



South-South Cooperation

Good practices on Labour Migration

International Labour Organization

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Introduction



The protection of the interests of workers when employed in countries other than their own is part of the mandate of the ILO since its foundation in 1919. The ILO has adopted specific international labor standards on migrant workers (C. 97, C. 143, R. 86, R.151) to ensure the

principles of equal treatment and opportunity are respected. These standards cover areas such as the importance of social dialogue and tripartism in the formulation and implementation of labour migration policies and the drafting of labour migration legislation, the role of the Public Employment Service in the recruitment and placing of migrant workers through bilateral agreements, protection against discrimination and labour exploitation, as well as the need to ensure equal working conditions, family reunification and recognition of certification and skills, need for regularization and the fundamental human and labour rights of migrants in an irregular situation.

One way to address the daily challenges migrant workers face has been through the development of bilateral and multilateral strategies as the South-South and Triangular Cooperation Strategy which has allowed to explore

innovative financing mechanisms and dynamics in the field of cooperation for development.

From an ILO perspective, South-South and triangular cooperation is a horizontal and solidarity-driven means to promote and implement the Decent Work Agenda in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the 17 Goals it puts forward, in particular SDG 8: *“to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”*, and SDG 17 which includes Capacity building as one of its targets: “Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.” And, more particularly to implement target 8.8 *“To protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment”*.





In this context, South-South and triangular cooperation is playing a key role in the topic of labour migration as it contributes to providing policy-advice and capacity building to ILO constituents within the framework of operationalised development cooperation. Therefore, the ILO will continue to promote horizontal and peer-to-peer exchanges as described by the examples shown below.

1. Promoting Migrant Workers, Development Initiatives through enhanced South-South cooperation between Mauritania and Senegal

Objective: Promote the recognition of migrant workers' rights through greater cooperation between unions and organizations of migrant workers in Senegal and Mauritania, and strengthen their ability to provide specialized support services to its members.



Activities:

1. Two networks of trainers were created: Inter-union and Diaspora network for Migrants and Youth support (Ridam Senegal), and the National Organizations network for Migrants and Youth support (RONDAM Mauritania).
2. Migrants in Mauritania and Senegal were trained on employability;
3. A regional workshop on dissemination of financial education tools was conducted. 10 women and 19 men from various Senegalese, Mauritanian and Moroccan institutions exchanged experiences on financial education programmes, the processes of adaptation and introduction within each context.

Why is this a good Practice?

The *effectiveness* of the project can be attributed to different aspects. The workshop participants were chosen based on their involvement in the issue and their

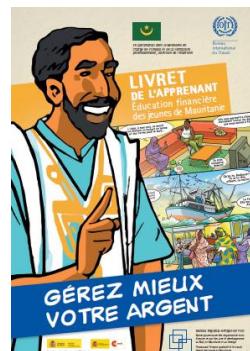
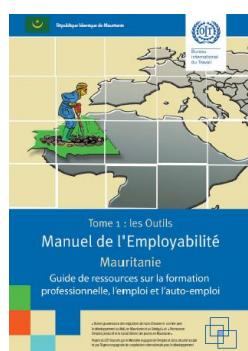


ability to deliver training sessions for the final beneficiaries. For this purpose, they have been provided with both the knowledge and the necessary tools. This guarantees the *sustainability* and the possibility of *replication* as the trainers are prepared and count with a number of previously developed tools to transfer the knowledge. *Horizontal exchanges* were a key element for the success of the project, as the trainers were able to share their experiences and the different challenges they faced during the introduction and adaptation of the financial education programmes.

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2. South-South Cooperation for the protection of the rights of women and men migrant workers in the Latin American and Caribbean region

Objective: Promote the effective recognition of the rights of women and men migrant workers in Latin America and the Caribbean through contribution to major labour integration in the region and the strengthening of policies and actions that can protect migrant workers.



Activities:

1. Regional Seminar on South-South Cooperation for the Protection of the Rights of migrant workers to contribute,
 - a. through the exchange of good practices, to the improvement of legal and policy frameworks on labour migration while promoting the concepts of decent work, social dialogue and international labour standards;
2. Exchange of best practices between Brazil and Chile through a technical visit of CNIg to Chile;
3. Systematization of good practices (from Brazil) of policies to protect migrant workers.

Why is this a good Practice?

The *horizontality* of the project lies in the fact that it is essentially based on the Brazilian experience and is being *replicated* in order to promote the exchange of experiences and best practices among Latin American countries. The project has an *innovative* element as it promotes regional exchanges of information between tripartite delegations of the ILO: Ministries of Interior and representatives of academia and civil society; on the current trends, gaps and challenges in labor migration and working conditions. The latter is closely linked to a key element for its *sustainability*: the direct involvement of the Ministries of Labour, responsible for labour migration policies- as well as the involvement of workers' organizations, employers and civil society in the discussion of the recommendations that will be made by the project. This tends to considerably increase ownership and consistent application of the recommendations.

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3. Equitable recruitment of Guatemalan migrant workers in Mexico through South-South cooperation

Objectives:

1. Expand the knowledge in respect to existing practices and legislation on recruitment and registration of Guatemalan migrant workers in Mexico and the regulation of private employment agencies and other labor intermediaries in Mexico.
2. Strengthen the institutional capacities of the Public Employment Service on the recruitment and registration of private employment agencies hiring Guatemalan migrant workers in Mexico and the regulation and monitoring of private employment agencies and other labor intermediaries.

3. Disseminate general information about the new registration and the reliable recruitment processes of Guatemalan migrant workers in Mexico.

Activities:

1. Two binational dialogue Meetings to reach the first agreements on:
 - the design of an intergovernmental technical working group to exchange quantitative and qualitative information and documentation on the characteristics of temporary migrant workers for a proper design of Labour Policies;
 - the analysis and design of a temporary work program for Guatemalan jobseekers in Mexico and for Mexicans seeking employment in Guatemala;
 - the design of a Binational Observatory on labor migration;



2. Awareness campaign to provide information to temporary migrant workers about their rights and the proper recruitment by private agencies.

3. In order to advance the construction of a binational Register for registration and authorization for the operation of recruiting agencies, two major studies were conducted:

- Mapping of the existent recruitment and placement services of information, of the information systems for migrant workers from Guatemala in Mexico, and of the opportunities to create institutional synergies;
- Comparative analysis of the legal framework for recruitment of Guatemalan migrant workers in Mexico which included a general review of the frameworks of the national and international legal reference of Mexico and Guatemala that relate to the processes of recruitment, placement and employment of migrant workers.

Why is this a good practice?

The horizontality of the project is underlined in all activities since the implementation consists of a series of South-South exchanges between the Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare of Mexico (STPS) and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MTPS) of Guatemala, on temporary work programmes for migrant workers. The possible creation of a



Binational Intergovernmental Technical Working group is an example of horizontality as this body could dictate the steps to achieve labour migration policies that will benefit both countries. This group will be key to ensure the effectiveness of this first phase of the project. On the other hand, one of the factors that could ensure *sustainability* is the possible creation of a Binational Observatory of migrant workers which could provide statistical and research data, rules, as well as public information on the subject in question. This data base would be a key element for future decision-making purposes. Another important element is the information campaign "Protecting the rights of migrant workers from Guatemala in Mexico during the process of recruitment, placement and employment" which was translated into three indigenous languages: mam, K'iche and Kaqchikel.

The project could be partially or totally replicated, as the materials of organization and more specifically the materials used to launch the campaign and start the Binational Working Group are available to be analyzed and adapted to other contexts as required. As the ILO has been following up on the project, the agency can also contribute by providing with technical support for its adaptation and replication.

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