

First Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Guiding template for the review of the implementation of the GCM

This template is in line with the UN Network on Migration proposed framework to assist Member States in conducting reviews of Global Compact for Migration (GCM) implementation at the national level, in preparation for regional reviews. It is intended to provide an outline and elements that Member States could consider when preparing the national review. The template serves to promote consistency and comparability between reviews in the Arab and Africa regions. This review is voluntary in nature, and countries have the flexibility to adapt it to their national context and priorities.

I. Methodology (*should not exceed 500 words*)

Describe the methodology followed to prepare the national review of the GCM:

- a. Did you establish a mechanism responsible for coordinating the review? Which entities were represented in the coordination mechanism? Does it have a chair?

The GCM review was tabled for discussion before the National Coordination for Migration where key government stakeholders were represented and the objectives discussed.

- b. If you did not establish a specific mechanism, who was responsible for the review?

The Office of the Prime Minister in its capacity as Chair of the NCM, coordinated the review. The ultimate decision on the final document was left with the members of the NCM, including Government MDA working on migration (MoFA, MoIA, MGLSD, etc.), Academia (Makerere), UN agencies and NGOs.

- c. Which government entities were involved in the review process?

The ones member of the NCM:

- Ministry of EAC Affairs

- Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
- The Directorate of Public Prosecutions
- Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
- Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Security (external and internal security)
- Bureau for Statistics
- National Planning authority
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Defense
- Bank of Uganda
- Ministry of Local government
- Ministry of Works
- UNHCR
- Ministry of East African Affairs
- National Population Council
- Platform for labour action
- GIZ Uganda
- Uganda Youth Development Link
- Refugee Law Project
- FAO Uganda
- Makerere University

Did you consult with local-level authorities during the review process (such as municipalities or governorates)?

No.

- d. Did you engage with different non-governmental stakeholders (such as the private sector, trade unions, civil society organizations, academia, migrant communities, etc.)? if yes, who did you engage with and how?

With the relevant Civil Society Organizations who are members of the NCM: Uganda Youth Development Link, Danish Refugee Council, Refugee Law Project, Platform Labour Action, Terre des Hommes.

- e. Were you able to review all of the objectives, or did you choose to focus on specific ones that are of priority to your country? Why are they a priority?

The NCM focused on specific ones

- f. Did you receive any support from the UN country teams?

IOM supported the GCM discussions in the country and will provide support to elaborate the GCM national Action Plan. Several UN agencies contributed to progress toward the objectives in line also with the National Development plan II and the UNDAF. FAO supported on diaspora related issues. UNHCR as a lead supported the refugees' response (other agencies also contributed to the Report: WFP, UNICEF, IOM, WHO, UNDP). ILO supported on labor migration and particularly on advancing the agenda of the free movement protocol.

II. Policy and enabling environment (*should not exceed 1500 words*)

- a. Has the government collaborated with different stakeholders in implementing the GCM (such as in developing migration-relevant policies, designing and implementing migration-relevant projects, encouraging multi-stakeholder dialogue, etc.)? If yes, please list the stakeholders involved (e.g recruiting agencies, migrant organizations ...).

Uganda was already in the process of formulating various migration related policies at the time GCM was adopted. However, an additional coordination platform was established upon the inception of the GCM known as the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) which is chaired by the Office of the Prime Minister which engages all stakeholders involved in the service delivery for refugees and host communities.

- b. Has the government integrated GCM implementation into SDG and Agenda 2063 implementation and other relevant processes? If so, how?

Yes the government has rolled out National Development Plan III which has its goals and objectives in tandem with Agenda 2063

- c. What migration-relevant policies have you developed since the adoption of the GCM in December in 2018? Did you reform existing policies in line with

the GCM? What challenges and barriers did you face in developing or reforming those policies?

The National Migration policy is in draft form but the consideration to align with the GCM was factored in during the NCM workshop which took place in March.

The National Refugee Policy is also in draft form, to be tabled before cabinet. This is aligned with the Global Compact for Refugees.

Also other thematic policy document was elaborated for the fight against trafficking in persons, namely the national action plan against the trafficking in persons and the national referral guidelines, both taking into account the priorities mentioned in the GCM for protection of vulnerable migrants

- d. Can you elaborate on any policies and/or provisions in policies you have developed or incorporated in relation to women migrant workers, child migrants, undocumented migrants or any other category of migrants?

The national migration policy includes all categories. The National refugee policy focuses on refugees and asylum seekers but includes provisions on vulnerabilities and gender. All policy documents related to counter trafficking includes consideration on gender and particularly to the vulnerabilities of women and young girls.

- e. Did you have to adopt new policies or measures as a result of regional migration dynamics, policies or measures?

Not really given that two major policies on migration are currently being reviewed, the National Refugee Policy is yet to be tabled before Cabinet and the National Migration Policy is also yet to be tabled before Management at Internal Affairs Ministry

- f. Did you adopt any institutional reforms to respond to the GCM (did you establish new bodies or mechanisms, or restructure existing ones? Did you change working procedures?)

The government rolled out the Comprehensive refugee response framework (CRRF) which is a coordination platform led by government coordinating various stakeholders including refugees to implement the global compact for refugees (GCR).

The National coordination mechanism on migration is already in existence for all other issues related to migration and is in charge of discussing the implementation of the GCM.

- g. What are the relevant regional, sub-regional and cross-regional strategies, frameworks, and implementation plans? How have you contributed to implementing them? What are the main gaps and challenges you face in implementing them?

Government of Uganda has launched the National Development Plan 3 (NDPIII) which has specific indicators and outputs based on the new migration dynamics and it is the basis upon which the government and implementation partners will be based and assessed.

OPM given its role as a coordinator has brought together stakeholders through meetings and workshops to coordinate issue of migration.

III. Progress on GCM objectives (*should not exceed 2000 words*)

- a. Did your government develop implementation plans for the GCM? If yes, what is the status of implementation of all 23 objectives of the GCM? Please highlight innovative policies or promising practices related to any of the objectives, especially those targeting categories of migrants who are more vulnerable. Where possible, information should be based on statistical as well as qualitative data.

Objective 1 of the GCM aims to collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence –based policies.

The GoU is encouraging close partnership with academia to conduct research on forced displacement and environment. For example Makerere University is running a project about *Developing an integrated framework for addressing Population, Health and Environment for Uganda's refugee and host communities*. The project is investigating livelihood, environment and health interactions among refugee and host communities in Uganda with a view of developing an integrated PHE framework for addressing

population, health and environment issues of Uganda's refugee and host communities. Four of Uganda's refugee settlements are involved namely Bidibidi, Nakivale, Kyangwali and Kiryadongo.

Makerere University is also commencing a project on *Labour Externalization pathways to the Gulf Cooperating Countries (GCCs) and Development Implications for Uganda*.

Makerere University in conjunction with IOM (Uganda) is also commencing another project about Migration, Environment and Climate Change. The project titled *Data for Development: Understanding Environmental Migration in Uganda* is to be conducted in three districts namely Amudat, Bududa and Katakwi. These are areas with pronounced challenges of drought, landslides and floods respectively. One of the objectives of the project is to strengthen program responses and longer-term policy decisions on environmental migration and disaster displacement through the provision of evidence and verifiable data in Uganda

The Ministry of Internal Affairs collects data for the formation of passports relating to profiling citizens of Uganda. This information is collected electronically and it is disaggregated, linked to other Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) portals like National identification and registration authority, Uganda Registration Services Bureau. (The registration of companies is done by URSB, registration of births and death is done by NIRA) There is also data related to foreigners collected at different entry and exit points for migrants. It is also collected electronically. There is an E migration system and this guides inspection of information on people moving in and out of the country.

The Uganda Bureau of statistics carries out periodic surveys and censuses which have data on migrants

It also carries out targeted surveys for example the 2018 survey on migrants and host communities. The most recent was in 2020 but this survey was only conducted in Arua.

Regular migrant and forced migrants are both captured, OPM and UNHCR collect information on forcibly displaced persons.

NIRA registers all adults and gives National Identification numbers, it is disaggregated as well and can be used to inspect and monitor information on Ugandans.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is working on a Ugandan diaspora data base

FAO Uganda is planning to establish a database of Ugandans in the diaspora engaged in agro business.

Objective 4: Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation.

The GOU emphasizes the need for proper identification when practicing efficient migration management and as such, the NIRA database is aimed at forming a back bone to all other government identification databases.

The OPM and the UNHCR jointly house the data base on refugees and asylum seekers in Uganda. The ministry of Internal affairs also collects data on visa applicants, data on work permits which has information on the various professions of foreigners working in the country, their employment and professional practice details, the families of the foreigners working in Uganda, data on applicants for citizenships, data on those renouncing citizenship, border entry information.

Objective 5: Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration

The ministry of internal affairs has opened up regional branches and offices in Gulu, Mbarara and Jinja for Ugandans and other migrants to easily access passports, work permits and such other necessary information.

In order to promote safe orderly and humane migration, the government of Uganda has signed bilateral agreements with several countries where Ugandan migrant workers travel to obtain employment. These include: United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Saudi Arabia. These agreements have mandatory provisions for the protection of the basic human right of Ugandan Migrant workers

The work permits granted to foreigners working in Uganda have a provision for information relating to the family members and dependants of the applicant regardless of whether those family members or dependants are in the country or not. This allows for possible family reunion in the future.

Objective 6: Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work.

Before the GCM, there was in place various frameworks which fall under this framework, these include:

- The East African Common Market protocol
- The Employment Act 2006
- The Refugee Act, 2006
- The Penal Code Act Cap 120
- Pre departure trainings for labour externalization by labour recruitment companies formally accredited by GOU
- MOUs and Bilateral agreements with various countries where large numbers of Uganda are working

Some recent key developments in this area also include:

- The Anti trafficking task force
- Joint border management Committee under the EAC
- National consultations on the EAC labour migration policy.
- Discussions on the minimum wage for all categories of workers in Uganda.

Objective 7 Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration.

- There exists the National child protection working group, led by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social development
- The open door refugee policy
- National coalition on trafficking
- Conducive environment for partnerships with development partners
- Police and other security agencies which help a number of vulnerable
- there is in place a national Protection working group please note that The Protection Coordination organogram comprises an umbrella National Refugee Protection Working Group (NRPWG) in Kampala. Under the NRPWG in linkage with the sub-working groups/sectors/tasks teams for Sexual and Gender based Violence (GBV), Children Protection, and Peaceful Coexistence. Education in Emergencies working group is independent but works closely with the NRPWG. The NRPWG has been critical in facilitating solutions on complex protection issues that require high-level advocacy and intervention at the national level and also continues to guide on strategic response and policy considerations
- Also, OPM has established together with various security actors: the Security screening committees where persons of concern are screened and cleared for the grant of prima facie refugee status. Those that present security concerns or

comprise of the fairly large numbers of refugees who make pendulum movements are forwarded to REC for further assessment and determination.

- This has reduced the backlog of POCs waiting at the reception and transit centers as they are expeditiously handled and transported to the refugee settlements.

Objective 9 strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants

The government through the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Taskforce on the prevention of trafficking of persons launched the National Action plan on prevention of trafficking of persons in July 2020 and also launched the National referral guidelines on the same.

GOU continues to work through strategic partnerships with development partners such as IOM, GIZ, IGAD

Objective 15 provide access to basic services by migrants.

In March 2017, GOU launched the CRRF Uganda and put in place a steering group chaired and co chaired by the Minister of refugees and the minister of state for local government. The CRRF has since developed CRRF action plans and has developed sectoral plans on education, livelihood, health and environment. Steering group put in place in October 2017

The OPM Department of Refugees launched an online Monitoring system which shall be used in respect of the various humanitarian partners and development partners in the refugee response Refugee issues were incorporated in NP3 in 2020

Various NGOs such as Platform for Labour Action, Refugee Law Project continue to provide legal aid and other forms of facilitation for labour migrants working in Uganda.

DCIC under the Ministry of Internal Affairs has decentralized passport printing and work permit services to ensure better access to these services country wide.

Objective 16: Empower Migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion.

- The 1995 Constitution of the republic of Uganda recognizes the right to seek asylum in Uganda, and it does not discriminate against migrants and ensures the respect for cultural rights, the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social development is established to protect, promote all cultures, traditions and customs provided for under the Constitution.
- The Ministry of Gender also houses the equal opportunities Commission which is mandated to eliminate discrimination and inequalities against any individual or group of persons on the ground of sex, age, race, colour, ethnic origin, tribe, birth, creed or religion, health status, social or economic standing, political opinion or disability, and take affirmative action in favor of groups marginalized on the basis of gender, age, disability or any other reason created by history, tradition or custom for the purpose of redressing imbalances which exist against them.
- There are agencies dealing with pre departure and post arrival trainings for migrants on cultures both NGOs and travel agencies.
- IOM is supporting government to develop a curriculum for training migrants under the BMM program on cultural diversity in a commitment to create awareness and reduce discrimination
- Uganda has signed the IGAD migration policy, the AU framework for migration, the EA protocol on free movement of persons, services and goods and these cater for commitment to inclusion of migrant communities
- Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women

Objective 17: Eliminate all form of discrimination and promote evidence based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration

- Uganda's open door refugee policy which grants the protection of refugees and asylum seekers regardless of age, gender and nationality.
- It was noted that there are communities in Uganda which discriminate against Ugandans such as the Indian community, Somali community and the Chinese community; the discussions on the matter recommended the dissemination of information discouraging discrimination.
- Training among law enforcement officers to empower law enforcement officers to avoid discrimination of migrants
- Uganda has laws that criminalize hate speech

Objective 18: Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills qualifications and competences

- Provisions for the equating of qualifications and skills for persons educated abroad seeking to work in Uganda and Vice versa by the ministry of Education and sports. But there was a knowledge gap on whether the migrants benefit from better pay and more career growth due to this service.
- It was recommended that there is need to strengthen private sector partnership in this area
- Uganda has various Bilateral agreements with a number of countries to which we externalize labour.

b. What steps has the government taken to integrate the GCM guiding principles into migration governance frameworks and GCM implementation plans?

Inclusion of the GCM objectives in the elaboration of the migration related policies.

c. What challenges do you face in reaching GCM objectives? What potential risks do you foresee? How could they be addressed? Have you taken any mitigation measures? (please highlight any trends, successes, challenges, emerging issues, including as impacted by regional dynamics).

The lack of data and documentation of other categories migrants other than refugees and their access to basic services the lack of empirical data on how policies on the same treat these categories of persons in respect to the access to health, business opportunities for migrants, access to education remains a big challenge for adequate evidence based national and regional policy making.

Limited capacity for effective execution

There is a challenge in the use and application of data collected because of a gap in the linkage of the data bases

Limited funding to implement the necessary activities.

- d. Please describe any promising practices and lessons learned that may be relevant for other countries in the region (or across regions).

The coordination of all main stakeholders through the NCM

IV. Means of implementation (*should not exceed 500 words*)

- a. How are you mobilizing means of implementation to ensure the achievement of the GCM objectives (for example, allocating budgets, building partnerships, collecting data, and building capacities)?

Through strategic partnerships with IGAD, UNHCR, IOM, world Bank which facilitate many of the activities under the migration Sector.

Academia are involved in collection of primary quantitative and qualitative data on migration dynamics particularly on voluntary as well as involuntary migration. Findings of the subsequent data analysis are expected to contribute to better-evidence policy making on safe and orderly migration.

- b. What challenges do you face in mobilizing means of implementation?

GCM implementation plan has not been elaborated and most of the population are not aware of it and what it means.

- c. What additional resources do you need? Do you have a plan to mobilize them?

Most important resource is technical expertise to train on GCM to ensure its elaboration. Training of Trainers (ToT) for responsible government entities responsible for GCM implementation will equip them with the skills for mobilization and popularizing the GCM among the population.

Fundraising strategy will be included in the GCM implementation plan.

V. Next steps (*should not exceed 500 words*)

- a. Based on the outcomes of this review, what steps are you planning to enhance the implementation of the GCM?

Adapt the GCM implementation plan and strategy.

Also, the GCM should be disseminated and explained to stakeholders to enable them to understand and appreciate their roles and contributions towards achieving the objectives of the GMS in facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration in respect to protection and promotion of migrants' human rights.

- b. How will the results of the review be disseminated? What additional actions will you take in preparation for the first IMRF that will be held in 2022?

Dissemination of the review results should be done at the national and sub regional levels country wide using the existing government structures such as Parliament, Uganda Local government Association Uganda Urban Authorities association, City Councils, District Councils etc Include the academic more.