

STAKEHOLDER MEETING
SUMMARY REPORT AND FOLLOW UP ACTIONS

**YOUTH ON THE MOVE: YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP AS A TOOL FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC
INTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES**

A joint initiative of USA for IOM and YABT



OAS Main Building, Washington, D.C., United States of America
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Overview: The Stakeholder Roundtable on Youth Entrepreneurship, organized by USA for IOM and YABT, took place on February 29, 2024, at the Organization of American States in Washington D.C. This event focused on leveraging youth entrepreneurship for the socio-economic integration of migrants and refugees.

Representatives from various sectors including private, international development, government, and young migrant entrepreneurs participated to discuss critical themes like education, skill development, digital inclusion, and fostering an entrepreneurial mindset.

Key Insights from Participants:

1. The Critical Role of Education and Skill Development:

- Entrepreneurial education and skill development are fundamental for migrants' socio-economic integration, with a focus on basic education to nurture an entrepreneurial mindset.

2. Digital Skills and Financial Inclusion:

- The necessity for digital skills across all occupations and the importance of financial inclusion to stimulate the economy were emphasized. Safe financial transaction mechanisms, especially for remittances, are needed.

3. Inclusive Program Design and implementation

- The importance of involving migrants in the design and implementation of programs was highlighted, suggesting multi-sectoral alliances and a diverse support ecosystem as essential.

4. Intersectional Collaboration:

- The need for programs with an intersectional perspective and urgent collaboration between the private sector and academia was stressed.

5. Summit of the Americas Commitments:

- The commitments made towards investing in youth and the VI Young Americas Forum as pathways to the X Summit of the Americas were discussed as crucial opportunities for presenting action plans.

6. Entrepreneurship as a Transformative Force:

- Entrepreneurship is seen as a key to unlocking the economic and social potential of migrants and refugees, with mentoring and the use of existing infrastructures as pivotal.

7. AI and Digital Tech for Resilient Businesses:

- For creating resilient businesses, the importance of AI, digital technology, and a survival toolkit of digital skills was acknowledged.

8. Addressing Challenges:

- The group discussed overcoming obstacles such as rejection due to ingrained beliefs and the theft of money from migrants, encouraging personal story embracing and self-driven processes.

Recommended Actions:

Develop Comprehensive Programs:

- Design programs with YABT and USA for IOM that incorporate skills training, digital literacy, and financial education. Expand these efforts across Latin America and the Caribbean.

Promote Digital Inclusion:

- Work on digital inclusion initiatives and partnerships for digital skills training and startup and financial support.

Strengthen Multi-Sectoral Alliances:

- Form a task force to build strong alliances across various sectors, with YABT and USA for IOM facilitating.

Youth Involvement:

- Establish the Inter American Working Group on Youth and Migration to ensure migrant youth are involved in program design, leveraging YABT's expertise.

Actions for the Summit of the Americas:

- Plan and execute actions leading up to the Summit with a focus on defining priorities, ensuring youth participation, and implementing follow-ups. Collaborate closely with YABT and USA for IOM to plan and execute concrete actions leading up to the X Summit of the Americas. Establish subcommittees focusing on specific initiatives.

Entrepreneurship Advocacy:

- Launch joint campaigns to advocate for early entrepreneurship education and the importance of soft skills.

Address Challenges:

- Work on changing societal perceptions and addressing issues like money theft from migrants through awareness campaigns.

Utilize Existing Infrastructures:

- Avoid duplicating efforts by leveraging existing networks and partnerships for quick implementation of initiatives.

Conclusions:

This report and its recommendations aim to translate the insights from the stakeholder meeting into actionable initiatives. By addressing challenges and capitalizing on opportunities, especially those to be presented by the upcoming Summit of the Americas, we can collectively change the lives of young people and their families through entrepreneurship and socio-economic integration. YABT and USA for IOM continue to support the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection, advocating for the rights and opportunities of migrants. We encourage all stakeholders to join us in expanding the impact

of our programs to further support the socio-economic integration of migrants through entrepreneurship.

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