

ՀԱՇՎԵՏՎՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ

ԲԵՌԼԻՆ (ԳԵՐՄԱՆԻԱՅԻ ԴԱՇՆԱՅԻՆ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ)

ԳՈՐԾՈՒՂՄԱՆ ԱՐԴՅՈՒՆՔՆԵՐԻ ՎԵՐԱԲԵՐՅԱԼ

Անունը, ազգանունը – Գագիկ Եգանյան

Զբաղեցրած պաշտոնը – ՀՀ ՏԿԶՆ միգրացիոն ծառայության պետ

Գործուղման վայրը և ժամկետները – Բեռլին, Գերմանիայի Դաշնային Հանրապետություն, 2017թ-ի հունիսի 28-ից 30-ը

Հրավիրող կողմը - Միացյալ Ազգերի Կազմակերպություն

Գործուղման նպատակը – Մասնակցել «Միգրացիա և զարգացում» խորագրով ամենամյա համաշխարհային ֆորումի 10-րդ հանդիպմանը

Քննարկած թեմաները - «Միգրացիա և զարգացում» համաշխարհային առաջին ֆորումի սկիզբը դրվել է 2006թ.-ին, որից հետո յուրաքանչյուր տարի կազմակերպվել են հերթական հանդիպումները: Դրանք նվիրված են միգրացիայի և զարգացման ամենատարբեր հարցերին և բաժանված են ուղղությունների, որոնք տեղի են ունենում հաջորդաբար՝ քաղաքացիական հասարակության օրեր և կառավարությունների ֆորում: Վերջինիս մասնակցում են բազմաթիվ երկրների բարձր մակարդակի կառավարական պատվիրակություններ:

Ֆորումի աշխատանքները կազմակերպվել էին տարբեր ձևաչափերով, տեղի ունեցող բազմաթիվ միջոցառումների տեսքով:

Հնչեցված ելույթները

Աշխատանքային ծրագրին համապատասխան մեր կողմից նախապատրաստվել էին 6 տարբեր ելույթներ, որոնց մի մասը հնչեցվեց իմ, իսկ մյուս մասը՝ ԱԳՆ-ի միջազգային կազմակերպությունների վարչության պետ պր. Վ. Կաժոյանի կողմից: (Ելույթները կցվում են)

Ունեցած հանդիպումները

Ֆորումի աշխատանքների ընթացքում կարճատև հանդիպումներ եմ ունեցել ՄԱԿ ՓԳՀ պր. Ֆիլիպո Գրանդիի, ՄՄԿ-ի գլխավոր տնօրեն պր. Վիլիամ Սվինգի, ՄՔՄՄԿ (ICMPD) գլխավոր տնօրեն պր. Միխաիլ Շպինդելգերի, ինչպես նաև տարբեր երկրների բազմաթիվ պատվիրակների հետ:

Գործուղվող



Գ. Եգանյան

03.07.2017

Observations for Roundtable 1.1

Tools and Safeguards for Policy Coherence – Finding the right policy mix to balance different interests and objectives

Armenia’s experience in development of migration policy: seeking for balance, modernity and comprehensiveness

I would like to present Armenia’s experience in migration regulation policy development. As an approach, we have selected five-year period and policies are being developed for that particular period. Initially, with policy document we determine those migration-related directions, which will be relevant to us during that period. For each direction, the targeted goal is defined, in other words - the vision, with the recorded problems on the way to achieve each goal. Additionally, key mechanisms are identified, which make feasible to achieve these goals.

The entire process of development of migration strategy is based on the following principles:

- Migration situation analysis
- Studying and assessing the steps undertaken within the framework of adopted policy documents
- As a result of intensive discussions with expert community and government institutions

Up until now, 4 core documents on state migration policy were adopted: in 2000, 2004, 2010 and 2017. The latter one, named 2017-2021 Strategy for Migration Policy of the Republic of Armenia, which has 8 key directions with formulated objectives for each, consists of 23 tasks to reach them and with 78 measures aimed at solving of those tasks. The additional 9th direction concerns monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy. The new Strategy has already been approved by the RA Government in March 2017. The development of draft Action Plan on implementation of the migration strategy has already completed and agreed with state bodies and civil society institutions and submitted to the RA Government for approval. The Action plan contains more than 190 activities, which are designed for both State Migration Service, as well as other state bodies.

At the same time, I would like to present the issue of monitoring as it is a very important element for the ambitious long-term program. According to the Government decree, an Interdepartmental Commission for monitoring the implementation of the Action Plan was established. In the framework of the previous Action Plan, the Commission held 27 sessions. The Commission examines the implementation process of the Action Plan, identifies the gaps and if necessary, submits proposals to the RA Government for making amendments in the program.

Thus, when developing a migration policy, we are trying to make it both balanced and up-to date, with priority-defining approach and comprehensive.

Observations for Roundtable 2.1

Moving beyond emergencies –Creating development solutions to the mutual benefit of host and origin communities and displaced persons

Armenia with a population of around 3 million people is one of the most affected countries with regard to the forcible displacement.

In 1990s we received more than 360 thousand refugees from Azerbaijan and more recently – over 20.000 Syrians. And on the basis of our experience on dealing with them and especially with displaced persons from Syria I want to share with you some key observations and lessons learnt.

- First of all there is a strong need about reintegration from the very moment of arrival, looking at all dimensions of integration (legal, socio-economic and cultural)
- Secondly, ethnic Armenian background of the majority of displaced persons has played a positive role for creating development solutions to the mutual benefit of host communities and displaced persons
- The integration concept paper, developed by State Migration Service, and adopted by GoA addresses key challenges
- We were able to avoid camps, promote decentralized accommodation from the beginning (UNHSR rental subsidiary project helped refugees in finding access to the local housing market)
- Legislation allows employment of asylum-seekers and refugees. Recognized refugees can also engage in self-employment, which helps in quick integration into the labour market.
- Positive experience with UNHCR and partners in process of implementation of different type of projects designed for displaced persons, especially vocational trainings, how to do business in Armenia and last but not the least income generation projects as well as an innovative “adapt a family” projects.

Now some words about our challenges: limited job opportunities, relatively low wages, at least in the initial months of employment hardly sufficient for self-reliance, different business environment and taxation system as to what many displaced were used at home.

Observations and lessons learned from Armenian perspective:

- *Need to think about integration from the very moment of arrival, looking at all dimensions of integration (legal, socio-economic and cultural).*
- *ethnic Armenian background of majority of the displaced persons played a positive role in creating development solutions to the mutual benefit for Armenia and Diaspora.*
- *SMS integration concept paper, adopted by our Government, addresses key challenges.*
- *Avoid camps, promote decentralized accommodation from the beginning. (UNHCR rental subsidy project helped refugees in finding access to the local housing market).*
- *Legislation allows employment of asylum-seekers and refugee and recognized refugees can also engage in self-employment (apart from purchase of agricultural land), which helps in quick integration into the labour market.*
- *positive experience with UNHCR and partners (i) vocational training, (ii) "how to do business in Armenia training and (iii) income generation projects, as well as an innovative "adopt a family" project.*

Challenges: *Limited job opportunities, low wages, at least in the initial months of employment hardly sufficient for self-reliance, different business environment and taxation system as to what many displaced were used from home.*

Observations for Roundtable 3.2

Strengthening cooperation – Enabling Civil Society Contributions in Migrant Integration.

- *Armenia has a vibrant diaspora community, which is also engaged in addressing humanitarian needs of the displaced and integration challenges. Our country received more than 22.000 Syrians and Armenian is among the top 3 countries with the number of received Syrians. Pre-flight links with the Armenian Diaspora in Syria has eased communication and allowed for a strong representation of the interests of the displaced vis a vis the Government and international organizations. [CCSAI and Aleppo NGO]. This, why not always simple, has assisted in the identification of humanitarian needs and gaps in the mechanisms aimed to facilitate integration*
- *2016 reform of NGO legislation widened the space for NGO activities in the social field, including provision of assistance to refugees and helping them in the integration process.*
- *While coordination at Government level is in the responsibility of the Ministry of Diaspora, which is closely cooperating with other governmental and civil society institutions in the framework of the Committee on the Coordination of Syrian Armenian Affairs, UNHCR has undertaken a comprehensive mapping of "who does what and where" and produced "Yellow pages" on available assistance and services.*
- *This has allowed to establish a comprehensive referral mechanism (which is important given the limited resources of the Armenian Government.*
- *Moreover, an inclusive approach has been taken in the Government Migration Strategy which is explicitly acknowledging the role of non-governmental organizations in addressing relevant issues and in particular in monitoring the progress towards implementation of the Strategy;*

Challenges: Most NGOs are funded on short or mid-term projects, and have limited long term funding resources, thus sustainability of efforts is dependent on donor support.

Observations for Side Event 2.1
Development Solutions to Mass Displacement in Cities – The Case of Syrian Refugees

- *cash-based interventions have proved to be preferable to in-kind support as they offer a more dignified, cost-effective and flexible assistance.*
- *urban case loads easier to manage than those spread throughout the country (e.g. displacement from NK following the April 2016 escalation of the NK conflict)*
see also point A)

Challenges:

- risk of anonymization (higher than in rural areas)
- see point A

Observations for Parallel breakout session 3 Challenges of Mixed Migration

- Identification of undocumented asylum-seekers and related security considerations have proven particularly challenging in Armenia, impacting the practice of interpretation and application of the non-penalization clause of the 1951 Refugee Convention. Transit through other countries and mixed motivations for initial and onward movement as expressed by asylum-seekers charged with illegal border crossing may also be problematic in practice. International cooperation and exchange of best practices may prove helpful with this respect.

- The emphasis in the Migration Strategy and Action Plan to undertake a comprehensive review of extradition-related legislation to align it with international obligations.

Challenges:

- awareness of border guards needs to be broadened and requires ongoing and enhanced training (including linked with a UNDP project upgrading crossing points)

-Continuous efforts are needed to further enhance mechanisms for identification and referral of asylum-seekers at border crossing points and detention facilities by putting in place clear instructions on how to respond to asylum applications and address the needs of unaccompanied and separated children, victims of trafficking and violence, and other groups with specific needs. Experience exchange in this area will be useful.

-Experience exchange on issues of coordination with the international community on existing plans to address possible scenarios of massive displacement (existing preparedness plans, mechanisms, and resources regarding displacement registration, documentation, access to services and shelter for the most vulnerable, transit points for the initial displacement phases etc.) into or within the country would be useful.

Observations for Focus session 7

Mechanisms for complementary pathways for refugees and migrants

Participation in this session is recommended in order to collect ideas for future approaches in Armenia. You may wish to mention:

- In 2016 the first case of an alternative form of admission to Armenia of an unaccompanied child from Sudan was recorded. Originating from Sudan and habitually resident in a country in the Middle East, the young promising refugee student was issued Armenian visa based on a scholarship at an international school in Armenia. It is the first case of an alternative form of admission to Armenia for a refugee of non-Armenian background, promoting the access of refugees to quality education and ultimately a durable solution -- one of the principal goals of international protection. This case is seen as a helpful precedent and showed the openness of the Armenian Government to consider alternative forms of admission in very specific cases.

The scholarships are offered in the context of the '100 lives' project initiated by an Armenian diaspora organization (IDeA Foundation) which, in close cooperation with UNHCR, has also recently commenced some assistance projects serving persons displaced from Syria seeking protection in Armenia.

Challenges:

- proper selection of suitable candidates for studies in Armenia*
- security vetting in countries not hosting a diplomatic mission or Armenia*