del Prado (2008) points out that the migration of one or both parents have a significant impact on family structure and communication, altering gender roles and parenting. This change is evident in Azogues, where women and other family figures such as grandparents have assumed additional roles in the absence of parents, similar to what Suárez Núñez del Prado observed. In addition, Andrade Santamaría et al. (2019) indicate that migration can disintegrate the family nucleus, causing stress and emotional pain for both migrants and family members who remain in the country of origin. In Azogues, women face uncertainty and additional economic challenges, especially if remittances are inconsistent or cease, intensifying their emotional and financial burden. Likewise, in the results obtained, concurrent feelings of sadness, abandonment, and distrust are evidenced, showing a strong agreement with the studies of the aforementioned authors where they all agree that migration causes an imbalance in the family structure, generating a significant emotional impact on all members of the family. However, one aspect that stands out in Azogues' research is the economic autonomy that some women achieve through remittances, contributing to their financial independence. This specific point is less discussed in the studies of Suárez Núñez del Prado and Rosero Barzola, who focus more on the negative effects of migration. Economic autonomy can be seen as a positive factor that, while not eliminating emotional and social challenges, provides women with a greater ability to manage the difficulties arising from the absence of men.

In contrast, when remittances are irregular or cease, the situation of women and their families can worsen, intensifying problems of family disintegration and increasing economic vulnerability. This aspect highlights the duality of migration: while it can bring economic benefits, it can also generate disintegration and multiple emotional problems, as mentioned by Andrade Santamaría et al. (2019).

Likewise, the results obtained from the interviews reflect the complexity of the cultural effects of migration on the identity of individuals, corroborating and expanding on what has been discussed in the literature. Migration can lead to significant culture shock, affecting the identity of migrants and their families. This is evident in the interviews, where the influence of the culture of the destination country is evident in clothing and other daily habits, which reflects a mutation in cultural identity, as Rivas (2016) points out. These points coincide with what has been mentioned in the Journal of how migrants can adopt new customs and lifestyles, and even transfer them to their families. Transforming their spirit of identity and cultural roots. However, some interviewees do not report significant changes in their identity or customs, suggesting that cultural influence may vary depending on individual factors such as cultural resilience and the ability to keep their customs intact despite the new environment. This highlights that the impact of migration on identity is not uniform and can differ widely between individuals. This finding is crucial to understanding the diversity

of migration experiences and the need for personalized approaches in policies for integration and support for migrants.

As for the theories mentioned in the theoretical framework, through the findings obtained in the research, it was possible to corroborate the impact of most of them on the migratory flow of Cañar:

The theory of World Systems shows how economic inequality has driven migration from Cañar. It was evidenced that the search for better economic opportunities is one of the main reasons for migrating, which coincides with this theory, as well as the theory of the Perpetuation of International Flows and the network theory show how social and family networks play a crucial role in the perpetuation of migration in this region. The testimonies of the interviewees show how connections with family and friends abroad facilitate continuous migration, providing support and reducing risks as well as a greater ability to access jobs and other resources in the destination country, due to these interpersonal relationships which is consistent with this theory.

The findings of this research not only provide a deeper understanding of the social effects of migration in the province of Cañar, but also open the door to future research since the observed data are of great importance to explain the implications of the migratory phenomenon, which, far from decreasing, continues to increase. Therefore, it is essential to need future studies that analyze the economic, social and cultural impact in other cantons such as Biblián, La Troncal and other regions of Cañar, where there are also high rates of migration, to understand how this phenomenon affects different communities. In addition, investigating demographic and cultural differences can offer a more complete view of gender dynamics and cultural identity in these areas, comparing them to the findings of Azogues. The role of social media and institutional support must also be assessed to understand how they facilitate migration and support affected families. Increasing migration underscores the urgency of fully understanding its implications for improving the quality of life for affected communities. Deepening the psychological and emotional effects of migration is crucial to developing emotional and psychological support programs tailored to the specific needs of migrants and their families. This additional research is crucial to developing policies and programs that effectively address the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities associated with migration in Ecuador.

## **6. Conclusion**

The results obtained in the light of the methodology have provided an in-depth understanding of the social effects of migration. The interviews revealed significant impacts on the family structure, mental health, and cultural identity of individuals. Male migration has led to profound changes in family structure, with women and grandparents taking on additional roles. A considerable impact on mental health has also been evidenced, with recurrent feelings of sadness, abandonment and anxiety among the interviewees, underlining the need for emotional and psychological support programs. In addition, the influence of the culture of the destination country has affected the cultural identity of migrants, causing changes in clothing, customs and cultural practices. The analysis of migration data revealed a steady flow of remittances and significant demographic shifts. Demographic indices showed an increase in the index of femininity and a corresponding decrease in masculinity, suggesting a predominantly male migration. This trend has left a void in the local male population and has altered the traditional gender dynamics in the province. Finally, the analysis of the legal framework, particularly the Organic Law on Human Mobility, has revealed that, although there are policies and programs aimed at supporting migrants, their implementation and effectiveness have significant weaknesses. The "Welcome Home" programme has shown shortcomings in its implementation, hindering the reintegration process of returned migrants.

In the face of all this situation, it is evident that governments urgently need to implement comprehensive and sustainable policies that address the root causes that drive migration. Currently, the high rates of violence, the lack of job opportunities and the limited economic development in the country are forcing professionals, parents and people from various sectors to leave Ecuador in search of better living conditions.

These policies should focus on generating economic and social opportunities within the national territory, strengthening the productive fabric and promoting the creation of decent and well-paid jobs. In addition, it is crucial to prioritize citizen security and the rule of law, guaranteeing a peaceful and stable environment for personal and family development.

It is also essential that the government's actions not only focus on supporting migrants, but also strengthen the communities of origin, thus avoiding the forced separation of families and the consequent emotional suffering that this entails. Finally, it is essential to address the mental health of people affected by

migration, implementing emotional and psychological support programs that allow them to effectively cope with the feelings of sadness, abandonment and anxiety that they often experience. Only through a comprehensive approach, addressing the structural causes and human consequences of migration, can the current situation be improved and Ecuadorians given the opportunity to thrive in their own country.

## 7. References

- National Assembly. (2017, January 31). *Official Gazette Supplement No. 938, February 6, 2017 Regulations: In force Last Reform: Fourth Registry Supplement O.* GOB. EC. Retrieved March 20, 2024, from [https://www.gob.ec/sites/default/files/regulations/2023-05/LEY\\_ORG%C3%81NICA\\_DE\\_MOVILIDAD\\_HUMANA\\_-\\_LOMH-2023.pdf](https://www.gob.ec/sites/default/files/regulations/2023-05/LEY_ORG%C3%81NICA_DE_MOVILIDAD_HUMANA_-_LOMH-2023.pdf)
- Andrade Santamaría, J. V., Rodríguez Bencomo, D. d. J., & Andrade Zumba, K. L. (2019, September). *Incidence of Ecuadorian migration to the United States in the family and educational context: case of the city of Cuenca–Ecuador.* teacher and society. Retrieved February 29, 2024, from <https://maestrosociedad.uo.edu.cu/index.php/MyS/article/view/5082/4532>
- Andrade Herrera, W. M. (2019). *Causes and socioeconomic consequences of migration in Ecuador, period 2008 – 2017.* UASB Repository. Retrieved May 20, 2024, from <https://repositorio.uasb.edu.ec/bitstream/10644/7015/1/T3025-MGD-Andrade-Causas.pdf>
- Babbie, E. (n.d.). *The basics of social research* (p.261). (sixth ed.).
- Burgos Guevara, H. (2003). *The identity of the Cañari people* (p.16) (first ed.). Abya-Yala Editions. 9978-22-271-5 Casa de la Cultura Núcleo del Cañar. (2010). *Cañar Archaeological and Cultural Capital of Ecuador* (CCE Núcleo del Cañar ed., Vol. 2). CCE Núcleo del Cañar. Tel: 978-9978-62-593-4
- Bryman, A. (n.d.). *Social research methods* (p.8) (fourth ed.).
- Canales, A. I., Fuentes, J. A., & de León Escribano, C. R. (2019). *Development and migration: challenges and opportunities in the countries of northern Central America.* .ECLAC .org repository. Retrieved December 28, 2023, from <https://repositorio.cepal.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/55aaa08e-7c40-4d21-90bf-1402d422b400/content>
- Casa de la Cultura Núcleo del Cañar. (2010). *Cañar Archaeological and Cultural Capital of Ecuador* (CCE Núcleo del Cañar ed., Vol. 2). CCE Núcleo del Cañar. Tel: 978-9978-62-593-4
- Castles, S. (2010, January). *Irregular migration: causes, types and regional dimensions.* SciELO Mexico. retrieved december 27, 2023, from [https://www.scielo.org.mx/scielo.php?pid=S1870-75992010000200002&script=sci\\_arttext](https://www.scielo.org.mx/scielo.php?pid=S1870-75992010000200002&script=sci_arttext)
- Estévez López, A. (2009, July-September). *The structural relationship between globalization and migration: implications for universal citizenship.* Redalyc. Retrieved February 29, 2024, from <https://www.redalyc.org/pdf/599/59921016004.pdf>
- Escudero Durán, L. (2008, November). *Childhood and migration in the canton of Cañar.* Bib lio.flac soa. Retrieved December 20, 2023, from <https://biblio.flacsoandes.edu.ec/libros/digital/55820.pdf>
- Estévez López, A. (2009, July-September). *The structural relationship between globalization and migration: implications for universal citizenship.* Redalyc. Retrieved February 29, 2024, from <https://www.redalyc.org/pdf/599/59921016004.pdf>
- Ferrick, I., & NERO, A. (2019, September 17). *World Migration Report 2020.* IOM Publications. Retrieved December 10, 2023, from [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/wmr\\_2020\\_es.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/wmr_2020_es.pdf)
- Gutiérrez Silva, J. M., Romero Borré, J., Arias Montero, S. R., & Briones Mendoza, X. F. (2020, March 08). *Migration: Context, impact and challenge. A theoretical reflection.* Redalyc. Retrieved May 20, 2024, from <https://www.redalyc.org/journal/280/28063431024/html/>
- Herrera, G. (2022). *Migration and migration policy in Ecuador in the period 2000-2021.* United Nations Development Programme. Retrieved March 20, 2024, from <https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2022-10/PNUDLAC-working-paper-33-Ecuador-ES.pdf>
- National Institute of Statistics Chile. (2019, October 14). *Protocol for the publication of gender indicators.* INE. Retrieved April 18, 2024, from <https://www.ine.gob.cl/docs/default->

*source/genero/gu%C3%ADas-y-documentos/documentos/protocolo-para-la-publicaci%C3%B3n-de-indicadores-de-g%C3%A9nero-2019.pdf?sfvrsn=9786a943\_6*

- Lotero Echeverri, G., & Perez Rodríguez, M.A. (2019, April 01). *Migrations in contemporary society: Correlation between migration and development*. Redalyc. Retrieved December 28, 2023, from <https://www.redalyc.org/journal/5045/504558496009/504558496009.pdf>
- López, B. (2022). *Effects of migration on families that stay: A study on families of the Zoque ethnic group in Chiapas Thesis presented*. The Colegio de la Frontera Norte. Retrieved May 20, 2024, from <https://www.colef.mx/posgrado/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/TESIS-L%C3%B3pez-Sol%C3%ADs-Berzaida-DEM.pdf>
- Massey, D. S., Arango, J., Hugo, G., Kouaouci, A., Pellegrino, A., & Taylor, J. E. (1993, September). *Theories of International Migration: A Review and Approximation*. Institute of Human Rights - UNLP. Retrieved February 22, 2024, from <http://www.derechoshumanos.unlp.edu.ar/assets/files/documentos/teorias-de-migracion-internacional-una-revision-y-aproximacion.pdf>
- Massey, D. S., Arango, J., Hugo, G., Kouaouci, A., Pellegrino, A., & Taylor, J. E. (1993, September). *Theories of International Migration: A Review and Approximation*. Institute of Human Rights - UNLP. Retrieved February 22, 2024, from <http://www.derechoshumanos.unlp.edu.ar/assets/files/documentos/teorias-de-migracion-internacional-una-revision-y-aproximacion.pdf>
- Micolta León, A. (2005, October 19). *Theories and concepts associated with the study of international migrations*. Retrieved December 27, 2023, from <https://dialnet.unirioja.es/servlet/articulo?codigo=4391739>
- Minchala, C. L. (2021, May 21). *Untitled*. UASB Repository. Retrieved March 14, 2024, from <https://repositorio.uasb.edu.ec/bitstream/10644/8486/1/SM301-Minchala-Migracion.pdf>
- IOM. (2019, July 5). *Fundamental Migration Terms | IOM, UN Migration*. International Organization for Migration. Retrieved December 28, 2023, from <https://www.iom.int/es/terminos-fundamentales-sobre-migracion>
- IOM. (2024). *Who we are | IOM, UN Migration*. International Organization for Migration. Retrieved January 3, 2024, from <https://www.iom.int/es/quienes-somos>
- Observatory of the Rights of Children and Adolescents. (2008, November). *Childhood and migration in the canton of Cañar*. Bib lio.flac SOA. Retrieved March 27, 2024, from <https://biblio.flacsoandes.edu.ec/libros/digital/55820.pdf>
- Robson, C., McCartan, K. (n.d.). *Real world research* (p.155). (Fourth edition ed.).
- Rosero Barzola, K. (2012). *Analysis of the demographic and sociological effects of international migration in Ecuador*. University of Guayaquil repository. Retrieved February 29, 2024, from <https://repositorio.ug.edu.ec/server/api/core/bitstreams/61aea84f-e06d-4786-8aa5-14086ed9631b/content>
- Rivas, R. (2016). *Migrations, causes and new identities*. America portal. Retrieved April 10, 2024, from <http://portal.amelica.org/ameli/jatsRepo/297/2971950010/html/index.html>
- Rosero Barzola, K. (2012). *Analysis of the demographic and sociological effects of international migration in Ecuador*. University of Guayaquil repository. Retrieved February 29, 2024, from <https://repositorio.ug.edu.ec/server/api/core/bitstreams/61aea84f-e06d-4786-8aa5-14086ed9631b/content>
- Suárez Núñez del Prado, D. (2008, December 22). *Causes and effects of international migration*. Redalyc. Retrieved December 27, 2023, from <https://www.redalyc.org/pdf/4259/425942158006.pdf>
- Fundamental Migration Terms | IOM, UN Migration*. (2019, July 5). International Organization for Migration. Retrieved December 10, 2023, from <https://www.iom.int/es/terminos-fundamentales-sobre-migracion>
- Trujillo-Chávez, H., & Cueva-Costales, A. (2023, April 21). *Territorial Dynamics Related to Migration in the Community of Chacalca of the Canton of Cañar*. pp 757-771 Retrieved December 27, 2023, from [https://www.593dp.com/index.php/593\\_Digital\\_Publisher/article/view/1888/1633](https://www.593dp.com/index.php/593_Digital_Publisher/article/view/1888/1633)

- Zabala, D. M. (2022, May 20). *Changes in the family structure and functionality of Venezuelan migrants established in the city of Santa Marta, Colombia, in the first quarter of 2022*. Changes in the family structure and functionality of Venezuelan migrants established in the city of Santa Marta – Colombia. Retrieved May 20, 2024, from <https://repositorio.uan.edu.co/server/api/core/bitstreams/07ae5490-fe84-4be9-8231-90437439db7e/content>
- Zurita Núñez, S. E. (2019). *State policies in the face of the return of migrants: the case of Ecuador, period 2007-2015*. Intercultural repository. EC. Retrieved May 20, 2024, from <https://repositoriointerculturalidad.ec/jspui/bitstream/123456789/2811/1/Pol%C3%ADticas%20estatales%20ante%20el%20retorno%20de%20los%20migrantes.pdf>

## **Appendices**

### **Appendix 1**

#### *Interview format*

1. What do you think about migration?
2. Have you migrated?
3. Has anyone in your family migrated?
4. What was the main reason your relative decided to emigrate?
5. How was the family decision-making process about your relative's migration?
6. Do you think the person's departure affected the family and you personally?
7. What changes have you noticed in the family dynamic since your family member emigrated?
8. Who currently assumes the responsibilities and roles within the home?
9. Do you stay in frequent contact with your migrant family member?
10. Do you think that communication has been affected in any way?  
and the emotional ties with your migrant relative?
11. What have been the main emotional challenges that the family has faced due to migration?
12. How has migration impacted your household's standard of living?
13. How do you perceive the future of your family in relation to the current immigration situation?
14. Since your family member left, have the customs, traditions or celebrations that you used to do as a family changed at all?
15. Have you adopted new dishes or ways of cooking in your home because of the influence of where your relative now lives?
16. In terms of clothing and fashion, have you noticed any changes in the styles you wear, inspired by the culture of the place your family member migrated to?
17. In family conversations, have you started using new expressions, idioms, or even some other language because of the influence of the culture of the place your relative went to?
18. Do you believe that your family's musical or entertainment preferences have been influenced by the culture of the place your relative migrated to?

### **Appendix 2**

#### *Complete interpretation of the interviews*

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1p39BIaYKGhNsFJATm30UadbF-HoqXkX1?usp=sharing>