#### UNITED NATIONS

**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia** 



The UN Development Account Project on International Migration: Overview of the Main Findings from the ESCWA Region

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# The ESCWA Region

- The UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia is based in Beirut (Lebanon)
- ESCWA supports the socio-economic development of member countries; promotes regional cooperation; and promotes interaction between Western Asia and other world regions
- Member countries: Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.



# **Outline of DA Project Activities**

- Regional report on international migration challenges in the Arab Countries (Sep. 2011)
- Workshop on international migration in the Arab Region (July 2010)
- Interregional workshop on strengthening dialogue between ESCWA and ESCAP countries (June 2011)
- Regional information system (ongoing)



### Regional Report on Migration: Key Facts

- 2010: 24.5 million international migrants in the ESCWA region, of which 15 million in six GCC countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE)
- International migrants are a majority in three countries of the region
- The share of Arab migrants to total international migrants in GCC countries is currently 15-20%



## Regional Report on Migration: GCC

- Number of migrants in GCC countries rose from 0.2 to 15.1 million between 1960 & 2010
- The ratio of migrants to total population rose from 5.0% in 1960 to 36.6% in 2010
- Share of total world migrants accounted by GCC countries rose from 0.3% to 8% in 2010
- Remittances from GCC countries reached USD 34 billion in 2008 (12% of world total)



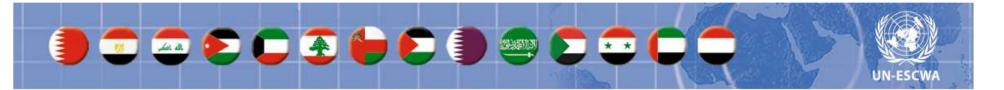
### Regional Workshop: Issues & Challenges

- Enhancing national capacity to design and implement policies and programmes to maximize gains of international migration
- Development impact of remittances
- Transnational communities and development
- Brain drain and brain gain
- Need to increase migration data availability



### Interregional Workshop: Main Issues

- South Asia/SE Asia Western Asia corridor
- Gender dimension
- Social protection of migrant workers
- Sharing national experiences and improving data collection, analysis & dissemination
- Developing an agenda for interregional dialogue and consultative processes



#### Interregional Workshop: Recommendations

- Migration and development
  - Mainstreaming migration into development policy
  - Migrants' contributions to development (CoD & CoO)
- Migration governance
  - Better data collection and analysis
  - Dialogue on reform of existing systems
- Social protection
  - Key social benefits & rights
  - Gender considerations
- Multilateral and multi-stakeholder dialogue



### **Regional Information System**

- Development of a regional database on migration information and research centres, in collaboration with AUC
- Survey to identify key researchers and research centres in the ESCWA region
- Explore possibility to hold a joint workshop with AUC and other partners to examine migration data collection, analysis and dissemination in the region



### **Looking forward**

- ESCWA will continue to build capacity of member countries by supporting their participation in GFMD and 2013 HLD
- Regional meeting (January 2013) in preparation for the 2013 High-level Dialogue on international migration and development
- Continue activities as regional commissions' coordinator in Global Migration Group (until July 2012)



#### **ESCWA**

#### **Social Development Division**

http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/main.asp?division=sdd

