



PRESS RELEASE

Most Mozambicans migrate to other African countries

Maputo, 7 October 2009 – Unlike the general perception, most migrants in the world do not move from developing to developed countries. This interesting finding was presented today at the launch of the 2009 UNDP Human Development Report (HDR). A similar finding was also made for Mozambican migrants. The majority – some 84 per cent – of those who emigrate do so to another African country, according to the UNDP. Only an estimated 12 per cent of them move to Europe.

During the national launch of the HDR in Maputo on 7th of October it was noted that some 44 per cent of Mozambican migrants are low skilled. There are also indications that in Mozambique the size of remittances, the money sent home from abroad, is lower than the African average. In Mozambique remittances only average 5 USD per capita against an average for Africa of 44 USD. This is in spite of the fact that Mozambique has a higher than average level of migration, 4.2 per cent, when compared to the African average of 2.5 per cent of the population.

In his opening words the Resident Representative of UNDP, Mr. Ndolamb Ngokwey pointed out that the human aspect of globalisation is often forgotten: “There are significant benefits to be achieved from migration. Whether a professional seeking career challenges or unskilled labourers looking for work, migration has a large potential for improving not only the life of the individual and his or her family but also contributes to the human and economic development of the country of origin.”

He also reminded the audience about the xenophobia and discrimination facing migrants. “There is a role for all of us to help fighting xenophobia in all its forms including against migrants and minorities. Migrants make a significant contribution to economic growth in their host country. Social remittances in the form of ideas, practices, identities and social capital help to foster change and human development in the migrants’ home country, as well as influence and enrich the culture where the migrants settle.”

Mr. Ngokwey reiterated the UN’s commitment to provide support to the government’s efforts and facilitate the mainstreaming of migration into national development strategies.

Concerning the Human Development indicators, a key component of the report, Mozambique’s recent performance has been positive. The latest data suggest that the index has increased, to 0.402 from 0.397. Some improvement was also noted in the country’s performance in both the gender-related development index (GDI) as well as in the human poverty index (HPI-1).



United Nations Development Programme

Communications Office

PRESS RELEASE

In the launch of the Human Development Report speeches and presentations were also made by her Excellency, Ms. Helena Taipo, the Minister of Labour, Mr. Leonardo B. Bauhofer, Deputy National Director of the National Directorate of Migration and Ms. Inês M. Raimundo, Researcher, Department of Population Studies, Eduardo Mondlane University.

For more information on the latest HDI and to access the Human Development Report and the complete press kit, please visit: hdr.undp.org<http://hdr.undp.org>