

Background paper¹

Roundtable 3: *Enhancing international cooperation on emerging issues in migration and mobility*

Roundtable 3.1: *International cooperation and responsibility sharing to enhance human development and human security for people forcibly displaced across international borders*

Expected outcome

This Roundtable would be expected to lead to proposals for international cooperation and solidarity that aim to promote human development and human security for forced migrants² who cross international borders, through enhanced mobility channels such as labour market access, educational opportunities and family reunification.

As this extremely complex topic is analyzed for the first time in the context of the GFMD, the Roundtable should also result in a better understanding of the links between forced migration and development and the roles and responsibilities of all actors. This builds on the call of the Secretary General's Special Representative for International Migration to collaborate and develop an approach on migration in crisis, and the efforts of international community such as the IOM Migration Crisis Operational Framework; the work of the Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees; the migrants in countries in crisis (MICIC) working group, the Nansen Initiative, and the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on multiple fronts including mixed migration and refugee livelihoods. This Roundtable creates the opportunity to learn from the best practices from previous crisis situations, collect evidence, and explore proposals for cooperation among national and international stakeholders to improve the life of migrants and facilitate their contributions to development.

Background

Migration and mobility have gained momentum around the globe, facilitated by technology and sophisticated social networks. Today, almost 3% of the world's people live outside of their country of birth. Contributing to the momentum in this young century are multiple simultaneous crises resulting in displacement on a scale not seen since World War II. Man-made and natural disasters pose both acute and slow-developing threats to people's security and their ability to contribute to and benefit from development: these threats include environmental degradation, often exacerbated by climate change, natural disasters, armed conflicts and

¹ This paper has been elaborated by the **Migration Policy Institute** in accordance with the discussions of, and based on inputs by the **RT 3.1 co-chairs** *Eritrea* and *Republic of Moldova* and **RT Government Team members** *Bangladesh, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Germany, Greece, Libya, Philippines, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates* and **Non-state partners** *ICMPD, IFRC, ILO, IOM, KNOMAD, OHCHR, UNHCR* and *World Bank*. MPI does not accept any liability or give any guarantee for the validity, accuracy and completeness of the information in this paper, which is intended to inform and stimulate discussion of Roundtable session 3.1 during the Turkish GFMD Summit meeting in October 2015. It is not exhaustive in its treatment of the session 3.1 theme and does not necessarily reflect the views of the GFMD organizers or the governments or international organizations involved in the GFMD process.

² 'Forced migrants' do not comprise a new legal category of people entitled to international protection beyond the fundamental human rights protections that are owed to all people. The term is used in this paper in a purely descriptive sense, to encompass displaced persons who are compelled by external factors to leave their homes in search of safety, dignity, respect for their rights, and the prospect of a secure livelihood. It includes also refugees, who are a distinct category of people with a specific legal status under international law. The GFMD discussion is confined to forced migrants who cross an international border.

political turmoil. These factors, combined with entrenched poverty, discrimination and human rights violations, have contributed to an increase in the number of forced migrants who, in addition to men and women whose livelihoods have been rendered untenable, include refugees, asylum seekers, stateless people, victims of torture, victims of trafficking, and unaccompanied minors.

At the end of 2014, 59.5 million people all over the world were forcibly displaced, including 38.2 million internally displaced people, 19.5 million refugees and 1.8 million asylum seekers. According to UNHCR, this was the highest number ever recorded. Compared with a year earlier, the number of such people (internally displaced people, refugees, asylum seekers) was up 16% ³. In addition, the number of people forced to cross international borders who fall outside these categories is not even estimated, but undoubtedly adds many millions.

Recent humanitarian crises such as those in the Middle East, the Horn of Africa, West Africa, the Mediterranean, and the Middle East—as well as long-standing situations of protracted displacement—have triggered greater awareness about the needs and vulnerabilities of migrants and refugees who find themselves in precarious situations following crises. Consciousness is rising as well about the necessity of better planned responses from governments, international organizations and other actors. Although refugees are forced migrants, not all forced migrants are necessarily refugees. Those forced migrants who are not refugees are exceptionally vulnerable; their uncertain future and, above all, the lack of any legal international provision for their protection differentiate them from refugees.

Forced migration affects all kinds of people. Political and economic crises, as well as natural disasters, do not select among those are better or worse off financially, those who are highly skilled or less skilled, those with high levels of education or those unable to read or write, men or women or children. Stripped of their normal life, dispossessed of adequate housing and jobs, unable to educate their children or invest in the future, forced migrants are among the most vulnerable of the world's people. Many live in makeshift camps or in urban slums, and many are unaccounted for as they disperse. Often, they do not have legal authorization to enter and/or stay in the country in which they have arrived, and this makes their lives especially precarious. In many settings, forced migrants are prevented from entering the formal labour market, which deprives them of the opportunity to fully use their skills and experience to support themselves and their families, which is a source of dignity and satisfaction as well as a human right. Many endure extremely hazardous journeys, hoping to arrive at a place where they can find safety and the prospect for a better future. They may find themselves stuck in a state of protracted displacement, or forcibly returned to the country of origin they felt compelled to leave.

Although human mobility provides an important means for people to improve their standard of living and to contribute to the economic and social life of their countries of origin, transit and destination, solutions to displacement often focus on containing or reversing such mobility. Displaced people are more often regarded as problems and burdens rather than as potential agents of development.

Roundtable 3.1 will base its discussion on areas of international cooperation that could contribute to ensuring the human rights (including labour rights), human development and human security of forced migrants. Forced migrants' human development will be safeguarded if they have access to educational and employment opportunities. Their human security will be enhanced if they can work, maintain their human dignity by supporting their own family and communities, and maintain or reassemble the family unit. In order not to duplicate previous work and discussions, RT 3.1 will focus on the potential of international cooperation in the field of human mobility, and on possible avenues to incorporate forced migrants into labour markets, educational opportunities and other avenues such as family reunification. Moreover, RT 3.1 will focus on the best practices of interventions and actions that could be taken in pre-crisis, emergency and post-crisis phases to better protect and assist forced migrants. Other aspects of human security will be dealt with in other GFMD roundtables.

³ <https://www.destatis.de/EN/FactsFigures/InFocus/International/refugees.html>

Main areas of concern

Forced migrants often live in precarious situations. They may remain underemployed, with their skills underutilized, particularly if they are denied a secure legal status while waiting for a durable solution. The waiting time is often interminable. Governments have begun to discuss ways to incorporate displaced people into the labour markets of host countries and countries of first asylum, but they have been much more reluctant to discuss international mobility as a means of access to livelihoods and a fuller enjoyment of human rights.

The absence of legal mobility, coupled with the inability or unwillingness of many countries of transit or first asylum to offer displaced people even minimal standards of well-being, has given rise to a number of social and political pathologies such as increased incidence of child labour and child marriage. The consequences also include unauthorized onward journeys that place forced migrants in grave danger while creating huge windfall profits for criminal organizations. Forced migration creates risks associated with economic and sexual exploitation of the most vulnerable including by traffickers, insecure urban self-settlement, and the disruption of host and transit countries' economies and their often fragile political stability. Countries that have a greater ability to absorb displaced people cannot adequately plan for the orderly reception and successful integration of migrants when large, unanticipated flows arrive.

While forced migration puts these populations in a precarious situation, enforced immobility may perpetuate it. Some of the solutions could consist in providing forced migrants of all skill levels with the opportunity to join either existing labour migration programs or specific programs targeting forced migrants. Creating family reunification programs for those who have relatives already settled elsewhere would also widen channels of mobility. International study and training programs could be opened more fully to forced migrants. The possibility of regularizing forced migrants in a willing third country may also be taken into consideration.

Due to the increasing number of people who are forcibly displaced across borders, it is important for solutions for these groups of people to be discussed as an emerging issue within the context of the GFMD. Development and employment agencies, as well as migration authorities, are invited to be actively involved in this specific debate. Considering forced displacement in a migration-and-development framework may lead to approaches that can benefit forced migrants; countries of first asylum, destination or transit; and other countries that need the energy and the skills that many forced migrants are eager to offer. The framework may also be advantageous to countries and communities of origin who would likely receive migrant remittances and may eventually be able to attract forced migrants to return.

1. International cooperation in access to labour markets

With government budgets under stress almost everywhere, and particularly in countries hosting large numbers of forced migrants, it is clear that the traditional “care and maintenance” model for people compelled to move across international borders, including those displaced by natural disasters and environmental degradation, is unsustainable. Access to labour markets in countries of transit or destination is often problematic; the vast majority of forced migrants reside in developing countries that, in some cases, have difficulty absorbing their own, native-born workers into the job market.

Giving forced migrants access to a third-country labour market can be a significant form of responsibility sharing. Labour mobility channels could be tailored to the needs and circumstances of each country that participates. For example, countries that use some elements of a points system for admissions could award points to forced migrants, including victims of humanitarian crises.

Labour markets are often inaccessible to newcomers, and especially to forced migrants who arrive without the required documentation. In addition to lack of regular migration status, other obstacles can include lack of language skills, and the non-recognition of educational and professional qualifications. Efficient mechanisms to rapidly integrate forced migrants—including by evaluating their skills and offering them vocational training or retraining—would help to facilitate their access to the labour market without long waiting periods.

Labour migration schemes established by a growing number of developed or emerging economies, in cooperation with countries that have a labour surplus, are not generally accessible to refugees, let alone to other forced migrants. These schemes are restricted to nationals of the countries of origin that have signed an agreement with the destination countries.

Given the demographic deficits of many industrialized and emerging countries, labour mobility for forced migrants could serve the triple purpose of meeting labour market needs in the receiving countries, generating a stream of remittances that could improve the economic situation of refugee and migrant-origin communities remaining behind, and reducing pressure on countries of first asylum, destination or transit that find themselves under strain as host to large numbers of displaced people for protracted periods. Many migrant populations include a variety of skilled and educated people. If given opportunities, the latter would be capable of filling gaps created in the labour market by the aging of host countries; in addition, many developed countries need less-skilled workers to fill jobs in sectors such as agriculture, personal care, food service and hospitality, and others. Opening employment opportunities to migrants in ways that complement the host country labour force could trigger a positive cycle that would contribute to the human dignity of forced migrants, allow them to give assistance and hope to family members left behind, and at the same time contribute in the development potential of countries of. Further exploration of means, methods, costs and advantages of offering tailored labour migration/mobility options, including temporary labour migration schemes, to forced migrants could help bridge the current gap between existing refugee resettlement schemes and labour migration policies and programmes to address both the needs and potential contributions of forced migrants. However, strong safeguards must be in place to make sure that, if refugees are among the forced migrants participating in temporary-labor migration programs, they do not give up protection against refoulement at the end of a contract period. For all forced migrants who work, measures to counter exploitation and monitoring mechanism should be in place.

2. International cooperation in access to opportunities for education and training

For many industrialized and emerging countries, one important channel for filling the pipeline for much-needed skills is the admission of foreign students. The education of young people is often disrupted by their forcible displacement. Programs to allow them to enjoy their right to education, such as admission to a foreign university or vocational training institute would not only reduce “brain waste” but also help fill skills gaps as graduates would be better prepared to work in the host countries. Education and training schemes would be particularly beneficial in the case of countries that share a common language. In other cases, language training could be incorporated in the programs. Developing countries with well-developed university systems who have a large number of their graduates emigrating, but who are receiving numerous displaced people, might also find such programs helpful to fill skills gaps. Programs could be supported in part through public/private partnerships with the participation of potential employers, industry associations or professional associations, and private universities or technical institutes. Similar schemes should be considered for children of forced migrants at lower levels of education (kindergarten; primary and high school levels).

Special procedures to fast-track evaluation of credentials and establish degree equivalencies (and programs to fill in gaps via additional training) would help to support forced migrants in achieving self-sufficiency as early as possible while still remaining in their previous occupations.

Forced migrants could also be given access to vocational training such as specialized education and training programs that could be tailored to international market demand for health-care workers, technical specialists, agricultural workers, etc. The demand for semi-skilled workers remains high in many industrialized countries.

International and bilateral agreements to reconstruct and rehabilitate disaster stricken areas in affected countries would be a significant way to contribute to making return of displaced people possible. The expedited reconstruction of schools, clinics, and hospitals in affected areas would attract forced migrants back for education and health services; it opens job opportunities for returnees as well. In the case of people forcibly displaced by conflicts, political solutions must preface any reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts

3. International cooperation in family reunification

Forced migration often contributes towards breaking families apart, destroying the very nucleus of human society. Host countries could consider family reunification as a means of promoting the human rights and human security of forced migrants. A significant number of displaced people have relatives established in other countries who are willing to sponsor family members to join them and have the means to do so. Family reunification is often a difficult and long-drawn-out procedure for recognized refugees. In the case of other displaced individuals who do not have refugee status, it can be nearly impossible to be reunited with family through legal channels. Both as a humanitarian measure and as a form of responsibility sharing, governments should consider relaxing the constraints on family reunification for forced migrants. Reunification beyond the closest relatives (spouses, parents and children) could require some evidence of the ability to support members of the extended family. Switzerland, for example, has eased visa requirements for relatives of Syrian nationals living in Switzerland as of December, 2013 and extended the possibility of family reunification beyond the nuclear family (see Annex).

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, in coordination with countries of destination, play a key role in supporting forced migrants in tracing family members and expediting family reunification.

4. Other avenues of mobility

In the case of people at risk of becoming forcibly displaced either from their countries of origin or from a transit or first-asylum country, third countries are experimenting with humanitarian visa programs, making it possible for forced migrants who may not be considered as refugees to gain prior authorization to move to the third country to find a job or to study. Brazil, for example, has issued 7,000 such visas as of mid-2015. This type of humanitarian visa could greatly reduce the dangers commonly encountered in onward journeys often involving criminal enterprises. On the other side, humanitarian visa programs may have the negative effect of attracting new migrants from poor countries who are not necessarily forced to migrate.

Empirical research on the economic benefits that would be associated with forced migrants having access to work and education, amongst other options, as opposed to remaining idle, could help underpin the policy analysis and recommendations of this Roundtable, and should be encouraged in preparation for it.

Key questions to address during the Roundtable discussions

Please share examples of existing practices, innovations, or ideas in relation to the following questions :

1. What are the roles and responsibilities' of the different stakeholders involved? How can government, international organizations, UN agencies, civil society and the private sector cooperate in improving the protection of the human rights of forced migrants to allow them to better contribute to the development of countries of origin and destination?
2. What kind of measures can governments take at national, regional and international level at the pre-crisis, emergency and post-crisis phase to plan for the assistance and protection of forcibly displaced migrants in the country of origin, transit and destination?
3. Taking into account the sensitive nature of the national responsibility of managing national labour markets, how can all stakeholders ~~governments~~ cooperate in securing short term or long term job opportunities/creation and access to labour markets for forced migrants? What are the factors that could facilitate bilateral or multilateral agreements among origin, transit and host countries on labour, circular migration schemes, mutual recognition of skills and qualifications, as well as diplomas?
4. What kind of measures can ~~governments~~ all stakeholders adopt to open educational opportunities for forced migrants? On what basis can origin, transit and host countries enter into bilateral, regional or multilateral agreements to provide education and training opportunities for forced migrants?
5. How could family reunification opportunities for forced migrants be increased?

6. What other avenues could be considered to protect the rights and promote the well-being of forced migrants?
7. What initiatives already exist, what are the synergies among them and how can the work of the GFMD further explore and strengthen these efforts?

Recommendations

The better protected migrant's rights are in normal times, the more resilient and able to help themselves they will be in times of crisis.

Labour

- Encourage transit and destination countries to consider including forced migrants in labour migration programs covering all skill levels and establish relations with employers to contribute to this aim.
- Evaluate the educational and professional qualifications of asylum seekers at an early stage of the procedure in order to adapt integration processes according to the asylum seekers qualification and the host countries' labour market needs

Education & training

- Open scholarship and study opportunities, including technical and vocational education and training, to forced migrants in countries of first asylum and in onward destinations. Some countries of transit may also benefit from offering such opportunities.
- Initiate international training programmes allowing forced migrants to improve their language skills and to acquire professional skills with the aim to accelerate job opportunities for them.
- Encourage bilateral and multilateral agreements on the equivalence of educational and professional qualifications (in close cooperation with UNESCO)
- Encourage destination countries in acute need of skills to open education and training opportunities to forced migrants in order to fill skills gaps, as graduates would be better prepared to work in the host countries.

Family reunification

- Reinforce family reunification schemes and programs for migrants who have relatives already settled outside of their countries of origin and expand definition of family for this purpose.

Other avenues to mobility

- Encourage humanitarian visa programs that would provide alternatives to unauthorized cross-border movements and avoid the ensuing dangers and crimes such as human trafficking.
- Encourage empirical research on the benefits associated with forced migrants having access to work and education
- Study the possibilities and consequences of providing regular status to forced migrants. In addition, study how and how much forced migrants contribute to the economies of host and transit countries.
- Promote emergency programmes at international, regional and national levels to reconstruct and rehabilitate schools, clinics, and hospitals in disaster stricken areas in affected countries, to make it possible for displaced people to return.

ANNEX

This Annex contains descriptions and references to examples of relevant frameworks, policies, programmes, projects and other experiences in relation to the issues raised in the policy part of the Background paper. This second part of the Background paper aims to form the basis of an evolving catalogue of policies and practices with a view to be stored and displayed on the GFMD PfP website in the M&D Policy and Practice Database. See <http://www.gfmd.org/pfp/ppd>.

<p>Title of M&D Policy or Practice: Transitional Solutions Initiative for Refugees and their Host Communities in Eastern Sudan (2011-2013)</p>	
<p>Country: Eastern Sudan</p>	<p>Partner(s): UNDP, UNHCR, Government of Sudan Ministry of Finance and other line ministries, Commissioner of Refugees, Locality Administrations, World Bank and local and international NGOs</p>
<p>Thematic Area(s): Strategies for minimizing costs/maximizing human development</p>	<p>Tags: Capacity Building, Livelihood and Job Creation</p>
<p>Summary: Eastern Sudan was selected as a pilot area for the Transitional Solutions Initiative (TSI). The goal of the project was to enhance self-reliance, reduce aid dependency and assist the socio-economic integration by restoring and expanding sustainable livelihoods opportunities for refugees and host communities. The outputs of the project were inter alia to enhance vocational capacities and business skills, diversify and improve rural livelihoods opportunities for refugees and host communities and enhance access to microfinance services.</p> <p>Vocational training was provided in auto-mechanics, mobile phone repair, car driving, food processing, electricity and auto-electricity maintenance among others. The project distributed tool kits or seed capital to the graduates, linked them to apprenticeships and provided post-training support to join the labour market or pursue self-employment. Farmers were trained and supported in different water harvesting techniques as well as gained market linkage skills. They were also connected to the Central Trading Company to access fertilizers, seed dressing, pesticides and herbicides. Para-vets were trained to provide services that included primary animal health care and reporting of epidemic diseases.</p> <p>Project beneficiaries also engaged in income generating activities and diversified their livelihood in poultry production, blacksmith for agricultural hand tool production, animal feed preservation and storage and agricultural processing. Microfinance services led to increased self-employment in the communities and led to projects such as donkey carts for water supply, sheep rearing, bakeries, cooking gas distribution, thereby increasing the monthly average income of beneficiaries.</p>	
<p>Web Links: http://open.undp.org/#project/00066369</p>	

Title of M&D Policy or Practice: MOA Between the PHL and the Kingdom of Bahrain on Health Services Cooperation	
Country: Philippines	Partner(s): Bahrain
Thematic Area(s): International cooperation to enhance human development and human security	Tags: Strategies for Maximizing Human Development, Access to Labor Markets, Irregular Migration
<p>Summary: The MOA between the Philippines and Bahrain is aimed at creating alliances between the Philippines and Bahrain's recognized healthcare and educational institutions to produce sustainable international education, training and professional/technical development programs. The agreement includes the Exchange of Human Resources for Health, Scholarships Program and Academic Cooperation on Human Resources for Health and among others.</p> <p>With a view of developing mechanisms for sustainability of the development of human resources for health, the PHL and Bahrain, through the MOA, have agreed also to work towards the forging of mutual recognition agreement on academic, professional and skills qualifications for the health services sector.</p>	
<p>Web Links: http://www.poea.gov.ph/docs/moa_bahrain.pdf</p>	

Title of M&D Policy or Practice: PHL- Japan International Corporation of Welfare Services (JICWELS) MOU on Nurses and Caregivers	
Country: Philippines	Partner(s): Japan
Thematic Area(s): International cooperation to enhance human development and human security	Tags: Strategies for Maximizing Human Development, Access to Labor Markets, Irregular Migration
<p>Summary: The PHL and JICWELS have forged a unique hiring program which allows the Filipino candidate nurses/caregivers to take Japanese licensure exam and to practice their profession in Japan. It requires the candidates to undergo language training and cultural course in preparation for the exam. Before obtaining their qualifying as full-pledged nurses in Japan, the candidate is covered by a fully transparent employment contract with salaries equivalent to what Japanese nurses/caregivers receive.</p>	

After passing the licensure or certification examinations, fully qualified nurses and certified caregivers shall have the option to stay for an unlimited period in Japan to practice their profession based on new and upgraded employment contracts with their employers.

Web Links:

http://www.poea.gov.ph/jpepa/mou_jpepa.pdf

Title of M&D Policy or Practice:

Easing of visa requirements for relatives of Syrian nationals living in Switzerland

Country:

Switzerland

Partner(s):

Thematic Area(s):

Family Reunification and Resettlement

Tags:

Summary:

Given the dramatic situation in Syria, Swiss authorities put in place an easing of visa requirements for relatives of Syrian nationals living in Switzerland from September to December 2013 and extended the concept of family reunification beyond the members of the nuclear family (spouses and children up to age 18) to other relatives in ascending and descending order (grandparents, parents, children over the age of 18 and grandchildren). The easing of visa requirements also applied to brothers and sisters of Syrian nationals living in Switzerland as well as to the members of their nuclear family. Around 4700 Syrian nationals with relatives in Switzerland were able to enter Switzerland quickly and easily as a result of this measure.

On 6 March 2015 the Swiss Government adopted additional measures to protect Syrian citizens by allowing 3000 additional people to enter Switzerland over a maximum of three years. A maximum of 1000 people are granted the opportunity to apply for an entry visa for Switzerland. This measure only applies to immediate family members (spouse and underage children) of Syrian nationals who have already been admitted to Switzerland and are in possession of temporary residence permit. Another 2,000 people will be authorized to enter Switzerland over the course of three years by means of a resettlement programme in collaboration with the UNHCR.

Web Links:

Title of M&D Policy or Practice: Nansen Initiative	
Country: Switzerland and Norway (Chairmanship)	Partner(s): UNHCR, IOM, Member states of the steering group (Australia, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Germany, Kenya, Mexico, the Philippines) and of the Group of Friends chaired by the European Union and Morocco.
Thematic Area(s): Rights of Migrants; disaster and climate change related cross-border displacement; Policy coherence and mainstreaming	Tags: Migration Management <input type="checkbox"/> Protection, Empowerment and Rights of Migrants <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Society <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Framework on Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Migration, Climate Change and Environment <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Consultative Processes and International Regional Fora <input type="checkbox"/> Transfer of Values, Ideas, Knowledge and Skills
<p>Summary: Displacement by disasters currently outnumbers conflict-related displacement and the number is likely to increase in the context of global warming. Over 166 million people were displaced by sudden-onset disasters in more than 120 countries between 2008 and 2013 (Source: IDMC). Most of the affected find refuge within their own country. However, some have to flee abroad and this group of people does not fit into either of the “classic” categories of refugees or IDPs. The national and international responses to meet their protection and assistance needs are currently insufficient. To address this protection gap, Switzerland together with Norway launched the Nansen Initiative in October 2012.</p> <p>The overall goal of the Nansen Initiative is to build consensus on key principles and elements to address the protection and assistance needs of persons displaced across borders in the context of disasters. The Nansen Initiative is a state-led, bottom-up consultative process. It is chaired by the governments of Switzerland and Norway and governed by a Steering Group of selected states (Australia, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Germany, Kenya, Mexico, and the Philippines). The Group of Friends, chaired by the European Union and Morocco, is comprised of states that have an active interest in the Initiative. The Consultative Committee brings together actors from the civil society, academia and international organizations, and informs the process through its expertise.</p> <p>At the core of the Nansen Initiative are the inter-governmental regional consultations and civil society meetings in five regions of the world most concerned by the phenomenon, which have successfully taken place in the Pacific, Central America, the Horn of Africa, Southeast Asia and South Asia between May 2013 and April 2015. They brought together representatives from states, international organizations, NGOs, civil society, think tanks and other key actors working on issues related to humanitarian action, human rights protection, migration management, disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, refugee protection, and development, and allowed to gather information about the specific regional situations with regard to displacement in the context of disasters, as well as lessons learned and best practices. The findings of these regional consultations, existing knowledge, as well as research conducted by the Nansen Initiative and its partners, were consolidated to inform the Protection Agenda.</p>	

The final Protection Agenda is presented to the international community at a high-level conference of the Nansen Initiative (“Global Consultation”) on 12- 13 October 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland. The Global Consultation will mark the end of the Nansen Initiative in its current form. Its overall objective is to present and validate the Protection Agenda, a non-binding document that consolidates the results from the consultative process and identifies opportunities for future action. At the same time, it aims to pave the way for follow-up actions in dealing with disaster and climate change related cross-border displacement. Also, decisions on the institutional set-up for the post-Nansen phase, which very likely will consist of a twofold institutional arrangement, combining an interagency agreement between the relevant international organizations (foremost UNHCR and IOM) and a core group of dedicated states, will also need to be taken.

(As of beginning of September 2015)

Web Links:

<https://www.nanseninitiative.org/>

Title of M&D Policy or Practice:

ICMPD’s Asylum Programme for ICMPD Member States

Country:

ICMPD Re: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland (ICMPD Member States)

Partner(s):

the 15 ICMPD Member States (see left column)

Thematic Area(s):

Governance of migration and coordination of dialogue

Tags:

Summary:

The ICMPD Asylum Programme for ICMPD Member States provides a forum for asylum experts and policy makers of ICMPD Member States to exchange views on current challenges in the area of asylum. The exchange of ICMPD Member States on asylum-related 'hot issues' are mainly being facilitated in the framework of round table discussions and/or expert hearings. Following a consultation process with and based on the priorities of ICMPD’s Member States the Programme so far addressed the following topics:

- An effective asylum responsibility-sharing mechanism

- The Common European Asylum System – the recast Reception and Procedures Directive; Dublin III Regulation
- Mass influx and Asylum-Related Migration via the Western Balkans
- Resettlement and Pull Factors in the context of the European Agenda on Migration

Each topic is discussed using the following tools:

- Preparation of a background paper (internal ICMPD document)
- Round table discussion with policymakers/ asylum experts from ICMPD MS
- Follow-up document, e.g. policy brief or thematic paper (publically available, depending on the topic).

Web Links:

http://www.icmpd.org/fileadmin/ICMPD-Website/ICMPD_General/Publications/2014/ICMPD_TP_Responsibility_Sharing_October_FIN_AL.pdf

Title of M&D Policy or Practice:

Migrants in Countries in Crisis: Supporting an Evidence-based Approach for Effective and Cooperative State Action

Country:

ICMPD Re: Global (regions covered: Asia, Eastern Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, Eastern and Southern Africa, West and Central Africa, and Latin America)

Partner(s):

Donor: European Union (EU)
Implementer: International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)

Thematic Area(s):

Data and research, governance of migration and coordination of dialogue, rights of migrants, civil society and the private sector

Tags:

Capacity building, civil society, data and research

Summary:

The European Union (EU)-funded project 'Migrants in Countries in Crisis: Supporting an Evidence-based Approach for Effective and Cooperative State Action' is a four-year project launched in January 2015 and implemented by ICMPD. The project aims to improve the capacity of states and other stakeholders to assist and provide protection to migrants who find themselves in countries in crisis and address the long-term implications of such situations.

This project supports and complements the wider 'Migrants in Countries in Crisis' (MICIC) initiative, which shares similar goals. The global MICIC initiative, a government-led initiative

launched in 2013 and co-chaired by the Philippines and the United States, aims to improve the capacity of governments and other relevant stakeholders to prepare for and respond to crises, alleviate suffering, and protect the dignity and rights of migrants in countries in situations of acute crisis. The ultimate goal of the initiative is to produce non-binding, voluntary principles, guidelines and effective practices that set out principles, roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders vis-à-vis migrants in countries experiencing conflicts or natural disasters.

The EU-funded project consists of three inter-related components, namely:

- 1) **Research:** Providing sound data on migration in host countries in crisis in order to inform efforts to address and respond to future crises;
- 2) **Consultation:** Facilitating regional consultations in view of drafting guidelines on approaches that strengthen the ability of states and other actors to address the needs of migrants in countries in crisis;
- 3) **Capacity building:** Strengthening the capacities of national governments of countries of origin, transit and destination to meet that challenges related to migrants in countries in crisis.

Web Links:

Project flyer: https://www.icmpd.org/fileadmin/ICMPD-Website/ICMPD-Website_2011/MICIC/Project_flyer_eng.pdf

Project description on the ICMPD website: <https://www.icmpd.org/Cross-Cutting-Initiatives.2721.0.html>

For further information on the global MICIC initiative see : <http://www.iom.int/cms/micic>