Workplan for the Regional United Nations Migration Network for West and Central Africa 2020-2021

20 November 2020

I.   Introduction

The Regional UN Migration Network for West and Central Africa (Regional Network) was established to facilitate effective, timely and coordinated UN systemwide support to Member States in migration policy, including the implementation, follow-up and review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM) where a common UN system approach would add value. Migration contributes to positive development outcomes and to realizing the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Regional Network acknowledges the potential of the GCM as tool for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In line with its Terms of References from 11 June 2019, the Regional Network aims to foster a better understanding of current and emerging issues on migration, and to enhance coordination and collaboration within the UN system and with other stakeholders at regional and national levels. In all it does, the Regional Network strives to uphold and advocate for the laws and principles that call for the respect and protection of all migrants and their communities, and the realization of all their human rights, with a particular focus on those in the most vulnerable situations. The work of the Regional Network will respect the GCM guiding principle, including on a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

This first workplan of the Regional Network for 2020/2021 focuses on key issues where the UN system can add value in delivering concrete results as a matter of priority in supporting GCM implementation, recognizing that the GCM is rooted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. While this workplan represents the commitment of the UN system in the WCA region to ensure effective and coherent system-wide support on migration, the Regional Network considers the workplan to be a *living document* which might need to be updated during its implementation period with the evolving nature of migration. In implementing this workplan, the Regional Network will prioritize flexibility and the ability to adapt to changing conditions and demands, not least the needs and aspirations of migrants themselves. Further, it will prioritize building on and, working with existing expertise and best practice and will respect that the GCM, its implementation and its review are State-led processes within the auspices of the United Nations.

II.   Summary of Core Priorities:

1. Support Member States, Regional Economic Commissions (RECs) and national UNMNs in preparation for the Africa GCM Regional Review at the national, sub-regional and continental level while promoting a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.
2. Enhance knowledge of UN Migration Networks (UNMNs) and its members at national and regional level

3. Enhance visibility of the network's activities and increase awareness on migration issues with specific relevance for WCA
4. Ensure relevant information, analysis and policy guidance and reliable data of WCA region are incorporated in the GCM's Global Knowledge Platform
5. Joint Programming

III. Modalities and review

The Regional Network envisions to hold meetings on a quarterly basis.

Under the coordination of IOM, a Technical Group consisting of the agencies' technical focal points - as established by the Network Executive Committee - is in charge of the development of this work plan. Members of the network are fully consulted in the drafting of the workplan before validation by the Executive Committee. The technical group invites to its meetings CSOs and other stakeholders unless the Technical Group decides otherwise for a specific meeting.

The Executive Committee can establish, where relevant, Working Groups to focus on specific core or thematic work streams, or specific elements of it. Working Groups, including their focus, composition and chair, will be developed over time. The composition of Working Groups will be drawn from Network members and other stakeholders.

The Regional Network, through the Executive Committee and its Technical Group, will continually review the implementation of the workplan, adjust its focus as needs arise, and provide quarterly updates on progress being made to the Regional Directors.

While noting that the workplan is a living document and open for revisions, the first adapted version of the workplan, starting from November 2020, focuses specifically on core issues. The co-chairs will simultaneously launch a consultative and inclusive process - in accordance with the guiding principles of the GCM, including a whole-of-society approach - to identify specific thematic workstreams. The thematic priorities will focus on major migration thematic issues of particular interest to the WCA region. Members of the network are fully consulted in the drafting of the thematic workstreams before validation by the Executive Committee and inclusion in the workplan.

IV.   The Workplan

Priorities:

1. **Support Member States, Regional Economic Commissions (RECs) and national UNMNs in preparation for the Africa GCM Regional Review at the national, sub-regional and continental level while promoting a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.**

Core workstream 1.1	WCA Regional Economic Commissions (RECs) and their Member States are empowered to actively support the GCM review process
Timeline	November/December 2020

Activities	1. Provide a briefing for ECOWAS-Commission on GCM Regional Review
	2. Provide a briefing for ECCAS-Commission on GCM Regional Review
	3. Support the AU Commission to organize with ECOWAS a sub-regional review consultation for ECOWAS Member States
	    • Support in the determination of speakers, sessions and preparation of agenda;
	    • Promote the inclusion of sessions dedicated to thematic areas of the GCM in close coordination with the RECs and Members of Regional Network[1];
	    • Support in determination of MS Focal Points to invite;
	    • Support in determination of National UNMN members to invite to workshop;
	    • Collate and disseminate national questionnaires filled by MS for the GCM review.
	4. Support the AU Commission to organize with ECCAS a sub-regional review consultation for ECCAS Member States
	    • Support in the determination of speakers, sessions and preparation of agenda;
	    • Promote the inclusion of at least one session dedicated to thematic areas of the GCM in close coordination with the RECs and Members of Regional Network;
	    • Support in determination of MS Focal Points to invite;
	    • Support in determination of National UNMN members to invite to workshop;
	    • Collate and disseminate national questionnaires filled by MS for the GCM review.

Lead agencies or stakeholders	AUC, ECOWAS and ECCAS respectively, Regional Network co-chairs (IOM, OHCHR), ECA
Participating agencies or stakeholders	ECOWAS or ECCAS Member States respectively, Local authorities, Regional UNMN members, National UNMN members, ECA, relevant CSOs and other stakeholders from and working in the region, including diasporas

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[1] In preparation of the workplan, the following topics were discussed: Migration policy and Covid-19; Climate, Environment and Migration; Vulnerability (incl. children); Human Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons, Tripartism and Social dialogue on Labour Migration. For suggestions on the format, the Regional Network will, inter alia, be guided by the Concept Note of the Africa GCM to support focused discussion.

Core workstream 1.2	Civil society and other stakeholders are empowered to participate in the regional review process
Timeline	December 2020
Activities	1. Map relevant civil society organizations, migrant associations, NHRIs, workers' and employers' organisations, and other stakeholders, ensuring diversity and representativeness in terms of gender, age, migration status, nationality, etc. in the region. 2. Promote the involvement of relevant civil society and other relevant stakeholders in line with the GCM vision and guiding principles in the sub-regional review consultations (see workstream 1.1). 3. Promote the inclusion of outcomes and recommendations of the West Africa mapping and consultation on children in the GCM, organized by the Initiative on Child Rights in the Global Compacts, in the ECOWAS sub-regional consultation.
Lead agencies or stakeholders	OHCHR, UNICEF
Participating agencies or stakeholders	Regional UNMN members, ECA, AU CSOs and other stakeholders from and working in the region, including diasporas, Initiative on Child Rights in the Global Compacts

Core workstream 1.3	The capacity of the National UN Migration Networks to support Member States to participate in the regional review of the GCM is bolstered
Timeline	November 2020

Activities	1. Organize one virtual workshop for National UNMN in WCA on the review
	    • Determine speakers and sessions and prepare agenda;
	    • Determine National UNMN members to invite to workshop;
	    • Collate and disseminate national questionnaires filled by Member States for the GCM review.
	2. Provide guidance to National UNMNs for organizing national GCM consultations with Member States, local governments, civil society and other stakeholders, such as migrants, children and youth, and preparing for the Regional (continental) review as needed.
	3. Follow-up with National UNMN on a regular basis to monitor national consultations and discussions on GCM implementation.

Lead agencies or stakeholders	Regional UNMN co-chairs (IOM, OHCHR)
Participating agencies or stakeholders	ECA, AU, Global UN Network on Migration, Regional UNMN members, National UNMN members

2. Enhance knowledge of UNMNs and its members at regional and national level

Core workstream 2.1	The capacity of the Network at regional and country levels to support Member States to implement the GCM is bolstered
Timeline	Continuous

Activities	1. Keep National UNMNs informed of important developments at the global and regional level
	    • Send regular (at least once per month) email updates to National UNMN focal points;
	    • Organize quarterly webinars for National UNMN;
	    • Create a closed platform for sharing UNMN files and other information such as policy guidance and good practices and lessons learned in GCM implementation.
	2. Keep Member of the Regional UNMNs informed of important developments at all levels
	    • Create a Microsoft Teams site, accessible for all members of the Regional Network containing all relevant documentation, including on the regional network and GCM.
	3. Hold regular webinars for Members of the regional network and its staff as appropriate on the GCM, including the related tools and processes (MPTF, regional review, etc).
	4. Support in the development of GCM national implementation plans.
	5. Provide guidance and advice to national Network on how to support States in legislation development/ reform process on migration, including the mainstreaming of GCM objectives into existing national policies, action plans and synergies with SDG implementation.

Lead agencies or stakeholders	Regional Network co-chairs (IOM, OHCHR)
Participating agencies or stakeholders	Regional UNMN members

3. Enhance visibility of network activities and increase awareness on migration issues of specific relevance to WCA

Core workstream 3.1	External Stakeholders are better aware of Regional Networks activities and on specific thematic areas in particular relevant for WCA region
Timeline	Continuous
Activities	1. Create a newsletter on network activities and on new development in WCA, to be disseminated on a quarterly basis. 2. Organize quarterly a briefing in Dakar with the international community (embassies; IGOs; development partners).

	3. Organize half-yearly a briefing in Dakar with international and regional CSOs and other stakeholders.
	4. Provide Policy Briefs and Statements on specific issues to support GCM implementation.
Lead agencies or stakeholders	Regional Network co-chairs (IOM, OHCHR)
Participating agencies or stakeholders	

4. **Ensure relevant information, analysis and policy guidance and reliable data of WCA region are incorporated in the GCM's Global Knowledge Platform**

Core workstream 4.1	Data relevant for migration in the WCA region are incorporated in the GCM's global knowledge platform and other relevant platforms as applicable
Timeline	Continuous
Activities	1. Mapping of existing data at the regional and national level.
	2. Set up and maintain a database for WCA on new research, publication, data and other public information such as policy guidance, good practices and lessons learned in GCM implementation.
	3. Ensure relevant information is uploaded on the global knowledge hub and other platforms as applicable.
	4. Commission regional or cross-border study on migration or migration-related issues in accordance with GCM objectives.
Lead agencies or stakeholders	Regional Network co-chairs (IOM, OHCHR)
Participating agencies or stakeholders	

5. **Joint Programming**

Core workstream 5.1	National UNMNs capacity to deliver in joint programmes is boosted
Timeline	Continuous
Activities	1. Provide guidance to national UNMNs on MPTF and other funding opportunities.
	2. Provide updates and lessons learned if any from the joint programmes in the region that are already approved by MPTF.
Lead agencies or stakeholders	Regional Network co-chairs (IOM, OHCHR)
Participating agencies or stakeholders	

V.   Annex:

Objectives of the Regional Migration Network (Regional Network) from the TORs:

1. Share regular updates on key/ emerging migration issues with members of the Regional Network; and share relevant data, documents, studies and practical information in order to foster a holistic understanding of the West and Central African context;
2. Ensure at the regional level in coordination with the UN Migration Network Secretariat and Executive Committee, effective, timely, coordinated UN system-wide support to Member States in their implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM, for the rights and wellbeing of all migrants and their communities of destination, origin, and transit;
3. Support other global initiatives such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development in their effort to progress the GCM with a focus on West and Central Africa ;
4. Support coherent action by the UN system at country and regional levels in support of GCM implementation, in line with the global UN Network on Migration initiatives and where such action would add value, while ensuring well-defined linkages with UN structures at all levels;
5. Act as a source of ideas, tools, reliable data and information, analysis, exchange of good practices, and policy guidance on migration issues, including through the capacity-building mechanism established in the GCM and the set-up of a Knowledge Platform at the regional level;
6. Ensure Regional Network actions promote the application of relevant international and regional norms and standards relating to migration and the protection of the human rights of migrants;
7. Provide leadership to mobilize coordinated and collaborative action on migration by the UN system, including by speaking with one voice as appropriate, in accordance with the EC Principles approach adopted the 8 May 2019, the UN Charter, international law, and the mandates and technical expertise of relevant UN system entities.
8. Ensure close collaboration with other existing UN system coordination mechanisms addressing migration-related issues, actively seeking out synergies and avoiding duplication. This includes with the Economic Commission for Africa at the continental level;
9. Focus on strengthening links with other regional grouping such as ECOWAS and ECCAS and Regional Consultative Processes when relevant for the implementation of the GCM in the region;
10. Provide support at the regional level to the capacity building mechanism, as outlined in the GCM.
11. Organize once a year –contingent on availability of resources -- a meeting between all the Regional Network members and external partners. This could include migrants, civil society, migrant and diaspora organizations, faith-based organizations, local authorities and communities, the private sector, employers' and workers' organizations, trade unions, parliamentarians, National Human Rights Institutions, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, academia, the media and other relevant stakeholders;
12. Provide information and guidance to RCs and UNCTs for the establishment of country-level UN Migration Networks in support of the GCM upon requests from RCs/UNCT.