



UN Migration Network for Cameroon – Network Workplan 2023-24 Priorities

Introduction

The United Nations Network on Migration for Cameroon (Network) seeks to provide system-wide support to the Government of Cameroon and all relevant stakeholders in the implementation, follow-up and review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

The workplan presented here benefits from the ongoing work of the United Nations in Cameroon to support improvements in the governance of Migration, so far through *ad hoc* meetings of the network and the direct outcomes of a series of national consultations with government actors, civil society, private sector, local communes and United Nations agencies in the run up to the first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) that took place in May 2022.

As the Network undertakes these priorities over the course of 2023-2024, it will continue to remain adaptable to changing priorities and needs.

Overview

The Network has made progress since its launching in early 2020, with the phase of establishing itself largely completed. The focus on GCM implementation and support to the Government of Cameroon and partners following the pledges made at the IMRF must now be intensified.

Key priorities in the coming period will be on ensuring stronger action to the Government of Cameroon and strengthening support to a wide range of actors both at the national and regional levels to implement the GCM through whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches. At all levels, the Network will ensure complementarity and consistency across its work, ensuring that all of its objectives are approached in a comprehensive manner with a prioritization for multi-agency initiatives that harness the added value of respective agencies' technical capacities and mandates.

This will include responding, with the usage of the Global Network Secretariat's Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) to support some specific pledges the government has made through its participation in the 2022 IMRF. It will also include continuing to make considerable progress to ensure meaningful engagement with a wide number of stakeholders in the Network, furthering efforts to deepening and broadening this interaction with all relevant stakeholders at national, regional and local levels. The institution of planning regular meetings with the Network as a whole and stakeholders will be important: to enrich discussions that will serve to identify and modify priorities, ensure full buy-in, and increase transparency and accountability.

Accountability and inclusion will be enhanced through a combination of the regular meetings (for both the Network and stakeholders); having a clear calendar of actions against which the Network can be



assessed in the follow up to the IMRF and GCM regional review;¹ and Network briefings to the diplomatic presence in Cameroon. Implementation of decisions will be monitored by the Network Secretariat.

Core Priorities

A number of core priorities are included in this workplan and reflect on new activities or deliverables that have already been identified through the networks previous meetings and the key findings of the IMRF.

The Network will continue to emphasize support and a two-way dialogue for strengthening national level United Nations migration coordination mechanisms and country-level implementation of the GCM, including through mainstreaming the GCM in individual agency workplans and the communes' local development plans.

This will largely involve the following elements which are weaved throughout the Network workplan:

- Working on the [champion initiative](#)² with UN agencies, civil society and experts to support the Government of Cameroon to adhere to this initiative and further pilot tools and resources developed by the Network to ensure the concrete application and sustainability of migration policy;
- Coordinating with the Resident Coordinator's Office on the Common Country Analyses (CCA) and rollout of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) with the Government of Cameroon, to ensure migration and the GCM are effectively integrated into development planning;
- Fostering the discussion and analysis of the challenges and opportunities for GCM implementation posed by the ongoing shifts in migration and mobility in Cameroon;
- Fostering the continuous engagement of civil society and stakeholder partners and migrant constituencies, including through the organization of ad-hoc events and discussion spaces on thematic priorities to be identified in line with existing and emerging concerns;
- Improving the wide consultation mechanism with stakeholders in the run-up of the regional and international reviews, including through strong research and analysis on migration;
- Ensuring the Migration MPTF becomes a key instrument by which to bolster GCM implementation and impact in Cameroon, including through efforts to diversify the donor base and mobilize additional resources;
- Supporting the Government of Cameroon and stakeholders in the launching of targeted initiatives for the implementation of specific pledges made through the 2022 IMRF; and
- Ensuring a unified Network voice on the GCM.

¹ <https://www.uneca.org/events/north-africa%2C-poverty%2C-inequality-and-social-policy%2C-gender-equality-and-the-empowerment-of>

² Champion countries ('champions') are being identified in order to participate in a piloting process for some of the related activities envisioned in the Network's workplan and to represent a migration narrative drawing from the values and principles of the GCM.



Thematic Priorities

In addition, a number of thematic priorities for the Network's focus are identified in response to the key needs for improving migration Governance in Cameroon, as well as the key priority pledges made by the Government of Cameroon during the first IMRF in May 2022. Each of the thematic priorities of this workplan also are drawn from the five thematic areas adopted by the [Global-level Executive Committee](#) and the [Migration MPTF](#) to ensure the international frameworks of engagement of UN Migration-related programming.

These thematic objectives are national migration policy; migration data and research; responses for counter trafficking and smuggling; alternatives to detention; regular pathways for migrants in vulnerable situations; bilateral labour migration agreements; and supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21) and GCM commitments on climate change and migration.

In addressing these thematic priorities, the emphasis will remain on the identification of key deliverables in collaboration with Government partners and other stakeholders.

The Network's 2023 – 2024 workplan outlines overall priorities, each with a number of activities to be achieved, and a strong emphasis on support to stakeholders at all levels. The workplan allows for space to decide on the best working methods to achieve those objectives, including through the establishment of new working groups or other models as best suited.

Cross-cutting issues

Discussions with Network members and stakeholder partners have highlighted the importance of fostering integration of the GCM guiding principles such as on addressing gender responsiveness, sustainable development, social inclusion, human rights and the related commitment to eliminate all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and related intolerance. However, the need to address discrimination based on gender, access to information, and ethnicity or language have repeatedly been raised as requiring concrete and immediate integration into the work of the Network.

The Network is committed to the effective integration of these into all that it does, central to the pursuit of the GCM's guiding principles and noting that these issues cannot be addressed in isolation. Employing an intersectional lens in the implementation of this workplan will help ensure that issues pertaining to gender and the elimination of all forms of discrimination, including, racism, xenophobia and intolerance, are effectively and systematically covered at all levels.

Reflecting their cross-cutting nature and the desire to avoid overly cumbersome additional structures, some reflection is required as to how best to pursue this goal. Key elements will be needed to ensure broad stakeholder engagement/leadership and developing a clear articulation of how the Network might ensure a targeted approach, one that can clearly demonstrate impact.



The Network will begin to undertake work on non-discrimination focused on addressing these cross-cutting issues with a forward view to incorporating a number of the other GCM guiding principles through other avenues including data production on migration issues.

CORE PRIORITIES

Core Priority 1: The Network knowledge management and communications tools are functioning and provide a one-stop knowledge shop on migration in Cameroon.

Activities:

1. Organize a discussion series under the Network that brings together experts, Network members, government partners and stakeholders around selected GCM objectives and guiding principles.
2. Develop dedicated, interactive spaces for Network tools and guidance to seek feedback and ensure their sustainability.
3. Develop dedicated communication practices that regularly provide updates on the implementation of pledges within the 2022 IMRF.
4. Engage media, including traditional (radio urban and community, TV, print) and new media (social media platforms), in the protection and promotion of migrants' rights.

Core Priority 2: Stronger UN system for GCM implementation

Activities:

1. Finalize and pilot a training for the UNCT in Cameroon to incorporate GCM into relevant development frameworks and specific agency strategies (CCAs, UNSDCF, VNRs, UNCT Joint Work Plans (JWPs), amongst others).
2. Develop pilot tools and guidance for the UNCT in Cameroon to ensure the inclusion of migration considerations in development planning and budgeting, Common Country Analysis documents, UNSDCF, and other relevant planning frameworks.

Core Priority 3: Speaking with One Voice

Activities:

1. Development of joint Network statements on the occasion of key events (International Women day, for instance).
2. Development of Network statements responding to or anticipating acute developments in a timely fashion.
3. Identification of situations where a Network statement is of added value and develop policy and operational recommendations in such situations including on workstream areas identified in the workplan.
4. Preparation of shared talking points, position papers, fact sheets and infographics, press releases or op-eds, as appropriate. Joint Network communications should showcase examples of GCM implementation at national levels, highlighting solutions, achievements and results, including the role of the United Nations in supporting GCM implementation in Cameroon.



THEMATIC OBJECTIVES

Thematic Objective 1: Forward-thinking migration policy to address the issues and challenges of today and tomorrow

Activities:

1. Support the Government of Cameroon in the elaboration, development and finalization of the country's first National Migration Policy, which will set the course on migration governance in Cameroon, to mainstream the management of reintegration and integration processes in all areas of government work in line with the country's existing strategies and international commitments (National Development Strategy 2030, International Dialogue on Migration, Sustainable Development Goals, Global Compact for Migration and African Union Agenda 2063).
2. Provide UN support to operationalize the new National Committee in charge of monitoring sector actions in the management of migration flows in Cameroon, with a fully activated roadmap and common vision for the committee that was created in March 2022 under the authority of the Prime Minister.
3. Provide technical support to the Government of Cameroon to further operationalize the Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus to meet its GCM objectives, including the usage and enlargement of 'zones des convergence' to coordinate joint efforts up to 2026.

Thematic Objective 2: Improved migration data and research for decision making

Activities:

1. Support the creation of a Migration Data and Research working group through the regular launching of meetings and an official event on migration and trade in Cameroon.
2. Support the government led working group on migration data, currently led by Cameroon's Ministry of External Affairs (MINREX) and the Ministry for Economic Planning and Territorial Administration (MINEPAT) that aims to bring together all relevant actors concerned with migration statistics to ensure the further improvements and harmonization of migration related terms and data collection, including on exploring how new laws can be developed to standardize regular data collection by the Government.
3. Support Government's creation of a scientific Working Group to carry out detailed studies on migration issues, in tandem with other programme partners and civil society organizations.

Thematic Objective 3: Strengthening responses to counter trafficking and smuggling in persons along Cameroon's frontiers and within Cameroon

Activities:

1. Support the further combatting of trafficking and smuggling by supporting existing or new platforms for increased inter-ministerial coordination and information sharing to facilitate the prosecution of traffickers and migrant smugglers in Cameroon.
2. Supporting the Government of Cameroon on specific initiatives in the fight against corruption and its impact on counter trafficking measures.



3. Supporting the Government of Cameroon on making improvements to its legal framework against trafficking.

Thematic Objective 4: Alternatives to immigration detention

Activities:

1. Mainstream alternatives to immigration detention in UN development strategies, government engagement and UN Human Rights trainings with all stakeholders.
2. Produce a joint United Nations training on alternatives to immigration detention that gives both pragmatic and policy focused alternatives that are relevant and contextualized to Cameroon and the wider Central Africa region.

Thematic Objective 5: Enhancing regular pathways for migrants in vulnerable situations

Activities:

1. Support the strengthening of Cameroon's Civil registration system through better coordination and the numerisation of the civil register that ensures no migrant is left behind, including on working with the Government to fulfil their pledge to further streamline civil registration processes and coordination mechanisms with the calling of regular meetings between the Ministry for Decentralization and Local Development (MINDEVEL) and Cameroon's civil registration authority (BUNEC).
2. Explore support for how the Ministry of Health may engaged at the strategic level for supporting access to legal identity, through its existing network of health structures across the country.
3. Organize a Multi-stakeholder event to identify recommendations on pathways for admission and stay of migrants and exchanging on best practices.
4. Develop a guidance note for the Government of Cameroon and other relevant stakeholders on the design, implementation and review of pathways for admission and stay of migrants.
5. Disseminate an event to launch the Guidance Note and promote its roll-out at the national and regional level.
6. Step up efforts on the sharing of information related to irregular migration in Cameroon, including on the upscaling of awareness raising campaigns on the risks and dangers of irregular migration and the opportunities for success in Cameroon.
7. Engage with the Government of Cameroon and other stakeholder to identify strategies and opportunities to roll-out the Guidance Note at the national level.

Thematic Objective 6: Enhancing pathways for regular migration through bilateral labour migration agreements

Activities:

1. Support the government in the adoption of a national policy on labour migration, that will fit into existing regional frameworks and complement existing structures for a coordinated migration governance including through ECCAS for Central Africa.
2. Finalize tools and resources, including a Checklist tool to assess return and sustainable reintegration practices, Mappings of gaps and positive practices for safe and dignified return



and sustainable reintegration, and a UN common position on safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration; and identification of opportunities to roll these out through the Network.

3. Continue efforts to promote the GCM at the subregional level through ECCAS, including towards stronger frameworks for regional harmonization of migration governance for Central Africa.

Thematic Objective 7: Support to the implementation of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and GCM Commitments on climate change and migration

Activities:

1. Support the Government of Cameroon in a side event at the next COP 27 on potential initiatives to address the growing concern of climate change induced displaced and its contributions to aggravating underlying factors to conflict.
2. Provide technical guidance and support to the Government of Cameroon in their contributions to the COP 27 on addressing the linkages between climate change, migration and conflict.
3. Establish dialogue on practices, knowledge and enhanced collaboration with stakeholders and government-led initiatives in coordination with external stakeholders/initiatives working on other forms of human mobility (i.e. displacement and planned relocation).
4. Ensure cross fertilization of messages on climate change and migration, including with key GCM stakeholders and civil society.