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IOM-UNDP GLOBAL PROGRAMME ON MAKING MIGRATION WORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (PHASE III)

Webinar

Engaging the private sector: From mapping to action

Tuesday, 7 December 2021, 7:00 am – 9:00 am EST (2h)

Overview of the webinar

The webinar was organized on 7 December 2021 as part of the *IOM-UNDP Joint Programme on Making Migration Work for Sustainable Development*. Building on the introductory private sector webinar that took place in June 2021, this second webinar brought together perspectives from the private sector, government, IOM and UNDP representatives. The webinar served to (i) share experience, practices and lessons learnt from the Global Programme countries on moving from mapping and planning stages for private sector engagement towards concrete engagement of private sector actors, (ii) inform ongoing and future activities by showcasing Private Sector Engagement initiatives in the areas of employability and entrepreneurship and (iii) prepare the ground for the government-led Peer Exchange Group on private sector engagement, foreseen to start early 2022.

The webinar was successful with over 90 participants, including government representatives and colleagues from UNDP, IOM and SDC across the Joint Programme countries.

Following the opening remarks, the first session focused on private sector engagement in the area of employability and entrepreneurship outside the joint programme. Five panellists from the private sector, IOM and UNDP shared their perspectives as food for thought for the ongoing implementation and refinement of activities at the mid-stage of the programme's 4-year cycle. In the second session, UNDP colleagues and a local government representative from three programme countries shared experiences on moving from planning stages for private sector engagement to concrete engagement. After each session, participants enriched the discussions through comments and questions.

The highlights and key takeaways of each session are summarized below.

Session 1: Private sector engagement in employability and entrepreneurship

- **Ms. Tanja Dedovic**, Senior Regional Thematic Specialist on Labour Mobility and Human Development at the IOM Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa in Cairo spoke on how IOM works on employability and entrepreneurship. She shared three highlights: First, a policy guide (see attachment) that provides policy options and recommendations on how to foster the socio-economic inclusion of migrants and refugees through entrepreneurship; second, the Enterprise Development Fund in Iraq that supports private-sector economic growth and job creation, particularly returnee entrepreneurs; and, third, a project that aims to involve the Tunisian diaspora in Italy as funders and investors of micro-projects by entrepreneurs in disadvantaged zones and promoted local products outside of Tunisia.

- **Ms. Alice Laugher**, CEO at Committed to Good (CTG) shared how CTG operates as a service provide for UN agencies in post-disaster and conflict-affected countries. Many of the programmes they staff are directly supporting migrants, IDPs and refugees. Even though they do not actively seek out migrants for these positions, the sensitivity of this work and the need to find the right people for service delivery means that many of their staff are in fact migrants. She shared a number of examples, for instance, a female returnee working in a protection project (see: slides 7-9).
- **Ms. Mariana Bresani Bravo**, Economic Development Specialist at UNDP Peru, spoke about UNDP Peru's strategy to contribute to the socio-economic integration of the migrant and refugee population in Peru. Specifically, she provided insights into how Warrior Entrepreneur, a six-week programme, has supported Venezuelan and local entrepreneurs in Peru by supporting them to overcome the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis and providing them with innovative digital tools to increase their competitiveness. The UNDP project also promoted social cohesion by gathering migrants and refugees entrepreneurs alongside Peruvian entrepreneurs (see: slides 10-16). The final report of the project is attached; the study Mariana referred to during the presentation can be found [here](#) and a survey carried out with the refugee and migrant population in Lima is available [here](#) (both in Spanish).
- **Mr. Erdogan Sekerci**, Social Development Specialist at H&M and who is leading H&M's migrant workers program in Turkey, elaborated on how H&M is leveraging its supply chain to employ refugees. He described how H&M's approach advanced regarding the integration of migrant workers to ensure a proper salary, work insurance and work permit procedures. With a target of 2,000 by 2025, H&M is planning to further increase the number of refugees working for suppliers. Thereby, retaining refugees, who often move to other countries, and finding workers who match the suppliers' needs with regards to levels of experience and qualification constitute the main challenges regarding sustainability, raising the need for skills development and synergy between the stakeholder's textile ecosystem. Further information can be found on the UNDP - Business Call to Action [page](#) and [news](#), the TENT Partnership of Refugees commitment [page](#) and in the Refugee Women Employment and Integration in Europe [research](#), a report Erdogan and his colleague Derya Ural contributed to.
- **Ms. Selma Cheikh Malainine**, Entrepreneurship Senior Technical Advisor at UNDP Tunisia, provided an overview of UNDP Tunisia using entrepreneurship and employability to empower vulnerable populations and prevent irregular migration. The promotion of entrepreneurial culture is one of the strategies that allow achieving these two objectives. UNDP Tunisia has operationalised this approach by signing Memorandums of Understanding with stakeholders (see: slides 18-23).

Session 2: Moving from mapping to engagement within the joint programme

- **Mr. Yassir Benabdallaoui** from UNDP Morocco shared how UNDP Morocco's plans to move from mapping the private sector to taking concrete action. The main findings from the private sector mapping exercise are a lack of information of the private sector and migrants on the National Immigration and Asylum Strategy, on employment opportunities, and on service offers in the Tanger-Tétouan-Al Hoceïma region. The CO is planning to implement the study's recommendations by organizing activities to raise awareness, inform, train, develop capacity and promote good practices (see: slides 26-36).
- **Mr. Mody Attmane Diop** from UNDP Senegal shared how UNDP Senegal plans to move from mapping the private sector to taking concrete action. He mentioned that the mapping exercise will be a decision-making tool that will allow the development of approaches and work strategies with the private sector for the socio-economic integration of people in human mobility and host communities. After this stage, UNDP Senegal will implement a discussion platform with all the concerned stakeholders (Chamber of Commerce, Territorial Collectivities, Regional Development Agency, etc.) and establish an innovative financing model to support training and capacity building for migrant entrepreneurs needing technical, financial, and material support (see: slides 37-42).

- **Mr. Diego Rosero** from the Municipal Government of Manta in Ecuador spoke on how the local government is providing services for immigrants, such as through seven community development centres where migrants make up around 8 per cent of beneficiaries. He also elaborated on how the Municipal Government is promoting alliances with the private sector in the economic as well as in the socio-cultural sphere (see: slides 43-50).

Closing remarks and next steps

During his closing remarks, **Mr. Carlo Ruiz**, Global Policy Advisor – Livelihoods and Economic Recovery at UNDP, highlighted a number of points: First, the importance of mapping the skills of people on the move and the role of different platforms and digital solutions for skills development and links between people on the move and the private sector; second, the importance of information, for instance on legal status, to identify opportunities for people on the move, private sector and local government and provide legal support in a collaborative manner; third, the importance of civil society to construct networks for people on the move; fourth, the need to pursue transformative action towards gender, acknowledging that women are disproportionately vulnerable in situations of human mobility (for instance to gender-based violence) but also that women may be accelerators; fifth, the importance of bringing national strategies to the local level as context may vary within countries and regions, raising the need for collaboration with local governments; sixth, the importance of including private sector perspectives and creating opportunities for knowledge exchange among private sector actors, an approach that should include Chambers of Commerce; lastly, the need to provide more information to diaspora in order to link them with ongoing initiatives.

This seminar closed the round of private sector engagement webinars as part of the joint programme. Capacity building on private sector engagement will be continued through the Private Sector Engagement Peer Exchange Groups. The first peer exchange will take place in January 2022.