

SUPPORT ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

United Nations Population Fund

UNFPA is fully cognizant of the increased importance of migration-related issues in the area of population and development, and is therefore currently redefining its future support to activities on internal and international migration. While still considering how to develop a comprehensive programme in the area of migration, UNFPA has continued to support migration-related activities, as detailed below.

A. AT THE INTERREGIONAL LEVEL

In response to ICPD, UNFPA has been a co-sponsoring agency of the International Migration Policy Programme (IMP) since 1998, jointly with ILO, IOM and UNITAR. IMP works towards the strengthening the capacity of countries in various regions to manage migration flows at national and regional levels.

In 2003, UNFPA support to IMP is focused on the preparation for ICPD+10, of a document entitled *Migration at a Glance: Where Are We Ten Years after ICPD?* The publication will analyse developments in the area of migration since ICPD and will highlight the linkages between migration and population and development issues, as well as how these have been addressed over the past decade, with suggestions on possible future developments.

UNFPA has also been supporting activities related to human trafficking, including the organization of a “Consultative Meeting on Trafficking in Women and Children” held in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, from 2 to 4 October 2002. Thirty countries from all regions, including government and NGO representatives, as well as representatives from other UN agencies, participated in the meeting. The objectives of the meeting, as defined by the participants at the onset, were to: (a) build a common understanding of trafficking issues and their impact on reproductive health and rights; (b) identify approaches, methods and good practices in tackling the issues; and (c) identify UNFPA’s comparative advantages, as well as possible partners, for implementing action at the country level. The meeting framed trafficking as a gender and development issue and much attention was devoted to exploring the gender perspectives of trafficking. For example, the situation facing children at risk was discussed in terms of boys and girls, and the gender of the traffickers was highlighted for the insights that it might reveal. The meeting concluded that partnership was key in the struggle against trafficking and examples proposed were partnerships between UNFPA and other UN agencies; partnerships with Government, and especially partnerships with international and civil society organizations, including local NGOs.

As a follow-up to the above-mentioned consultative meeting, UNFPA has developed seven Programme Briefs entitled “Take Action to Prevent Trafficking in Women and Children”. Each Programme Brief focuses on a specific aspect of trafficking, with the objective of informing UNFPA staff members and providing guidance to UNFPA Country Offices in terms of programme development for UNFPA support.

B. AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

UNFPA supported the “Hemispheric Conference on International Migration: Human Rights and the Trafficking in Persons in the Americas” in Latin America and the Caribbean, that took place in Santiago, Chile, from 20 to 22 November 2002. The conference, convened by ECLAC and IOM, brought together representatives of Governments, international organizations and of the academic world. The meeting aimed at strengthening cooperation among Governments in the field of international migration, to help identify mechanisms for protecting and promoting the human rights of migrants, and for combating and preventing human trafficking.