



ENDORSEMENTS 2016

Endorsements by the United Nations and international organizations

Global Migration Group (GMG)

The importance of family remittances for development - GMG Message

In calling attention to the importance of financial remittances, one of the most striking aspects is their sheer value – projected to have exceeded USD 600 billion in 2015, mostly flowing directly to households. Of this amount, over USD 440 billion was directed towards developing countries, by far dwarfing the amounts those countries received as official development assistance (ODA).

Remittances are private funds, which contribute to the improvement in food security, education, health, well-being and housing of migrants and their families. Paragraph 25 of the 2016 UN Secretary General’s Report “In Safety and Dignity: Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants” affirms that migration and development are inextricably linked and that migrant remittances alleviate poverty and provide access to education, health care and other opportunities.

Remittances make a crucial impact on savings, investment and job creation. They are an important safety net in ever-changing socio-economic times, reducing household vulnerability to external shocks. At the macro-economic level, remittances can contribute to improving creditworthiness and access to capital, increasing the level and stability of foreign exchange receipts, and the stock of international reserves.

Social remittances associated with migration are of rising significance in an increasingly connected world — ideas, experiences, know-how and social capital acquired by migrants that enrich families and communities in countries of origin and destination.

The GMG fosters a people-centered, inclusive, human rights-based and gender-sensitive approach to migration in the context of sustainable development. In this regard we call attention to Paragraph 40 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (A/RES/69/313) which acknowledges the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development and underscores the importance of remittances from migrant workers, half of whom are women, to their families.

Remittances constitute the main way in which migrants contribute to sustainable development in their place of origin. Therefore, the GMG highlights the importance of reducing the transaction costs of remittances, particularly by fulfilling the following concrete commitments in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda:

- Reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent (SDG 10.c);
- Lower the costs of recruitment for migrants and combat unscrupulous recruiters (AAAA para 111 , and SDG 10.7.1);
- Ensure that adequate and affordable financial services are available to migrant men and women as well as their families in host countries (AAAA para 40, SDG targets 1.4, 2.3, 5.a, 8.3, and 8.10); and
- Promote financial literacy and inclusion (AAAA para 40, 2030 Agenda para 27).

The GMG is deeply committed to generating evidence on and advocating for the essential role that migrants, migration and remittances play in sustainable development.

On the International Day of Family Remittances, the GMG reaffirms its commitment to acknowledge, document and leverage the multiple contributions of migrants and their families to sustainable development, particularly through remittances.

[International Organization for Migration \(IOM\)](#)

IOM Statement on the International Day of Family Remittances

The hard-earned money that migrants send every day to their loved ones back home represents a vital economic lifeline for millions of struggling families around the world. These remittances improve standards of living in countless ways and help to make vulnerable communities more resilient to shocks, such as economic downturns and natural and man-made disasters. Remittances increase household income and pay for basic needs such as food, education, housing and medical services. The global scale of remittances is staggering. The World Bank estimates that worldwide remittance flows exceeded \$601 billion in 2015, with developing countries estimated to receive about \$441 of this total figure. With the number of international migrants expected to rise, a global increase in the amount of money remitted is likely to follow.

Recognizing the many potential benefits of remittances for those who receive them, IOM is pleased to support the International Day of Family Remittances, proclaimed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) on 16 June. IOM's key messages for the day focus upon positively shaping the way in which remittances are earned, sent and used:

1) Reducing Remittance Costs and Improving Data

Remittance transfer costs remain high, particularly between countries in the global South. Intra-African transfers are the most expensive, with transfer costs exceeding 20 per cent in some cases, compared to five per cent or below in some remittance corridors between the Gulf and countries in South Asia. Many migrants resort to informal channels to send money, rather than banks or authorised money transfer operators, because they are cheaper or more convenient.

Migrants who send money home need more accurate information on the remittance services available to them and their respective costs. Strategic partnerships are required to develop complex methodologies and datasets on real-time remittance costs. IOM seeks to combine its knowledge of migration and remittances with the different but complementary expertise of other organizations, including the private sector, to enable improved money transfer service provision including through mobile technologies or postal services. One of these initiatives is Tawipay's innovative remittances prices comparison website, as well as their project of Global Remittances Observatory which seek to

gather this data and inform the public on remittance prices and trends. The new Sustainable Development Goals have set a limit for transfer costs and this type of tool will be vital in monitoring the achievement of this target. IOM is also working with the Universal Postal Union in Burundi to help post offices become competitive remittance transfer agents.

2) Improving access to remittance services as part of financial inclusion

Financial education initiatives for migrant workers and recipient households play a valuable role offering options to senders and recipients of low-cost transfer options. They also enable them to use the remittances most effectively for the benefit of their families and their communities of origin. Migrants who send and receive money need to have effective access to affordable and sustainable financial services from reliable and formal providers. This involves making financial systems more inclusive and responsive to the needs of different groups. IOM advocates the improvement of access to duly regulated, reliable and efficient financial services and products, for improved financial infrastructure, and for financial literacy opportunities for remittance senders and recipients.

3) Working together in multi-stakeholder approaches

Remittances cut across sectors from migration and development to banking, money transfer, finance and telecommunications. Making improvements to the ways in which remittances are earned, sent and used requires a concerted, collaborative effort between governments, regulatory bodies, the private sector and the international community. Governments have a particularly important role to play by promoting policies and programmes that create enabling regulatory environments for the low-cost transfer of remittances. Large financial institutions can also help ensure that smaller operators can provide low cost transfer options in a variety of migration corridors.

4) Improving the conditions under which remittances are earned

In addition to high transfer costs, we should also be working towards reducing the high social costs migrant workers face in sending money home, such as poor working and living conditions. The remittances that they send to their loved ones are often a significant proportion of their earnings. We should not forget the commitments that we have made as an international community under the Sustainable Development Goals to improving the conditions that migrant workers face both along the migration journey and at work. Employers and governments have a role to play in reducing these social costs, to ensure that remittances are earned under fairer conditions.

IOM is at one with the international community in celebrating the International Day of Family Remittances as an opportunity to recognize the contributions of migrants globally, and to strengthen current partnerships to promote the development impact of remittances worldwide.

On the occasion of the International Day of Family Remittances, IFAD, the World Bank, WSBI and UNCDF, in their joint efforts to support Postal Operators in Africa to offer remittances and financial services, issue a call for the "Improvement of partnerships between Post and Money Transfer Operators for better remittance services to rural Africa"

Improve partnerships between Post and Money Transfer Operators for better remittance services to rural Africa: [English](#) | [French](#)

Endorsements by the private sector

Over 90% of the Money Transfer Operators worldwide endorsed the IDFR, through the [International Association of Money Transfer Networks \(IAMTN\)](#)

[IAMTN is calling on all key players of the Remittance Industry to join our endorsement of the “International Day of Family Remittances”](#)

The association of over 800 mobile operators worldwide represented by [GSMA](#)

[Sending and receiving remittances with mobile money: Customer benefits and the potential to drive down cost](#)