



Webinar Concept Note

Leaving No One Behind: Mainstreaming Migration in National Development Policies in the Sahel and Sahara Region

Migration and development can be mutually reinforcing. While development is an important factor in shaping migration decisions and outcomes, safe, orderly, and regular migration in an enabling environment enhances countries' ability to achieve their developmental goals. Conversely, development deficiencies and failures, such as poverty, weak governance, and conflict often have a decisive impact on people's decision to move.

In this regard, the inclusion of migration in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presents a suitable platform to assess the impact of migration on a wide range of development issues and to better understand how development impacts migration and migrants. The adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration three years later presented a unique opportunity to advance the positive relationship between migration and development.

In Africa, as is the case elsewhere, the positive or negative impacts of migration on development outcomes in origin, transit, and host countries, as well as for migrants, depend largely on the national policies in place and their ability to provide an enabling environment. Mainstreaming migration into national development policies is therefore key to harnessing its full potential to improving overall development outcomes, including accelerating progress towards achieving the SDGs and safeguarding migrants' rights. It would also allow African countries to effectively and systematically address the context-specific drivers and challenges of migration, and mitigate against its potential negative consequences.

In recognition of the above, the Cairo International Centre for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA), in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and with the support of the Swiss Confederation, is organizing a series of workshops on mainstreaming migration in national development policies. The first workshop focused on mainstreaming migration in development policies in North Africa. It brought together national and local government officials working on migration and development.

The second workshop of the series will be organized on 12 August 2020. It will focus on the Sahel and Sahara region. Mindful of the context-specific nature of drivers of migration in the region and the growing developmental and security challenges it faces (conflict, terrorism, climate change, and more recently COVID-19), discussions will shed light on the imperative for systematically mainstreaming migration at all stages of the national development process (situation assessment, setting strategic goals and national priorities, planning, capacity building and financing, implementation, and evaluation) on both the national and local levels.

The Webinar

The webinar will bring together African government officials from relevant ministries in the Sahel and Sahara region, the African Union Commission, and regional economic



communities and mechanisms together with international migration and development actors to share views on challenges and opportunities for effective migration management to achieve development outcomes and will provide actionable recommendations to strengthen implementation of migration and development frameworks on the national level. Specifically, the workshop deliberations will aim to:

- Identify the legal, policy and institutional challenges faced by Sahel and Sahara countries in mainstreaming migration in national planning;
- Develop concrete recommendations to strengthen the implementation of relevant migration and development international and continental frameworks, and to enhance regional and international cooperation;
- Inform the planning, implementation and evaluation of innovative and sustainable programs and strategies including: national mechanisms to ensure accessibility to and delivery of services to migrants to harness their role in development, reintegration of returnees and diaspora engagement and community stabilization and peacebuilding projects aimed at strengthening community resilience, addressing the distress-related drivers of migration to facilitate safe, orderly and humane migration and supporting developmental efforts of migration in the Sahel and Sahara region.

A report summarizing the key findings and recommendations of the webinar will be generated. It will be shared with African stakeholders and international partners on the national and continental levels.