

Steering Committee Meeting of 15 June 2021: Summary of Decisions

PARTICIPANTS

Chair of the Steering Committee:

- **Antonio Vitorino** (IOM – Director General)

Member States:

- **Alejandro Davalos** (Ecuador - Deputy PR in Geneva)
- **Omar Hilale** (Morocco - Ambassador and PR in New York)
- **Evan P. Garcia** (Philippines - Ambassador and PR in Geneva)

Donors:

- **Simon Manley** (UK - Ambassador and PR in Geneva)
- **Irene Biontino** (Germany, Counsellor Humanitarian Affairs/Migration – PM in Geneva)
- **Worawut Smuthkalin** (Thailand – Minister-Counselor – PM in Geneva)

Stakeholders:

- **Vittoria Zanuso** (Mayors Migrations Council - Executive Director)
- **Felipe González Morales** (Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants).
- **James Suru Boyon** (African Movement of Working Children and Youth - Regional Child Protection and Advocacy Officer)

United Nations:

- **Manuela Tomei** (ILO – Director, Conditions of Work and Equality Department)
- **Christine Loew** (UN Women – Director, Geneva Office)
- **Santino Severonis** (WHO – Director, Health and Migration Programme)

Ex-officio members:

- **Ilaria Carnevali** (Deputy Executive Coordinator – UNDP MPTF Office)
- **Philippe Grandet** (Head, Fund Management Unit)

OBSERVERS (INCOMING STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS)

Member States:

Mohammed Sherif Iddrisu (Ghana)
Zina Al-Salman (Iraq)

Donors:

Jorge Gonzalez-Mayagoitia (Mexico)

UN Network on Migration:

Monica Ferro (UNFPA)
Verena Knaus and Rasika Jayasuriya (UNICEF)

Stakeholders:

Carolina Gottardo (International Detention Coalition)

AGENDA

The Steering Committee had before them the following agenda:

Opening Remarks

15:00–15:10 Opening remarks by the Chair of the Steering Committee

Update on Programme Implementation

15:10–15:15 Presentation by the Chair of the 2020 Annual Report and update on the status of the funded joint programmes, including challenges faced in Tajikistan.

15:15–15:25 Discussion on the possibility to cancel the Tajikistan joint programme and request refund from the participating UN organizations.

Risk Monitoring

15:25–15:30 Presentation by the Chair/Fund Management Unit of the risk monitoring exercise in line with the Fund Risk Management Strategy.

15:30–15:40 Discussion on risk assessment.

Funding Status

15:40-15:50 Overview of funding status by the Executive Coordinator of the UNDP MPTF Office and the Migration MPTF Fund Management Unit.

15:50-15:55 Presentation by the Chair on a suggested strategic approach to fundraising.

15:55-16:20 Discussion on suggested approach and joint implementation.

Joint Programme Documents and Concept Notes

16:20-16:25 Presentation by the Chair/ Fund Management Unit of the recommendation for approval/ rejection of the concept notes and joint programme documents received since the December Steering Committee meeting.

16:25-16:30 Discussion on the recommendations.

Allocation of Resources and Identification of Priorities

16:30-16:35 Presentation by the Chair/ Fund Management Unit of the recommendation for the selection of two additional joint programmes to be financed and for the identification of new priorities, in line with the 2021-2022 Investment Plan.

16:35-16:45 Discussion on proposed allocation of resources and suggested new priorities.

Way Forward

16:45-17:00 Discussion on key next steps.

STEERING COMMITTEE DECISIONS

The following is a summary of decisions reached, all by consensus, under each agenda item.

Programme Implementation

The Migration MPTF Annual Report for 2020 is finalised and publicly available. The report provides an overview of the progress made in 2020, measured against the targets of the Fund's results framework. It also provides analysis on the Fund's alignment to the GCM guiding principles and some key considerations such as thematic/ geographic balance and strengthening of the UN Network on Migration.

A section of the report is dedicated to the on-going joint programmes, providing for each a brief overview of the achievements and challenges. With only approximately two months of implementation, no output or outcome level results were achieved during this reporting period. However, five out of six joint programmes actively initiated implementation.

One issue brought to the attention of the Steering Committee was the fact the joint programme "Empowerment of 'Families left behind' for improved Migration Outcomes in Khatlon" awaited for over seven months the green light from the Tajik government to initiate implementation. This was resolved with the issuance of a Note Verbale by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 14 June 2021, providing formal authorization to start implementation of the joint programme. The Steering Committee took note of the unfortunate delay but, in light of the positive development, it decided to allow for an immediate start of the joint programme and granted a 7 months no-cost extension .

Risk Monitoring

In December 2020, the Steering Committee adopted the Fund's Risk Management Strategy, with the main element of this strategy being close monitoring of the risks and the continued assessment of the effectiveness of treatment measures. As assigned by the Steering Committee, the Fund Management Unit (FMU), with inputs from the Technical Group, monitored and assessed the risks and treatment measures.

Overall, the risk monitoring exercise confirmed that adequate treatment measures are in place for most of the risk that were previously identified but highlights the need for accrued vigilance in a number of areas where the risk has already materialized or is expected to increase. Two specific decisions were made relating to an addition of a risk driver and recognition of a significant risk related to resource mobilization:

- Given the joint programme implementation delays experienced by Tajikistan, it was decided that a risk driver related to a change in government willingness or readiness to implement a funded joint programme, will be added. In addition to mitigation measures already implemented (e.g. the



endorsement of the submission by a high-level government official, constant monitoring by the FMU and timely alert to the Steering Committee), it was decided to add a measure for the FMU to recommend, on a case by case basis, the most appropriate way to seek confirmation of the national government readiness prior to transfer of funds.

- The risk of “insufficient donor support” was identified as requiring additional measures because the current ones do not appear sufficient to effectively address the risk. The following agenda item analysed the funding situation and discussed possible actions to remedy the issue.

Funding Status

The limited global visibility of the Fund despite its establishment being called for by the UN General Assembly and the resource mobilization challenges in the context of the COVID-19 were noted. Encouraging signs to build upon, such as the strong commitment of existing donors and support from the UN Network on Migration and champion countries, were also recognised.

The UNDP MPTF Office (Administrative Agent of the Migration MPTF) shared some key considerations on the global trends around pooled funding, stressing its continued relevance in the context of the Funding Compact and the sustained growth in volume of contributions to joint funding mechanisms. The UNDP MPTF Office also highlighted what they considered two priorities for the Migration MPTF resource mobilization: further diversifying the donor base and identifying a regular high-visibility forum where to anchor the fundraising efforts.

While recognizing other opportunities (e.g. UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties /COP26), the Steering Committee agreed that the Fund would seize the opportunity of the upcoming International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) to increase its visibility. As the establishment of the Fund was called for by the GCM itself, it was noted that it is logical and legitimate that its role is highlighted at the IMRF itself and throughout the preparation process. It was thus agreed to design a fundraising campaign towards the IMRF and communicate on funding targets in this context.

Joint Programme Documents and Concept Notes

Joint Programme Documents

The Fund prioritized 10 joint programmes (2 per each thematic area), in line with the Investment Plan approved at the December 2020 Steering Committee meeting. Three priority joint programmes submitted in September 2020 by Indonesia, Ethiopia and Morocco have already been approved; and 7 new joint programme documents were submitted for review and consideration by this Steering Committee meeting.

All 7 joint programme documents were received in full. Upon confirmation of eligibility, adherence to the GCM principles, and quality assessment, the following six joint programmes were approved:



Approved Priority Joint Programmes					
Thematic Area	Country, Countries, or Region	Region /Sub-Region	Joint Programme Title	Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs)	Budget (USD)
1	Serbia	Europe / Europe	Promoting evidence-based migration governance for maximizing development potential of migration	IOM, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF	2,000,000
2	Trinidad and Tobago	Americas / Caribbean	Access, Support, Cooperation (ASC) Programme: A Collaborative Approach to Support Survivors of Human Trafficking	IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF	2,600,000
3	Afghanistan	Asia / South Asia	Managing Health Risks linked to Migration in Afghanistan: Operationalization of International Health Regulations	IOM, WHO	2,900,000
4	Regional Pacific	Asia / Pacific	Labour Mobility for Sustainable Development and Climate Resilience in the Pacific	ILO, IOM	1,850,000
4	Ecuador	Americas / South America	Socio-economic integration of migrants and host communities focused on national and local governments and innovation projects	IOM, UN Women, UNDP	1,500,000
5	Peru	Americas / South America	Strengthening socioeconomic inclusion and access to comprehensive quality healthcare and protection of refugees and migrants and receiving communities in the COVID-19 context in the district of San Juan de Lurigancho-SJL, Lima, Peru	ILO, IOM, UNFPA, WHO	2,053,567

The Steering Committee decided not to approve the Uganda joint programme (“Strengthening counter trafficking through enhanced protection systems -STEPS” submitted by IOM. UNICEF, UN Women and OHCHR) submission under thematic area 2, due to quality and eligibility concerns.



Concept Notes

Seven new concept notes were received ahead of the meeting, bringing the total of submissions to 97 from 67 different countries and regions, to date. Following the eligibility and quality review, the following three concept notes were included in the pipeline of joint programmes.

Concept Notes approved for inclusion in the Pipeline of Joint Programmes				
Thematic Area	Country	Region /Sub-Region	Joint Programme Title	PUNOs
2	Gambia	Africa / West and Central Africa	Addressing the drivers and causes of migration-related vulnerabilities among border communities along the Trans-Gambia transport corridor	IOM, ITC, UNDP, UNICEF
3	Argentina	Americas / South America	Strengthening of border management and capacities of local communities to prevent human trafficking and migrant smuggling with a rights-based approach and gender and childhood perspective	IOM, UN Women, UNHCR, UNICEF
4	Mali	Africa / West and Central Africa	Initiative for Diaspora Engagement and Investment in Mali's Regions (INEDIT Mali)	IOM, UNCDF, UNIDO

For among those that were not selected, the Steering Committee encourages resubmission or new submissions, in particular from the MENA region as it is a region that is currently under-represented in the pipeline.

Allocation of Resources and Identification of Priorities

Allocation of Resources

Taking into consideration the volume of resources available, the donor earmarking, and thematic balance, it was agreed to allocate resources to the following two joint programmes which were amongst the approved priority joint programmes.



Allocation of Resources to Joint Programmes					
Thematic Area	Country, Countries, or Region	Region /Sub-Region	Joint Programme Title	PUNOs	Budget (USD)
2	Trinidad and Tobago	Americas / Caribbean	Access, Support, Cooperation (ASC) Programme: A Collaborative Approach to Support Survivors of Human Trafficking	IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF	2,600,000
3	Afghanistan	Asia / South Asia	Managing Health Risks linked to Migration in Afghanistan: Operationalization of International Health Regulations	IOM, WHO	2,900,000

The Steering Committee made one recommendation to the Trinidad and Tobago joint programme to strengthen an inclusive human rights approach during implementation, which will be conveyed to the submitting team.

Neither the Caribbean nor South Asia have benefited from the Migration MPTF support to date, and by allocating resources to Trinidad and Tobago and Afghanistan, the Steering Committee made a significant step towards achieving its objective of financing at least one joint programme in each sub-region, without compromising on quality or thematic balance. MENA remains the only region/sub-region yet to have a joint programme funded.

It was recognised that this decision also contributes to the overall 360-degree approach of the Fund by ensuring thematic balance: two joint programmes are now being funded under each thematic area, with the exception of thematic area 1 (which currently has only one funded joint programme).

Identification of New Priorities

In line with the approach outlined in the 2021-2022 Investment Plan and following the decision to fund two priority joint programmes (Trinidad and Tobago under thematic area 2 and Afghanistan under thematic area 3) and not to approve one joint programme document (Uganda under thematic area 2), three new priority joint programmes needed to be identified from within the pipeline to maintain two priority joint programmes under each thematic area (i.e. ten in total). The following three were selected:

- “Strengthen the government capacities in protection and reintegration of migrant persons and their families for a holistic approach with a human rights focus” in El Salvador.
- “Addressing the drivers and causes of migration-related vulnerabilities among border communities along the Trans-Gambia transport corridor” in Gambia.
- “Addressing irregular migration and combatting transnational crime in human trafficking along maritime and land routes from Togo to Gabon” in Togo and Gabon.



Overall, the ten priority joint programmes and their respective status in the approval process are summarised below:

Priority Joint Programmes						
Thematic Area	Country, Countries	Region /Sub-Region	Joint Programme Title	PUNOs	Budget (USD)	Status of Joint Programme document
1	Indonesia	Asia / East and Southeast Asia	Migration Governance for Sustainable Development in Indonesia	IOM, UNDP, UN Women	1,700,000	Approved
1	Serbia	Europe / Europe	Promoting evidence-based migration governance for maximizing development potential of migration	IOM, UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR	2,000,000	Approved
2	El Salvador	Americas / Central and North America	Strengthen the government capacities in protection and reintegration of migrant persons and their families for a holistic approach with a human rights focus	IOM, WFP and UNFPA	3,400,000	Requested
2	Gambia	Africa / West and Central Africa	Addressing the drivers and causes of migration-related vulnerabilities among border communities along the Trans-Gambia transport corridor	ITC, IOM, UNDP and UNICEF	2,350,000	Requested
3	Ethiopia	Africa / East Africa	Provision of essential services, protection and economic empowerment to support the inclusion and integration of migrant street children, youths, and adolescents in Addis Ababa	ILO, UN Habitat, WHO	1,500,000	Approved
3	Gabon-Togo	Africa / West and Central Africa	Addressing irregular migration and combatting transnational crime in human trafficking along maritime and land routes from Togo to Gabon	UNODC, UNICEF	2,200,000	Requested
4	Regional Pacific	Asia / Pacific	Labour Mobility for Sustainable Development and Climate Resilience in the Pacific	ILO, IOM	1,850,000	Approved

Priority Joint Programmes						
Thematic Area	Country, Countries	Region /Sub-Region	Joint Programme Title	PUNOs	Budget (USD)	Status of Joint Programme document
4	Ecuador	Americas / South America	Socio-economic integration of migrants and host communities focused on national and local governments and innovation projects	IOM, UN Women, UNDP	1,500,000	Approved
5	Morocco	MENA / MENA	Making Migration Work for All: Improved Social Cohesion and fair access to services for migrants in Morocco	IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF	2,000,000	Approved
5	Peru	Americas / South America	Strengthening socioeconomic inclusion and access to comprehensive quality healthcare and protection of refugees and migrants and receiving communities in the COVID-19 context in the district of San Juan de Lurigancho-SJL, Lima, Peru	ILO, IOM, UNFPA, WHO	2,053,567	Approved



Way Forward

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for mid-December 2021. In line with the Terms of Reference and the Operations Manual, half of the Steering Committee members will be rotating as of July 2021. The 6 members leaving the Steering Committee are:

- Member States: Ecuador, Morocco
- Donors: Thailand
- Stakeholders: African Movement of Working Children and Youth
- United Nations: ILO, UN Women

In place of the above members, the following will be incoming:

- Member States: Ghana, Iraq
- Donors: Mexico
- Stakeholders: International Detention Coalition
- United Nations: UNFPA, UNICEF

The FMU will make necessary efforts to ensure that all the incoming members are fully on-board and are able to contribute effectively to the deliberations of the Committee.

During the time prior to the next meeting, the top priority for the Fund will be to strengthen fundraising efforts both by continuing and intensifying the regular advocacy work and by drawing a roadmap with specific deliverables and timelines for joint implementation by partners in the lead-up to the IMRF. The Steering Committee has tasked the FMU to draft this roadmap, with inputs from the Technical Group.

In addition to the ongoing joint programme support and monitoring, the Steering Committee requests the FMU to engage with the MENA region to encourage submission of concept notes with a specific focus on Iraq and Kuwait whose recent submissions were not approved.

Lastly, the FMU will facilitate the organization of the annual Consultative Forum in early December.