Background: The positive contribution of migrants towards inclusive growth and sustainable development is now recognized globally and prominently reflected in the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Agenda for Action. While this is an extremely important and promising step towards truly ensuring that ‘no-one is left behind’, in order to fully ensure an integral approach to migration management, there is a need to go beyond national dialogue and policies and tap into the unexplored expertise and innovative actions being carried out by cities and other local and regional authorities to better manage migration and thus harness the development potential at the local level.

Indeed, in a global context of increasing human mobility, urbanization and decentralization, it is local and regional authorities that are finding themselves at the forefront of managing both the positive and negative impacts of migration. While a national response is crucial, this must be aligned with local realities since persisting inequalities, one of the identified drivers of migration, exist not only among different countries, but also within countries, thus necessitating an integral and bottom up approach from the local level. Cities and other local and regional authorities therefore have a key role in migration management that needs to be recognised and supported at national and international levels. Many are already thriving in this role and others need support to reach their full potential. It is within this context that the main objective of the JMDI is working to empower local and regional authorities to better manage migration for development through the delivery of financial and technical support combined with a focus on capacity building, knowledge sharing and networking.

Within its over 4,000 strong network of M&D actors, the JMDI is directly supporting 31 Local and Regional Authorities (LRA) and 33 local Civil Society Organisations (CSO) to maximize the development impact of their migration and development initiatives through up-scaling and provision of technical and financial support.

The JMDI recognizes that local and regional authorities are becoming increasingly responsible for many aspects of migration management ranging from urban planning in relation to integration, reintegration, legal protection, education, economic development and health. Yet lack of competencies, capacities, resources and support at the national level can severely hinder their efforts to do so. The JMDI is therefore supporting selected local and...
JMDI Project at a glance

Bishnu is 19, lives in Nepal with her son and receives remittances from her husband who migrated to Malaysia in order to make ends meet. She is now one of the 1,240 female recipients of business training as well as one of the 758 persons who received a loan through a microfinance company specifically set up to support seasonal migrant families. This support was provided within the framework of the JMDI supported project Safer Remittances and Improved Livelihoods Project (SRIL). This project aims to improve remittance transfer systems and promote women’s economic leadership by strengthening the capacities of rural women, local financial institutions and promoting productive use of remittances in order to foster local development. Through the project, Bishnu received goat rearing training in Surkhet, Nepal through the JMDI’s local partners OXFAM and EDS (Environmental Development Society). Combining her savings from the remittances with a loan from the Environment Development Multipurpose Cooperative Ltd. (EDCOL), she has now expanded her business from 2 to 17 goats.

The JMDI Toolbox

The JMDI Toolbox

Regional authorities and other local actors to scale-up their initiatives by providing them with funding and technical assistance (on average USD 170,000) and fostering their institutionalization at both the local and national levels. These projects, together with their impact on local development and policy making in the territories targeted, have directly contributed to generating interesting lessons learnt and good practices in managing migration for development at the local level. The types of projects supported include supporting local and regional authorities mainstream migration into their local development plans for enhanced development impact; bolstering service provision to migrants for their social, economic and political inclusion; channelling the social, economic and cultural capitals of the diaspora and migrants’ associations into sustainable development initiatives; promoting entrepreneurship in key industries for enhanced local development in both territories of origin and destination and; promoting and protecting migrants’ rights.

The JMDI has successfully contributed to reinforcing the capacity of over 3,900 people from local and regional authorities and other local and national actors in harnessing migration for local development

Local and regional authorities can lack the experience and capacity to manage their migratory context for local development purposes. An important component of the JMDI programme has therefore been to ensure that the lessons learnt and experience of the JMDI, its partners and the projects themselves are fed into a two-pronged approach to capacity building: (i) the creation of the “My JMDI Toolbox” set of training materials and complementary e-learning course available to all globally and (ii) tailored coaching and capacity building to partners in the JMDI target countries to enhance their migration management skills for enhanced development impact.

Now with a more stable livelihood, she says that her husband will no longer have to go to Malaysia or India for employment when he returns home after staying 2 years abroad. The combination of training and micro-credits have allowed for the creation of 41 Farmer’s Groups which serve to provide mutual support in their businesses as well as advocate for their rights and needs among local and national authorities. Moreover, the SRIL Project has provided training to 50 seasonal migrant workers to equip them with the necessary skills to obtain better job opportunities in India and in local labour markets. Finally, the project is supporting the national government better advocate for migrant workers’ rights in India though the provision of capacity building and technical support to 23 officials to create and implement a National Advocacy Strategy.
The “JMDI Toolbox” was developed in partnership with IOM and ITC-ILO and aims at actors working in migration and development at the local level and covers a wide range of practical issues through 6 modules. This has now also been turned into an e-learning course to enhance global outreach and where participants can take the courses at their own pace and time and receive a certificate. The tailored coaching and capacity building was provided via JMDI Focal Points on the basis on consultation with partners and a needs-assessment and the subsequent construction of specific training paths. Activities vary from workshops and technical assistance to training sessions and conferences and are still on-going. The JMDI is now promoting the Toolbox and the institutionalization of its contents into existing relevant curricula of various training centres and universities around the globe that deal with migration, development and local governance.

The JMDI has successfully influenced migration and development policies at local and national level by setting up and disseminating lessons learnt from the JMDI projects to networks of interested local authorities and non-state actors

Through a carefully crafted Policy Work Plan for each JMDI target country, the JMDI has successfully advocated for the inclusion of migration and development within local agendas by promoting and sharing the good practices and lessons learnt to an extended constituency of partners and other interested local and national actors. In some cases, this has led to the replication of these practices in other localities or regions of the country or the inclusion of human mobility aspects within local and also national policy-making. Some examples are outlined here:

**Ecuador**
The local dimension of migration and development has been included in the new National Law on Human Mobility

**El Salvador**
The JMDI has contributed to the creation of a new National Policy on Migration

**Costa Rica**
The JMDI has supported the development and national endorsement of a Transborder Migration Management Model to provide persons living their lives within the border areas of Nicaragua and Costa Rica with equal access to services such as health, labour insertion, and other social services.

**Philippines**
The experience of JMDI has led to the creation of a committee on migration and development under the National Economic and Development Authority and in 5 regions (and is being replicated in 3 more); as well as the issuance of memorandum by the Department of the Interior and Local Government to mainstream migration in local development and governance.

**Senegal**
The services of the Directorate General for Senegalese Abroad have also been decentralized and institutionalized at the local level thanks to support from the JMDI.
The JMDI has successfully consolidated and disseminated expertise, good practices and lessons learnt into over 120 knowledge products.

Local actors tend not to have the space, tools or networks to share knowledge and good practices in order to enhance and inspire their own practices. For this reason, the JMDI has created an integral knowledge management strategy that aims to facilitate the collection and codification of good practices and lessons learnt by tapping into and building on the expertise and knowledge of its 4,000 strong network of migration and development actors that make up the JMDI Community of Practitioners. All of this knowledge is being collected and fed into specific knowledge products which are outlined in the text box opposite and fed back into the Community.

Moreover, this Community of Practice forms part of the JMDI M4D Net Online platform. The M4D Net enables professionals and organizations to draw upon each other’s experience, construct debates, and share knowledge and information that in turn inspire even more effective exchange and initiatives.

Through this platform, members of the M4D network can engage in real-time debates through Live-Chats, contribute to thematic e-Discussions and blogs, and ask experts for support. Furthermore, they can have access to the major JMDI publications and to the M4D Library with over 2,000 documents to better understand current migration and development trends.

For more details on the services this provides, see this short video below or the website: www.migration4development.org

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**JMDI Knowledge Products to date**

- **1 White Paper on Mainstreaming Migration into Local Development Planning and Beyond:** gives a thorough analysis of what has been done thus far in terms of mainstreaming migration into development planning at the local level and allows for a stock-taking of functioning practices to paint a global picture of working processes, lessons learned and policy recommendations for future mainstreaming exercises.
- **36 case studies:** which analyse and present the good practices arising from the JMDI supported projects.
- **8 country reports:** which bring together the lessons learnt in each JMDI country and provide policy and practical recommendations on how to build on and continue the work achieved at national and local level.
- **1 Global Synthesis Report:** a global report on the results of the JMDI programme allowing for a comparative analysis of good practices and lessons learnt across all projects.
- **Various comparative reports:** to provide comparative analyses across projects on specific key thematic or cross-cutting issues.
- **8 information fiches on the work of selected local authorities:** in this series, local authorities present the innovative practices and sustainable strategies and highlight how they optimized their potential to make migration work for local development.
- **65 videos and knowledge products at country level:** of various kinds that promote the work being done to foster social cohesion and awareness on migrants’ and refugees’ rights or the services they can access.
- **1 “My JMDI Toolbox”:** training materials to support local and regional actors with their migration and development efforts.
- **2 E-Learning courses:** One based on the JMDI toolbox and one on how to design and run a migration for development project.
- **Contribution to IOM’s latest World Migration Report 2015**
The JMDI has successfully promoted the local dimension of migration and development in global dialogue.

Policy dialogue, knowledge sharing and networking among migration and development actors tend to take place uniquely at the national and international levels, depriving local and regional authorities and other local actors of the means to influence this dialogue and benefit from the knowledge and experiences shared.

In order to promote the local dimension of migration and development and the key role of local actors at the national and international levels, the JMDI actively participates and contributes to pertinent international conferences and events. To date, the JMDI has been actively involved in or organized 50 events, 16 of which have been organized directly by the JMDI.

For example, the JMDI, together with its partners UNITAR and KNOMAD, have been the driving force behind the annual Mayoral Fora on Mobility, Migration and Development. The aim of these Fora is to provide a globally relevant space for mayors and municipal leadership to strategize on how to work collectively, stay engaged, and gain support for their policies and activities relating to promoting development in a context of diversity.

The Second Mayoral Forum that took place in November 2015 in Quito saw the release of the Quito Local Agenda that outlines 11 Action Points for local and regional authorities to carry out in order to contribute to the successful implementation of the migration-related targets of the SDGs. The next Mayoral Forum is set to be held in Quezon City in the Philippines in September, 2016.

The JMDI has also been an active participant of the annual Global Fora on Migration and Development since 2008, bringing the voice and expertise of local and regional authorities to the fore through side events, photo exhibitions and direct participation as panelists or special rapporteurs.

In addition to that, the JMDI has been promoting the inclusion of migration and displacement issues within the New Urban Agenda for sustainable urban development that will result from the Habitat III conference.

More Information
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