

Fifth Coordination Meeting on International Migration – 20 to 21 November 2006

ACTIVITIES CONSIDERED IN LIGHT OF THE OUTCOME OF THE HIGH-LEVEL
DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

United Nations Development Programme

Ongoing and Future Activities

UNDP's activities in the area of migration and development relate to three main areas: national policies for managing migration; interventions to encourage temporary return migration; and use of remitted funds for development financing. The following provides a glimpse of specific UNDP country programmes and projects on migration and development, together with general activities.

Managing migration

UNDP is formulating a project in Ghana focusing on management of migration, return migration interventions, and optimal use of remittances for development financing. In El Salvador, a Human Development and Migration Programme is being planned aimed at strengthening national capabilities to promote an integrated response to migration in the country. The programme also aims to increase the understanding and ability of key institutions to analyze the flows and impacts of international migration by incorporating migration in research projects and university curriculum. In Moldova, UNDP is working with UNICEF to examine household and community level impacts of migration with the context of 'brain drain'.

Return migration

In Albania, UNDP is engaging the Albanian diaspora to develop and implement a comprehensive programme to facilitate a contribution to Albania's socio-economic development and, specifically, to achieving nationally determined MDGs. Activities include providing support to government on building a database and website. In El Salvador, UNDP is in the process of establishing internship opportunities for young members of the diaspora (born or raised outside the country), which will place young people in immersion experiences or internships, and be linked with UNDP programmatic areas (specifically migration, human development, HIV/AIDS prevention, local development, environmental issues, gender, and violence). The initiative will particularly target students at high schools and universities in the US. UNDP's global mechanism for tapping expatriate nationals who have migrated to other countries and achieved professional success abroad -- TOKTEN (Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals) – has been used to mobilize them to undertake short-term consultancies under the aegis of the UN in their countries of origin, such as in Lebanon, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sudan, Syria, the Philippines and Palestine. UNDP intends to increase its work on the issue of the temporary movement of workers under the WTO's GATS Mode IV Services Negotiations.

Remittances

UNDP prepared a Report on Remittances in Albania in 2003. In El Salvador, UNDP has launched an initiative on developing tools for local development that offer opportunities for the participation of Salvadorians abroad, but benefit not only those families with migrants abroad. In Somalia, UNDP assisted in establishing the Somalia Financial Services Association, in order to channel remittances and create a stronger financial system. A research project with IOM is being conducted in Tajikistan to assess the scope of remittances and formulate development strategies to channel them. More generally, UNDP is working with INSTRAW to explore the linkages between gender and remittances. UNDP's Caween gendvel

was facilitated in July 2006. A regional consultation on African remittances is planned for January 2007. In September 2006, UNDP organized a meeting on remittances with private sector stakeholders, as a follow-up to an earlier meeting organized with the Special Unit for South-South Unit Cooperation.

General

Previous National Human Development Reports have analyzed migration issues within the national context, e.g. Albania NHDR, 2000. El Salvador's National Human Development Report 2005 assesses the dynamics of migration from El Salvador, its impact on various dimensions (economic, social, political and cultural) of the lives of those who emigrate and those who remain in the country, and sets out policy recommendations. The next NHDR for Mexico will cover migration and development issues.

Partnership

UNDP will continue to work actively with the full range of stakeholders on migration and development issues – national governments, bilateral and multilateral donors, other UN agencies, the IOM, the private