

FOREWORD

When we issued the second World Migration report in 2003, I expressed the hope that it would shed more light on the challenges and responses for people on the move, and contribute towards enhancing migration management approaches that uphold the principle that “humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and societies”. In the two years since then, the understanding of migration issues in migration management has broadened and deepened, and the examples of good practices have increased significantly.

It has become increasingly clear, however, that public perceptions of migration and migrants play a critical role in determining the policy choices available to governments – and the World Migration report series offers a sufficiently comprehensive range of facts and analysis to aid the accuracy and balanced nature of those perceptions.

This third edition, *World Migration 2005*, addresses the theme of the “costs and benefits” of international migration in an attempt to explain the opportunities and challenges in a manner which will inform, update and stimulate debate, and thus broaden the scope of policy choices. Rational and well-informed choices by migrants, governments, civil society, communities and the private sector can help maximize the benefits and minimize the costs of migration, in social, economic and political terms.

As with the last report, more than half the contributors are IOM staff members, drawing from the experiences of governments, migrants, NGOs and others working with migrants on the ground. The remaining sections have been contributed by authors from governments, universities, think tanks, international organizations and other sources of expertise. Each brings a different perspective to the discussion, but there is also a surprising convergence of interests, approaches and conclusions – particularly about the benefits of migration.

The report takes both a regional and thematic approach to charting and assessing the benefits and costs, and provides data, statistics and maps to offer both a snapshot of the situation and illustrate the trends. Due to its broad scope and unique combination of information, analysis and effective practice, the series has become a useful reference text for both policy makers and students of the subject.

We hope this report will succeed in illuminating further the complex issues which make up migration today and tomorrow, how they affect all of us every day in some way or another and how, together, we can manage migration better for the common good.



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