



HM Government



Global Compact  
FOR Migration

# The Global Compact for Migration European Regional Review

## Submission by the United Kingdom



Foreign, Commonwealth  
& Development Office



Home Office

## Executive Summary: UK Approach to GCM implementation

*The UK has been through a period of significant change since the signing of the GCM. Since then, we have left the European Union and are now prepared to launch a new independent immigration policy. We are also facing new migratory challenges, including the changing irregular migration context (including in the English Channel, and the Mediterranean), the implications of COVID-19 and climate change. During this time, we have continued to take action in both the domestic and international space which reflects the guiding principles of the GCM. Taking a whole of government and whole of route approach, the UK is addressing humanitarian concerns facing migrants across the world as well as harnessing the benefits of regular migration for both host and origin countries. Domestically, the UK is implementing a new, points-based immigration system to attract the skilled workers we need to support our economy. Alongside this, we are working to reduce dangerous irregular migration and tackle organised immigration crime, modern slavery and human trafficking. Whilst upholding our international obligations and seeking to play a leading role on global migration, we are ensuring the integrity of our national sovereignty within the global system.*

### Section 1: Methodology

This review of GCM implementation took a whole of Government approach, spanning both UK domestic and international departments.<sup>1</sup> This iterative process provided an opportunity to take stock of our alignment with the GCM objectives, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. This has included consideration of major migratory drivers and vulnerabilities such as climate, conflict, demographics, and economic fragility, addressing the dangers of irregular migration, and harnessing the benefits of productive migration.<sup>2</sup> The creation and launch of a new, points-based immigration system will transform the ways in which migrants come to the UK to live, study and work – supporting regular migration by providing greater flexibility for skilled workers wishing to come to the UK, and consequently delivering benefits for migrant and state alike. Through our work, we have also taken a ‘whole of society approach’ and ensured migrant and diaspora voices are integrated. The UK’s commitments under the GCM and the GCM’s guiding principles have been considered throughout the development of our policy and programming work.

The UK government periodically engages with NGOs and civil society groups to receive challenge and invite broader perspectives.<sup>3</sup> We have encouraged UK civil society groups to be actively involved with the review process by submitting evidence to the UN Migration Network. The UK will host COP 26 in 2021 and has climate as a central pillar of its foreign and domestic policy. As outlined in this review, we are working to ensure migration is included in our climate work. The UK will remain an advocate of the GCM internationally.

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<sup>1</sup> On 2 September 2020 the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office was merged with the Department for International Development. The formation of the new department - the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) – now provides a fresh chance to test policies and programmes against the GCM framework and brings together UK development and diplomatic expertise to leverage change more holistically on this agenda.

<sup>2</sup> To do this, objectives have been grouped into key themes.

<sup>3</sup> UK representatives met with NGO groups in the course of this review and utilised outputs such as British Red Cross’ *Policy into Practice* paper, which provides reflections and recommendations on the UK’s approach to GCM implementation; this paper was produced from a series of civil society and government discussions focused on GCM throughout 2019.

## Section 2: Policy and Enabling environment

### Domestic Policy Framework

The UK Home Office holds overall responsibility for the UK's immigration system. Our work supports a safer, more secure and prosperous United Kingdom, as well as a safer world for migrants. Our overarching migration aims are to:

- Overhaul the current immigration system, making it fair and compassionate whilst ensuring protection of our borders;
- Support the needs of the economy through a single, points-based immigration system which gives access to skilled workers from all countries;
- Reform the asylum system, providing protection for those in need whilst preventing abuse;
- Deter irregular migration and the harm it causes, including disrupting organised criminal groups; tackling immigration crime through intelligence-led enforcement, and conducting voluntary and enforced returns of those with no right to remain in the UK.
- Deter irregular migration by controlling access to work, benefits and services, while continuing to strengthen safeguards that ensure lawful migrants do not become entangled in measures intended to tackle unlawful behaviour.<sup>4</sup>

As set out in the UK's Explanation of Vote – issued alongside signature of the GCM - the UK operates sovereign border and immigration policies in line with our commitments under international law.<sup>5</sup>

### Regular Migration

Following the UK's departure from the EU on the 31 January 2020, the UK will be ending free movement for EU citizens, and from 1 January 2021 will implement a new points-based immigration system which treats EU and non-EU citizens equally. We recognise the considerable benefits that migration has brought to our economy and society. That is why we have designed our new immigration system to attract the high-skilled workers that we need to contribute to our economy, our communities and our public services. Harnessing the skills of the brightest and best from across the world will play a key role in our efforts to create a high wage, high-skill, high productivity economy. The new system will transform the way in which all migrants come to the UK to work, study, visit or join their family. It will also revolutionise the operation of the UK border, tighten security and deliver a better customer experience for those coming to the UK.

The UK's new points-based system will reduce overall levels of migration and give top priority to those with the highest skills and the greatest talents: scientists, engineers, academics and other highly skilled workers. The new system will also cater for students and a range of other specialist work routes including routes for global leaders and innovators. Under the new system, we have reduced both the general salary and skills thresholds for those who wish to come to the UK to work. There will also be an element of "tradeable" points, which will mean that those who do not meet the general salary threshold may still be able to enter the UK if, for example, they have a job in a shortage occupation.

Additionally, we have launched a new fast-track Health and Care visa. This will make it easier and quicker for the best global health professionals to work in the National Health Service (NHS), for NHS commissioned service providers, and in eligible occupations in the social care sector. We remain

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<sup>4</sup> Throughout, we ensure that migrants in the UK are protected from abuse and exploitation in the labour market; provided with integration support where appropriate; can access basic services including healthcare and education; and are protected from discrimination and hate crime.

<sup>5</sup> Summary of UK Explanation of Vote available here: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/ga12113.doc.htm>

absolutely committed to protecting individuals from exploitation by criminal traffickers and unscrupulous employers.

### Asylum and Protection

The UK has a long and proud history of providing protection to those who need it, in accordance with our international obligations. To support the continuation of a fair and effective asylum system, we are reviewing current legislative measures to ensure that we are protecting the taxpayer and directing resource to those in genuine need.

We will continue to provide protection to those who need it, and our resettlement schemes have provided safe and legal routes for tens of thousands of people to start new lives in safety. The UK reaffirmed its ongoing commitment to refugee resettlement by announcing a new UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS) in 2019.<sup>6</sup>

### Irregular Migration

It is a core UK objective to reduce irregular migration and the harm it causes. We seek to tackle irregular migration to the UK at every stage of the migrant journey in order to protect life and ensure domestic security. The Home Office works closely with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) to implement a whole of government, whole of route approach to reducing irregular migration to the UK and protecting vulnerable migrants. This includes targeted upstream programming; work with international partners at the near border and further afield; tackling organised immigration crime (OIC) and Modern Slavery/Human Trafficking (MSHT); and returning those with no right to remain in the UK.

## International Policy Framework

The UK adopts a whole-of-government approach to the GCM, with both FCDO and the Home Office working together and independently to take forward GCM objectives internationally. This ensures the GCM is fully integrated into the UK policy architecture, that GCM principles are reflected in wider UK migration policy and maintains senior official/ministerial focus on the GCM. The UK will continue to ensure it plays an active role in supporting global upholding of GCM implementation through our participation in the Start Up Fund for the GCM, through bilateral engagement, and as an active participant in the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD).

The UK's work on the GCM also sits within a wider framework of international policy and programming, including significant programmes on protection of migrants<sup>7</sup> and Modern Slavery<sup>8</sup> in addition to cross-government programming through our Conflict, Security and Stability Fund. In total the UK has committed over £300m to bilateral programming directly addressing migration issue between 2018 and 2021. In 2018 the UK also committed to spend more than £200m of ODA to tackle modern slavery.

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<sup>6</sup> The UKRS will consolidate three of our existing resettlement routes into a single global scheme, continuing to resettle vulnerable refugees in need of protection.

<sup>7</sup> FCDO Safety, Security and Solutions Programme phase 2 <https://devtracker.fcdo.gov.uk/projects/GB-GOV-1-300461>

<sup>8</sup> FCDO Global Fund to End Modern Slavery <https://devtracker.fcdo.gov.uk/projects/GB-GOV-1-300466>

## Section 3: Progress against objectives

### Managing dialogue, information and evidence

Objective 1	Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies
Objective 3	Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration
Objective 19	Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries

The UK invests in research, evidence and data to build the evidence base on migration and ensure evidence drives policy and programming. There is also a requirement for all FCDO programme data to be disaggregated by gender, age, disability and geography.

The UK has contributed to the global evidence base through Rapid Evidence Assessments (REAs) on the drivers of migration to [Europe](#) and the link between livelihoods and [migration](#).<sup>9</sup> We also funded a £6.5m research programme, Migrating Out of Poverty ([MOOP](#)) from 2010-2019.<sup>10</sup> Future REAs will include circular migration schemes and climate and migration.

The UK's Safety, Support and Solutions Phase 2 programme (SSSII)<sup>11</sup> funds the development of high-quality data and evidence on migration trends and challenges to ensure governments and humanitarian actors have accurate information about the risks to people on the move. This has demonstrated the impact of COVID-19 on migrants along the Central Mediterranean Route (CMR) in North and West Africa. The evidence has found that whilst movement restrictions, border closures and stranded migrants characterised the start of 2020, some migrants continue to travel along the CMR. Recent studies from the Independent Monitoring, Rapid Research and Evidence Facility (IMREF) of the SSSII programme show that COVID-19's has led to an unprecedented economic crisis, unemployment rates and effect on remittances that are likely to shape the migration landscape for the duration of the pandemic and beyond.

SSSII invests in migration approaches that are flexible and adaptable, and that have strong monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) components. MEL focusses on beneficiary feedback mechanisms to ensure that programmes are responding to migrant needs. The programme supports innovative data collection methods like the Mixed Migration Centre's 4mi and IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix. In-depth interviews are conducted with migrants and are used to inform service delivery activities as well as policy and advocacy. SSSII also aims to better understand how development and migration interventions impact on migrants' needs and their decision-making processes, through both research and direct programmatic action.

We regularly share lessons-learned from migration programmes, evidence on drivers of migration and what-works across the UK Government and with civil society and academic partners.

We consult with a range of external academics and engage with emerging research on migration through the EUTF Horn of Africa Research and Evidence Facility (REF). FCDO also holds advisory board membership on the UK Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) on South-South Migration and Inequality (funded by the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy).

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/why-people-move-understanding-the-drivers-and-trends-of-migration-to-europe>  
<https://www.gov.uk/research-for-development-outputs/the-impact-of-livelihood-opportunities-and-interventions-on-migration-rapid-evidence-assessment>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.migratingoutofpoverty.org/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://devtracker.fcdo.gov.uk/projects/GB-GOV-1-300461>

## The “Whole of Route” Approach

Objective 2	Minimise the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin
Objective 7	Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration
Objective 14	Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle

**The UK takes a whole of route approach to addressing irregular migration, intervening at each stage of the migrant journey with the aim of protecting vulnerable migrants and reducing dangerous irregular migration to Europe and the UK.**

The UK is committed to minimising the structural factors that drive irregular migration and reducing migrant vulnerabilities.

The UK plays a leading role in addressing migrant vulnerabilities globally. This includes our work to tackle Organised Immigration Crime (OIC). The UK’s multi agency OIC Taskforce (Project INVIGOR), consisting of over 150 officers, works to identify and tackle OIC groups operating in 13 origin, transit and destination countries across Europe and Africa. It seeks to undermine the business model of these groups and build capacity of local law enforcement agencies to tackle the threat posed by organised crime groups (OCGs) engaged in OIC and reduce the space in which they operate. The Taskforce’s activity has led to significant operational success.

A significant part of our effort to tackle organised immigration crime is currently directed at reducing the number of dangerous “small boat” crossings across the English Channel. These crossings – often facilitated by organised criminal groups – are life-threatening and the UK government is working closely with the French government to tackle the issue.

Our Modern Slavery Innovation Fund has also built evidence and tested how best to address vulnerabilities in migratory contexts. Examples include: the establishment of a bespoke multilingual Migrant Resource Centre in Mauritius for workers to report and address grievances; development of ‘Access to Remedy’ Principles in consultation with workers and suppliers across 5 countries; design of tailored software for migrant workers to connect, report grievances and access remedy.<sup>12</sup> Learning from these approaches means we can not only address migrant workers’ vulnerabilities but put in place proactive, tailored support to reduce their exposure to exploitation. Additionally, and considering the additional vulnerability posed by COVID-19, the Fund has also been distributing food parcels and toiletries in Mauritius and Malaysia to people who may be unemployed, unable to claim wages or access state support schemes. We are also supporting a safer migration programme in Vietnam through our wider Modern Slavery Fund work.

The UK’s analysis of the causes of migration recognises that while climate change does not necessarily directly cause people to migrate, climate extremes and environmental degradation are frequently amplifiers of other principal migration drivers (economic, social and political). The UK’s work on mitigation and adaptation is therefore important from a migration perspective.

The UK has committed to doubling its contribution to international climate finance to at least £11.6 billion between 2021/22 and 2025/26. These investments help developing countries to manage risk; adapt and build resilience to the impacts of climate change; promote low-carbon development; support sustainable management of natural resources; increase access to clean energy; and reduce

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<sup>12</sup> To date, the Migrant Resource Centre has supported 46 individual grievance reports and a pilot facilitation process for the reimbursement of recruitment fees has been supporting approximately 800 migrant workers.

deforestation.<sup>13</sup> The UK has also placed the challenge of resilience and adaptation as the main theme for the UN Climate Change conference, COP26 – hosted in Glasgow in 2021.<sup>14</sup> The UK is commissioning innovative research to better understand the links between migration and climate change and to build evidence of drivers and effective responses.

We recently commissioned a study from the UK Overseas Development Institute on the types of intervention that work to maximise the socioeconomic benefits of regular migration, with a view to informing an effective UK approach to migration activities overseas. To this end, FCDO are exploring overseas work to address the two key intervention identified by ODI:

- Interventions that seek to introduce new legal pathways for regular migration within migrants' region of origin.
- Interventions focussed on maximising migrant communities' socioeconomic contributions.

We are committed to working across both. Diaspora organisations in the UK can already access funding directly through programmes such as UK Aid Direct and the Small Charities Challenge Fund and we are exploring opportunities to expand the offer through future productive migration programming. This could include interventions that encourage the more sustainable consumption and investment of remittances by recipient communities and building the evidence base for diaspora bonds or alternative financial instruments to enhance benefits over the longer term. We are interested in interventions that encourage more sustainable use of remittances by recipient communities and building the evidence base for diaspora bonds to enhance longer-term development benefits.<sup>15</sup>

Throughout our whole of route approach, FCDO seeks to empower migrant and diaspora voices to ensure policy and programming reflects reality and creates the conditions for migrants to contribute to sustainable development.

Globally, the UK's consular policy aims to support British nationals to live, work, study and travel safely throughout the world employing 770 consular staff globally. The UK provides Travel Advice on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) to enable British nationals to travel safely. The UK also publishes '[Living In' Guides](#) for most countries to provide further information to British nationals either resident in or moving to those countries. We are using the Living in Guides as the primary source of information about citizens' rights for British people living in the EU.

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<sup>13</sup> Since 2011, the UK has helped 47 million people cope with the effects of climate change; secured access to clean energy for 17 million people; avoided 10.4 million tonnes of carbon dioxide; and leveraged £910m of private finance for climate change.

<sup>14</sup> The UK is also acting on emissions, the key driver of climate change, becoming the first major economy to pass new laws to reduce emissions to net zero by 2050.

<sup>15</sup> Or alternative financial instruments.

## Maximising the benefits of regular migration

Objective 18	Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills and competencies
Objective 20	Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants
Objective 22	Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits

The UK believes in ensuring regular migration around the world is economically and socially beneficial to the migrant, the origin and the destination countries, and we have developed a range of international programmes in this area. Alongside their economic contribution, migrants make important social contributions to host countries. Their different skills and perspectives broaden horizons and understanding of those already in the country and contribute to developing new skills.

“Productive migration” is about identifying, harnessing and maximising the socio-economic benefits of regular migration, particularly for developing countries, migrants and communities. We are interested in productive migration interventions that facilitate safe and orderly migration between partner countries, focused on pre-departure training and skills provision to support migrants to secure suitable opportunities and maximise socio-economic benefits. We also recently commissioned a study on the Regional Economic Communities in East and West Africa which will inform work on portability of skills and qualifications.

The UK has also focused on lowering the cost of remittances, recognising that the high costs involved in money transfers along remittance corridors significantly reduce the benefits of migration, especially for poor households in origin countries.<sup>16</sup> This approach can be seen in our recent actions to ensure the challenges of financial inclusion and remittances remain the focus of collective international action in the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPII).<sup>17</sup> Moreover, the UK-Swiss Call to Action highlighted the impact of COVID-19 on remittances. We have also been delivering critical work to increase the availability of digital payment systems through our Harnessing Innovation for Financial Inclusion programme. The UK’s social security relationship with the rest of world is principally handled through social security reciprocal agreements. Under EU law, social security rights are coordinated for individuals moving between Member States. Although the UK has left the EU, the rules on social security coordination remain the same as before during the transition period. The EU Withdrawal Agreement will protect entitled individuals after the transition period and a future system of coordination will be negotiated.

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<sup>16</sup> About \$32 billion in remittances is lost globally each year due to high transaction fees associated with sending and receiving money across borders.

<sup>17</sup> The GPII membership consists of the G20 Member Countries (including GPII Co-Chairs), participating non-G20 countries, Implementing Partners, Affiliated Partners, and the Honorary Patron



## Domestic Implementation

Objective 4	Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation
Objective 5	Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration
Objective 6	Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work
Objective 15	Provide access to basic services for migrants
Objective 16	Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion
Objective 17	Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration

From January 2021, the UK's new points-based immigration system will enable us to attract the workers that the UK economy needs to thrive. It will treat people from every part of the world equally, welcoming migrants based on the skills they have to offer, rather than their country of origin.

The points-based system will provide significantly greater flexibility for skilled workers wishing to come to the UK, in line with our commitments under UN Sustainable Development Goal 10.7 to facilitate regular and responsible migration and mobility of people. The current cap on the number of skilled workers will be suspended, and the lowering of the requisite salary thresholds and skill level will provide employers with greater scope to employ skilled migrants from overseas. In addition, a new Graduate Route will be launched in the summer of 2021 which will provide students with an opportunity to work or look for work for two or three years at any skill level.

In addition, the UK Government will be introducing a new immigration route for British National (Overseas) citizens in Hong Kong, providing the opportunity for them and their family members to live, work and study in the UK. This follows the imposition by the Chinese Government of a national security law on Hong Kong, in breach of the Sino-British Joint Declaration, that restricts the rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong.

The UK has a number of safeguards in place to protect migrant workers. The Gangmaster and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) works to protect vulnerable and exploited workers by disrupting criminal activity within the labour market and supporting compliant businesses.<sup>18</sup> A labour provider must have a GLAA licence to work in the regulated sectors, and it is a criminal offence to employ workers without a licence or use an unlicensed labour provider.

Upon arrival in the UK, all migrants are able to access basic services. For instance, access to urgent or immediately necessary health treatment is never withheld from migrants irrespective of immigration status, and GP consultations/A&E facilities are free to all (including for irregular migrants). There are no immigration restrictions on children's access to compulsory education. Access to legal aid is means-tested and available for matters including criminal proceedings, asylum cases, and detention regardless of immigration status.

Regular migrants will receive proof of their legal identity to ensure they are able to access all relevant services in the UK. We currently issue every non-EEA migrant staying for more than six months with a biometric immigration document.<sup>19</sup> We are transitioning to an updated system, whereby all migrants are provided with evidence of their immigration status online. Over time, we will increasingly replace physical immigration documents, which can be lost, damaged or falsified, and ensure all migrants will

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<sup>18</sup> The GLAA run a licensing scheme which regulates businesses who provide workers to the fresh produce supply chain and horticulture industry, to make sure they meet the employment standards required by law.

<sup>19</sup> In the form of a Biometric Residence Permit and non-EEA family members of EU national's resident in the UK with a Biometric Residence Card

be able to access evidence of their immigration status through accessible, easy to use online and digital services.

All migrants are entitled to protection from discrimination. All forms of hate crime are unacceptable and the UK has a robust legislative framework to respond to it. The Government takes hate crime very seriously, which is why the Hate Crime Action Plan was published in 2016 and refreshed in October 2018.<sup>20</sup> Key achievements under the 2016-20 Action Plan included the Places of Worship Scheme to protect places of worship from hate crime. In 2018/19, the Government also ran a wide-ranging national public awareness campaign to publicly address hate crime and raise awareness of the law.

Migrants with a right to remain in the UK are supported to integrate into society. The UK has invested in a range of interventions in response to the challenges faced by migrants to facilitate their successful integration including the Integration Area programme.<sup>21</sup> This place-based approach to addressing local integration challenges will benefit thousands more people living in England – helping them to better integrate, participate fully in society and access the opportunities that life in modern Britain provides. In addition, the Integrated Communities Fund supports 16 projects in England that stimulate and test innovative approaches to integration. These innovative approaches will generate important learning on how to bridge divides and bring communities together.

## Borders & Irregular Migration

Objective 11	Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner
Objective 12	Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral
Objective 13	Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives
Objective 21	Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration

As part of the UK's new single, global Points-Based Immigration System, we will implement a suite of changes to strengthen our border security. Our future border system will protect the public and enhance prosperity. Investment in border processes, biometrics and technology will result in a border that operates with a fully digital end-to-end customer journey, improving both security and the passage of legitimate travellers through the border. As part of a phased programme to 2025, we will introduce a universal 'permission to travel' requirement which will require everyone wishing to travel to the UK (except British and Irish citizens) to seek permission in advance of travel. This will better facilitate the passage of legitimate travellers, whilst keeping threats away from the UK border. We will introduce Electronic Travel Authorisations (ETAs) for visitors and passengers transiting through the UK who do not currently need a visa for short stays or who do not already have an immigration status prior to travelling.

Migrants without right to remain in the UK will continue to be returned. The UK makes every effort to encourage and support voluntary returns. This remains our preferred approach rather than enforced, escorted returns. Various types of support are available to returnees throughout the returns process including financial and in-kind. Where detention is used to facilitate return, support through engagement and access to voluntary return information is still provided. Enforced return through the use of escorts is only undertaken when absolutely necessary.

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<sup>20</sup> *Action Against Hate: The UK Government's plan for tackling hate crime* available [here](#).

<sup>21</sup> The programme works in collaboration with five local authorities (Blackburn with Darwen, Bradford, Peterborough, Walsall, Waltham Forest).

The UK is working with UNHCR, faith and community groups to develop a number of pilots that will provide support to a range of migrants in the community, including both men and women (excluding Foreign National Offenders). The pilots are testing the impact of community support in supporting individuals at risk of detention to make voluntary decisions regarding their immigration options, and whether the support provided can help them to make positive next steps toward concluding their cases. We envisage the results contributing to global research around best practice on alternatives to detention.

### Modern Slavery, Organised Immigration Crime and Human Trafficking

Objective 9	Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants
Objective 10	Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration

The UK continues to demonstrate international leadership in the fight against modern slavery, human trafficking and organised immigration crime including people smuggling. We work alongside partner governments, the multilateral system, the private sector and civil society to deliver MSHT commitments secured under SDG 8.7 and through the Call to Action to End Modern Slavery, Forced Labour and Human Trafficking. The UK is a member of international coalitions such as Alliance 8.7 and supports UN forums such as the Inter Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) to share best practice with the international community and support implementation of national responses. In 2019 the UK also appointed its first Migration and Modern Slavery Envoy. This senior diplomatic role is designed to promote the fight against modern slavery at a senior level in bilateral and multilateral discussions.

The UK's international efforts are supported by programmes funded through Official Development Assistance. These include:

- Support to the Global Fund to End Modern Slavery (GFEMS) which seeks to work with the private sector and civil society to pioneer new approaches and develop innovative ways to achieve a reduction in modern slavery prevalence.
- The Home Office's Modern Slavery Innovation Fund (MSIF), which supports innovative projects focused on reducing the prevalence of modern slavery and trafficking internationally.

The UK plays a leading role in tackling Organised Immigration Crime (OIC) globally. The UK's multi agency OIC Taskforce (Project INVIGOR), consisting of over 150 officers, works to identify and tackle OIC groups operating in 13 origin, transit and destination countries across Europe and Africa. It seeks to undermine the business model of these groups and build capacity of local law enforcement agencies to tackle the threat posed by organised crime groups (OCGs) engaged in OIC and reduce the space in which they operate. The Taskforce's activity has led to significant operational success.

## International coordination

Objective 23	Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration
Objective 8	Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants

Cooperation with other nations is a theme running through our entire migration approach.

Regarding Search and Rescue, a UK vessel, HMC Valiant, completed 145 SAR missions in 2019-2020 in the Aegean as part of Operation Poseidon rescuing 1,584 people. The UK has also provided continuous support to the EU counter-migrant smuggling and trafficking operation in the Mediterranean, EUNAVFOR (which ended in March 2020), including naval assets, headquarters and training staff. The UK fully supports the UN Arms Embargo on Libya and welcomes EU efforts to support implementation of commitments made at the Berlin summit.

More broadly, the UK has been an active supporter of and leader within the GCM, including a pledge of £3m to the GCM Start Up Fund. The UK is committed to working through multilateral instruments such as the EU Trust Fund (EUTF), Khartoum and Rabat Processes, and other multilateral fora where this amplifies UK efforts – making best use of our partnerships with the EU to influence upstream outcomes.

The UK combines its diplomatic, development and stabilisation expertise with well-targeted programmes (current and planned) and multilateral contributions. Investment includes new embassies in Niger and Chad, an increased presence in Mali, the formation of a Joint Sahel Department in the FCDO, and programmes that help to address the major upstream drivers of migration, including gender inequality, food insecurity, population growth, lack of economic development, and an increasing vulnerability to the effects of climate change.

The UK continues to engage regularly with countries of origin and transit to support safer, more orderly and regular migration. This includes a range of programmatic interventions to support better migration management, border security and detection of victims of trafficking. In addition, The UK regularly engages with a range of European partners on irregular migration, both bilaterally and multilaterally, to support delivery of the 'whole of route' approach. This involves concerted, co-ordinated interventions at all stages of a migrant's journey that reduce irregular migration, tackle criminality/trafficking, and protect the vulnerable.

## Section 4: Next Steps

The UK remains committed to the Global Compact for Migration and will continue to take into account both the objectives and the guiding principles through our policy, programming and advocacy work. Looking forward, the UK's points-based immigration system will deliver a new, fairer way for migrants from all over the world to come to the UK to work, study, visit, or join family – allowing the UK to continue to harness the benefits of regular migration. Alongside this, the combination of development and diplomatic expertise in the new FCDO as well as the UK's hosting COP26 in Glasgow all provide opportunities to enhance the implementation and visibility of the GCM, alongside our existing work. In the international space, the UK will remain a leading donor to the UNMN Start Up Fund for GCM implementation and the UK will also remain an active voice within the GFMD.