RESEARCH PAPER

AT WHAT COST? WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS, REMITTANCES AND DEVELOPMENT



JANUARY 2017 UN WOMEN





© 2017 UN Women. All rights reserved.

Produced by UN Women's Economic Empowerment Section for the "Promoting and Protecting Women Migrant Workers' Labour and Human Rights" Project, supported by the European Union.

AUTHORS: J. Hennebry, J. Holliday and M. Moniruzzaman

The authors would like to thank UN Women offices in Moldova, Mexico and the Philippines for sharing data and information used in this report, as well as Jessica Dalton and Inkeri von Hase from the UN Women New York office for their support. In addition, thank you to Hari K.C., Rachelle Daley, David Alejandro Celis Parra, Rasha Abu-Meizer, Keegan Williams, Anna Klimbovskaia, and the International Migration Research Centre.

This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the authors and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union and of UN Women.

ISBN: 978-1-63214-075-3

Design: DammSavage Inc. Editor: Cynthia Kane

RESEARCH PAPER

AT WHAT COST? WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS, REMITTANCES AND DEVELOPMENT



J. HENNEBRY, J. HOLLIDAY AND M. MONIRUZZAMAN

New York, January 2017





TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	4
ABSTRACT	7
WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS, REMITTANCES AN DEVELOPMENT: CONTEXT & BACKGROUND	D 9
Introduction	10
Women Migrant Workers at a Glance	11
Global Financial Remittance Flows, Trends & Costs	13
The Limits of Data on Women Migrant Workers' Migration and Remittance Flows	15
ENGENDERING THE MIGRATION & DEVELOPMEN PARADIGM	T 17
Questioning the 'Win-Win-Win' for Women Migrant Workers	18
Women Migrant Workers as Agents of Development - Bearin the Burden of Costs	g 21
An Alternative Approach to the Migration for Development Paradigm	23
GENDERED TRANSFERS: PROCESSES OF REMITTANCE SENDING	25
Understanding Remittances & Development from a Gender Perspective	25
Formal Remittance Transfer Systems	27
Gender and Financial Inclusion	28
Informal Remittance Transfer Systems	29
New Information and Communications Technologies	31
Transferring Goods Across Borders	32
Social Remittances	33

WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO HUMAN DEVELOPMENT	36
The Global Care Chain: Women from the South Alleviating C Deficits	Care 37
Human Capital Investment	38
Food Security	40
Gender and Resilience	41
ENSURING THE 'WIN' FOR WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS	43
Women Migrant Workers and the Sustainable Development Goals	t 43
Why Gender Mainstream Migration & Development Governance?	45
Continuing the Momentum Toward Gender-Mainstreaming Migration and Development	into 46
CONCLUSION	48
Recommendations	49
APPENDICES	51
Appendix 1	51
Case Study: Mexico	51
Appendix 2	55
Case Study: Moldova	55
Appendix 3	59
Case Study: Philippines	59
Appendix 4	63
REFERENCES	67

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BOP Balance of Payments

CEDAW United Nations International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimina-

tion against Women

CsA Capabilities Approach

COD Country of Destination

COO Country of Origin

COWA Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs (Philippines)

DB Defined Benefit

DIOC Database on Immigrants in OECD Countries

DIOC-E Database on Immigrants in OECD and non-OECD Countries

EFTA European Free Trade Association

EOI Export Oriented Industrialization

EU European Union

FDI Foreign Direct Investment

FRONTEX European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Bor-

ders of the Member States of the European Union

FWRC Filipino Workers Resource Centre

GAATW Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

GCC Global Care Chain

GFC Global Financial Crisis

GFMD Global Forum on Migration and Development

HLD High Level Dialogue
HRW Human Rights Watch

HSW Household Service Worker

HTA Hometown Association

ICRMW United Nations International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant

Workers and Members of Their Families

ICT Information and Communications Technology

IGO Inter-Governmental Organization
ILO International Labour Organization

IMF International Monetary Fund

IMRC International Migration Research Centre

IMSS Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social (Mexico)

IMUMI Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración A.C. (Mexico)

IOM International Organization for Migration

LEY Federal del Trabajo (Federal Labour Law – Mexico)

MTB Money Transfer Business
MTO Money Transfer Operator

NGO Non-Governmental Organization
ODA Official Development Assistance

OECD Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

OFW Overseas Filipino Worker

OHCHR United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

OSCE Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

POEA Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

PWC Philippine Women Centre

RSP Remittance Sending Provider

SAPs Structural Adjustment Programmes

SAWP Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (Canada)

STI Sexually Transmitted Infection

UN United Nations

UN-INSTRAW United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advance-

ment of Women

UN DESA United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund

UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

USD US Dollar
WB World Bank

WHO World Health Organization

WMWs Women Migrant Workers



https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_22056

