

7th Steering Committee Meeting of 29 June 2022

Summary of Decisions

PARTICIPANTS

Chair of the Steering Committee:

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

Member States:

- **Akosua Dedaa Okyere-Badoo** (Chargée d’Affaires, Permanent Mission of Ghana in Geneva)
- **Obay N. Allah Khallil AL-TALL** (Iraq - Deputy Permanent Representative in Geneva)
- **Evan P. Garcia** (Philippines - Ambassador and PR in Geneva)

Donors:

- **Katharina Stasch** (Germany - Ambassador and PR in Geneva)
- **Jorge Adalberto González Mayagoitia** (Mexico – First secretary, Permanent Mission of Mexico)
- **Greg Houston** (UK – Head of Migration Department, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office)

Stakeholders:

- **Vittoria Zanuso** (Mayors Migrations Council - Executive Director)
- **Felipe González Morales** (Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants)
- **Carolina Gottardo** (International Detention Coalition – Executive Director)

United Nations:

- **Monica Ferro** (UNFPA – Director, Geneva Office)
- **Verena Knaus** (UNICEF - Global Lead, Migration and Displacement)
- **Santino Severoni** (WHO – Director, Health and Migration Programme)

Ex-officio members:

- **Jennifer Topping** (UNDP MPTF Office - Executive Coordinator)
- **Philippe Grandet** (Migration MPTF Fund Management Unit - Head)

AGENDA

The Steering Committee had before them the following agenda:

15:00 – 15:10 OPENING REMARKS

- Opening remarks by the Chair of the Steering Committee

15:10 – 15:20 UPDATE ON FUNDING STATUS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

- Overview of funding status by the Executive Coordinator of the UNDP MPTF Office
- Presentation by the Chair/Fund Management Unit of the 2021 Annual Report and update on the use of the contributions received for the GCM Follow-Up and Review Window and the status of the funded joint programmes.

15:20 – 16:00 IMPLICATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION REVIEW FORUM

- Presentation by the Chair of the possible implications of the International Migration Review Forum for the Fund
- Discussion on possible adjustments to strategic priorities and fundraising strategy based on the outcome of the International Migration Review Forum

16:00 – 16:15 AFGHANISTAN JOINT PROGRAMME

- Discussion on the revision request submitted by Afghanistan

16:15 – 16:25 RISK MONITORING

- Presentation by the Chair of the risk monitoring exercise in line with the Fund Risk Management Strategy

16:25 – 16:40 PROGRAMMATIC MATTERS: SELECTIONS, FUNDING ALLOCATION, PRIORITIES AND REVISIONS

- Presentation by the Fund Management Unit for endorsement of the recommendation made by the Technical Group for approval/rejection of the concept notes and joint programme documents received since the June Steering Committee meeting, the selection of additional joint programmes to be financed, the identification of new priorities and revisions to joint programmes and the operations manual.

16:40 – 16:50 EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF THE FUND

- Presentation by the Chair of the proposed scope and budget of an external evaluation of the Fund

16:50 – 17:00 WAY FORWARD

- Discussion on key next steps

STEERING COMMITTEE DECISIONS

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

Update on Funding Status and Programme Implementation

Three years since it was officially launched in July 2019, the Fund is in full swing:

2021 Reporting: The 2021 Annual Report of the Fund was issued early this year to be available at the International Migration Review Forum, and includes a full section on the progress made on the twelve diverse joint programmes being implemented across the globe. It also analyses the performance of the Fund with regards to the alignment to the guiding principles of the GCM, the thematic balance, the geographic diversity as well as its contribution to strengthening UN coherence.

With 119 concept notes received to date, the demand for the Fund remains high and the report confirms that the Fund is performing well. Yet, despite this strong performance, the challenge of mobilizing resources remains. Among the many indicators of the Fund results framework, the only targets that have not been reached relate to funding.

Overview of Funding Status: Pooled funding mechanisms continue to be relevant in the global policy environment, and in the context of UN reform. Overall contributions to pooled funds continue to grow, and there is general agreement on the need to keep investing in inter-agency pooled funds to promote joint action and enable integrated responses to the 2030 Agenda.

Within this context, the Migration MPTF is a relevant financing instrument in terms of scope, design and structure. It is fit for purpose as it is translating the vision of the Global Compact, there is strong demonstrated demand, and its design and structure are up to standards, as specifically requested in the context of the Funding Compact. On the programming side, approximately 97% of all available funding has been allocated, which is a positive indicator of operational performance.

From a financial perspective, the Fund is healthy and viable. However, it continues below potential both for its ambition and mandate (a Fund called for by a UN General Assembly resolution). Even with diversification of donors (several non-traditional donors and the private sector), the Fund needs to increase the donor base as it is currently heavily dependent on major contributors. A promising indication is the strengthened visibility and momentum the Fund gained at the recent International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), including pledges for financial support from Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Denmark, France and Luxembourg.

GCM Follow-Up and Review Window: Two contributions earmarked to the GCM Follow-up and Review Window amounting to USD 165,000 in total were received from a private sector entity (the Robert Bosch foundation) and a faith-based organization (the United Methodist Committee on Relief). These funds enabled the participation of 50 stakeholder representatives to the IMRF.

Implications Of the International Migration Review Forum

While noting that the first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) reaffirmed emphatically the important role that the Migration MPTF should play in supporting the implementation of the Global Compact, the Steering Committee reflected on adjustments required to further strengthen the alignment with the priorities identified by Member States in the Progress Declaration.

First, the committee confirmed that, as agreed at the December 2021 meeting, addressing climate change challenges and improving migrants' access to essential health care services are areas that deserve specific attention. It was also noted that the Fund could actively contribute to preventing loss of life in transit by allowing joint programmes to have a project component addressing humanitarian needs of migrants in distress as well as by encouraging submissions aiming at strengthening international cooperation on missing migrants and building national capacities to provide assistance.

Importantly, the Steering Committee committed to give special attention to the child-sensitivity and whole-of-society guiding principles by 1) developing a child-sensitivity marker under the leadership of UNICEF, 2) strengthening the monitoring of joint programme alignment with the whole-of society principle during the implementation phase, 3) developing Migration MPTF guidelines on effective and meaningful engagement with civil society partners, and 4) further exploring financing modalities for non-UN entities to access funding.

Finally, in light of the reaffirmation of the role of the Fund by Member States, the Fund's duration is extended through the second IMRF in 2026. If the Fund is not further extended beyond IMRF 2026, the last date to transfer funds to the Participating UN Organizations will be 30 June 2026. Completion of all operational activities will be 31 December 2026. The Terms of Reference of the Fund will be amended to reflect these new dates.

The reflection on the implication of the IMRF will continue in the months to come and, together with the conclusion of the external evaluation (see below), they will guide the development of the next Migration MPTF Investment Plan to be adopted at the December 2022 Steering Committee meeting, as the current one (2021-2022) will come to an end.

Afghanistan Joint Programme

The Steering Committee did not approve the revision request submitted by WHO and IOM for the joint programme entitled "Managing Health Risks linked to Migration in Afghanistan: Operationalization of International Health Regulations", which was put on hold shortly after the start of implementation due to the dramatic change in the country's political and security context. The decision was taken on the ground that national ownership, a guiding principle of the GCM that must remain a key eligibility criteria for the Fund, cannot be achieved under the current circumstances. The Steering Committee was also concerned that the results originally expected could not be fully achieved through the proposed revision.



Accordingly, the Steering Committee decided to terminate the joint programme with immediate effect and instructed the Fund Management Unit and the Administrative Agent to initiate the refund process for all unspent balance. It was noted however that the refund will not be integral as USD 52,975 was already reported spent by the participating UN organizations as of 31 December 2021 and some additional expenditures may have been incurred since.

The impact of this decision on the thematic and geographic balance will be taken into account for future allocation decisions. The need to include as soon as possible a health-focused joint programme to the funded portfolio was also highlighted.

Finally, the Steering Committee emphasized that this decision does not imply that the Fund will not support programming in the context of fragile states, nor will it prevent future allocation decisions in favour of Afghanistan if/when all GCM guiding principles can be abided by.

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 all but one of the identified risks related to "insufficient donor support". It was agreed that at this point, while it remains a risk that requires continued vigilance, no change in the risk treatment measures is necessary.

However, another point of concern was raised related to significant change in national and/or regional political, economic and/or security context, prompted by the experience of Afghanistan. The Steering Committee agreed to add a new risk driver and corresponding treatment measures.

Programmatic Matters: Selections, Funding allocations, Priorities and Revisions

Programme Selections

Joint Programme Documents

The Fund prioritized 11 joint programmes (2 per each thematic area plus one additional for thematic area 3), in line with the Investment Plan approved at the December 2020 Steering Committee meeting. Seven priority joint programmes previously submitted by Serbia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gabon-Togo, Regional



Pacific, Morocco, and Peru have already been approved; and 4 new joint programme documents were submitted for review and consideration by this Steering Committee meeting.

All 4 joint programme documents were received in full. Upon confirmation of eligibility, adherence to the GCM principles, and quality assessment, all four joint programmes were approved:

Approved Priority Joint Programmes					
Thematic Area	Country	Region /Sub-Region	Joint Programme Title	Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs)	Budget (USD)
1	Nigeria	Africa / West and Central Africa	Strengthening Facts-Based and Data-Driven Migration Governance and Management in Nigeria	IOM, UNODC	2,000,000
2	Zimbabwe	Africa / Southern Africa	Strengthening Protection, Safety and Wellbeing of Unaccompanied Minors and Separated Children in Zimbabwe	IOM, UNICEF	2,483,375
3	Costa Rica	Americas / Central and North America	Strengthening Coordination and Exchange of Information between Law Enforcement in Prosecution of Smuggling of Migrants and Human Trafficking Transnational Crimes	IOM, UNODC, UN Women	2,300,000
4	Republic of Moldova	Europe	Leveraging the positive impact of migration on Moldova's development through improved policy evidence and better engaged diaspora	IOM, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO	2,000,000

Concept Notes

Six new concept notes were received ahead of the meeting, bringing the total of submissions to 119 from 84 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	Chad	Asia/ West and	Supporting Better Transhumance Governance in Chad	IOM, UNICEF, OHCHR

Concept Notes approved for inclusion in the Pipeline of Joint Programmes				
Thematic Area	Country	Region /Sub-Region	Joint Programme Title	PUNOs
		Central Africa		
2	MENA: Djibouti, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Libya	MENA	Initiative to support appropriate care and reception models for unaccompanied migrant children	UNICEF, IOM
3	Colombia	Americas/ South America	Integrated, secure and human rights-based border management: Addressing the risks and vulnerabilities associated with irregular migration especially Trafficking in Persons (TiP) and Smuggling of Migrants (SoM)	IOM, UNODC, UNICEF

Among those that were not selected, the Steering Committee expects the Fund Management Unit to provide support to the Ghana-Togo team to prepare a successful resubmission of their concept note related to strengthening climate resilience and social cohesion of border communities.

Fund Allocations

Taking into consideration the volume of resources available, the donor earmarking, and thematic balance, it was agreed to allocate resources to one joint programme which was 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)
4	Regional Pacific (Fiji, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu)	Asia / Pacific	Labour mobility for sustainable development and climate resilience in the Pacific	ILO, IOM	1,850,000

The selection is in line with the December 2021 Steering Committee recommendation to strengthen the Fund's climate change portfolio, and will also ensure geographic diversity as the first programme funded in the Pacific sub-region.

Identification of New Priority

In line with the approach outlined in the 2021-2022 Investment Plan and following the decision to fund one priority joint programme (Regional Pacific under thematic area 4), one new priority joint programme



needed to be identified from within the pipeline to maintain two priority joint programmes under this thematic area.

The Steering Committee selected the concept note from Nepal titled “Strengthening Government Capacity to ensure safe, orderly and regular Migration (GCM)” submitted by IOM, ILO, UNODC and UN Women. The project will provide UN-wide support to the Government, strengthening its capacity at central and provincial levels to enhance migration governance.

Overall, the eleven 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	Nigeria	Africa/ West and Central Africa	Strengthening Fact-Based and Data-Driven Migration Governance and Management in Nigeria	IOM, UNODC	2,000,000	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, UNFPA	3,400,000	Approved
2	Zimbabwe	Africa/ Southern Africa	Strengthening Protection, Safety and Wellbeing Of Unaccompanied Minors And Separated Children	IOM, UNICEF	2,483,375	Approved
3	Costa Rica	Americas/ Central and North America	Costa Rica: Strengthening Coordination and Exchange of Information between Law Enforcement in Prosecution of Smuggling of Migrants and Human Trafficking Transnational Crimes	IOM, UNODC, UN Women	2,300,000	Approved
3	Ethiopia	Africa / East Africa	Provision of essential services, protection and economic empowerment to support the inclusion and integration of	ILO, UN Habitat, WHO	1,500,000	Approved

Priority Joint Programmes						
Thematic Area	Country, Countries	Region /Sub-Region	Joint Programme Title	PUNOs	Budget (USD)	Status of Joint Programme document
			migrant street children, youths, and adolescents in Addis Ababa			
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	Approved
4	Nepal	Asia / South Asia	Strengthening Government Capacity to ensure safe, orderly and regular Migration (GCM)”	IOM, ILO, UNODC, UN Women	2,000,000	Requested
4	Republic of Moldova	Europe/ Europe	Leveraging the positive impact of migration on Moldova’s development through improved policy evidence and better engaged diaspora	IOM, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO	2,000,000	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

Joint Programme Revisions

Three funded joint programmes requested revisions that required Steering Committee approval because variations between budget categories exceeded 20% even if the total budget remained unchanged, and/or the duration will be extended (at no cost). The three joint programmes were:



- Thematic Area 4 joint programme in the IGAD Region requests for a three-months no-cost extension plus minor budget revisions to conduct the final end-of-project evaluation.
- Thematic Area 4 joint programme in the Philippines requests for a 6-months no-cost-extension plus minor budget revisions to conduct the final end-of-project evaluation.
- Thematic Area 5 joint programme in South Africa requests for a 9-months no-cost-extension plus minor budget revisions.

As the revision requests did not affect the expected results and were fully justified to adjust to the context of the pandemic, changes in government mechanisms, and to effectively conduct the end-of-project evaluations, revision requests from the Philippines and Regional IGAD were approved. For the South Africa revision request, as further clarification was needed, authority to approve was delegated to the Fund Management Unit.

Operations Manual Revisions

A number of relatively minor revisions to the Operations Manual, mostly to the templates in the Annex, were approved. These relate to strengthening the role of Resident Coordinators, strengthening monitoring of engagements with local governments and civil society partners, ensuring alignment to IMRF pledges and voluntary national reviews and standardizing extension requests for the purpose of final joint programme evaluations.

External Evaluation of the Fund

In order to feed into the preparation process on the 2022-2023 Investment Plan and in line with good practice of UN pooled funding instruments, the Steering Committee decided to commission an external evaluation of the Migration MPTF. As each of the joint programmes funded by the Migration MPTF will be subject to their own independent evaluation upon completion, the focus of the proposed evaluation will not be on the results delivered by the joint programmes on the ground but on the overall functioning of the Fund itself. The specific objectives outlined in the Terms of Reference approved by the Steering Committee would be to assess the sustainability of the Fund, its governance structure, its alignment with the GCM guiding principles, the quality and diversity of the overall programme portfolio and the contribution the Fund makes to strengthening partnerships in the field of migration.

To support the evaluation, a Reference Group will be established. The exact composition of the Reference Group will be determined by 15 September 2022 at the latest and it will comprise the Fund Management Unit and current and former members of the Steering Committee who will express their interest and availability.

The cost of the evaluation will be determined upon completion of a competitive process, but it was provisionally estimated at USD 60,000. In order for the FMU to contract the evaluator(s), a corresponding provision was added to the Fund Management Unit direct cost budget approved in December, bringing the total approved cost to USD 266,162.

Way Forward

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for mid-December 2022. In line with the Terms of Reference and the Operations Manual, half of the Steering Committee members will be rotating as of July 2022. The 6 members leaving the Steering Committee are:

- Countries of origin, transit and destination: Philippines
- Donors: Germany, UK
- Stakeholders: Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants; and Mayors Migration Council
- United Nations: WHO

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

- Countries of origin, transit and destination: Bangladesh
- Donors: Denmark, France
- Stakeholders: Stella Opoku Owusu from the African Foundation for Development; and Ghada Hammouda from the International Organization of Employers
- United Nations: FAO

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.

In addition to the regular tasks such as organizing the Consultative Forum and providing support to the teams implementing joint programmes or submitting concept notes and joint programme documents, the Steering Committee requested the Fund Management Unit to undertake the following tasks:

- In collaboration with UNICEF, develop a child sensitivity marker;
- In collaboration with Steering Committee representatives of the UN Network on Migration, IDC and other stakeholders, and drawing on the expertise of the Network secretariat, develop guidelines on meaningful engagement of civil society and other stakeholders;
- Commission an external evaluation, establish a Reference Group and coordinate the feedback to the evaluators as well as the management response;
- Draft the 2023-2024 Investment Plan.

Lastly, a top priority for the Steering Committee is and will remain fundraising. Starting with issuing a joint appeal, continued effort and engagement will be strengthened.