

**NINTH COORDINATION MEETING ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**
Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Secretariat
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INPUT TO THE NINTH COORDINATION MEETING¹

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 is an integral aspect of the global development process. Migrants play an important role in promoting development and reducing poverty in countries of origin, and contributing towards prosperity in countries of destination. With the decline in fertility in many parts of the world, migration has taken on increased significance, becoming an important component of population growth in many countries.

International migration has important implications for population dynamics, gender and young people and thus for the core mandate of 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 seeks to improve migration data, research and institutional capacity for formulating and implementing migration policies and programmes; facilitate policy dialogue, and strengthen partnerships to enhance understanding of the complexity of migration flows and their links to development.

UNFPA strategies in this area include building a knowledge base, developing capacity, facilitating policy dialogue and strengthening partnerships to enhance understanding of the complexity of international migration flows and their links to development, and to facilitate the formulation of appropriate policies to ensure a win-win situation for all.

B. CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Building capacity of countries to address the challenges of international migration is one of the main priorities of UNFPA work in this area. UNFPA's policy guidance note on international migration encourages its Country Offices to support enhancement of national capacity to integrate migration issues into national and sectoral development policies, programmes, strategies and action plans, including poverty reduction strategies.

UNFPA encourages its Country Offices to support activities that promote the establishment and maintenance of reliable databases on migration and development and on cross-border movements between countries and geographic regions. It encourages support to operational research that fosters increased understanding of migration processes, including female migration, and addresses the needs of migrants, particularly sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, as well as studies that focus on the relationship between migration and development; the root causes of migration; young people and the gender dimension of migration in a life cycle approach including the impact of migration on gender equality and women's empowerment; labour migration in a globalized economy; the impact of remittances; the role of the diaspora; measures to prevent human trafficking, especially of women and girls; ensuring the human rights of migrants; addressing the challenges of irregular migration; and the impact of migration on the environment.

At global level, UNFPA helped increase understanding of migration issues within the United Nations community by continuing its collaboration with UNITAR, IOM and the MacArthur Foundation in the convening of seminars on key migration and development topics for delegates of the UN Missions. 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 2010 included: environmentally induced migration and climate change, migration and the Millennium Development Goals, and female migration. The seminar series, which is consistently evaluated positively by delegates, UN agencies and civil society, will continue in 2011.

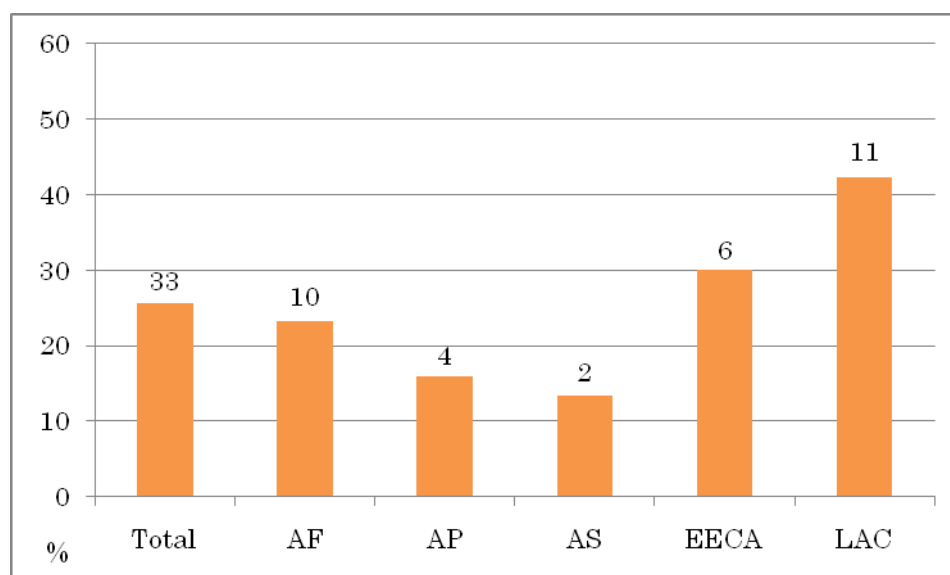
To further strengthen country capacity to address migration issues, UNFPA disseminated the publication *Migrants Count* through its Regional and Country offices to National Statistical Offices and research institutes to facilitate the collection of better migration data for evidence-based policy formulation.

To build capacity of national institutions in the collection and analysis of migration data and in policy formulation, UNFPA continued its collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe within the UNECE Development Account Project “Strengthening National Capacities to Deal With International Migration: Maximizing Benefits and Minimizing Negative Impact” for a number of countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

In partnership with the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs, UNFPA and UNECE conducted two workshops on migration statistics targeting countries in Central Asia and the Commonwealth of Independent States to identify gaps in the availability of data on international migrant stocks, flows, and characteristics in the region. Participants were made aware of the global and regional policy context and were trained in global and regional data standards. They identified gaps in migration data and agreed upon practical strategies to close these gaps. A second follow-up workshop, built on the results of the first, discussed material prepared earlier and took stock of various initiatives implemented by partners addressing migration issues in the region. UNFPA is currently looking into the feasibility of conducting a third follow-up workshop this year in Moldova.

At country level, over one quarter of UNFPA Country Offices reported supporting training/capacity building activities in 2010. Country Offices in the Latin America and the Caribbean and Eastern Europe and Central Asia regions reported the most activities in this area, 42 per cent and 30 per cent, respectively. Ten UNFPA Country Offices in Africa, or 23 per cent of all Country Offices in the region also reported supporting training/capacity building activities. Twenty-three per cent of Country Offices in Africa, 16 per cent in Asia and the Pacific and 13 per cent in the Arab States region supported such activities in 2010 (Table 1).

Table 1. UNFPA Country Office Activities Related to Capacity Building, by Region, 2010



Among the migration activities in Africa, the UNFPA Country Office in Cameroon supported the national inter-ministerial task force on international migration and capitalized on the dividends of the Cameroon diaspora. UNFPA presented various discussion papers on the challenges of data availability in migration analysis. In Namibia, the UNFPA Country Office commissioned a baseline study on youth migration. In Sao Tome and Principe, personnel of the departments of immigration and borders were trained in the collection of international migration data and the conducting of the Demographic and Health Survey. In Senegal, UNFPA worked on the reduction of the root causes of migration of young people through the advocacy by all partners under the auspices of the IOM. The migration profile of Senegal allowed the state to develop strategies for keeping young people in their lands. The UNFPA Country Office in Zambia is planning to conduct a study on international migration in 2011 or 2012.

In the Arab States region, the UNFPA Country Office in Jordan will continue discussions with national partners on improving the availability of data on migration. The Country Office seeks to strengthen partnerships with other UN agencies working in this area and IOM and ensure access to qualified expertise in migration that is responsive to national needs and aware of the sensitivities in the region. In Morocco, the results of a study on international migration and development analyzed the following issues: illegal migration, return migration, brain drain and international migration and development. UNFPA provides leadership to the Migration Thematic Group to ensure the inclusion of migration, both internal and international.

Elsewhere, in Azerbaijan, key government officials, including from the State Migration Service, State Border Service, State Customs Committee and Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Internal Affairs, and Labour and Social Protection of the Population were sensitized and trained to address challenges arising from the lack of an efficient migration-related data collection and analysis system in the country. Cooperation and coordination among relevant governmental entities dealing with migration data were improved and Azerbaijani Government officials representing key institutions responsible for migration data and statistics participated in a training in Poland to learn about the functioning of the European data management system, and best practices in collecting, analyzing and sharing migration data and statistics.

New tools and indicators were selected and tested in a migration survey, and 15,000 individuals across the state borders were introduced into the data management system of the State Statistical Committee. The introduction of new tools and indicators made it possible for the Committee and other key national authorities to better assess the dynamics of migration in Azerbaijan based on more accurate and up-to-date data. The level of coordination and cooperation among key Government agencies was increased through the promotion of dialogue, as well as through the study of best international practices and publications and participation in training courses. The assessment of the national legal framework on migration-related data enabled national authorities to review areas which can further be improved.

The UNFPA Country Office in Bhutan collaborated with the National Statistics Bureau and the Gross National Happiness Commission to present a summary of the Population Perspective Plan to the Prime Minister and raised awareness about the need to address population dynamics, including migration. The consultative process informed policy makers about the importance of addressing migration issues and its indicators for evidence-based planning. Through this project, policy makers and planners from different ministries became much more aware of issues related to international migration and recommended that they be included in the formulation of a national population policy. UNFPA supported the training of planning and statistics officers in the importance of demographic indicators and use of statistics.

The UNFPA Country Office in Iran supported the Population Association of Iran and the Statistical Center of Iran in conducting a national seminar on migration. In Uzbekistan, the Country Office is planning to provide a five-day training session on migration issues for its national partner, the Institute of Social Research housed under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The UNFPA sub-regional office in the Pacific supports analyses of migration based on census data. Such support builds capacity by involving national staff in the analytical work. This is currently planned to take place in the Solomon Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, but is likely to eventually extend to several other Pacific Island Countries as well.

In Papua New Guinea, the UNFPA Country Office supported the preparation of a radio drama by the Population Media Centre. The radio show will focus on the different MDGs and relevant population issues, in particular the effects of international migration, urbanization, health issues such as HIV and reproductive health, but also the impact of climate change on the daily life of Papua New Guineans. The script writers received training on how to integrate social issues related to population and development in a drama script. The key lesson learned is the importance of advocacy aimed at decision makers and legislators to ensure that the issue of international migration is incorporated into development plans; this was successfully achieved in 2010.

The issue of international migration has been high on the agenda of the government of Kiribati and national capacity development has largely been provided through policy dialogue, awareness and advocacy on this issue. Increased advocacy and policy dialogue resulted in generating greater awareness among donors and the international community and also the Government's commitment to address the issue of international migration and its role in developing strategies to encourage increased outer island migration.

In the Latin America and the Caribbean region, in Bolivia, the UNFPA Country Office supported various activities of communication, dissemination, training and advocacy that have helped to strengthen organizations, build and strengthen networks that accompanied the implementation of the Migration Act, particularly in promoting sexual and reproductive rights, including HIV/AIDS

and gender-based violence of women and young Bolivian migrants. As a result of UNFPA support, the Comprehensive Sexual Health Programme of the Ministry of Health of the Nation has begun to create a registration system which includes data specific to the migrant population. UNFPA supported civil society organizations in their advocacy work, contributing to the exercise of migrants' rights and the enforcement of migration. Furthermore, the Country Office supported the preparation of the report on "Health and International Migration: Bolivian Women in Argentina" which helped to guide a more efficient design and implementation of public policies to improve access and quality of care for migrant populations.

In the Dominican Republic, working jointly with the National Statistical Office and the Ministry of Planning and Development, UNFPA took the lead in a study on internal and international migration. The UNFPA Country Office is currently planning the focus of the study, which is expected to be on access to sexual and reproductive health services and gender-based violence. UNFPA sponsored an updated study on "Trafficking and Exploitation of Foreign Migrant Women" in 2010.

The UNFPA Country Office in Guatemala, in collaboration with Guatemalan and Mexican partners, supported the survey of the migrant population in the Guatemala–Mexico border zone to improve the availability of data on migrant populations and to explore options to improve reproductive health care and prevention of HIV/AIDS in relation to emerging population issues. The results were disseminated among the border zone institutions and have been very useful to improve and expand sexual and reproductive health and STI/HIV prevention services for migrants in public institutions, NGOs and enterprises that hire Guatemalan workers who migrate temporarily to Mexico. UNFPA provided technical and financial assistance to the National Migrant Care Council to facilitate the elaboration of a general framework for government action regarding migratory matters, which will be used as reference to promote the elaboration of a migrant care policy. UNFPA also conducted advocacy work to facilitate the process of elaboration of the Migrants' Policy, which is expected to be finalized and approved in 2011.

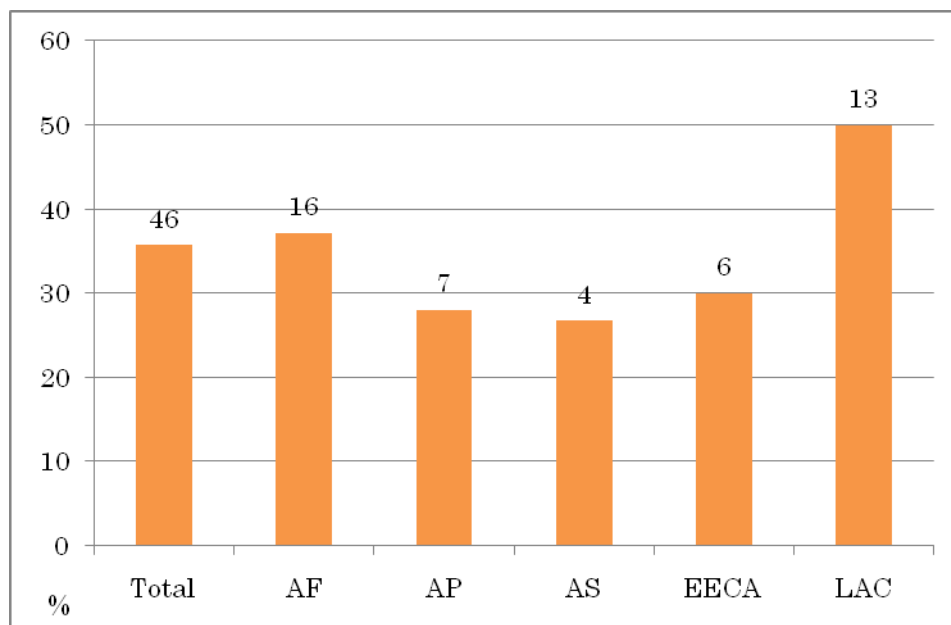
The UNFPA Country Office in Mexico continues to collaborate on international migration issues with several partners at the national and state levels. At the national level, the Country Office supported the development of indicators and some case studies, including: updates on the situation and trends of international migration flows in Mexico, indicators on the reception and use of remittances at household level, economic and social factors associated with international migration in communities of origin and destination, impact of international migration on health of migrants and their families, and policy analysis of the employment, education and health sectors linked to migrants' needs. At the state level, UNFPA supported the creation of information systems on migration, especially in the main states of origin, as well as the training of local officers in the analysis of migration. The UNFPA Country Office also supports two projects: with CONAPO, on the update and projection of the Analysis of Economic Determinants of Mexico-USA Migration; and a sub-national study on the Population and Development Factors along the Southern Border of Mexico, a key area for migration flows from Central America to the United States, and with the National Institute of Public Health, the national component of the regional project on migration, sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS in the Mexico-Guatemala Border.

C. OTHER MAJOR INITIATIVES ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Fund continues its partnership with UNDP, IOM, ILO, and UNHCR in the Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMIDI) to set up and reinforce migration and development networks, identify good practices, and inform policy making on migration and development. It contributes to the work of the Global Migration Group and the Ad Hoc Working Group on Policy Coherence, Data and Research established by the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

UNFPA Country Offices continue to engage in policy dialogue, facilitate policy formulation, undertake advocacy activities and awareness raising, provide technical assistance, and support data collection and research in the area of international migration. Fifty per cent of all UNFPA Country Offices reported activities in at least one of these areas related to migration. Supporting data collection and research, and awareness raising were the most frequently reported activities at country level. Table 2 shows that such activities were most frequently undertaken in Latin America and the Caribbean, and in Africa.

Table 2. UNFPA Country Office Activities Related to Data and Research, by Region, 2010



D. CONCLUSION

In 2010, to better position itself amidst the increasing number of players in the field, UNFPA commissioned an evaluation/assessment to define its role in the area of international migration and propose the way forward taking into account the Fund's mandate and comparative advantage in this area. The Fund will use the results of the assessment of its work on international migration to plan its future activities in this area.

Such work is expected to include collaboration with partners to promote greater understanding of the issues and to facilitate policy dialogue, to generate reliable data, including production of migration profiles to inform policymaking, and mainstream migration into development planning.

UNFPA will continue to be an active member of the Global Migration Group and will work with its partners within the context of the recently established Working Group on Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies and the Working Group on Data and Research.