A Conceptual Model for Migration Management

Section 1.2

Topics:
A Model for Comprehensive Migration Management

Essentials of Migration Management
Volume One: Migration Management Foundations
A Conceptual Model for Migration Management

Section 1.2

This Section presents a conceptual model for migration management. The single topic in this Section outlines the components of a comprehensive migration management system.

Learning Objectives

• increase your knowledge of the conceptual structure of this course

• understand the interrelated nature of the components in a migration management system

• understand the field of migration management in terms of areas, components, and activities

Background

Migration is a process involving different elements of management at various stages. The migration process could be said to begin with the impetus for migration (including root causes—the push and pull factors, and whether forced or voluntary), moving through the various stages of travel and entry (either by regular or irregular means, and either facilitated or spontaneous), settlement and/or return, integration and/or reintegration, and ultimately, in some cases, the acquisition of nationality. There are a number of offshoot relationships, including the potential contribution that diaspora can make to the economic development of their countries of origin as well as cross-cutting themes such as protection and health.
The stages of the migration process are interlinked and involve a variety of actors, partnerships, and policy considerations at different levels. There are linkages between economic, social, trade, labour, health, cultural, and security policy areas. In addition, there are rights and obligations of migrants and States at the national and international levels.

This complex set of relationships highlights the need for a global understanding and approach to migration management that will take into account the relationship between migration and other contemporary issues of a social, economic, and political nature for example, labour market developments, security concerns, and evolving national identities.

A model for migration management will be comprehensive and consist of a carefully structured set of distinct but interdependent areas and components, because migration is relevant to a wide range of State interests, objectives, policies, and procedures. Describing the management of migration in a visual “model” can help illustrate the interrelationships between areas and components and also help recognize the contributions that can be made by a range of ministries and agencies responsible for implementing the measures that make up a functioning migration management system.

The model offered in this Section describes a migration management system and provides the framework for the foundations, policies, and operational activities discussed in the three volumes of this course. The model includes:

- the basis for managing migration in policy, legislation, and administrative organization
- four main areas of migration management: migration and development, facilitating migration, regulating migration, and forced migration
- cross-cutting issues/activities that relate to the four main areas of migration management

Guiding Questions

1. How well do the components in this model and their relationship to each other fit your understanding of migration management?

2. What would you add, subtract, or rearrange in the model to reflect migration management in your setting?

3. How can this conceptual model be used to study migration management?
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Key Message

A conceptual model provides an organizational tool that can help governments and civil society focus on the complexities of the growing migration portfolio. A conceptual model also provides a framework for public discussion and offers principles for managing migration in an orderly way and for controlling irregular migration. A conceptual model may also be useful for developing an approach to assessing the capacity of States to manage migration.

Terms and Concepts

Conceptual model
A schematic description of a system, usually in the form of a written description, or flowchart, that includes visual representations corresponding to known or inferred properties of the system being modeled. A conceptual model can be used to further study the characteristics of the system being modeled.

Policy
A plan or course of action intended to influence and determine decisions, actions, and other matters; a course of action, guiding principle, or procedure considered expedient, prudent, or advantageous

System
A group of interacting, interrelated, or independent elements forming a complex whole. Systems can be natural or artificial, mechanical or organic.
Topic One

A Model for Comprehensive Migration Management

The following conceptual model illustrates the interdependence of the various elements of a migration management system.

Figure 1

Managing Migration: A Conceptual Framework

Cross-cutting Management Issues and Activities

Examples:
- Technical cooperation and capacity building
- Migration health
- Public information and education
- Gender dimension
- Integration and reintegration
- Migrants’ rights and international law
- Policy guidance
- Data and research
- Regional and international cooperation
The top level refers to the policy, legislation, and administrative organization that make it possible to manage migration at a governmental level. These components of the model produce the principles, directions, and commitments that define the four main areas of migration management. While four key areas of migration management can be identified, they are linked by the numerous cross-cutting issues and activities that address one or more of the main management areas.

Important Points

1. *Policy* determines the approach of the State at the highest level. Migration policy is based on national objectives and usually derives from, and relates to, other elements of public policy, for example, labour market policy, foreign policy, and demographic policy.

2. *Legislation* gives concrete expression to migration policy and provides the authority for the measures required to manage migration, including recruitment and selection, authorizing entry, granting of residency, border inspection, response to illegal entry and stay, and removal of persons from the territory of the State. Legislation is accompanied by regulations required for its implementation, and by procedures that govern the behaviour of officials in carrying out the duties prescribed in the regulations that are authorized by legislation in support of the policies.

3. *Administrative Organization* assigns and coordinates the various functions involved in managing migration within a coherent framework of operational responsibility and accountability.

What You Need To Know About...

*The Four Main Areas of Migration Management*

The goal of managing migration and development is to help harness the development potential of migration for individual migrants and societies.

The goal of facilitating migration is to safeguard and improve the ability of workers, professionals, students, trainees, families, tourists, and others to move safely and efficiently between countries with minimal delay and with proper authorization.

The goal of regulating migration is to help governments and societies to know who is seeking access to their territories and to take measures that prevent access by those who are not authorized to enter.
Replacing irregular flows with orderly, regular migration serves the interests of all governments.

The goal of managing forced migration is to help people move out of danger during emergencies and to return afterwards. Refugees and displaced persons are a distinct category of “people on the move” deserving special attention. Managing forced migration involves finding solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, former fighters, victims of ethnic engineering, and populations in transition and recovery environments.

What You Need To Know About...
Cross-cutting Management Issues and Activities

Given the complexities and numerous inter-sectoral linkages, many migration issues and management activities are “cross-cutting” and involve more than one area.

Cross-cutting activities that are relevant to all of the four management areas in the model include:

- technical cooperation and capacity building
- protection of migrant rights
- promotion of international migration law
- information gathering and research
- policy debate and guidance
- regional and international cooperation
- public information and education
- migration health
- the gender dimension of migration
- integration and reintegration.

Apply What You Have Learned

1. Which components of this conceptual model are of greatest interest to you? Why are they of interest?
2. What are the similarities and differences between facilitating migration and regulating migration?

3. How do the policy, legislation, and administrative organization components of the framework influence the relative importance of the components in the main management areas of migration?

4. What cross-cutting activities are most important in your setting?
Concluding Remarks

The conceptual model presented in this Section organizes the material presented in the Course Manual by providing an organizing tool that combines foundations, policy, and operational management. A conceptual model will correspond to the field it describes. This model provides the main elements of a comprehensive migration management system that correspond to the complexities of the growing migration portfolio.