
Migration, Cooperation and Development: the role of the Mexican Government

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Migration: Fact sheet

Migration: A global phenomenon

- International migrants: 82 million in 1970, 175 in 2000 and 214 in 2010. They constitute 3.1% of the world population. One out of 35 persons is a migrant.
- About 1 in every 10 persons living in more developed regions will be a migrant compared to 1 of every 70 persons in developing countries.
- Most of the world's migrants live in Europe (70 million in 2010), followed by Asia (61 million) and North America (50 million). With 43 million migrants expected in 2010, the United States of America hosts the largest number of international migrants, followed by the Russian Federation (12 million), Germany (11 million) and Saudi Arabia and Canada with 7 million each.
- In 2005, the migrant's main countries of origin were: Mexico (11.5 million), Russian Federation (11.5 million), India (10 million) and China (7.3 million).

Source: United Nations, International Migration, 2009 Wallchart

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Mexico-US Migration: Fact sheet

Size and Flow:

- The Hispanic population is the first minority in the U.S., with nearly 45 million people. The Mexican origin population represents 64% of all Hispanics.
- There are 30 million people of Mexican origin in the U.S.
- 12 million were born in Mexico, accounting for 30.1% of all US immigrants. About one of every 10 Mexicans resides in the U.S.
- Immigration from Mexico has slowed in recent years: 39% lower than in 2007 and 47% less than in 2006.

Distribution and Concentration:

- 98% of Mexicans living abroad reside in the U.S.
- About 70% of the Mexican born reside in 4 states (California 37.3%, Texas 21%, Illinois 6.3% and Arizona 5.4%)
- Between 2000 and 2008, 11 states saw their Mexican-born population grow by at least 50,000 (Texas, California, Arizona, Illinois, Georgia, Nevada, North Carolina, New York, Colorado, Florida and Washington)
- Two of every five Mexican immigrants moving to the U.S. in 2008 came from 6 Mexican states: Chiapas, Guanajuato, Oaxaca, Sonora, Michoacán and Veracruz



Mexico-US Migration: Fact sheet

Demographic and Socioeconomic Overview:

- About three-quarters of Mexican immigrants in 2008 were limited English proficient.
- More than half of Mexican foreign-born adults did not have a high school education. Nevertheless, Mexico was the fourth largest supplier of highly skilled immigrants following India, the Philippines and China.
- Almost 40% of employed Mexican born men worked in construction, extraction and transportation.
- Over one-third of employed Mexican-born women worked in services.

Legal and unauthorized:

- In 2009, 62% of all unauthorized immigrants were from Mexico (almost 7 million)
- The number of unauthorized immigrants from Mexico increased 42% between 2000 and 2009.

Source: Mexican immigrants in the US, Aaron Terrazas, Migration Policy Institute, feb 2010



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Migration and International Cooperation

- In order to reduce the negative impacts and maximize the positive effects of migration, governments of migrant sending, receiving and transit countries seek to address migration issues through: unilateral policies, bilateral agreements, regional and global forums or mechanisms.
- Currently we are experiencing growing governmental efforts to regulate migration flows and control their borders through unilateral policies. The main consequences of these mostly restrictionist policies have been:
 - Limits on temporary migrants' circularity, which imply a larger number of permanent migration in the host country
 - A growing number of migrant deaths in their attempts to cross borders
 - The expansion of human trafficking networks
 - Growing pressures on the part of domestic and international public opinion to address these issues following existing norms for the protection of human rights.

Source: Castles and Miller, 2009; Cornelius, Tsuda and Martin, 2004.

Migration and International Cooperation

- An alternative path: international cooperation
- The establishment in 2005 of the **Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM)** and the **High Level Dialogue on Migration Issues** began by the United Nations in 2006, followed up with the annual of the **Global Forum on Migration and Development** are important steps in this direction.
- However, host countries are still reticent to participate in formal mechanisms, as exemplified by the low number of ratifications of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (43 as of July, 2010).



Migration and International Cooperation

- The GCIM's report has highlighted 6 *Principles for Action* on Migration for the international community:
 - Guaranteeing that the decision to migrate should be taken based on migrants' own choices and not by necessity.
 - **Recognizing and reinforcing the role of migrants in promoting development and poverty reduction in their countries of origin, as well as their contributions to the prosperity of destination countries.**
 - Addressing irregular migration, while recognizing states' sovereign right to determine who enters and remains on their territory as well as their responsibility and obligation to protect the rights of migrants.
 - Strengthening social cohesion through the integration of migrants and citizens of the host country based on a commitment to non-discrimination and gender equity.
 - Protecting the human and labor rights of migrants.
 - Enhancing governance of international migration through improved coherence, capacity and cooperation between states at the domestic, regional and international level.



Migration and Development: The Governments role

- Having taken into consideration the role that migrants have in promoting development both in their countries of origin and destination, the most recent dialogue held during the Global Forum on Migration and Development has focused on the role that Governments can perform to maximize it.

“More and more people are excited about the ways in which migrants can transform their adopted and their native countries. More and more people understand that **governments can cooperate** to create triple wins-for migrants, for their countries of origin and for the societies that receive them”

Kofi Annan, september 2006, former
United Nations Secretary-General

“It is important to recall, particularly in these turbulent times, the fundamental role that migrants play in strengthening the global economy. Migrants contribute to economic growth and human development; they enrich societies through cultural diversity, knowledge and technology exchange; and they improve demographic balance in aging populations”

Ban-Ki Moon, December 2010,
United Nations Secretary-General

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Migration and Development: The Governments role

Governmental strategies to maximize the relationship among migration and development:

- 1- To facilitate and reduce the costs of sending remittances.
- 2- To help migrants establish small businesses in their countries of origin and to foster “knowledge circulation”
- 3- To foster collective development projects proposed or implemented by migrant home town associations.
- 4- To develop migrant networks and to empower them through education and skills capacities
- 5- To include migrants in the design and implementation of local development policies.

Source: Hein de Haas (2006)



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In Mexico: IME

Born in 2003, IME is a decentralized body of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it operates through the 56 consulates of Mexico in U.S. and Canada.

Two emblematic features: a migrant as its President and an Advisory Board integrated by leaders of Mexican origin who are elected by the communities they represent.

Institutional strengthens:

- It provides community leaders a voice in the formulation of public policies.
- It serves as a forum for exchanging opinions between Mexican, Latino and Mexican-American leaders.
- It contributes to the development of a shared agenda between the Mexican government and the communities

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In Mexico: IME

Main strategies to maximize the relationship between migration and development:

- Banking and access to financial services
- Low cost services to send money to Mexico
- Skill Certification Programs for Migrant Workers
- Programs to give remittances additional value
- Mexican Talent Network



Banking and Access to Financial Services:

- Banking of Mexican migrants and facilitating their access to financial services is a consular responsibility. If migrants have access to financial institutions, not only robberies are avoided but workers can save money when sending remittances to Mexico, have a savings account and access to credits.
- This task was allowed through the Matricula Consular: Mexican ID issued in each one of the 50 Mexican Consulates in the US.

Banking and Access to Financial Services:

Agreements between Banks and Consulates

- These agreements allow banks that accept the Mexican Consular ID as an official document to open bank accounts, to provide basic financial information inside the Mexican Consulates. Currently more than 400 financial institutions accept the MC as an official ID. 81 agreements have been signed in 30 Consulates in the United States.

Videos and education materials from “Salas de Espera”

- “The Mexican Consular ID and the US financial system”
- http://www.saberespoder.org/red_video_sep.html

Inter-American Development Bank Informative Conferences

- In 2007, the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) and IME signed an agreement to support some of the financial education programs IME promotes, especially Informative Conferences in Mexico.



Low cost services to send remittances to Mexico:

Mexico received in 2009 more than 21 billion dollars in remittances.

These contributions are fundamental resources for many families as a very high percentage of the money is spent in basic needs. Therefore, there is a clear commitment from President Calderon's administration to implement and support low cost services to send money to Mexico as well as to provide useful information to Mexican migrants about the methods and prices of sending remittances to their families.

- ◆ **Directo a México:** Mexican and US Central banks, financial corridors
- ◆ **Remittances calculator:** www.remesamex.gob.mx
- ◆ **Profeco:** Quien es quien en el envío de dinero



Skill Certification Programs for Migrant Workers:

Objectives:

- To boost the migrant self esteem providing him with a certificate that would support his knowledge many times acquired through practice
- To work in binational schemes valid both in Mexico and in the US
- To give the migrant the opportunity to have access to better labor opportunities
- To promote that, in case the migrant returns to Mexico, there could be a knowledge transfer that could help Mexico's development
- To foster communication between the Mexican government and labor unions, local authorities and employers interested in working with middle skilled workers

Programs to give remittances an additional value:

- Remittances = migrant's private savings
 - **Our challenge:** to provide migrants options to channel remittances to productive projects or to services with an additional value that can promote local and regional development.
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- ◆ **3 x 1 Program**
 - ◆ **Housing for Migrants**
 - ◆ **Paisano Invierte en tu Tierra**

Mexican Talent Network:

- The contributions migrants give to their country of origin is not limited to remittances. Mexicans abroad are a source of knowledge, contacts and work experience that can be essential to promote economic, social and political development in Mexico.
- The contributions talented Mexicans can provide are particularly important and could be a key element to promote development in strategic areas.
- **Mexican Talent Network:** www.redtalentos.gob.mx



Visit our web pages:

www.ime.gob.mx

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