DECENT WORK AND MIGRATION

Ryszard Cholewinski
ILO Regional Office for Arab States
Search for decent work is a core driver of international migration - 150 million migrant workers globally (ILO, 2015)

Distribution of migrant workers living in each subregion, as a percentage of total migrant workers (men and women), 2013

Source: ILO global estimates on migrant workers: Results and methodology (Geneva, 2015)
Decent work: (1) promotion of employment; (2) fundamental principles and rights at work; (3) social protection; (4) social dialogue and tripartism

Decent work and migration: Of growing importance and relevance to inclusive growth and sustainable development:

- Rio+20 outcome (2012)
- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015)

- SG’s 8-point agenda for action on making migration work for development (2013)
- HLD Declaration on International Migration and Development (2013)
- New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (2016)
- Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (2018)
- Global Compact on refugees (2018)
But the high economic and social costs of labour migration are impediments to realizing sustainable development outcomes

- Recruitment fees and related costs
- Recognition of skills and qualifications
- Access to social protection and portability of social security benefits
- Remittance transfer costs
- Working conditions, wages
- Social dialogue
Worker-paid recruitment costs relative to earnings at destination

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Total recruitment costs</th>
<th>Average monthly earnings in destination (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Average (US$)</td>
<td>In months of earnings in destination (averages)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>4,395</td>
<td>10.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>991</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>1,149</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>1,054</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>3,136</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>India</td>
<td>1,248</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAE</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>2,351</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>1,032</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>1,506</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>1,466</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>1,582</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>1,382</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ILO/World Bank KNOMAD surveys
Percentage of migrants not paid for the days that they were unable to work because of injury or illness

Source: M. Aleksynska, et al., *Deficiencies in conditions of work as a cost to labour migration: Concepts, extent and implications*, ILO-KNOMAD, 2017

WORKING CONDITIONS
Heads of State and Government resolved to “create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and **decent work for all**, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities” (UNGA Declaration on the 2030 Agenda, 2015, para. 3)

SDG 8 addresses economic growth and decent work together and sees them as mutually reinforcing

**2030 AGENDA AND DECENT WORK**
SDG 8.8 - Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments of all workers, including migrant workers, particularly women migrants, and those in precarious employment

SDG 8.8 also needs to be closely aligned with SDG 10.7

- SDG 10.7 - Facilitate orderly, safe, and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

SDG TARGETS ON DECENT WORK AND MIGRATION
- SDG 8.3 - Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

- SDG 8.5 - By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

- SDG 8.6 - By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

- SDG 8.7 - Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms
Principle of leaving no one behind: importance of data disaggregation, including by migratory status (SDG 17.18)

OTHER SELECTED SDG TARGETS RELATING TO DECENT WORK

- SDG 1.3 - Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors […]
- SDG 3.c - Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries […]
- SDG 4.3 – By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university
- SDG 4.4 - By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship
- SDG 5.1 - End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- SDG 5.2 - Eliminate all violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- SDG 5.4 - Recognize and value of unpaid care and domestic work [...] 
- SDG 5.5. - Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
- SDG 10.3 - Ensure equal opportunity and reduced inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard
- SDG10.4 - Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality
About 30 SDG indicators relevant to decent work

ILO is the possible custodian agency for 14 SDG indicators (3 jointly with other agencies) and a partner agency for 3 indicators

Classification of the 14 decent work indicators where ILO is possible custodian

- Tier I - 5
- Tier II - 6
- Tier III - 3
8.8.1 - Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status (Tier 2 - ILO)

8.8.2 - Increase in national compliance of labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on ILO textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status (Tier 3 - ILO)

10.7.1 - Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of yearly income earned in country of destination (Tier 3 - ILO and World Bank)

10.7.2 - Number of countries that have implemented well-managed migration policies (Tier 3 - IOM and UNDESA)
Thank you for your attention!

Ryszard Cholewinski
Senior Migration Specialist
ILO Regional Office for Arab States
Beirut
cholewinski@ilo.org