Retreat on Migration Indicators for the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda

Frank Laczko
Co-Chair GMG Data and Research Group
International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Geneva, Switzerland

12th Coordination Meeting on International Migration
United Nations, New York, 20-21 February 2014

Retreat Objectives

- Review a variety of indicators proposed by participants
- Use HLP 12 goal illustrative framework
- Apply rigorous SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound) criteria in selection
- Provide essential information for each indicator
- Focus discussions on technical issues, not mandates or advocacy

Goal, Targets, Indicators (HLP, Annex III)

Requirements for each indicator

MDG Template+	
1. A simple operational definition	6. Periodicity of measurement
2. Goal and target it addresses	7. Gender and disaggregation issues
3. Rationale for use of the indicator	8. Limitations of the indicator
4. Method of computation	9. National and international agencies involved
5. Source of data and references	10. International agreements (UN, WHA, ILO, etc.)

Agreed that indicators should be:

1. Globally applicable and generated nationally.
2. Simple, understandable, clear and unambiguous.
3. Within the capabilities of national governments to collect now or develop data sources in the future.
4. Relevant to both developing and developed countries.
5. Able to capture both the benefits and risks of migration for development.
6. Disaggregated by sex and age

What should be measured ?

I. Tracking progress towards a stronger global partnership on migration and development linked to Goal 12 (HLP report).

II. Assess the impact of migration as an enabler for development across several goals.

III. Include migrants in all relevant targets and indicators = disaggregate to ensure « migrants are not left behind ».

Main Findings

- Most obvious «candidate» for a post-2015 indicator is reducing the costs of transferring remittances, an existing G-20 target.
- There was strong agreement for an indicator on human trafficking, which could draw on international monitoring already in place.
- Indicators not yet ready for implementation, but where GMG agencies are working on data collection, include skills recognition, portability of social security benefits, recruitment costs, diaspora contributions, and resettlement.

Further Findings

- Another strand of work could focus on disaggregating proposed targets/indicators (on gender, health, education, work) by migration status, especially in countries with significant numbers of migrants.
- Topics not appropriate for post-2015 targets/indicators include migration levels (immigration, emigration, return/circular migration), «brain drain» and re-integration, due to sensitivity, conceptual weakness or lack of data.
- Longer-term GMG investment is required to develop a broader set of indicators to monitor the follow-up of HLD recommendations

Next Steps

1. All retreat inputs available on website (esa.un.org/unmigration/migrationretreat.htm).
2. Prepare GMG technical report with results from retreat, including guidance notes.
3. Review and contribute to «statistical notes» for the OWG.
4. Continue work on priority indicators identified.
5. Highlight migrants/migration in agency contributions to the post-2015 agenda.
6. Further Retreat ?