

**THIRTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs,
United Nations Secretariat
New York, 12-13 February 2015

**CONTRIBUTION
TO THE THIRTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION¹**

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

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

QUESTION 1.

Please describe in general terms the initiatives and activities your entity has undertaken during 2014 as well as those it is planning to undertake in 2015 that respond to the objectives of the 2015 coordination meeting. (Note that specific activities and initiatives can be listed as part of question 2 and 3 below.)

Since 2006, IFAD has been pioneering innovative instruments to provide migrants, their families and their countries with better options for economic and social development through its multi-donor Financing Facility for Remittances (FFR), piloting nearly 50 projects in more than 40 countries worldwide. By means of its projects, publications and extensive global advocacy, the FFR has brought the enormous developmental potential of migrant remittances and migrant investments to the attention of governments and development institutions, and is now recognized as a leading actor in the area of remittances, migration and development.

In 2014, IFAD strengthened its scaling-up approach by mainstreaming remittances into its operations and addressing larger innovative programmes. As a result, IFAD has started to integrate strong remittance components into its loan and grant instruments to governments.

Furthermore, IFAD's FFR also launched its first country-specific call for proposals, encouraging the Haitian diaspora to support local entrepreneurship and local community development opportunities in Haiti. Other activities were implemented in the framework of two specific ongoing initiatives, focused respectively on fostering diaspora investment in agriculture in Djibouti and Somalia, and on promoting the role of postal operators in leveraging remittances for development in Africa.

In 2015, IFAD will continue in its efforts to leverage the impact of remittances for development through both its operational and advocacy activities. In particular, IFAD, in collaboration with the European Commission and the World Bank, will organize the Global Forum on Remittances and Development (GFRD) 2015 that will take place from 16 to 19 June 2015 in Milan (Italy), with the patronage of the Universal Exposition EXPO Milano 2015 "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life".

This year's Forum will have a focus on flows sent to and from Europe, always maintaining a global perspective. Over 400 participants are expected, from public and private sectors, as well as from the civil society. Previous editions of the Forum were organized by IFAD, in cooperation with the Inter-American Bank (Washington D.C. 2005 and 2007), the African Development Bank (Tunis 2009), and the World Bank (Bangkok 2013). In 2013, under the aegis of the UN and Queen Máxima of the Netherlands in Her mandate as United Nations Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development (UNSGSA), the Global Forum on Remittances and Development 2013 saw the participation of more than 350 international experts, practitioners from the public and private sectors and the civil society. In that context, it was unanimously recommended to establish the observance of an International Day of Family Remittances, and participants called for IFAD to take the lead in securing formal UN recognition of this day. Following this recommendation, IFAD is currently leading the process for the proclamation of this Day.

Objective of this observance is to recognize and raise global awareness of the fundamental contribution migrant workers make for the wellbeing of their families and communities back home, and to the sustainable development of their countries of origin. Proclaiming an International Day of Family Remittances would contribute to further encourage key stakeholders across sectors to work together to leverage the impact of remittances.

The proposed date for proclaiming an International Day of Family Remittances is 16 June. The Day will be officially endorsed by IFAD's 38th Governing Council on 17 February 2015, and, subsequently, the first celebration will be held on 16 June 2015 at the opening ceremony of the Global Forum on Remittances and Development (GFRD) in Milan.

After its first celebration on 16 June, the FFR intends to continue its advocacy activities and engage in an awareness-raising campaign in order to have the Day proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in the near future.

QUESTION 2.

Where relevant, please provide a schematic overview of your entity's initiatives and activities in respect to the Secretary-General's eight-point agenda for action presented at the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

1. Protect the human rights of all migrants

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2. Reduce the costs of labour migration

The core purpose of IFAD's FFR is to maximize the impact of remittances for development. Through the promotion of innovative investment, transfer and financially-inclusive mechanisms, IFAD projects have successfully addressed the main gaps affecting the link between remittances and development. As a result, poor rural households have been enabled to advance on the road to financial independence.

IFAD's experience over the last years in supporting cross-border remittance transfers has highlighted a conspicuous and mostly unmet demand of advanced remittance-related products (such as savings, credit, insurance, and investment products for migrants and their families).

Through the FFR portfolio of projects focused on remittances, IFAD developed and tested business models designed to serve remittance recipients and rural communities, with the aim of enhancing competition, reducing the cost of remittances and related financial services, reaching rural areas broadening the geographical reach of financial services, enabling migrant workers to best use their resources through financial education, deepening the variety of financial services available to migrant workers and their families, and encouraging migrant workers to be agents of change.

3. Eliminate migrant exploitation, including human trafficking

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4. Address the plight of stranded migrants

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5. Improve public perceptions of migrants

The individual stories of those who leave their rural villages for cities and destinations abroad are stories of great dedication, but also of tremendous sacrifice. Through its operations, advocacy and outreach, IFAD is committed to make sure that a positive and better perception of migrants is conveyed in every message. Recognizing, facilitating and supporting migrants and their families is key to ensuring that their sacrifices and hard work are brought to fruition, ensuring that migration becomes a choice rather than a necessity.

6. Integrate migration into the development agenda

In recent years, IFAD has increasingly engaged with a number of key international actors, processes and fora, and produced many knowledge-sharing materials. In particular in 2014, IFAD has become an implementing partner of the G20 Global Partnership on Financial Inclusion (GPII) - an inclusive partnership established in 2010 to take forward the G20's work on financial inclusion, and contributed to the finalization of the G20 Plan to Facilitate Remittance Flows. In 2014, IFAD also strengthened its cooperation with Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), and chaired the Remittances Action Group of the European Micro-Finance Platform.

During 2014, IFAD started the process to proclaim the International Day of Family Remittances, which will be submitted for adoption at its 38th Governing Council in February 2015.

If adopted, the first official celebration will be held on 16 June at the opening ceremony of the G2015 (Milan, 16-19 June), organized by IFAD in collaboration with the World Bank and the European Commission, and in conjunction

with the – EXPO Milano 2015 “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life. After its first celebration on 16 June, IFAD will continue the formal endorsement process by submitting the declaration to the UN General Assembly.

Remittances are an expression of fundamental family commitment and constitute one of the world’s most direct methods of poverty alleviation. Leveraging their impact to foster economic improvement represents a major opportunity for recipient families and communities.

Proclaiming an International Day of Family Remittances would contribute to further encourage key stakeholders across sectors to work together to leverage the impact of remittances for development. Public and private sector partnerships are in fact key to creating the necessary enabling environment to reach the full potential of improving the living standards of remittance families and future prospects of their communities.

7. Strengthen the migration evidence base

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8. Enhance migration partnerships and cooperation

Expanding opportunities for migrants to invest more productively and share their knowledge, and enlist migrants and diaspora organizations in enhancing development in their communities of origin has always been at the core of the FFR activities.

IFAD has extensively worked on the scaling-up of the Diaspora Investment in Agriculture (DIA) initiative, capitalizing on the successful migrant investment schemes pioneered in the Philippines and in the Horn of Africa, as well as the experiences of those projects addressing small and medium enterprise development. DIA aims at promoting local economic development and employment, and enhancing food security in post-conflict and fragile states by supporting innovative financing mechanisms that leverage diaspora investment in agriculture.

Achieving these development goals will strengthen local economic communities and reduce the social fracture among millions of families forced to migrate in search of better opportunities for themselves and their families.

Since 2013, IFAD has been working on enhancing food security in the Horn of Africa through diaspora investment in agriculture. Furthermore, recently IFAD has designed a loan for an innovative rural enterprises and remittance project in Nepal.

In 2014, IFAD financed the second phase one of the FFR’s most successful pilot projects “Scaling up Initiatives in Mobilizing Migrant resources Towards Agriculture Development” in the Philippines. IFAD also designed the large grant on “Regional Programme on Remittances and Diaspora Investment for Rural Development”, which will be implemented in Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

QUESTION 3.

Where relevant, please indicate the rationale, the strengths, weaknesses and the areas for improvement of the proposed targets for the post-2015 development agenda related to international migrants, migration and mobility

1. Safe, legal and orderly migration (10.7)

<i>a. Rationale</i>	<i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i>
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2. Reducing remittance transfer costs (10.c)

<i>a. Rationale</i>	<i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i>
<p>IFAD welcomes the inclusion of explicit references to migration in the proposed targets for the post-2015 development agenda under Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries and Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.</p> <p>In particular under 10.c, IFAD welcomes the further efforts of the post-2015 development agenda to reduce the transaction costs of migrant remittances.</p>	<p>In line with the G20 Leaders' communiqué of the Brisbane Summit of 16-17 November 2014, IFAD recommends to strengthen the link between remittances and financial inclusion.</p> <p>Access to remittance flows provides a sustainable path out of poverty, which, if better linked to financial inclusion services and literacy, can foster the creation of employment and business opportunities, effectively contributing to the sustainable development of migrants' countries of origin.</p>

3. Rights of migrant workers (8.8)

<i>a. Rationale</i>	<i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i>
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4. Eliminating trafficking of women and children (5.2 and 16.2)

<i>a. Rationale</i>	<i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i>
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5. Addressing the "brain drain" through retention and training of health workers (3.c)

<i>a. Rationale</i>	<i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i>
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6. Scholarships for developing countries to enrol in higher education in other countries (4b)

<i>a. Rationale</i>	<i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i>
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7.

<i>a. Rationale</i>	<i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i>
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8.

<i>a. Rationale</i>	<i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i>
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