



Terms of Reference

UN Network on Migration for Yemen

Background

In December 2018, recalling the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants¹ and determined to make an important contribution to enhanced cooperation on international migration in all its dimensions, Member States endorsed the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)². The GCM outlines the principles, commitments and understandings among Member States regarding international migration in all its dimensions. It is underpinned by international law, respects the purposes and principles of the UN Charter³ and is rooted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁴.

The UN Secretary-General established a UN Network on Migration (Network)⁵ to ensure effective and coherent system-wide support for implementation, including the capacity-building mechanism, as well as follow-up and review, of the GCM, in response to the needs of Member States. In carrying out its mandate, the Network will prioritize the human and labour rights and wellbeing of migrants and their communities of destination, origin, and transit. It will place emphasis on those issues where a common UN system approach would add value and from which results and impact can be readily gauged.

Overall Network Objectives

The UN Humanitarian Coordinator and IOM Chief of Mission in IOM's capacity as the Coordinator of the Network⁶ are establishing a country-based United Nations Network on Migration for Yemen to foster a better understanding of current and emerging migration dynamics, and to enhance coordination and collaboration on migration within the UN system. The Network furthermore aims to ensure effective, timely and coordinated support to the Yemeni authorities on migration as the country responds to its obligations under the GCM.

In all its action, the Network in Yemen will be guided, *inter alia*, by the United Nations Charter, international human rights law, international migration law, international humanitarian law, the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, the UN Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons especially Women and Children, and OHCHR's Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International

¹ New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants: [A/RES/71/1](#)

² The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: [A/RES/73/195](#)

³ [UN Charter](#)

⁴ [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)

⁵ [UN Network on Migration](#)

⁶ According to the A/RES/73/195 OP45. (a) IOM will serve as the coordinator and secretariat of the network

Borders, while supporting progress in implementing all of the GCM's 23 objectives. The Network will uphold and advocate for the realization of the human rights of all migrants, with a particular focus on those with specific vulnerabilities.

Specific Objectives for 2022-2023 are as follows:

1. Consistent information sharing and utilization of multi-sectoral **data** to advocate for coherent, principled protection and assistance to migrants.
2. Support the **humanitarian architecture** to integrate migrants into the response to the crisis in Yemen, through promotion of a needs-based response.
3. Promoting the adoption of **common UN minimum standards** for key components of the migrant response in Yemen. This can include:
 - a. promotion of safe, dignified voluntary humanitarian return, readmission and reintegration for vulnerable migrants to countries of origin, in line with agreed minimum standards,
 - b. assistance to migrants outside of detention and advocacy with authorities for alternatives to detention,
 - c. joint Human Rights Due Diligence Policy⁷ assessment and reporting prior to engagement with non-UN security and civil entities on matters related to migrants,
 - d. advocating for independent, consistent access to migrant communities, including removal of bureaucratic hurdles,
 - e. assistance to authorities on humane border management practices and counter-trafficking.
4. Support the complementary efforts of migrant and non-migrant response actors in Yemen to promote joint research and analysis, capacity building, programming, dialogue and collaboration on migration
5. Deliver **joint statements** in the name of the UN Network on specific issues at the request of its membership
6. **Brief** the UN System, the Member State and other stakeholders on the role and activities of the Network, as needed
7. Facilitate regular **interaction** between the members of the Network, and other Networks in countries of origin, transit and destination.
8. Facilitate **engagement** with relevant stakeholders (NGOs, academia, government, etc.)
9. **Coordination with development actors** to promote the integration of migration into development strategies, planning and programming, to ensure the continuation of humanitarian migrant responses while supporting longer-term needs and building resilience, addressing root causes and strengthening of support systems.

⁷ The [Human Rights Due Diligence Policy](#) (HRDDP), adopted in July 2011, requires all United Nations entities to be diligent in ensuring that support to non-UN security forces is provided in a manner that is consistent with the purposes and principles as set out in the Charter of the United Nations, and is compliant with and promotes respect for international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law. The tool has since been used to assess risk inherent with collaboration with state and non-state actors in humanitarian crises.

Membership and Composition

The Network will be comprised of all UN agencies that are part of the UNCT and have expressed interest in being part of the Network. Representation will be required at Head of Agency/Representative level. In line with structures established by the UN Secretary General, more specifically the UN Network on Migration, it is recommended that the UN members of the Executive Committee within the Network be members of the national network. Those are IOM, ILO, OHCHR, UNHCR, UNODC, UNICEF, WHO & UNDP. In Yemen, membership will be comprised of IOM, Deputy HC, ILO, UNFPA, UNHCR, OHCHR, UNODC, UNICEF, WHO, WFP, UNDP & OCHA.

Government officials from relevant ministries are invited to participate as guest speakers on a periodic basis where relevant and as decided by the Network. International and national non-governmental organizations, with an interest and/or relevant workstream, will also be invited to participate.

Organizational Arrangements

- The Network will meet through virtual and physical meetings in Yemen.
- The Network will meet quarterly, but it can also be convened at the request of one of its member agencies based on the urgency and relevance of the situation.
- The Network will be co-chaired by the Humanitarian Coordinator and the IOM Chief of Mission. IOM will serve as the UN Network's secretariat.
- Working Groups⁸ will be formed around key acute and emergent issues, and decisions made on the basis of unanimity to safeguard agencies' right to ensure proposed actions or interventions are aligned with their mandate. Should unanimity fail, the decision-making responsibility reverts to the co-chairs.
- The Network will focus solely on issues pertaining to the migration situation in Yemen. The refugee and asylum seeker portfolio remains under the mandate of UNHCR. The RMMS will provide the coordination structure for mixed movements under the Inter-Cluster Coordination Mechanism (ICCM).

⁸ May align with Global Working Groups: Knowledge Management, Stronger UN System for GCM Implementation, National GCM Implementation Plans, Alternatives to Detention, Regular Pathways for Vulnerable Migrants, Bilateral Labour Migration Agreements, Return & Reintegration, Access to Services.