“Social Protection for Migrants”

Irena Vojáčková-Sollorano
Director
Department of Migration Management

SCPF, May 2012

Outline

1. Scope of Social Protection for Migrants
2. Examples of Gov. Initiatives and other Partners
3. IOM’s Work on Social Protection for Migrants
The purpose of the paper is to provide an overview of the main aspects of social protection related to migration.

IOM’s goal is to develop and implement - in collaboration with its Member States and other partners - measures to reduce the migration-related social and financial risks.

IOM uses the widely accepted UNDP definition of social protection recognizing the need for public, private, IO, NGO and civil society involvement.

1. Scope of Social Protection for Migrants

The purpose of the paper is to provide an overview of the main aspects of social protection related to migration.

IOM’s goal is to develop and implement - in collaboration with its Member States and other partners - measures to reduce the migration-related social and financial risks.

IOM uses the widely accepted UNDP definition of social protection recognizing the need for public, private, IO, NGO and civil society involvement.

2. Examples of Government Initiatives and other Partners

- Equal access to social benefits and health for regular migrants (Canada, Spain)
- Countries of origin taking special measures for children left behind (Ukraine)
- NGOs working alongside governments to ensure that the most vulnerable migrants have access to basic health services (South Africa, Lebanon, ...)
- Labor attachés to assist migrant workers and liaise with host government (Guatemala, Bangladesh, ...)
- Dedicated government offices to prepare migrant workers for their overseas employment and return (Philippines, Mexico, Thailand)
- Governments collaborating to regulate recruitment and reducing the upfront costs of migration (South Korea, Canada, ...)
3. IOM’s Work on Social Protection for Migrants

In countries of origin:
- Migrant resource centers (Western Balkans, Vietnam, India, ...)
- Ensuring migrant-friendly health assessments (US, UK, Canada, ...)
- Pre-departure training/orientation (Egypt, Ghana, ...)
- Awareness campaigns targeted at potential irregular migrants (Western Balkans, Sri Lanka, ...)
- Reintegration basic assistance to stranded migrants, trafficked persons, rejected asylum seekers etc... (Ukraine, Vietnam, ...)

In countries of transit:
- Providing social assistance incl. shelter (Libya, Djibouti, ...)
- Voluntary return assistance (Greece, Yemen, ...)

In countries of destination:
- Work with governments to facilitate access to social services including education/health for migrants (Kenya, Thailand, ...)
- Campaigns to reduce xenophobia/social exclusion of migrants (South Africa, Italy, ...)
- Provide shelter and assisted voluntary return (EU, Mexico, ...)

3. IOM’s Work on Social Protection for Migrants

continued
Areas for Further Collaboration

- Research to evaluate social protection gaps

- Cost-benefit analysis of social protection

- Innovative approaches

Thank you

SCPF, May 2012