

Foreword

The number of international migrants has doubled in the past quarter-century, to more than 240 million. Increasing mobility means that in the future the movement of people across the world will become ever more complex and present new challenges for policy makers. The inclusion of migration in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development confirms and reinforces the important relation between migration and development. By integrating migration, including forced displacement, into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the heads of State and Governments acknowledged that migration needs to work for development and that development needs to work for migration, while not ignoring its potential negative impacts.

More systematic and comparable data is therefore required to provide a sufficient knowledge base to ensure policy responses are well informed and address the real needs and challenges on the ground. For several years, the European Commission and the OECD Development Centre have thus explored ways for policy makers to best design effective long-term policies essential for leveraging migration for positive development outcomes. They have argued for a comprehensive governance system of migration, where policy coherence on migration goals is reached through multilateral, regional, bilateral, national and local levels.


The report *Interrelations between Public Policies, Migration and Development (IPPM)* is a step forward in understanding how policy coherence for sustainable development can be achieved. This report features fieldwork undertaken in ten countries – Armenia, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Georgia, Haiti, Morocco and the Philippines – and four years of close co-operation with governmental focal points and local research partners in each country.

The report empirically examines how different migration dimensions affect key policy sectors: the labour market, agriculture, education, investment and financial services, and social protection and health. Conversely, it analyses how sectoral policies influence different migration outcomes, such as the decision to migrate or return, the use of remittances and the integration of immigrants.

The report highlights the fact that the way sectoral policies affect migration is not straightforward. The interrelations between public policies, migration and development depend strongly on the country context and the conditions of implementation of the different programmes. There is therefore no one-size-fits-all solution to curb (or encourage) migration flows, turn remittances into productive investment or better integrate immigrants into host country societies. It is actually a mix of migration and non-migration policies that is more likely to have an impact not only on the decision to migrate, send remittances or return, but also on the ways migration, in its different dimensions, contributes to development.

This reflects the fact that public policies often work in silos and do not take into account their potential implications on other policy areas, including migration. For instance, the IPPM data show that vocational training programmes alone do not necessarily reduce emigration flows, particularly in countries characterised by limited and poor quality labour demand and skills mismatches with domestic labour market needs. Likewise, cash transfer programmes seem to be more effective in contributing to deter emigration when tied to conditionality (e.g. regarding educational or agricultural work objectives).

The report is intended as a toolkit and the central piece for a dialogue and policy guidance not only for the IPPMD partner countries, but also for development practitioners and partners on how best to integrate migration into national development strategies. Following the discussions on guidance for action with key stakeholders and policy makers to be held in each country, the European Commission and the OECD Development Centre look forward to continuing their co-operation with partner countries willing to leverage more out of migration for better development outcomes.



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