



**Kasi Carter**

*GenNext Fellow, Kasi Carter recounts her incredible experience accompanying her host organization, Project HOPE, to visit Migrant Health program sites in Honduras and Ecuador.*

In August and September, I was able to visit Honduras and Ecuador to meet the country teams and review the progress that is being made at our Migrant Health program sites. During my amazing year at Project HOPE, I have worked on preparing different internal infographics, situation reports, and data collection tools for the program.

I was very fortunate to witness the beginning stages of this program to fully understand the purpose and necessities of providing migrants with health services and improving WASH facilities throughout. In Honduras, I spent 10 days visiting program sites in Danli, Trojes, and El Paraiso. I was able to bond with the Honduras team and community members while providing services like triage, handing out water bottles, and creating a safe space for migrant children to unwind. I was able to witness and participate in data collection while translating for migrants whose primary language wasn't Spanish.

I was shocked to see migrants from all over the world such as Afghanistan, China, Benin, and Uzbekistan. My favorite memory of the trip was when we visited Puesto de Migración Pescaderos and I was able to connect with some of the children who entered the facility. While it was a little bit difficult to communicate because I am not fluent in Spanish, I was able to ask them basic



Kasi poses with her team at the CAMI (Centro de Atención al Migrante or Center for Attention to Irregular Migrants)



Kasi hands out water bottles to migrants in Honduras.

questions to ask about their interest and how they were feeling about their journey. In Ecuador, I was able to participate in data collection in a center that Project HOPE partners with UNICEF and HIAS. The program in Ecuador primarily focuses on providing hygiene kits which included a variety of different items tailored to specific migrants. For example, we had different kits for men, women, children, and babies. Here, I was able to collect information from migrants and provide them with hygiene kits that Project HOPE prepared, while practicing my Spanish.

I witnessed other NGOs and INGOs such as HIAS and the World Food Program (WFP) collaborate with Project HOPE to ensure there were no gaps in services. I was also able to explore the city of Tulcan, visiting the Tulcan Cemetery (or Cementerio de Tulcan) and witnessing cultural events in the towns center. Overall, my trip to Honduras and Ecuador allowed me to gain international humanitarian experience and contribute to providing health services and goods to migrants. I am extremely grateful that Public Health Institute and Project HOPE supported my journey to these countries.