

**THIRTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs,
United Nations Secretariat
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**CONTRIBUTION
TO THE THIRTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION¹**

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

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

QUESTION 1.

Please describe in general terms the initiatives and activities your entity has undertaken during 2014 as well as those it is planning to undertake in 2015 that respond to the objectives of the 2015 coordination meeting. (Note that specific activities and initiatives can be listed as part of question 2 and 3 below.)

In 2014, UNFPA concentrated its work on international migration in ensuring that migration is included in the post-2015 development agenda, including in relevant goals, targets and indicators, strengthening the migration evidence base, and providing assistance in humanitarian situations.

UNFPA works at global and regional levels and at national level in some 150 countries. At any given time, migration is included in the Fund's programmes. The work on international migration described here is only a small sampling of the activities undertaken by UNFPA.

QUESTION 2.

Where relevant, please provide a schematic overview of your entity's initiatives and activities in respect to the Secretary-General's eight-point agenda for action presented at the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

1. Protect the human rights of all migrants

UNFPA convened an Expert Group Meeting on “Delivering on Human Rights and Social Inclusions in the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Equality, Quality and Accountability for Marginalized and Excluded Populations” in Madrid, Spain in October 2014. The participants presented recommendations to make progress towards social justice and end inequalities and discrimination experienced by four key groups: the disabled, older persons, migrants and indigenous peoples. The focus was on promoting policies that enable the full exercise of sexual and reproductive rights, as well as the right to take free, informed, voluntary and responsible decisions on sexuality and reproduction, without coercion, discrimination or violence, and that guarantee the right to information and the means necessary for attaining the highest standards of sexual health and reproductive health universal access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health services, information and education, strengthening local and national data collection and research systems and reviewing existing health databases and survey platforms in order to identify ways to include and expand data collection and disaggregation of data for the four key population groups and identifying responsibilities and enforcing rights. The meeting underscored that ending discrimination in all its forms implies compliance with the States' obligations emanating from international human rights commitments.

2. Reduce the costs of labour migration

UNFPA is advocating for targets and indicators to reduce recruitment costs and the cost of remittance transfers.

3. Eliminate migrant exploitation, including human trafficking

UNFPA Country Offices address migrant exploitation, including human trafficking. For example, UNFPA, along with UNHCR and IOM, conducted an innovative study/survey of labour migration from Ethiopia to Sudan, including assessment of migration intentions and decision-making of both rural young people and refugees, the impact of migration on rural areas and the changing patterns of labour recruiters and smugglers. This study informed an important anti-smuggling campaign in Ethiopia which is focused on protection of migrants from exploitation and abuse.

In Sudan, UNFPA worked closely with the Ethiopian Community Association on community outreach for awareness of health and safety concerns and established a referral system for reproductive health and gender-based violence (GBV) response services, including both medical services and counseling. UNFPA also supported safe spaces for women and girls who had experienced trauma or exploitation.

4. Address the plight of stranded migrants

UNFPA continued to address the plight of migrants caught in situations of conflict or natural disaster with its humanitarian response. The Fund worked with partners to ensure that the specific needs of women are factored into the planning of all humanitarian assistance, focusing on the protection of the reproductive health of communities in crisis. This included the provision of medical services and psychosocial support to survivors of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, and setting up reproductive health clinics. UNFPA also supported training of staff of partner organizations in the prevention of gender-based violence in humanitarian settings.

A senior UNFPA staff member is on loan to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration and Development and will be working specifically on the Initiative on Migrants in Crisis Situations, particularly with an eye to ensuring that the issues of women, girls, and young people are fully addressed.

5. Improve public perceptions of migrants

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6. Integrate migration into the development agenda

UNFPA continued its engagement in the post-2015 development process begun in 2012 with the UNDG Global Consultation on Population Dynamics by contributing to the UN Task Team on the post-2015 development agenda, and helping to shape the work of the UN Technical Support Team to the Open Working Group, supporting the deliberations of the SG's High-level Panel on post 2015 and contributing to the SG's Sustainable Development Solutions Network. In the context of these processes, UNFPA engaged in consultations with stakeholders representing sister agencies, Member States, academia, civil society, and the private sector produced reports, policy briefs and position papers organized global meetings, supported delegations in their deliberations and provided concrete language for development goals and targets. UNFPA supported the discussions on the sustainable development goals and the outcome report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.

UNFPA's contribution to the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development goals included the organization of an Expert Group meeting in NY on the importance of considering population dynamics for development planning, and using population data and projections for the formulation of development goals and targets the preparation, together with the Berlin Institute, of a report on how population trends shaped the progress towards the MDGs, and how the projected population trends are likely to shape progress towards SDGs and contribution to interagency discussions of the statistical community on how population trends are best taken into consideration in the formulation of SDG targets and indicators, and implementation frameworks.

7. Strengthen the migration evidence base

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 sought to promote enhanced understanding of the dynamics between demography, migration and socio-economic development. The group began work 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. An expert meeting was convened together with the UN Population Division on the role of migration in population modeling to build a network of specialists and to strengthen migration forecasting and modeling efforts at global, regional and national levels.

As a member of the Global Migration Group Working Group on Data and Research, UNFPA continued to work 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.

A number of UNFPA Country Offices provided technical assistance and supported analysis of census data in the area of migration, producing monographs to inform policy. For example, the UNFPA Country Office in Macedonia provided technical assistance in the conduct of a situation analysis of the current migration data collection process in the country, a comparison of the country migration data policies with standard practices by Euro-Stat, and preparation of recommendations for migration data system improvement and compliance with EU Member States. The UNFPA Country Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina supported the establishment of a migration database linking sources of migration data and finalizing the establishment of the country's migration data IT system, creating one of the preconditions for the development of a migration policy. The UNFPA Country Office in the Dominican Republic sponsored a publication on the characteristics and health analysis of the immigrant population and the UNFPA Country Office in El Salvador published and disseminated a report on the estimation of migrant Salvadorians living abroad.

8. Enhance migration partnerships and cooperation

UNFPA continued to strengthen partnerships at global, regional and country levels to address migration issues, including in such areas as ensuring that migration is included in the post-2015 development agenda, strengthening migration data and analysis and its use in policy formulation, creating safe spaces for trafficked victims, protecting the human rights of migrants, and addressing the plight of stranded migrants.

QUESTION 3.

Where relevant, please indicate the rationale, the strengths, weaknesses and the areas for improvement of the proposed targets for the post-2015 development agenda related to international migrants, migration and mobility

1. Safe, legal and orderly migration (10.7)

<i>a. Rationale</i>	<i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i>
Greater human mobility is inevitable and necessary in the twenty-first century. Migration can be beneficial for all concerned if it is managed in ways that are safe, legal and orderly.	Target 10.7 is strong. The challenge will be to measure implementation of “well-managed” policies.

2. Reducing remittance transfer costs (10.c)

<i>a. Rationale</i>	<i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i>
Migrants are spending too much of their hard-earned money to send remittances home. The less migrants spend on transactions costs, the greater the potential for migration to improve the lives of individual migrants and their families and the greater their contribution to the economic growth and development of countries.	SMART indicator

3. Rights of migrant workers (8.8)

<i>a. Rationale</i>	<i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i>
Migrant workers have human rights that must be protected along with the rights of all workers. Migrants whose rights are protected are in a better position to contribute to the economic growth and development of countries.	“Precarious employment” is subject to interpretation.

4. Eliminating trafficking of women and children (5.2 and 16.2)

<i>a. Rationale</i>	<i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i>
Trafficking is a violation of human rights and one of the worst forms of human slavery. Efforts must be strengthened to eliminate trafficking, protect victims and bring perpetrators to justice.	Indicators are strong.

5. Addressing the “brain drain” through retention and training of health workers (3.c)

<i>a. Rationale</i>	<i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i>
Brain drain is not a universal concern but the population affected is much greater than the migrant population itself brain drain can potentially affect the health and well-being of the general population in both countries of origin and destination.	This target addresses a number of different issues – health financing, recruitment, training and retention of health workers. Indicators for each of these will have to be developed and this may prove to be too many indicators for one target for Member States to agree.

6. Scholarships for developing countries to enrol in higher education in other countries (4b)

<i>a. Rationale</i>	<i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i>
Scholarships enhance human development by giving talented students from developing countries a chance at obtaining a good education abroad. But this can encourage brain drain of the best and brightest. It will also discourage countries of origin from upgrading their education standards and opportunities.	May not be of interest to many countries.

7.

<i>a. Rationale</i>	<i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i>
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8.

<i>a. Rationale</i>	<i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i>
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