



MIGRATION AND YOUTH: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES*

Key Messages and Policy Recommendations

KEY MESSAGES

1. Youth migrants comprise a significant proportion of migrant stocks worldwide – some 28 million 15-to- 24-year-olds – representing 12 per cent of the global migrant stock in 2013.

Migration offers young women and men opportunities to obtain productive and decent employment, improve socio-economic status, learn new skills, and increase human and financial capital. Youth migration is set to increase, giving young people a tremendous potential for enhancing and sustaining development, productivity, and economic stability worldwide. Young people often face limited opportunities for decent work; some confront political circumstances, social situations or life conditions that compel them to leave their country of origin. Others migrate to reunite with their families, get married or pursue opportunities for tertiary education abroad. At the same time, young people are in demand for employment at all skill levels in destination countries.

2. Little concrete data and research are available on youth migrants.

Available global migration data provides mainly statistics on stocks, revealing little about migrants' age, sex, education or other important factors. Good governance policy and practice require a stronger evidence base on migration by collecting and disseminating detailed data disaggregated by age and sex, country of birth, country of previous residence, country of citizenship, education, occupation, employment status, qualifications and skill level. Relevant information – concerning for example health, education, and social protection conditions, migration status and work and residence permit situations, as well as changes in nationality and migrant parentage of youth – will help design and implement effective policies for youth migrants. Qualitative as well as quantitative research is needed. Many governments lack adequate capacity to collect, analyse and make use of this data, which is required to design and implement effective policy and practice.

3. Migrant youth face risks compounded by their age, gender, migration status, and cultural identity. Policies must address specific conditions, risks and vulnerabilities of young migrants, taking into account their resilience and adaptability.

Young migrants are generally resilient, ambitious and adaptable, and are sought after by employers. However, while migrant youth commonly face social exclusion, disruption of family, and absence of social protection, young women and girl migrants are more at risk of abuse, discrimination and gender-based violence, including sexual violence. Youth migrants belonging to specific ethnic or cultural groups, as well as youth with disabilities, face particular difficulties. Available data show that youth, particularly migrant youth, are more likely to experience unemployment, lack of access to decent work, exploitative working conditions, inadequate access to skills and vocational training, and social marginalisation and exclusion. Development benefits, protection, employment, and social participation and inclusion can be achieved with policy approaches and frameworks addressing specific age-groups, education and skill levels, and gender differences that effectively meet young migrants' diverse needs, experiences, challenges and opportunities.

4. The international human and labour rights normative framework applies to all migrants regardless of status, including adolescents and youth.

Protection and respect for, and fulfilment of, the human rights of all young migrants forms a solid foundation for effective migration and development policies. Restrictions on, and outright violations of, the human rights of young migrants (including those in irregular situations) have significant detrimental effects, making them particularly vulnerable to discrimination, social exclusion, violence, abuse and exploitation as they transition from childhood to adulthood. The impact of these rights restrictions and violations on young migrants is largely unexplored, but is clearly associated with, inter alia, mental health and psycho-social development challenges that are not only harmful in the short term, at a critical stage of individual development, but severely curtail the long-term opportunities and benefits that migration can represent for these young people and their communities. A rights-based, age- sensitive and equity-focused approach to migration and development is essential to ensuring the realisation of the rights of all women and men in the context of migration and to unleashing the positive potential of youth migration. At the same time, the age- and gender- specific vulnerabilities faced by young migrants should be recognised and

addressed through legislative and policy reform, and young people should be empowered to claim their rights.

5. Facilitating equitable access to social protection enhances young migrants' well-being and developmental contributions.

Social protection is a critical tool for addressing economic and social risks yet young migrants often face restricted access to, or exclusion from, social protection and social security. Adolescent and youth migrants need to be covered by existing social protection mechanisms, without territoriality, nationality and legal status barriers, that are responsive to specific needs of young migrant women and girls. Governments have primary responsibility for ensuring effective access to social security. Significant steps to extend social protection can be taken unilaterally by countries. Social dialogue plays a key role in formulating and implementing social security policies. ILO Conventions and Recommendations provide comprehensive legal and policy guidance for extending social protection to young migrants. The ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202) provides a framework for universal protection. Strategies to extend social protection should progressively ensure higher levels of social security to adolescent and youth migrants. Important progress has been achieved by multilateral social security frameworks complementing free circulation regimes in regional economic communities.

6. Gender equality must be considered in policy and practice affecting young women migrants.

The achievement of gender equality is a fundamental condition for the full enjoyment of human rights by young women and men. Young women are an important part of the migration phenomenon, and often face multiple forms of discrimination—as women, young people and migrants, as well as on ethnic or racial grounds. Migration is an opportunity and enriching experience for many young women. However, for others, it is a source of vulnerability, violence and disruption. Specific policies are required to maximise beneficial aspects of migration for young women while minimising potential harms. Key areas for attention are detailed throughout this report: collecting and disseminating sex- and age-disaggregated data; promoting their economic and social empowerment; ensuring protection of the rights, safety and security of young female migrants in legislation, administration and practice; enabling active participation in decisions affecting them and in youth and civil society organisations; increasing access to primary and reproductive health care services; increasing access to decent work, education and skills training; providing

information about the migration experience and their rights; ensuring that young women migrants have and retain documents proving their identity and age; and preventing trafficking while ensuring protection of victims. It is crucial to recognise and promote the role and contribution of female migrants in the development process as agents of change: in their lives, in the lives of their families, and in societies of origin, transit and destination.

7. There is critical need to ensure protection for adolescents and youth – including unaccompanied and separated children – seeking asylum.

Children and adolescents have the right to seek asylum. Child-specific forms and manifestations of persecution make a child-sensitive refugee status determination crucial. Child Protection systems in countries of origin, transit and destination - are key for the protection of children and adolescents in migratory flows. Immigration detention of asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons is inherently undesirable, especially for young people and unaccompanied or separated children. Given harm caused and detrimental long term impact, alternatives to detention are needed. Regularized migration alternatives that include effective family reunification and ensure access of refugee youth to employment opportunities are essential to reduce irregular migration and risks of trafficking. Regional approaches are advised to address the drivers and challenges faced by youth and adolescent refugees and asylum-seekers

8. Ensuring decent work fosters the development benefits of migration as well as protection and inclusion of young migrant workers.

Labour migration push-pull factors are intensifying: high unemployment and absence of opportunities push youth to migrate, while the pull of demand for labour and skills mobility is permanent, structural and growing, driven by technological changes, evolving markets, and spreading demographic transitions. However, many migrant youth face abuse, exploitation, absence of labour protection, and employment discrimination in destination countries, as well as unemployment and exclusion. Key challenges for governance are obtaining full rights protection and decent work, including through effective labour inspection, social inclusion for all young migrants, and obtaining freer circulation of persons in regional economic integration communities.

9. Decent work, economic growth and sustainable development that increase opportunities and social mobility for youth are critical to ensuring that migration is a matter of informed choice rather than necessity.

Youth in many countries, particularly in rural areas, are compelled to migrate by deficits of decent employment opportunities; limited access to credit, resources and markets; and lack of appeal or sustainability of traditional work. Migration that takes place as a result of informed choice is likely to reap positive development benefits. Making the option to remain in one's country of birth viable can reduce irregular migration and enhance local development. This entails: creating and facilitating opportunities for decent work for youth, as well as access to financial services, credit and markets; improving the quality of education and health services; and promoting meaningful participation by young migrants in decisions that affect their lives.

10. Remittances by young migrants play an ever-stronger role in the economies of many developing countries, but they are not a panacea to overcome development challenges.

Remittances are the part of personal earnings that migrants send home, usually to family members, to meet basic needs such as nutrition, housing, clothing, health care and schooling. Remittances by young migrants can have a significant impact on poverty reduction and human capital development. Measures that make remittance transactions more affordable and accessible to young migrants can enhance their development impact. Facilitating access, economy and ease of use of formal transfer channels will reduce incentives to use less reliable, informal channels. Promotion of communications technologies for transmitting remittances constitutes a first step towards increasing their development impact.

11. Children of migrants constitute a substantial and growing share of youth in many countries.

However, these children's educational achievement and access to employment often lag behind non-immigrant- origin peers. Integration of migrant parents through employment and training, promotion of early childhood education in multicultural settings, and development of job-training opportunities are remedies that have proven successful in some OECD countries.

12. Enhancing quality and harmonising standards of cross-border tertiary and vocational education leads to 'win-win' situations for students and employers in origin and destination countries.

The number of students migrating abroad is growing rapidly, a trend likely to continue. International collaboration is needed for cross-border higher education and technical training, including defining terminologies and unifying criteria for regulatory frameworks, particularly to ensure that qualifications obtained abroad are recognised at home and vice versa. International dialogue and collaboration are essential to defining standards that can be mutually recognised.

13. Certain health risks are elevated for youth migrants, and further heightened by other risks associated with migration.

Health is a vital asset for young migrants, critical to their productive employment as well as to the public health of host communities. Migrants often face heightened risks to their health due to conditions during transit and on arrival. These conditions are exacerbated when migrants lack access to health education, prevention, diagnostic and treatment services. Gender factors often increase health-related risks. Deliberate, targeted outreach by public health systems to young migrants is essential. Accurate data on the health of young migrants, as well as access to culturally appropriate health services and health-related information, including on sexual and reproductive health and available services, are cornerstones of comprehensive policies tailored to specific age-groups.

14. Mainstreaming migration into development planning and overall governance is critical to achieving coherent and effective policies and practices.

Migration is a key factor influencing sustainable development in countries worldwide. It affects economic, social, political, administrative and other aspects of governance in migrant origin, transit and destination countries. Migration therefore directly or indirectly demands a place on the agenda of a broad range of government ministries and agencies, from national to local levels. Mainstreaming migration into development planning and other relevant policy areas in a 'whole-of-government' approach recognises the implications of migration for any action planned as part of a development and/or poverty-reduction strategy. The large proportion of young people among today's migration flows and their significant presence

among migrant stocks demands fully incorporating their specific situations, needs and opportunities in all migration-related laws and policies.

15. Cities are epicentres of human mobility: local authorities are well placed to address issues faced by young migrants.

Local authorities and policies are crucial to ensuring migrant youth's access to employment, housing, schools, health care and participation, as well as to preventing exclusion. National policies that encourage integration and inclusion support local authorities to promote inclusive cities and neighbourhoods, and thus migrants' –particularly young women and men migrants'– contributions to development. Interface with migrant organisations is essential; migrant youth and women's associations will benefit from support in their efforts to obtain legitimacy and effective participation in, and access to, local government.

16. Fostering migrant youth and adolescent participation in their destination communities and in policy-making that concerns them is crucial to protecting their rights, to integration and to social cohesion.

Migrant youth and adolescent participation realizes their universal human rights to expression, information, conscience, association and peaceful assembly. Migrant youth and adolescent engagement in community groups, unions, youth associations and other civil society organisations is essential to their participation in community life; all such organisations should facilitate migrant youth participation. Inclusive participation by migrant adolescents and youth in shaping and implementing migration and other policies affecting them is critical to taking account of their views, needs, experiences and recommendations; young migrants' participation in all steps including implementation and monitoring yields vital insights for policy-making, improves effective implementation and strengthens sustainability of interventions. Governments can enhance meaningful participation by ensuring that young migrants enjoy their rights to participation

17. Environmental change, both sudden and gradual, directly and indirectly influences the propensity to migrate; these factors and resulting displacement are expected to increase in the coming years and will particularly impact youth.

Migration can be a successful adaptation strategy for young people when they are actively involved in the institutional responses to environmental change. Raising awareness and involving and empowering young people is at the heart of the response to environmental

change. It also represents a significant component of governing migration in the context of environmental change. However, research and data on the complex environmental degradation/climate change nexus is lacking. There is no protection framework for environment/climate change-displaced persons and existing laws, policies and institutional arrangements are inadequate to address this specific type of human mobility.

18. International migration, with particular attention to adolescent and youth migrants, needs to be a fundamental part of the post-2015 UN Development Agenda.

The social, economic, fiscal and political implications of evolving demographic changes – with developed countries facing ageing populations and declining workforces while many less-developed countries experience ‘youth bulges’ – make migration a major development challenge and opportunity. As such, it needs to be an explicit and important component of the post-2015 UN Development Agenda. The October 2013 GMG position paper on Integrating Migration in the Post- 2015 UN Development Agenda highlighted inter-agency consensus that the human rights (including labour rights) and well-being of migrants should be addressed through appropriately disaggregated indicators. There is also agreement that an essential foundation for addressing migration and development is a human rights-based normative framework that guarantees rights as well as equal access and opportunity, and involves shared responsibilities between countries of origin, transit and destination. Incorporating youth migration implies goals, targets and disaggregated indicators defined in consultation with young migrants in cases where migration is relevant to the achievement of specific development goals.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Recognise and commit to addressing issues of youth migration

- Governments, parliaments, policy-makers, social partners and civil society should explicitly consider youth migration in their work.
- Commit to establishing laws, policies, programmes and practices that ensure respect, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of all adolescent and youth migrants, and that take into account the different needs and contributions of female and male migrants.

2. Strengthen the evidence base on youth migration

- Commit to and invest in enhancing the collection, dissemination and analysis of data on youth and adolescent migrants, disaggregated by age and sex, education, qualifications, occupation, employment situation, and skill level, as well as country of origin, country of birth, country(ies) of previous residence, and country of citizenship.
- Build the capacity of governments, their specialised institutions, and cooperating partners to obtain and apply this data and other relevant information on health, education, social protection, migration status and migrant parentage to relevant policies and programmes.
- Foster qualitative and quantitative research on experiences, conditions, needs and aspirations of young migrants.
- Identify, disseminate and replicate relevant good practices.

3. Enact national and local legislation on youth migration

- Enact national and local legislation related to migration policy and practice, grounded in the rule of law and based on relevant international human rights standards, including labour rights, to reinforce governance that prevents discrimination, violence, abuse, exploitation and exclusion regarding young and adolescent female and male migrants.

- Review and revise, as necessary, existing migration legislation, policies, regulations and practices to ensure that they are rights-based and age- and gender-sensitive.
- Develop and implement – in consultation with local authorities and relevant government departments and civil society, including young migrants – specific national and local migration policy frameworks (legislation, action plans, institutional structures and practical steps) to effectively address the risks, conditions, needs and potential of young migrants, and allocate sufficient human and material resources for their implementation.
- Provide training to authorities (particularly civil registry, public and private service providers, and police, military, border and judicial system personnel), as well as to other social actors who interact with young migrants, on appropriate, respectful and gender-sensitive behaviour towards young migrants and their family members.

4. Apply a human rights-based, age-sensitive, and equity-focused approach to youth migration and development

- Ratify, implement and monitor all international human rights and labour conventions relevant to youth migration.¹⁷
- Evaluate and reform legislation and policy to remove legal and practical barriers to the fulfilment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of young people in the context of migration, regardless of migration status.
- Make full use of the Convention on the Rights of the Child as a tool for advancing the rights of adolescents and youth impacted by migration. Migrants under 18 years of age must enjoy the special protections afforded to them by child rights frameworks, including implementation of the guiding principles of the CRC.¹⁸
- The special protections enshrined in the CRC should not cease when adolescents turn 18 years of age, but instead be adapted to support young migrants as they transition from childhood to adulthood.

- Empower migrant adolescents and youth to defend, access and enjoy their rights, in particular by ensuring access to justice regardless of status (including competent legal representation and remedies for complaint and redress), and by building the capacity of youth-led organisations.
- Ensure that irregular entry and stay are not classified as criminal offences in national laws, and separate service provision from immigration enforcement.
- Enhance regular migration channels for work and family reunification, and make available permanent mechanisms to access long-term regular migration status.
- Adopt or reform regional and national laws, policies and practices – accompanied by appropriate capacity-building to facilitate enforcement – to ensure respect for the principle that categorically prohibits immigration-related detention of non-criminal adolescent migrants under 18 years of age.¹⁹
- Provide suitable alternatives to detention for adolescents, and for their families when accompanied.
- Prioritise adolescents and youth in the context of migration, in particular those undocumented, in legislation and policies to prevent violence, racism, xenophobia and discrimination, as well as in assistance to survivors.

5. Extend social protection measures to incorporate young migrants

- Ratify and implement relevant international conventions on the right to social security, equality of treatment and portability of social security for non-nationals.
- Implement the ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation to cover youth migrants and their families where they reside, as well as in their home country. Provide effective access to universal social protection rights for all adolescent and youth migrants.
- Conclude bilateral, regional and/or multilateral agreements that provide equality of treatment in respect of social security as well as access to, preservation of and portability of entitlements for migrant workers.

- Adopt unilateral measures to extend social protection coverage to all migrants, including citizens living abroad and non-nationals present in national territories. Ensure access to, at a minimum, basic social protection for adolescents and youth, including young female migrants, in countries of origin and destination.
- Ensure that social protection measures covering migrants apply to adolescents and children and to temporary and seasonal migration schemes.
- Implement existing regional frameworks on social security coverage and portability, while ensuring their applicability to adolescent and youth migrants.

6. Protect adolescent and young women migrants with gender-responsive measures

- In public and private institutions, eliminate discriminatory policies, regulations and practices, and put in place gender-sensitive policies, regulations and practices to ensure full participation, protection, and economic and social empowerment of young and adolescent female migrants.
- Establish specific measures to tackle gender inequality as a driver of, or a barrier to, migration; repeal laws and discourage practices that discriminate against girls and women.
- Enact and enforce laws that protect against early marriage, gender-based violence, including sexual violence, and trafficking; enact family legislation that specifies the equal rights of female family members left behind, including equal access to property and land; and enact laws to empower young women economically and socially.
- Prepare adolescents and youth, especially girls and young women, for migration by providing information about their rights and what to expect in the country of destination, and by ensuring that they have and retain access to birth certificates, passports, and other forms of identification.

7. Ensure Protection for Refugee, Asylum-Seeker and Stateless Youth and Adolescents

- Ensure protection-sensitive border control systems and ensure protection of adolescents through child-friendly procedures including best interests' assessments.
- Include alternatives to detention in national legal frameworks and practice, providing alternative care for unaccompanied and separated children and adolescents.
- Provide essential services and non-discriminatory access to comprehensive child protection mechanisms, including young people's access to justice. Support family tracing mechanisms and ensure access to legal documentation.
- Develop legislation and law enforcement against trafficking in human beings, ensuring prosecution of perpetrators and witness protection including adolescents and youth.
- Develop targeted capacity building and training programs for guardians, social workers, border guards and other officials working with adolescents and youth.
- Ensure safe and voluntary return while safeguarding the principle of non-refoulement,
- Implement regularized migration alternatives, including effective family unification procedures. Ensure access of refugee youth to regular labour migration schemes.

8. Establish decent work provisions applicable to all young migrants

- Ensure national adoption, and application to all migrants, of labour standards and decent work conditions in line with international labour standards.
- Enhance implementation of legal and policy frameworks for free circulation of persons in regional economic communities.

- Provide for labour inspection in the sectors and workplaces where migrants, particularly youth and adolescents, are employed.
- Ensure application of non-discrimination and equality of treatment and opportunity in employment and training for all young migrants.
- Obtain specific data on migrant youth employment, including distribution and characteristics, working conditions, and educational attainment.
- Mainstream youth employment, with attention to migrants, into national development plans, poverty-reduction initiatives, and Decent Work Country Programmes.

9. Provide youth in rural areas with alternatives to outmigration

- Create and facilitate opportunities for decent work and access to credit and markets for young people where they reside, to ensure that migration is an informed choice, not a necessity.
- Promote investment in rural infrastructure and agriculture to provide conditions that make remaining in place viable and sustainable.
- Expand access to education, apprenticeships, finance, and employment opportunities for young women and men in rural areas, including young migrants with disabilities, ensuring respect for individual needs and situations.

10. Facilitate remittances and lower their costs for young migrants

- Strengthen formal remittance channels and reduce transaction costs.
- Facilitate young migrants' access to financial services.
- Promote the use of new technologies oriented towards young users through government action, in cooperation with youth and the private sector.

11. Include children of immigrants in integration policy

- Promote the integration of children of immigrants in communities and labour markets by establishing targeted education and apprenticeship programmes.
- Expand early childhood education opportunities and facilities in immigrant communities.
- Develop on-the-job training opportunities targeted to children of immigrants, as well as to migrant youth.
- Enhance the integration of migrant parents through training and employment.

12. Facilitate mobility for higher education

- Establish or strengthen regional policy frameworks for quality governance of higher education and accreditation of educational and training institutions.
- Adopt comprehensive regulations and standards to manage quality and credentials of different forms of tertiary education, and systematically monitor implementation of credential accreditation and quality assurance in cross-border education policies.
- Establish or strengthen transferability and recognition mechanisms for educational credits and for professional, technical and vocational qualifications.
- Incorporate student bodies as partners in ensuring equal rights and opportunities for mobile students.
- Improve conditions for mobile students through student loans, housing services, health insurance and related programmes.

13. Ensure that health services reach young migrants

- Establish national public health system commitments and plans to identify, reach and ensure the inclusion of all migrants, particularly adolescents, youth and disadvantaged groups, such as migrant youth with disabilities.

- Specifically ensure young migrants' access to health education, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment services, commensurate with national capabilities.
- Extend gender-sensitive health service outreach or facilities, including for sexual and reproductive health, to areas where migrants, particularly youth migrants, may be concentrated, and take steps to overcome language and cultural barriers to service access, including through training of health service personnel.
- Ensure access to health by migrants in irregular situations by maintaining firewalls between health services provision and immigration enforcement.

14. Mainstream youth migration into migration governance, national policy-making, and development planning

- Include youth migration issues in all relevant aspects of government, particularly development plans and policies
- Establish a comprehensive migration governance agenda that incorporates youth migration into national policies and reflects full respect for international human rights.
- Conduct impact assessments on the implications of migration for any planned development action.

15. Involve local authorities in youth migration governance

- Establish local assessments, policies, institutions, mechanisms, programmes and actions to facilitate migrant reception and integration, with particular attention to migrant youth.
- Designate local authorities responsible for migration policies and programmes, and ensure that they are accessible to migrant youth.
- Provide national government support to local authorities on migration and mobility; establish consultative processes incorporating local authorities and young migrants.
- Facilitate and support migrant youth associations, migrant women's associations,

and migrant civil society participation.

- Institutionalise the collection of data on youth migration at the local level and conduct comparative research on migrant youth's engagement with local authorities, including coalition-building, new technologies, and local consultative processes.

16. Promote meaningful participation of migrant adolescents and youth

- Encourage migrant youth participation in civil society organisations, unions and community groups; support creation and recognition of migrant, diaspora and migrant youth organisations.
- Facilitate construction of solid networks, cooperation, and joint projects between young locals and young migrants.
- Involve a wide range of government and non-governmental stakeholders, including youth organisations and networks, in planning and carrying out participation activities with young migrants.
- Include migrant adolescents and youth in policy-making processes, follow through on their suggestions and recommendations, and ensure their continued participation from beginning to end of the process.
- Promote institutional arrangements to strengthen the capacity of young people affected by migration to participate at local, national and international levels.
- Create new opportunities for meaningful participation by adolescents and youth in migration and development research, debate, planning, policy and programme execution.
- Put in place specific pre-departure programmes in countries of origin and post-arrival orientation programmes in destination countries to better inform and prepare young migrants to actively participate in destination countries.
- Enhance data collection and sharing of good practices and promising examples of participation by young migrants in organisations and in migration policy-making processes, to enhance the evidence base for sound policy and promote policy innovation.

17. Address environment linkages to youth migration

- Improve knowledge about linkages between youth migration and climate change/environmental degradation.
- Identify a framework of principles and measures for the protection of persons displaced by climate change/environmental degradation.
- Develop institutional cooperation addressing the migration-climate change/environmental degradation nexus.
- Incorporate climate change/environmental degradation-induced displacement into comprehensive migration governance agendas.
- Frame migration and the climate change/ environmental degradation nexus within the post- 2015 United Nations Development agenda.
- Involve affected communities and diasporas in participatory policy planning and implementation.
- Ensure that young people have the means (information, education, resources, skills, networks, etc.) to address the challenges posed by environmental change.

18. Incorporate youth migration in the global development agenda

- Fully integrate international migration, including youth migration, into the post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda.
- Explicitly take into consideration the challenges and opportunities inherent in adolescent and youth migration when setting goals, targets and disaggregated indicators for the post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda.
- Promote participation by adolescent and youth migrants in the design of the post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda.

NOTES

1. Peter Sutherland, Migration is Development, 15 March 2013, Project Syndicate, available at: <http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/migrants-and-the-post-2015-global-development-agenda-by-peter-sutherland>
2. See: http://www.un.org/sg/priorities/sg_agenda_2012.pdf
3. See: <http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org/news/gmg-symposium-migration-and-youth-harnessing-opportunities-development-17-18-may-2011-new-york>
The Symposium was organized ahead of the Informal Thematic Debate of the UN General Assembly on International Migration and Development and during the International Year of Youth.
4. United Nations (1981), Report of the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year, A/36/215, Annex, United Nations, New York.
5. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) defines a child as “every human being below the age of 18 years” (CRC Article 1). Children may be granted certain rights and responsibilities at different ages by national legislation; however, there is international consensus on the legal definition of a child stemming from the CRC.
6. Adolescence is defined as the period following the onset of puberty during which a young person develops from a child into an adult. Therefore, it is very individual and there is no scientific or legal consensus on a specific age definition. The United Nations uses the age cohort 10-19 when referring to adolescence. However, individuals may experience some of the key physiological and psychological changes from an age earlier than 10, and later than 19 years. The upper boundary of adolescence is often raised to 21 or 25 years of age in contexts dealing with physical, social and mental health and development, with reference to on-going development during these years. Adolescence itself is not usually defined in legislation, though definitions are often linked to national laws setting the age of majority and legal ages for additional rights and responsibilities associated with adulthood.
7. UNICEF (2011), The State of the World’s Children. Adolescence – An Age of Opportunity, New York.
8. United Nations, World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision, UN Population Division, New York, 13 June 2013. Report, press statements and related documents available at: <http://esa.un.org/wpp/Documentation/publications.htm>
9. Danzhen You and David Anthony (2012), Generation 2025 and Beyond, UNICEF, New York.
10. ILO, The Youth Employment Crisis: Time for Action, Report V: 101 International Labour Conference, June 2012, ILC.101/V, Geneva. Available at: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_175421.pdf
11. UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda (2012), Realizing the Future We Want for All. Report to the Secretary-General. United Nations, New York, June 2012. Available at: http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Post_2015_UNTReport.pdf
12. See for example, United Nations Development Group (2013), A Million Voices: The World We Want. Available at: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/bitcache/cb02253d47a0f7d4318f41a4d11c330229991089?vid=422422&disposition=inline&op=view>. See also the 2013 Dhaka Declaration on Global Population Dynamics. Available at: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/node/319783>
13. GMG (2013), Integrating migration in the post-2015 UN Development Agenda: Position Paper, September 2013. Available at: <http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org/uploads/news/GMG-position-paper-Migration-and-post-2015-Development-Agenda.pdf>
14. This chapter is based on the paper Human Rights of Undocumented Adolescents and Youth by the same authors, July 2013, available at: <http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org/gmg/sites/default/files/uploads/gmg-topics/mig-data/Human-Rights-of-Undocumented-Adolescents-Youth.pdf>

15. See also: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2004), World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, Women and International Migration, A/59/287/Add.1ST/ESA/294.
16. This chapter uses the term immigrants to identify migrant populations that have immigrated to, and generally settled permanently in, destination countries.
17. A non-exhaustive list of these instruments includes: the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; the ILO Migration and Employment Conventions (Revised) No. 97 and the Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention No. 143 on Migrant Workers; the Domestic Workers Convention No. 189, as well as other relevant ILO conventions and all core international human rights instruments, namely the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
18. These are: the best interests of the child; non-discrimination; the right to life, survival and development; and the right to participate and be heard.
19. The Committee on the Rights of the Child has categorically stated that “children should not be criminalized or subject to punitive measures because of their or their parents’ migration status. The detention of a child constitutes a child rights violation and always contravenes the principle of the best interests of the child. [...] States should [...] completely cease the detention of children.” See: Committee on the Rights of the Child, Report of the 2012 Day of General Discussion. The Rights of All Children in the Context of International Migration, paragraph 78. Available at: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/discussion2012ReportDGDChildrenAndMigration2012.pdf>