

Knowledge Platform on Migration and Global Development¹

World Bank's Knowledge Platform Initiative

The recently launched World Bank's Open Knowledge agenda aims at systematically supporting global collaboration and knowledge connectivity by, on the one hand, opening the Bank's own knowledge products and services, and on the other, initiating new open collaboration approaches with external knowledge centers. Under this overarching philosophy, the Bank is seeking to launch a new Knowledge Platforms (KP) initiative.

The KPs aim at providing a framework for focusing resources, both within the Bank and across the Development Community, on critical, strategic and transformational issues affecting developing countries over the medium term. KPs are expected to be long-term, multi-year engagements with donors and partner institutions. While the Bank would lead some of them, it would be expected that some would also be led by other development partners. The issues addressed by KPs would typically be cross-sectoral, fill critical knowledge gaps, and seek co-generation of knowledge from diverse sources and institutions; all of which while emphasizing evidence-based and results-focused development solutions. The open nature of the KPs is expected to produce diverse perspectives and vibrant debates around sensitive development issues. The Bank sees its roles in a KP as one or more of the following: *contributor* (through research and advice); *connector* (through support for networks); *customizer* (through operational expertise for local solutions); and/or *convener* (through establishment of the platform). Indeed, the KPs are a collaborative effort and the Bank's role will eventually be decided by the comparative advantage each partner brings to the program.

Knowledge Platform on Migration and Global Development

With more than 200 million international migrants and over 700 million internal migrants in the world, migration has become a defining issue for development. The development implications of migration are complex and so far, policy responses have been unsystematic and often ineffective. In the coming decades, demographic forces, globalization and climate change will increase migration pressures both within and across borders.

The Knowledge Platform on Migration and Global Development will seek to highlight the benefits and challenges of migration for sending and receiving countries. It will also examine the size, drivers and development implications of internal migration within developing countries. More specifically, it will (i) provide an open platform to debate, discuss and reach consensus on migration issues; (ii) act as a knowledge broker at the global, regional and national level; and (iii) seek to attract multi-disciplinary practitioners to promote research and evidence-based policy making.

¹ This proposal was prepared by Sanket Mohapatra, Sonia Plaza and Dilip Ratha (DEC/PREM Migration and Remittances Unit, World Bank). Extensive discussions with Otaviano Canuto, Aniruddha Dasgupta, Christian Delvoie, Mustapha Nabli, Margret Thalwitz, Klaus Tilmes and Hans Timmer are gratefully acknowledged. Please direct questions and comments to dratha@worldbank.org.

The Knowledge Platform will include the following **themes** relating to internal and international migration: data on migration and remittance flows; management of migration; demographic changes and migration; remittances and development including access to finance and capital markets; high-skilled migration; assimilation and integration issues in host communities; mobilizing diaspora resources; climate change and international migration; migrant rights including those of forced migrants; urbanization; and policy coherence.

The Knowledge Platform's activities will include co-generation of knowledge with external research networks (universities, research and professional institutes), having regular consultations with various stakeholders and developing actionable policy options for the World Bank and the broader development community.

This Knowledge Platform will leverage the Bank's unique position with both developing and developed countries to provide a forum to discuss complex issues that cannot easily be discussed bilaterally. It will complement, but not attempt to replace or replicate, the functions of existing institutional mechanisms for cooperation on migration such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on Migration. (Some Bank staff members are closely involved in both these forums.)

The Knowledge Platform will build on partnerships with the UN agencies, the AU, Africa Economic Research Consortium, the EU, the IOM, regional development banks (especially the AfDB), CEMLA, the G8 and the G20, the Global Forum, universities, research institutes and think-tanks on migration and remittances. The Bank has already established a partnership with a research consortium titled "Migrating Out of Poverty" involving 25+ universities and research institutions including University of Dhaka, Center for Development Studies (India), Nepal Institute of Development Studies, Cheikh Anta Diop University (Senegal), University of Ghana, African Migration and Development Policy Centre (Kenya), Witswatersrand University (South Africa), National University of Singapore, University of Sussex, and Oxford University. The Bank has also an active work program and extensive collaboration with institutions in AFR, ECA, EAP, LAC, MENA and SAR.