



Migration Action Group
Workshop Notes
29-30 November 2018, Geneva

Day 1 29 November 2018

Opening Remarks: Alliance 8.7 Chair, Government of Australia; UK Department for International Development (DFID), Migration Action Group Co-Chair, UNICEF.

- Overview of Alliance 8.7 by the Secretariat, ILO
- Brief on 1st Pathfinder Country consultation which took place in Madagascar in October 2018
- Update on Migration Action Group Progress by Action Group Co-Chair, IOM

Discussion on Action Group Terms of Reference (TORs)

- Based on a template provided by ILO and discussed at the preparatory meeting in Sept 2018.
- Discussed structure and functions.
- Membership: To be part of an action group there is a pre-requisite to be part of Alliance 8.7.
- Numbers, limits, governance, rotation of leadership depending on funding, option of non-UN entities chairing - there should be consistency across Action Groups.
- It was suggested that this group is quite broad, and we should develop plans focused on migration specific goals on 8.7.
- The complementarity of the Action Group to the GCM and its implementation was noted; also, how it will feed into the Migration Network.
- Ultimately these were not finalized as per guidance from the Alliance, considering the overall Alliance TORs were confirmed only the day prior and the broader group not in attendance should be able to comment.

Brainstorming / Stage-setting Exercise for planning

The room was asked: *When you think of the word 'migrant', what do you think?*

Responses included: *"Qatar, drugs, retention of papers, insecurity, security, recruits, gender norms, SE, informal sector, conflict, smuggling, deportation, rights, unaccompanied children, empowerment, detention.... etc."* **It was noted that many of these are negative.

Participants were asked to think further: *"3-5-10 years from now, what should we think of when we think of 'migrants'?"*

Responses included: *"Data (verified), positive political will, prevention, inclusion, resettlement, support, fair recruitment, families, equity, safe legal routes, access to work, participation, social*

inclusion and support, protection, integration, vulnerability, alternatives, corporate engagement, positive political will.... etc.”

Discussion: broadly speaking, what do we need to do to get there.

Initial findings of the literature review on migrant vulnerability

Walk Free presented the findings of their research and listed preliminary policy recommendations. The group provided feedback on the report and how they perceive the recommendations from their thematic perspective.

- Suggested that as an action group, we should select few recommendations and target them.
- There is a notable gap in literature on offenders or perpetrators of trafficking and types of modern slavery: some geographic areas are under-studied. There is greater need to look at Spanish literature specifically as this was not as prolific in the review.
- Research approach intentionally used a crime prevention angle; could consider other angles (cultural, social).
- Most perceived the recommendations as geared towards policy-makers (states), which is accurate.
- Regarding the ‘established’ number of people in modern slavery – how many are migrants? How many migrants are in modern slavery – is this the same? This is critical data to determine.
- Some vulnerability factors were not touched upon: disability, health, literacy.
- Concept of migrating simply for specific resources not covered.
- Regarding the reduction of isolation of migrant populations, we could brainstorm how to use social media and other outlets for this.
- Climate change was not focused on, as a driver of migration (regular or irregular).
- Prevalence of informal (labour market) sectors - what can we do to reduce this.
- Sensitization of law enforcement; for example, there are NGOs who advocate for victims not to be criminally prosecuted though they may be complicit in other crimes or misdemeanours.
- Relevance of increasing punishment for offenders (?)
- What sources do we have in terms of an international database for offenders(?)
- How can governments reduce costs of doing business, so companies are less compelled to cut corners and exploit workers?
- Auditing in the private sector – theoretically it is the governments’ role to step in if these are lacking.
- Issue of demand for cheap services, sexual services, goods.
- Do we become a lobby group? Discriminate best practices? Influence programming?
- Suggestion that labour standards not fully hashed out in the Global Compact (for migration)
- Relation to other action groups – how to bring in a diverse group of donors to support all areas. Donors are waiting for the Alliance to establish what the added value is.

Day 2 30 November 2018

Child Labour Policy Paper

Key findings of the desk review were presented, and UNICEF facilitated the break-out groups and plenary discussion.

Select Policy Recommendations from policy paper and discussion:

- Accessible, inclusive education and school support for all children, including migrant children regardless of migrant parents' status.
- Social protection so that adults can maintain basic income, thereby lessening pressure on children to contribute to household income.
- Decent work for adults and young people of reasonable working age; prohibition of hazardous work especially for children and young people.
- Social protection for unaccompanied migrant minors.
- Recognizing links between child labour and disasters or crisis: children may be fostered in other homes during financial or social duress, which increases their vulnerability to child labour.
- Skills Mobility: balance adult labour market skills and demand. Higher wages and job security among adults decreases the perceived need for child labour.
- Institutional Capacity: enforcement of existing protocols, conventions, and national action plans.
- Regional and International Cooperation: bilateral/multilateral agreement(s)
- Investigate impact of low-skilled labour availability, as this appears to draw in more low-skilled child or young workers.
- Investigate impact on children left behind by migrant / seasonal migrant parents.

Group Exercise: Establishing Priority Interventions

Participants listed priority interventions and knowledge, based on the research findings and subsequent workshop discussion. These were grouped into the following sub-topics:

Research gaps (perceived gaps)

- Offenders as an area of focus
- Data collection on modern slavery and migration (how many people in modern slavery are migrants; how many migrants are in modern slavery)
- Child labour and migration, including impact on children left behind.

Laws and Structures

- Ensure same status for migrant workers as local workers
- Closing gaps in domestic legislation/enforcement
- Structures, policies and cultural norms that incite discrimination
- Focus on 'Guardians'
- Sensitizing law enforcement to identify victims (not first as criminals).

Stand-alone topics

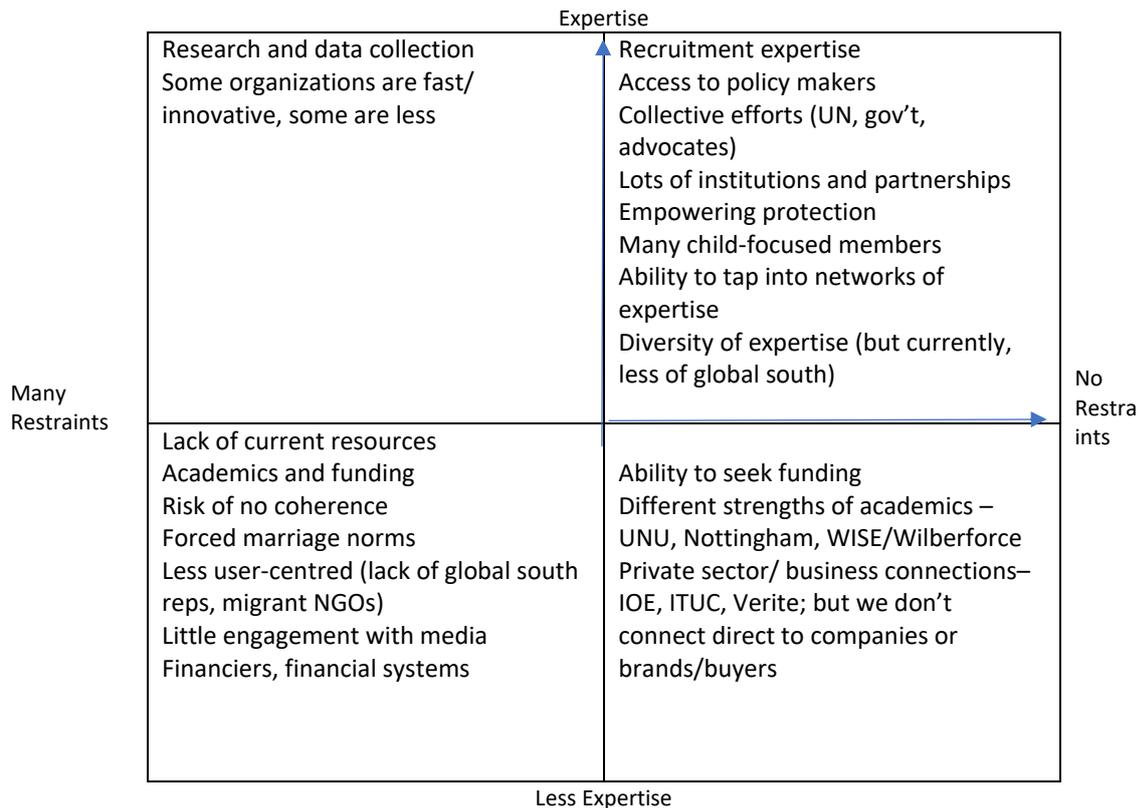
- Recruitment / recruiters and workers
- Forced marriage and role of migration
- Seasonal and agricultural work
- Addressing xenophobic attitudes globally
- Protection/Empower
- Access to finance, information.

Work Planning - group exercise

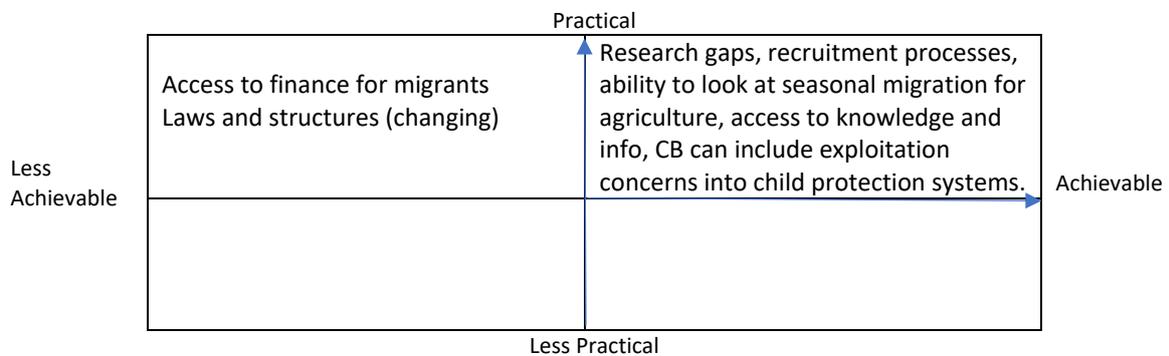
Participants broke into groups to reflect upon these priority interventions to consider their achievability, urgency, limitations, practicality, and relevance to impact.

***Note** these graphs do not perfectly reflect the gradient of where items were indicated on the charts.

Group 1: Strategic Advantage of this migration action group



Group 2: Feasibility



Group 3: Difficulty

| | | | |
|-------------|---|---|--------|
| | | Less effort required | |
| Complicated | Agreeing on 'key asks' for MAG based on our priorities - Clarity, one voice = more impact, but we are many diverse voices | Recommendations/ focus group, we are already able to agree – more or less – on recommendations (universal? Specialize?) | Simple |
| | Unclear overview of all initiatives (mapping) in A8.7 and more broadly Duplication (identify overlap gaps) Work- who does what, where can value be added, priorities? | Unpredictable funding for alliance and AG | |
| | | Laborious | |

Group 4: Impact

(Originally this was increased/decreased protection cross-referenced with reduced/increased risks, but was revised to reflect impact)

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------|
| | | Systemic change | |
| Few ppl. positively affected | Access to finance | Fair recruitment Education (policy makers, responders, people moving pre and post departure) Discrimination & xenophobia, child protection systems integrate ALL children, including Children on the Move | # of ppl. positively affected |
| | Child / forced marriage – this is a tough one, and perspectives on how/where this fits into the picture are mixed. Suggest to re-consult literature. Institutions have varied approaches to this. | Child labour in agriculture (if we are able to make a dent in this, it would be massive). Could eventually affect many ppl | |
| | | No systemic change | |

Purpose of an Action Group

| | |
|---|---|
| Coordination | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Research and Knowledge ➤ Resource Mobilization ➤ Strategy and policy development ➤ Tools and technical cooperation |
| A8.7 = exchange info/data/innovate/good practices; political commitment; assist w/ and leverage resources | |

Research Agenda topics – in order of perceived priority during discussion

Participants identified the following issues as being high priority for better understanding the trends and global picture of trafficking and exploitation among migrants, to be able to achieve SDG Target 8.7:

- **Estimates of modern slavery: how many migrants are in modern slavery** and how many people in modern slavery are migrants;
- **Concept of offenders**; who, where, motivations, methods; gather typologies of perpetrators in different types of modern slavery.
- **Age and gender** and their impacts on vulnerability to modern slavery.
- **Recruitment of child soldiers** from migrant and displaced populations.
- **Understudied regions**, where high prevalence is indicated but there is limited or no research, such as Southern Africa, China, Russia, Central Asian Republics, Islamic Republic of Iran, Somalia, Burundi, and Mauritania.
- **Protective factors**, such as how cultural norms and diasporas can be better leveraged to provide protection for migrants rather than misinformation and exploitative networks that benefit offenders.
- **Impact of state-sponsored forced labour** (e.g. in Eritrea, North Korea) on migrant populations both inside and outside of their country of origin, and possible preventative measures
- **Negative attitudes towards migrants and/or xenophobia**: drivers, impact, mitigating measures, measuring what works;
- **Impact** of perceivably migrant friendly or unfriendly policies;
- **Forced marriage**: where it intersects with migration and SDG 8.7;
- **Frequent but unclarified question of ‘poverty’** as an indicator of higher risk of exploitation;
- **Disaggregation of age brackets** among migrant children in forced labour and left behind by migrant parents;
- **Impact of health and disability on migration and vulnerability** to exploitation, trafficking, and modern slavery;
- **Impact of migration on children left behind** by migrating / seasonally migrating family members.

Future Planning and Outreach

Participants brainstormed on up-coming events or milestones to align with/address:

Positive events with which to align:

- HLPF 2019 – SDG 8 among them – and Call to Action event
- Global Compact on Migration
- CRC 30th Anniversary in November 2019
- UNGA Resolution (Children Without Parental Care, Children on the move, UNICEF advisory timeline)
- 100th Birthday of ILO
- Pathfinder Countries joining Alliance 8.7
- Modern Slavery Acts (Australia – others?)
- Alliance 8.7 milestones Sept 2019

Possibly negative events:

- Global Compact - countries that opted out / abstained
- Ruling for improvements to modern slavery act(s) (?)

Additions ideas/actions

- Be a reference group for research design, product review and analysis.
- Insert migration-related considerations into existing or planned research plans.
- Represent the Migration Action Group at Pathfinder Country Consultations.
- Connect experts to each other.
- Maintain lists of research or funding opportunities.
- Make a commitment to include survivors in future discussions.
- Link to Global Compact(s) – for Migration (GCM), and Refugees (GCR) where applicable.
- Design/sponsor a social media campaign to combat negative attitudes towards migrants (also map out existing campaigns and measurements of impact if possible).

Next Steps Identified**Use prioritization and matrix exercise to create a workplan.**

- Recipients are invited to comment on the workplan;
- AND, their potential to contribute to specific deliverables.

Re-circulate research drafts to members who requested to make inputs by 12 Dec:

- Walk Free report

Communication Strategizing

- Solicit feedback about receiving information: frequency, format, type of info; noting the Alliance is also organizing a communication strategy which we may piggyback on.

Engage with potential donors, examine options for multi-donor funding.