

**TENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**
Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Secretariat
New York, 9-10 February 2012

**UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA OF
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION¹**

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

¹ The views expressed in the paper do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the United Nations Secretariat.

A. INTRODUCTION

International migration has important implications for population dynamics, gender and young people and thus for the core mandate of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The increasing focus on inter-linkages between migration, poverty reduction and development has significant implications for UNFPA programmatic work in a number of key areas.

Among issues of particular concern to UNFPA are the challenges of female migration, including trafficking and smuggling; migration and the spread of diseases such as HIV/AIDS; the provision of basic social services, including reproductive health services, in areas of destination; protection of the human rights of migrants; migration and climate change; migration and young people; and migration statistics.

UNFPA strategies in this area include building a knowledge base, developing capacity to formulate and implement migration policies and programmes, facilitating policy dialogue and strengthening partnerships to enhance understanding of the complexity of international migration flows.

UNFPA works at global, regional and country levels to increase understanding of migration issues and their interlinkages with development, to advocate for more reliable age and gender-disaggregated migration data to inform policy, and to promote the incorporation of migration into national development plans.

B. SELECT ACTIVITIES ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

UNFPA continues its long-standing collaboration with UNITAR, IOM and the MacArthur Foundation in the convening of seminars on key migration and development topics for delegates of the Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York. These seminars are intended to provide government officials and the international community with a better understanding of the relationship between migration and development and a forum for discussion of important issues of concern to countries of origin, transit and destination. Topics in 2011 included: health challenges of migrant youth, migration profiles, and mainstreaming migration into development planning. The seminar on migration profiles was convened as part of the 2011 GFMD Thematic Meetings co-chaired by the Governments of Ghana and Moldova. The seminar series will continue in 2012 with topics designed to prepare delegates for discussions at the Global Forum on Migration and Development in 2012 and the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2013.

In 2011, UNFPA provided support to the International Organization for Migration and other partners of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Observatory on Migration to build up the evidence base for mainstreaming migration into development plans and prepare migration profiles in four pilot countries: Cameroon, Tanzania, Papua New Guinea, and Trinidad and Tobago.

As a member of the Global Migration Group, UNFPA collaborated with its GMG partners in a number of activities including the Symposium on Migration and Youth: Harnessing Opportunities for Development and has taken the lead in conducting an inventory of impact assessments of international migration projects and programmes on development carried out by the 16 member

agencies of the Global Migration Group. The purpose of this exercise is to raise awareness of the importance of assessing the impact of migration projects and programmes to ensure that resources are used as effectively and efficiently as possible to achieve the desired results. The inventory revealed that GMG agencies carried out projects that addressed a wide range of migration issues, including labour migration, temporary and circular migration, return and reintegration, highly skilled migration/brain drain, costs of migration, diaspora engagement, refugees, reintegration and resettlement, remittance transfers, combating human trafficking, migrant integration, migrant health, and migration statistics. Most agencies conducted evaluations of their projects but not impact assessments. The evaluations were typically part of the monitoring and evaluation exercise of the logical framework or donor reporting.

UNFPA will continue to be an active member of the Global Migration Group and will work with its partners within the context of the Working Groups on Mainstreaming Migration into Development and Data and Research to contribute to the Global Forum on Migration and Development in 2012 and the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2013.

UNFPA is joining the new initiative, Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Global Development, that is being established under the leadership of the World Bank. UNFPA will be participating in the data thematic working group focusing on the core set of indicators for migration profiles, the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, web-based training materials/modules and capacity building. The Fund expects to contribute to future working groups that address demographic changes, climate change, migrants' rights, and social aspects of migration.

UNFPA collaborates with other UN agencies in the Conference of the Parties (COP) process to ensure that population dynamics, including migration, are addressed in the climate change discourse. It is now widely accepted that migration policies and measures to address displacement need to be part of adaptation strategies, as stated in the Cancun Adaptation Framework.

UNFPA is an active member of the Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMIDI) programme management unit and continues its partnership with UNDP, IOM, ILO, and UNHCR in the Initiative to set up and reinforce migration and development networks, identify good practices, and inform policy making on migration and development.

In the Asia and Pacific region, UNFPA completed a report on the “Socio-Cultural Influences on the Reproductive Health of Migrant Women: A Review of Literature in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam” which explores the nexus between socio-cultural factors, health-seeking behavior and access to sexual and reproductive health information and services among migrants in four countries of the region. A key finding of the reviews is that migrant women’s reproductive health needs are being neglected. A focus on socio-cultural factors is essential in order to understand the multiple factors that impact on migrant women’s behavior and preferences for health care. The report makes recommendations on how policymakers, employers and service providers can better address the reproductive health needs of migrant women.

As a member of the Thematic Working Group on Migration, the UNFPA Asia and Pacific Regional Office collaborated with sixteen other regional offices of the United Nations in the preparation of a “Situation Report on International Migration in South and South-West Asia” which provides country overviews on the migration situation and regional migration trends, as well as issues such as environment and climate change, gender, health, labour migration, policy and international cooperation, protection of the rights of migrant workers, refugees and stateless persons, and remittances.

In the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region, the UNFPA regional office continues its collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) on migration statistics, including capacity building, facilitating data exchange among countries, support to the UNECE clearinghouse establishment and operation, and awareness-raising of policymakers regarding the role of migration in national development.

The UNFPA Arab States Regional Office is collaborating with MED STAT, the World Bank, UNHCR and other partners in the Mediterranean International Migration Survey. The survey will cover eight countries in the region: Jordan, Lebanon, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Syria. A meeting of all partners will be convened in March in Amman to finalize the survey tools and launch the surveys in Jordan and Egypt this year. The plan is to conduct the survey in two countries every year. The survey will cover various forms of international migration, including voluntary and forced migration, and will address implications for migrants, their households, and sending and receiving countries. The UNFPA Arab States Regional Office and Country Offices are supporting the survey technically and financially.

In the Latin America and the Caribbean region, UNFPA works together with Governments and strategic partners to place the themes of sexual and reproductive health care, including HIV/AIDS and sexual violence affecting migrant youth and women, on the public agenda as a right that goes beyond borders. At regional level, partners include the Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the International Organization for Migration, the Ibero-American General Secretariat, the Central American Health Integration System, the National Institute of Public Health in Mexico, the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights and the Technical Cooperation Offices of the Spanish Agency for International Development. Among the achievements include regional and bi-national studies on the sexual and reproductive health of the migrant population in highly vulnerable border areas that helped to identify needs and bottlenecks in order to develop strategies to promote the human rights of migrant youth and women and improve their access to sexual and reproductive health services; the creation of bi-national commissions as coordination mechanisms in each of the borders to facilitate exchange of information, identification of intervention zones, preparation of policies and establishment of care services; and strengthening of border and cross-border cooperation networks for the design, monitoring and evaluation of health policies, and the development and implementation of sexual and reproductive health-care strategies. This border and cross-border work is being carried out in Argentina-Bolivia, Colombia-Ecuador, Costa Rica-Nicaragua, El Salvador-Guatemala-Mexico and Haiti-Dominican Republic.

UNFPA Country Offices collaborate in the pilot mainstreaming exercises in Bangladesh, Jamaica, Mali and Moldova. Other countries are members of the UNCT Migration Theme Group. For example, in Nigeria, UNFPA works with partners to support country-level capacities for improved migration-related data with a view to augmenting evidence-based policymaking. UNFPA has also been involved in the development of a strategic implementation framework for the national policy on protection and assistance to trafficked persons as well as assistance to training on livelihood skills for trafficked victims.

C. FUTURE INITIATIVES ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

With the increased emphasis on youth in its new strategic plan, UNFPA will focus more on the challenges of migrant youth. Over 26 million of the world's migrants are between the ages of 15 and 24 years. Youth typically see migration as a chance for new opportunities, greater freedom

from traditions and norms, and the possibility to affirm their own identities. They can get an advanced education or a better job. But migration can also result in greater vulnerability for young people, many of whom find themselves with less family and social support, faced with a greater likelihood of abuse, and the temptation to experiment with risky behaviors.

A particular challenge for young migrants is health and access to appropriate and affordable health-care services. Both short and long-term health risks challenge the well-being of many young migrants who are particularly vulnerable to abuse, violence, exploitation, and discrimination. Many young migrants do not access health and social services because of high costs or language or cultural barriers. Many lack information about entitlements. Those who are in an irregular situation may be afraid to seek health-care information and services because of fear of deportation. Of particular concern are the many young women who fall prey to traffickers and are afraid to seek medical treatment, including reproductive health care. Female migrants are particularly vulnerable. Gender-based violence is often exacerbated in times of unrest and crisis.

Despite their large numbers, young migrants are largely invisible in debates and policies on international migration. By focusing on migrant youth and placing greater emphasis on better collection, analysis and dissemination of age and gender-disaggregated data and research into the access to services of migrant youth, UNFPA will make an important contribution to the preparation and deliberations of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2013.

As part of the ICPD Beyond 2014 process, UNFPA and partner organizations are discussing how best to address the issue of international migration in upcoming activities, including the survey of progress since the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994, expert meetings, and recommendations for action in this area beyond 2014.