



**“KEY MIGRATION ISSUES” WORKSHOP SERIES¹:
BRIEFING ON HIV, AIDS AND MIGRATION²
26 MAY 2006**

INFORMATION NOTE

The movement of populations – forced or voluntary – often exposes people to situations of poverty, exploitation and discrimination, increasing their vulnerability to HIV and AIDS. While Paragraph 50 of the 2001 *Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS* calls for the development and implementation of national, regional and international strategies that “facilitate access to HIV/AIDS prevention programmes for migrants and mobile workers, including the provision of information on health and social services” by 2005, migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as victims of trafficking often lack such access to HIV treatment, support and care. Following the Declaration of Commitment, which states that “the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all is essential to reduce vulnerability to HIV/AIDS” it thus seems crucial to recognize that ensuring the respect of migrants’ rights is key to the success of any AIDS response strategy.

The 2001 Declaration of Commitment also affirms the crucial role of health care services in the prevention and treatment of HIV and AIDS, as well as in the provision of care and support. However, facing poor working conditions and additional risks linked to HIV and AIDS, health workers often leave rural areas, moving to cities or migrating abroad to seek better remuneration and opportunities. There seems to be increasing evidence that this emigration exacerbates the crisis of health care systems in many developing countries, notably in sub-Saharan Africa. Recognizing that the success of national AIDS responses relies on the availability of qualified health workers, the Secretary General, in his follow-up report “Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS: five years later”, calls upon donors to “prioritize measures to build and sustain national capacity, helping countries to upgrade pay scales to prevent the loss of essential personnel and aiding countries in expanding the roles of all levels of health workers”.

Prior to the General Assembly’s High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS, which will be held from 31 May-2 June 2006, the briefing will examine these linkages between migration, HIV and AIDS. It will present some of the efforts undertaken by UN agencies and other International Organizations with regard to reducing the vulnerability of mobile populations in line with the targets set out in the 2001 Declaration of Commitment. Moreover, it will address the challenge that the migration of health care professionals poses for public health care systems in developing countries and discuss how this may affect the ability to address HIV and AIDS.

OBJECTIVES

- To inform about the special vulnerability of mobile populations to HIV and AIDS and present good practices of addressing their specific needs.

- To learn more about how the situation of migrants and other mobile populations can be integrated into HIV and AIDS response strategies.

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² This Briefing is financially supported by the Government of Liechtenstein.

- To explore the inter-relationship between HIV/AIDS, the migration of health care workers and the crisis of health care systems.
- To discuss how linkages between HIV, AIDS and migration may affect achieving the aims set out in the 2001 Declaration of Commitment.
- To look at the development impact of these linkages prior to the High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

ORGANIZATION

A first session will present experiences from programmes targeting migrant populations at high risk of and affected by HIV. Focusing on South East Asia and Latin America, special attention will be paid to most vulnerable groups such as young people, internally displaced populations and trafficked persons.

A second session will explore the linkages between HIV, AIDS, the migration of health care workers and the crisis of health care systems, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. It will provide evidence to stimulate discussion about adequate policy responses at the national, regional and international levels.

PARTICIPANTS

The workshop is designed for members of permanent missions preparing for the General Assembly's High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS and, those responsible for the functional commissions, 2nd and 3rd Committees, ECOSOC and other venues where migration issues are of relevance. Participants are requested to regard their attendance as a firm commitment.

RESOURCE PERSONS

UNFPA, IOM, WHO.

WORKING LANGUAGE

The workshop will be conducted in English.

DATE AND VENUE

The workshop will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on Friday, 26 May 2006, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Conference room 9.

REGISTRATION

Members of the permanent missions accredited to the United Nations in New York who wish to participate in this workshop are requested to complete the attached nomination form and return it to the following address:

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REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 24 MAY 2006