

GFMD Preparatory Workshop on “Factoring Migration into Development Planning”

Mauritius, 12-13 June 2012

Concept Note

Background

Migration has been and is today a key part of development processes around the world. For migrants and their families migration often yields substantive benefits in terms of poverty alleviation and human development. Yet, it may also entail risks for those involved and negative social impacts in terms of family separation, cultural change, and new inequalities. Oftentimes the poorest are unable to move, facing a lack of resources and considerable administrative and policy barriers to mobility. For those who do migrate and for the communities they leave and join, the outcomes of migration tend to depend on the conditions under which they move, work and live at destination; and on the connections they maintain with their communities of origin. All of this is especially true for women who constitute half of the 214 million international migrants today. Poor women, in particular, are often faced with economic, ethnic, nationality and gender based marginalization that places them in a disproportionately vulnerable position at all stages of migration.

A growing awareness of the role that facilitative policies and international cooperation can play in creating positive interlinkages between migration and development has emerged at the global level in recent years. In order to be able to formulate policies and programmes that maximize the benefits and minimize the risks of migration in terms of human development, policy makers need to better understand the context-specific ways in which the two interact at national and local levels, including the different migration experiences of men and women, and the differentiated impacts of migration on various age groups (children, adolescents, the elderly). Only by fostering a shared, age- and gender-sensitive understanding of the benefits and risks of migration among key stakeholders in government and society will they be able to build effective partnerships for policy implementation.

It is estimated that just over 105 million of the international migrants today are economically active and engaged in the world of work. Consultation with civil society stakeholders, including through social dialogue with workers and employers (social partners) is paramount to ensure that policies and legislations are sustainable and are elaborated with representative organizations providing a voice for migrant workers. Social dialogue is also an integral part of fostering support for a country’s approach to labour migration governance; thus, social partners and civil society organizations should have



recognized roles and responsibilities in policy design as well as implementation and evaluation under their respective areas of expertise and responsibility.

Integrating migration into national and local development strategies is one way to promote an evidence-based and multi-stakeholder approach to migration and development, as it allows taking advantage of the structured and participatory process that development planning entails. From a situation and needs assessment, to action and implementation planning, to monitoring and evaluation, the planning process provides a framework for the systematic consideration of the human development concerns of migrants, including women, and the impacts of migration on national and local development goals. Measures for protecting the rights of migrants should be incorporated in all policy development. Migrants' welfare, including the enjoyment of labour and human rights and fair and decent working conditions, is a fundamental factor for maximizing their contribution to their countries of origin and destination alike.

Institutional Background

Since 2009, the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) has maintained particular attention on the topic of mainstreaming migration into national development strategies. Under the overarching theme of "Integrating Migration Policies into Development Strategies for the Benefit of All" the Greek Chair organized the first ever GFMD session to focus specifically on the issue of migration mainstreaming in development planning, exploring migration's potential to contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and highlighting mechanisms through which such contributions can be facilitated, including national development strategies and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs); institutional coherence and international partnerships; as well as useful tools for policy development such as extended Migration Profiles.

In 2009 and 2010, the GFMD ad-hoc Working Group on Policy Coherence, Data and Research¹ followed up on these outcomes, *inter alia* by organizing a seminar with government and other experts, which also served to prepare the discussions for the Mexican 2010 GFMD in Puerto Vallarta. Since its creation in 2009, the Working Group on Policy Coherence, Data and Research had given continuous attention to the topic of mainstreaming migration in development planning, the development of Extended Migration Profiles and the assessment of migration and development policies and interventions, as well as the development of indicators for this purpose. In 2011, the group supported the Swiss GFMD thematic programme in these areas. Early in 2012, the Working Group also endorsed a stronger focus on local level development planning as part of GFMD deliberations on this topic. It further agreed to support the

¹ Created in 2009, this GFMD Working Group (co-chaired by Morocco and Switzerland) includes some 25 governments, as well as a number of GMG agencies, other international organizations and civil society experts.

GFMD 2012 Work Programme of the Mauritian Chair, in particular RT 2 on Factoring Migration into Development Planning, and noted the intention of the Swiss WG Co-chair to sponsor one or two workshops for this purpose in 2012.

Also in 2010, the inter-agency Global Migration Group (GMG) reached out to the Geneva diplomatic community, and a range of non-governmental actors, to facilitate a joint discussion on the issue of migration mainstreaming as part of an international Practitioners Symposium entitled “Overcoming barriers: Building partnerships for migration and human development”. Building on GMG collaboration around the *Handbook on Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning*, a joint tool initially developed by IOM, ILO, UNDP and UNICEF and first presented in draft form at the 2009 GFMD in Athens, the GMG Symposium discussed which key stakeholders and sectors should be part of migration mainstreaming efforts; how to integrate different levels of governance, including local and regional development planning; and how to link at the country level the analysis of migration and human development interlinkages with policy development, implementation and assessment strategies.

At the 2010 GFMD in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, States endorsed the then finalized GMG Handbook on Mainstreaming Migration as a useful tool to facilitate the integration of migration into national development strategies. Since then, the GFMD and GMG have supported the practical application of the Handbook, including through a pilot project on mainstreaming migration into national development strategies, implemented in four countries and funded by the Government of Switzerland through the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency (SDC). The GMG has created a Working Group (WG) on Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning, co-chaired by IOM and UNDP, which supports the project’s implementation in the four pilot countries. Various GMG agencies contribute to project implementation at country level, including UN Women, UNFPA, and UNICEF.

The Government of Switzerland has promoted the practical application of the GMG Handbook and other planning tools, such as Migration Profiles, also as part of its 2011 Chairmanship of the GFMD, which, under thematic Cluster III, placed particular emphasis on the link between data, information and the elaboration of evidence-based migration and development policies. A series of regional GFMD thematic events explored practical follow-up to previous recommendations in this field, including a thematic workshop on the topic of “Mainstreaming migration into strategic policy development”, hosted by the Government of Moldova with support from IOM and the GMG WG. The workshop brought together the four pilot countries and other interested governments and stakeholders for an exchange on the normative framework, concepts, approaches, and experiences regarding migration mainstreaming in national development strategies, PRSPs, and sectoral strategies on health, education, and employment, as well as the use of Migration Profiles and other sources of data for providing the necessary evidence base.



An informal follow-up meeting of the four pilot countries is scheduled to take place on 26 April 2012 in Geneva. It will serve to foster a continued exchange of experiences and peer-to-peer learning among governments, and to identify opportunities for feeding the pilot countries' lessons and expectations into the 2012 GFMD discussions on migration mainstreaming. The pilot countries will be joined by members of the GFMD ad-hoc Working Group on Policy Coherence, Data and Research as well as the GMG WG on Migration Mainstreaming. On 7-8 May 2012 a two-day conference on Mainstreaming migration into development planning, convened by IOM and the Center for Migration Studies in partnership with the SDC and UNDP, will continue the discussion in New York. Bridging the gap between the 2011 UN General Assembly Informal Thematic Debate on International Migration and Development and the 2013 second UNGA High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, the conference will provide a platform for a frank and informed exchange amongst a range of stakeholders, including governments, UN and other international organizations and civil society experts and organizations.

Mauritius, as the Chair-in-Office of the 2012 GFMD intends to continue and expand the Global Forum's thematic focus on migration mainstreaming in development planning. Building on the work of the GFMD ad-hoc Working Group on Policy Coherence, Data and Research, the Chair's concept note foresees to organize under Roundtable 2, entitled "Factoring migration into development planning", both an outcome oriented discussion around concepts, model programmes, and capacity needs for migration mainstreaming, as well as a session focusing specifically on South-South migration dynamics. The Chair also considers gender equality a key concern that should be integrated in all sessions, including session 2.1 on mainstreaming migration into national development strategies.

Objectives

The preparatory workshop, organized under the auspices of the GFMD Chair and the GFMD Working Group, will serve to identify key issues for discussion; emerging practices and lessons; and concrete opportunities for action/international cooperation to be taken up under RT 2 of the GFMD in November. It will provide governments with a particular interest in migration mainstreaming, including from a gender lens with an opportunity to engage in peer-to-peer learning and sharing of experiences, focusing on concrete challenges and solutions as they relate to the institutional, policy, and partnership dimensions of the mainstreaming process.

The workshop will place particular emphasis on integrating both national and sub-national level mainstreaming experiences, recognizing the fact that many development processes are steered in a decentralized manner and migration dynamics and impacts are often localized, placing local authorities at the forefront of managing issues such as the (re-)integration of migrants and diaspora ties with their hometowns. By including the perspectives of local administrations and important stakeholders such as



social partners and civil society organizations the workshop will help to identify both distinct and common challenges faced at different levels of governance; highlight local policy responses to rural-urban migration, especially in the context of South-South migration; and discuss how local and national level strategies can work together to achieve better outcomes for men and women migrants, communities, and national development.

- Increase understanding of the concept of mainstreaming migration in local development planning, including from a gender perspective, and examine different ways of translating it into practice at the local and its subsequent effects at the national level;
- Familiarize governments with some of the tools available to support migration mainstreaming, including the GMG Handbook on Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning and Extended Migration Profiles, as well as relevant sources of data, and collect first experiences on their effectiveness;
- Facilitate an exchange on mainstreaming experiences among governments to support the identification of lessons learned and, potentially, good practices relating to institutional support mechanisms, policy development and programming on priority issues, and partnerships for implementation to be shared with the 2012 GFMD;
- Foster a dialogue on the importance of migration mainstreaming, including its gender dimensions, between different levels of government, between governments, and with non-governmental stakeholders;
- Build and strengthen the international network of practitioners involved in migration mainstreaming, including its gender dimensions, for ongoing peer-to-peer support;
- Formulate recommendations to GMG and other stakeholders on how to better support government needs and strategies;
- Identify interested countries that would be willing to engage in the process of mainstreaming migration into their national development strategy or PRSP.

Expected outcome

The preparatory workshop will identify a number of key findings/lessons and formulate a set of recommendations on specific actions for follow-up to be submitted to the 2012 GFMD. The event is also expected to feed into the development of a second phase of the pilot project on mainstreaming migration into development strategies.

Process related outcome: A report on the proceedings and findings of the workshop will also be prepared (by the GMG WG) and forwarded to the GFMD Chair as well as the Working Group members prior to the GFMD summit meeting in November 2012.



Format

Designed as a technical level meeting of practitioners in development planning, migration policy, and other relevant policy areas, including experts on gender mainstreaming, the workshop will be informal and interactive in nature, bringing together national and local government officials for a peer-to-peer exchange, as well as including non-governmental stakeholders, such as migrant and diaspora organizations, social partners, and the private sector.

The workshop will be held over two full days and will be structured into six sessions, including an introduction, a closing, and four thematic sessions. The thematic sessions will generally be informed by brief input presentations from participating governments, designed to share their particular experiences and practices, followed by an open discussion with all participants. Each session will be led by an expert facilitator (from government, the GMG, or the GFMD advisers circle), who will be in charge of structuring the discussion and leading the consolidation of findings and lessons that can be drawn from each session. The idea is that each session will agree on three key findings and/or practical recommendations for actions that could be pursued for follow-up under the auspices of the GFMD. The findings and recommendations from all sessions will be jointly reviewed at the final concluding session. GMG agencies will provide rapporteurs for all sessions.

Date and venue

12-13 June 2012 at the Hotel Voila Bagatelle, Mall of Mauritius, Mauritius

Organizers

The Swiss Government, through the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency (SDC) will organize the workshop in collaboration with the GFMD Working Group and the GMG Working Group on Mainstreaming Migration in Development Strategies, led by UNDP and IOM. The Government of Mauritius will host the event and shall provide the meeting venue and local transportation of participants. The SDC will provide funding to cover the needs-based costs related to the participation of government representatives from developing countries and civil society. The costs of participation of representatives from GMG agencies are to be covered by the respective GMG members. Other participants and partners shall cover the costs of their own participation and be approached for covering potential funding gaps. The GMG WG will support the event and its organization by providing its expertise and technical services. The UN Country Team (UNCT) in Mauritius shall assume the logistical responsibilities for organizing the workshop. The workshop will benefit from the participation and support of the members of the GFMD Working Group, in particular the Governments of Finland, France, Morocco, the Philippines and Sweden.



Co-Chairs

Switzerland, represented by the SDC and the Government of Mauritius, Chair of the 2012 GFMD, will co-chair the workshop.

Participants

The workshop will bring together a total of about 40 participants. Its primary target group will be composed of the following constituencies:

1. Government representatives from the African continent and other parts of the world who are in charge of or closely involved in development planning and/or policy making on migration (e.g. from the ministry of interior, labour, social affairs, immigration, health; the national planning commission, etc.); representatives of the pilot countries currently undertaking migration mainstreaming pilots with support from the GMG; representatives of other interested governments with past or on-going experience in mainstreaming migration in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and other development planning instruments;
2. Local authorities from the African continent and other participating countries that are actively involved in migration management and development planning;
3. UNCT representatives from the participating countries who are supporting migration mainstreaming exercises; GMG representatives, including from relevant GMG Working Groups, and the EC-UN JMDI, acting as facilitators;
4. GFMD Troika;
5. The co-chairs and facilitator of the GFMD ad-hoc Working Group on Policy Coherence, Data and Research;
6. Representatives of the ICMC and other GFMD-affiliated civil society organizations, as well as CSOs, workers' and employers' organizations, women's organizations and networks, private sector and diaspora/migrant association stakeholders from the participating countries, including representatives with gender expertise, who are involved in migration and development initiatives and the mainstreaming processes.

