

**TENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Population Division

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

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**CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME TO
THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE 2013 HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE, THE GFMD
PROCESS, AND INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION ON MIGRATION AND
DEVELOPMENT¹**

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

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

A) ACTIVITIES THAT COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE PREPARATIONS OF THE 2013 HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE

UNDP is a committed member of the Global Migration Group (GMG) and contributes to the field of migration and development and the preparations for the 2013 UN General Assembly High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development through the GMG and collaboration with its member agencies at the global and country levels.

1. Sharing of experiences and lessons from the pilot project on Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies

Since the beginning of 2011, UNDP, in close collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the GMG, is implementing a pilot project on Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies in four countries – Bangladesh, Jamaica, Mali, and Moldova. The project provides practical follow-up to the GMG *Handbook on Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning*, which was launched –and endorsed by States as a useful tool –at the 2010 Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) in Mexico. The two-year pilot project is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC); it is steered through the inter-agency mechanism of the GMG Working Group (WG) on migration mainstreaming, which brings together a self-selected sub-set of GMG members and is co-chaired by UNDP and IOM.

The project aims to enable four pilot countries – Bangladesh, Jamaica, Mali, and Moldova – to comprehensively address migration and development interlinkages in their national policies and programmes, and to create sustainable consultation and monitoring mechanisms within government and with other relevant stakeholders in society. It also aims to strengthen the capacities of UN Country Teams (UNCTs), in the four countries and globally, to advice and support governments and their partners on migration and development issues. In order to support the latter, the GMG WG conducted a survey of UNCTs in 2011, inquiring about migration-related capacities and demands at country-level. In follow-up, the WG is compiling and developing practical guidance and tools that will be put at the disposal of UNCTs, using the GMG website and other delivery mechanisms such as online communities of practice. The WG is coordinating its activities with the UN Development Operations Coordination Office (DOCO) to ensure that they are in line with the standards and practices of the UN Development Group.

The WG also serves as a mechanism to coordinate with other ongoing initiatives on migration mainstreaming, including two pilots supported by the EC-UN Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI)² in Ghana and Morocco.

²The EC-UN Joint Migration and Development Initiative – a four-year programme funded by the European Commission and implemented by UNDP and its partner agencies ILO, UNFPA, UNHCR and IOM in an informal ‘Delivering as One’ modality – has supported small-scale organizations and local authorities in their concrete efforts to link migration and development. In addition, the JMDI has broken new ground by fostering inter-agency collaboration, reinforcing institutional knowledge, capitalizing on expertise, and building extensive networks of practitioners. The overall objectives of the EC-UN JMDI is to 1) set up and reinforce networks of actors working on migration and development and 2) identify good practices and share information on what actually works at the local and international level among those who are active in this field with a view to 3) feeding into policy-making on migration and development.

It is foreseen that the experience of and lessons from these pilot projects and participating countries will be made available during the preparatory process for the High-level Dialogue. The exact format for such a sharing of lessons learnt will need to be determined. Ideally, insights gained from the project implementation, which will be captured in a final project report, will allow governments and their partners to learn from existing practices and replicate successful ways of fostering policy and institutional coherence and multi-stakeholder partnerships as part of migration mainstreaming processes. Sharing the findings from the mainstreaming pilots should in this way contribute to promoting an evidence-based and practically oriented High-level Dialogue on international migration and development in 2013. It will also serve to demonstrate the added value that the GMG can bring to country-level cooperation and operational activities on migration and development.

2. Raising awareness and supporting HLD preparations at country level

As part of its activities in the four pilot countries and its outreach and support to UNCTs globally, UNDP, working through the GMG WG on migration mainstreaming, is well positioned to raise awareness of the 2013 High-level Dialogue and to encourage preparatory activities at country-level.

As project coordinator, UNDP is keeping the four pilot countries currently undertaking migration mainstreaming exercises with GMG support abreast of global-level discussions on migration and development, including the GFMD process and the evolving preparations for the 2013 High-level Dialogue.

In addition, a number of planned activities of the GMG WG this year will provide concrete opportunities for raising awareness of the upcoming High-level Dialogue, including an e-discussion with UNCTs; the organization of webinars on migration and development; and the organization of a preparatory event on mainstreaming migration into development planning for the 2012 GFMD (see next section).

Existing online networks, such as the EC-UN JMDI Community of Practice, M4D Net, will provide a crucial channel for raising awareness of the 2013 HLD preparations among a variety of M&D stakeholders, including civil society and local authorities. With 2,148 members and over 5,000 visitors per month, the Migration4Development Portal (www.migration4development.org) is firmly established as the go-to website on migration and development issues. It offers the opportunity for practitioners and policymakers to meet virtually to share experiences and good practices, including through regular e-discussions (often in collaboration with EC-UN JMDI partner agencies) that explore topics related to migration and development in more depth.

The EC-UN JMDI is also organizing a series of national events in 11 of its target countries³, aimed at symbolically closing the small-scale migration and development projects it has funded and celebrating their achievements. Designed as a platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue among national and local governments, UNCTs, civil society organizations, and bilateral cooperation

³The 16 target countries of the JMDI are: Algeria, Cape Verde, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, Jamaica, Mali, Moldova, Morocco, Nigeria, Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Tunisia.

partners, these events provide an opportunity to raise awareness of the 2013 HLD and to initiate areflection on its preparation at country-level.

3. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE 2011 AND 2012 GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

UNDP, in close collaboration with IOM and the GMG WG, is supporting the GFMD's continued focus on the topic of mainstreaming migration into development planning.

1. Contributions to the GFMD in 2011

In 2011, as part of the Swiss Chair's decentralized approach to the GFMD, the GMG WG helped organize a thematic workshop on the topic of "Mainstreaming migration into strategic policy development", held in Chisinau, Moldova on 12-13 October 2011. The workshop was hosted by the Government of the Republic of Moldova and co-hosted by the Governments of Bangladesh, Jamaica, and Mali, all pilot countries undertaking a migration mainstreaming process with GMG support. It allowed governments and other stakeholders to exchange experiences on tools and approaches for mainstreaming migration in sectoral strategies on health, education, and employment, and to discuss ways of improving the evidence base on migration and development at the national level, including through the use of Extended Migration Profiles.

The workshop outcomes report was shared with the GFMD Chair and the results of the workshop were fed into the Concluding Debate of the 2011 GFMD, held on 1-2 December in Geneva. (All workshop-related documents and presentations are available on the GFMD website.) The outcomes of the 2011 Concluding Debate explicitly mention the pilot project on mainstreaming migration into development planning and request the GMG to report on progress made in the four pilot countries in due course.

The EC-UN JMDI contributed to the Civil Society Days of the 2011 GFMD Concluding Debate with a launch event of its new handbook '[*Migration for Development: A bottom-up approach*](#)'. The handbook is based on a systematic stock-taking exercise of the experiences of over fifty migration and development projects funded by the programme. It is geared towards closing the gap between migration and development practitioners and policy-makers by generating a solid evidence base on what works, under what conditions, in which transnational spaces, and why. Thus, the handbook provides useful insights for policy makers that can serve to test assumptions about the capacities of and partnerships with small-scale actors, offering practical recommendations for future assessments of diaspora-related policies or decentralized cooperation.

2. Contributions to the GFMD in 2012

Based on consultations with the Mauritian Chair-in-office of the 2012 GFMD and the Swiss Government, member of the GFMD Troika, it is foreseen that the GMG WG on migration mainstreaming will support the organization of a preparatory workshop for GFMD Roundtable 2 on "Factoring migration into development planning." The workshop is to be held during the second quarter of the year in Mauritius. It is foreseen that the workshop will place particular emphasis on integrating different levels of governance in migration mainstreaming processes, looking both at the role of local authorities, and of regional cooperation, especially on the African continent.

The workshop would provide governments with a particular interest in migration mainstreaming 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. It would serve to identify key issues for discussion; emerging practices and lessons; and concrete opportunities for action and international cooperation to be highlighted at the 2012 GFMD.

The GMG WG will further engage with the GFMD process in 2012 to share the migration mainstreaming experiences and emerging practices of the current pilot project countries, with a view to associating other potentially interested governments and broadening the donor base for this stream of work. The exact modalities for such a presentation will need to be determined.

4. NEW INITIATIVES IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The UNDP-administered pilot project on mainstreaming migration into development strategies still remains in its start-up phase, with three of the four pilot countries beginning implementation in 2012. Further, the project may be extended to one or two new pilot countries this year with the Governments of Tunisia and Mauritius both having expressed their interest to join, pending formal endorsement.

Capitalizing on the lessons learned during its first phase of programme implementation, the EC-UN JMDI foresees to strengthen, in a second phase, its efforts to support and harness the potential of decentralized levels of governments, such as provinces and local authorities, to act as strategic partners for civil society in the area of migration and development, e.g. by reinforcing their capacities and facilitating increased coordination within local administrations.

In the context of the transformation process taking place in North Africa, the EC-UN JMDI together with the EC will be organizing a workshop in March 2012 that aims to explore the role of diaspora communities residing in the European Union in contributing to the development of their countries of origin through their intellectual, financial and social capacities. The event will contribute to the preparation of and follow-up to proposals by the European Commission regarding reinforced cooperation with Southern Mediterranean countries and the Global Approach to Migration, which focuses on forging partnerships with migrants, their families and communities to give them a more central place in the analysis and definition of policies.