

CHAPTER

17

**United Nations  
Development  
Programme**



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*



## United Nations Development Programme

The UN Development Programme (UNDP)<sup>1</sup> helps countries build and share solutions to achieve poverty reduction and the Millennium Development Goals, democratic governance, crisis prevention and recovery and sustainable environment and energy for sustainable development. The Organization partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in 177 countries and territories, UNDP offers global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.

UNDP has been involved in migration and development-related initiatives at the global, regional, national and local levels. Many of its projects in this area are initiated at the country level, in response to requests for support from local and national governments. Most of its migration-related work is undertaken jointly with other UN agencies and/or IOM. It includes interventions for capacity development, advocacy and knowledge-sharing and networks.

### 1. Migration and development activities since the 2006 High-level Dialogue

UNDP currently does not have a mechanism to systematically collect information on its migration-related work at different levels of intervention, especially at the country level. The information presented here is largely based on a review undertaken in the context of the 2009 Human Development Report, as well as online and offline exchanges with country offices. A systematic stock-take on migration and displacement activities is, however, planned for 2013.

#### Country and regional level initiatives on migration and development

More than 30 UNDP country offices and regional centres around the world, working in partnership with government, other international agencies and civil society, are actively engaged in initiatives related to migration and development. These span the areas of:

- (a) *Mainstreaming migration into national development strategies.* Jointly with IOM, and working through the GMG and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) with other partners (the UN Population Fund [UNFPA], UNICEF and UN Women), UNDP is supporting

<sup>1</sup> UNDP was founded on 22 November 1965 with the merger of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the United Nations Special Fund. In 1971 the two organizations were fully combined into UNDP. For further details about the mandate and work of UNDP, visit [www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home.html](http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home.html).

migration mainstreaming processes in four pilot countries: Bangladesh, Jamaica, the Republic of Moldova and Tunisia.<sup>2</sup>

- (b) *Rights, protection and law reform.* Initiatives include projects that raise awareness of abusive and exploitative labour practices and the dangers of irregular migration channels; prepare potential migrants for foreign employment prior to departure; advocate for the protection of the rights of migrant women; and support efforts to increase the quality of services provided to migrants (for example, in Armenia, the Philippines and Uzbekistan).
- (c) *Remittances and diaspora contributions.* Projects are predominantly aimed at channeling migrant financial resources to support economic and social development in the country of origin by mobilizing diaspora investment, lowering the cost of remittance transfers, improving access to financial services and enhancing both accessibility to services and capacities in rural areas. Some projects support the mapping of diaspora communities and capacity-building for national institutions tasked with diaspora outreach (for example, in Albania, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), the Dominican Republic, Lesotho, Morocco, Nigeria, the Philippines, Senegal, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic and Tajikistan);
- (d) *Migration management, return and reintegration.* Several programmes support capacity-building for national institutions involved in migration management, facilitate dialogues between countries of origin and destination and organize temporary returns of expatriate professionals to address skills shortages and build capacities in critical sectors (for example, in Afghanistan, Armenia, Bangladesh, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Iraq, UNSC resolution 1244-administered Kosovo, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Malaysia, Mali, Pakistan, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, the Philippines, the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the United Arab Emirates);
- (e) *Migrants' access to services.* This includes programmes that support access to services in the areas of civil registration, health care, training, employment and social services for internal migrants, internally displaced persons and marginalized populations; and the development of the capacities of local and national governments and civil society stakeholders to address the rights and needs of those groups and recognize them in national strategies and action plans. In the Asia-Pacific region (specifically, South-east Asia and southern China), the focus is on the interlinkages between HIV and mobility, and on the promotion of universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support for mobile and migrant

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<sup>2</sup> Activities in this area include: the creation of consultative intragovernmental and multi-stakeholder mechanisms; country-specific situation assessments (for example, in the form of Extended Migration Profiles); mapping of relevant legal, institutional and policy frameworks; capacity assessments of relevant stakeholders; formulation of a national policy/plan of action; formulation of an implementation strategy; formulation of indicators for monitoring and (M&E) and the establishment of a multi-stakeholder M&E mechanism; and capacity development interventions, including training for relevant stakeholders on migration and development-related analysis, planning and programming.

populations (for example, in China, India, Mongolia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Nepal, Serbia, Thailand, Turkey and UNSC resolution 1244-administered Kosovo);

- (f) *Forced migration.* Projects in this area are aimed at preventing trafficking in persons through awareness-raising and improving institutional capacities and intragovernmental coordination for the prosecution of traffickers (for example, in Armenia, Belarus, Ghana, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Thailand/Mekong region and Uzbekistan).

## Global level activities on migration and development

### *Capacity development*

Since the beginning of 2011, UNDP, in close collaboration with IOM and the GMG, has been implementing a global pilot project entitled “Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies,” funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. In addition to country-level implementation in four countries (see paragraph (a) in Section 1.), the project includes a global component, steered through the inter-agency mechanism of the GMG Working Group on Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies and aimed at helping UN Country Teams (UNCTs) in the four pilot countries and globally, to advise and support governments and their partners on migration and development issues. To this end, the GMG working group conducted a survey of UNCTs in 2011, inquiring about migration-related capacities and demands at the country level, and compiled GMG resources on various themes into an easy-to-navigate online “Guidance and Tools Package for UNCTs,” which is accessible on the GMG website (under the rubric “UNCT Corner”).

The pilot project is systematically collecting lessons learned over the course of 2012 to 2013. While there have been varying degrees of progress across countries, a number of insights have emerged from consultations so far. These include:

- (a) The importance of government ownership and high-level political buy-in to ensure the sustainability of the process;
- (b) The importance of choosing a capable lead government agency, ideally with a cross-cutting coordination mandate, such as the planning commission or Prime Minister’s Office, to foster a “whole-of-government” approach to migration and development;
- (c) The benefit of broad-based stakeholder consultations, including with civil society partners, who often have valuable experience and insights on how to address the needs of vulnerable groups of migrants;

- (d) The opportunity to use the mainstreaming process to advance dialogue with development partners and major destination countries;
- (e) The synergies that exist with other migration and development initiatives, such as the Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI)<sup>3</sup> and the Extended Migration Profiles series;
- (f) The usefulness of the *GMG: A Handbook for Policy-makers and Practitioners* in providing guiding principles, but also the need to have a more accessible summary of the handbook available;
- (g) The need for capacity-strengthening among all engaged stakeholders, including the members of the UNCT, to enable them to increasingly “deliver as one” in support of migration mainstreaming processes.

Countries highlighted the difficulty of accessing specialized migration and development expertise to support the mainstreaming process, including situation assessments and the development of policy and implementation strategies. They also stressed the need to look beyond the national level to engage bilateral and regional partners.

Consolidated lessons from the pilot mainstreaming project will be shared during the preparatory process for the High-level Dialogue (HLD). They should serve to support an evidence-based and practice-oriented discussion, especially under the HLD Roundtable 3, entitled “Strengthening partnerships and cooperation on international migration, mechanisms to effectively integrate migration into development policies and promoting coherence at all levels.”

The migration mainstreaming project is scheduled to enter into a larger second phase in 2013, which will be geared towards supporting more countries over a longer implementation period, and placing greater emphasis on technical assistance and sharing of lessons among countries, including through the exploration of a Triangular Cooperation modality. Based on lessons learned from the pilot project and other experiences, the development of more practical tools to support mainstreaming processes, such as sector-specific policy guidance notes, policy checklists, training modules and others, is also foreseen. The project will involve other GMG agencies, both at the country and global levels, and a number of project-related activities will be part of the GMG joint multi-annual work plan currently being developed.

JMDI is a global inter-agency programme implemented by UNDP in partnership with ILO, IOM, UNFPA and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and (since 2012) UN Women. It was first launched in 2008 with the aim of: (a) setting up and reinforcing networks of actors working on migration and development; (b) identifying

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<sup>3</sup> Visit [www.migration4development.org/content/about-jmdi](http://www.migration4development.org/content/about-jmdi) for more information about JMDI.

good practices and sharing information on what works at the local and international levels among those who are active in this field, and with a view to (c) feeding good practices and relevant information into policymaking on migration and development.<sup>4</sup>

From 2009 to 2011, JMDI supported over 50 projects, implemented by consortia of diaspora and civil society organizations and local authorities, linking EU-based partners and partners based in the 16 target countries of the JMDI.<sup>5</sup> It has taken stock of the project experiences in the handbook *Migration for Development: A Bottom-up Approach*.<sup>6</sup> This provides useful insights for policymakers that can serve to test assumptions about the capacities of, and partnerships with, civil society and local actors; and offers practical recommendations for future assessments of diaspora-related policies or decentralized cooperation. The handbook was presented at the 2011 GFMD in Geneva during the Civil Society Days, and has been distributed in the programme countries of the JMDI and disseminated through various online networks.

JMDI entered its second phase of programme implementation in December 2012, focusing on efforts to support and harness the potential of decentralized levels of government, such as provinces and local authorities, to act as strategic partners for civil society in the area of migration and development. Programme activities are funded over three years, with a total budget of USD 9.5 million, contributed by the European Commission and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

Findings from the first phase of the JMDI showed that the effectiveness of migration and development activities largely depends on strategic partnerships between civil society organizations and governments at decentralized levels. However, in general terms, local governments have not received the same level of attention as other stakeholders, despite their potential impact on the connections between migration and development. Successful interventions of local authorities are essentially the results of trial-and-error processes, and are quite often insufficiently institutionalized, undermining their sustainability. Local authorities also often lack the capacity to effectively link migration and development at the local level, and to engage in meaningful partnerships with relevant civil society actors. In addition, they have very few opportunities to learn from other local authorities' accomplishments.

<sup>4</sup> A Call for Proposals was launched at the end of 2008 to provide approximately EUR 10 million in funding to support concrete interventions in four priority areas: (1) migrant remittances (their facilitation, reduction of transfer costs, possible articulation to development purposes, among others); (2) migrant communities (their links with countries of origin and destination, among others); (3) Migrants' capacities/skills (use of migrant skills for development in countries of origin, support to their professional and socioeconomic reintegration, mitigation of brain drain, among others); (4) migrants' rights (their promotion, application and protection; and the the implementation of appropriate solutions for specific categories of persons such as unaccompanied minors, return migrants, among others).

<sup>5</sup> The target countries are: Algeria, Cape Verde, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, Jamaica, Mali, the Republic of Moldova, Morocco, Nigeria, the Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka and Tunisia.

<sup>6</sup> The handbook is available for download from [www.globalmigrationgroup.org/uploads/UNCT\\_Corner/theme7/jmdi\\_august\\_2011\\_handbook\\_migration\\_for\\_development.pdf](http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org/uploads/UNCT_Corner/theme7/jmdi_august_2011_handbook_migration_for_development.pdf).

The second phase of JMDI foresees three interconnected outputs to address these challenges:

- (a) To move from isolated and individual approaches to more structured interventions through the identification of promising initiatives by local authorities, in partnership with civil society organizations in selected countries, that will be scaled up to maximize impact on local development. Policy options and road maps for action will be drawn from the experience of the supported initiatives;
- (b) To reinforce the capacities of selected local administrations to effectively link migration and development, with a specific focus on facilitating increased coordination within themselves to maximize their ability to grasp the potential of migration for development;
- (c) To connect local authorities globally with each other and with other stakeholders and facilitate partnerships (among local authorities in countries of origin and destination of migration, migrant and refugee associations, the private sector, social partners and others) to reinforce local authorities' potential to become active players in the field of migration and development.

To frame the programme's strategy, JMDI published a mapping of local authorities' practices in the area of migration and development, entitled *A territorial approach to local strategies, initiatives and needs*, which articulates the linkages between migration, local development, local governance and decentralized cooperation that should be built upon.

#### *Knowledge-sharing and networking*

In its effort to reinforce networks of actors working on migration and development, the JMDI has set up an online global Community of Practice (through M4D Net) accessible through a dedicated website ([www.migration4development.org](http://www.migration4development.org)) and designed to mobilize and give civil society a voice in international dialogues and strengthen their capacities. With over 2,000 members and over 5,000 visitors per month, the Migration4Development Portal is firmly established as the go-to website on migration and development issues. Furthermore, it offers the opportunity for practitioners and policymakers to meet virtually to share experiences and good practices. Amongst its key features, the M4D platform regularly launches e-discussions (often in collaboration with JMDI partner agencies) on topics related to migration and development, exploring specific issues in more depth.

#### *Knowledge-building and advocacy*

The *Human Development Report (HDR)* is an independent publication commissioned by UNDP. From the beginning, the Report has been a pioneer of methodological



innovation and development thinking. Often provocative, the report was first launched in 1990, with the goal of putting people at the centre of development, going beyond income to assess people's long-term well-being. The report's messages – and the tools to implement them – have been embraced by people around the world, as shown by the publication of autonomous National Human Development Reports by more than 140 countries over the past two decades. The *HDR* is translated into more than a dozen languages and launched in more than 100 countries annually.

With the Human Development Report 2009, entitled “Overcoming barriers: Human mobility and development,” UNDP has made a major contribution to a more holistic conceptualization of, and the evidence base underpinning, the migration–development nexus. The 2009 HDR was informed by 57 background papers, 12 regional consultations, 23 seminars, and three e-discussions organized on UNDP's knowledge networks. It delivered a major advocacy tool for highlighting the positive contributions of mobility to the human development of migrants and their families, and of countries of origin and destination, while underlining the crucial role of policy choices in realizing these benefits.

The 2009 HDR presented a number of counter-intuitive and little-known facts, for example, that the overwhelming majority (estimated at 740 million) of all migrants–are moving internally within their own countries. Fewer than three out of every 10 transnational migrants move from a developing country to a rich one. Also, migrants typically enhance economic output in their new communities, give more than they take and have only a small effect on public finances. As such, the report helped to challenge many of the stereotypes bedeviling the debate around migration, and proposed a set of reforms to migration policies in origin and destination countries that would increase people's freedom and strengthen human development.

In follow-up to the 2009 HDR, UNDP has developed a guidance note on mobility and migration to support the work of human development report teams and partners in integrating migration-related analysis and advocacy into development planning and policy debates.

Regional, national, and subnational human development reports are one of the main instruments to apply the human development approach at the country level. They help to assess development challenges and local policies in a multidisciplinary and participatory way, and have often been successful in steering national and regional debates. Migration, both domestic and international, is analysed from different perspectives in two regional human development reports (RHDRs), 18 national human development reports (NHDRs) and two subnational human development reports. In four cases (Albania, Armenia, El Salvador and Mexico) migration was the central theme of the NHDRs, while in the other cases it is mentioned as a cross-cutting issue that impacts a specific topic relevant to human development in that country or region.

NHDRs often make an important contribution to enhancing the evidence base for policy formulation and adjustment, for example, through special surveys on migration for which data is not collected in a routine manner.

The Mexico HDR 2006–2007, “Migration and Human Development,” introduced noteworthy innovations to enhance the measurement of human development, including a Human Development Index adjusted for internal migration.

UNDP is currently helping to advance reflection on the inclusion of migration in the post-2015 development agenda by supporting the advocacy efforts of the Secretary General’s Special Representative on International Migration and Development and of the current GFMD Chair, Sweden, on this topic; and by initiating with IOM the formulation of a joint GMG position and strategy on migration and post-2015.

#### *Inter-agency coordination*

UNDP is a committed member of the GMG and contributes to the field of migration and development through the GMG and individual collaboration with its member agencies at the global and country levels.

UNDP assumed the chairmanship of the GMG during the first half of 2010 with the overall aim of enhancing the relevance of GMG coordination for inter-agency collaboration at the country level and promoting the integration of migration into development strategies. Its chairmanship produced three concrete outputs: (a) the organization of the GMG Practitioners’ Symposium; (b) the finalization and GMG endorsement of *Mainstreaming Migration in Development Planning: A Handbook for Policy-makers and Practitioners*; and (c) the creation of the GMG Working Group on Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies.

The GMG Practitioners Symposium on “Overcoming barriers: Building partnerships for migration and human development,” held in May 2010 in Geneva, was organized with a view to offering a platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue and producing a set of inputs to the fourth GFMD in Mexico. The symposium brought together governments, local authorities, development partners, international and regional organizations, civil society, trade unions, the private sector, diaspora organizations and academia to discuss partnerships in three key areas: (a) improving the evidence base for policymaking; (b) protecting the rights of all migrants, including stranded and vulnerable migrants; and (c) making migration an integral part of national and regional development strategies. The outcomes of the symposium – a series of background papers and a summary of the discussions with concrete suggestions for GMG follow-up – were shared with the 2010 GFMD Chair and are available on the GMG website.

The overarching theme of the GMG chairmanship by UNDP – stemming from the topic of the 2009 GFMD in Athens and one of the key recommendations of the 2009 HDR –

was “Mainstreaming migration in national development strategies,” which facilitated the Group’s involvement in and endorsement of the *Handbook on Mainstreaming Migration in Development Planning*, launched and endorsed by States as a useful tool at the 2010 GFMD in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

The GMG Working Group on mainstreaming migration, set up by UNDP and co-convened by UNDP and IOM, is open to all GMG members and is meant to facilitate enhanced inter-agency coordination at the country level, with a special focus on supporting government efforts on mainstreaming migration in national development strategies. It serves as a platform to coordinate joint GMG follow-up to the publication of the handbook, and plays a key role in backstopping the pilot project on mainstreaming migration in national development strategies in four pilot countries.

### **Global-level activities on displacement and early recovery**

Since 2011 UNDP, together with UNHCR, has been engaged in joint programmes on “durable solutions” and in the Transnational Solutions Initiative (TSI). Both workstreams aim to build bridges between humanitarian and development, and bilateral and multilateral actors, together with national governments to achieve durable solutions for displaced persons and local community members.

TSI was officially launched in 2011 and is implemented through country-led joint programmes which adopt an area-based approach to address the complex needs of displaced persons and host community members. UNDP, UNHCR and relevant government authorities play a convening role, while ensuring that key UN entities, the World Bank and other humanitarian and development actors are engaged at relevant stages. TSI is currently being designed and implemented in Colombia, Nepal and Sudan. In Sudan, the joint programme will target some 170,000 people, of which 34,000 are refugees. In Colombia, the programme is currently implemented in five regions of the country, with approximately 54,000 beneficiaries.

The work of UNDP on a “durable solutions” strategy was mandated by a decision of the Secretary General’s Policy Committee of October 2011, which endorsed the Preliminary Framework on Ending Displacement in the Aftermath of Conflict<sup>7</sup> and requested UNDP and UNHCR, in consultation with the Cluster Working Group on Early Recovery (CWGER), the Global Protection Cluster (GPC), the Resident Coordinators/ Humanitarian Coordinators and national authorities to select three pilot countries to develop and implement durable solutions strategies by December 2013. UNDP and UNHCR have selected Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Côte d’Ivoire as the three Durable Solutions Strategy country pilots, placing importance on the engagement of national

<sup>7</sup> The framework was developed under the co-lead of UNDP, UNHCR and OCHA in follow-up to the Secretary General’s Report on peace-building in the immediate aftermath of conflict (A/63/881–S/2009/304) with a view to improving the clarity and predictability of UN responses in the post-conflict period, including in the areas of public administration, transitional governance, early employment, rehabilitation of basic infrastructure, and reintegration of returnees.

and local governments. Coordination mechanisms established at the country level will be supported through CWGER, working with GPC. UNDP and UNHCR, in their capacities as global cluster lead agencies for early recovery and protection, will provide technical expertise to the resident coordinator through existing resources or surge capacity to support the development of the strategies. CWGER has recently established the Technical Working Group on Durable Solutions, which will bring UN and non-UN actors (for example, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, stand-by partners, and others) together regularly to review and support the implementation of durable solutions strategies in pilot countries.

## **2. Support provided to the Global Forum on Migration and Development**

UNDP has been providing support to both the Government Days and Civil Society Days of several GFMD meetings since 2007.

In 2009 the HDR on migration was launched shortly before the third GFMD in Athens, and the Human Development Report Office hosted a panel discussion entitled “Pathways to Opportunity: Overcoming barriers to human mobility.” The JMDI organized a Migration and Development Virtual Fair in parallel with the GFMD Civil Society Days in November 2009. The first event of its kind in the GFMD, the fair was tasked with bringing together thousands of “virtual” visitors to network, visit virtual exhibitions and pose questions to GFMD participants in Athens. In addition to video interviews with civil society members and high-level representatives of international organizations, the fair featured live updates on the discussions in Athens and several interactive features. Both the 2009 HDR and the JMDI were recognized in the UN Secretary General’s intervention at the Athens GFMD.

The influence of the 2009 HDR on the migration and development debate was reflected in the theme of the 2010 GFMD in Mexico, “Partnerships for Migration and Human Development: Shared Prosperity, Shared Responsibility”. UNDP, in its capacity as GMG Chair, liaised closely with the Mexican GFMD Chair during the preparations of its Global Forum; and Mexico played a prominent role at the GMG Symposium in May 2010 as part of the preparatory process. Jointly with IOM, UNDP organized a side event at the 2010 GFMD to launch the GMG Mainstreaming Handbook, which States endorsed as a useful tool in the outcomes of the meeting. The JMDI provided support to the organization of the GFMD Civil Society Days, including through a joint e-discussion.

In 2011, as part of the Swiss Chair’s decentralized approach to the GFMD, UNDP jointly with IOM, in their capacity as co-chairs of the GMG Working Group on mainstreaming migration, helped organize a thematic workshop on “Mainstreaming migration into strategic policy development” in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova. The workshop was hosted by the Government of the Republic of Moldova and co-hosted

by the Governments of Bangladesh, Jamaica and Mali, all pilot countries undertaking a migration mainstreaming process with GMG support. It allowed governments and other stakeholders to exchange experiences on tools and approaches for mainstreaming migration in sectoral strategies on health, education, and employment, and discuss ways of improving the evidence base on migration and development at the national level, including through the use of Extended Migration Profiles.

The Chisinau workshop outcomes report was shared with the GFMD Chair, and the results of the workshop were fed into the Concluding Debate of the 2011 GFMD, held in Geneva in December of that year. The outcomes of the 2011 Concluding Debate explicitly mention the pilot project on mainstreaming migration into development planning, and request the GMG to report on progress made in the four pilot countries in due course.

Continuing the work with the Swiss GFMD chair, UNDP and IOM supported the 2012 GFMD in Mauritius by assisting with the substantive preparations for Round Table 2.1: “Supporting National Development through Migration Mainstreaming Processes, Extended Migration Profiles and Poverty Reduction Strategies.” These included a preparatory workshop in Mauritius on the topic “Factoring migration into development planning,” which brought together participants from national and local governments, international organizations and civil society to discuss existing migration mainstreaming experiences at local and national levels of development planning and identify key lessons and recommendations. UNDP also contributed a section on mainstreaming migration into development planning to the background paper for Round Table 2.1.

JMDI contributed to the 2012 GFMD through a photo and video competition that was prominently displayed at the GFMD venue. The idea behind the competition was to address one of the issues discussed at the GFMD under Round Table 3.1: “Improving Public Perceptions of Migrants and Migration: Challenging Pre-conceptions and Shaping Perceptions.” The competition aimed to collect compelling visual evidence of the contributions that migrants and diasporas make to development. A total of 41 photos and 15 videos were submitted. The JMDI also provided financial support to the organizers of the 2012 Civil Society Days.

### 3. Identified good practices

The 2009 HDR and the JMDI handbook both identify a number of good practices in terms of policies, programmes and projects that support the human development benefits of migration. In addition, the following overarching lessons, in terms of good practice, can be drawn from the work of UNDP on migration:

- (a) *Working through inter-agency partnerships.* Capitalizing on its global presence, its convening role at the country level and its knowledge networks, much of the Organization’s work on migration issues is in partnership with other agencies.

The JMDI is implemented under an informal “Delivering as One” modality by five UN agencies (namely, UNDP, ILO, UN Women, UNFPA and UNHCR) plus IOM, and involves UNCTs under the authority of the UN Resident Coordinators. The global pilot project on mainstreaming migration into development planning is implemented jointly with IOM and a number of other GMG agencies, which participate in the project at the country level and are involved in its oversight through the GMG Working Group on mainstreaming migration.

- (b) *Promoting a participatory, consultative approach.* Throughout most of its projects at the country, regional and global levels, UNDP has supported a consultative approach around mobility issues, including in the context of the national human development reports, bringing together various stakeholders across sectors that may not have previously communicated. UNDP and partners have conducted training, consultations and capacity-building exercises with a wide range of non-governmental organizations, including chambers of commerce, diaspora associations and local business groups.
- (c) *Working with small-scale actors and engaging local authorities.* Migration is often a local-to-local phenomenon whose human development implications are most strongly felt and appropriately addressed at a decentralised level. UNDP is working with local governments, migrant communities and experts on a number of projects. In the case of JMDI, the small size of the grants issued to project partners has enabled hundreds of small- and medium-scale organizations that generally lack the capacity to apply for funding from key donors, such as the European Commission, to be involved in the call for proposals. Applicants for funding were provided with guidance throughout the application process.
- (d) *Specific examples of country-level good practices include the following:*
  - (i) A number of projects aimed at leveraging remittances for development, which have contributed to the creation of formal and transparent channels for sending money, specifically the establishment of rural infrastructure in support of access to financial services (for example, in Senegal, Sri Lanka and Tajikistan);
  - (ii) The Mission on Livelihoods in Rajasthan, which has identified challenges faced by migrant workers in the state and has implemented specific interventions to address them with support from UNDP since 2005. Activities have included skills development, job creation, livelihood promotion in selected sectors and capacity development of government and NGOs to support these efforts. UNDP has played a multiplier role and shared the Rajasthan experience with other states in India.
  - (iii) In partnership with governments and the UN Country Team’s Working Group on internally displaced persons (IDPs), a multi-stakeholder participatory process held in 13 provinces has produced recommendations for a comprehensive and robust response to serve the needs of IDPs in Turkey. As part of this

process, local and national NGOs received training on international norms and standards on IDPs. The results of these provincial-level consultations will inform a coherent national action plan for IDP service delivery.

- (iv) In the Maldives and Nepal, the use of local peer educators and outreach workers has raised awareness about the links between HIV and mobility among migrants and their families. This approach has also helped to establish support groups for people living with HIV/AIDS in Myanmar.

#### **4. Challenges identified in carrying out UNDP work**

The following are some common challenges identified across different country-level UNDP projects:

- (a) Enabling conditions
  - (i) Resource mobilization hampering or delaying the implementation of planned activities;
  - (ii) Shocks related to the global financial crisis affected project components in the Republic of Moldova and Armenia.
- (b) Capacity of partners
  - (i) Absence of a national framework on migration issues; lack of policy coherence and a low-level of coordination among major stakeholders, reducing the impact of interventions;
  - (ii) Limited capacity of implementation partners, especially local or rural government structures.
- (c) Reaching beneficiaries
  - (i) Programmes in India, Nepal and Thailand encountered difficulties in reaching migrants due to geographic isolation, poor communication channels and rugged terrain.
  - (ii) Low education levels of beneficiary populations created a hurdle in communicating key messages among vulnerable communities.
- (d) Building trust
  - (i) Trust and confidence between migrants and sedentary communities is not a given, and requires investment in order to establish sustainable programmes and enhance social cohesion.
  - (ii) In projects that aim to connect remittance recipients with the formal financial system, additional time and interventions may be needed for beneficiaries to trust the formal financial system.

While its work at the country level is largely driven by government demand, the global priorities of UNDP are set out in its Strategic Plan 2008–2013. Migration does not

feature in the current UNDP Strategic Plan, as endorsed by the Organization's Executive Board, making it more difficult to place it on its agenda.

## **5. Gaps evident within the migration and development sphere**

Following are some of the major gaps identified by UNDP in the migration and development sphere, that would require the attention of all players, including those in the international system.

- (a) There continues to be a lack of consensus and common understanding of what the migration–development nexus entails, and whether this is an appropriate framing for a discussion on migration issues in the UN context. Not all share a positive view of migration as a force for development, and some worry that a focus on the economic benefits of migration will eclipse concerns regarding the human rights of migrants. The development impacts of migration are rarely explored in all dimensions of human development, not least owing to gaps in the availability of disaggregated data and the difficulty of isolating the effects of migration on human development.
- (b) As an active member of the GMG, UNDP sees the need for a stronger inter-agency coordination mechanism on migration issues, and is supportive of the idea to strengthen the GMG through a small secretariat that could also service the GFMD; the development of several thematic work streams backed up by working groups and defined in a multi-annual work plan; and joint fundraising to support such efforts. A Multi-Partner Trust Fund under UN auspices could be a practical vehicle for ensuring more coherent, “One UN” support for governments on migration and development.
- (c) To realize this aspiration, it would be helpful if States decided to integrate migration more firmly into the existing UN development architecture and agenda, and to articulate a role for the GMG. One of the gaps that currently exists is between the informal nature of the GFMD process and its outcomes on the one hand, and States' expectations for GMG follow-up and support on the other. The 2013 HLD could provide an opportunity to remedy this mismatch.

## **6. Recommendations for the 2013 High-level Dialogue**

The HLD provides an important opportunity to take stock of achievements and lessons learned in the migration and development field since the first HLD in 2006, and to define priorities and shape the discourse for the coming years. An important impetus could be given to emerging trends, such as the need for multilevel governance on migration, linking local and national stakeholders; opportunities for South–South cooperation on migration and development; and enhanced attention in development planning and



programming to the linkages between migration, displacement and environmental factors. The HLD also provides Member States with a unique and timely opportunity to make a clear commitment towards integrating migration concerns more firmly into the established development processes and forums of the United Nations, most prominently the post-2015 development agenda.

By defining a set of priorities and, potentially, aspirational outcomes or targets on migration and development, the HLD could serve to foster a broad consensus in the migration and development community and provide an important input into the post-2015 discussion. Outside the post-2015 framework, such a guiding framework could function as a “programme of action” – a multi-annual work programme – for the GFMD process.

Partnerships will be essential to deliver on any commitments made at the HLD, to take forward the outcomes of the GFMD process and, eventually, to implement the post-2015 agenda. Governments might consider bolstering the argument for migration as an area for global partnership in the context of the post-2015 development agenda by initiating a signature partnership at the HLD that could be followed up by the GFMD. Member States can also seize the opportunity of the HLD to articulate a role for the GMG, which remains for now a UN-plus coordination mechanism with no formal mandate.

For the GMG, the HLD and its preparations provide an opportunity to present to and discuss with Member States the priorities of the multiannual work plan it is currently developing. Among these priorities is advocacy for migration in the context of the post-2015 development agenda. Indeed, the GMG should support Member States’ efforts to make the HLD a milestone in the post-2015 process by ensuring that States have at their disposal evidence and arguments to underpin the relevance of migration for key post-2015 development priorities.

UNDP stands ready to work with the GMG and other partners to support Member States in the endeavour to integrate migration more fully into development strategies and agendas at all levels. In line with this commitment, UNDP plans, in 2013, to take stock of its migration-related activities to identify strengths, weaknesses and lessons learned, with a view to formulating a corporate strategy on human mobility that ties in with the emerging priorities of its next Strategic Plan.

