

**FIFTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Secretariat
New York, 16-17 February 2017

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

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. UNDP'S MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT WORK IN 2016

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a framework to addressing the impact of migration. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) urge all states and development partners to protect migrant workers' labor rights, promote safe and secure working environments (target 8.8), implement planned and well-managed migration policies (target 10.7), reduce the transaction costs of migrant remittances (target 10.c), and produce high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated among others by race, ethnicity, and migratory status (target 17.18) and eliminate all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation and trafficking of women (target 5.2) and children (target 16.2)

In order to contribute to the achievement of the SDG migration related targets, UNDP is supporting the implementation of policies and programmes with a focus on three broad areas of work:

1. Supporting national and local governments to develop and implement comprehensive national policies and institutional frameworks that address migration and displacement issues. This helps to strengthen government capacity to integrate migration and displacement into national policies, plans and strategies, and to take the necessary actions to strengthen migration impact as part of their development efforts.
2. Managing migration to harness the long-term local positive development impacts. UNDP is working with host and sending communities to address the local drivers of migration and the root causes of displacement. At the same time UNDP helps countries to manage the impacts of immigration, emigration, internal migration and displacement at the local level, including municipalities.
3. Working with countries and communities affected by crises (conflict/disasters) to help them cope, rebuild, recover and protect development gains. In UNDP, we refer to this as the “*resilience-based development*” approach to migration and displacement in times of crisis, conflict and/or disaster.

B. EXAMPLES OF UNDP GLOBAL AND REGIONAL WORK ON MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY ADDRESSING SDG MIGRATION RELATED TARGETS

UNDP's Global and Regional Projects fall under the three broad areas of work on migration and displacement as follows:

1. Mainstreaming migration into National Development Strategies: IOM and UNDP are implementing the Joint Global Programme on Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies. The programme is implemented in eight countries: Bangladesh, Ecuador, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Morocco, Serbia and Tunisia. The programme enables governments to better measure, and make more visible, the human development impacts of migration; and to govern migration to increase the human development outcomes and mitigate the risks for migrants, their families and communities at origin and destination.²

² The programme, which started in 2011 as a pilot in four of the eight implementing countries, is currently in its second phase (1 February 2014 – 31 January 2018).

While most countries have now established ministerial coordination committees for migration, Jamaica has developed an International Migration and Development Policy, Moldova a National Strategy for Diaspora 2025 and National Diaspora Hub, Morocco now has a National Strategy on Immigration and Asylum and is finalizing a National Plan on Migrants' Health, while the Serbia National Youth Strategy 2015-2025, now includes migration related targets.

Together with IOM, UNDP co-chairs the Global Migration Group's (GMG) Working Group on *Mainstreaming Migration into Development Strategies*, and the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD) Working Group on Policy and Institutional Coherence, together with OECD.³

Within the GMG, UNDP and IOM have led the development of a Guidance Note on Mainstreaming Migration in UNDAFs. This has led to UNDAF Guidance also integrating migration and displacement in core principles, and into its programming approach, Common Country Assessment etc.

2. United Nations Action for Cooperation Against Trafficking in Persons: UNDP manages the United Nations Action for Cooperation Against Trafficking in Persons (UN-ACT)⁴ (total budget US\$18.5 million), a regional anti human-trafficking project in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (Cambodia, China, Lao, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam) and beyond. UN-ACT is building the capacities of government agencies, civil society actors and academic institutions, and facilitates a coordinated approach to counter human trafficking between relevant stakeholders, including UN agencies. Coherent policies are developed and agreements are reached at the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT Process), a unique sub-regional mechanism that brings together the six governments in the Mekong region in a joint effort to fight trafficking in their region. The project engages youth, civil society, the private sector, and regional bodies including ASEAN in its work, which it implements at both the regional and national level.

3. Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMIDI): The UNDP-led inter-agency and global *JMIDI* supports local and regional authorities and other key local actors to manage migration for local development initiatives. The lessons learnt and good practices from these are consolidated into targeted capacity-building tools as well as fed into efforts to promote the mainstreaming of migration into local development planning across 16 projects in eight countries. The JMIDI is implemented by UNDP jointly with IOM, UNITAR, UNHCR, ITC-ILO, UNFPA and UN Women and supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

4. Regional Refugee and Resilience Response Plan: UNDP, together with UNHCR, co-leads the Regional Refugee and Resilience Response Plan (3RP). The 3RP brings together more than 200 partners in a country-driven, regionally coordinated response to the Syria crisis. It combines humanitarian and development resources to support the implementation of nationally-owned response

³ <http://www.knomad.org/thematic-working-groups/policy-and-institutional-coherence>.

⁴ <http://un-act.org/>.

plans for Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. The 3RP coordinates and monitors these responses as well as funding commitments.

C. EXAMPLES OF UNDP'S WORK AT COUNTRY LEVEL DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY ADDRESSING SDG MIGRATION RELATED TARGETS

1. Supporting national and local governments to develop and implement comprehensive national policies and institutional frameworks that address migration and displacement issues.

Myanmar: In addition to other community recovery initiatives, in Myanmar's Rakhine state, UNDP supported the development of a National Strategy for long-term recovery and reintegration of internally displaced persons in its *Durable Solutions* initiative. The strategy covers all aspects of (re)integration (economic, social and political), as well as social cohesion and conflict sensitivity; and outlines a phased approach for interventions before, during and after the return of IDPs.

The Philippines: The *Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMIDI)* is supporting the Municipality of Naga City in the Philippines to mainstream migration into local development planning. To achieve this, a well-managed coordination mechanism between the national, regional and local levels has been set up with centres, councils and technical working groups on migration and development to lead the main activities in each municipality. These initiatives have allowed the migration management process to be localized and effective, while remaining aligned with the relevant policies at the national level. For further information on the JMIDI, see: http://www.undp.org/content/brussels/en/home/ourwork/sustainable-development/in_depth/migration-and-development.html.

2. Managing migration to harness the long-term local positive development impacts.

Bangladesh: UNDP and the Government of Bangladesh are implementing the *Bangladesh Access to Information (a2i) programme*. The Prime Minister's Office/UNDP a2i programme set up the *Probash e-seba* initiative with the Ministry of Expatriates and Overseas Employment. This initiative aims to ensure safe overseas migration by creating a service platform for migrant workers and developing their skills, so that they can earn higher incomes and help Bangladesh achieve annual remittances of US\$30 billion within five years (annual remittances were US\$14.9 billion in the 2015/16 financial year, according to information from the Bangladesh Bank).

Key activities under the Probash-e-seba initiative programme include:

- Digital registration for safe migration in over 5,000 one-stop service centres in rural areas. Prospective migrants can register on their doorsteps.
- Service delivery and grievance redressal for migrant workers through technological means such as call centres, mobile apps, and physical expatriate digital centres in in the 10 countries with most Bangladeshi migrant workers. This will be expanded to more receiving countries.
- E/M-Learning (electronic-mobile) content developed for skills enhancement (pre-departure and in-service) of migrant workers, most of whom leave the country without any training. Data show that

every year 400,000 labour migrants leave the country but only 100,000 receive the training. Based on this, the Ministry of Expatriates and Overseas Employment introduced e-learning content for basic-level skills development of household workers, including on the use of appliances. More e-learning content is under development.

Ecuador: UNDP and its partners are pursuing an inclusive approach to integrate different types of migrants (refugees, regular migrants, asylum seekers, irregular migrants) in Pichincha, Ecuador. Through the *Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMEDI)*, UNDP supports the Provincial Government of Pichincha with the social, economic and cultural integration of mixed migrant flows (including refugees, returning migrants, transit and economic migrants). This includes support for strategy development and strengthening of local level capacities. The Provincial Government of Pichincha has developed a highly successful integration model through its Human Mobility Unit, which includes, for instance, an awareness-raising campaign to mitigate xenophobia and promote mutual understanding between migrants and locals. It also provides services such as skills development, job placements, and financial and technical support for entrepreneurship. The Human Mobility Unit model is now being replicated in other provinces with the endorsement of the national government.

Moldova: UNDP Moldova is implementing the Swiss-funded Migration and Local Development Project aiming to link migrants with their native localities from Moldova and actively engage them in local development, at all stages. The concept of mainstreaming migration into local development is piloted in 25 target Moldovan communities.

- All 25 local communities succeeded in establishing hometown associations that help connecting emigrants and their home cities, and involve them in concrete local development projects.
- Over 100 small projects were jointly implemented by migrants, and local authorities, in the field of education, culture, health, and social care.
A local crowd-funding platform was launched and local governments were empowered to use this tool for ensuring large-scale and well channelled financial contributions from migrants' communities for local development joint projects.
- Twenty-three local infrastructure projects were prioritized jointly by local authorities and migrants aiming to improve local basic services, including water and sanitation, local infrastructure, social services and education. All projects were placed on the newly upgraded crowdfunding platform⁵ and are expected to be co-funded by migrants originating from these localities.⁶
- A new National Employment Strategy for 2017-2021, mainstreaming migration, was developed as part of the same project. The document envisages capitalizing on the benefits of labour migration, diversifying opportunities for circular migration and facilitating reintegration of returned migrants, including their economic empowerment.

The Philippines: UNDP Philippines, in partnership with the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), the Philippines' National Economic Development Authority and the Western Union

⁵ <https://gubern24.md/en/categories/?type=local-administration>.

⁶ See www.webcitation.org/6lKy1HA2R, for more information, including a success story, at www.webcitation.org/6lKyArcnI.

Foundation, has been working with civil society organizations and the local government leaders of the province of Ilocos Norte and the city of Taguig to implement the Overseas Filipinos Diaspora Remittances for Development (OFs-ReD) Project: Building a Future Back Home. The project harnessed the potential of overseas remittances for poverty reduction and local economic development. It supported policies to transform overseas remittances for development, savings and investments and to build up a viable collective remittance fund. It sought to channel migrant savings and investments into cooperatives, rural banks, microfinance institutions and social enterprises. The funds remitted collectively by overseas Filipinos into select development projects were matched by funds from the Western Union Foundation and by the local government, turning the programme into a “2 x 1” scheme.

The project was based on thorough planning and an assessment of local needs. It built meaningful partnerships with the private sector, diaspora and other civil society partners and has the strong involvement of local authorities.

Zambia: In Zambia, UNDP is therefore working with a wide range of stakeholders who have united around a common vision on solutions for displacement and are working to support local integration of refugees. Settlement opportunities are being supported in the areas of Mayukwayukwa, Mwange and Meheba through local development initiatives that include access to land, infrastructure development, livelihoods creation and service provision. The ultimate aim is to ensure that the communities living in the three resettlement schemes of Mayukwayukwa, Meheba and Mwange are cohesive, productive, sustainable and fully integrated into development at all levels.

3. Working with countries and communities affected by crises (conflict/disasters) to help them cope, rebuild, recover and protect development gains.

Cameroon: In 2016, UNDP received US\$2.1 million from the Japanese Supplementary Budget for the implementation of livelihood activities, and activities preventing extreme violence and promoting social cohesion in the Far North. Three beneficiary agencies (UNHCR, UNDP and UN Women) agreed to jointly plan and target areas with a high concentration of Nigerian refugees and IDPs in the Far North. Thus, areas of Zamai in Mokolo (6,894 IDPs) and in Minawao camp (57000 refugees) areas were identified. UNHCR has been providing holistic assistance for refugees and non-food items for IDPs while UNDP is targeting 100 youths (IDPs) for income-generating activities in the area. Supporting local economic revitalization, UN Women constructed modern trade spaces for sellers in an integrated market in Zamai, where UNDP rehabilitated a livestock market and is currently constructing boreholes.

Iraq: UNDP is enabling access to sustainable livelihoods for more than 23,500 IDPs/refugees (40 per cent of whom are women), while responding to the urgent needs of securing income sources for the most vulnerable crisis-affected groups through cash-for-work. Support has also included the identification of niche markets, local value chain assessments, public-private partnerships, vocational trainings based on market demands, and business expansion support for SMEs provided that they employ job-seekers from the displaced and local populations.

UNDP has undertaken over 25 infrastructure rehabilitation or construction projects, such as electricity networks, water or sewerage networks, roads and health clinics in both refugee/IDP camps and host

communities, to meet increased demand. Support to access basic services has benefitted over 72,000 refugees, IDPs and host community members. UNDP built key infrastructure for 1,400 vulnerable IDP families in IDP/refugee camps in Kurdistan. Partnerships with the local government have greatly enhanced government ownership of the infrastructure and have ensured its maintenance.

Turkey: Through UNDP support so far under this programme, over 112,560 refugees and host community members have benefited from improved access to basic services, including municipal solid waste management and other services. The volume of waste ending up in landfills, for instance, was reduced by over 7,200 tons per year as a result of the recycling of waste. UNDP's support to Kilis municipality also helped extend the life cycle of the landfill by two years. In terms of support to jobs and employment opportunities, over 1,463 refugees attended vocational training and 3,335 refugees took part in life skills training and Turkish language courses. More than 58 per cent of the beneficiaries are women. In addition to that, over 4,500 Syrian women and women host community members benefited from empowerment and social cohesion activities. Of these, 700 Syrian women were engaged in income-generating activities through cooperation with the private sector. UNDP Turkey is in the process of expanding its response with support to the protection of Syrian refugees through supporting access to legal aid and justice, including Syrians affected by sexual and gender based violence (SGBV).

D. UNDP COMMITMENTS ON MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT POST UN SUMMIT FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

1. Mainstreaming migration and displacement into national/local development plans and SDG implementation:

- Working closely with member states to ensure that *migration and displacement issues are clearly included in the localisation of SDGs* in the countries and/or regions where UNDP is supporting Agenda 2030 for SD;
- Strengthen advocacy for and support to governments and United Nations Country Teams on the integration of migrants, IDPs, refugees and the needs of host communities into national development plans, strategies and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs)

2. Analyzing and addressing root causes and drivers of both displacement and migration:

- Supporting at least 30 programme countries in the next 5 years *to analyse and addressing the drivers and the root causes of migration and forced displacement* (that include violent conflicts, climate change and environmental degradation, poverty and lack of good governance).
- Build capacity of the UN system to increase the number and strengthen the skills-base of experts on conflict prevention and resolution to better support national and local administrations as well as international and regional organizations to analyse and address root causes of displacement and drivers of forced migration.

3. Humanitarian-development cooperation in preparing for, analyzing and addressing large movements of displaced persons: Advocating, with partners, for the 4 main shifts (a. *joint planning/analysis*; b.

localisation, c. mainstreaming; d. financing) needed and to facilitate the necessary interagency coordination to transcend the humanitarian-development divide in addressing protracted displacement.

4. Resilient Based Development: Doubling UNDP investments in strengthening national and local systems/capacities for resilient recovery, to address plight of IDP, refugees, migrants and their host communities in crisis and post crisis countries. This includes our work on resilient recovery and peace building e.g. creation of jobs, livelihoods and economic recovery; strengthening rule of law, justice, security and human rights; conflict prevention and social cohesion; supporting core government functions within our governance work; and other climate adaptation interventions.