

UN Network on Migration in Bosnia and Herzegovina Terms of Reference

BACKGROUND

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country of origin, transit and destination for migrants. Since the 1990s, emigration of nationals from Bosnia and Herzegovina to various countries in Europe and beyond has been accelerating. In 2020, Bosnia and Herzegovina was the country with the largest number of emigrants as a share of its population in Europe.¹ Emigration (i.e. human flight and brain drain) is affecting the long term economic prospect of the country and has been identified as an important factor increasing the fragility of the region.² Emigration is partly driven by internal labour market conditions, including unemployment and skills mismatches, as well as external factors, such as wage differential with countries in the EU. When asked about their main concerns regarding the country, economic development, unemployment, corruption, brain drain/emigration and crime remain the main challenges identified by the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina.³

As the country embark on the path to accession to the EU, the long-term development prospects of the region and the structural changes brought about by reforms will create new opportunities to shape migration as a development tool. Moreover, the ongoing transition to State-led migration management will help shifting the focus to long-term migration plans and strategies, whereby migration can be analysed through its development and economic lenses rather than solely through a security lense. From diaspora engagement and investments to skills partnerships and labour mobility, regional cooperation, innovation, growth and resilience, the promise of migration to contribute to the development of Bosnia and Herzegovina are multiple and deserve to be explored.

Bosnia and Herzegovina recognized the need to respond to migration and displacement challenges in the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2030 by adopting both the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and Global Compact for Refugees (GCR). Over the years, Bosnia and Herzegovina has renewed and strengthened in numerous ways its commitment to the implementation, follow-up, and review of these frameworks including the signing of the GCM Progress Declaration (A/RES/76/266) in 2022.

Similarly, the United Nations (UN) system in Bosnia and Herzegovina, notably through its Country Team (UNCT), is committed to advance migration to accelerate development, improve the social, economic and environmental aspects of life in the country, and foster a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach. In this context, the UNCT in Bosnia and Herzegovina

¹ IOM – UN Migration Agency, [World Migration Report 2022](#)

² The Fund for Peace, [Fragile States Index 2022](#)

³ Balkan Barometer (2022), [Balkan Public Sentiment Index \(BPSI\)](#).

has decided to launch the **UN Migration Network (UNMN)**. The UNMN will complement the Working Group on Mixed Migrations, established in 2018 to coordinate UNCT work in response to increased transit mixed movement flows of migrants and refugees. The UNMN will focus on supporting the implementation of the GCM, guided by broader development-led considerations to ensure migration is looked at through a 360 degree lens and as a driver of socio-economic growth.

MISSION STATEMENT

The UN Migration Network in Bosnia and Herzegovina will facilitate effective, timely and coordinated United Nations (UN) system-wide support to Bosnia and Herzegovina. In carrying out its mandate, the Network will prioritize the 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. In all its actions the Network will respect the principles of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and be guided, inter alia, by the United Nations Charter, international law, and the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development.

OBJECTIVES

To implement its mission, the **UN Network on migration** commits to the following objectives:

1. Ensure effective, timely, coordinated UN system-wide support Bosnia and Herzegovina in their implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM, for the rights and wellbeing of all migrants and their communities of destination, origin, and transit;
2. Support coherent action by the UN system at country, regional and global levels in support of GCM implementation, including in the review or implementation of relevant laws and strategies, in line with the UN Charter, international law, the 2030 Agenda, GCM, wherever such action would add value;
3. Act as a source of ideas, tools, reliable data and information, analysis, and policy guidance on migration issues, including through capacity-building mechanisms;
4. Provide leadership to mobilize coordinated and collaborative action on migration by the UN system, including by speaking with one voice as appropriate, in accordance with the UN Charter, international law, and the mandates and technical expertise of relevant UN system entities;
5. Contribute to mobilize and disseminate knowledge on key emerging migration issues and activities, including research, assessment, studies and practical information, in order to foster

- a holistic understanding and approach to the migration system dynamics and potentials in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the linkages with regional dynamics and trends;
6. Support and facilitate access to collection, analysis and dissemination and exchange of reliable data, information, statistics, tools, innovative research, good practices, and policy guidance on migration issues including through the capacity-building mechanisms (e.g. Migration Multi-partner Trust Fund (MPTF)/Start-up Fund; Global Knowledge Platform and Connection Hub);
 7. Promote cooperation and exchanges between the Group members, identify joint funding opportunities in the area of migration and coordinate joint activities and advocacy;
 8. Promote cooperation with external parties, including relevant governmental bodies, as well as migrants, civil society, migrant and diaspora organizations, faith-based organizations, local authorities and communities, the private sector, employers' and workers' organizations, trade unions, parliamentarians, academia, the media and other relevant stakeholders at global, regional and national levels to leverage the potentials of migration;
 9. Identify and discuss human rights concerns, and promote the application of relevant international and regional norms and standards relating to migration and the protection of the human rights of migrants, in accordance with the mandates of relevant UN system entities;
 10. Support global initiatives relevant for the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) in their effort to progress the GCM and GCR in the national and regional context;
 11. Provide support to the capacity building mechanism of Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities towards a comprehensive migration governance system.

COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP

Regular Members of Network will include Members of the UN who wish to be a part of it and for who migration is of relevance.

IOM and ILO will serve at the co-chairs/coordinators of the Network in Bosnia and Herzegovina. IOM will serve as the Secretariat of all constituent parts of the Network.

The Network will engage relevant stakeholders from different levels of government, International Organizations (IOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs) and other segment of the society to foster constructive and inclusive dialogues on migration and development, in line with the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), and in accordance with the national legislation.

ROLE AND ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Network will meet on a **quarterly basis**, or upon request by its members. Meetings in the extended format, with participation of other agencies with optional membership will be held on the need basis.

There will be at least one **Annual Bosnia and Herzegovina Network meeting** of the full membership and other relevant stakeholders, in order to review progress and explore ways to further enhance collaboration; identify emerging challenges.

The Network will be co-chaired by the IOM Bosnia and Herzegovina and ILO. The co-chairs will:

- Convene and chair meetings to ensure the smooth functioning of the Group;
- Facilitate regular interaction between the members of the Group;
- Deliver One Voice joint statement in the name of the Group on specific issues;
- Coordinate activities with the UN Migration Network, Secretariat and Members where appropriate;

IOM Bosnia and Herzegovina, acting as Coordinator and Secretariat, will convene the meetings and provide the meeting minutes. IOM Bosnia and Herzegovina will keep the member list updated and share it regularly. ILO, as an alternate, will ensure these tasks when relevant.

Members of the Network will contribute to design and implementation of the objectives and workplan, provide advice on strategic direction and share information and knowledge about their migration and asylum related work. Members will promote coherence of migration and asylum-related activities within the UN system and beyond. Decisions relevant to the work of the Group will be made by consensus based on consultations with all members, and, on all issues relevant to or of concern to the state, with the relevant government ministries and bodies.

Sub-Working Groups can be established on a permanent or ad-hoc basis, to focus on specific issues, depending on the needs and opportunities. The composition of Sub-Working Groups will be drawn from the Network members and may include external partners, the relevant government ministries, departments and bodies.

ANNEXES

UN Migration Network Membership List in Bosnia and Herzegovina.