

**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**

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

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