

GFMD 2011 Thematic Meeting Concept

Cluster III: Tools for evidence-based migration and development policies

Managing International Migration for Development: Policymaking and Monitoring & Evaluation

The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), established in Brussels in 2007, in follow-up to the UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development in New York in 2006, is a state-led, voluntary process dedicated to informal, non-binding and outcomes-oriented dialogue. In its fifth year, the Swiss Chair-in-Office has selected as its flagship theme ***Taking Action on Migration and Development – Coherence, Capacity and Cooperation***.

In contrast to previous meetings, GFMD 2011 aims to open a space for smaller, focused and action-oriented meetings around the world to explore some of the practical applications of the GFMD discussions and learn from the concrete experiences of practitioners on the ground. The findings of these thematic meetings will be reported back to the GFMD Chair and discussed by all GFMD participating governments at an extended meeting of the Friends of the Forum at the end of the year.

Background

Cluster III of the GFMD thematic program deals with **Tools for evidence-based migration and development policies**. A key tool for governments to sustain, adjust and redefine such policies are appropriate mechanisms to **evaluate the impacts of migration and development policies**, both at the macro-level and with regard to specific policies, programs and projects. The Puerto Vallarta 2010 GFMD discussed both aspects, stating, inter alia, that assessments should be based on rigorous methods of evaluation and that a 'culture of evaluation' should be promoted. The June 2010 seminar held with governments and other actors in Vienna, held under the auspices of the GFMD Working Group on Policy Coherence, Data and Research, had reached similar conclusions.

Related assessment indicators should include such areas as reductions or increases in poverty; economic growth; investment; productivity; achievement of such Millennium Development Goals as improvements in health and education outcomes; women's empowerment; family cohesion; community infrastructure; and issues related to human rights, discrimination and exclusion of migrants. Policy impact assessments are also essential in promoting policy and institutional coherence as they provide insight into the range of effects that policies are having, which is the first step towards promoting coherence in policies and in institutional frameworks. Indeed monitoring and evaluation features should become an integral part of developing the policy design of particular migration interventions such as international labour intermediation, skills development and social protection programs.

Rationale

To take these issues further, the Swiss GFMD 2011 thematic programme proposes a limited number of workshops for governments interested in enhancing their assessment capacities, in different regions. One such workshop is to be held in conjunction with the World Bank and the IOM. The two day meeting aims, through the sharing of information and experiences, to leave participants with enhanced knowledge, ideas and tools regarding the assessment of migration and development policies. It will do this by:

- Discussing the contributions migration can potentially make to development
- Exploring how impact assessment and evaluation tools can improve policymaking and enhance development outcomes
- Sharing past impact assessment of migration programmes, and examining how future assessments might improve project, programme and policy outcomes, and
- Debating the links between impact assessments and policy and institutional coherence.

The Swiss GFMD Chair attaches particular importance to the last point, i.e. linking intra-governmental coordination and coherence with government assessment approaches and practice.

Working with policy makers and practitioners will allow the GFMD to gain direct insights into assessment activities of governments and the support that recognized international experts can offer in this context. The GFMD Chair also suggests that the workshop include government participants from all regions to strengthen the cross-fertilization of ideas and good practices. The meeting outcomes will be discussed in the global setting of the extended Friends of the Forum meeting at the end of the year.

There will also be potential to make advances in this policy area through an extended programme of work. Based on the discussions and lessons learnt at the Marseille event the IOM and World Bank's Human Development Group in the Middle East and North Africa region plan to take forward a larger joint programme of work assisting governments in improving the design of migration programs and establishing better evidence based policy-making in the field of migration by the use of monitoring and evaluation tools.

Venue: World Bank Marseille Center for Mediterranean Integration

Date: June 13 – 15 2011

As needed, the Swiss Chair proposes to co-fund the Marseille seminar and looks forward to further discussions with partners on the set-up and agenda of the proposed meeting.

*Swiss GFMD 2011 Taskforce
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