



## **World Bank approach to link Migration and Development : MIRPAL Program, Country Economic Memorandum and joint WB/IOM Mapping of Moldova Diaspora**

**Iaroslav Baclajanschi**  
Economist  
Moldova Country Office

**Sudharshan Canagarajah**  
Lead Economist  
Regional Migration Program  
Coordinator

**THE WORLD BANK, Europe and Central Asia**



# What is MIRPAL: Migration and Remittance Peer-Assisted Learning

## Objective

- One of the most successful method of knowledge transfer – creating a peer-assisted learning network for migration practitioners
- Deepen the knowledge and understanding as well as to provide a forum for cross-country collaboration as a means to refine and harmonize approaches - to initiate and guide CIS migration policies and practices

## Outputs

- Creation of the MiRPAL network (regional and in-country)
- Identify one agency/national coordinator in each country to coordinate MiRPAL
- Secretariat identified (Moscow-based think tank – Migration XXI Century )
- Compilation of country/regional case studies and analytical work on particular migration-related topics of interest to the community and capacity building
- MiRPAL conference (at least once every year)

## Context

- IMF and WB predicted that remittances would decline in 2009 by 30-50% in CIS countries due to global economic crisis. Remittances did decline substantially in 2009, but did pick up quite quickly in 2010 and 2011 – will likely continue to an important growth factor for both labour sending and receiving countries. Outlook for 2012 and beyond remains uncertain
- Countries preparing anti-crisis action plans and budget needed help with social protection of unemployed and migrants returnees. (Fears of large scale return of migrants to countries of origin)
- Even post-crisis, most countries dependent on migration do not have any clear strategy on how to manage migration issues and how well-managed and administered LM system could help cope with the risks faced by the country
- Governments are slow to realize importance of labor migration in CIS? Tough balancing act - allowing people to move abroad vs ensuring migrants are treated well in destination countries.
- A lot of thinking and action are being undertaken by Governments, especially in Russia (patents, unified migration space, organized recruitment) yet lack of overall framework to make these reforms work and virtual absence of support services for migrants and incentives to facilitate better migration outcomes for all parties

# What did the World Bank do in 2008-2009

## Knowledge development and Sharing

- Review current migration policies, practices and challenges faced by sending and receiving countries
- Draw lessons learned from some countries in other regions (Latin America and Asia) that
  - have been successful in managing migration and
  - want to maximize the development impacts of remittances
- Contribute inputs to the development of national anti-crises action plans where relevant
  
- Stocktaking and sharing of lessons on Moscow and Manila events
- “From plan to action” - a session to look at past experience of successful projects and program to support migrants
- Institutional reforms that are needed and easy but high payoffs to support migrants
- Migrants and support services: Lessons from three decades of field work
  
- **Study tour to the Philippines in June 2009 (to learn first hand from one of the world’s best)**

# What did World Bank do in 2010-2011

## **Analytical work**

- Migration policy reforms that can bring quick wins for Russia vis-à-vis Central Asia migrants
- What and how can Central Asian labor sending countries improve their labor migration strategies– Russian perspective

## **Advancing regional dialogues and Initiation of MiRPAL – Migration and remittance Community of Practice ([www.mirpal.org](http://www.mirpal.org))**

- MIRPAL development strategy developed
- Annual work plan agreed and developed
- Regional analytical work launched
- MIRPAL migration professionals magazine (semi-annually)

# What else did WB do since 2009

## **Regional Action plans and capacity building**

### **Two regional Action plans developed**

- improvements in estimation of remittances (Balance of Payments/Central banks)
- improvements in estimation of migration flows (Household and Labor Surveys/Goskom stat)

### **Subsequent Videoconferences**

- Tools, approaches and challenges in estimating remittances
- Stocktaking of the actions undertaken by the MIRPAL countries to improve remittance estimation
- MIRPAL introductory session
- Implications and impact of the new Russian migration law for the CIS countries
- Stocktaking of the actions undertaken by the MIRPAL countries to improve labor migration estimation
- International practices and experiences in using migration quotas to manage migration flows

### **Country Specific Technical Assistance**

- Kyrgyz and Tajik strategy/action plan completed in 2010 – government approval expected soon

### **Four regional workshops conducted**

- Moscow, June 2009: International Workshop on Migration and Remittances in the CIS countries
- Moscow, June 2010: First MiRPAL Conference and Thematic Workshops (Remittance and Household Surveys)
- Yerevan, June 2010: International Workshop on the Economic and Social Impact of Migration, Remittances, and the Diaspora
- Moscow, May 2011: Second MiRPAL Conference and Thematic workshop (Support Services and Statistics)

# What are we doing now – stage three (2011-2013)

## Regional and Country level action plans

- Based on Moscow Protocol and Action Plan (2009) as well as existing initiatives in countries as a basis for developing country strategies and action plans.
- Three levels of engagement: policy reforms; institutional reforms; and program/project interventions
- Strengthening partnerships and supporting joint research and policy work (Russia is a particular success story, e.g. Quota work with OPORA, Central Bank, Statistics)
- Broadening MiRPAL to EU and accession countries

### **Analytical work:**

- Contribution of labor migration to the Russia's economy – empirical evidence
- Improving and harmonization of migration statistics in the CIS – profiles published in 2011;
- Creating a framework for support services based on Public-private partnerships ;
- Protecting welfare and labor rights of migrants;
- Improving labor quota system in Russia

# Specific Components and Activities

## **Support Strategic Policy Dialogue and Knowledge Management**

- Develop courses and deliver trainings to selected top managers/decision-makers
- Maintaining a regular dialogue on key labor migration issues

## **Research work Analytical and Advisory Activities**

- Mobilize independent research and support local knowledge generation to support policy reforms
- Synthesis paper and policy briefs – just-in time, short publications (plus postings), country profiles, blogs on key topics on migration in easy and user-friendly formats
- Flagship research on labor migration

## **Regional dialogues, nurturing environment for cooperation and coordination, communication and outreach**

- Support to Migration and Remittance Peer-Assisted learning Network (MiRPAL)
- Nurture environment for cooperation and coordination
- Information and Communication campaign on labor migration issues (MIRPAL journal – Migration 21 century)

## **Technical Assistance**

- Improving estimation of formal and informal remittances
- Improving country and regional labor migration statistics
- Unified migration space and organized recruitment
- Making migration a “win-win” for sending and receiving countries



# Beneficiaries of the program



# Specific Components and Activities in Moldova

- More than 30 members in the Moldova MIRPAL program
- Active participation of the NBM and National Bureau of Statistics officials in MIRPAL activities that facilitate data exchange on remittances and migration.
- Active participation of the Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economy, National Employment Agency and National Bank of Moldova officials in MIRPAL CIS conferences in Moscow over the last two years.
- Participation in Video Conferences organized by MIRPAL (in particular, Moldovan side share its experience regarding remittances and migration policy)
- Financing of the analytical study prepared by IASCI and CIVIS NGOs “Strengthening the Link between Migration and Development in Moldova”  
<http://www.worldbank.org.md/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/ECAEXT/MOLDOVAEXTN/0,contentMDK:22792071~menuPK:302256~pagePK:2865066~piPK:2865079~theSitePK:302251,00.html>
- Comprehensive web-page on Moldova and latest migration developments  
<http://mirpal.org/moldova.html>
- Magazine “Migration XXI” is published within the MIRPAL program. Everyone, who is interested, can submit material for publishing.

# How MIRPAL can be of use

## **Areas of topical interest**

- (i) improving remittance and migration data collection in the CIS region;
- (ii) introducing new technologies in remittances;
- (iii) increasing impact of migration and remittances on the poverty reduction;
- (iv) maximizing macroeconomic benefits of migration and remittances; and
- (v) promoting Diasporas' engagement as a source of economic development of migrant sending countries.

## **MIRPAL's tools and work formats**

- (1) Technical Assistance
- (2) Analytical work
- (3) Knowledge Management
- (4) Communication and Outreach

MIRPAL helps bring migration and remittances into the development agenda by contributing to these areas through:

- Developing policy recommendations and implementing initiatives aimed at the improvement of labor migration policies in MIRPAL member countries;
- Providing a platform for a dialogue between state and non-government participants as well as key experts and practitioners in the area of remittances and migration from MIRPAL member countries;
- Raising awareness on importance and impact of labor migration and remittances;
- Strengthening capacities and knowledge base of all Network members through the exchange of experience (peer-learning) as well as through analysis of the best practices from key international experts in the area of remittances and migration;
- Preparing analytical briefs and thematic research on specific topics of interest;
- Promoting inclusion of the larger number of ECA countries to the initiatives and activities concerning issues of remittances and migration, and facilitating the dialogue among the countries.

# MIRPAL is open to partnerships and joint work

## How to contact MIRPAL

Moldova – Assistant of MIRPAL Coordinator – Valentina Ungureanu  
[valungur@gmail.com](mailto:valungur@gmail.com)

Washington – Sudharshan Canagrajah  
[scanagarajah@worldbank.org](mailto:scanagarajah@worldbank.org)

WB Moldova – Iaroslav Baclajanschi  
[ibaclajanschi@worldbank.org](mailto:ibaclajanschi@worldbank.org)

CIS countries and national coordinators  
More info – please visit [www.mirpal.org](http://www.mirpal.org)

# WB Report - Moldova after the global crisis: Promoting Competitiveness and Shared Growth

Analytical Study Financed by the MIRPAL in 2010 came to a conclusion that

*"Notwithstanding reforms already implemented by the government, many migrants who want to invest their savings into the economy of Moldova still face the problems of access to information, excessive bureaucratic red tape, corruption, insufficient access to financial resources and other constraints related to business environment."*

This theme was further developed in a comprehensive WB report finalized in April 2011 – “Moldova after the global crisis: Promoting Competitiveness and Shared Growth”

According to this report Remittance-led growth is certainly not “bad growth”, because remittances have been instrumental in reducing poverty in Moldova. In fact, remittances – if captured by the banking sector and efficiently intermediated – could be used to fuel growth. But shortcomings in Moldova’s investment climate are limiting the profitability of businesses, and with that, the prospects of attracting new foreign investment and exports.

# WB Report - Moldova after the global crisis: Promoting Competitiveness and Shared Growth

**This analytical work currently has the potential of being transformed into concrete policy reforms like new Law on Payment Services and Electronic Money and some other future actions based on recent Remittance Assessment done by the National Bank of Moldova in collaboration with the World Bank that will make the life of simple migrant easier and will contribute to development process in Moldova.**

**The full report is accessible at:**

**[http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTMOLDOVA/News%20and%20Events/22937896/Moldova\\_CEM\\_2011en.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTMOLDOVA/News%20and%20Events/22937896/Moldova_CEM_2011en.pdf)**

# Mapping the Moldovan Diaspora

## WB and IOM collaboration

An instrument to review the socio-economic and needs-profile of Moldovan migrants in the CIS-corridor and their families

- **Background and justification**

1. The Moldovan Government has set as one of its priorities the development of policies and initiatives

aimed at:

- outreaching to Moldovan diaspora,
  - maintaining and actively advancing social, cultural, economic and political ties with the nationals abroad.
2. There is a risk that they will be permanently lost for the country
  3. They can also be viewed as potential actors in Moldova's development, beyond the remittances they transfer to their families.
  4. Diaspora can become vector of productive investment of remittances, diaspora tourism, return migration, philanthropy and promotion of Moldova as a country in general.
  5. Development and implementation of efficient diaspora policies requires valid and reliable evidence as to the socio-economic and needs profile of the Moldovan diaspora
  6. More than 60% of migration from Moldova takes place in the CIS-corridor, particularly Russia

# Objective, methodology and expected results

- Joint World Bank and IOM effort
- Carrying out a comprehensive mapping of the Moldovan diaspora in major areas of destination of Moldovan migrants, through a systematic research
- Using a wide array of quantitative and qualitative methodological instruments and methods of data collection, including:
  - Secondary analysis of profiles of Moldovan migrants in Moscow and Saint-Petersburg (according to SPSS data base of previous IOM survey)
  - In-depth interviews with multipliers who have access to a broad base of community members, as well as officials at relevant Moldovan institutions, both abroad and in the Republic of Moldova
  - The dissemination and collection of questionnaires within Moldovan communities abroad and migrant households back home
  - Focus group discussions with members of the diaspora both abroad and in Moldova
  - Recommendations for the new Moldovan Diaspora Agency in diaspora outreach and programming

This resulting mapping study is expected to:

1. Permit to concretely define the socio-economic profile and needs of the target group, identify viable project partners for diaspora programming activities and adjust and eventually help with enhancing the communication modalities employed for outreach to Moldovan citizens abroad
2. Offer research on the CIS migration corridor and would support efforts by the UN Country Team in Moldova to brief the Government and help it to support the target group – CIS-migrants and their families
3. Help the National Bureau of Statistics strengthen its ability to regularly gather data on migration specifically in the CIS migration corridor.





**Thank you**