



Press release

The contribution of Migrant Women to National Development

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[Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic] The International Conference on Gender, Migration and Development: Seizing Opportunities, Upholding Rights (September 25-26, Manila) will examine women's participation in migratory flows and their crucial contribution to development through the sending, receipt and management of remittances. The conference aims to identify paths to enhance the positive aspects of migration and mitigate the negative effects, as well as promote greater gender equality in both sending and receiving countries.

Women have always been present in migrant populations, but they are increasingly migrating independently in search of economic opportunities, rather than as dependents of their husbands or other male relatives. In 2005 it was estimated that one of every thirty-five people lived outside the country where he or she was born, and 49.6% of the 200 million migrants worldwide are now women (UNFPA). Most women migrants enter the labour market as domestic or care workers, or in the services sectors. In 2006, the money that migrants sent home to their families and communities doubled the amount of official international aid that was sent to developing countries. This phenomenon has caught the attention of Governments, international organizations and researchers.

According to Diana Lopez Castañeda, UN-INSTRAW Researcher on gender, migration and development, "it is important to build a better understanding of how factors such as the feminization of migration, gender inequalities in access to productive resources, sexual division of labour, gender roles, etc. affect and determine the relationship between migration and development. Remittances have provided a critical point of analysis of this relationship, as they are sent, received and managed by women."

Despite women's increasingly influential role, very few studies have analyzed the relationship between gender, migration and remittances, or their impact on development – despite growing evidence that integrating a gender perspective into international development policies and programmes increases their effectiveness and sustainability.

"Through a gendered analysis of the link between gender, migration and development, we aim to expand the definition of development, to a view that puts the human condition at the centre of analysis and the production of sustainable livelihoods at the core of intervention," continued Lopez.

The objectives of the Manila Conference are to exchange knowledge and best practices on promoting gender equality to support the contribution of migrant women to development; to integrate a gender perspective and rights-based approach to policies and services related to migration; and to contribute to placing gender issues at the centre of the 2nd Global Forum on Migration and Development, to be held in Manila later this year.

Approximately 300 participants are expected to attend the 2-day conference, representing academia, government, the UN System and civil society.

[Read more about the conference](#)

[Download the conference agenda](#)

[Learn more about UN-INSTRAW's Gender, Migration, and Development Programme](#)

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