

GFMD 2020 UAE – Thematic Note on Theme 6: Fostering Partnerships to Realize Migration-Related Goals in the Sustainable Development Agenda and Managing the Future of Human Mobility

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Viewing migration from a development and a humanitarian lens can be the basis for building effective partnerships on migration. Migration is a component of global development since people need to move from lagging places and sectors, and labor supply and skills are needed in growing places and sectors. Migration can be highly beneficial if the risks and challenges – some real, some perceived – are properly managed. Migrants and their families tend to gain from migration the most in terms of increases in income and better access to education and health services. Migration empowers women. Child mortality is reduced after migration. However, these gains are hindered by the discrimination and difficult working conditions that immigrants face in the host countries. Origin countries benefit through increased remittances, investments, trade, and transfers of skill and technology, resulting in reduced poverty and unemployment. In 2019, remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries reached \$554 billion, more than three times total development aid and larger than foreign direct investment flows. On the negative side, emigration of skilled workers can affect the delivery of health and education services in small economies. The high-income destination countries also benefit from migration through increased supplies of labor, skills, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Migrants also pay taxes and contribute to social security systems. However, evidence on the effect of immigration on the wages of native-born workers in destination countries remains mixed: some studies indicate small negative impacts on wages of lower-skilled native-born workers, whereas others indicate positive impacts when immigrants are skilled and complement the native-born workforce.

Migration is set to increase, driven by income gaps, demographic imbalances, and climate change. The multi-dimensional complexities associated with migration necessitate effective partnerships among key stakeholders. Such partnerships can be established among various stakeholders within a country, but often, they must involve many nations.

Discussions of future partnership solutions can build on the globally agreed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, on SDG 10.7, to promote safe and regular migration and specific targets such as reducing recruitment costs paid by migrant workers and reducing remittance costs. In addition, many SDG targets can be fully achieved only if migration and migrants are considered. Prominent examples are, SDG target 8.8 to protect labor rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers and women migrants, and SDG 16.9 to provide legal identity for all. According to the United Nations, the global community's pledge to leave no one behind requires more than 24 SDG indicators to be disaggregated by migratory status.

The effectiveness of any partnership is critically dependent on (a) the availability of financial resources to support implementation of agreed policy measures, accompanied by (b) regular monitoring and evaluation

of programs to improve outcomes and (c) adapt to changing circumstances. While billions of dollars are spent every year by countries to manage migration, there is a need for a **Financing Facility** to implement migration programs in many host and origin countries. In the medium-term, a possible format for regular monitoring and review of migration programs and policies could be a **review framework**, like the G20 Mutual Assessment Process, in which countries voluntarily outline policy initiatives relating to migration. Their outlines, compiled and checked for consistency, would be used as input for a report to be discussed at important global forums. More immediately, COVID-19 has altered the priorities for migration policy dialogues.

The **COVID-19 crisis** has brought a new sense of urgency to forging partnerships in addressing immediate challenges facing migrants, host communities, and migrants' families in sending communities. Supporting migrants through provision of health care is urgent not only to protect migrants, but also to protect citizens from contagion risks, especially in cities and rural areas that have a concentration of migrant workers. Cash transfers and social protection should be extended to migrants as well. Stranded migrants must receive support in returning home. Remittances are expected to decline by 20 percent, over \$100 billion, in 2020, which would rupture a financial lifeline to households in poor countries. There is an urgency to mitigate the impacts of the crisis on remittances and remittance services. Travel bans have disrupted availability of workers in agriculture sector at the peak farming season, increasing risks of food price increases. There are additional risks to food security in Africa where locusts are already a concern.

Guiding Questions

A core objective of the 2020 Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) is to establish *innovative partnerships* among countries, civil society, businesses and local governments on: (1) The Governance of Labor Migration in the Context of Changing Employment Landscapes; (2) Skilling Migrants for Employment; (3) Leveraging New Technologies to Empower Migrants; (4) Addressing Gaps in Migrant Protection; and (5) Discussing Approaches to Prevent Irregular Migration.

The GFMD Concept Note sets out the following guiding questions for discussion on establishing partnerships, identifying partners, and challenges in reporting partnerships at a regional and global level.

Q1: In your experience, what are the main challenges when *establishing* partnerships on migration?

Having clearly identified objectives and outcomes and a workable work program – not too general, not too specific – strengthens partnerships. Are adequate financial and human resources available for implementation? Does the partnership adequately address conflict of interest among stakeholders (e.g., between sending and receiving countries, between migrant workers and employers, trade-offs between quotas for immigration and rights of migrants granted by destination countries)?

- To what extent does diverse participation by multiple stakeholders assist in the establishment of partnerships? Is it a challenge to find counterparties with whom to establish a partnership?
- In your experience, what are the challenges when seeking adequate financial and human resources? What interesting case studies can you share on overcoming these challenges?
- Does a clear focus on outcome make a difference when establishing a partnership? How important is finding the right partner?
- What governance structures are important to consider when establishing partnerships?

Q2: In your experience, what are the main challenges when *implementing* partnerships on migration? What has worked and what has not?

- To what extent have the financial and human resources available for implementation determined the outcomes from the partnerships?
- Are partnerships designed to achieve specific outcomes more successful than those that address common concerns / challenges irrespective of specific outcomes?
- Does the value added by each partner receive sufficient recognition, and are there conflicts of interest among stakeholders (e.g. sending and receiving countries, workers and employers, trade-offs between quotas for immigration and the rights of migrants etc.)?
- Are partnerships most effective at the local, regional or global level?

Q3: How can partnerships be *oriented towards beneficial development outcomes*, keeping in mind the future of human mobility and future of work?

- How can we design innovative partnerships in the face of the changing nature of work and technological change?
- What data sources and insights can be brought to bear when designing and implementing partnerships?
- What key trends relating to changing nature of work and technological change need to be taken account?
- What role can technology play in developing and sustaining partnerships? Can technology be counterproductive under certain circumstances – and if so, what circumstances?

Q4: How can we assess the outcomes of a partnership and identify what works and what doesn't?

- What indicators/results frameworks are valuable when assessing the outcomes of partnerships?
- How can monitoring and evaluation mechanisms be established at the outset of a partnership?
- How can concerns relating to confidentiality and privacy be addressed when monitoring outcomes?

Q5: What are the challenges when reporting partnerships at a regional and global level?

- What confidentiality issues need to be addressed when reporting on partnerships? How can these successfully be navigated?
- What quality control mechanisms need to be put in place when assessing the outcomes of partnerships for reporting at a regional and global level? What role can / should third parties play?
- How can reputational risks relating to the communication of partnership outcomes be managed? Is this a concern?
- What frameworks can be put in place to ensure that partnership outcomes are coherent with wide national, regional and global policy?