3. Intra-regional dialogue on labour mobility and protection of migrant workers is strengthened.

- Main bilateral agreements between the targeted countries reviewed;
- National capacities to develop gender sensitive bilateral labour migration agreements strengthened;
- An action agenda is drafted during a tripartite sub regional workshop on “Intra-regional mobility and protection of migrant workers”.

**Target Groups and Partners**

The project will target:

- Public institutions involved in the governance of labour migration: Ministries of Labour, Employment/Manpower, Social Affairs, Vocational Training, Foreign Affairs, and other ministries or public institution in charge of nationals abroad.
- Public employment services, employment and vocational training observatories and social security institutions will also be targeted.
- Employers’ and Workers’ Organizations will be involved in targeted training on protection of migrant workers’ rights, labour migration governance, data collection, social security, labour administration, linkages between migration and domestic labour market policy, as well as migration and development, to build effective social dialogue within the context of tripartite working groups and mechanisms.
- The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) will be the main implementing partner in the project.
- NGOs, migrant associations and academia (researchers and institutes focusing on migration) will also be involved.

**Regions and countries covered**

North Africa (Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia)

**Duration**

Three years; starting in September 2013

**Donor**

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

**ILO Unit responsible**

Regional Office for Africa

Decent Work Team for North Africa (Cairo)

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Background

In the North Africa region, unemployment, underemployment, informality of employment and decent work deficits triggered the social unrest leading to the 2011 revolutions and contributed to the ongoing political transformation processes. The same phenomena play important roles in determining migration dynamics.

To enhance the development potential of labour migration in Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt and Libya, the development of comprehensive, gender-sensitive responses to govern migrant workers’ mobility is needed. Labour mobility is an important tool to adjust skills, gender, age and the sectoral composition of national labour markets and to adapt skills and labour to labour markets’ needs and a changing environment.

An adequate regulatory framework and comprehensive labour migration policies at the sub-regional level, based on international standards, are crucial to enhance the development potential of migration and ensure the protection of migrant workers’ rights. Strengthened policy development and coherence, as well as the incorporation of migration issues in national development plans, would help improve migrant workers’ protection and facilitate migrant workers’ labour market insertion. Furthermore, national legislation and labour codes need to be reviewed with the aim of promoting enhanced harmonization with international standards and sub-regional protocols.

Objectives

This project aims at promoting good governance of labour migration and protection of male and female migrant workers’ rights in Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt and Libya with a view to enhancing the development benefits of labour migration.

To reach its goals, the project intends to:

- Provide national stakeholders 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;
- Support the strengthening of national laws and practices concerning labour migration and the protection of migrant workers in light of relevant international instruments;
- Support an intra-regional dialogue on labour mobility and protection of migrant workers.

Main Activities

- Drafting and dissemination of national baseline studies;
- Development of action plans for institutional strengthening;
- Development of tailored training curricula and material;
- Implementation of tripartite training and workshops;
- Establishment of a consultation mechanism among civil society organizations;
- Creation of national tripartite working groups, in charge of providing strategic inputs and policy recommendations and to support the drafting of a migration policy;
- Provision of technical advisory services to support inter-departmental coordination and collaboration mechanisms;
- Draft of a migration policy based on participatory approach;
- Publication of national studies on relevant international legal standards, including those addressing gender equality issues, and recommendations for strengthening national legal frameworks and enforcement mechanisms in line with ILO conventions and the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of Their families;
- Conduct a sub-regional study on the main bilateral labour agreements/MoUs, sub-regional protocols, social security agreements and existing practices within the sub-region;
- Carry out targeted training on bilateral labour agreements;
- Carry out a tripartite sub-regional workshop on labour mobility and labour migrants’ rights in North Africa.

Outcomes

1. National institutional capacities for regulating labour migration are reinforced.
   - Capacity building and institutional strengthening needs assessed (Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, Libya);
   - National capacities on labour migration strengthened through targeted trainings (Tunisia, Morocco);
   - National roadmaps for developing national labour migration policies are developed through tripartite discussions (Tunisia, Morocco);
   - Technical assistance on inter-departmental coordination mechanisms provided in Morocco and Tunisia or Egypt, as well as specific trainings for Tunisian labour attachés and assistance for the implementation of a “legal watch mechanism” in Morocco;
   - Process of developing a national labour migration policy advanced in Morocco.

2. National institutional capacities for protecting migrants’ rights are enhanced.
   - Legislations on migrant workers and practices reviewed to better protect male and female migrant workers;
   - Social partners’ capacities to protect migrant workers are strengthened in Tunisia and Morocco.