

Outline for 2009 National Human Development Report Armenia

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The main objective of NHDR

People have always migrated in human history. For centuries, migration has represented a fundamental survival strategy for the people, and there are no signs this is going to change in the near future. Armenians are not exceptions in this regard.

The objective of 2009 NHDR is to initiate a national debate on migration in Armenia, and to promote the policy reforms in the area by supporting broad public participation and experts engagement in public policy. UNDP believes that migration was and is an important issue for Armenia's development, which experienced several waves of migration. More than a million people emigrated after independence during the last 16 years and the total amount of remittances exceeds budget expenditures. If it is not considered as such, then an important aspect of the challenges that this country may face will be ignored.

Globalization has made the issue of migration even more critical. UNDP believes that migration is a global social phenomenon and it is indeed a core human development issue. UNDP recognizes the need for comprehensive analyses of the issue and development of the policy actions to be taken. 2008 Global HDR also will be devoted to the issue of Migration.

Report on migration could make an impact in terms of challenging existing policies and identifying new policy alternatives in this regard.

It is expected that the NHDR on Migration will be an important advocacy tool and knowledge asset for highlighting and addressing different development aspects related to migration, increasing public awareness and promoting policy review/adjustment.

The issues to be discussed in NHDR

• Migration Trends, Globalization and Human Development

This section will discuss migration processes during last two decades, recent trends at national and regional level. The report should offer an in-depth analysis of the human development dimensions of the issue. What are the human development failures (social, economic or political) determining migrations? And what is the human development impact of migration in Armenia? What are the implications for people's choices? Are there complications arising from trade-offs between choices of different people, between group and individual interests and choices, between choices of citizens and state, between the short and longer term? The link between migration and other factors influencing human development needs exploring, including conflicts, natural disasters, and environmental issues.

Much of the analytical work done on migration focuses on its economic consequences. A clearly articulated human development dimension encompassing questions of human rights, human security, governance, gender equality, culture and diversity, employment and livelihood issues will add new aspects to the economic and political perspectives of migration. Economic, social, political and cultural conditions determine different types of migration, all of which have significant impact on human development.

Migration has a centuries-long history as a survival strategy. But, there has been an increase in mobility in the last decades, turning migration into a global social phenomenon in the context of overall

globalization and persistent global inequalities. This section will also discuss the current trends in the world on migration due to the globalization.

Migration will require a careful effort of measurement of flows.

- **Poverty, Inequalities and Migration**

This section will discuss migration in the context of or as a consequence of poverty and inequality. Although the linkage between poverty, inequality and migration is increasingly recognized, migration has not yet consistently been integrated into national development strategies and agendas or in international assistance programmes.

There is a need to analyze all migration trends: internal, external, from Armenia – to which countries. Particularly, looking at marzes and countries with increased migration flows, it can disclose important information about future socio-economic-political trends evolving in emerging markets and democracies in the country and outside of the country.

Migration could be discussed from the viewpoint of regional inequalities, which is a timely theme choice and would offer room for a HDR to make a substantial contribution to current debates on this topic.

There is a need to analyze migration-related policies with long-term considerations, instead of narrow short-term economic or political concerns, to challenge existing policies and identify new policy alternatives.

- **Migration and Human Rights**

This section will reflect on interrelations between migration and human rights. Migration, just as globalization, can be a source of progress and human development, yet it has to be properly managed. Migrants' rights need to be protected.

The gender aspect of migration is very important multi-dimension issue to be considered. Because of lack of institutional support, traffickers often fill the gaps that the legal and social structure denies women.

Particular attention will be given to illegal migration and trafficking. The impact of migration on human development is unclear at least for a group of migrants: illegal migrants often see their chances of survival decrease dramatically as they leave their countries. Their illegal status implies, by definition, lack of voice and political representation in their new homeland. Refugee camps lack the most basic of services. Rooms in urban slums pose a threat to their health.

- **Remittances and role of Diaspora in development**

This section will discuss the impact of remittances on poverty reduction and development. It is important to understand the sustainability of this impact (including the use of these resources for consumption vs. productive investment), and other issues related to the "Diaspora", to their role in development. Strategies to attract them back to the country also should be discussed in the context of migration.

Remittances should be used to invest in human development and mechanisms to stop the permanent "brain drain" must be created. The NHDR will try to identify the policy and institutional changes that need to accompany migration flows in order to connect its economic and social benefits, and to ensure a fair distribution of those benefits.

Remittances can be used to foster education and health, and can have a real impact in poverty reduction. Further, they can also represent a powerful incentive for young people to follow the steps of migrants and abandon their community of origin. Report will analyze these effects.

The *brain drain* (emigration of qualified workers) versus the *brain-in-the-drain* (under-utilization of qualified workers in their country of origin because of lack of employment opportunities) concepts and their potential tradeoffs often implying the divergence of group and individual interests require special reflection.

- **Recent Human Development trends in Armenia**

This section will discuss recent human development trends on national and sub-national level. There will be a particular focus on MDGs, inequality, and vulnerability. The section will study regional and sub-regional data, including an exercise on deriving Human Development Index for Armenia's regions.