



Global Migration Group Symposium

“Overcoming barriers: Building partnerships for migration and human development”

27-28 May, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Presentation outline

Session 3: Joint strategies for migration and human development

Parallel working group C: Mainstreaming migration in national development strategies to minimize its negative and maximize its positive contributions to human development and the achievement of the MDGs

1) What kind of capacities are needed to analyze the interlinkages between migration, labour market impacts and human development at the country level?

Re-think the way we see migration and development

- *Defining a new conceptual framework*
 - A strong theoretical and conceptual foundation on the links between emigration, labour markets and human development is required before we attempt to collect data, analyse it and recommend policies;
 - The conceptual framework should be the basis for any analytical approach on the subject.

Improving Data on Migration

- *Collecting better data*
 - Recurrent data statistics on flows (*ie.* entries) and stocks (*ie.* census) need to be made comparable for efficient policy recommendations to be made, particularly when using several data sources (*ie.* migration, labour market and education statistics);
 - Panel data techniques allow to better address identification problems, by controlling for time-invariant unobserved characteristics affecting the outcome variable and some or all covariates in the model. It is extremely useful especially when the use of instrumental variables is limited;
 - There has been a rise in migration schemes recently, although none of these schemes have been evaluated to see the impact they have on migrants, on their families, on the countries of destination or the country of origin, particularly on labour markets. Future schemes should be built around an M&E strategy, with adapted survey tools and data collection.
- *Collecting more data*
 - Most data collection efforts today are highly focused on tracking regular migrants, while irregular and transit migration on the rise. These two important aspects of migration are under researched notably because data does not exist;
 - Comparable data exercises done at the OECD level (SOPEMI) should be extended to key non-member countries.
- *Making data available*
 - Household and country surveys should be made available to researchers and policy-makers in a quick and easy way and made free of charge.

Linking Research with Policy-Making

- *Bringing researchers and policy-makers together*
 - In addition to large policy-oriented events like the GFMD, small informal workshops should be held with researchers presenting work and policy-makers sharing their experiences in policy-making on migration and policy coherence.
- *Improving field capacity*
 - Field capacity should be strengthened, particularly in the field of migration. For instance, the implementation of new VISA technologies should be combined with hands-on training and continuous follow-up from a country with prior knowledge.
- *Generating reports on good practices*
 - Common best practices should continuously be tabulated, monitored, re-evaluated and shared with policy makers.

2) How far can unilateral, national planning on labour migration go? What needs to be done in partnership with bilateral, regional and international partners

How can emigration countries optimise migration outflows?

- *Minimisation of costs*
 - Assistance to most vulnerable emigrants: child migrants, victims of human trafficking, prisoners, deported people...
 - Support to families left home: child labour, family disintegration, elderly, rural households...
- *Maximisation of benefits*
 - Capital repatriation:
 - Financial capital: private remittances
 - Human capital: brain circulation
 - Social capital: collective remittances
- *Non migration policies with an impact on migration outflows*
 - Risk of emigration-induced poverty trap (in particular on the labour market)
 - Macroeconomic and structural policies fostering development (among others, employment policies)

Effective partnerships for better migration management

- *At the bilateral level*
 - North-South cooperation: the co-development framework
 - Productive investment:
 - Brain circulation
 - Circular migration
 - Returns
 - South-South cooperation
- *At the regional level*
 - Regional forums (Puebla process)
 - Free labour mobility (West Africa: ECOWAS; Central America: CA-4 Border Control Agreement)

- *At the global level*
 - The increasing importance of migration in international dialogue
 - International organisations (ILO, IOM, OECD, UNDP, World Bank...)
 - Global forums (GFMD, GMG...)
 - The debate on the liberalization of migration flows
 - The inconsistencies of restrictive immigration policies
 - Positive effects of liberalization

3) What is the role of the private sector in sharing the costs and benefits of proactive labour migration governance?

Coupling the action of public authorities with the intervention of other institutional actors

- *Hometown associations*
 - HTOs represent a real support for fellow countrymen at a loss in the receiving country as well as for origin communities that benefit from their contribution in terms of social and education investments;
 - These associations often serve as an interface between the States of host and origin countries, and immigrant families, reason why most migration policies should rest on such networks.
- *Private companies*
 - Immigrants can contribute to the productive development of their countries, either through investments from the host country or going back and creating their own enterprises;
 - Private firms might be interested in investing in immigrants' countries of origin, and taking advantage of the market knowledge that immigrants possess.
- *Education institutions*
 - Universities contribute to the formation of transnational brains and should, as such, be directly involved in public strategies.

Including private actors in co-development policies

- *Facilitating circular migration*
 - The *Seasonal Agricultural Workers Programme (SAWP)* in Canada has led to an agreement between the IOM and Maple Leaf Foods to administer a temporary migration programme for low-skilled workers in Colombia, Honduras and the Mauritius Islands;
 - The *Temporary and Circular Labour Migration* programme in Spain, in addition to providing foreign labour to Spanish agriculture, aims at fostering development in origin communities by supporting migrants with productive investment projects.
- *Making transfers cheaper*
 - Improving the competition climate in the money transfer operators sector;
 - Deregulating constraints on the transfer of monies back home;
 - Creating incentives to formally send money home, and possibly invest.