Global Action Programme on Migrant Domestic Workers

Presentation of Global Project
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Labour Migration Information-Sharing Session, Maseru, LESOTHO, 2015
Outline

1. Global context: Migrant Domestic Workers
2. The Global Action Programme on MDW and their Families
1. Global context

1) More than 52 million domestic workers worldwide.
   - Contrary to what was expected few decades ago (DW was expected to disappear with modernity) it has increased.
   - Precarious labour conditions. In many countries excluded from labour protection, and where they are covered by labour law, high level of informality and non-compliance.

2) This phenomenon is linked to the crisis of traditional care systems, due to increasing women’s participation rate, demographic changes (aging societies, etc) and the “commodification” of care (hiring a domestic worker to do care and household work previously done by family members) and patterns of inequality at the global level and inside countries.

3) Convention 189, adopted by ILC in 2011 recognizes that DW are workers, establishes minimum standards and call for legal and policy action in order to grant them same rights as all workers.
1. Global context
2. The GAP Project

Main objective:

• Project seeks to promote the human and labour rights of migrant domestic workers worldwide by addressing the challenges that make migrant domestic workers particularly vulnerable to the risks of exploitation and abuse.

3 specific objectives:

• Enhance research and practical knowledge on migration and trafficking issues with regards to domestic work across global care chains.

• Strengthen the capacities of policy makers, domestic worker and employer organizations, and practitioners to advocate for migrant domestic workers’ access to decent work and human rights.

• Pilot-test national capacity building approaches to promote rights-based policies and regulations and empower migrant domestic workers throughout all stages of the migration cycle.
2. The GAP Project

HOW?

- Multidisciplinary, participatory, and evidence-based approach for the purpose of developing and strengthening national labour laws, migration policies, and recruitment regulations and practices that are oriented towards achieving decent work for migrant domestic workers across global care chains.

WHERE?

- 11 countries
- 5 corridors: Ukraine-Poland, Zimbabwe-South Africa-Lesotho, Indonesia-Malaysia, Nepal-Lebanon, and Paraguay-Argentina
2. The GAP Project

**RESEARCH**

- Country Profile (incl. stats)
- Research report based on original / secondary research leading to identification of policy development needs

**ACTIVITIES**

- Validation workshops with constituents
- Technical assistance to policy development
- Capacity-building activities with social partners
IN LEBANON, A NEW DOMESTIC WORKERS TRADE UNION FIGHTS KAFALA

by Emmanuelle Hadad.

“I left Sri Lanka when I was 24, to support my parents. On reaching Lebanon, I found myself working non-stop from 6am until 10pm in the morning. It was slavery. There was no one to help me back then, but now we have hope.”
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