

GFMD Thematic Meeting

Mainstreaming of Migration in Development Policy and Integrating Migration in the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda 22 May, Geneva

ILO - Background Note “Contribution of Labour Migration to the Development Agenda”

The human desire to seek decent employment and livelihoods is at the core of the migration-development nexus. The scale of remittances flowing to developing countries, now over 400 billion dollars a year¹, and the relationship of remittance income to development have been at the center of considerable academic and policy discourse. Much less attention has been focused on understanding the needs of the working men and women who generate these funds and who support their families and communities in countries origin and destination. As labour migrants, they are often less protected than other workers. Their livelihood and security is often linked directly to policies and practices in employment, equitable treatment, and social protection. As labour mobility increases in both numbers and diversity, there is a significant need to improve understanding of the impact of labour migration on economic and social development in countries of origin, transit and destination, including how the labour and skills of migrants fill actual and projected labour market demands in countries of destination. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that over 50 per cent of the 214 million international migrants today are economically active, a figure that is closer to 90 per cent if their family members are also counted.² Moreover, almost half of the total international migrant population are women, migrating increasingly for employment on their own account, and an estimated one in eight are between the ages of 15 and 24, thus highlighting the diverse labour market profiles of international migrants.³

Consequently, the world of work needs to be adequately reflected in and mainstreamed into debates on international migration and development at the global, regional and national levels. At its 316th Session in November 2012, the ILO’s Governing Body called on the Office “to identify key priorities for substantive follow-up to the United Nations General Assembly High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, and to ensure that the promotion of effectively operating labour markets offering decent work becomes a central element in discussions on migration and development”.⁴ This also means giving due recognition to the principal stakeholders engaged in the world of work – the ILO’s tripartite constituents of ministries of labour, employers’ and workers’ organizations – and designing appropriate mechanisms and processes to ensure that labour migration between countries and regions is more equitable and its governance more effective, thus enhancing its beneficial impact on sustainable development processes.

ILO’s mandate and activities on international labour migration are very relevant to the work of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and to the overall theme of the second United Nations General Assembly High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development – “Identifying concrete measures to strengthen coherence and cooperation at all levels, with a view to enhancing the benefits of international migration for migrants and countries alike and its important links to development, while reducing its negative implications”. The ILO has a distinct constitutional mandate on labour migration and the protection of men and women migrant workers, and thus is in a unique position to contribute significantly to these debates. In addition to establishing standards on the rights’ and/or social protection dimensions of international migration, the ILO offers substantial expertise on labour market issues. The ILO can therefore play an important key role in identifying linkages between worker protection and the economic dimensions of migration in countries of origin and destination. Understanding these linkages is crucial to an understanding of their wider relationship to development and to assisting governments and stakeholder groups in the formulation

of appropriate employment and governance policies. This background note provides a succinct overview of the kind of activities undertaken by the ILO towards realization of this objective.

Sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda

Given that a great part of international migration today concerns persons who are economically active, the ILO considers international migration to be essentially about the search for productive employment, decent work and livelihoods, with the result that the world of work cuts across all three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental). For example, one of the strategic objectives of the ILO's Decent Work Agenda is developing and enhancing measures of social protection which is fundamental to sustainable development. Social protection is also interrelated with economic development because it serves as an important investment in terms of increasing or at least upholding productivity. In this regard, extension of social protection to all residents, including migrants, through the four basic social security guarantees outlined in the ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202),⁵ is key to sustainable development. Moreover, migrant workers contribute to the sustainability of social security systems in countries of destination, particularly in developed countries. From 2009 to 2011, the ILO carried out the project "Republic of Moldova: Building capacity for coordination of social security for migrant workers" which developed institutional capacities for planning and implementing social security coverage for migrants, and resulted in the signing of six social security bilateral agreements of which three have already entered into effect. The Office provided technical support to Bahrain in adopting a social security law that covers migrant workers. ILO is now assessing possibilities for the adoption of a multilateral framework agreement on social security (especially for old-age benefits) among the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries, based on a survey of ASEAN social security systems. A feasibility study on electronic money remittance to extend social security and national health insurance coverage to Filipino migrant workers abroad was completed.

In addition to social protection, a future agenda for sustainable development will need to address other protection challenges faced by migrant workers, such as those relating to their working conditions, wages, occupational safety and health, and migration status (ILO is undertaking research on these topics in various countries, including Chile, Argentina, and Costa Rica); improve labour market needs-assessments and other knowledge gaps concerning data on labour shortages and surpluses (ILO has been working, for example, with the Russian Federation in this area); address the recognition of diplomas, qualifications and skills (e.g. see *ILO Guidelines for Development of Regional Model Competency Standards, 2006* and *Regional Planning Workshop on Skills Recognition for Migrant Workers, 2007*, developed in the Asia-Pacific region); build a political consensus on the positive contributions of migrant workers to destination countries' economies; mainstream employment and labour rights in migration and development policies; and demonstrate the symbiotic relationships between these issues and sustainable development.

The ILO is actively engaging in the process, preparations and debates on what a post-2015 development agenda should look like to ensure that decent work is considered as an integral component of the post-2015 roadmap. The ILO has taken the lead on the global thematic consultation on growth and employment, and is participating as a contributor in the following thematic consultations: inequalities, education and skills, environmental sustainability, governance, and population dynamics (where international migration is being discussed as one of the four population megatrends).

Governing labour migration for inclusive development

The governance of labour migration encompasses many different institutions, actors and processes. Real socio-economic gains for sustainable development can be achieved through equitable and well-structured systems of labour migration and mobility, in both the South-North and South-South contexts. Such systems need to protect the rights of men and women migrant workers, particularly in

those economic sectors (e.g. agriculture, domestic work, construction) involving higher risks to labour migrants in terms of recruitment processes, their working conditions, wages, social security, and safety and health, while also giving due recognition to the employment, labour market and skills side of migration/mobility.

A proactive approach to the protection of migrant workers toward improving development outcomes requires the formulation and implementation of gender-sensitive labour migration policies, establishing effective labour migration institutions, and adopting and enforcing legislation and policies guided by international labour standards, which apply to all migrant workers unless otherwise stated. The ILO has established specific standards for the governance of labour migration and protection of migrant workers, namely the Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97) and the Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, No. 143 as well as accompanying Recommendations No. 86 and 151.⁶ These standards are complemented by the 2006 ILO Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration comprising non-binding principles and guidelines for a rights-based approach to labour migration while recognizing labour market needs, endorsed by the International Labour Conference in its Plan of Action for migrant workers in 2004. The Framework's relevance as a model policy and practical tool on labour migration, including in the sphere of migration and development, has been recognized by ILO constituents as well as other stakeholders in a number of countries.

With reference to international labour standards and the Multilateral Framework, over the past few years the ILO has provided technical advice and institutional capacity building on migration governance and legislation in, for example, Sri Lanka,⁷ Bangladesh, Cambodia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Ukraine, and has provided inputs to the Government of Tajikistan on the National Labour Migration Strategy 2011-2015, as well as on the draft Law on Private Employment Agencies in Kyrgyzstan. Based on ILO's Migration for Employment Recommendation (Revised), 1949 (No. 86) that includes a model bilateral labour migration agreement in its Annex, the ILO has provided policy advice regarding the drafting of bilateral labour agreements in as between, for example, Georgia and France, Armenia and the Russian Federation, and Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

Through its technical cooperation portfolio, the ILO seeks to advance the formulation and application of best practices in labour migration regimes. It does this by working with its partners to strengthen institutional mechanisms, promote policy coherence and encourage social dialogue. The ILO is undertaking several technical cooperation projects relating to the good governance of labour migration in key regions of the world where labour migration/mobility is a prominent feature, notably Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region, North, West and East Africa, the Middle East and Gulf States, and Central America, and in countries that serve both as places of destination and origin such as Brazil, Bangladesh, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. In the wake of the adoption of the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), the ILO has also recently embarked on a number of specific projects to improve protection of migrant domestic workers at the global level, as well as in East Africa and the Arab States. (see, e.g., Annex).

Creating a space for labour ministries, social partners and other stakeholders

Recognizing the importance of labour market processes and given the centrality of the world of work to international migration, the ILO provides assistance in creating an important space for labour ministries, trade unions and employers' representatives in discussions on migration at national, bilateral, regional and global levels. While labour ministries in many countries are involved to a certain degree in the application of migration policies, most notably by determining the demand for migrant workers through labour market assessments and/or by issuing work permits, they often play lesser roles to interior/home affairs ministries in comprehensive discussions of these policies. In this regard, the ILO helps to facilitate access of labour ministries to such debates, particularly in those countries that adopt a "whole of government approach" to the governance of labour migration, including its impact on development. The ILO, with its long-standing experience with social dialogue

processes, works to ensure that the formulation and implementation of national labour migration policies takes place with the full participation of employers' and workers' organizations, thus enhancing the effectiveness and legitimacy of these policies. Cooperation between these non-State actors across borders can also enhance the protection of migrant workers and their access to trade union rights in particular,⁸ most notably in destination countries where protection structures are relatively weak or underdeveloped. Finally, as demonstrated in the process leading up to the adoption of Convention No. 189 and in the context of the GFMD, the ILO has been able to build a bridge between governments, its employer and worker constituents and civil society organizations with a view to reconciling important interests and concerns.

Regulating recruitment

The work developed by the ILO to reinforce Public Employment Services and/or to regulate Private Employment Agencies is key to ensuring that abusive practices are avoided, that migrant workers go through regular channels and that they have sufficient information about their rights and access to assistance when their rights are not respected. As fee-charging recruitment agencies become more involved in international migration, and as some recruiters have engaged in unfair and abusive practices, the ILO has been increasing its efforts at the international level to promote further regulation of this market and to ensure proper application of existing rules, including through the October 2009 Workshop to Promote Ratification of the Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181) and the October 2011 Global Dialogue Forum on the Role of Private Employment Agencies in Promoting Decent Work and Improving the Functioning of Labour Markets in Private Services Sectors. In Asia, the Office has assisted national authorities in evaluating and rationalizing their current legislation, structures, and procedures on labour emigration, especially on recruitment (see, e.g. ILOs work in Afghanistan, Indonesia and Sri Lanka).

Combating trafficking for forced labour

Trafficking for forced labour and labour exploitation is the antipathy of decent work and a scourge for development in both origin and destination countries. The recent ILO global estimate of forced labour indicates that the majority of victims are trafficked for labour exploitation.⁹ In February 2013, the ILO held a Tripartite Meeting of Experts on Forced Labour and Trafficking for Labour Exploitation that discussed gaps in existing coverage of ILO standards with a view to determining whether there is a need for standard setting to complement the ILO's Forced Labour Conventions (No. 29 and No. 105) to better address prevention and victim protection, including compensation; and to address human trafficking for labour exploitation. A Law and Practice Report is currently under preparation together with a questionnaire to consider the possible adoption of a Protocol and/or Recommendation by the International Labour Conference in 2014.

Regional labour mobility and sustainable development

The breadth of ILO's expertise is well reflected in a range of labour mobility initiatives concerning, amongst others, skills recognition and development, social security and social dialogue, undertaken within sub-regional and regional economic integration processes. For example, the ILO has been working with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its Forum on Migrant Labour to enhance the capacity of social partners to participate in migration policy processes and to protect migrant workers. The ILO's collaboration with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) has ensured the inclusion of migration in the draft protocol on employment. ILO's work in the Caribbean resulted in the decision of CARICOM's Tripartite Caribbean Employment Forum Declaration to formulate, in conformity with employment and labour market strategies, proactive labour migration policies¹⁰, and work with MERCOSUR is advancing on the role of Public Employment Services and Skills Certification to improve labour migration schemes. In the East African Community (EAC), the ILO is supporting the development of a legal instrument to coordinate social security arrangements between Member countries. In the context of regional economic

integration, portability of social security rights is especially important because it facilitates the free movement of workers with a view to realizing better integrated and functioning labour markets.

The value of a sectoral approach

ILO addresses labour migration in an integrated manner across ILO's Decent Work Agenda with a focus on particular needs and trends in specific sectors such as hospitality and tourism, education and research, and health service sectors with a significant presence of migrant workers that are particularly relevant to understanding the migration and development relationship. Some examples of ILO's sectoral approach include:

- a) The Tripartite Action to Protect Migrant Workers from Labour Exploitation (*ILO-TRIANGLE project*) which supports efforts to combat exploitation in Thailand's fishing sector through a number of interventions;¹¹
- b) The ILO's activities as a member of the *Commonwealth Advisory Council on Teacher Mobility, Recruitment and Migration*, which oversees the follow up to the Commonwealth Teacher Recruitment Protocol. In April 2012, the Advisory Council developed a model Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between States, to provide an example of good practice in setting out the terms under which teachers should be recruited from one State to work in another;
- c) The Action Programme on *The International Migration of Health Service Workers: The Supply Side* was launched in 2006. Five health worker supplying countries – Costa Rica, Kenya, Romania, Senegal, and Trinidad and Tobago – participated in the programme.¹² In Kenya, a comprehensive inventory and policy framework for managing the various aspects of health worker migration was developed, including the need for addressing working conditions in the national public health system and considering the role and possible regulation of recruitment agencies;
- d) The presence of migrant workers in the hotel industry has the potential to benefit host countries and employers at destination in bringing new skills, knowledge and innovation as well as a competitive advantage to many companies. The ILO's Sectoral Activities Department (SECTOR) and the International Migration Branch (MIGRANT) produced a working paper in 2012 on *Migrant workers in the international hotel industry*.¹³

Labour migration, the social solidarity economy and development

The ILO is expanding its work to document and harness the nexus between labour migration and the social solidarity economy (SSE), exploring the potential of partnerships to empower migrants through securing decent work and living conditions for them whilst simultaneously promoting sustainable and equitable development and social cohesion. In recent decades, enterprises belonging to the (SSE)—commonly referred to as the “third sector”—such as cooperatives, mutual societies, associations, social enterprises and foundations, have improved the lives of women and men migrant workers and their families by supporting migrants to find income and jobs and access affordable goods and services, including remittance schemes, as clients. In Italy, the tourism cooperative, Viaggi Solidari, has trained migrant workers in major cities to be tour guides, valuing their language skills and cultural awareness and leading to some joining the cooperative as member-employees.

Contributions to the knowledge base on migration and equitable development

The following ILO contributions to the knowledge base on labour migration and development are worth noting. The *Framework for Action on Maximizing the Contribution of Women Migrant Workers to Development* aims to address a recognized knowledge gap in improving understanding of the nexus between migration, gender equality and development, while a forthcoming global report on youth labour migration sheds light on the connection between migration and prevailing employment trends of youth from selected countries of origin as well as the experiences of youth migrants in host countries.

The ILO is also involved in a number of joint initiatives with Global Migration Group (GMG) agencies and other partners. In collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the ILO is examining the linkages between labour mobility and refugees' human development opportunities as well as how such mobility might facilitate access to durable solutions for refugees. In a European Commission-funded research project carried out together with the Migration Policy Institute (MPI), the ILO looks at the labour market integration trajectories of newly arrived immigrants into middle-skilled jobs. Together with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), a handbook is being prepared for parliamentarians on *Migration, Governance and Human Rights*, which aims to inform this important – albeit often overlooked – group of stakeholders on the human rights (and labour rights) framework underpinning international migration, including how this framework interfaces with development objectives. The ILO is also providing input to the UNICEF-led joint GMG publication on *Adolescents, Youth and Migration*, and is planning to make a contribution to the analytical report on *Migration and Human Rights*, which is being prepared by the OHCHR, pursuant to the United Nations Secretary-General's Decision No. 2012/19 on International Migration, and in collaboration with GMG agencies and other United Nations system partners. Finally, the ILO has commenced work on a methodology to better evaluate outcomes for migrant workers under various labour migration programmes. In 2014, the ILO has offered to serve as the GMG Chair and to strengthen the GMG work in these and other areas.

Tripartite Technical Meeting on Labour Migration

By virtue of the decision of the ILO's Governing Body in November 2012, the ILO is convening a global tripartite technical meeting on labour migration on 4-8 November 2013, which will enable it to assess the outcomes of the High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development and consider possible areas for follow-up. The meeting will involve the ILO's tripartite constituents, and other important stakeholders such as GMG agencies and civil society organizations will be invited as resource persons and observers. Four themes will guide these discussions: (i) Labour and work-related issues in the international debates on migration and development and the post-2015 development agenda; (ii) Protection of migrant workers, with reference to the particular vulnerabilities of low and middle-skilled workers; (iii) Sound labour market assessment needs, including skills recognition and certification; and (iv) International cooperation and social dialogue for well-governed national and international labour migration and regional mobility.

Attached to this Note is an Annex providing a list of relevant technical cooperation projects in which the ILO is working to improve migration governance and development opportunities.

NOTES

¹ Estimated at USD 401 billion in 2012. See D. Ratha, et al., "Developing countries received about \$401 billion in remittances in 2012", Migration and Development Brief 20, Migration and Remittances Unit, Development Prospects Group, World Bank, Washington, D.C., 19 April 2013, available at <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPROSPECTS/Resources/334934-1288990760745/MigrationDevelopmentBrief20.pdf>.

² *International labour migration: A rights-based approach*, Geneva, International Labour Office, 2010, p. 18.

³ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *International Migration in a Globalizing World: The Role of Youth*, Population Division, United Nations, New York, 2011.

⁴ International Labour Office, Governing Body, 316th Session, Geneva, 1-16 November 2012, Policy Development Section, Employment and Social Protection Segment, Decision of 8 November 2012. See http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB316-decision/WCMS_192865/lang--en/index.htm. For the background document (GB.316/POL/1) informing this decision, see http://www.ilo.org/gb/GBSessions/GB316/pol/WCMS_191013/lang--en/index.htm.

⁵ These basic social security guarantees comprise essential health care to all persons; basic income security for children; basic income security to persons of active age who are unable to earn a sufficient income, in particular in cases of sickness, unemployment, maternity and disability; and basic income security for older persons.

⁶ Additional international labour standards of particular relevance are the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), which has now achieved six ratifications and which was the subject of extensive discussions at both the government and civil society parts of the recent GFMD summit meeting in Mauritius; and the Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181), which contains salient standards regarding the recruitment of migrant workers. The ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202), referred to above, is also important.

⁷ The Framework also featured prominently as an important resource tool in wide-ranging discussions on labour migration during Civil Society Days at the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) in November 2011. Pursuant to the Governing Body decision in November 2012, the ILO is conducting an in-depth evaluation of its response to the changing landscape of international labour migration, including its progress on the promotion of the Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration with a view to better offering an informed contribution to the High-level Dialogue.

⁸ For example, see the bilateral memorandum of cooperation between the Azerbaijan Trade Union Confederation (ATUC) and the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia (FNPR), and that between the ATUC and the Georgia Trade Union Confederation.

⁹ See ILO 2012 Global estimate of forced labour – Executive summary, available at http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_181953.pdf, p. 3, estimating that 9.1 million of internal and international migrants are victims of trafficking and forced labour (comprising 44 per cent of the total victims of forced labour).

¹⁰ See <http://www.ilocarib.org.tt/trade/dw.html>

¹¹ In partnership with the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare, the Department of Fisheries, the Marine Department, the National Fisheries Association of Thailand (NFAT), the Seafarers Union of Burma, and civil society partners. The ILO has provided detailed comments on a Ministerial Regulation on Work in Fishing aiming at bringing the Regulation in line with the ILO Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188). The NFAT is developing a Code of Conduct, and is proposing to the Government a new means of recruiting fishers that allows more migrant workers to obtain and retain their regular status and receive training prior to starting work in the sector. The project has also commissioned a quantitative survey on working conditions in the fishing sector – the largest survey of its kind, with a sample of 500 fishers in four provinces. See the brochure available at: http://www.ilo.org/asia/whatwedo/projects/WCMS_145664/lang--en/index.htm

¹² The overall aim of the Action Programme was to develop and disseminate strategies and good practices for the governance of health services' migration from the supplying countries' perspective. Kenya continues to be engaged in an ongoing social dialogue on health worker migration in the context of that country's overall reform of its national labour migration legislation.

¹³ See http://www.ilo.org/sector/Resources/publications/WCMS_180596/lang--en/index.htm.

Annex



ILO/MIGRANT - Technical Cooperation Projects

Asia and the Pacific Region

PROMOTING DECENT WORK THROUGH GOOD GOVERNANCE, PROTECTION AND EMPOWERMENT OF MIGRANT WORKERS: ENSURING THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SRI LANKA NATIONAL LABOUR MIGRATION POLICY PHASE II (2013-2015) PARTNER: MINISTRY OF LABOUR OF SRI LANKA

The ILO is working with the Ministry of Labour of Sri Lanka to ensure the effective implementation of the Sri Lanka National Labour Migration Policy by supporting Sri Lankan stakeholders in the implementation of its policy provisions. The three objectives are to: i) strengthen policy, legal and institutional frameworks of the migration process, and protection and empowerment of migrant workers and their families; ii) review and enhance the processes for improved governance and protection and empowerment of migrant workers and their families; iii) improve efficiency and effectiveness of protection and grievance mechanisms and procedures through institutional strengthening. The project is financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

TRIPARTITE ACTION TO PROTECT MIGRANTS WITHIN AND FROM THE GMS FROM LABOUR EXPLOITATION (2010-2015)

The ILO is working with policy makers, practitioners and migrants themselves to significantly reduce the labour exploitation of women and men migrants through increased legal, safe, and orderly migration/recruitment channels, and improved labour protection and decent work mechanisms in the six participating countries (Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam) by addressing a number of factors that contribute to the limited implementation of migrant recruitment and protection policies. The project is financed by the Australian Aid Agency.

TRIPARTITE ACTION TO PROTECT MIGRANTS IN THE ASEAN REGION FROM LABOUR EXPLOITATION (ASEAN TRIANGLE PROJECT) (2012-2016)

The TRIANGLE ASEAN project aims at significantly reducing the exploitation of labour migrants in the region through increased legal and safe migration and improved labour protection. The project is implemented in Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. The project promotes both bilateral and regional approaches to deal with shared concerns, make regionalism more effective, and enhance the capacity of institutions in ASEAN. The project objectives are in line with the strategic priorities of the ASEAN Labour Ministers Work Programme (2010-2015):

- A stronger regional legal and policy framework to more effectively govern labour migration and protect the rights of women and men migrant workers, in a gender responsive manner;
- Enhanced capacity of governments to oversee the enforcement of labour and migration laws and regulations, in a gender responsive manner; and
- Enhanced capacity of social partners to influence labour migration policy and protect the rights of women and men migrant workers.

PROMOTING DECENT WORK ACROSS BORDERS: A PILOT PROJECT FOR MIGRANT HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND SKILLED WORKERS (2010-2014) PARTNER: PSI

The ILO is working with partners in the Philippines, India, and Vietnam to improve governance of circular migration of professionals and highly skilled personnel in the health care sector through the development of a pilot scheme of specialized employment services and a system for skills testing and certification for main destination countries in Europe. This project is funded by the European Commission

PROMOTING DECENT WORK THROUGH IMPROVED MIGRATION POLICY AND ITS APPLICATION TO BANGLADESH (2011-2014) PARTNER: UN WOMEN

The ILO is working with partners to strengthen the governance of labour migration in Bangladesh to include: (a) improving national policy and institutional frameworks; (b) improving the operational efficiency and effectiveness in overseas employment promotion, including recruitment regulation and awareness raising at central and local levels; and, (c) developing better information and assistance services for migrant male and female workers while abroad and upon return. The project is financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

LABOUR GOVERNANCE & MIGRATION (2012-2014)

ILO is working through a multi-country technical cooperation project to strengthen labour market governance and improve the development impact of labour migration within the Pacific. The effort is working to build capacity of governments, unions, businesses and local communities in Kiribati, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu and Vanuatu to provide return migrant workers with effective reintegration services, based on identified needs. Good practice relating to pre-departure services will also be identified and promoted. Workers under New Zealand's Recognized Seasonal Employer Scheme and Australia's Pacific Seasonal Workers Pilot Scheme are specifically targeted.

PROMOTING THE EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE OF LABOUR MIGRATION FROM SOUTH ASIA THROUGH ACTIONS ON LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION, PROTECTION DURING RECRUITMENT AND EMPLOYMENT, SKILLS, AND DEVELOPMENT IMPACT PARTNERS: MINISTRY OF LABOUR OF NEPAL AND MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES OF PAKISTAN (2013-2016)

The overall objective of the project is to promote well-managed labour migration from South Asia, to ensure effective protection of the rights of vulnerable migrant workers, and to enhance the development impact of labour migration and reduce irregular flows. Specific objective(s) include: a) providing reliable information on overseas employment opportunities, and build capacity for matching qualified job seekers with the demand from foreign employers; b) reducing migration costs and recruitment abuses in countries of origin and destination by improving recruitment services; and increase protection of migrant workers during employment; and, c) enhancing training, portability of skills for outgoing and returning migrant workers, and to promote the development impact of migration.

Africa Region

LABOUR MIGRATION GOVERNANCE AND ITS LINK TO DEVELOPMENT (2009-2013)

The ILO is implementing a project in Senegal, Mauritania and Mali, with the support of Spain, to maximise development benefits of migration. The project enhances the employability of migrant workers by supporting vocational training institutions and improvement of training and employment services in countries of origin. It also promotes effective reintegration of migrants in national labour markets upon return.

IMPROVING GOVERNANCE OF LABOUR MIGRATION AND PROTECTION OF MIGRANT WORKERS' RIGHTS IN TUNISIA, MOROCCO, LIBYA AND EGYPT (2013-2015) PARTNER: OHCHR

The ILO is partnering with the OHCHR to promote good governance of labour migration and protection of male and female migrant workers' rights in Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt and Libya with a view to enhance the development benefits of labour migration. The project strategy is designed along institutional strengthening and capacity building interventions targeting Government institutions and social partners. In order to strengthen national institutional capacities to govern labour migration and to reinforce male and female migrant workers protection the project: i) provides national stakeholders with adequate knowledge, capacities and practical tools to elaborate and implement coherent rights-based and gender-sensitive labour migration policies/strategies through a highly participative process of consultation with social partners and relevant civil society organizations ii) supports the reinforcement of national laws and practices concerning labour migration and the protection of migrant workers in light of relevant international instruments; and iii) supports an intra-regional dialogue on labour mobility and protection of migrant workers.

DEVELOPMENT OF A TRIPARTITE FRAMEWORK FOR THE SUPPORT AND PROTECTION OF ETHIOPIAN AND SOMALI WOMEN DOMESTIC MIGRANT WORKERS TO THE GCC STATES, LEBANON AND SUDAN (2013-2016) PARTNERS: UN WOMEN, IOM (2013-2016)

The project aims to develop a coherent framework of migration policy across national boundaries in order to ensure the rights of low skilled, rural women domestic workers from the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia and Somalia) in the Middle East and Sudan. The project seeks to improve coordination and cooperation of social partners, civil society, institutions and organizations working on migration issues in Ethiopia, as well as in the receiving countries. In addition, the project provides women domestic workers with accurate information prior to migration and with safe havens to turn to in emergencies.

Arab States Region

Improving the Governance and Protection Mechanisms for Labour Migration in the middle east (2012/2014)

The ILO has developed a regional programme in the Middle East in order to provide the necessary technical support to national constituents to improve the governance and protection mechanisms afforded to low-skilled women and men migrant workers in different sectors (construction, manufacturing, health, retail, hospitality, tourism, and domestic help). The program has three major outcomes focus on regional data management, research and policy reform; service delivery to migrant workers; and capacity training programmes for key stakeholders. This regional project is the first of its kind in the Arab States, and underscores the ILO's commitment to technical cooperation in the field of labour migration. It has been developed in conjunction with another regional project promoting decent work for domestic workers and ongoing regional activities on the prevention of forced labour and trafficking.

Regional Advocacy Strategy on ILO's Domestic Workers Convention in the Arab States (2012/2014)

The ILO is building on the momentum generated by the adoption of Convention 189 and Recommendation 201 concerning decent work for domestic workers, by rolling out a broader regional advocacy strategy in the Arab States. The aim of the initiative is to determine, with ILO constituents, ways in which national laws could be adapted in conformity with the new international legal standards, as well as to examine the possibility of Arab States ratifying the Domestic Workers Convention. The program will focus on Bahrain, Jordan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Oman over a period of two years. The ILO will also seek to respond to the concerns and needs of its constituents as they find ways at the national level to promote and protect the rights of domestic workers.

Action Programme for Protecting the Rights of Women Migrant Domestic Workers (WMDWs) in Lebanon (2010-2013)

The project aims at contributing to improving the conditions of work for women migrant domestic workers in Lebanon. A series of activities were undertaken to enhance the understanding of workers' rights among domestic workers, their employers, employment agencies, teachers and social partners. As a key partner, the Ministry of Labour is actively engaged with the ILO RO-Beirut to disseminate an information guide on domestic migrant workers' rights. The Ministry of Labour has also established a hotline service for migrant workers.

PROTECTING MIGRANT WORKERS' RIGHTS IN JORDAN (2012-2013)

The ILO is engaged in a project led by ILO with Business for Social Responsibility (BSR) as a key partner, to adopt a three pronged strategy to bring about improvements in the respect of the fundamental rights of workers in Jordan, particularly foreign migrant workers. It is supporting trade unions to reach out to and empower migrant workers, as well as provide them with better services and information; it is engaging with factory and QIZ managers, employers and recruitment agencies to increase their awareness and capacity to respect workers' rights, through improved recruitment and employment practices; and finally, support to labour-management cooperation will bring the two parties together in order to conclude more and better collective bargaining agreements in the QIZ and the construction sector. Some support will also be given to the Ministry of Labour to enable it to fulfill particular functions essential to protect migrant workers' rights, including better regulation of private employment agencies. The project targets men and women workers, in particularly migrant workers, and employers in three sectors vulnerable to exploitative labour practices, namely construction, apparel production in the QIZs, and, to a lesser extent, domestic work.

Collaborative Action Programme to Prevent Trafficking of Women and Girls in South Asia (2013/2018)

The Collaborative Action Programme to Prevent Trafficking of Women and Girls in South Asia (CAPSA) is a five-year, technical cooperation programme that will take a targeted approach to tackling trafficking of women and girls from South Asia. The overall development objective is to reach 100,000 women and girls in major South Asian countries (India, Nepal, Bangladesh) and major destination countries of South Asian workers (India, U.A.E and Lebanon) resulting in an overall reduction in the incidence of trafficking. Primary objectives are to empower and better protect women migrant workers and girls; reduce the demand of cheap and exploitable labour by creating positive incentives for companies, recruitment agencies and employers; and to create a robust evidence base for more effective anti-trafficking interventions. Key stakeholders include private sector actors, international organizations and above all, the collective voice of women workers. In partnership with other UN agencies, project interventions take a joint labour and criminal law focus, to transform the labour market imbalances that exacerbate women worker vulnerabilities to trafficking while strengthening monitoring and enforcement measures. Particular attention is paid to high-risk sectors for labour exploitation, including domestic work and the garment sector.

Latin America and Caribbean Region

PROMOTION OF GENDER-SENSITIVE LABOUR MIGRATION POLICIES IN COSTA RICA, HAITI, NICARAGUA, PANAMA AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (2011-2014) PARTNER: OAS AND ISCOD

The objective is to strengthen the capacity of policy makers and social partners to adopt and implement gender-sensitive labour migration policies, legislation and administration. Its strategic objectives include to: i) promote the adoption and implementation of gender sensitive labour migration policies legislation and administration for better regulation of labour migration flows; ii) promote and support strategies to enhance social security coverage of migrant worker and their families; iii) support the improvement of skills' matching between sending and receiving countries and reduce de-skilling. Countries covered include Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic. The project is funded by the European Commission.

Europe and Central Asia Region

PROMOTING INTEGRATION OF MIGRANT DOMESTIC Workers in Europe (2011-2013) PARTNERS: FIERI, FONDO ORTEGA-GASSET, ETUC

The project aims at expanding the knowledge about the possible integration outcomes of admission and employment policies for Migrant Domestic Workers who are usually low skilled and enhance stakeholders' capacities to identify and remove barriers for their socioeconomic integration. The project covers work in 4 European Union countries: Belgium, France, Italy and Spain.

EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE OF LABOUR MIGRATION AND ITS SKILLS DIMENSION (2010-2013) PARTNERS: IOM, THE WORLD BANK

The overall objective of the project is to strengthen organizational and institutional capacity of the appropriate institutions in Moldova and Ukraine to regulate legal labour migration and promote sustainable return with a particular focus on enhancing human resources capital and preventing skills waste. The project intends to build capacities i) to analyse the skills shortages and oversupply as a result of migration; ii) to balance migration flows and return with national needs and EU Member States skills needs; iii) to negotiate and manage labour migration schemes, including bilateral agreements on social protection; iv) to govern labour migration, enact relevant legislation and engage social partners.

The Labour Market Integration of New Immigrants in Europe: Analysis and Policy Evaluation (2012-2014) Partner: MPI

The research project focusses on labour market integration of newly arrived immigrants in six EU countries. The project will provide new empirical evidence on the labour-market integration trajectories of newly arrived immigrants into middle-skilled jobs. Relying on a combination of data analysis, qualitative research, and interviews with policymakers and social partners, the project will assess the opportunities for upward occupational mobility among new arrivals in the sectors in which they are concentrated and examine concrete steps that governments can take to ensure that immigrant-integration policies and the broader system of workforce-development, training, and employment programs support new arrivals' access to well-paying, stable jobs.

Global

GLOBAL ACTION PROGRAMME ON MIGRANT DOMESTIC WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES (2013-2016)

PARTNERS: UN WOMEN, OHCHR, KSBSI

The project has the overall objective to enhance decent work opportunities for migrant domestic workers (MDW), by reducing their vulnerability to exploitation and abuse and mitigating the adverse impact of migration on families left behind by a) enhancing the global knowledge base on migration in global care chains through comparative, quantitative and qualitative research in selected countries; b) raising awareness about human and labour rights of migrant domestic workers, including rights as key actors of social and economic development; and, c) testing innovative approaches in selected pilot countries to protect, support and empower migrant domestic workers at all stages of the migration cycle. It focuses on 5 Migration corridors: Nepal-UAE; Indonesia Malaysia, Zimbabwe-South Africa; Ukraine-Poland; Paraguay-Argentina.