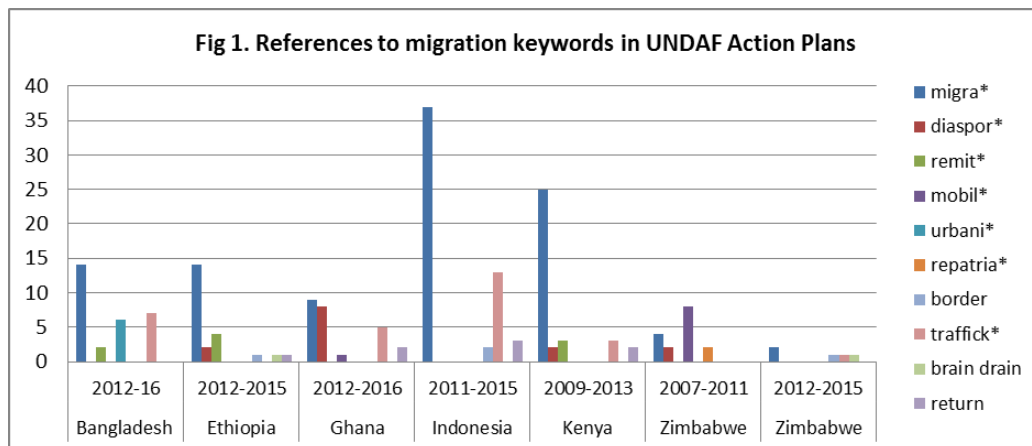




Policy Review: Attitudes toward Migration in UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) Action Plans

Overview: the way that migration is dealt with in these policy documents varies substantially from country to country (see Fig 1), with documents being variously preoccupied with support for migrants (see Bangladesh, Ghana, and Indonesia profiles), refugee issues (Kenya), rural-urban migration (Ethiopia), and brain drain (Zimbabwe). *Note to readers: refer to Factsheet 1 for an overview of the Migrating of Poverty RPC's review of development donor policies, including a profile of UNDAF Action Plans.*



COUNTRY PROFILES

BANGLADESH – UNDAF Action Plan (2012-2016)

Key migration areas: access to services for migrants, trafficked persons

The plan outlines a number of efforts to enhance pro-poor development through internal and regional migration, including initiatives by International Organization for Migration (IOM) and government/civil society partners on skills development, awareness-raising of overseas employment, and protection of migrant rights (p. 18). The plan identifies the need to empower migrant women, reduce health risks to migrants, and develop training facilities for migrants (p. 21; p. 28). It also calls for protection of rural livelihoods from natural disasters linked to climate change, so people are not forced to move to urban slums (p. 24). Trafficking is a concern, with calls for effective social protection policies to help combat this problem (p. 12).

ETHIOPIA – UNDAF Action Plan (2012-2015)

Key migration areas: rural-urban migration, remittances, refugees

The plan claims rural-urban migration exacerbates urban unemployment and leads to a rise in international migration (p. 8). Rural exodus is seen as driven partly by environmental change, especially land degradation, while rapid onset natural disasters have created localized displacement (p. 20). More positively, the need for better planned rural-urban migration and social provision for migrants in cities is noted (p. 25). Remittances (both formal and informal) have increased in recent years (p. 21), and tapping the development potential of remittances and diaspora investment is one aim of the UN (p. 25). The plan also notes the country's substantial refugee population, estimated at 145,000 in 2010 (p. 2).

GHANA – UNDAF Action Plan (2012-2016)

Key migration areas: diaspora, services for vulnerable migrants

IOM will facilitate services for migrants by: improving healthcare access for migrants in four regions (p. 57); delivering social welfare to victims of trafficking, internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, stranded migrants, and vulnerable returnees (p. 63);

assisting in the Ghana's HIV/AIDS strategy by providing healthcare to migrants along transport corridors (p. 64); and supporting returnees via access to livelihood empowerment services (p. 64). IOM will also work with ministries to develop partnerships between districts, the private sector and the diaspora (p. 94), and will help create a national plan to combat child trafficking (p. 65).

INDONESIA – UNDAF Action Plan (2011-2015)

Key migration areas: support for migrant workers; trafficking

Indonesia's plan emphasises the need to support overseas migrant workers before, during and after their migration (p. 34), with a number of policies being proposed to this end. Pre-departure training for migrants will be provided in origin communities with high out-migration, and the government will set up helpdesks for Indonesian migrants in countries of destination and will seek to bolster migrant civil society organisations abroad (pp. 35-36). Policies to ease the reintegration of returnees include livelihood and financial education services at the community level (pp. 35-36). Training for community-based organisations to help migrants who were exploited abroad is another measure (pp. 35-36). Lastly, a national task force to combat trafficking is being created (p. 34).

KENYA – UNDAF Action Plan (2009-2013)

Key migration areas: immigration, refugees, diaspora, remittances, environmental migration

Kenya hosts large numbers of refugees and migrants and the UN will play a role in ensuring that both groups have access to basic rights and services (p. 52). In fact, IDPs, vulnerable migrants, refugees and victims of trafficking are among those that require special assistance from UN agencies, according to the plan (p. 18). There is a substantial flow of remittances, amounting to around US\$1 billion annually (p. 53). Relatedly, the UN will promote greater policy coherence to ensure that migration's potential to contribute to development is not constrained (p. 53). Linkages between environmental change and migration are also mentioned in parts of the plan: the displacement of pastoralists due to perennial drought in parts of the country is discussed (p. 37), while the plan also observes that refugees, migrants and IDPs often reside in environmentally and economically marginal areas (p. 52).

ZIMBABWE – UNDAF Action Plans (2007-2011 & 2012-2015)

Key migration areas: brain drain, mobile populations and HIV infection

Neither of these plans has a robust discussion of migration (see Fig 1). The 2007-2011 plan notes that emigration of skilled labour has contributed to economic decline in the country (p. 2), with brain drain in the health sector being particularly severe and contributing to a 40 per cent vacancy rate (p. 6). Given this situation, the plan calls for IOM to help mitigate the migration of health workers and to assist in their repatriation (p. 17). Elsewhere, mobile populations are seen as being particularly vulnerable to HIV infection, with UN agencies seeking to promote behavioural change among these populations (p. 16). The 2012-2015 plan, meanwhile, reiterates the negative impact of skilled emigration (p. 9), but fails to go into any real depth on this issue, or to discuss other migration-related issues beyond one reference to 'migration management' (p. 13).

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