

Thematic Meeting 3:

"Recognizing the contributions of women migrants to economic and social development in countries of origin and destination and addressing their specific needs"

Split families, children left behind

Geneva: 8 September 2015
Salle II, R3 Level, ILO Building





Women Migrants in the SDGs

	Issues	Relevant SDG Targets	The Facts
Migrations & Development	The SDGs recognize that protecting migrant women's rights will enhance their potential to become drivers of sustainable development*	8.8 Protect migrant worker's rights, especially women migrants 10c Reduce remittance fees Access to vocational training and affordable education	Studies have shown that migrant women remit a higher proportion of their salary than migrant men Studies indicate that women remit as much as men in absolute numbers Remittances sent by women go more often towards education, health, and community development An increasing proportion of women are labour migrants
Challenges	Migrant women often face discrimination and special attention should be paid to their particular challenges. Women may feel more pressured to send money back home and therefore more willing to take risks and enter the informal sector.	8.5 Decent work for all 10.2 Economic and political inclusion Relevant skills for employment and entrepreneurship	Migrant women are disproportionately unemployed compared to migrant men or native women In high-income countries, more migrant women face deskilling challenges compared to migrant men A reduced family network often results in an increased double-burden for women in terms of reproductive and productive roles
Vulnerabilities	By doing so, migrant women are often more vulnerable to exploitation, modern forms of slavery, and other forms of gender-based violence.	5.2 Eliminate violence against women 8.7 End modern day slavery	It is estimated that 98% of trafficking victims for sexual exploitation are women There are an estimated 4.5 million victims of sexual exploitation worldwide The majority of victims of forced labour are women
Solution Empowerment	The SDGs put in place a set of policy recommendations to make sure that the positive aspects of migration are enhanced and the negative ones reduced for all migrants including migrant women.	10.7 Well managed migration policies 5.5 Opportunities for leadership at all level of decision-making 5.c Policies for promotion of gender equality 5.4 Social protection policies for domestic workers	Data on the political and economic empowerment of migrant women are scarce Disaggregation of data by both gender and migration status is lacking and would be a powerful tool for policy development As of September 2015, 22 countries have ratified the ILO Domestic Workers Convention

As mentioned in Rio+20 outcome document par. 43 and par. 238

^{*} Facts on remittances stem from UN-Women's background paper for the 2015 GFMD third thematic meeting on migrant women All facts on deskilling and labour migration stem from IOM's publication « Crushed hopes: Underemployment and deskilling among skilled migrant women » (2012) All facts about trafficking stem from ILO's publication « ILO global estimate of forced labour 2012, results and methodology » (2012)









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Policy recommendations

- Receiving countries to favor family reunification
- Appointment of legal guardian as matter pf priority
- Develop specific community services
- Provide targeted training to psychologists, social workers etc.
- Supporting remittances but address adverse consequences
- Diaspora engagement to facilitate communication