

# Migration for Work - a Gender, Human Rights, Development and Good Governance Issue

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# Migration as a *Development Issue*

Overseas migration of the poor and unskilled for work is the product of development processes that generate and/or exacerbate socio-economic, political inequities within and between countries and regions. Development responses to this reality can take the form of sustainable alternatives to migration which is a more long term strategy involving structural change, or protections to migrant workers at all stages of the migration cycle to ensure their safety, dignity, well being and empowerment.

Rights violations at any stage of the migration process is a development cost in the following ways:

- \*a breach of justice, equity, dignity, human security and empowerment, thus thwarting development;
- \*an expenditure on institutional services to address the concerns of victims/survivors of rights violations, and perpetrators. These include: crisis centers and shelters, counselling and medical care, legal services, services related to abuse resulting in deaths and suicides of migrant workers; training to institutional service providers for sensitive and efficient treatment of those violated;
- \*psychological and physical stress to the victim and family members which may also result in reduced productivity, absenteeism, loss of income and GNP;

# Migration as a *Good Governance Issue*

The provision of sustainable development alternatives to migration and the management of migration are governance issues. Women constitute half the human population and about fifty percent of the migrant work force. Good governance in relation to migration involves:

- \*mainstreaming a gender and rights perspective into policy, institutional and socio-economic environments that provide equal opportunities and substantive equality to all men and women, including migrant workers;
- \*developing enabling policy, institutional and socio-economic environments marked by inclusiveness, participation, transparency, integrity, accountability, and empowerment.

*Rights violation at any stage of the migration process is a development cost.*



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