WORK PLAN

—

for the Regional UN Network on Migration for West and Central Africa

2023-2024

United Nations
Network on Migration

Working Better Together

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I. Introduction

The Regional UN Migration Network for West and Central Africa (Regional Network) was established to facilitate effective, timely and coordinated UN systemwide support to Member States in migration policy, including the implementation, follow-up, and review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM) where a common UN system approach would add value. Migration contributes to positive development outcomes and to realizing the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Regional Network acknowledges the potential of the GCM as a tool for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In line with its Terms of References from 11 June 2019, the Regional Network aims to foster a better understanding of current and emerging issues on migration, and to enhance coordination and collaboration within the UN system and with a large range of partners and stakeholders at the regional and national levels. The Regional Network strives to uphold and advocate for the laws and principles that call for the respect and protection of all migrants and their communities, and the realization of all their human rights, with a particular focus on those in the most vulnerable situations. The work of the Regional Network respects the GCM guiding principle, including a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

This second workplan of the Regional UN Network for West and Central Africa for 2023/2024 focuses on key issues where the UN system can bring value in the region, delivering concrete results as a matter of priority in supporting GCM implementation. The Regional Network considers the workplan to be a living document which may need to be updated during its implementation period with the evolving nature of migration and related challenges. In implementing this workplan, the Regional Network will prioritize flexibility and the ability to adapt to changing conditions and demands, not least the needs and aspirations of migrants themselves. The Regional Network will seek to align its work to the priorities set by the Network Executive Committee Principals in the Network's global workplan, as relevant to the region. Further, it will prioritize building on and, working with existing expertise and best practice and will respect that the GCM, its implementation and its review are State-led processes within the auspices of the United Nations.

II. Summary of Priorities and related workstream

Core workstreams:

1. Joint Advocacy
2. Engagement with West and Central Africa (WCA) Regional Economic Commissions (RECs) on the Regional Dimension of Migration
3. Support to United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) and Country Networks
4. Stakeholder Engagement
5. Enhancing Global-Regional Links & Visibilty of the Work of the Regional Network and its members.

Thematic Workstreams:

6. Migration and Climate Change
7. Socio-economic reintegration of returnees
8. Free movement and labour mobility, including the right to (decent) work, with regards to the youth and consideration on legal identity
9. Data
10. Saving Lives and Missing Migrants
11. Remittances and investments in the countries of origin

III. Modalities and review

The Regional Network envisions holding meetings on a quarterly basis with the technical group and one annual meeting on the level of Regional Representatives of the agencies as well as ad hoc meetings as needed. The Technical Group consisting of the agencies' technical focal points nominated by their Regional Representative oversees the development, implementation and review of this work plan.

IOM being the Coordinator and Secretariat of the UN Network on Migration, the IOM Regional Office in West and Central Africa undertakes the secretariat duties in coordination with its co-chair.

The Executive Committee has established Workstreams to focus on specific core or thematic areas. The thematic priorities were chosen based on migration issues of particular interest to the WCA region. The workstreams, including their focus, composition and co-leadership will be developed and adjusted further as need arises. The composition of workstreams is drawn from Network members and other relevant stakeholders, including Civil Society Actors, with regional focus. Members of the network as well as stakeholders have been fully consulted in the drafting of the thematic workstreams before validation by the Executive Committee and inclusion in the wo rkplan.

The Regional Network, through the Executive Committee and its Technical Group, will continually review the implementation of the workplan, adjust its focus as needs arise, and provide bi-annual updates on progress being made to the Regional Directors.

Core Workstreams

IV. The Workplan

1. Workstream on Joint Advocacy

Objectives

Enhanced awareness of pressing migration matters in the region through joint advocacy by e.g., statements, campaigns, video messages, joint visits, and fora such as the G7, the G20 and the Sahel Coalition

Timeline

Continuous

Activities

1. Draft a roadmap on joint advocacy statements including on:

- Increased Mental Health & Psychosocial Support resources for returned migrants and communities and migrants' dignity when they return (potentially around 10 Oct World Mental Health Day)
  Lead agencies or stakeholders: **WHO**
  Participating agencies or stakeholders: **UNDP, UNHCR, WHO, UNICEF, OHCHR, IOM, UNV**

- Increased efforts to protect cross-border trafficking of children and other groups into exploitation, in particular sexual exploitation but also forced begging, artisanal mining etc. (potentially around 30 July World Counter Trafficking Day or 15 April International Day of Children)
  Lead agencies or stakeholders: **UNODC, UNHCR, OHCHR**
  Participating agencies or stakeholders: **UNDP, FAO, WHO, UNOWAS, UNICEF, IOM**

- Advocacy for uptake in legal identity documentation, incl. registration of births
  Lead agencies or stakeholders**: UNDP, UNICEF**
  Participating agencies or stakeholders: **UNDP, UNHCR, FAO, UN OCHA, WHO, OHCHR, IOM, UNV**

- Advocacy on Migration, population movements and their consequences for food insecurity and gender vulnerability
  Lead agencies or stakeholders: **FAO**

2. Joint advocacy statements around 18 Dec International Migrants Day
Lead agencies or stakeholders: **UNDP, OHCHR, IOM**
Participating agencies or stakeholders: **UNODC, UNDP, FAO, WHO, UNOWAS, UNV**

3. Recruit Online Volunteers to facilitate the coordination, creation and publishing of joint advocacy messages mentioned under the points 1 and 2 above

4. Development of communication tools for RD

5. Advocacy campaign on difference between TiP and Smuggling of Migrants

Lead agencies or stakeholders: **UNODC, UNHCR, OHCHR**
Participating agencies or stakeholders: **UNDP, FAO, WHO, IOM**

Lead agencies or stakeholders	UNODC, UNDP, UNHCR, IOM, FAO
Participating agencies/stakeholders	All agencies

2. Workstream on engagement with WCA Regional Economic Commissions (RECs) on the Regional Dimension of Migration

Objectives

WCA Regional Economic Commissions (RECs) (ECOWAS, ECCAS) and their Member States contribute to the GCM review process

Timeline

Activities

Continuous; activities for regional review before the regional review, planned for 1st semester

Internal activities:

1. Identify focal points for ECOWAS and ECCAS

2. Identify key activities in support to ECOWAS and ECCAS

3. Define a calendar with key dates of interest to the Workstream on Engagement with RECs

4. Identify key thematic areas of interest for the UNNM to work on with RECs

Activities with RECs:

5. Identify GCM focal points in ECOWAS and ECCAS

6. Organize online meeting between the R-UNNM member and ECOWAS and ECCAS to inform about the R-UNMN and its work and this workstream

7. Include GCM information on trainings to ECOWAS and ECCAS Commissions and FP

8. Support ECOWAS to coordinate a sub-regional GCM review for ECOWAS Member States and stakeholders
  a. Agree on a date with ECOWAS Commission
  b. Ensure funding (some already foreseen under the IOM-ILO-ICMPD project) UNODC could also provide funds in the context of PROMIS Project
  c. Support with the technical preparation for a hybrid meeting
    i. Preparatory consultations: "GCM talks" on agreed topics (such as data; migration, environment and climate change; Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants): identify topics, speakers and help with logistics
    ii. Assistance in the organization of the subregional consultation
    iii. Assistance in the reporting of the subregional consultation

9. Support ECCAS to coordinate a sub-regional GCM review for ECCAS Member States and stakeholders
  a. Agree on a date with ECCAS Commission
  b. Ensure funding for the event
  c. Support with the technical preparation for a hybrid meeting
    i. Preparatory consultations: "GCM talks" on agreed topics (such as data; migration, environment and climate change; Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants): identify topics, speakers and help with logistics
    ii. Assistance in the organization of the subregional consultation
    iii. Assistance in the reporting of the subregional consultation

Lead agencies or stakeholders

ILO, WHO, IOM, UNODC,

Participating agencies/stakeholders

ICRC, UNDP, UNHCR, FAO, UNOWAS, UNICEF, OHCHR, UNCDF, UNFPA

3. Workstream on Support to United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) and Country Networks

Objectives

Enhance the capacity of the Network at regional and country levels to support Member States to implement the GCM

Timeline

Continuous

Activities

1. Keep National UNMNs informed of important developments at the global and regional level

- Send regular (email updates to National UNMN focal points;

- Organize webinars for National UNMN;

- Ensure that the regional UNNM SharePoint is up-to-date and accessible for all members of the Regional Network as well as co-chairs of the national UNNM containing all relevant documentation,

2. Establish a regional trainer group to roll-out the training to UNCTs on Integrating migration into CCAs and UNSCDFs

3. Roll-out the training to UNCTs on Integrating migration into CCAs and UNSCDFs upon request, but

Lead agencies or stakeholders	**UNDP, ILO, OHCHR, IOM**
Participating agencies/stakeholders	**UNDP, UNHCR, WFP, FAO, WHO, UNOWAS, UNICEF, IOM, IFRC, UNV, UNCDF, UNFPA**

4. Workstream on Stakeholder Engagement

Objectives

External Stakeholders are better aware of Regional Networks activities and on specific thematic areas in particular relevant for WCA region

Timeline

Continuous

Activities

1. Create a newsletter on network activities and on new development in WCA, to be disseminated on a regular basis.
2. Organize a yearly briefing in Dakar with the international community (embassies; IGOs; development partners), regional CSOs and other stakeholders.
3. Conduct Briefings and exchange with stakeholders in the region
4. Support exchange with gove rnments through providing a platform for stakeholder participation, including in the regional review and other
5. Inclusion of regional stakeholders in thematic working group(s)
6. Inclusion of regional stakeholders in joint advocacy as appropriate

Lead agencies or stakeholders	ILO, OHCHR
Participating agencies/stakeholders	UNODC, UNDP, WFP, FAO, WHO, UNOWAS, UNICEF, IOM, IFRC, UNV, UNCDF, UNFPA

5. Workstream on Enhancing Global-Regional Links & Visibility of the Work of the Regional Network and Agencies

Objectives

Enhancing Visibility

Timeline

Continuous

Activities

1. Draft a strategic plan on enhancing the links and visibility

2. Participation by co-chairs & co-leads of workstreams in meeting, of EC[1] of global Network (2x year, Director level) to brief on progress[2]

3. Advocated for the inclusions of co-chairs of the Regional Network or a co-lead of a workstream as panelists in the yearly meeting of the principles of agencies to brief

4. Inclusion of work and achievements of the regional UNNM in the RCP report

Lead agencies or stakeholders	ILO, WHO, IOM
Participating agencies/stakeholders	UNODC, UNDP, FAO, UN OCHA, WHO, UNICEF, OHCHR, UNCDF, UNFPA

[1] The Executive Committee (EC) of the (global) UNNM meets monthly and includes all EC members, i.e., IOM, OHCHR, UNHCR, ILO, UNICEF, WHO, UNODC, UNDP, UNDESA and the World Bank. The meetings have different levels (from technical to director level and principal level of the agencies), it is foreseen that the briefings would be at Director level.
[2] Request pending with the global UNNM Secretariat who is supportive of the idea and will coordinate with EC Members for approval in the next session.

Thematic
Workstreams

6. Workstream on Migration and Climate Change

Objectives

1. Collect and share with members of the Regional Network and national UNMNs, relevant data, documents, studies and practical information as well as regular updates on key/emerging climate-induced mobility issues in the WCA region in order to foster a holistic understanding of the climate change - human mobility nexus in the WCA context and strengthen the exchange of relevant information.

2. Contribute to the regional facilitation of dialogue, exchange and collaboration on practices and knowledge with States, stakeholders and other state-led initiatives.

3. Develop joint-advocacy and messaging on migration in the context of climate change to help advance the implementation of GCM objectives 2, 5 and 7 and the recommendations of the UNFCCC TFD.

Timeline

———————————— Continuous ————————————

Activities

Objective 1

1. Data gathering on climate change impacts on migration in WCA and mapping of existing data at the regional and national level.

   • Pooling of data available to the different UN agencies member of the Regional Network relevant to climate mobility and related issues in the region (e.g. migration trends, climate change evolving impacts, economic development, humanitarian crises, irregular migration, local infrastructure needs etc.)

   • Create an internal Knowledge Platform, accessible for all members of the Regional Network, for file sharing

2. Keep members of the Regional Network and national UNMNs informed on climate-induced mobility issues and relevant developments in the WCA region and facilitate information exchange.

   • Send regular email updates to Regional Network members' and National UNMNs' focal points and old regular webinar for members of the Regional Network and its staff and National UNMNs

Objective 2

1. Set up discussion channels on practices, knowledge and enhanced collaboration with relevant existing initiatives in the region providing a platform for consultation and collection of inputs. (June 2023)

2. Organize a virtual consultation for governments, ECOWAS and ECCAS for common positioning. (October 2023)

3. Organize webinars series that bring together experts, members of the Regional Network, National UNMNs, government partners, practitioners and relevant stakeholders (including external stakeholders/initiatives working on human mobility such as the International Thematic Group on Migration in West Africa and the Working Group on Mixed Migration in West Africa) on human mobility in the context of climate change, including relevant information such as policy guidance and good practices and lessons learned in addressing climate mobility within the framework of the GCM. (Starting from September 2023)

4. Organize a capacity building workshop on migration, climate change and human rights (including potential links with human trafficking and migrant smuggling) for GCM Champions. (November 2023)

5. Contribute to the discussions during the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), also exploring the possibility of joint events.

Objective 3

1. Social media messaging (including video messages) to raise awareness of the impact of climate change, environmental degradation, and disasters on migration in the WCA region.

2. Publication of articles and webstories on climate change mobility issues in the region and their implications (e.g., in terms of human rights, crime, and changing migration patterns) on the website of the relevant UN agencies actively participating in the Working Group, also through the collection of storytelling and human-interest stories. (Starting from May 2023)

3. Build awareness and support for the GCM in addressing climate mobility issues amongst target audiences at local, country, regional level to incentivize policy- and decision-makers to implement GCM commitments to address human mobility in the context

of environmental degradation, disasters and climate change and to include concepts of human mobility and climate migration in National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

4. Preparation of shared talking points, position papers, fact sheets and infographics, press release and joint statements showcasing Regional Network's actions related to climate migration in the region for GCM implementation, highlighting solutions, achievements and results.

5. Open consultation with stakeholders on joint messaging on migration in the context of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation for the upcoming COP 28 and to integrate transformative actions on climate migration in NDCs and NAPs. (June 2023)

6. Develop and disseminate communication products on the workplan products (visual publications, newsletter articles, infographics, social media messages, website uploads).

Lead agencies or stakeholders	OHCHR, IOM, UNFCCC, UNODC
Participating agencies/stakeholders	UNODC, UNDP, UNHCR, WFP, FAO, UN OCHA, WHO, UNOWAS, UNICEF, ILO, UNOCA, UNV, UNFPA GERM Université Gaston Berger de Saint-Louis, Université de Dschang, British Red Cross, Danish refugee council, Service Social International d´Afrique de l´Ouest, IFRC, SOS Immigration clandestine, International Detention Coalition, Initiative Migration et Développement, Democratic Network for Action, Youths Against Environmental Degration, Centre for Health Ethics Law and Development, E medias, Africa Youth Growth Foundation, CARISM/ UDTS, ONG Hope, CNDH Togo, CNDH Cote d'Ivoire, Human rights commission of Sierra Leone, Repsfeco, Réseau juristes experts en migration, IRC

7. Workstream on Socio-economic reintegration of returnees

Objectives

Socio-economic reintegration of returnees

Timeline

Continuous

Activities

1. Discuss and elaborate roadmap for possible joint activities in this area

2. Start the implementation of the joint activities

Lead agencies or stakeholders	UNDP, OHCHR, IOM, UNCDF
Participating agencies/stakeholders	UNDP, UNHCR, WFP, FAO, UN OCHA, WHO, UNOWAS, UNICEF, UNV, UNFPA Alert Migration Afrique, Diadem (Diaspora Développement Education Migration) AfriEurope Network, OSF-Africa, Cabinet Ramdan consulting, ONG Un Monde Avenir, University of Ghana, Confedération Nationale des Travailleurs du Sénégal

8. Workstream on Free movement and labour mobility, including the right to (decent) work, in particular with regards to the youth

Objectives

(i) Improve a better understanding of the labour migration in the WCA region by gathering information on this movement, including on origin and destination, ages, the education level etc. as well as the applicable frameworks

(ii) Based on the evaluation, develop advocacy strategies and dialogue to promote free movement and decent work on the region by improving states policies and the ECOWAS arrangements

(iii) Promote best practices of free movement, the contribution of migrant on economy and his access to decent jobs

(iv) Identify opportunities of development of a regional concept note to improve the free movement and decent work on the region

Timeline

Continuous

Activities

1. Conduct a study on the historical knowledge of free movement and current development. This activity will contribute to restore the ancestral legacy through best practices of previous kingdoms and highlight key constraints on job creation

2. Drivers' identification for migration within or from the WCA region with the aim to evaluate their contribution on development

3. Evaluation of the situation of policies and regulatory framework and identify bottlenecks on free movement and decent work.

4. Organize stakeholder's forum on migrant decent jobs and free movement. This activity will promote best practices and will contribute to dialog among stakeholders.

5. Focal point identification on the region and on member states of ECOWAS and Building network

6. Conduct an assessment on the access to jobs and migrant contribution to jobs creation in host countries

Lead agencies or stakeholders	**UNDP, UNHCR, IOM**
Participating agencies/stakeholders	**UNODC, UNDP, FAO, WHO, UNICEF, OHCHR, ILO, UNV, UNCDF, UNFPA** **Fair Castle Legal, International Social Service, CNDH Togo, Transnational Corridors, Grfdt, African Diaspora Policy Centre, Sama Chance, CARISM, Article 19, ITUC-Africa, REDDEM, ONG Un Monde Avenir, Network on migration experts, Université Djibo Hamani, UNSAS Senegal, FOPAO**

9. Workstream on Data

Objectives

- Strengthen the capacity of NSOs and other national stakeholders in data collection, analysis, dissemination, and use of information on international migration.
- Promote the harmonization of concepts, definitions, data collection and data analysis methodologies on international migration within and between countries in the WCA region.
- Enhance evidence-based decision making in the WCA region through the production of reliable, accurate and comparable data on international migration.
- Encourage and assist countries to produce disaggregated data for a better understanding of migrants specific characteristics in the WCA region.

Timeline

Continuous

Activities

1. Mapping of existing actors, databases and data sources on migration in the WCA region (2023)

2. Identification of Gaps (2023)

3. Harmonisation of concepts and methodologies: usage of UN Expert Group on Migration Statistics, EGRISS and UNSD standards and guidelines on 20th ICLS concerning international labour migration. Three level approach (2023):
   a. National level
   b. Regional level
   c. International Organisation level

4. Capacity Building:
   a. How to use and apply standards (2023-2024)
   b. Explore the possibilities of the use of administrative data sources to provide migration statistics (2023-2024)
   c. How to mobilize resources to have the needed capacities for this application (2023-2024)

5. Communication and Data Exchange channels (2024): create sustainable institutional linkages (e-linkage) and data exchange protocols

Lead agencies or stakeholders	UNHCR, WHO, IOM, UNFPA
Participating agencies/stakeholders	ECOWAS, UNODC, UNDP, WFP, FAO, WHO, UNICEF, UNC-DF and OHCHR, UNV MMC, Fair Castle Legal, International Social Service

10. Workstream on Saving Lives and Missing Migrants

Objectives

Aligned with Objective 8 of the Global Compact for Migration focuses on international cooperation to:

- save lives and prevent deaths and injuries through individual or joint search and rescue operations, standardized collection and exchange of relevant information;
- identify those who have died or gone missing, and to facilitate communication with affected families.

Timeline

Continuous

Activities

1. Stakeholder mapping: With a view to avoiding duplications and enhance impact, the workstream will coordinate a mapping of stakeholders and forums pursuing objective 8 of the GCM. This mapping will be conducted through consultations and will suggest ways for the UNNM to engage.

2. Toolbox: To facilitate the operationalization of objective 8 of the GCM including by national authorities, the workstream will compile tools and template used in the region and beyond. This will include protection-sensitive agreements and SOPs on search and rescue.

3. Inter-agency planning assessment: With a view to formulating recommendations, the workstream will look at existing inter-agency protection planning tools in the region, including Humanitarian Response Plans, and assess the level of inclusion of objective 8 of the GCM.

Lead agencies or stakeholders	ICRC, UNHCR, WHO and IOM
Participating agencies/stakeholders	UNODC, WHO, OHCHR, UNFPA Conféderation des Syndicats Autonomes du Sénégal

11. Workstream on Remittances and investments in the countries of origin

Objectives

Contribute to harnessing the potential of remittances in the region

Timeline

Continuous

Activities

1. Elaborate a workplan and roadmap for possible joint activities in this area

2. Start the implementation of joint activities of the roadmap

Lead agencies or stakeholders	**UNDP, UNCDF**
Participating agencies/stakeholders	**UNDP, WFP, FAO, WHO, IOM, UNFPA** **Bureau International d´Etudes- Conseils, Alefa Diaspora**

V. Annex:

Objectives of the Regional Migration Network (Regional Network) from the TORs:

1. Share regular updates on key/ emerging migration issues with members of the Regional Network; and share relevant data, documents, studies and practical information in order to foster a holistic understanding of the West and Central African context;

2. Ensure at the regional level in coordination with the UN Migration Network Secretariat and Executive Committee, effective, timely, coordinated UN system-wide support to Member States 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;

3. Support other global initiatives such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development in their effort to progress the GCM with a focus on West and Central Africa;

4. Support coherent action by the UN system at country and regional levels in support of GCM implementation, in line with the global UN Network on Migration initiatives and where such action would add value, while ensuring well-defined linkages with UN structures at all levels;

5. Act as a source of ideas, tools, reliable data and information, analysis, exchange of good practices, and policy guidance on migration issues, including through the capacity-building mechanism established in the GCM and the set-up of a Knowledge Platform at the regional level;

6. Ensure Regional Network actions promote the application of relevant international and regional norms and standards relating to migration and the protection of the human rights of migrants;

7. 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 EC Principles approach adopted the 8 May 2019, the UN Charter, international law, and the mandates and technical expertise of relevant UN system entities.

8. Ensure close collaboration with other existing UN system coordination mechanisms addressing migration-related issues, actively seeking out synergies and avoiding duplication. This includes with the Economic Commission for Africa at the continental level;

9. Focus on strengthening links with other regional grouping such as ECOWAS and ECCAS and Regional Consultative Processes when relevant for the implementation of the GCM in the region;

10. Provide support at the regional level to the capacity building mechanism, as outlined in the GCM.

11. Organize once a year –contingent on availability of resources -- a meeting between all the Regional Network members and external partners. This could include migrants, civil society, migrant and diaspora organizations, faith-based organizations, local authorities and communities, the private sector, employers' and workers' organizations, trade unions, parliamentarians, National Human Rights Institutions, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, academia, the media and other relevant stakeholders;

12. Provide information and guidance to RCs and UNCTs for the establishment of country-level UN Migration Networks in support of the GCM upon requests from RCs/UNCT.