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MIGRATION AND YOUTH

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES



Global Migration Group
Acting together in a world on the move

The Global Migration Group (GMG) is an inter-agency group bringing together heads of agencies to promote the wider application of all relevant international and regional instruments and norms relating to migration, and to encourage the adoption of more coherent, comprehensive and better-coordinated approaches to the issue of international migration. The GMG is particularly concerned with improving the overall effectiveness of its members and other stakeholders in capitalising on the opportunities of, and responding to the challenges presented by, international migration. The GMG consists of:

- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- United Nations Regional Commissions
 - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
 - United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
 - Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
 - United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
 - United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)
- World Bank (WB)
- World Health Organization (WHO)

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A copy of the full report is available at: <http://globalmigrationgroup.org>

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Introduction

International migration has become the face of globalisation – a symbol of the world’s growing interdependence.¹ At the same time, the largest generation of youth in history demands attention: they are highly connected through technology and social networks, they need education and decent jobs, and they want a say in their future. Empowering young people is one of the top five priorities of the UN Secretary-General’s Five-Year Action Agenda.²

Although human mobility has gained increasing international attention in recent years, migration by young people has been mostly absent from global policy debates and national policies.

The Global Migration Group (GMG) is convinced that with the right policies in place, youth migration can represent a triple-win, benefitting young migrants, the countries they depart from, and their countries of destination. The policy responses advanced in this report can transform youth migration from a challenge into an opportunity, empowering today’s youth – tomorrow’s students, workers, entrepreneurs, parents and leaders – to achieve their full human potential.

UNICEF (United Nations Children’s Fund), the GMG chair for the first half of 2011, proposed a joint GMG thematic report analyzing the positive and negative impacts of international migration on young people from a rights and gender perspective. UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), in its capacity as the next GMG chair, assisted in launching the process. The report would build on the outcomes of the GMG Symposium *Migration and Youth: Harnessing Opportunities for Development*, held in New York on 17-18 May 2011.³ The purpose was to provide a common GMG policy and advocacy platform from which to support policy-makers, civil society and other stakeholders to design and implement evidence-based policies that maximise the positive effects of migration and help young migrants to realise their rights.

The resulting report provides a broad compilation of data, research findings and experience from GMG member agencies and academia, offering an extensive evidence base for policy and practice. The report is intended to be user-friendly and practical, and includes key messages and concrete recommendations for policy-makers and other stakeholders.

The report was a collaborative effort. GMG member agencies prepared chapters on youth migration concerns in their areas of competence, and academic specialists were invited to prepare several chapters. Civil society organisations contributed text incorporated in various

chapters. The present document is a summary of the full GMG report.

YOUTH MIGRATION

Today, there are approximately 232 million international migrants, according to the 2013 UN estimate of global migrant stocks (measuring the number of migrants at a particular point in time). Around 12 per cent of international migrants (roughly one out of eight) are youth (defined here as those between 15 and 24 years of age). Data on migration flows – the change in the number of migrants over a period of time, as distinct from stocks – is generally less reliable and age-specific. Acknowledging that it is difficult to determine with precision the drivers of youth migration, the report notes that young people’s motivations are often linked to the search for sustainable livelihoods, due to lack of employment and/or under-employment, absence of decent working conditions, and poor economic prospects in countries of origin. Furthering education, family reunification or formation, and escaping from regions affected by war, persecution, humanitarian crises, or natural disasters are also important drivers. For women, gender-based discrimination, including violence or restrictions on their rights, is another motive.

WHY YOUNG PEOPLE?

This report focuses on youth in the context of migration: persons aged 15-to-24 years as defined by the UN (“without prejudice to other definitions by Member States”).⁴ This cohort represents a specific category of migrants whose unique needs, rights and challenges are not being adequately addressed by the larger migration policy debate.

On occasion, the report refers to other age groups, notably children (0-to-17)⁵ and adolescents (10-to-19).⁶ The age range covered by “youth” sometimes overlaps with that of childhood and adolescence, periods during which individuals face specific vulnerabilities and have additional protection needs that are often ignored or placed at risk during the migration process. Because of this overlap, several chapters of the report refer to adolescents as well as youth, and stress that all those under the age of 18 who are impacted by migration in countries of origin, transit and destination, regardless of status, are protected by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Youth is a pivotal stage of human development during which young people make the transition from childhood to adulthood and from dependence to independence and interdependence. This transition (social, economic, biological) is fundamental to safeguarding, shaping, further developing, and deploying their human and

social capital. It is during this period that young people make important decisions about their lives – particularly their ethical, social, economic, cultural, political and civic positioning and role – setting the stage for adulthood. While it is during adolescence that the investments and gains of early and middle childhood come to fruition, these gains must be sustained and consolidated to ensure an effective transition to adulthood.⁷

Young people's choices and the way they decide to pursue them have a significant impact not only on their own lives and opportunities for human development, but also on the lives of their societies and communities, both in the medium and long term. The youth years pose both challenges and opportunities. They represent a period during which the efficiency of interventions throughout childhood and adolescence can be tested, assessed and, as a result, further improved or re-considered. At the same time, policy decisions affecting this age group can either maximise or hamper the return on investment in earlier stages of the life cycle.

A positive migration experience can set young migrants on a successful path toward capitalising on their accomplishments and developing economic and social assets for their future. However, if the circumstances are negative, migration can have particularly dire and traumatic consequences for young peoples' short and long-term future. Not only they lose a valuable opportunity for full human development, but their countries of birth and destination stand to lose an enormous potential contribution to social, economic and cultural development.

Getting today's youth migration policies right also means planning for the future. By 2025 – when the global population is expected to reach 8 billion⁸ – countries around the globe will feel the impact of today's demographic changes. The majority of the next billion people will be born in low- and middle-income countries.⁹ While developed countries are simultaneously facing low fertility rates, ageing populations and declining workforces, many less-developed countries continue to experience higher birth rates and a significant 'youth bulge'.¹⁰ The former need workers, while growing numbers of young people in less-developed countries need jobs. Migration will be an increasingly important factor influencing the response to these trends.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG MIGRANTS

Young migrants are generally resourceful, resilient, adaptable to new environments, and able to learn and speak new languages. Many have skills and

qualifications and are familiar with new technologies. As noted earlier, for some young people migration is a way to escape from chronic poverty, violence, gender-based discrimination, or the impact of climate change.

For most young people migration represents an important step toward achieving a sustainable life for themselves and their families.

In countries of destination, equality of treatment and opportunity allows migrants, including young migrants, to contribute as productive members of their communities: as workers, students, entrepreneurs, artists and consumers. If migration becomes a productive and empowering experience and opens up new opportunities, young migrant women and men can gain more skills through education and/or work experience and earn higher wages, allowing them to support their families and contribute to the development of their communities of origin, as well as the societies in which they live and work. For young women, migration can also be a socially empowering experience: as the recipient of remittances or as breadwinners or students in a new country, young women may gain decision-making power and experience greater personal autonomy.

In all countries, a conducive policy environment that respects human rights principles and standards can enhance young people's energy, propensity to innovate, and familiarity with new technologies, thereby helping to revitalise national economies. The young and mobile represent human resources and development potential for both the countries where they were born and those to which they migrate.

SPECIFIC NEEDS AND VULNERABILITIES OF YOUNG MIGRANTS

Risks faced by migrants are exacerbated in the case of youth, especially those under 18 years of age, particularly when they are in irregular situations and face threats of exploitation, trafficking, exclusion, detection, detention and deportation. Young migrants, especially girls and young women, are vulnerable to human rights violations such as child marriage, sexual exploitation, violence and unpaid labour. Many young migrants face deskilling and precarious employment in so-called 3-D jobs (dirty, dangerous and degrading), despite having higher educational or skills-training qualifications.

Moreover, during the migration process young people can lose their social networks and may also be without parents or family members to provide guidance and care. Due to their age and developmental stage, young migrants are more vulnerable to migration experiences

that result in isolation, exclusion and insecurity. They may be particularly affected by xenophobia and discrimination, and suffer further marginalisation due to lack of fluency in the local language, new and different cultural norms, and insufficient information about laws and regulations in their new country. To overcome these risks and enhance their development potential and contributions to their countries of origin and destination, young migrants need to be able to realise their rights without discrimination, including their right to education, health, work, family life, and participation in decision-making and community life.

YOUTH, MIGRATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

In framing the report, GMG member agencies acknowledged that migration is not a panacea for achieving development, nor can promoting migration substitute for appropriate public policies. However, migration is a global reality that, if addressed wisely, can benefit all concerned.

GMG members share the premise that the migration experience can be beneficial to youth if, and only if, migration policies are anchored in a system that protects young migrants' human rights, including labour rights, and enables meaningful engagement in decisions and processes that affect them.

Within the approach of 2015, the target year for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set in 2000, global debates now revolve around establishing development goals for the post-2015 era. The UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda acknowledged migration and mobility as important enablers for inclusive and sustainable development and growth.¹¹ Global consultations on population dynamics also called for integrating migration into the new development framework.¹²

The GMG report contributes to discussions about the post-2015 UN Development Agenda through its comprehensive and exclusive focus on the impact of migration on youth. It complements and supports a recent GMG Position Paper on Integrating Migration in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.¹³ The challenge is not only how to make youth and migration relevant to the global agenda, but also how to make that agenda relevant to youth and the realities of global mobility and interconnectedness.



A silhouette-based photograph of a tropical scene at sunset. In the foreground, the dark silhouettes of several people are visible, some looking upwards. The middle ground features several palm trees with their fronds clearly defined against the sky. Two dragonflies are captured in flight, one larger and more prominent than the other. The sky is filled with soft, golden light from the setting sun, creating a dramatic and peaceful atmosphere.

Chapter Summaries

This summary document reflects the organisation of the full report into five thematic sections that explore different aspects of the situation faced by millions of young people as migrants, potential migrants, or sons and daughters of migrant parents.

Each chapter describes and analyses an important area of concern related to youth migration and offers policy options that could improve outcomes for young people, the countries they leave, and those they move to.

The conclusion offers a summary of the key findings of the report. For easy reference, two final sections list the Key Messages and Policy Recommendations from the chapters of the full report, intended for consideration in national policies and practices or by specialised government institutions and non-governmental stakeholders.

FACTS, FIGURES AND TRENDS

Chapter 1: *Youth Migration: Facts & Figures*, authored by the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA), and building on the joint work between UN/DESA and UNICEF to gather and analyse data available on youth migration, provides an overview of available facts and figures on youth migration and offers recommendations for improving the evidence base in this regard. It highlights the need for migration data disaggregated by age, sex and other relevant factors to: reveal an accurate picture of the situation of young migrants; gain better understanding of the youth migration phenomenon; and provide the foundation for evidence-based policy-making. The main recommendations are: to strengthen the evidence base on youth migration by investing in collection, dissemination and analysis of age- and sex-disaggregated data; to build the capacity of governments to obtain, disseminate and analyse such data; and to support qualitative and quantitative research.

RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS, SOCIAL PROTECTION AND GENDER

The second section of the report reviews the manner in which human rights, social protection and gender intersect with youth migration. The first chapter, *Human Rights of Adolescents and Youth in the Context of Migration*, was prepared under the auspices of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) with contributions by the National University of Lanús (Argentina), the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) and UNICEF.¹⁴ The chapter describes how,

despite an international framework designed to protect and promote the rights of all individuals, and despite the specific provisions of the CRC protecting those under the age of 18, adolescent and youth migrants experience numerous human rights violations. The chapter includes an in-depth look at the impacts of immigration-related detention and restricted access to education on the rights, well-being and development of undocumented adolescents and youth, highlighting specific challenges around mental health and psychosocial development. The contribution concludes by calling on the international community and national policy-makers and stakeholders to adopt a rights-based, age- and gender-sensitive, and equity-focused approach to youth migration and development, stressing that the special protections granted to children under international and national law and policy should not automatically disappear when the child reaches 18 years.

The third chapter, *Role and Relevance of Social Protection*, prepared jointly by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF explores the social protection rights and needs of migrant adolescents and youth. It highlights social protection measures that could be offered to young migrants in countries of origin and destination to ensure their access to essential services, health care, and a minimal standard of living. The chapter focuses particularly on social security coverage, from which many young migrants are excluded due to their migration status – or are subject to losing upon departure from their country of origin or when they move from country to country. Facilitating equitable access to social protection, including health care and/or insurance for young migrants and their families, enhances their well-being and development contributions. Overall, the chapter recommends incorporating migrant youth into national social security systems.

Chapter 4: *Adolescent and Young Women Migrants*, written by Professor Susan Martin of Georgetown University in consultation with UN Women, examines the lives, needs and accomplishments of adolescent girls and young women affected by migration. It describes the causes and forms of their migration, gaps in law and policy, and three areas of particular importance in understanding the impact of migration on gender roles and on young women: education, health and employment. The gender issues analysed in this chapter and reflected elsewhere in the text highlight similarities, differences and inequities that exist in both origin and destination countries, which may be reinforced or weakened by economic, political and social institutions.¹⁵ Equality for adolescent and young women migrants must

be considered in policy and practice through the development of gender-responsive measures, laws and practices to protect their rights.

EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Seven chapters of the GMG report address issues related to employment, education and health, issues that impact on the policy agendas of different government institutions as well as social partners and civil society. The fifth chapter, *Youth-Migration-Employment: Burning Issues for Governance, Development and Cohesion Worldwide*, written by Patrick Taran of Global Migration Policy Associates in collaboration with the ILO, explains the centrality of employment and decent work to migration, highlighting the risks of precarious work, exploitation and sub-standard working conditions to which many adolescent and youth migrants are susceptible. It highlights labour market and demographic trends that are fomenting significantly increased demand for migrant skills and labour in many countries, and outlines policy challenges and possible solutions. The chapter concludes that ensuring decent work for young migrants contributes toward realising both the economic and social development benefits of migration and young peoples' social protection and inclusion.

Chapter 6: *Labour, Employment and Youth: Perspectives from West Africa*, prepared by Drs Eleni Bizas and Jérôme Elie of the Geneva Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, highlights that intra-regional mobility is the most common among youth in the context of Africa's regional economic communities, where migration is key to integration and development. It identifies and discusses policy needs in six critical areas: education, decent work, safe mobility, labour-intensive investment, health services and protection. Policies that address the obstacles posed by local realities could alternatively enable youth to stay at home, make migration safer for those on the move, or empower youth to maximise their potential when seeking employment in local, regional or global markets. Recommendations for policy-makers include: strengthen implementation of international and ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) legal frameworks; improve data gathering; focus on education and training for rural youth; provide information about available employment; and incorporate migration into economic and social development policies and strategies.

Chapter 7: *Labour, Rural Youth and Migration*, prepared by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), explores conditions in the rural areas from which many young migrants begin their journey, and urges policy measures aimed at providing employment, financial credit and market opportunities as alternatives

to migration for young people as well as at encouraging return from abroad, in order to retain or return talent and social and financial capital in/to places of origin. The overarching message of the chapter is that decent work, economic growth and sustainable development that increase opportunities and social mobility for youth are critical to ensuring that migration is a matter of informed choice rather than necessity. The theme of its recommendations is to provide youth in rural areas with alternatives to outmigration.

Remittances sent by migrants to family members remaining at home play an important role in poverty reduction. Chapter 8: *Remittances, Development and Youth* builds on contributions by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the University of Sussex. It explores obstacles faced by young people seeking to send remittances, noting that remittances by young migrants play an ever-stronger role in the economies of many developing countries, often helping the most disadvantaged families. The chapter highlights the need for measures to facilitate remittances and lower their costs for young migrants, as well as to enhance access by young migrants to financial services.

Chapter 9: *Offspring of Immigrants in OECD Education Systems and Labour Markets*¹⁶, contributed by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), offers perspectives from OECD countries on an important group of children and young people: the children of immigrants, either born in the destination country or who migrated with, or joined, immigrant parents. It shows that although children of immigrants constitute a substantial and growing share of youth in many OECD countries, their educational achievement and access to employment often lag behind peer nationals. It recommends several steps to include children of immigrants in integration policies through targeted approaches, such as expanding their access to pre-school, increasing their opportunities for job training and apprenticeships, and incorporating their parents into labour markets.

Chapter 10: *Migration and Tertiary Education*, prepared by UNESCO, points out that the number of youth studying abroad is growing rapidly, creating a need for international cooperation and regulatory agreements to oversee quality control of higher education and accreditation frameworks. It further stresses the need for dialogue and cooperation among countries to acknowledge educational qualifications obtained in other countries. Enhancing quality and harmonising standards of cross-border tertiary and vocational education can lead to 'win-win' situations for students

and employers in both countries of origin and destination. To facilitate mobility for higher education, regional frameworks on accreditation, qualifications and quality assurance represent an important first step.

The final chapter in this section, *Health, Youth Migration and Development*, provided by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), focuses on the social determinants of migrant health. It examines how the failure to protect and promote rights, along with restrictive immigration and employment policies and pervasive anti-immigrant attitudes, lead to unequal access to health care and services, thus increasing the health risks of young migrants. Since certain health risks are elevated for young migrants and further heightened by other risks associated with migration, the overarching recommendation is to ensure that adequate health services are available for, and accessible by, adolescent and youth migrants.

MAINSTREAMING MIGRATION

The third section of the book explores the issue of mainstreaming migration; that is, the incorporation of migration into national governance frameworks, mandates, policy-making and activities related to development planning, as well as activities of local governments. It also explores the crucial concern of youth migrant participation.

Chapter 12: *Mainstreaming Youth Migration into National Development Strategies*, prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), assesses the extent to which youth migration has been incorporated into development planning, through an analysis of relevant policies and programmes. It finds that most countries fall short in this endeavour. The chapter highlights promising approaches and urges greater efforts to mainstream youth migration into all relevant aspects of governance, which it argues is critical to achieving coherent and effective policy and practice.

The next chapter (*Local Authorities, Migration and Youth*), contributed by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), underscores the centrality of local government in addressing the impact and consequences of migration and migrants – migrant youth in particular – on local economies, employment, services and community life. It urges local authorities to pay special attention to the integration of migrant communities and to involve migrant youth in consultations and activities. Since cities are epicentres of human mobility, local authorities are well-placed to identify and address issues faced by young migrants and encourage youth involvement through local policies and practices.

Chapter 14: *Strengthening Participation by Young Migrants*, with inputs from several sources including UN-HABITAT, UNESCO and UNICEF, focuses on participation by migrant youth in policy debates and governance processes that affect their lives, as well as in youth and civil society organisations. Young migrants and youth born to migrant parents are at particular risk of discrimination and social exclusion; fostering their participation in civil society, local community affairs, and decision-making that affects them is thus vital to their integration. The chapter recommends several practical steps for promoting meaningful adolescent and youth participation.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AND MIGRATION

The chapters in this section highlight the vulnerability of young people to the effects of environmental degradation and climate change, as well as their potentially instrumental role in encouraging local development and resilience. A brief introduction to the section by Dr Benjamin Schraven of the German Development Institute highlights the complex and interrelated environmental, socio-economic, cultural, political and demographic factors that influence the climate change/environmental degradation-migration nexus.

Chapter 15: *Youth, Environmental Change and Migration*, by the IOM and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), discusses environmental change as a migration trigger, observing that different types of environmental change lead to different types of migration. It highlights that migration should not be viewed as a failure to adapt to environmental change; on the contrary, migration is often part of adaptation strategies. The chapter provides an analysis of the relationships between young people, migration and environmental change, stressing the urgent need to improve the knowledge base on the interlinkages between youth migration and environmental change.

The other chapter in this section (*Climate Change, International Migration and Youth*), authored by Professor Susan Martin of Georgetown University, reviews the current understanding about climate change and migration, emphasising the now-recognised potential for climate change to uproot large numbers of people. In this context, youth may migrate locally or internationally, and migration may be voluntary or forced. It notes that climate change-displaced migrants tend to be young people who are responsible for supporting their families in the face of environmental disaster, via financial or in-kind remittances.

Both chapters make the case that changes in the environment (whether sudden or gradual onset), directly and indirectly influence the propensity to migrate; that these changes and the resulting displacement are likely to increase in the coming years and will particularly impact youth; and that existing laws, policies and institutional arrangements are inadequate to deal with this complex phenomenon. Overall, this section presents several recommendations that underline

the need for more research and data-gathering and for the development of common guiding principles, particularly regarding the protection of those displaced as a result of environmental or climate change. In particular it stresses the importance of youth-sensitive, participatory and proactive approaches, including comprehensive migration governance strategies and development agendas, as well as support for disaster risk reduction and humanitarian responses.



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Key Messages and Policy Recommendations

The final sections of the GMG report, bringing together Key Messages and Policy Recommendations from all 17 chapters, are included in full below. The key messages provide a summary overview of the main issues and challenges identified in each chapter of the report.

The recommendations are likewise reproduced from each chapter, and together suggest a comprehensive

policy agenda to address youth migration. It should be noted that the listing does not reflect any prioritisation by the GMG, nor does it select a 'short list' for concentrated advocacy. Several sections convey general recommendations for national policy and practice regarding youth migration, while others focus on specialised areas of policy and the respective government institutions and non-governmental stakeholders.

KEY MESSAGES

1. Youth migrants comprise a significant proportion of migrant stocks worldwide – some 28 million 15-to-24-year-olds – representing 12 per cent of the global migrant stock in 2013.

Migration offers young women and men opportunities to obtain productive and decent employment, improve socio-economic status, learn new skills, and increase human and financial capital. Youth migration is set to increase, giving young people a tremendous potential for enhancing and sustaining development, productivity, and economic stability worldwide. Young people often face limited opportunities for decent work; some confront political circumstances, social situations or life conditions that compel them to leave their country of origin. Others migrate to reunite with their families, get married or pursue opportunities for tertiary education abroad. At the same time, young people are in demand for employment at all skill levels in destination countries.

2. Little concrete data and research are available on youth migrants.

Available global migration data provides mainly statistics on stocks, revealing little about migrants' age, sex, education or other important factors. Good governance policy and practice require a stronger evidence base on migration by collecting and disseminating detailed data disaggregated by age and sex, country of birth, country of previous residence, country of citizenship, education, occupation, employment status, qualifications and skill level. Relevant information – concerning for example health, education, and social protection conditions, migration status and work and residence permit situations, as well as changes in nationality and migrant parentage of youth – will help design and implement effective policies for youth migrants. Qualitative as well as quantitative research is needed. Many governments lack adequate capacity to collect, analyse and make use of this data, which is required to design and implement effective policy and practice.

3. Migrant youth face risks compounded by their age, gender, migration status, and cultural identity. Policies must address specific conditions, risks and vulnerabilities of young migrants, taking into account their resilience and adaptability.

Young migrants are generally resilient, ambitious and adaptable, and are sought after by employers. However, while migrant youth commonly face social exclusion, disruption of family, and absence of social protection, young women and girl migrants are more at risk of abuse, discrimination and gender-based violence, including

sexual violence. Youth migrants belonging to specific ethnic or cultural groups, as well as youth with disabilities, face particular difficulties. Available data show that youth, particularly migrant youth, are more likely to experience unemployment, lack of access to decent work, exploitative working conditions, inadequate access to skills and vocational training, and social marginalisation and exclusion. Development benefits, protection, employment, and social participation and inclusion can be achieved with policy approaches and frameworks addressing specific age-groups, education and skill levels, and gender differences that effectively meet young migrants' diverse needs, experiences, challenges and opportunities.

4. The international human and labour rights normative framework applies to all migrants regardless of status, including adolescents and youth.

Protection and respect for, and fulfilment of, the human rights of all young migrants forms a solid foundation for effective migration and development policies. Restrictions on, and outright violations of, the human rights of young migrants (including those in irregular situations) have significant detrimental effects, making them particularly vulnerable to discrimination, social exclusion, violence, abuse and exploitation as they transition from childhood to adulthood. The impact of these rights restrictions and violations on young migrants is largely unexplored, but is clearly associated with, inter alia, mental health and psycho-social development challenges that are not only harmful in the short term, at a critical stage of individual development, but severely curtail the long-term opportunities and benefits that migration can represent for these young people and their communities. A rights-based, age-sensitive and equity-focused approach to migration and development is essential to ensuring the realisation of the rights of all women and men in the context of migration and to unleashing the positive potential of youth migration. At the same time, the age- and gender-specific vulnerabilities faced by young migrants should be recognised and addressed through legislative and policy reform, and young people should be empowered to claim their rights.

5. Facilitating equitable access to social protection enhances young migrants' well-being and developmental contributions.

Social protection is a critical tool for addressing economic and social risks; yet young migrants often face restricted access to, or exclusion from, social protection and social security systems. This is especially the case for access to health insurance, portability thereof, and health care services. Important steps have been taken in several regions to enhance access to social protection and social security coverage for

migrants, including youth. It is critical to ensure that adolescent and youth migrants are covered by existing social protection mechanisms, to eliminate nationality and legal status barriers to access and restrictions on portability of social security, and to ensure adaptation to the specific needs of young migrant women and girls.

6. Gender equality must be considered in policy and practice affecting young women migrants.

The achievement of gender equality is a fundamental condition for the full enjoyment of human rights by young women and men. Young women are an important part of the migration phenomenon, and often face multiple forms of discrimination—as women, young people and migrants, as well as on ethnic or racial grounds. Migration is an opportunity and enriching experience for many young women. However, for others, it is a source of vulnerability, violence and disruption. Specific policies are required to maximise beneficial aspects of migration for young women while minimising potential harms. Key areas for attention are detailed throughout this report: collecting and disseminating sex- and age-disaggregated data; promoting their economic and social empowerment; ensuring protection of the rights, safety and security of young female migrants in legislation, administration and practice; enabling active participation in decisions affecting them and in youth and civil society organisations; increasing access to primary and reproductive health care services; increasing access to decent work, education and skills training; providing information about the migration experience and their rights; ensuring that young women migrants have and retain documents proving their identity and age; and preventing trafficking while ensuring protection of victims. It is crucial to recognise and promote the role and contribution of female migrants in the development process as agents of change: in their lives, in the lives of their families, and in societies of origin, transit and destination.

7. Ensuring decent work fosters the development benefits of migration as well as protection and inclusion of young migrant workers.

Labour migration push-pull factors are intensifying: high unemployment and absence of opportunities push youth to migrate, while the pull of demand for labour and skills mobility is permanent, structural and growing, driven by technological changes, evolving markets, and spreading demographic transitions. However, many migrant youth face abuse, exploitation, absence of labour protection, and employment discrimination in destination countries, as well as unemployment and exclusion. Key challenges for governance are obtaining full rights protection and decent work, including through effective labour inspection, social inclusion for

all young migrants, and obtaining freer circulation of persons in regional economic integration communities.

8. Decent work, economic growth and sustainable development that increase opportunities and social mobility for youth are critical to ensuring that migration is a matter of informed choice rather than necessity.

Youth in many countries, particularly in rural areas, are compelled to migrate by deficits of decent employment opportunities; limited access to credit, resources and markets; and lack of appeal or sustainability of traditional work. Migration that takes place as a result of informed choice is likely to reap positive development benefits. Making the option to remain in one's country of birth viable can reduce irregular migration and enhance local development. This entails: creating and facilitating opportunities for decent work for youth, as well as access to financial services, credit and markets; improving the quality of education and health services; and promoting meaningful participation by young migrants in decisions that affect their lives.

9. Remittances by young migrants play an ever-stronger role in the economies of many developing countries, but they are not a panacea to overcome development challenges.

Remittances are the part of personal earnings that migrants send home, usually to family members, to meet basic needs such as nutrition, housing, clothing, health care and schooling. Remittances by young migrants can have a significant impact on poverty reduction and human capital development. Measures that make remittance transactions more affordable and accessible to young migrants can enhance their development impact. Facilitating access, economy and ease of use of formal transfer channels will reduce incentives to use less reliable, informal channels. Promotion of communications technologies for transmitting remittances constitutes a first step towards increasing their development impact.

10. Children of migrants constitute a substantial and growing share of youth in many countries.

However, these children's educational achievement and access to employment often lag behind non-immigrant-origin peers. Integration of migrant parents through employment and training, promotion of early childhood education in multicultural settings, and development of job-training opportunities are remedies that have proven successful in some OECD countries.

11. Enhancing quality and harmonising standards of cross-border tertiary and vocational education leads to 'win-win' situations for students and employers in origin and destination countries.

The number of students migrating abroad is growing rapidly, a trend likely to continue. International collaboration is needed for cross-border higher education and technical training, including defining terminologies and unifying criteria for regulatory frameworks, particularly to ensure that qualifications obtained abroad are recognised at home and vice versa. International dialogue and collaboration are essential to defining standards that can be mutually recognised.

12. Certain health risks are elevated for youth migrants, and further heightened by other risks associated with migration.

Health is a vital asset for young migrants, critical to their productive employment as well as to the public health of host communities. Migrants often face heightened risks to their health due to conditions during transit and on arrival. These conditions are exacerbated when migrants lack access to health education, prevention, diagnostic and treatment services. Gender factors often increase health-related risks. Deliberate, targeted outreach by public health systems to young migrants is essential. Accurate data on the health of young migrants, as well as access to culturally appropriate health services and health-related information, including on sexual and reproductive health and available services, are cornerstones of comprehensive policies tailored to specific age-groups.

13. Mainstreaming migration into development planning and overall governance is critical to achieving coherent and effective policies and practices.

Migration is a key factor influencing sustainable development in countries worldwide. It affects economic, social, political, administrative and other aspects of governance in migrant origin, transit and destination countries. Migration therefore directly or indirectly demands a place on the agenda of a broad range of government ministries and agencies, from national to local levels. Mainstreaming migration into development planning and other relevant policy areas in a 'whole-of-government' approach recognises the implications of migration for any action planned as part of a development and/or poverty-reduction strategy. The large proportion of young people among today's migration flows and their significant presence among migrant stocks demands fully incorporating their specific situations, needs and opportunities in all migration-related laws and policies.

14. Cities are epicentres of human mobility: local authorities are well placed to address issues faced by young migrants.

Local authorities and policies are crucial to ensuring migrant youth's access to employment, housing, schools, health care and participation, as well as to preventing exclusion. National policies that encourage integration and inclusion support local authorities to promote inclusive cities and neighbourhoods, and thus migrants' –particularly young women and men migrants– contributions to development. Interface with migrant organisations is essential; migrant youth and women's associations will benefit from support in their efforts to obtain legitimacy and effective participation in, and access to, local government.

15. Children born to migrant parents are at particular risk of discrimination and social exclusion; fostering their participation in civil society and in decision-making that affects them is key to integration.

Developing mechanisms to foster meaningful adolescent and youth participation in public affairs and host communities is essential to realizing their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Young migrants travelling alone, unaccompanied minors, adolescents who remain at home when parents migrate, and those born to migrant parents in destination countries are at particular risk of exclusion. Deliberate policies and programmes at local, national and regional levels to foster the participation and social inclusion of adolescents and youth affected by migration are key to promoting their well-being and integration, as well as to sustaining social inclusion. Facilitating their participation in youth, civil society and trade union organisations can prove particularly valuable.

16. Environmental change, both sudden and gradual, directly and indirectly influences the propensity to migrate; these factors and resulting displacement are expected to increase in the coming years and will particularly impact youth.

Migration can be a successful adaptation strategy for young people when they are actively involved in the institutional responses to environmental change. Raising awareness and involving and empowering young people is at the heart of the response to environmental change. It also represents a significant component of governing migration in the context of environmental change. However, research and data on the complex environmental degradation/climate change nexus is lacking. There is no protection framework for environment/climate change-displaced persons and existing laws, policies and institutional arrangements are inadequate to address this specific type of human mobility.

17. International migration, with particular attention to adolescent and youth migrants, needs to be a fundamental part of the post-2015 UN Development Agenda.

The social, economic, fiscal and political implications of evolving demographic changes – with developed countries facing ageing populations and declining workforces while many less-developed countries experience ‘youth bulges’ – make migration a major development challenge and opportunity. As such, it needs to be an explicit and important component of the post-2015 UN Development Agenda. The October 2013 GMG position paper on Integrating Migration in the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda highlighted inter-agency

consensus that the human rights (including labour rights) and well-being of migrants should be addressed through appropriately disaggregated indicators. There is also agreement that an essential foundation for addressing migration and development is a human rights-based normative framework that guarantees rights as well as equal access access and opportunity, and involves shared responsibilities between countries of origin, transit and destination. Incorporating youth migration implies goals, targets and disaggregated indicators defined in consultation with young migrants in cases where migration is relevant to the achievement of specific development goals.



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POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Recognise and commit to addressing issues of youth migration

- Governments, parliaments, policy-makers, social partners and civil society should explicitly consider youth migration in their work.
- Commit to establishing laws, policies, programmes and practices that ensure respect, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of all adolescent and youth migrants, and that take into account the different needs and contributions of female and male migrants.

2. Strengthen the evidence base on youth migration

- Commit to and invest in enhancing the collection, dissemination and analysis of data on youth and adolescent migrants, disaggregated by age and sex, education, qualifications, occupation, employment situation, and skill level, as well as country of origin, country of birth, country(ies) of previous residence, and country of citizenship.
- Build the capacity of governments, their specialised institutions, and cooperating partners to obtain and apply this data and other relevant information on health, education, social protection, migration status and migrant parentage to relevant policies and programmes.
- Foster qualitative and quantitative research on experiences, conditions, needs and aspirations of young migrants.
- Identify, disseminate and replicate relevant good practices.

3. Enact national and local legislation on youth migration

- Enact national and local legislation related to migration policy and practice, grounded in the rule of law and based on relevant international human rights standards, including labour rights, to reinforce governance that prevents discrimination, violence, abuse, exploitation and exclusion regarding young and adolescent female and male migrants.
- Review and revise, as necessary, existing migration legislation, policies, regulations and practices to ensure that they are rights-based and age- and gender-sensitive.
- Develop and implement – in consultation with local authorities and relevant government departments and civil society, including young migrants – specific national and local migration policy frameworks (legislation, action plans, institutional structures and practical steps) to effectively address the risks, conditions, needs and potential of young migrants,

and allocate sufficient human and material resources for their implementation.

- Provide training to authorities (particularly civil registry, public and private service providers, and police, military, border and judicial system personnel), as well as to other social actors who interact with young migrants, on appropriate, respectful and gender-sensitive behaviour towards young migrants and their family members.

4. Apply a human rights-based, age-sensitive, and equity-focused approach to youth migration and development

- Ratify, implement and monitor all international human rights and labour conventions relevant to youth migration.¹⁷
- Evaluate and reform legislation and policy to remove legal and practical barriers to the fulfillment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of young people in the context of migration, regardless of migration status.
- Make full use of the Convention on the Rights of the Child as a tool for advancing the rights of adolescents and youth impacted by migration. Migrants under 18 years of age must enjoy the special protections afforded to them by child rights frameworks, including implementation of the guiding principles of the CRC.¹⁸
- The special protections enshrined in the CRC should not cease when adolescents turn 18 years of age, but instead be adapted to support young migrants as they transition from childhood to adulthood.
- Empower migrant adolescents and youth to defend, access and enjoy their rights, in particular by ensuring access to justice regardless of status (including competent legal representation and remedies for complaint and redress), and by building the capacity of youth-led organisations.
- Ensure that irregular entry and stay are not classified as criminal offences in national laws, and separate service provision from immigration enforcement.
- Enhance regular migration channels for work and family reunification, and make available permanent mechanisms to access long-term regular migration status.
- Adopt or reform regional and national laws, policies and practices – accompanied by appropriate capacity-building to facilitate enforcement – to ensure respect for the principle that categorically prohibits immigration-related detention of non-criminal adolescent migrants under 18 years of age.¹⁹
- Provide suitable alternatives to detention for adolescents, and for their families when accompanied.

- Prioritise adolescents and youth in the context of migration, in particular those undocumented, in legislation and policies to prevent violence, racism, xenophobia and discrimination, as well as in assistance to survivors.

5. Extend social protection measures to incorporate young migrants

- Ratify and implement relevant international conventions on the right to social security, including those supporting equality of treatment and portability of social security for non-nationals.
- Promote bilateral and multilateral agreements that ensure access to, at a minimum, basic social protection for adolescents and youth, including young female migrants, in countries of origin and destination.
- Adopt unilateral measures to extend social protection coverage to all migrants, including citizens living abroad and foreigners present in national territories.
- Ensure that social protection measures covering migrants apply to young people and to temporary and seasonal migration schemes.
- Implement existing regional frameworks on social security coverage and portability, while ensuring their applicability to adolescent and youth migrants.

6. Protect adolescent and young women migrants with gender-responsive measures

- In public and private institutions, eliminate discriminatory policies, regulations and practices, and put in place gender-sensitive policies, regulations and practices to ensure full participation, protection, and economic and social empowerment of young and adolescent female migrants.
- Establish specific measures to tackle gender inequality as a driver of, or a barrier to, migration; repeal laws and discourage practices that discriminate against girls and women.
- Enact and enforce laws that protect against early marriage, gender-based violence, including sexual violence, and trafficking; enact family legislation that specifies the equal rights of female family members left behind, including equal access to property and land; and enact laws to empower young women economically and socially.
- Prepare adolescents and youth, especially girls and young women, for migration by providing information about their rights and what to expect in the country of destination, and by ensuring that they have and retain access to birth certificates, passports, and other forms of identification.

7. Establish decent work provisions applicable to all young migrants

- Ensure national adoption, and application to all migrants, of labour standards and decent work conditions in line with international labour standards.
- Enhance implementation of legal and policy frameworks for free circulation of persons in regional economic communities.
- Provide for labour inspection in the sectors and workplaces where migrants, particularly youth and adolescents, are employed.
- Ensure application of non-discrimination and equality of treatment and opportunity in employment and training for all young migrants.
- Obtain specific data on migrant youth employment, including distribution and characteristics, working conditions, and educational attainment.
- Mainstream youth employment, with attention to migrants, into national development plans, poverty-reduction initiatives, and Decent Work Country Programmes.

8. Provide youth in rural areas with alternatives to outmigration

- Create and facilitate opportunities for decent work and access to credit and markets for young people where they reside, to ensure that migration is an informed choice, not a necessity.
- Promote investment in rural infrastructure and agriculture to provide conditions that make remaining in place viable and sustainable.
- Expand access to education, apprenticeships, finance, and employment opportunities for young women and men in rural areas, including young migrants with disabilities, ensuring respect for individual needs and situations.

9. Facilitate remittances and lower their costs for young migrants

- Strengthen formal remittance channels and reduce transaction costs.
- Facilitate young migrants' access to financial services.
- Promote the use of new technologies oriented towards young users through government action, in cooperation with youth and the private sector.

10. Include children of immigrants in integration policy

- Promote the integration of children of immigrants in communities and labour markets by establishing targeted education and apprenticeship programmes.
- Expand early childhood education opportunities and facilities in immigrant communities.

- Develop on-the-job training opportunities targeted to children of immigrants, as well as to migrant youth.
- Enhance the integration of migrant parents through training and employment.

11. Facilitate mobility for higher education

- Establish or strengthen regional policy frameworks for quality governance of higher education and accreditation of educational and training institutions.
- Adopt comprehensive regulations and standards to manage quality and credentials of different forms of tertiary education, and systematically monitor implementation of credential accreditation and quality assurance in cross-border education policies.
- Establish or strengthen transferability and recognition mechanisms for educational credits and for professional, technical and vocational qualifications.
- Incorporate student bodies as partners in ensuring equal rights and opportunities for mobile students.
- Improve conditions for mobile students through student loans, housing services, health insurance and related programmes.

12. Ensure that health services reach young migrants

- Establish national public health system commitments and plans to identify, reach and ensure the inclusion of all migrants, particularly adolescents, youth and disadvantaged groups, such as migrant youth with disabilities.
- Specifically ensure young migrants' access to health education, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment services, commensurate with national capabilities.
- Extend gender-sensitive health service outreach or facilities, including for sexual and reproductive health, to areas where migrants, particularly youth migrants, may be concentrated, and take steps to overcome language and cultural barriers to service access, including through training of health service personnel.
- Ensure access to health by migrants in irregular situations by maintaining firewalls between health services provision and immigration enforcement.

13. Mainstream youth migration into migration governance, national policy-making, and development planning

- Include youth migration issues in all relevant aspects of government, particularly development plans and policies

- Establish a comprehensive migration governance agenda that incorporates youth migration into national policies and reflects full respect for international human rights.
- Conduct impact assessments on the implications of migration for any planned development action.

14. Involve local authorities in youth migration governance

- Establish local assessments, policies, institutions, mechanisms, programmes and actions to facilitate migrant reception and integration, with particular attention to migrant youth.
- Designate local authorities responsible for migration policies and programmes, and ensure that they are accessible to migrant youth.
- Provide national government support to local authorities on migration and mobility; establish consultative processes incorporating local authorities and young migrants.
- Facilitate and support migrant youth associations, migrant women's associations, and migrant civil society participation.
- Institutionalise the collection of data on youth migration at the local level and conduct comparative research on migrant youth's engagement with local authorities, including coalition-building, new technologies, and local consultative processes.

15. Promote meaningful participation of migrant adolescents and youth

- Promote meaningful participation of migrant youth in the formulation, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes that concern them as youth and as migrants, including at the local level.
- Implement and monitor programmes and media campaigns to prevent xenophobia, stereotyping, discrimination, and all types of abuse and exclusion of migrant adolescents and youth, and promote their participation in all spheres of life in destination countries.
- Facilitate and provide financial support for participation by young male and female migrants in youth and civil society organisations and community groups.

16. Address environment linkages to youth migration

- Improve knowledge about linkages between youth migration and climate change/environmental degradation.

- Identify a framework of principles and measures for the protection of persons displaced by climate change/environmental degradation.
- Develop institutional cooperation addressing the migration-climate change/ environmental degradation nexus.
- Incorporate climate change/environmental degradation-induced displacement into comprehensive migration governance agendas.
- Frame migration and the climate change/ environmental degradation nexus within the post-2015 United Nations Development agenda.
- Involve affected communities and diasporas in participatory policy planning and implementation.
- Ensure that young people have the means (information, education, resources, skills, networks, etc.) to address the challenges posed by environmental change.

17. Incorporate youth migration in the global development agenda

- Fully integrate international migration, including youth migration, into the post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda.
- Explicitly take into consideration the challenges and opportunities inherent in adolescent and youth migration when setting goals, targets and disaggregated indicators for the post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda.
- Promote participation by adolescent and youth migrants in the design of the post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda.



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Conclusion

The chapters of this report present a comprehensive picture of the situation that millions of young people face as migrants, potential migrants, or as sons and daughters of migrant parents. Overall, the report shows that international youth migration presents opportunities, risks and challenges. With the right policies in place, migration can become an empowering experience that helps young people to develop the assets and skills they need to succeed. Thus enabled, young migrants will contribute significantly to economic and social development and well-being in their countries of origin, destination and transit.

A general conclusion is that governments should establish a comprehensive migration governance agenda that explicitly incorporates youth migration into national development and other relevant policies, institutions, and practical measures. Targeted policies and actions focused on youth migration, and which take into consideration the specific needs and contributions

of both young women and men, should be developed at the local as well as national levels, and be reinforced by global governance mechanisms developed within a human rights-based institutional framework for migration. Hence, the contributions presented in the full report highlight practical ways of protecting, supporting and empowering migrant youth.

The foundation of any policy addressing youth migration must be anchored in respect for the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their status, and based on general principles of social protection. States that have not yet done so are urged to ratify and effectively implement the relevant international human rights instruments and international labour standards.

All concerned stakeholders, especially social partners, civil society organisations and young migrants themselves, both women and men, should be involved in designing and implementing migration policies and measures. Key to the engagement of migrant youth

and adolescents is enabling and facilitating their participation in civil society organisations, particularly youth groups, unions, and community organisations, in accordance with their capacities.

To help ensure that migration is an informed choice, rather than a necessity, policies designed to improve the outcomes of youth migration need to address the root causes of migration in countries of origin, incorporating policies specifically targeted to young children and adolescents, girls and young women, and vulnerable populations, including those left behind when family members migrate.

Stakeholders in countries of origin, transit and destination should work in partnership to enhance regular migration channels and reform restrictive migration policies.

Given the magnitude of the risks, challenges and opportunities highlighted in the report, a focus on youth migration is critical to the post-2015 UN development framework, as underlined in the GMG Position Paper on Integrating Migration in the post-2015 UN Development Agenda. Achieving this objective calls for a distinct set of measurable goals and targets related to: poverty eradication; rights protection; access to quality education, health, housing, food and productive employment and decent work for all; gender equality; and environmental protection and climate change adaptation/mitigation. Such goals and targets would require measurement indicators disaggregated by age and gender and including migrants and the foreign born. Another promising option is the inclusion of migration as part of a renewed Global Partnership goal. Such a partnership would magnify the impact of human mobility as an enabler of development.



NOTES

1. Peter Sutherland, Migration is Development, 15 March 2013, Project Syndicate, available at: <http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/migrants-and-the-post-2015-global-development-agenda-by-peter-sutherland>
2. See: http://www.un.org/sg/priorities/sg_agenda_2012.pdf
3. See: <http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org/news/gmg-symposium-migration-and-youth-harnessing-opportunities-development-17-18-may-2011-new-york>
The Symposium was organized ahead of the Informal Thematic Debate of the UN General Assembly on International Migration and Development and during the International Year of Youth.
4. United Nations (1981), Report of the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year, A/36/215, Annex, United Nations, New York.
5. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) defines a child as “every human being below the age of 18 years” (CRC Article 1). Children may be granted certain rights and responsibilities at different ages by national legislation; however, there is international consensus on the legal definition of a child stemming from the CRC.
6. Adolescence is defined as the period following the onset of puberty during which a young person develops from a child into an adult. Therefore, it is very individual and there is no scientific or legal consensus on a specific age definition. The United Nations uses the age cohort 10-19 when referring to adolescence. However, individuals may experience some of the key physiological and psychological changes from an age earlier than 10, and later than 19 years. The upper boundary of adolescence is often raised to 21 or 25 years of age in contexts dealing with physical, social and mental health and development, with reference to on-going development during these years. Adolescence itself is not usually defined in legislation, though definitions are often linked to national laws setting the age of majority and legal ages for additional rights and responsibilities associated with adulthood.
7. UNICEF (2011), The State of the World’s Children. Adolescence – An Age of Opportunity, New York.
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12. See for example, United Nations Development Group (2013), A Million Voices: The World We Want. Available at: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/bitcache/cb02253d47a0f7d4318f41a4d11c330229991089?vid=422422&disposition=inline&op=view>. See also the 2013 Dhaka Declaration on Global Population Dynamics. Available at: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/node/319783>
13. GMG (2013), Integrating migration in the post-2015 UN Development Agenda: Position Paper, September 2013. Available at: <http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org/uploads/news/GMG-position-paper-Migration-and-post-2015-Development-Agenda.pdf>
14. This chapter is based on the paper Human Rights of Undocumented Adolescents and Youth by the same authors, July 2013, available at: <http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org/gmg/sites/default/files/uploads/gmg-topics/mig-data/Human-Rights-of-Undocumented-Adolescents-Youth.pdf>
15. See also: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2004), World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, Women and International Migration, A/59/287/Add.1ST/ESA/294.
16. This chapter uses the term immigrants to identify migrant populations that have immigrated to, and generally settled permanently in, destination countries.
17. A non-exhaustive list of these instruments includes: the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; the ILO Migration and Employment Conventions (Revised) No. 97 and the Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention No. 143 on Migrant Workers; the Domestic Workers Convention No. 189, as well as other relevant ILO conventions and all core international human rights instruments, namely the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
18. These are: the best interests of the child; non-discrimination; the right to life, survival and development; and the right to participate and be heard.
19. The Committee on the Rights of the Child has categorically stated that “children should not be criminalized or subject to punitive measures because of their or their parents’ migration status. The detention of a child constitutes a child rights violation and always contravenes the principle of the best interests of the child. [...] States should [...] completely cease the detention of children.” See: Committee on the Rights of the Child, Report of the 2012 Day of General Discussion. The Rights of All Children in the Context of International Migration, paragraph 78. Available at: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/discussion2012ReportDGDChildrenAndMigration2012.pdf>