

**Workshop on strengthening the collection and use of international migration data for development:
Countries of Northern and Western Africa,
Dakar, Senegal, 8 to 11 September 2015**

Organized by:

Population Division and Statistics Division
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA)

In collaboration with:

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN/ECA)

African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP)

Dakar, Senegal

8 to 11 September 2015

OBJECTIVES

Introduction

The Population Division and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, are organizing a regional workshop for selected countries of Northern and Western Africa on the collection and use of international migration data for development. The workshop will take place at the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) in Dakar, Senegal, from 8 to 11 September 2015. The workshop will bring together experts from national statistical offices in charge of producing official statistics on international migration as well as experts from relevant ministries or agencies in charge of compiling and analysing migration data for policy purposes. Experts from international organizations will be invited to participate as resource persons.

Background and justification

On 3 October 2013, the General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (A/RES/68/4). In it, the General Assembly emphasized the need for reliable statistical data on international migration, including on the contributions of migration to development, in both countries of origin and countries of destination in order to facilitate the design of evidence-based policy- and decision-making in all relevant aspects of sustainable development.

In his report on migration statistics to the forty-fifth session of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2014/20), held in March 2014, the Secretary-General observed that more needed to be done to encourage the tabulation, dissemination and exchange of census data on international migration, to ensure that relevant data generated from administrative sources are disseminated, and to provide technical assistance to enhance the statistical capacity of countries.

In July 2014, the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals proposed to the General Assembly to include several targets related to international migration, migrants and mobility in the post-2015 development agenda.¹ Experts from national statistics offices are currently designing an indicator framework in support of the post-2015 development agenda under the auspices of the UN Statistical Commission. The first meeting of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Indicators (IAEG-SDG) was held in June 2015.

Objectives

The main objective of the workshop is to strengthen the technical capacity of government officials involved in (i) producing and analysing migration data from all relevant sources and (ii) using data on migration and its impact to inform national migration policies and development planning. The workshop aims to increase the capacity of participating countries to produce national migration data that meets international standards, and to enhance understanding of the uses and limitations of migration data for policy purposes, including in the context of the follow-up and implementation of the 2013 High-level Dialogue and in the post-2015 development agenda. The workshop will cover issues such as data standards and definitions, data sources, the contribution of migration to sustainable development, and migration targets and indicators for the post-2015 United Nations development agenda. Participants will also discuss ways to exchange and disseminate international migration data.

Outcomes and follow-up

The workshop is expected to increase knowledge of participants on existing standards and norms for collecting migration data; the sharing of migration data between government offices within and between countries; the understanding of participants on the uses and limitations of migration data for policy purposes, and their ability to communicate these considerations to users and policy makers. The workshop will allow for an assessment of the needs from participating countries for follow-up work to strengthen their capacity for migration data collection and use. The implementation of the concepts and methods presented in the workshop, including for coordination and data sharing between ministries and for improved communication on the uses and limitations of migration data for policy-making will be assessed. The submission of the Demographic Yearbook questionnaires to the Statistics Division by participating countries will be monitored and evaluated.

¹ <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/focussdgs.html>