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

KEY MESSAGES BUILDING FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME TO SUPPORT ADVOCACY IN GLOBAL DIALOGUES

Background:

The Programme aims to harness the development benefits and reduce the negative effects of migration for host and home communities, migrants, and their family members. A key component of this Programme is to showcase how inclusive policies can be implemented locally and how the results contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The experience, results and lessons learnt are shared within the Programme through knowledge exchange and capacity development actions and globally through international forums and dialogues, helping to further global understanding. With the third and final phase now coming to an end and given the plethora of excellent results at national and local level, there is a strategic opportunity to feed the knowledge, results, and lessons into current and ongoing global dialogues.

This is particularly poignant given the midway review of the 2030 Agenda through the upcoming High-Level Political Forum in July and the SDG Summit in September. The Summit aims to carry out a comprehensive review of the state of the SDGs, respond to the impact of multiple and interlocking crises facing the world, and provide high-level political guidance on transformative and accelerated actions leading up to the target year of 2030 for achieving the SDGs. Additionally, the next edition of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) will take place in early 2024, which provides a flexible, multi-stakeholder space where governments can discuss the multi-dimensional aspects, opportunities and challenges related to migration, development, and the interaction between these two areas. The GFMD is chaired by France on the topic this year, "Impact of climate change on human mobility."

The third Annual Global Programme Board meeting for the Programme took place on 20-21 of June 2023 in Geneva. Over 80 participants from 11 Programme countries took part in this meeting. The Global Programme Board meeting presented an opportunity for all governments and stakeholders participating in the Programme to consolidate the results of the Programme implementation and discuss what is needed moving forward to ensure sustainability. As a part of the Global Programme Board meeting agenda, the participants also discussed and agreed on a joint strategy and a set of key advocacy messages to showcase the results and lessons from the Programme to feed into global dialogues and understanding on how to make migration work for sustainable development. These key messages will be used to support governments and the Programme Management Unit during preparations for participation in the global forums and dialogues on migration and sustainable development issues.

Key messages:

Why migration and sustainable development?

The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs will not be achieved without due consideration of human mobility. People on the move – one in eight people in the world – are part of the solution. Managed well, migration can be a cornerstone of sustainable development, prosperity, and progress.

People on the move, including migrants, diaspora, returnees, and displaced people, contribute significantly to our economies and societies and generate innovative solutions, but we must put the right enabling conditions in place, founded in a respect for the human rights, gender equality, and contributions and wellbeing of everyone.

While migration policies have traditionally been separated from other development and sectoral policies, the last two decades have seen a much-needed move towards understanding the linkage between migration and sustainable development and how to augment it.

It is not enough to only mainstream migration into national development policies. Rather, migration must be integrated as a whole-of-government endeavour, which reminds us that "migration is a multidimensional reality that cannot be addressed by one government policy sector alone."

Given the multi-faceted nature of migration, such an approach is crucial if we are to achieve all 17 SDGs and truly ensure that no one is left behind: unhealthy migrants cannot participate in and contribute to society; migrants without legal documentation cannot access decent work; uneducated migrants cannot reach their own individual development potential; global labour demand and supply cannot be met without safe, orderly and regular migration; migrants who are discriminated against or are subject to racism or hate crime stay marginalised and are left behind. Migration is a global phenomenon affecting all countries worldwide and its effective governance needs global partnerships.

A methodology for maximising the potential of human mobility for sustainable development:

Good migration governance is therefore not just about migration and asylum policies, but rather about how we effectively integrate human mobility into relevant sectoral policies, including development strategies. A tried and tested mechanism to achieve such policy coherence has been to integrate migration into development and other governance policies. This means inserting migration as a parameter across different policy areas in cooperation with **all relevant sectors** and **all levels** of government.

The groundbreaking SDC-funded IOM-UNDP Global Programme on Making Migration Work for Sustainable Development has been pioneering this approach. Across 11 countries, the mainstreaming of migration into development and sectoral policies and plans has been coupled with migration, asylum, and diaspora policies for a whole-of-government approach with roll out at local level translating into development results in communities and ultimately contributing to the 2030 Agenda. The Programme has worked to make communities more inclusive and to create new opportunities for over 14,000 migrants and community members[1] so that everyone can thrive, and no one is left behind in the quest for global prosperity. In total, the M4SD Programme has collectively contributed to over 30 concrete indicators and targets and 10 Goals of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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[1] These results will be updated until the end of the Programme.

Mainstreaming migration into policy planning is a long-term process which necessitates time and a wide number of stakeholders that show ownership over the process. It can help enhance policy coherence in migration and development by bringing together various sectors and ensuring migration and migrants' needs and concerns are addressed in relevant policies and plans.

Mainstreaming efforts need to be tailored to context, needs, priorities and existing laws and coordination mechanisms. There is no one-size-fits-all solution.

The mainstreaming migration and development approach can also be applied to communities affected by displacement by strengthening governance capacities to holistically address the needs of entire communities, including specific barriers that may limit the contributions of displaced people, opening and expanding local services and simultaneously creating more welcoming conditions in all sectors of community life, including health, employment, housing, education, and more.

This necessitates a multi-stakeholder approach, particularly engaging diasporas, and the private sector as well as civil society, academia and more. Designing all activities to reduce barriers, particularly gender barriers, this approach also allows to address the needs of migrants' and local communities of all genders as well as the specific challenges faced by migrant women.

Mainstreaming is also critical at local level where 'migration happens' (Puerto Vallarta report) with local and regional authorities recognised as 'first responders to migration' (New York Declaration). Coordination with and involvement of local and regional authorities will ensure policies are realistic and responsive to real needs at the territorial level. It also ensures local and regional authorities' buy in and ownership over the implementation of national policies at the local level.

Facing future challenges:

Mainstreaming also facilitates the whole-of-society approach – a must if we are to navigate the global transformations, we face in a post-pandemic world.

The world is growing more unequal, pandemic recovery is uneven, growth has stagnated. Demographics are changing, more than half the world population now live in urban areas, we have the largest generation of young people in history with 90% of those living in low and middle-income countries. Digitalization and the reconceptualization of the nature of work bring both challenges and opportunities. Mistrust, exclusion from decision-making and hyper individualism combined with the after-effects of the pandemic have weakened social cohesion. The world is experiencing the highest number of violent conflicts since World War II and disasters, climate change and environmental degradation are the main drivers of internal displacement which is now at a record high of 60.9 million in 2022. The multilateral system is being challenged by a rising tendency towards nationalism and protectionism, with countries pulling back from international cooperation.

In such a complex global context, we need holistic and integrated solutions for a myriad of communities, and we cannot and must not leave migrants and displaced persons behind.

Key areas of migration governance that can help accelerate the 2030 Agenda include:

→ **Develop and implement inclusive, innovative, and integrated solutions** to provide equal access to gainful employment, self-employment and income generation opportunities for migrants, refugees and returnees as an integral component to achieve local economic development in communities of origin and destination.

→ Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of formal and informal skills, qualifications, and competences of people on the move to **meet the demands and needs of a changing global labour market and divergent demographic trends** among countries.

→ Extend social protection and universal health coverage to all migrants and displaced persons, with a specific focus on youth and women, to **reduce inequalities and vulnerabilities,** and enable their active participation and contribution to societies.

→ Develop safe and regular migration pathways across borders, reduce remittances transaction costs, and integrate the human, social and financial capital of diasporas in trade systems to **boost global value chains and meet the needs for sustainable development finance**.

→ Include migrants' voices and integrate human mobility considerations into national and local development plans as well as urban planning efforts to achieve **cohesive communities and sustainable rural and urban development**.

→ **Continue the efforts to lead the world toward gender equality**—by reinforcing a perception of migrant and diaspora women as agents of change with strong potential to help lead their countries and communities towards equality.

→ Reduce the digital access gap for people on the move and use digitalization of economies and societies to effectively **leverage migrants, diasporas, and displaced persons' entrepreneurship, including for green transition and climate action**.

→ **Recognize and empower diasporas impactful actors** that have a role across all sustainable development pillars and in crisis response actions, acting as abridge across borders for the transfer of skills, knowledge, and technologies, bringing economic and social development benefits to their communities of origin.

→ **Bolster efforts to engage the private sector** to improve the lives of migrants and communities around them by designing private sector engagement strategies that benefit everyone. As a major driver of economic growth and job creation, the private sector can play a pivotal role through job creation, investment, entrepreneurship support, targeted services, and advocacy for migrants' rights.

→ Integrate human mobility into national adaptation plans, invest in preparedness and means to **address loss and damages, reduce conflict and climate-induced displacement, and build resilient and peaceful societies capable of adapting to the impacts of climate change and violence**.