



## International Dialogue on Migration (IDM)



Enhancing the role  
of **Return** Migration

**In Fostering Development**



# The development aspect of return migration

Second in series of IDM workshops on return migration in 2008

## First workshop

- 🔄 Managing return in broader context of international migration
- 🔄 Different trends and modalities of return
- 🔄 Main policy issues and challenges

## Second workshop

- 🔄 Focus on core relation between return migration and development
- 🔄 Identify policies and tools
  - Enhance its positive potential
  - Facilitate and encourage return

Return Migration:  
Considerable potential for development





# The development aspect of return migration

- Return migration can also have destabilising effects
  - **Need to be considered and effectively addressed**
- Return a complement to and not a substitute for development policies
  - **Return: consequence or cause of development?**
- Preparation key to successful return
- Cooperation between host countries & countries of origin essential





## Returning Migrants: central actors in the return process

 Valuing their contribution

 Support structures

 Partners and not resources

 Incentives

 Options





# Return migration: Integral element of the migration - development nexus

## Nature and extent of the development impact of return

### **Difficult to evaluate precisely**

- **Depends on a number of important factors:**
  - **Social, political, legal and economic environment**
  - **Characteristics, resources and behaviour of individual migrants**
  - **Differing developmental potential of different types of return (e.g. voluntary vs. forced, temporary vs. permanent return)**
- **Challenge:**
  - **Gather accurate national, regional and global data on return migration flows**







## **Main challenge:**

**Reducing risks of brain drain and counteracting its negative effects**

**Of particular concern: skills shortages in critical sectors,  
i.e. health care and education**

**Loss of investment in education**



**Emigration reduces number of dynamic and innovative people**





## Benefits of return migration for human capital in countries of origin:

- Regain skilled labour force
- Benefit from new or enhanced skills and know-how of returnees
- Transfer of technology
- Transfer of scientific, technical and economic expertise
- Establishment of economic, trade, political, social cultural networks and exchanges





## Enhancing the benefits of return for countries of origin



### **Policies and institutional mechanisms in destination countries enabling productive stay of migrants**

- Improve migrants' skills; avoid underutilisation



### **Policies and programmes in countries of origin**

- Promoting efficient skill transfers (joint diploma programmes or inter-university programmes)
- Measures to encourage temporary return and circular migration
- Actual and virtual return: IOM's MIDA programme



### **Ensure migrants work productively in both labour markets**







# Financial Contribution of Returning Migrants



## Capital inflow and subsequent productive investment

- Potential employment creation at local and national levels
- **Yet potential loss of remittances if return is not temporary**



## Volume of savings and kind of investments depend on

- Characteristics of returnees (skill level, age, gender, etc.)
- Type of return





# Financial Contribution of Returning Migrants

**Q** As savings are private funds – potential incentive measures to facilitate their development impact:

- **Opportunities and financial tools for investments**
- **Financial products:** higher interest rates, exchange rate guarantees, exemption from wealth and income taxes



**Q** **Challenge:**

**Portability of pension funds and other social benefits**





# Measures to Facilitate Return and Increase Development Impact

- **Most returns happen spontaneously**
- **However, migrants may lack the financial and organisational resources to return and plan their economic and social reintegration**
- **Returnees often face considerable challenges**
  - **Lack of basic health facilities and education services**
  - **Concerns about personal security and stability**



**Vital roles of governments of both host and origin countries**






# Measures to Facilitate Return and Increase Development Impact

## Countries of Origin

### Broader Reintegration Strategy



#### 1. Employment-finding or creating mechanisms:

-  Systematic information dissemination on job opportunities and support programmes via the internet
-  Recognizing professional credentials obtained abroad
-  Vocational training, micro-enterprise development
-  Financial assistance (micro-credit) for the development of small and medium enterprises
-  Technical assistance for development of businesses in a variety of industries
-  Offering returnees accreditation as trainers or consultants in schools, government agencies or the private sector





# Measures to Facilitate Return and Increase Development Impact

## Countries of Origin



### 2. Other Return-inducing Measures



**Funded travel**



**Medical insurance**



**Provision of professional equipment**



**Credible economic and investment climate**

- **Good governance**
- **Social, political and economic stability**
- **Transparency and regulation of financial institutions**







# Measures to Facilitate Return and Increase Development Impact

## Host Countries



- 🔄 **Assisted voluntary return programmes**
- 🔄 **Possibility to re-enter and access benefits in host countries**
  - **Assurance of legal and social status in host countries**
- 🔄 **Addressing barriers to portability of pensions**
- 🔄 **Enhance availability of regular migration channels**
  - Work permits, residency permits, multiple-entry visas, dual nationality, etc.**





# Measures to Facilitate Return and Increase its Development Impact

## Measures by both Host Countries and Countries of Origin

- ④ Maintaining and strengthening ties between migrants and home countries
- ④ Promoting savings and investment schemes for migrants' funds through economic and financial sector tools
- ④ Leveraging the development impact of migrants' savings:
  - Need for sound policies, secure financial & legal environment to stimulate investment & other capital inflows
  - Incentives for savings





# Measures to Facilitate Return and Increase Development Impact

**Combined impact of measures by governments at both ends**

**Sustainable return & successful reintegration**

**Increase its contribution to development**

**Make temporary migration more temporary and circular migration more circular**





# Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships

## **To maximise development benefits of return migration:**

Multi-stakeholder partnerships at the grassroots, national, regional and international levels



**Address concerns and challenges faced by individual returnees and countries of origin**



**Tailor policy measures**



**Provide an environment enabling contributions to development**





# Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships

## Inter-state consultation and cooperation

- At the national level, intra-state coordination between different government bodies and levels

**Ensure compatible and comprehensive policies**

- Informal dialogue and information exchange between governments at all levels: local, municipal and national

- Other useful platforms:

- Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs)
- Global Forum on Migration & Development







# Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships

## Other Stakeholders

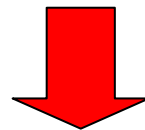
### **Diasporas**

- Remittances, investment, entrepreneurial activities, transfer of skills and knowledge
- Foster political, social and cultural exchange between countries of origin and destination
- Importance of fostering effective consultative arrangements and cooperation between diasporas and home and host communities



### **Migrant workers and home-town associations**

- Active role in setting up virtual networks between diasporas and countries of origin
- Platform for sharing ideas and knowledge



Facilitates reintegration





# Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships



## Business and Private Sector

- Provide access to reliable financial institutions and businesses in country of origin for productive investments of migrants' savings



## Civil Society Organizations

Explore concerns of the returnees & suggest initiatives and programmes to address them



## National and International Organizations

- Can play important role in establishing & strengthening partnerships with governments & capacity building





# Concluding Remarks

## Relationship between Return Migration and Development

**Is just beginning to receive due attention**

## It holds considerable positive potential

**Common ground and shared interests**

- Countries of origin
- Host countries
- Migrants themselves





# Concluding Remarks

- **Return migration has effects on both countries of origin and destination**
  
- **Long and shorter-term foreign residents at all skill levels can substantially contribute to home country development**
  - **Temporary and circular mobility**
  - **Investment**
  - **Skills transfer**
  - **Joint human resource development**





# Concluding Remarks

## Greatest Convergence of Interests

### Countries of origin

- **Can enhance the positive contribution of migration to development**
- **Return of forced migrants often crucial for rebuilding and development of « post-conflict » societies**

### Countries of destination

- **Means to meet sectoral, seasonal and peak labour demands in temporary and circular labour migration schemes**
- **Public opinion often less negative towards temporary mobility compared to permanent migration**







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