

**TWELFTH COORDINATION MEETING ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
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**FOLLOW-UP TO THE 2013 HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL
MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT¹**

United Nations Population Fund

¹ The views expressed in the paper do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the United Nations Secretariat.

A. INTRODUCTION

As one of the key population dynamics with important implications for development and for people themselves, international migration has clear implications for the work and the mandate of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). To leverage the human, social and economic development potential of migration, UNFPA works at global, regional and country levels to increase understanding of migration issues and their interlinkages with development, to advocate for better migration data to inform policy, and to promote the incorporation of migration into national development plans. UNFPA provides policy, advocacy and technical support to ensure that international migration is recognized as an important factor in development.

B. FOLLOW-UP TO THE 2013 HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The publication of *International Migration and Development: Contributions and Recommendations of the International System*, a collaboration between UNFPA and the International Organization for Migration, launched in advance of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, provided an opportunity for the 28 contributing entities to take stock of their activities in this area, to identify good practices, challenges, and gaps, and to provide recommendations.

For UNFPA as well it offered a chance for stock-taking and reflection on the way forward after the High-level Dialogue. It is clear that international migration is integral to the global development process and must be incorporated into population and development policy. The need for collaboration and cooperation in matters relating to migration came out as strong as ever.

Towards this end, and keeping in mind the United Nations Secretary-General's eight-point agenda to make migration work for all, UNFPA seeks to ensure that migration is integrated into the development agenda, including in the post-2015 agenda, that policy is guided by a strong migration evidence base which is supported by timely and reliable gender and age-disaggregated data and research, and that migration partnerships and cooperation are strengthened. Moreover, UNFPA calls for more channels for safe and orderly migration, the protection of the human rights of all migrants, equal access to health care and social protection, and an end to exploitation of migrants, especially female migrants who are most vulnerable to exploitation, including human trafficking. UNFPA also seeks to address the plight of migrants caught in situations of conflict or natural disaster with its humanitarian response. The Fund works with partners to ensure that the specific needs of women are factored into the planning of all humanitarian assistance. UNFPA moves quickly to protect the reproductive health of communities in crisis.

International migration was one of the themes included in the UNFPA-led ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Survey of progress since the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994. Among the key findings of the review are that international migrants need greater security and that governments must increase cooperation.

At the request of the Global Forum on Migration and Development organizers, UNFPA is a member of the Thematic Expert Network for the GFMD Government Team preparing the Background Paper for Roundtable 1.2 on Framing Migration for the MDGs and the post-2015 UN Development Agenda. The Roundtable will discuss how migration could be included in the agenda, partnerships to help make this happen, and targets and indicators to assess how migration contributes as an enabler to development.

As co-chair of the Thematic Working Group on Demographic Changes and Migration of the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD) established by the World Bank, UNFPA seeks to promote enhanced understanding of the dynamics between demography, migration and socio-economic development. The group is currently working on a review of existing migration assumptions in population projections in order to improve future projections, clarify the implications of possible alternative projection outcomes for policy making, and formulate policy recommendations.

As a member of the Global Migration Group Working Group on Data and Research, UNFPA is working with colleagues to develop a set of indicators on international migration and development which could be included in the implementation framework of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda.

As co-lead with the International Organization for Migration in the preparatory paper on outcomes and recommendations for the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, UNFPA is collaborating with its GMG partners in the preparation of a synthesis report on the follow-up to the High-Level Dialogue to be presented at the request of the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to the United Nations High Level Committee on Programmes.

UNFPA will continue to work with the Global Migration Group Working Group on Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies to facilitate the incorporation of migration issues into development planning in eight pilot countries.

C. INTEGRATING MIGRATION INTO THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

International migration is a global issue and must be an important part of the global development agenda. Today, migration affects nearly every country in the world, either as point of origin, transit, or destination and often, all three at once. With the decline in fertility in many parts of the world, migration has taken on increased significance, becoming an important component of population growth in many countries. The size and diversity of current migration flows clearly demonstrate that migration can no longer be considered peripheral to the mainstream of population and development policy. Migration issues must figure prominently in the post-2015 development discourse.

The new global partnership to eradicate poverty and transform economies through sustainable development called for five priority transformations for a post-2015 agenda. Migration should appear as an important factor in each of the transformations since it affects, and is affected, by each: leave no one behind; put sustainable development at the core; transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth; build peace and effective, open and accountable public institutions; and forge a new global partnership. A shared common vision which includes the principles of equity, sustainability, solidarity,

and human rights in which each stakeholder collaborates in order to secure a better future for all is essential to maximize the development potential of migration.

The Dhaka Declaration of the Global Leadership Meeting on Population and Dynamics in the Context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda noted that population mega-trends, including migration, constitute important development challenges and opportunities and recommended that migration governance be strengthened to achieve a balanced and equitable system that is socially and culturally acceptable and beneficial. The meeting called on States and all relevant stakeholders to, inter alia, ensure that migration is safe and orderly, and that migrants' human rights are protected. It further called on stakeholders to consider migrants as agents of development and to ensure that migration is integrated into national and sectoral development policies and programmes, including poverty reduction strategies and National Adaptation Plans of Action.

In working with its partners to ensure that migration figures prominently in the post-2015 development agenda process, UNFPA seeks to raise awareness of the important link between migration and development and to increase understanding of how migration can contribute to the achievement of development goals including poverty reduction, maternal and child health, primary education, and gender empowerment.

Likewise, in preparing for the migration events taking place at the United Nations in 2013, UNFPA encouraged its Country Offices to highlight the inter-linkages between migration, poverty reduction and development in order to enhance understanding of the complexity of migration flows and their links to development and to work towards recognition of migration as an important factor in the development of both countries of origin and destination. UNFPA guidance further stressed that migration should be mainstreamed into national development plans and poverty reduction strategies. Policies should strive to maximize the positive aspects of migration and minimize the negative consequences for the benefit of countries of origin, transit and destination as well as for the migrants themselves. The root causes of migration should be addressed to ensure that migration is a matter of choice, not necessity. The transfer and use of remittances should be facilitated to help reduce poverty and contribute to development of communities. Governments should encourage diasporas to act as partners in development in countries of origin by facilitating investments, entrepreneurship and philanthropy.

The most realistic way to integrate migration into the implementation framework of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda is to identify a set of specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound indicators on international migration and development. Such indicators should be globally applicable, yet possible to generate nationally. Ideally, the indicators should employ concepts and definitions that have already been agreed upon by Member States. It is also important to disaggregate existing sustainable development indicators not just by age and sex but also by migration status and to monitor progress in all areas by looking at both progress of natives and migrants in such important areas as alleviating poverty, eliminating violence against girls and women, ending preventable infant and child mortality, decreasing maternal mortality, ensuring that every child completes primary education, ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights,

reducing the burden of disease from HIV/AIDS, ensuring food security, access to water and sanitation, and increasing the number of decent jobs and livelihoods.

Adding migration indicators into the new sustainable development agenda and disaggregating the collection of data on progress will help to ensure that migration issues are factored into development planning and policymaking. With the right policies in place, migration can improve the quality of life for millions by helping to alleviate poverty, reduce inequality and exclusion, address demographic imbalances, enhance education and employment opportunities, increase access to health care, and reduce environmental vulnerabilities.

The post-2015 development agenda process presents an excellent opportunity for the international community to forge a new partnership which will enhance access to safe and orderly migration channels and ensure adequate protection to all migrants so that migration can contribute to equitable and sustainable development.