



UNESCO Chair:

Migration, Development and Human Rights: A comprehensive and inclusive perspective

INSTITUTIONAL DATA

- Expected starting date: **May, 2011**
- Duration: **6 years**
- Domain concerned: **Migration and Development**
- Host institution: **Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas
Jardín Juárez 147, Centro, Zacatecas, Zacatecas, Mexico 98000**
- Faculty concerned: **Unidad Académica en Estudios del Desarrollo**
- Project leader: **Dr. Raúl Delgado Wise
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Total project budget: 300,000 US dollars per year

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Summary

The debate on migration and development has been dominated by a Northern perspective which tends to reduce the key issues to security, control of migratory flows, integration into the receiving society, and remittances (understood as the main driver of development in the countries of origin). A Southern perspective has been largely absent. This has led to a distortion of the very idea of development, by leaving out crucial dimensions and the potential of migration for the societies most deeply involved. The ultimate aim of the proposed Chair is to promote a new and more comprehensive and inclusive analytical framework which incorporates in the analysis: a) the root causes of migration; b) the human rights dimension; c) the contributions of immigration to the destination countries; d) the risks and adversities encountered by migrants in countries of transit; e) the living conditions of immigrants in receiving countries; and f) the socioeconomic costs that emigration implies for sending countries.

Context and Justification

The relationship between migration and development is a topic of growing interest among academics, migrant organizations, governments, and international agencies. In general, the Northern-based dominant perspective assigns remittances an essential role in the development of migrant-sending underdeveloped countries. This is a limited and misleading perspective which has led to a new “development mantra”: the belief that remittances can be channeled into economic investments that will overcome underdevelopment. Or to put it less positively, the idea is that some of the most exploited workers in the world can make up for the failure of mainstream development policies.

Adopting “perspectives from the South” means a comprehensive analysis, which examines each specific phenomenon (such as migration) in the broad context of the overall dynamics of North-South relationships, and the interactions across various spatial levels (local, regional, transnational, etc.) and societal areas (economy, culture, politics, etc.). In other words, migration cannot be understood adequately in isolation, but only as an integral aspect of the complex problems and challenges of contemporary global societies. Adopting perspectives from the South also means questioning the dominant understanding of “development”, which implies that southern countries must necessarily repeat the past trajectories of today’s rich countries through the “invisible hand” of market-driven forces (as interpreted through celebratory neoliberal theories). Southern perspectives mean understanding the reciprocity of the historical processes of development of the North and underdevelopment of the South, in which the coercive mobilization of southern labor and other resources was —and continues to be— a crucial pre-condition for capital accumulation in the North.

Objectives

Long term

- To consolidate a pole of excellence and innovation in the field of Migration, Development and Human Rights.

Specific

1. To reframe the debate on Migration, Development and Human Rights with a comprehensive, inclusive and more balanced perspective.
2. To promote a North-South/South-South dialogue and an alternative agenda on the subject.
3. To develop strategic indicators for the assessment of the relationship between Migration, Development and Human Rights.
4. To actively participate in the Global Forum on Migration and Development and other pertinent fora and international events in order to contribute to the formulation of mainstream policies in the field, capable of shifting the debate from national security concerns, to human rights, development and international cooperation issues.

Strengths

The Development Studies Academic Unit (DSAU) of the Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas has a Doctoral Program in Development Studies ranked by the National Council of Science and Technology of Mexico (CONACYT) at the highest level of academic qualification: international competence (www.estudiosdeldesarrollo.net). It also: a) has a consolidated team of researchers in the field of migration and development, integrated by Dr. Raúl Delgado Wise, Dr. Rodolfo García Zamora, Dr. Humberto Márquez Covarrubias, Dr. Ruben Puentes, Dr. Miguel Moctezuma Longoria; Dr. Oscar Pérez Veyna, Dr. Henry Veltmeyer, Dr. Darcy Tetreault, Dr. Guillermo Foladori, Dr. Carlos Mallorquín and Dr. James Cypher; b) operates as the headquarter of the International Network on Migration and Development (www.migracionydesarrollo.net); c) edits the Journal *Migración y Desarrollo* (published both in English and Spanish and incorporated into the index of Scientific Journals of CONACYT); and d) coordinates the book collection: *Desarrollo y Migración*, published by Miguel Ángel Porrúa.

Main activities and expected results

- **Development, dissemination and implementation of a new research agenda on Migration, Development and Human Rights.** Collaborative research initiatives in the following topics:
 - A comprehensive and inclusive analytical framework
 - Strategic indicators
 - Migration, labor rights, and the decent work agenda
 - Forced migration, human rights, and criminalization
 - Migrants' organizations as transnational agents for change
 - Developing effective advocacy networks
 - Understanding policy making processes at all levels (local, national, regional, global)
 - Environmental degradation, climate change, migration and development
 - The role of migration in restructuring innovation systems.

- **Organization and co-organization of academic seminars, conferences and symposia.**
 - IV Symposium of the INMD: Global Crisis and Migratory Strategies, FLACSO-Ecuador, May 18-20, 2011.
 - Seminar: High-level Expert Consultation on Strategic Indicators on Migration, Development and Human Rights, Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Conference Center, November 2-4, 2011.
 - Co-organization with the Institute for Research on Migration, Ethnicity and Society, Linköping University of the 2012 UNESCO-MOST Conference: Labor Rights as Human Rights? Migration, Labour Rights, Labour Market Restructuring, and the Role of Civil Society in Global Governance.

- **Strengthening and expansion of publications program.**
 - The journal *"Migration and Development"* is a main outlet for the academic production in the field. A hard copy of the journal circulates in Spanish. Free access to English and Spanish electronic versions is available in the AUDS and INMD web sites. UAZ has now staff members in charge of coordinating activities related to the journal: reception of articles, peer review process, editing, translating, etc. The AUDS and the INMD will continue publishing with two journal issues each year. In 2010 the journal was registered in the catalogue of "high quality scientific publications" by CONACYT in México. Issue 15 is already available in hard copy and online.
 - The AUDS publishes the book series Desarrollo y Migración with Miguel Ángel Porrúa editorial house. Over 50 books have been published in this series. There

are two new edited books in the pipeline. One includes a series of conceptual chapters addressing key issues related to migration and development. This will be a follow up of *“Migration and Development: Perspectives from the South”*, edited by S. Castles and Raúl Delgado-Wise, and published by INMD and IOM in 2008. The second one will be a book with all the papers prepared by the AUDES and the INMD for the IV Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). Both will be ready for publication in 2011.

- The AUDES and the INMD will continue publishing special working papers and other dissemination materials. The most recent special working paper in this area, published in November 2010, is *“Reframing the Debate on Migration, Development and Human Rights: Fundamental Elements”* in English and Spanish, with an on-line version in French.

- **Doctoral and postdoctoral training and inter-institutional collaborative initiatives.**

- AUDES has several Ph.D. students and post-docs conducting research on issues related to the links among development, migration, and human rights. In fact, this is the most consolidated area of research of the academic unit, and the one that is attracting more students from different countries. AUDES is already offering joint doctoral degrees, and two collaborative international Ph.D. programs are in the pipeline with universities of Canada and Germany. Students and professors exchanges with foreign universities are common and increasing, contributing to interdisciplinarity and blending perspectives and experiences from South and North on the topic.

- **Development of strategic indicators on Migration, Development and Human Rights.**

- The experience of SIMDE (*Sistema de Información sobre Migración y Desarrollo*) for the Mexico-US corridor, and the strong interest from civil society organizations from other regions, have led to the design of a new project to characterize the migration, development, and human rights situation in key migration corridors worldwide. The project was brought to the IV GFMD and enthusiastically received by the Presidency of the GFMD, civil society organizations and international agencies. The overall goal is the computation of an index of migration–development–human rights that integrates different indicators of costs and benefits of migration for sending and receiving countries and to migrants and their families in specific migration corridors, as well as the effectiveness of public policies in addressing the root causes of migration in those corridors. The methodological aspects of the approach and practical examples of outcomes have been shared with experts of the UN Population Division, IOM (International Organization for Migration), ECLAC (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean), the Migration and Development Program of OAS

(Organization of American States), and OCDE (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development).

- **Participation in framing policy debates to build bridges between government, academia, and civil society as well as between “north/south” and “sending, receiving and transit societies.”**
 - Enriching debates with research-based evidence and new strategic indicators to assess the complex links among development, migration, and human rights.
 - Active participation in global fora (focus on the GFMD and the World Social Forum on Migrations) and other regional/international civil society and inter-governmental events
 - Engagement with national/local policy makers and civil society organizations

- **Management and dissemination of information, and building capacities to generate and use research information.**
 - Facilitating access to data bases through a new information management system
 - Training programs and workshops with migrant and NGO leaders, students, and policy makers
 - Training programs and workshops with UAED and INMD researchers to improve their ability to interact with non-academics and to work with the media on issues related to migration and development
 - Dissemination of information in a language that is “appropriate to users” through the web site, INMD journal, books, policy papers, etc.

- **Institutional consolidation and expansion of the network.**
 - Contribute to the creation of regional nodes engaged in research, training, outreach and dissemination of information
 - Research initiatives through thematic / regional working groups
 - Design of an evaluation and monitoring plan

Beneficiaries

Students: The program offers a collegial, interdisciplinary, and international environment to students from different countries, a critical mass of high-quality, committed professors, and an academic space that promotes collaboration, innovation, and productivity.

Academics: The program provides opportunities for networking with colleagues from other countries and disciplines to conduct cutting edge research, different outlets for dissemination of research results, and different ways to transform them into useful information to affect public policies.

Leaders of civil society organizations: The leaders of the many civil society organizations linked to the program are able to include their interests and concerns in the research agenda of the academia, interact with researchers, and receive information in the right format to strengthening their advocacy work.

Migrants and their families: They are the ultimate beneficiaries of this project. It is expected that the research will help decision makers to design better public policies that will improve the livelihoods of those who migrate, their families left behind, and, finally, will transform migration in an option instead of a necessity.

Partnerships/Networking

The Academic Unit on Development Studies of UAZ has on-going collaboration in the field of the proposed chair with the following research partners and universities. In most cases we also have formal collaboration agreements.

1. Fernando Lozano and Liliana Rivera, Centro Regional de Investigaciones Multidisciplinarias, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico
2. Maria Eugenia Anguiano, Colegio de La Frontera Norte, Mexico
3. Alejandro Canales and Jorge Durand, Universidad de Guadalajara, Mexico
4. Alejandro Portes and Douglas Massey, University of Princeton, USA
5. Carl-Ulrik Schierup, Aleksandra Alund and Branca Liric-Brboric, REMESO, Linköping University, Sweden
6. Takyiwaa Manu, Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana,
7. Loren Landau, Forced Migration Studies Programme, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa,
8. Thomas Faist, Centre on Migration, Citizenship and Development, Universität Bielefeld, Germany
9. Hein de Haas, International Migration Institute, University of Oxford, U.K.
10. Stephen Castles, Research Chair in Sociology, University of Sydney, Australia
11. Gioconda Herrera, FLACSO-Ecuador

12. Binod Khadria, Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India
13. Cristina Blanco, Universidad del País Vasco, Spain
14. Maruja Asis, director of research and publications, Scalabrini Migration Center, Philippines

Funding of the project

In the last nine years the AUDES and the INMD (through the AUDES) have received over 3.5 million US dollars of financial support for the following projects:

1. Fortalecimiento Institucional del Cuerpo Académico Multidisciplinario sobre Migración y Desarrollo de la UAZ, Hewlett Foundation
2. Investigación Aplicada sobre Migración Internacional, Remesas y Desarrollo Regional en Zacatecas, Ford Foundation
3. Proyecto para la Creación de la Red Internacional sobre Migración y Desarrollo, Ford Foundation
4. Zacatecas: Plan Estatal De Desarrollo, Gobierno del Estado de Zacatecas
5. Doble Cara de la Migración: Estancamiento y Desarrollo en Zacatecas, CONACYT
6. Formación de Recursos Humanos a nivel Doctoral (Estudios del Desarrollo), CONACYT
7. Support for the Research Program on Mexico-United States Transnational Communities, Rockefeller Foundation
8. Comunidades Transnacionales México - Estados Unidos 1ra Etapa, Rockefeller Foundation
9. Migración Internacional, Remesas y Proyectos Productivos en el Sur de Zacatecas, Inter American Foundation
10. Comunidades Transnacionales México - Estados Unidos 2da Etapa, Rockefeller Foundation
11. Fortalecimiento y Consolidación de la Red Internacional de Migración y Desarrollo, Ford Foundation
12. Planeación Estratégica, Consolidación Institucional y Promoción de Actividades de Formación, Vinculación e Investigación de la RED Internacional de Migración y Desarrollo, Ford Foundation
13. Strategic Planning, Institutional Consolidation, and Promotion of the International Network on Migration and Development's Training, Coordination, and Research Activities, Ford Foundation
14. Critical Dimensions of Mexico-Central American-US-Canada Migration: The Migration-Development Nexus and Public Policies, MacArthur Foundation
15. Migración Internacional y Desarrollo Local en el Estado de Zacatecas: Hacia los consejos Municipales de Desarrollo Local Transnacional. Cinco experiencias piloto en Valparaíso, Jérez, Juchipila, Guadalupe y Río Grande, SEPLADER
16. Inter-institutional Strengthening and Global Projection of the International Network on Migration and Development, Ford Foundation

17. Migración Internacional, Remesas e Impactos en las Comunidades Rurales de Zacatecas, FIDA
18. Apoyo para el Acervo Bibliográfica, CONACYT
19. Migrantes, Recursos Locales y Desarrollo en Zacatecas, AECID
20. Conferencia Mundial de la Juventud 2010, INJUVE
21. Sistema de Información sobre Migración y Desarrollo (SIMDE) Apoyado por el Senado de la República
22. Conferencia Mundial de la Juventud 2010, INJUVE
23. Impresión y Difusión de la Revista Migración y Desarrollo, CONACYT
24. Global Crisis and the links Migration and Development: Consolidation, expansion and decentralization of the INMD; MacArthur Foundation
25. Perfil epidemiológico de la mujer con pareja Migrante en Zona Tradicional y Emergente de alta incidencia Migratoria en el Estado de Zacatecas, CONACYT
26. Una Propuesta de Política Pública de Desarrollo y Migración Internacional para el Estado, CONACYT

This year financial support for the Project amounts 295,000 US dollars (not considering the infrastructural support by UAZ):

- 175,000 US dollars by the MacArthur Foundation for Symposium and meeting expenses, publications, travel expenses and salary compensations for the INMD staff members.
- 100,000 US dollars by UAZ to cover wages of INMD staff and for partial support of the Strategic Indicators project.
- 8,000 US dollars by CONACYT for partial support of the printed version of the Journal *Migración y Desarrollo*.
- 12,000 US dollars by UAZ for complementary support for the edition and publication of the Journal *Migración y Desarrollo*.

Additional considerations

The Academic Unit in Development Studies at UAZ operates as the headquarters of the International Network on Migration and Development (INMD). The mission of INMD is to contribute to the global debate about migration and development with an international perspective of research and impact, linking diverse voices and knowledge, opening spaces for N-S and S-S dialogues, allowing the emergence of new visions, proposals, and solutions. It is worth mentioning that:

- a) The INMD is engaged in cutting edge research, diffusion of information, and development of new strategic indicators concerning migration, development, and human rights. These are main activities of the INMD vast network of researchers who work closely with leaders of civil society and experts in international organizations, as well as with high level public officials. This diversity in membership brings expertise,

knowledge, and different perspectives that are essential for creating avenues of understanding and action. Development specialists, economists, sociologists, political scientists, anthropologists, lawyers, journalists, activists, are all involved in our network. INMD encourages interdisciplinary dialogues, debates, and analysis on migration and development through an approach that allows the active participation of the voices from the sending countries.

- b) The INMD contributes to better governance of migration at global, regional, and national levels through its unique role, facilitating dialogues that are difficult and seldom happen spontaneously. A good example is the direct participation in global forums such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and the World Social Forum on Migration (WSFM). Further, INMD members are directly involved in analysis, debate, and policy recommendations with various national governments (Ecuador, México, El Salvador, and more recently Bolivia), intergovernmental agencies such as the International Organization on Migration (IOM), UN agencies, and state and local governments in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, parts of Europe, India and the Philippines, among others.
- c) The INMD colloquia, seminars, training sessions, and workshops involving our network of networks crosses disciplinary and geographic borders in order to stimulate new thinking on broader issues of global human mobility. Our understanding of development goes beyond macro economic analysis of remittances to incorporate issues related to culture, family care chains, gender, global as well as local economic dynamics, precarious labor markets, and human rights. In summary, INMD promotes a comprehensive approach to look at the development and migration nexus.