

## UPDATE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF UNDP

### *United Nations Development Programme*

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the global development network concerned with the well-being of people works on migration because migration impacts poor people and poor countries in many ways. For UNDP, migration is a reality, and if properly managed, can contribute to the development and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The approach of UNDP is to work with countries to integrate migration into their development plans and to consider public policy that maximizes the potential of development to contribute to the achievement of the MDGs. If countries request assistance, UNDP helps them place pro-poor, pro-development, rights-based migration policies at the heart of their national development strategies—prioritizing skills retention, capacity-building, remittances and further research. For this purpose, UNDP is organizing and facilitating meetings of key stakeholders by tapping into experiences from countries through the global network of practitioners.

This note serves as an update on some of the main migration-related activities that UNDP has been engaged in since the 2006 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and the inaugural Global Forum on Migration and Development in 2007.

The activities described below are in addition to the work of many UNDP country offices that deal with different aspects of migration directly in their country programmes.

- UNDP participated in the Global Forum on Migration and Development in Brussels in 2007. Meetings were held with several Governments through the Marketplace initiative coordinated by UN/DESA. Although all of these meetings led to concrete support activities, UNDP helped the Government of Rwanda in developing funding sources for their Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals Programme (TOKTEN). The Government of Jamaica assisted by UNDP and other agencies developed a migration strategy as a part of its overall development strategy.
- UNDP is working with IOM, the World Bank and UNICEF on a Handbook for Governments that wish to consider migration issues more extensively in their national development or poverty reduction strategies. This handbook will be developed in time for the second Global Forum on Migration and Development in Manila in October 2008.
- UNDP, together with ILO, IOM, UNFPA and UNHCR, will be jointly managing a 15 million euros programme on migration and development on behalf of the European Commission starting in 2008. This programme is intended to support knowledge sharing between small non-state actors engaged in migration. This programme is tentatively entitled the Joint Migration and Development Initiative.
- UNDP is coordinating the four-year 528 million euros MDG Achievement Fund with the financial support provided by the Government of Spain. The themes that will be addressed by the Fund—and to which United Nations country teams can make proposals—are youth, employment and migration.
- Linked to its ongoing work on trade, UNDP is currently completing a study entitled: “Low-skilled workers and bilateral, regional and unilateral circular migration initiatives: Lessons for

the GATS mode 4 negotiations and other agreements?”. The study examines the operational, institutional, financial, welfare and human development features of several arrangements to derive their positive and negative features for migration. The study suggests how positive features can be incorporated in the context of GATS mode 4 commitments and offers.

- UNDP, with the Financing for Development Office of DESA, is preparing a publication on “Realizing the potential of expatriate communities to reduce poverty and enhance entrepreneurship”. This publication to be issued in 2008, will focus on entrepreneurship, financial products and services, including remittances, and public policy to strengthen the potential contribution of expatriate communities.
- UNDP continues to facilitate regional consultations on remittances and development. The most recent of these was held in Accra, Ghana, in September 2007, with the support of UN-OHRLLS. UNDP is also working with the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) on a multi-country project on gender and remittances including Albania, Dominican Republic, Lesotho, Morocco, Philippines and Senegal and with UNICEF, on the impacts of migration on children and those left behind and the use of remittances in migrant households at the country level.
- UNDP, in partnership with the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) and the Overseas Development Institute of the United Kingdom, is initiating a project “Mapping the global partnership for development: Country-level mappings of global issues, external policies and country contexts”. This project will analyse how global and regional policies on aid, debt, trade, migration and the environment impact the ability of individual countries to sustain progress on human development. Four pilot studies will be completed in 2008.
- Lastly, UNDP continues to coordinate its activities on migration with other agencies within the Global Migration Group.