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Future Trends Series - GR:REEN Project

Title of the report

Migration and the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda

Area

Demography

Reporter

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Type of the Reporter

International Organisation

Periodically updated?

No

First issued year

2013

Latest update

/

Official website

<http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/>

Language available

English

Short summary

We live in an era of unprecedented human mobility. Not only has migration become an everyday reality, but there is supportive evidence that human mobility substantially contributes to progress for achieving most of the Millennium Development Goals. The drivers of human mobility are such that large-scale migration will continue to be a "mega-trend" in the 21st century.

Migration and the United Nations post-2015 Development Agenda – a compilation of articles that have been published for various purposes and audiences – highlights numerous reasons why migration should be factored into the post-2015 development framework, outlines the different ways in which migration can contribute to development and discusses how migration can most effectively be included in the UN post-2015 Agenda.

Key trends

- In the coming years, migration will continue to be simply too important in scale to be ignored, because one in seven of the world's population is a migrant, including some 214 million international migrants, and 740 million internal migrants. The development potential of migration will keep growing and it will become even more multifaceted. Moreover, the impact of migration on development is likely to become far reaching, affecting a growing number of countries around the world.

- Agreeing on goals, targets and indicators is likely to be a considerable political challenge given that, to date, states have agreed on relatively few goals, targets and indicators relating to migration and development. There is also a considerable technical challenge: data on migration and development remain poor. Although there is an increasing amount of research on the effects of migration on development, global and regional monitoring of migration's impact on development has been limited.

Suggestions

- Migration is an important cross-cutting issue that can act as an enabler of development; it can have an impact on the achievement of many different kinds of MDGs whether related to poverty reduction, health, education or the environment. It is therefore essential that any future monitoring framework includes measurement of the impact of migration on these sorts of development goals.
- It is recognized that migrants can find themselves in a very vulnerable situation, especially when migration is forced or when it occurs through irregular channels. The new global development agenda should "leave no one behind", in the words of the High-level Panel report (United Nations, 2013). This implies a need to be able to develop indicators to track the well-being of migrants compared with other groups in society to ensure that they are not excluded from development gains.
- The post-2015 framework should not only focus on goals, but should also be about instruments. Development progress is also about implementing policies that create an environment conducive to development. The MDGs are not only a list of goals on development outcomes; they also include a call for progress on the use of certain instruments under MDG 8 which are grouped under the heading "develop a global partnership for development".
- The report suggests different ways (goals, targets and indicators) in which migration might be integrated into a future post-2015 global development agenda. **Goals** express an ambitious, but specific, commitment: possible examples for migration could be end poverty, ensure healthy lives, create jobs, sustainable livelihoods and equitable growth, ensure good governance and effective institutions, ensure stable and peaceful societies, create a global enabling environment and catalyse long-term finance. **Targets** are quantified sub-components that will contribute in a major way to the achievement of the goal; they should be an outcome variable. Examples for migration could include: reduce human trafficking by 50 per cent by 2030, lower average remittance transaction fees by 20 per cent by 2030, reduce the cost of obtaining a visa or passport for travel by 25 per cent by 2030, ensure that over 50 per cent of countries integrate migration into national development plans by 2030, increase the health coverage of migrant populations by 50 per cent. **Indicators** are precise metric from identified databases to assess if the target is being met. Examples for migration could include: number of trafficked persons, cost of remittance transactions, cost of a visa or passport, number of development plans that include significant references to migration, comparison of maternal mortality between migrants and resident population.

Methodology

Research from primary sources, research from secondary sources and modelling

Reference to other trends reports? If yes, which reports?

- European Union, European Report on Development 2013 – Post-2015: Global Action for an Inclusive and Sustainable Future. EU, Brussels.
- United Nations, 2012 Realizing the Future We Want for All: Report to the Secretary-General. Report by the United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda, United Nations, New York. Available from www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Post_2015_UNTTreport.pdf