

# **UN SYSTEM TASK TEAM ON THE **POST-2015** UN DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**



## **Global partnerships in the area of population and migration**

**Thematic Think Piece**

**IOM, UN DESA, UNFPA**

The views expressed in this paper are those of the signing agencies and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations.

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Following on the outcome of the 2010 High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the United Nations Secretary-General established the UN System Task Team in September 2011 to support UN system-wide preparations for the post-2015 UN development agenda, in consultation with all stakeholders. The Task Team is led by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme and brings together senior experts from over 60 UN entities and international organizations to provide system-wide support to the post-2015 consultation process, including analytical input, expertise and outreach.

# Global partnerships in the area of population and migration

## Background

Large-scale population dynamics – including changes in the size, structure, and spatial distribution of the population – can have direct and indirect implications for economic development, labour markets, income distribution, poverty, social protection and pensions as well as protection of human rights. Population dynamics can also influence environmental sustainability, climate change, and water, food and energy security; and they affect our ambition and capacity to ensure universal access to health, education and other essential services, and introduce more sustainable consumption and production patterns.

The world population is expected to exceed 9 billion by 2050. Although there is no agreement among experts about the carrying capacity of the earth, a rising world population will put increasing pressure on a planet already experiencing scarcity of resources and climate change. Furthermore, there is a link between desired and actual fertility and poverty, with implications for the global fight against poverty. As population ageing accelerates worldwide, this trend affects not only social expenditures but also international labour markets. On the other hand, “youth bulges” challenge national governments to capitalize on the “demographic bonus” by investing in youth, and also have regional and global effects. Furthermore, changing population structures bring about new consumption patterns associated with the rise of the middle class,

Currently there are approximately 214 million international migrants.<sup>1</sup> There are also some 740 million internal migrants.<sup>2</sup> Research found that migrants who move from countries with a low human development index (HDI) to higher HDI countries experienced significant improvements in income and education enrolment and a substantial reduction in child

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Population Division, Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2008 Revision.

<sup>2</sup> Bell and Muhidin (2009), *Cross-National Comparisons of Internal Migration*, United Nations Development Programme, New York.

mortality.<sup>3</sup> The most tangible benefit for countries of origin and families left behind often comes in the form of migrant remittances. In 2012, officially recorded international remittance flows to developing countries were expected to reach approximately \$406 billion which have measurable effects on MDGs related to health, gender equality and education. Research shows that internal remittances are even more important for poverty reduction as they typically support rural poor. Reverse flows of knowledge, skills and ideas can have positive economic and social effects by influencing, for example, business creation and fertility rates. Countries in the North and South that receive migrants often gain through easing labour shortages and attracting talent that helps spur innovation. On both ends, countries stand to benefit from the circulation of talents at all levels and associated trade and investment opportunities. Partnerships are being formed around these and other migration related issues at local and national levels through bilateral and regional agreements, as well as under the auspices of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and other key processes.

## **Incorporating partnerships on population and migration into the post-2015 global development agenda**

In line with the discussion note of the United Nations Task Team on partnerships post-2015,<sup>4</sup> such partnerships in the area of population and migration would be a vehicle for cooperation among local, national, regional and global actors, with the overall objective of ensuring that population dynamics contribute to equitable and sustainable development. These partnerships would require an agreement among partners about shared goals, norms and principles of addressing population

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<sup>3</sup> 2009 Human Development Report, *Overcoming Barriers: Human Mobility and Development*. The HDR also found that the selectivity of migration flows – the tendency for those who move to be better off and better educated in the first place – can only explain a fraction of these gains.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. New partnerships to implement a post-2015 development agenda: Discussion Note prepared as a background discussion note of Working Group E of the UN Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, March 2012 and UNTT Think Piece: Analysis and overview of new actors and formats for the global partnership for development post 2015.

dynamics, including protection of human rights (sexual and reproductive rights as well as labour rights in particular); dealing with issues related to privacy, equity, ethics, and gender equality; and promoting cultural diversity, resource use efficiency, and environmental sustainability. They would also entail reaching a consensus on respective international policies and protocols as part of global and regional governance. To ensure implementation of the commitments to common goals, mechanisms of partners' mutual accountability must be developed.

While the global partnerships on population and migration can exist as self-standing alliances of interested parties, the International Conference on Population and Development review should be the central process to assess achievement of goals in this area. This review could draw on inputs from the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation negotiated in the aftermath of Busan<sup>5</sup> and other fora, such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

Building on the existing multiple partnerships with respect to population dynamics (including those related to the ICPD beyond 2014 process),<sup>6</sup> it can be envisioned that thematic partnerships in this area will be aligned with different thematic post-2015 development goals.

## **Elements for global partnerships in the area of population and migration**

Some elements of partnerships in the area of population and migration are the following:

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<sup>5</sup>*Proposed Mandate for the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-Operation*, July 28-29, 2012, p.4.

<sup>6</sup>The ongoing United Nations review of progress in achieving the goals set out in the landmark 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) involves many stakeholders, including governments, the civil society and multilateral development partners to influence the future of global population and development policy at national, regional and global levels.

### **Knowledge sharing**

This would involve sharing of good practices across countries and regions on undertaking population situation analysis and using demographic data; determining acceptable use and allocation of natural resources under different demographic scenarios; incorporating population dynamics in sub-national, national and regional strategies and development plans; and addressing demographic transitions. For example, new initiatives, such as the Integrated Spatial Data for Climate Adaptation Planning, are being spearheaded in cooperation among ten multilateral organizations led by UNFPA.

### **Strengthening national and international statistical systems**

The demand for improved statistics to monitor the MDGs has generated a decade-long effort to improve statistical systems. The advancement of monitoring systems has helped better assess the impact of demographic changes, and evaluate policy decisions. Building on the existing capacity development programmes and considering the increasing importance of demographic data as a foundation of decision making, policy formulation and development planning, the on-going support of national statistical systems should be scaled up. Particular attention should also be given to improving the availability of data on gender indicators and environment indicators. Enhancing national capacities to collect, analyse and use socio-demographic data should refer to census and surveys and should involve building effective and reliable civil registration systems in all countries. In 2009, the births of 50 million children went unrecorded. They entered the world with no proof of age, citizenship, or parentage. That same year 40 million people died unregistered. In absence of registration systems, key demographic and health indicators can only be estimated where survey data are available, often with large uncertainty and not with sufficient frequency. It will also be important to strengthen country capacity to produce population projections and use them appropriately in policy and programme formulation. Finally, innovative means of

electronic data collection through mobile phones and the internet should be promoted and utilized.

### **Increasing access to services and commodities, including innovative products and devices**

This would involve promoting universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and preventing both pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV/AIDS) through facilitating rollout and distribution of innovative contraceptives, including longer-acting injectables, which would make voluntary family planning more accessible and attractive to both women and men throughout the world. The same should apply to vaccines, antiretroviral drugs and other essential drugs.

### **Promoting private sector, government and civil society partnerships on human mobility and skills development**

Investments in training and skills development and more predictable regimes for migration and mobility of labour are seen as essential for future growth. However, an interface between migrants' organizations, the private sector and government policy is currently lacking. Topics that could be addressed by partnerships include jointly acknowledged and certified recruitment procedures, as a way of tackling inter alia inhibiting "transaction-costs" for the migrant (such as for instance, recruitment agency fees, unpredictability of timelines for processing, etc.).

Recognition of migrant qualifications, portability of social benefits, the creation of regular migration channels and ensuring the right to family life through sufficient family reunification opportunities are also key issues in this respect. Retaining its informal nature and remaining outside the UN System, the GFMD could move from merely being a platform for dialogue and confidence building to (i) become more relevant for the development community and private sector, drawing on experience from international developments in the area of trade and regional economic

integration, and (ii) mainstream migration issues into development planning. At the regional level, Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs) on migration should be promoted to move in the same direction. Finally, implementation of the existing free movement provisions—as part of regional economic integration processes—needs stronger enforcement.

### **Harnessing the development impact of remittances**

In order to achieve a lowering of transaction cost for remittances,<sup>7</sup> partnerships between governments and specialised agencies, such as WB, IOM, UPU, IPU, regional banks and private sector actors should be established. They could utilise both pre-existing governance and cooperative structures, such as the Financing Facility for Remittances (FFR) hosted at IFAD, post office networks and new technologies including mobile phone technology, as well as update existing legislation to better distinguish between remittances and money laundering. Other ways to harness the developmental impacts of remittances centre on the role of diasporas and their willingness to invest in their home country. These include scaling up existing partnerships between IFIs and Governments that issue Diaspora Bonds. Enhancing partnerships between Diaspora associations/institutions, development agencies, development banks and “Diaspora ministers” could thus attract small-scale foreign direct investment made by the diaspora. Such partnerships could also facilitate more innovative uses of remittances, while respecting their private nature, such as their use by recipients as collateral to access transnational mortgages and other financial services and products.

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<sup>7</sup> United Nations (2003) *Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development*, Monterrey Mexico, 18-22 March 2002, para. 18 and G20 . G8 Cannes Summit Final declaration, para 77



### **Increasing preparedness and resilience to disasters**

In the area of disaster risk reduction, poorly managed migration and unplanned urban growth have led to new vulnerabilities. International partnerships through networks of regional and municipal leaders and urban planners will be essential for sharing information and best practices, as well as strengthening local capacity for preparedness to emergencies and resilience of rural and urban populations. It is also important to address forced migration and displacement as a result of conflict, natural disasters, climate change, and gradual deterioration of the environment. Land degradation, for example, might slowly reduce crop yield, progressively pushing farmers into poverty and fostering migration to new areas. Similarly, the increasing competition for scarce resources produces social tensions that may underlie immigration patterns. In extreme cases where governments cannot cope, international agencies need to be mobilised acting in partnership and within a comprehensive framework for addressing crises with migration consequences. This framework should include plans to relocate affected populations in a predictable, humane and orderly manner, with full respect of human rights. Partnerships also need to be explored to address the special cases of land-locked states, SIDS and LDCs.

## **Implications of the changing external environment**

The changing external environment is characterized by increasing diversity of demographic situations across countries and regions, as well as within countries. Furthermore, the distinction between different groups of countries becomes increasingly irrelevant as recipients of development aid become also aid providers, and South-South and triangular (South-North-South) cooperation turn into significant engines of development. Finally, the relative power of non-state actors – civil society organizations, multinational corporations and individuals – has increased and will increase further in the future.

These conditions call for new-style global partnerships that would target vulnerable populations regardless of their location, and involve all countries – on equal terms and regardless of their formal status – in addressing poverty, inequality, insecurity and environmental degradation. They also require close interactions between thematic development partnerships and global coalitions (such as the G20) as well as regional alliances (such as the European Union, Africa Union and the Regional Economic Communities, and the CIS Inter-Parliamentarian Assembly) and regional branches of multilateral organizations (such as UN Regional Commissions).

## **Major actors and key dimensions of the partnerships**

The global partnerships in the area of population and migration must be inclusive, incorporating national governments, and cooperation agencies (including the new ones in developing countries), multilateral and bilateral institutions, and representatives of different types of public, civil society, private, parliamentary, local and regional organizations. To advance evidence-based policy development on population dynamics, strengthening of synergies between policy makers and national, regional and global research institutions and think tanks is necessary. This inclusiveness reflects the changing external environment and is consistent with the spirit and decisions of the Busan Forum on Aid Effectiveness.<sup>8</sup> This is also imperative for achieving the partnerships’ effective use of resources, increasing “value for money.”

For example, the expansion of population access to needed health, social and ecosystem services, commodities, products and devices – which depends on local demand – is inconceivable without participation of the civil society and community-driven interventions, with full attention to evidence about effective practices and

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<sup>8</sup>Busan Partnership For Effective Development Co--Operation, Fourth High-Level Forum On Aid Effectiveness, Busan, Republic of Korea,29 November--1 December 2011.

adaptation to the local context. The private sector will also play a significant role in health partnerships and in the creation of health insurance industries in developing countries.

Under increasing publicity about key principles of international development (such as human rights, equality and sustainability) and evolving national and international commitments to these principles, openness and transparency are the best ways to ensure consistency of the partnerships with these principles.

## **Ensuring a non-hierarchical and adaptable character of the partnerships**

The post-2015 global partnerships in the area of population and migration would be based on common commitments supported by accountability mechanisms and would involve complementarities among different formats of cooperation and collaboration. To be dynamic and effective, the partnerships of tomorrow must be focused on particular needs and mutually supportive interests and based on the demand-supply model. To address the unprecedented diversity of demographic and social situations, differentiated flexible approaches– well tailored to particular contexts, gender sensitive and attuned to particular population groups (such as youth and the older persons, or migrants in an irregular situation) – are needed.

The role of the UN would be in setting and monitoring implementation of the shared development goals, including those related to implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action beyond 2014. The commitments of the global partnerships in the area of population and migration – including with respect to protection of human rights and enforcement of other internationally agreed norms – should be aligned with these development goals. The UN could also facilitate the thematic partnerships by playing “matchmaking,” brokerage and consensus-building roles. It could also contribute to acceptance of cultural diversity and balancing interests of

different population groups, promoting, for example, intergenerational solidarity, while supporting both youth and retirees' organizations.

## Existing partnerships related to population dynamics

*Every Woman, Every Child* –an unprecedented global movement that mobilizes and intensifies international and national action by governments, multilaterals, the private sector and civil society to address the major health challenges facing women and children around the world – provides an example of an inclusive transformative partnership. Spearheaded by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon, it cuts across mandates of UN agencies and other development partners, breaking silos in development assistance and building on comparative, competitive and collaborative advantages of participants.

Other visible and sustainable partnerships in the area of population dynamics pertain to urban planning and development, in particular in relation to resource flows to and efficiency in cities (such as United Cities and Local Governments, which is a global network of cities, local and regional governments from 140 countries, or the Global Initiative for Resource-Efficient Cities, which was launched at the Rio+20 summit) and promotion of South-South cooperation (such as Partners in Population and Development, an intergovernmental initiative in the fields of reproductive health, population, and development). These partnerships have a few characteristics in common: they have a thematic focus; aim at tackling concrete problems through practical solutions, informed by sharing of good practices; and offer a variety of approaches following the principle that “one size doesn’t fit all.”

In the area of international migration a number of platforms that could lead to partnerships have been established, including the GFMD – a voluntary, informal, non-binding and government-led process open to all States Members and Observers of the United Nations – as well as the Global Migration Group, an inter-agency group

comprised of 16 entities, bringing together heads of agencies to promote the wider application of international and regional instruments and norms related to migration and to encourage the adoption of more coherent, comprehensive and better coordinated approaches.

## Assessing progress in partnerships

To further monitor the gains achieved with respect to the MDG8, and to ensure visibility of the evolving partnerships, a redefined separate goal on that should be envisioned in the post-2015 development agenda. At the same time, partnerships also represent a means to achieve a goal. Therefore, for each of the future development goals, characteristics and outcomes of the respective inherent partnerships must be considered.

Even if a “mainstreaming approach” to partnerships on population and migration is pursued, some ways of assessing progress must be identified. The following set of indicators could be proposed:

- Indicators on characteristics of the partnerships such as engagement of the civil society and the private sector, the relative role of South-South and triangular cooperation, transparency, predictability and mutual accountability among participants. Such indicators could be guided by updated stipulations?? of the UN General Assembly to reflect the new features present in today’s partnerships.
- Indicators on performance of the partnerships’ functions. For example, building on the MDG8, Target 8.A, effectiveness of financial support to programmes/initiatives related to population dynamics could be assessed. Indicators could be considered on costs of transferring remittances as well as on performances of specific initiatives (similarly to what was done in the MDGs with HIPC and MDRI). A specific target should be considered to address the

issue of preparedness and building resilience to disasters with specific reference to LLDCs and SIDS. Also, an indicator on proportion of cities meeting key criteria for the environmental footprint and sustainability as well as “liveability,” including delivery of essential social services and employment opportunities (in general and with respect to special groups such as women, youth and the older persons), could be considered, as well as the proportion of total development aid contributions in this area invested toward long-term transformative change rather than transient relief. In the latter case, however, criteria for what constitutes a “long-term transformative change” must be clearly defined, and pro-development contributions should not be confined to the official development aid (ODA): contributions from the private sector and the civil society should be also properly appraised and incorporated. As another example, effectiveness of statistical capacity development should be assessed, measured in terms of coverage by civil registration systems, and periodicity/continuity and quality/reliability of data collection, including reporting to the international statistical system. Knowledge sharing and capacity development in the area of demographic data analysis and projections should also be assessed as well as accuracy of population projections and the extent of their use for policy and programme formulation.

- Indicators on ultimate results of the partnerships– as contributions to achieving the future goals in terms of poverty and inequity/inequality reduction, and achieving stability, security and sustainability of inclusive economic, social and environmental development. For example, indicators on strengthening national and regional capacities to incorporate population dynamics and its interlinkages with the needs of various population groups (such as youth and older persons) in development planning and programming could be used for this purpose.

## **UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda**

### **Membership**

*Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Co-Chair*

*United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Co-Chair*

*Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*

*Department of Public Information (DPI)*

*Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)*

*Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)*

*Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)*

*Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)*

*Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)*

*Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG)*

*Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*

*Global Environment Facility (GEF)*

*International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)*

*International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)*

*International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)*

*International Labour Organization (ILO)*

*International Maritime Organization (IMO)*

*International Monetary Fund (IMF)*

*International Organization for Migration (IOM)*

*International Telecommunication Union (ITU)*

*Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)*

*Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS)*

*Office of the Deputy Secretary-General (ODSG)*

*Office of the High Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR)*

*Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS)*

*Office of the Special Advisor on Africa (OSAA)*

*Peace building Support Office (PBSO)*

*United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)*

*United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)*

*United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)*  
*United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)*  
*United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women)*  
*United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)*  
*United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)*  
*United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP)*  
*United Nations Global Compact Office*  
*United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)*  
*United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)*  
*United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)*  
*United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)*  
*United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)*  
*United Nations Millennium Campaign*  
*United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)*  
*United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)*  
*United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)*  
*United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)*  
*United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)*  
*United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)*  
*United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination Secretariat (CEB)*  
*United Nations University (UNU)*  
*United Nations Volunteers (UNV)*  
*United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)*  
*Universal Postal Union (UPU)*  
*World Bank*  
*World Food Programme (WFP)*  
*World Health Organization (WHO)*  
*World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)*  
*World Meteorological Organization (WMO)*  
*World Trade Organization (WTO)*