



## **Global Migration Group (GMG) Annual Work Plan for 2011**

### Chairs:

UNICEF (January – June 2011)  
UNESCO (July – December 2011)

The GMG Annual Work Plan for 2011 will prioritize two thematic areas: (1) youth,<sup>1</sup> adolescents<sup>2</sup> and migration; and (2) climate change and migration. As Chairs of the Global Migration Group (GMG), UNICEF and UNESCO will work with the GMG Troika and all member agencies to coordinate a common approach to major international events during the year, including the UN General Assembly informal thematic debate on international migration and development, the main meetings of the GFMD and other relevant events.

UNICEF and UNESCO will also promote a practical approach to mainstreaming migration in national development planning, with an emphasis on capacity development and support to institutions, governments and other stakeholders. Furthermore, in line with the recent efforts by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the 2011 GMG Chairs will continue to highlight the human rights and gender dimensions of international migration, particularly as they relate to youth and adolescents. Additionally, UNICEF and UNESCO will continue to promote the wider application of all relevant international and regional instruments and norms relating to migration.

### **I. Thematic Focus**

#### **A. Youth, Adolescents and Migration (January – June 2011)**

In light of the current International Year of Youth (12 Aug 2010 – 11 Aug 2011), the first proposed thematic focus aims to bring greater attention to a rights based approach to adolescent and youth issues within the discussion on international migration. These issues will be considered from an equity, human development and gender perspective.

Globally, there are some 48 million international migrants under 25 years of age, representing nearly 23 per cent of the total migrant population.<sup>3</sup> The issues affecting youth and adolescents in this context are

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<sup>1</sup> Youth is defined by the United Nations as the age between 15 and 24 (United Nations, General Assembly Resolution 50/81 of 13 March 1996, “The World Programme of Action for Youth in the Year 2000 and Beyond”, A/RES/50/81).

<sup>2</sup> UN agencies, such as the World Health Organization (WHO) ([http://www.who.int/child-adolescent-health/OVERVIEW/AHD/adh\\_over.htm](http://www.who.int/child-adolescent-health/OVERVIEW/AHD/adh_over.htm)), the United Nations’ Children Fund (UNICEF) (<http://www.unicef.org/adolescence/>), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA) (<http://www.unfpa.org/adolescents/about.htm>) define adolescents as boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 19.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2010). Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2010 Revision - Age and sex distribution (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2010).

multidimensional, including gender, family, health, education, employment, labour mobility, environment, urbanization, participation and sustainable human development.

While migration can provide opportunities for adolescents and youth, it can also expose them to the risk of human trafficking and increase their vulnerability to exploitation, abuse, violence and a wide range of human rights violations. Girls and young women, migrants in an irregular situation, those travelling unaccompanied, and family members that remain in the country of origin can be particularly vulnerable. As highlighted in the joint statement of the GMG Principals in September 2010, the GMG will continue to work for the promotion and protection of the human rights of all migrants—including youth and adolescents—regardless of migration status.

The GMG will focus on the medium and long-term impacts of migration on youth and adolescents. Young people are more likely to take on the risks of international migration in pursuit of its expected gains, including education. Greater equality of opportunity in communities of origin, transit and destination can ensure the wellbeing of young migrants and maximise their contributions as workers, entrepreneurs, students and members of society. Exploring issues such as looking into how best to address inequality of opportunities for adolescents and youth in countries of origin may reduce migration by necessity.

Special attention will be paid to identifying common policy and programmatic approaches for enhancing cooperation among governments, agencies and relevant stakeholders. This effort will aim to increase policy coherence and develop the capacity of stakeholders in data collection, analysis, evidence-based policymaking, and dissemination of best practices at country, regional and global levels.

## **B. Climate change and migration (July – December 2011)**

The relationship between climate change and migration is an emerging issue on the global policy agenda. UNESCO proposes that the GMG focus its work during the second half of 2011 on linkages between the environment, human settlement and population movement.

There is a wide range of migration-related issues associated with environmental factors, including governance, conflict, human rights and international law, gender, economic and human development, as well as public health. Environmental degradation takes place in a context marked by inequalities within and between countries in terms of development and capacities to address their consequences, thereby raising issues of global justice. Increased movement of people (including displacement and possible relocation) in this context will have real impacts for migrants and communities in countries of origin, destination and transit.

UNESCO proposes that the GMG work jointly to identify the challenges inherent in the links between climate change and migration, displacement and relocation. Such challenges include the legal and normative framework applicable to environmentally induced displacement and migration. There remains a lack of clarity on issues such as the legal status of people fleeing environmental disasters, the need for better data collection and monitoring, and the consideration of migration as a de-facto adaptation strategy in national climate change strategies, for example in National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPAs). The GMG will work together to prepare inputs on these challenges for events such as the United Nations Climate Change Conference, which will be held this year in Durban, South Africa from 28 November to 9 December (17th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change).

## II. Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Planning

UNICEF and UNESCO will continue to sustain efforts and synergies within the GMG under previous chairs to mainstream migration into national development strategies, particularly through the work of the GMG working group co-chaired by UNDP and IOM.

During 2011, the GMG Working Group on Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies will support two main areas of work:

- 1) The working group will prepare a joint guidance note and tool package for United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) aimed to strengthen their capacities to support governments on migration and development, and to foster greater inter-agency coherence at the country level. This will be done in close coordination with existing United Nations Development Group (UNDG) support mechanisms, such as the UN Development Operations Coordination Office (DOCO) and its Regional Directors' Teams. The preparation of the guidance note and tool package will be based on a survey of the needs and demands of UNCTs and regional-level offices in the area of migration and development. The launch of the guidance note and tool package will be accompanied by initiatives to engage UNCTs through existing knowledge management platforms, such as online communities of practices.
- 2) The working group will support the mainstreaming of migration into development planning in four pilot countries for which UNDP has secured financial support from the Swiss Development Cooperation. Working with governments through UNCTs, the pilots aim to facilitate the integration of migration in national development strategies, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs). The recently published GMG *Handbook on Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning* will be a key tool for guiding this process. Over the two-year duration of the project, the working group will play a role in steering the piloting process at all stages of project implementation, from the selection of pilot countries and the mobilization of expertise for country-level activities (e.g. studies, workshops, trainings) to the discussion of lessons learned and areas for follow-up.

### Linkages with the 2011 GFMD

In the outcomes of the 2010 GFMD, governments have expressed their interest in seeing practical follow-up to the GMG Handbook on Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning. The issue of follow-up to the handbook features prominently among the priorities of the Swiss Chair of the GFMD in 2011. In the proposed GFMD work plan for this year, it falls under the thematic Cluster III entitled "Planning tools for evidence-based migration and development policies", to be taken forward by the GFMD Ad-hoc Working Group on Policy Coherence, Data and Research.

In this context, the GMG, under the leadership of its working group on mainstreaming migration in development planning, is proposing the organization of a workshop on Mainstreaming migration in national development strategies in the fall of 2011, to be designed in consultation with the GFMD Chair and participating governments. The event would revolve around the selected four pilot countries embarking on migration mainstreaming exercises with the support of the GMG working group, bringing them, and potentially other stakeholders, together to provide practical support for the mainstreaming processes through training elements, peer-to-peer learning and the exchange of experiences among technical-level government practitioners.

### **III. Institutional Arrangements**

UNICEF and UNESCO will work together on GMG institutional arrangements, in cooperation with GMG member agencies. A few modifications to institutional arrangements are proposed for consideration by GMG member agencies in 2011:

- *Strengthening coordination among the GMG Troika:* Efforts will be made to enhance coordination and maximize synergies among the GMG Troika members through the establishment of regular discussions among focal points of the Troika agencies.
- *Developing a multi-year vision for GMG work:* It is proposed that the GMG consider developing a medium term workplan, going beyond the current one-year workplan, and elaborating a joint strategy and initiatives on policy advocacy and capacity development. In this regard, UNICEF will work with the Troika to develop a concept note for a multi-year vision for GMG work, based on suggestions and inputs received from all GMG agencies.
- *Establishing a GMG Working Group on Data and Research:* It is proposed that a GMG Working Group on Data and Research, co-chaired by UN/DESA and IOM, be established in February 2011. The working group will coordinate the activities of GMG agencies working on data and research issues, as well as the GMG inputs to the GFMD Ad-hoc Working Group on Policy Coherence, Data and Research. The working group's main areas of work could include: 1) promoting more effective sharing of information about data and research activities of the GMG agencies; 2) advocating for the use of guidelines and innovative practices in research and data collection; and 3) enhancing the evidence-base on migration and development in the lead up to the UN High Level Dialogue in 2013, through joint research and data collection initiatives. The working group's Terms of Reference and 2011 workplan will be developed by early April 2011 with inputs from all interested GMG agencies.

### **IV. Planned Activities and Outputs**

#### ***1. GMG Symposium***

The GMG Symposium will aim to advance partnerships and the sharing of good practices on migration and development among governments, international organizations and civil society. The outcomes of the Symposium will feed into the UN General Assembly informal thematic debate on international migration and development on 19 May 2011.

The GMG aims to organize a Symposium on 17–18 May 2011, immediately prior to the UN General Assembly informal thematic debate on international migration and development scheduled for 19 May 2011. The Symposium will provide an opportunity for in-depth discussions on policy issues affecting youth and adolescents in the context of international migration.

The GMG Symposium will also give continuity to key issues raised during the 2010 GFMD in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico as well as the GMG Experts Meeting and Symposium held in 2010. It is expected that practical insights and recommendations from the GMG Symposium will be made available to Members States delegations, civil society and relevant stakeholders participating in the UN General Assembly informal thematic debate on 19 May 2011.

A concept note and funding proposal for the Symposium will be prepared by UNICEF in consultation with GMG agencies and relevant partners in April 2011.

**2. *GMG joint statement and briefing papers for the UN General Assembly informal thematic debate on international migration and development***

The UNICEF Executive Director, as the Chair of the GMG, has been invited by the President of the General Assembly to participate as a panellist in the informal thematic debate. UNICEF will lead the preparation of a joint statement for this event, in coordination with all GMG agencies.

Furthermore, it is proposed that the GMG produce two to three briefing papers to serve as inputs for the GA informal thematic debate. The topics for the briefing papers will be determined in consultation with GMG member agencies, and will reflect the themes identified by the Office of the President of the General Assembly, namely: (a) contributions of migrants to development and (b) improving international cooperation on migration and development. It is expected that the themes selected for the GMG briefing papers will also mirror the themes of the GMG Symposium panel discussions.

The preparation of the GMG briefing papers will be undertaken by “clusters” of GMG agencies, in a format similar to that used in the elaboration of the 2010 GMG Symposium background papers. GMG agencies will be consulted on whether they wish to draft a briefing paper in collaboration with other agencies in the cluster. Final versions of the briefing papers will be reviewed and endorsed by all GMG agencies. Together with the Troika, UNICEF will endeavour to ensure that all products for the Symposium are made available by the beginning of May 2011.

**3. *Joint GMG thematic report on youth, adolescents and migration for the 2011 Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)***

UNICEF and UNESCO propose a joint GMG thematic report that focuses on the opportunities and challenges posed by international migration for youth and adolescents in countries of origin, transit and destination. The thematic report will take a multidimensional approach and will incorporate inputs from all GMG agencies on key issues affecting youth and adolescents in the context of migration, such as education, health, employment, remittances, urbanization, and climate change and environmental deterioration. Human rights and gender will be addressed comprehensively throughout the report as cross cutting themes.

UNICEF would take the lead in the production of the thematic report on youth with inputs from the GMG agencies. A concept note for the joint report will be shared in April 2011 for comments and feedback. It is expected that the GMG thematic report will be finalized for publication by late summer 2011, and will be made available for the 2011 GFMD in Switzerland.

**4. *GMG contributions to the initiatives of the 2011 GFMD***

As GMG chairs, UNICEF and UNESCO will act as focal points to channel requests for GMG’s support to the 2011 GFMD. As mentioned in the 2011 GFMD Concept Paper, GMG agencies may be requested to assist Member States and civil society in the organization of GFMD-related meetings and workshops in 2011, including: (a) meeting on global care workers at the interface of migration and development; (b) workshop on mainstreaming of migration into national development; and (c) workshop on indicators and assessment methodologies for migration and development policies.

**5. *Proactive and focused public advocacy and communication strategies***

A key priority for UNICEF and UNESCO will be to increase the visibility of the GMG. To this end, the following actions are proposed:

- Joint statements / press releases for high level events: UNICEF and UNESCO will take the lead in the preparation of joint GMG statements / press releases for relevant high level events in 2011,

including (i) the Fourth UN Conference on Least Developed Countries (9-13 May 2011, Istanbul); (ii) the 2011 International Labour Conference (1-17 June 2011, Geneva); (iii) the 2011 World Conference on Youth (July 2011,tbc); (iv) the 2011 GFMD; and (v) the COP 17 conference.

- Updating of the GMG website: Relevant links and publications from member agencies will be posted on the GMG website on a regular basis.
- Updating of the GMG brochure: The GMG brochure will be updated, reflecting new information and the addition of two new members (WHO and UN Women). IOM has offered to take the lead in this process.

## **6. *GMG Principals Meeting***

In line with the proposed thematic focus for the second half of 2011, UNESCO proposes to convene a meeting of the GMG Principals at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris in the fall of 2011, focusing on the issue of migration and global environmental change. Three documents will be released at the GMG Principals Meeting:

- A joint statement on global environmental change and migration, to be prepared under the leadership of UNESCO;
- A joint GMG thematic fact sheet on migration-related challenges posed by global environmental change to be released in November 2011; and
- A joint mapping of studies on climate change and migration, to identify existing and on-going country or regional case studies relating to global environmental change and displacement, migration and relocation.

## **7. *Mapping of training activities by GMG agencies***

A global survey/mapping of training activities by GMG agencies will be undertaken in 2011 by UNITAR and IOM.

## **8. *Gender Sensitive Guidance to the GMG Handbook on Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning***

It is proposed that the GMG develop gender-sensitive guidance to complement the GMG Handbook on Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning. UN Women has offered to take the lead on this initiative, in collaboration with interested GMG agencies, and in coordination with the GMG Working Group on Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies.

The gender-sensitive guidance will include a training module on mainstreaming gender concerns into migration and development strategies and plans, including the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), Common Country Assessment (CCA), and UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) processes.

## V. GMG Meetings and Conferences

- GMG working level meetings:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> week of February 2011 (3 February 2011)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April 2011 (21 April 2011)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> week of May 2011 (tentative date: 3 May 2011)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June 2011 (handover to UNESCO)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> week of September 2011
  - 1<sup>st</sup> week on November 2011
  - 1<sup>st</sup> week of December 2011.
- First meeting of the GMG Working Group on Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies
  - 16 February 2011 (morning).
- Working session in New York to coordinate GMG inputs for the UN General Assembly informal thematic debate, including a preliminary meeting of the GMG Working Group on Data and Research
  - 16 February 2011 (afternoon).
- GMG Symposium in New York
  - 17-18 May 2011 (prior to the UN General Assembly informal thematic debate on 19 May 2011).
- GMG Principals Meeting
  - September, October or November 2011 (Date and venue to be decided).