Concept note – White paper/handbook (TBD) on mainstreaming migration in local development planning

Rationale
The importance of local authorities in developing and implementing Migration and Development (M&D) policies and initiatives, as well as in driving integration processes, is increasingly recognized at the global level. At the same time, the process of integrating migration within policy design and planning, known as the “mainstreaming” process, is increasingly perceived as key in addressing issues related to migration as well as in building on all the opportunities brought by it. This process is based on the recognition of the wide range of policy areas that affect and are affected by migration, and on the subsequent building of coherence among concerned policies and actors. Although mainstreaming processes are now mainly addressed at the national level, their translation and application at the local level is increasingly considered as a crucial aspect in view of maximizing the potential of migration for development.

However, the implementation of mainstreaming processes at the local level is highly contextualized. Indeed, different local settings leave little room for comparison in terms of administrative settings, levels of decentralization and diversity of actors and migration dynamics. Similarly, if at the national level mainstreaming processes imply coherence among national policies, at the local level, they may imply coherence among not only policies, but also services, activities and actors, be they formalized or not. In this sense, it is difficult to standardize the characteristics related to migration mainstreaming at the local level. Nonetheless, several territories around the globe have initiated such coherence-building processes in the recent years, and therefore their experiences constitute a precious knowledge-base in terms of good practices and lessons learnt.

A thorough analysis of what has been done to mainstream migration into local initiatives/services/activities/policies thus far would therefore allow for a stock-taking of functioning practices and lessons learnt, as well as the identification of the similarities/differences between the processes applied in different local settings around the globe. It is indeed important, based on existing experience, to provide a picture of working processes and lessons learnt and related recommendations to guide future mainstreaming exercises in other comparable settings and locations. This will not only have great value in territories where such mainstreaming is envisaged, but will also contribute to increasing the support of national and international policymakers for the implementation of initiatives focusing on the territorial level.

Objective
It is within this context that the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as the leading international organization on migration, and the Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI), as an interagency programme focusing on M&D at the local level have decided to build on their expertise

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1 The JMDI is an EU and Swiss funded initiative implemented by UNDP, IOM, the International Training Centre of ILO (ITC-ILO), UN Women, UNHCR, UNFPA and UNITAR. More information on http://www.migration4development.org/content/about-jmdi
and networks in order to develop and publish a white paper/handbook on mainstreaming migration into local policies and development planning. The document will:

- Analyze and compare different existing local policies/initiatives/service-provision frameworks where migration is taken as an important parameter;
- Synthetize the main features of these policies/initiatives/service provision frameworks;
- Identify good practices and lessons learnt;
- Provide recommendations and key success factors on how to mainstream migration into local practices (i.e. policies/initiatives/development planning/service provision frameworks);
- Systematize migration mainstreaming processes at local level into visual aids to serve as a base for further mainstreaming exercises.

The development of the product will be guided by a Steering Committee composed of local authorities, representatives of the civil society (including diaspora organizations) and other relevant stakeholders active at the local level.

**Activities**

1) **End of Feb. 2015**: Establishment of the Steering Committee:
   - Drawing on JMDI and IOM’s existing networks, potential members will be invited to be part of the Steering Committee and introduced to the project. ToR will be developed for the selection of the members.

2) **Mid-march 2015**: Round of bilateral meetings with individual steering committee members:
   - Due to the various localities in which the members of the steering committee are located (Latin America, Europe, North Africa, Asia), it will be impossible to coordinate a common videoconference. Therefore Members will be contacted by e-mail to be introduced to the concept and validate it. They will then be contacted individually by phone or skype to gather their inputs.
   - Possible outcomes:
     - Selection of a first batch of practices to analyze
     - Definition of criteria for analysis of practices

3) **End of April 2015**: end of the selection of practices to be analyzed
   - Around 15 policies from different settings (including mainly destination territories and mainly home territories) and different levels of decentralization

4) **May to June 2015**: e-discussion with the community of practice
   - The discussion will be managed by the JMDI on their forum ([http://www.migration4development.org/content/m4d-community-practice-forum](http://www.migration4development.org/content/m4d-community-practice-forum)) and structured around 2-3 questions discussed during the Steering Committee meeting.

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2 The analysis of the policies may be conducted following a predefined set of criteria (e.g. link with national policies, stakeholders involved, coordination mechanisms, etc.) OR the criteria can be defined while analysing the policies - this can be discussed with the steering committee. Probably a blended methodology will be best.
- The synthesis of the results of the e-discussion may make the object of a chapter in the publication.

5) **End of July 2015**: policies and practices are analyzed and synthetized
   - The features of the policies and practices are discussed in terms of their specificities with respect to their context, as well as in terms of their common points
   - Synthesis is ready to be used in order to formulate recommendations
   - Second Steering Committee meeting (possibly physical meeting), in order to:
     - Validate the synthesis
     - Discuss the final recommendations

6) **End of August 2015**: Document is ready for editing and printing
   - Around 50 pages;
   - The document is an IOM/JMDI document.

**Partners**

As a new activity in the framework of JMDI-IOM agreement, both parties will co-lead the development of this product.

Both the JMDI and IOM will lead:

- The validation of identification and selection of the practices/policies that will be analyzed
- The identification of the steering committee members
- The identification of the consultant
- The review of the methodology, report structure, draft and final documents produced by the consultant

The JMDI will organize an e-discussion through its community of practice under [http://www.migration4development.org/content/m4d-community-practice-forum](http://www.migration4development.org/content/m4d-community-practice-forum).

IOM will hire a consultant to undertake the main analysis of the policies and the synthesis, and organize the two meetings of the steering committee.

The Steering Committee, through two meetings organized at the beginning and towards the end of the research process, will provide advice on the policies and practices to analyze and on the methodology to adopt, and will validate the results and support the formulation of recommendations.

Editing and printing of the document will be organized in the most convenient way, to be discussed between IOM and the JMDI.