



ADDRESS AND REDUCE VULNERABILITIES IN MIGRATION



Associated actions

- a. **Review relevant policies and practices to ensure they do not create, exacerbate or unintentionally increase vulnerabilities of migrants**, including by applying a human rights-based, gender- and disability-responsive, as well as an age- and child-sensitive approach
- b. **Establish comprehensive policies and develop partnerships** that provide migrants in a situation of vulnerability, regardless of their migration status, with necessary support at all stages of migration, through identification and assistance, as well as protection of their human rights, in particular in cases related to women at risk, children, especially those unaccompanied or separated from their families, members of ethnic and religious minorities, victims of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, older persons, persons with disabilities, persons who are discriminated against on any basis, indigenous peoples, workers facing exploitation and abuse, domestic workers, victims of trafficking in persons, and migrants subject to exploitation and abuse in the context of smuggling of migrants

- c. **Develop gender-responsive migration policies** to address the particular needs and vulnerabilities of migrant women, girls and boys, which may include assistance, health care, psychological and other counselling services, as well as access to justice and effective remedies, especially in cases of sexual and gender-based violence, abuse and exploitation
- d. **Review relevant existing labour laws and work conditions** to identify and effectively address workplace-related vulnerabilities and abuses of migrant workers at all skills levels, including domestic workers, and those working in the informal economy, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, particularly the private sector
- e. **Account for migrant children in national child protection systems** by establishing robust procedures for the protection of migrant children in relevant legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings and decisions, as well as in all migration policies and programmes that impact children, including consular protection policies and services, as well as cross-border cooperation frameworks, in order to ensure the best interests of the child are appropriately integrated, consistently interpreted and applied in coordination and cooperation with child protection authorities
- f. **Protect unaccompanied and separated children at all stages of migration** through the establishment of specialized procedures for their identification, referral, care and family reunification, and provide access to health care services, including mental health, education, legal assistance and the right to be heard in administrative and judicial proceedings, including by swiftly appointing

a competent and impartial legal guardian, as essential means to address their particular vulnerabilities and discrimination, protect them from all forms of violence, and provide access to sustainable solutions that are in their best interests

- g. Ensure migrants have access to public or affordable independent legal assistance and representation** in legal proceedings that affect them, including during any related judicial or administrative hearing, in order to safeguard that all migrants, everywhere, are recognized as persons before the law and that the delivery of justice is impartial and non-discriminatory
- h. Develop accessible and expedient procedures that facilitate transitions from one status to another** and inform migrants of their rights and obligations, so as to prevent migrants from falling into an irregular status in the country of destination, to reduce precariousness of status and related vulnerabilities, as well as to enable individual status assessments for migrants, including for those who have fallen out of regular status, without fear of arbitrary expulsion
- i. Build on existing practices to facilitate access for migrants in an irregular status** to an individual assessment that may lead to regular status, on a case by case basis and with clear and transparent criteria, especially in cases where children, youth and families are involved, as an option to reduce vulnerabilities, as well as for States to ascertain better knowledge of the resident population

- j. **Apply specific support measures** to ensure that migrants caught up in situations of crisis in countries of transit and destination have access to consular protection and humanitarian assistance, including by facilitating cross-border and broader international cooperation, as well as by taking migrant populations into account in crisis preparedness, emergency response and post-crisis action
- k. **Involve local authorities and relevant stakeholders in the identification, referral and assistance of migrants** in a situation of vulnerability, including through agreements with national protection bodies, legal aid and service providers, as well as the engagement of mobile response teams, where they exist
- l. **Develop national policies and programmes to improve national responses** that address the needs of migrants in situations of vulnerability, including by taking into consideration relevant recommendations of the Global Migration Group Principles and Guidelines, Supported by Practical Guidance, on the Human Rights Protection of Migrants in Vulnerable Situations



Example practices

For more practices, visit the Migration Network Hub's **Repository of Practices**

Principles and Guidelines, migrants in vulnerable situations

United Nations entities have developed principles and guidelines on the human rights protection of migrants in vulnerable situations. Published by the Global Migration Group (GMG) Working Group on Human Rights and Gender, and led by OHCHR, the document provides guidance to States (and other stakeholders as relevant) on how to operationalize the international human rights law framework and related standards for the protection of migrants who are in vulnerable situations, either because of the situations they left behind, the circumstances in which they travel or the conditions they face on arrival, or because of personal characteristics such as their age, gender identity, disability or health status (OHCHR, n.d. a).

Morocco's regularization campaigns

Morocco initiated two regularization campaigns beginning in 2014 with the aim of providing secure legal status to undocumented migrants on their territory. This included women, men and children regardless of the initial reasons for entry who had lived in Morocco for at least five years.

Minimum Standards for the Protection of Refugees and Migrants Living in Refugee Centres

In 2016 UNICEF and the German Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth launched a

national, multi-partner initiative to strengthen existing child protection systems. One major achievement of the initiative was *Minimum Standards for the Protection of Refugees and Migrants Living in Refugee Centres*, developed in a participatory process that involved over 30 partners. UNICEF produced training materials and tools to ensure the effective implementation and monitoring of the standards by service providers. Over 2,500 refugee centre managers, protection coordinators and staff were trained in the 100 refugee centres across Germany (BMFSFJ and UNICEF, 2017).

Children on the Move in Egypt

In 2019, the national Children on the Move Taskforce in Egypt developed National SOPs on the protection and assistance of child asylum-seekers, refugees, smuggled migrants and victims of trafficking in persons and a child helpline for children on the move.



Relevant sustainable development goals



SDG 1: No poverty

- **1.3:** Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable
- **1.4:** By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and

control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance



SDG 5: Gender equality

- 5.2:** Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- 5.4:** Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate



SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth

- 8.7:** Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms
- 8.8:** Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment



SDG 10: Reduced inequalities

- 10.2:** By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
- 10.7:** Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies



SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions

- 16.2:** End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
- 16.3:** Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all
- 16.7:** Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
- 16.9:** By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration



SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals

- 17.14:** Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development” which can be achieved by reviewing relevant policies and practices to ensure they do not create, exacerbate or unintentionally increase vulnerabilities of migrants as outlined above