

## PRESS RELEASE

### GENDER YOUTH MIGRATION (GYM) COMPLETES TWO YEARS

**Under embargo until 18 December 2015**

**New Delhi, 18 December 2015.** Today, on the occasion of International Migrants Day, UNESCO takes the opportunity to highlight the achievements of the Gender Youth Migration (GYM) web portal (<http://www.solutionexchange-un-gen-gym.net/>) in the past two years. GYM portal, launched in 2013, is a growing repository of free resources and a platform for sharing knowledge and expertise on the theme of migration. GYM aims to bring together researchers, practitioners and decision makers working on issues of internal migration and more, enabling them to learn from each other and stay connected.

#### Highlights

**187** daily average reach

In two years:

**49,900** total visitors

**196,796** pages visited

**374** resources shared

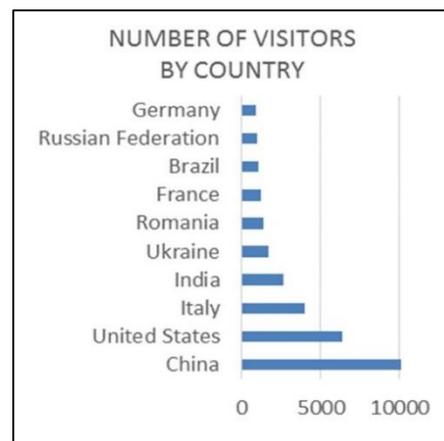
**493** migration experts  
connected

Since its launch, GYM web portal has been updated with 374 resources on migration gender and youth, at policy, research and best practices level (including publications, videos, audios and pictures, especially on internal migration). In the past year the number of visitors per day has increased from 20 to 187, while the number of pages viewed daily has risen from 48 to 726.

GYM regularly encourages e-discussions among experts and practitioners through its policy queries on pertinent topics, such as Domestic

Remittances; Right to Education for Migrant Children; Migration and Climate Change; and the Internal-International Migration Nexus.

If research and policy interventions on international migration have garnered some attention, in India and worldwide, the study of internal migration is still fragmented and overlooked, and so are policy interventions.



“Policies designed for a sedentary population will not be able to address efficiently an Indian population on the move. A policy shift is therefore required to support, facilitate and accompany mobility of migrants not to curtail it” says Mr. Shigeru Aoyagi, Director and UNESCO Representative to India, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka.

The recent establishment by the Government of India of a “Working Group on Migration” does represent an important opportunity to address the multiple constraints and hardships faced by the most vulnerable group of migrants - the seasonal (or circular) migrants - estimated at 100 million (Deshingkar and Akter, 2009): lack of identity proof; lack of formal residency rights; lack of political representation; homelessness or inadequate housing; unpaid, low-paid, insecure and/or hazardous work; bonded labor; extreme vulnerability of women and children to trafficking and sex exploitation; exclusion from state-provided services and schemes such as health and education; language barriers; school drop-outs; and widespread discrimination based on ethnicity, religion, class or gender.



**New Delhi Office**

Cluster Office for Bangladesh,  
Bhutan, India, Maldives,  
Nepal and Sri Lanka

Recently, GYM has taken a new focus on Community Radio (CR) stations, in order to support CR personnel in their capacity and potential to produce and broadcast migrant-sensitive programmes, in source, transit and destination areas with *Internal Migration: A Manual for Community Radio Stations* (<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002318/231862E.pdf>).

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