



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

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.



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.



Thank you for your attention!



“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

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