Decent Work
Development and Migration

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Migrant workers

- Over 100 million migrants working abroad; with their families represent most of est. 214 million international migrants
- Almost 50% are women, migrating increasingly for employment
- 1 in 8 are between ages of 15 and 24
Youth unemployed: the crisis generation?

- The ILO figures show a continuing rise in under 24 employment over the next five years.
- Spain 56% unemployed young workers
- Greece 62% unemployed
Leaving rural homes in search of jobs

- Significant problems related to
  - agricultural land degradation
  - water scarcity or climate disasters
  - low investment in business, jobs training

- Unsustainable development, poor development, inequitable development lead to failure in the jobs market.

*We know the reverse is also true.*
Real development means decent jobs

Development that provides:

- jobs to match the skills of workers at all levels,
- decent wages and social benefits with an increasing (rather than decreasing) middle-class,
- environmentally sound, healthy, and equitable conditions of work
  ...will serve as a sustainable engine for growth and innovation.

- Jobs are at the center of development.
- Decent work is at the center of most migration.
A commodity?

- discourse around development planning in some cases run dangerously close to viewing migrant workers as a commodity.
  - How can they be better exported, imported, and measured for economic impact or gain?

- less attention is on answering the needs of men and women migrant workers who help fuel home and host country economies
  - How can migrant workers be better enabled to support their families and local communities to achieve equitable development?
Leading through standards and practice

- The ILO constitutional mandate to protect men and women migrant workers.
- ILO sets standards to better govern migration and work
  - recruiting agencies, employment, contracts, social security, wages, equality, freedom of association—collective bargaining, tripartitism.
  - ILO Conventions (97, 143) Migrant Workers, Domestic Workers (189), Recruiting practices (181), among others
- Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration—guidance and practice
Good Practice, Better Innovation

- Migrant cooperatives and social enterprises
  - Helping migrants in training and business
  - Migrant-migrant financing and support
- National -- Regional governance schemes
  - Worker protection—bilateral trade union agreements
  - SADC Labour Migration Workplan development and skills transfer
  - Social security and health coverage
Labour market assessment and social security coverage

- Southern African Development Community
- East African Community: agreement on social security for African migrant workers.
- Asia and ASEAN: assess possibilities for the adoption of a multilateral framework agreement on social security.
- The Philippines, a separate feasibility study on electronic money remittance to extend social security and national health insurance coverage to migrant workers abroad.
Future strategic action in development

- ILO offered to Chair the 2014 Global Migration Group (GMG)
- Roundtable in preparation HLD September: Showcase of innovation on labour migration and development
- Tripartite Meeting in four thematic areas:
  (i) follow-up of ILO to HLD and post-2015 development agenda;
  (ii) Protection of migrant workers, low and middle-skilled workers;
  (iii) Labour market assessment needs: skills recognition and certification;
  (iv) International cooperation, social dialogue for well-governed national and international labour migration and regional mobility.
Inclusive development strategies for a mobile workforce

To be relevant and responsive, development strategies must better account for the dynamic nature of labour migration, be more inclusive, and incorporate work–life needs more holistically for all workers, including migrant workers and their families.

Workers may come from the labour force of one country, join the labour force of another country, leave and enter a third country, and travel home, all in the span of a few years.
Increasing well-being in a globalized world, improving the functioning of labour markets, improving productivity and keeping a competitive edge will all involve dealing positively and constructively with issues of migration and diversity.”

-- Guy Ryder, Director-General, ILO