



Building Regional Capacity on International Migration and Development through Inter-agency Collaboration: IOM, the League of Arab States, and UNESCWA organise a workshop for government representatives from Arab League Member States

15 - 18 September 2014—League of Arab States Headquarters, Cairo. IOM, the UN Economic and Social Community for Western Asia (UNESCWA), and the League of Arab States, organized a capacity-building workshop “Strengthening Government Capacities on Migration and Development in the Arab Region,” within the framework of the inter-agency Working Group on International Migration in the Arab Region (WG), which the three agencies co-chair.

The four-day workshop aimed at building the capacities of selected Arab countries of origin to develop, implement, monitor, and evaluate policies that maximize the developmental potential of migration and minimize its negative impacts, based on international best practice.

The workshop was attended by nineteen governmental representatives—primarily from ministries dealing with expatriates’ affairs—from Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, and Yemen, which represent major sources of origin for migration in the region. Participants were selected on the basis of interest from the countries and the importance of their expatriate populations, with a particular priority given to least-developed countries.

The workshop comprised a series of interactive sessions introducing key migration and development topics. Participants were given the opportunity to engage with the material through a discussion and simulation exercises in order to:

- build participants’ knowledge on subjects related to migration and development;
- increase participants’ understanding of the linkages among different sectors when addressing international migration and development;
- engage with concrete regional experiences; and
- enable government representatives to develop policies



Participants discussing topics in break-out groups © IOM 2014

to respond to the development effects of migration in line with relevant international standards.

Drs. Ayman Zohry and Mohamed Khachani, who are both leading experts in the field of migration, delivered the training in Arabic which consisted of five modules over the four day workshop. Opening remarks were made by Ms. Enas El-Fergany (League of Arab States, Director of the Population Policies, Expatriates & Migration Department), Ms. Rouba Arja (UNESCWA, First Population Affairs Officer), and Mr. Amr Taha (IOM, Country Programme Coordinator).

The workshop brought together the different expertise of multiple agencies working on migration from different perspectives and provided a space for country representatives to work with them in a group setting. Other WG members, including UNAIDS, UNODC, WHO, UN-Habitat, and the ILO, contributed by collaborating to provide special sessions on cross-sector topics such as trafficking in persons and the

smuggling of migrants; universal health coverage as a tool to ensure the right to health of migrants and their access to HIV services in the region; and, the impact of migration on urban fabric and slum formation and the right for adequate housing for migrant workers. Delegates had a rich and stimulating discussion with partner presenters, engaging with them and the information put forward throughout the afternoon sessions.

The Working Group is continuing to coordinate international organizations’ work on migration related issues in the region, and will be releasing the Situation Report on International Migration in the Arab Region in 2015. It will give a comprehensive overview of migration in the region, as well as providing analysis on a variety of thematic topics.



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