

**EXPERT SYMPOSIUM ON  
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

Population Division  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
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## **A. INTRODUCTION**

International migration is a key feature of globalization in the 21st century and an important enabler for inclusive and sustainable development. Estimates show that one in seven people in the world is either an internal or international migrant, accounting for an

research institutions to conduct reliable censuses, advance civil registration of all vital events, and assure good national data on internal and international movements as the basis for policy options and program design. As such, UNFPA advocates actively for the integration of measures of migration in all questionnaires of the 2020 census round and strengthens capacities to translate data from the census into widespread availability and utilization of such data to their fullest use. UNFPA also supports UN-wide efforts to strengthen and expand the definition what constitutes legal identity and mechanisms for recognizing it to cover all people, including those in irregular and humanitarian situations.

includes regional and sub-regional initiatives that facilitate interoperability of civil registration and legal identity systems.

### **C. ADDRESSING THE DRIVERS OF MIGRATION**

UNFPA plays an important role in addressing the drivers of migration through intellectual and operational leadership in the demographic and gender dividend, advocating for countries to invest in education, women empowerment and economic development. The notion of a demographic dividend offers a fundamental reappraisal of the prospects and pathways for sustainable development in countries with high proportions of young people. UNFPA provides development assistance to address the drivers of migration, especially for young people, with targeted investments in access to livelihood opportunities. UNFPA has supported national appraisals on the potential for a demographic dividend in more than 28 countries of Africa since 2015, including national and subnational analyses of age structure and youth needs; integrating priorities within national development plans, funding and legislation; and providing guidance on the convergence of the demographic dividend with Agenda 2030 and the SDGs.

UNFPA is currently partnering with the Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative (4MI) to focus on the policy and service needs of young migrants in cities located in countries experiencing major forced and voluntary mobility, both internal and international, and locations where UNFPA has strong country support programmes. Recent UNFPA research has found that more than half of all youth migrants in Beirut, Tunis and Cairo moved due to insecurity or political unrest back home. While one-third of youth migrants in Tunis reported that they alone made the decision to migrate, another third was encouraged to migrate by their parents.

These data will be used to better understand the specific needs of young men and women migrants to strengthen advocacy and policy development protection and support systems.

### **D. PROTECTION IN TRANSIT**

UNFPA works closely with others in the United Nations system, particularly UN Women and WHO, to end gender-based violence (GBV), and within the UN system, leads the GBV Area of Responsibility in humanitarian settings. UNFPA is committed to delivering sexual and reproductive health services in the midst of conflict, the aftermath of natural building back priority.

Given that the Global Compact speaks clearly to many of these policies and efforts, it enables UNFPA to expand its partnerships to support governments fulfilling the vision of Compact; one in which migration is a force for good, and serves the betterment of people and countries across the world.