

**ELEVENTH 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 2013 HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE, THE GFMD PROCESS, AND  
INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT <sup>1</sup>**

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

A) UNDP'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE THEMES AND 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 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. UNDP has contributed to UN System-wide preparations for the 2013 High Level Dialogue, such as a set of recommendations prepared for the Chief Executive Board's High Level Committee on Programmes and a deliberation of the Policy Committee on the topic of migration.

Since chairing the GMG in 2010, UNDP has worked with other member agencies towards enhancing the relevance of GMG coordination for country-level inter-agency cooperation on migration and development. Together with the International Organization for Migration, UNDP has been co-leading GMG collaboration on the topic of “**mainstreaming migration into national development strategies**”, including the implementation of a **pilot project in four countries** (Bangladesh, Jamaica, Moldova and Tunisia). The project aims to enable countries 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 advise and support governments and their partners on migration and development issues.

The pilot project will undertake a systematic effort at collecting lessons learned over the course of 2012/2013. While there have been varying degrees of progress across countries, a number of preliminary insights have emerged from the various exchanges on migration mainstreaming so far. These include:

- a) the important role of a coordinating body with a cross-cutting mandate (i.e. the planning commission; prime minister's office) to foster a 'whole-of-government' approach to migration and development;
- b) the need for high-level political buy-in to ensure the sustainability of the process;
- c) the benefit of broad-based stakeholder consultations including with civil society partners;
- d) the opportunity to use the mainstreaming process to advance dialogue with major destination countries;
- e) the synergies that exist with other M&D related initiatives such as the EC-UN Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMIDI) and Extended Migration Profiles;
- f) the usefulness of the *GMG Handbook on Mainstreaming migration into Development Planning* in providing guiding principles and their applicability at both the local and national levels; and
- g) the need for capacity strengthening among all engaged stakeholders, including the members of the UNCT, so as to enable them to increasingly 'deliver as one' in support of migration mainstreaming processes.

Countries highlighted the difficulty of accessing specialized migration and development expertise to support policy development. They also stressed the need to look beyond the national level to engage bilateral and regional partners.

This work on migration mainstreaming marks a concrete effort “to strengthen coherence and cooperation at all levels, with a view to enhancing the benefits of international migration for migrants and countries alike and its important links to development, while reducing its negative implications” as solicited by the overall theme of the 2013 HLD. Consolidated lessons from the pilot project will be shared during the preparatory process for the High-level Dialogue. They should serve to support an evidence-based and practically oriented discussion, especially under **Roundtable 3, on the topic of “Strengthening partnerships and cooperation on international migration, mechanisms to effectively integrate migration into development policies and promoting coherence at all levels”**.

UNDP’s **2009 Human Development Report (HDR)** remains a milestone contribution to the debate on migration and development from a human development perspective, and provides a valuable source of information on the human development impacts of migration. UNDP will seek to feed key findings from the 2009 HDR into the discussions of **Roundtable 1 on “Assessing the effects of international migration on sustainable development and identifying relevant priorities in view of the preparation of the post-2015 development framework”**. UNDP is contributing to advancing reflections on migration and the post-2015 development agenda, including in the context of discussions at the European Commission, the High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and through joint initiatives by the GMG.

## B) CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

UNDP, in close collaboration with IOM and other GMG partners, has been supporting the GFMD’s continuous focus on the topic of mainstreaming migration into development planning since 2010.

In 2012, UNDP supported the organization of a **preparatory workshop for GFMD Roundtable 2 on the topic of “Factoring migration into development planning.”** The workshop was held on 12-13 June 2013 in Mauritius, co-chaired by the Governments of Switzerland, represented by the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency (SDC), and Mauritius, Chair of the 2012 GFMD. It was organized in collaboration with the Government of Sweden; the GFMD Working Group on Policy Coherence, Data and Research; and the GMG Working Group on Migration Mainstreaming under the lead of UNDP and IOM. The workshop was meant to prepare the ground for GFMD Roundtable session 2.1 entitled *Supporting National Development through Migration Mainstreaming Processes, Extended Migration Profiles and Poverty Reduction Strategies*. It provided about 80 representatives from national and local governments, civil society and international organizations with the opportunity to share their experiences and learn about mainstreaming migration into development planning, focusing on concrete challenges and solutions as they relate to the institutional, policy, and partnership dimensions of the mainstreaming process.

The workshop identified a number of **key issues** for discussion at the GFMD summit, including:

- The need for a *shared understanding of migration and development dynamics* across government and with multiple stakeholders. Governments observed that the positive outlook on migration as a force for development, fostered by the 2006 UN High-Level Dialogue and nurtured by the GFMD process, is not universally shared, and differences in perspective between various actors still need to be bridged at all levels of governance.
- Participating governments saw *added value of migration mainstreaming* in terms of fostering a more strategic, outcome-oriented perspective for policy making; greater coherence within government, horizontally between ministries and vertically between different levels of government; and the opportunity to foster greater inclusiveness of non-governmental stakeholders and involve international partners in a structured and institutionalized manner. Reported challenges pertained to the lack of data and capacities to support migration mainstreaming.
- The introduction of a *reciprocity* dimension in migration mainstreaming processes was highlighted, whereas mainstreaming would be undertaken jointly or in parallel by countries of origin and destination that are connected by the same migration corridor.
- The workshop featured first *experiences from local governments* involved in migration mainstreaming, highlighting benefits in terms of improved service delivery for, and active engagement with, migrants, their families and communities; as well as key conditions, such as decentralization and devolution of certain competencies and resources.
- Presentations by national and city governments made the case for looking at *internal migration* dynamics as an integral part of development processes and climate change adaptation strategies. And, several governments raised the question whether it is time for the GFMD to consider internal migration as part of its deliberations.
- The workshop also called on the GFMD to *link up with other global development processes* to advocate for the inclusion of migration concerns and ensure coherence across different fora such as Rio+20, ICPD Beyond 2014, the UNFCCC, the UN Conference on LDCs, the WTO, and the post-2015 development agenda. Participants saw an important advocacy role for civil society and suggested that the GFMD might use the 2013 HLD as an opportunity to formulate some target outcomes in areas of wide-spread consensus among governments, such as lowering the costs of remittances and recruitment.

A full report on the workshop and its outcomes and recommendations was shared with the GFMD Chair and, together with all workshop-related presentations, is available on the GFMD website.

UNDP also contributed to the **background paper for GFMD Roundtable session 2.1** and shared experiences and lessons from the pilot project on migration mainstreaming during that

session at the GFMD summit in Mauritius. Together with GMG partners, it will continue to support discussions on this topic as requested by the Swedish GFMD Chair in 2013/2014.

The EC-UN JMDI contributed to the 2012 GFMD through the organization of a **photo and video competition** that was prominently displayed at the GFMD venue. The idea behind the competition was to address one of the issues discussed at the GFMD under Roundtable 3.1 “Improving Public Perceptions of Migrants and Migration: Challenging Pre-conceptions and Shaping Perceptions”. The competition aimed to collect compelling visual evidence of the contributions that migrants and diasporas make to development. A total of 41 photos and 15 videos were submitted. The JMDI also provided financial support to the organizers of the 2012 Civil Society Days.

### C) NEW INITIATIVES IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

While the topic of migration mainstreaming into development planning ranks high on the international policy agenda, for most countries, this is not yet the case at the national level. Including migration explicitly in the post-2015 agenda could go a long way in raising its profile also in national development planning, as well as on the agenda of multilateral and bilateral development agencies. Countries from the South have also voiced concerns regarding reciprocity, calling for a mainstreaming approach and greater policy coherence to be applied in all countries.

UNDP and IOM are thus exploring possibilities for Triangular Cooperation around migration mainstreaming as part of the **second phase of the pilot project on “Mainstreaming migration into national development strategies”**. The second phase is due to start in July 2013, implemented jointly by UNDP and IOM in collaboration with GMG partners and with support, so far, from the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency. It aims to support more countries over a longer implementation period, and to place greater emphasis on technical assistance and the sharing of lessons among countries. Based on lessons learned from the pilot project and other experiences, the development of more practical tools to support mainstreaming processes, such as sector-specific policy guidance notes; policy checklists; training modules and other, is also foreseen. The project will involve other GMG agencies both at country and global levels and a number of project-related activities will be part of the GMG’s joint multi-annual work plan that is currently being developed.

The **EC-UN JMDI** has entered on 1 December 2012 the **second phase of programme implementation**, focused on 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. Programme activities are funded over three years with a total budget of 9.5 million USD, contributed by the European Commission and the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency. The programme will be implemented by the JMDI in collaboration with its partners IOM, ILO, UNHCR, UNFPA and UN Women.

The drivers and impact of migration are often most strongly felt at the local level, be it in terms of effects on the local labour market, the size and demographic of the local population, or the need for public service provision. This is why provinces and local authorities are

strategic levels of governments to be involved, making consultations and agreement with sub-national levels of governments particularly important for the civil society.

Indeed, findings from the first phase of the JMDI showed that the effectiveness of M&D activities largely depends on the identification and establishment of strategic partnerships between civil society organizations and governments at decentralized levels. The most successful and sustainable M&D interventions identified were those with strong anchorage with local governments in countries of origin and destination. Local authorities that shared a common vision with civil society partners had a sense of ownership over projects that led them to commit time, energy and resources, effectively contributing to the success and sustainability of the M&D initiative.

However, in general terms, local governments have not received the same level of attention as other stakeholders, despite their potential impact on the connections between migration and development. Successful interventions of local authorities are essentially the results of trial and error processes and are quite often insufficiently institutionalized, which undermines their sustainability. Local authorities also have an important problem of capacity to effectively link migration and development at local level and to engage in meaningful partnerships with relevant civil society actors. Furthermore, they have very few opportunities to learn from other local authorities' accomplishments. There is a need to support the transnational links between the large diversity of local actors who are engaged in migration and development interventions.

The JMDI's second phase foresees three interconnected outputs to address these challenges:

1. To move from isolated and individual approached towards more structured forms of interventions through the identification of promising initiatives from local authorities in partnership with civil society organizations in selected countries that will be scaled up to maximize impact on local development. Policy options and definition of road maps for action will be drawn from the experience of the supported initiatives;
2. To reinforce the capacities of selected local administrations to effectively link migration and development, with a specific focus on facilitating increased coordination within local authorities' administration in order to maximize their ability to grasp the potential of migration for development;
3. To connect local authorities globally with each other and with other stakeholders and facilitate partnerships (between local authorities in countries of origin and destination of migration, migrant and refugee associations, the private sector, social partners etc.) to reinforce local authorities' potential to become active players in the field of migration and development.