
Outcome document

Regional Review Conference of the Global Compact for Safe,

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1. The International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Economic and Social Commission for Western

8. In the session devoted to key messages, the key messages and recommendations that emanated from the two-day discussions were briefly reviewed. These messages will facilitate the formulation of the main outcomes and recommendations to inform the 2022 International Migration Review Forum.
9. Conference documents, including the agenda and the report, are available on the regional review page of the United Nations Network on Migration website, IOM Regional Office for the MENA regional website and of the UNESCWA website.

I. Key messages

10. The Arab States Regional Review Conference of the Global Compact for Migration resulted in the following key messages on a number of priority issues. In accordance with the commitment of the majority Arab countries to implement the Global Compact for Migration as a comprehensive framework for migration governance, these priorities and messages can form a road map for accelerating the Global Compact for Migration's implementation. It also include issues in efforts to build back better in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, by highlighting the significant contributions of migrants, reducing their vulnerability, combating discrimination against them, and ensuring safe, orderly and regular migration for everyone.

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regional levels. He noted that the pandemic had undermined the ability of migrants to move, increased their vulnerability, harmed their human rights, and imposed sudden pressure on government policies everywhere. However, it had also accelerated solutions. He added that the Arab region had made progress in dealing with the issue of migration, but the region still faced challenges given that many migrants remained in vulnerable and poor conditions. He highlighted that it was essential to integrate migrants in the process of recovery and building back better, including by vaccinating them against the COVID-19 virus. He confirmed

17. Ms. Sarah Badr, MENA Regional Focal Point of the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth, gave a brief overview of the Group, its activities and the regional consultation with young people the Group had led in the MENA region, in the framework of the Global Compact for Migration review. She addressed the most prominent points raised by young people at these consultations, including that the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration was not happening as quickly as necessary, having faced particular challenges because of the pandemic. She said that young people were particularly interested in implementing Objective 2 of the Global Compact for Migration, owing to increased economic challenges and difficulties in accessing services; Objective 17 because discr

platforms to follow up on the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration, and that the country reviews showed great progress in achieving the Compact's objectives, but to varying degrees depending on the relevance of specific objectives to national contexts. Her statement focused on the results of the regional review for Arab countries, which were divided into the following three categories: the objectives that had received the greatest attention; the objectives that had received some attention; and the objectives that were not reported in most country reviews. She cited examples from Arab countries of those results.

21. In conclusion, the need to promote regional cooperation was highlighted, including focusing bilateral cooperation efforts on the protection of migrant workers; forging bilateral partnerships with a comprehensive vision that took into account social and economic challenges; noting that some Arab countries were providing development and humanitarian aid to other Arab countries on a bilateral basis; establishing border management partnerships with neighbouring countries; strengthening efforts and initiatives to enhance multilateral cooperation; and encouraging member States to continue establishing regional partnerships with the League of Arab States.

C. Plenary session 1: Voluntary reporting by Arab countries

22. The session was chaired by Mr. Talal al Mutairi, Deputy Assistant of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait. Representatives of Arab countries discussed key achievements in implementing the Global Compact for Migration since its adoption in 2018, by reviewing national experiences and highlighting challenges, success stories, existing and emerging priorities, and lessons learned. The following is a summary of the interventions that took place during this session:

1. Iraq

23. Her Excellency Ms. Evan Faeq Jabro, the Minister of Migration and Displacement of Iraq, reviewed the progress made by her country since the signing of the Global Compact for Migration. She noted that efforts over the past two years had focused on building national capacity to achieve the Compact's desired outcomes. Her country's achievements included updating the database on Iraq to inform migration policy development; developing national strategies for long-term migration management, using a whole-of-government approach, involving most ministries; forming specialized and inter-ministerial task forces to operationalize and implement national plans for migration management; and establishing a higher committee to follow up on the situation of Iraqis abroad among others. She

positive results achieved by the shelter for female foreign workers and the services provided to them, including protection, legal assistance and health care, and the implementation of a voluntary return programme. He noted that Kuwait had signed over 21 bilateral memorandums of understanding with countries on labour mobility and had recently adopted a national strategy to combat trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling. He focused on the COVID-19 pandemic and the efforts made by the State to provide protection and services to citizens and expatriates without any discrimination between them.

3. *Egypt*

25. Ambassador Neveen El Hussein, Deputy Assistant Minister for Migration, Refugees and Combatting Human Trafficking of Egypt, said that her country was working to achieve the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration from a comprehensive perspective that was not limited to the security dimension, but also included sustainable development dimensions. She listed a series of achievements that Egypt had made to implement the Global Compact for Migration and improve migration governance, notably forming a national coordinating committee to implement the Compact that would convene periodically to determine national priorities and ways to deal with challenges. Those priorities could be divided into six themes: respecting the rights of migrants abroad and in Egypt, combating discrimination and hate speech against them, securing primary health care for them, and securing free education for Arabic-speaking migrant children; addressing the root causes that drive migration, especially in the poorest communities, to ensure that the decision to migrate was not driven by necessity; strengthening the legal pathways for migration by concluding bilateral agreements that guaranteed the rights of Egyptian workers; opt contributions to achieving sustainable development, and ensuring financial inclusion to guarantee the flow of remittances to the most remote and poorest places; combating irregular migration through better border management; combating migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons, and ensuring protection for victims. In conclusion, she referred to the challenges imposed by COVID-19 on her country's ability to provide health care to foreigners in Egypt, and its ability to assimilate returning Egyptians as a result of the economic and social effects of the pandemic.

4. *Qatar*

26. Mr. Yousef Sultan Larem, Director of the International Organizations Department at the Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs, affirmed his country's commitment to achieving the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration. He reviewed a set of measures taken by Qatar to that end, including forming a national working group to keep pace with international efforts aimed at realizing the objectives, and aligning Qatar national vision 2030 and other policies with those objectives; formulating a comprehensive plan for labour market governance and improving the processes for collecting, analysing and disseminating data related to the employment of expatriate workers. He also focused on measures relating to

work conditions; adopting a non-discriminatory minimum wage for domestic workers and employees, establishing a minimum wage committee to review the minimum periodically, strengthening the

enacting legislation to abolish the sponsorship system, including by scrapping requirements for workers to obtain exit permits, and facilitating the movement of workers in the local market to achieve a more efficient and productive labour market; incorporating additional protection measures for domestic workers into the new standard employment contract model, and implementing awareness and education campaigns on their rights. Mr. Larem also presented measures regarding opening a shelter for victims of forced labour and trafficking in persons; strengthening the complaints mechanism by establishing electronic platforms for submitting complaints via mobile phone; facilitating the provision of basic services to migrant workers, such as providing free health care, adequate housing and education for their children, and facilitating the process of remittances,

29. Mr. Mohammed al-Adil, Deputy Minister of Expatriates Affairs of Yemen, highlighted the difficult conditions that Yemen was experiencing, which had affected migrants and displaced persons. He said that displacement camps were being bombed, which had exhausted the Yemeni Government and local authorities in terms of meeting basic needs such as shelter, medicine, education and food, calling on the international community and humanitarian organizations to protect the displaced. He added that Yemen was also witnessing an influx of hundreds of irregular migrants daily from a number of countries in the Horn of Africa, constituting an additional burden and a difficult challenge for the Yemeni government, which was continually working to absorb irregular migrants and protect them from exploitation and conscription. He reviewed the achievements of his country, including providing care when possible to Yemeni migrants and expatriates, through the following: supporting the institutional performance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, and building communication between the Ministry and expatriate and migrant communities; providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Labour and Social Security in the diaspora; providing technical assistance abroad, and exempting repatriated migrants and expatriates from all customs duties on movable property; supervising the education of expatriate children in diaspora countries to teach Arabic and preserve the Yemeni identity. He also highlighted efforts regarding allocating scholarships for postgraduate studies to the children of migrants in universities abroad; and implementing programmes to train workers wishing to migrate. He added that Yemen was working to establish an information system on migrants' data, and to organize awareness campaigns about regular migration.

8. *Jordan*

30. Ms. Ghadeer Attia, Head of the Agreements and Contracts Department at the Jordanian Ministry of Labour, outlined the efforts of the Jordanian Government to secure a decent

4. *Libya*

35. Mr. Issam Al Qaffa, Deputy Director of International Organizations at the Libyan Ministry of Foreign

including a lack of logistical and financial resources; and the need to strengthen the skills and capacity of those responsible for dealing with migration issues, and to secure long-term support for them to become national experts. He reviewed recommendations, including the need to develop a three-year action plan to define the objectives that should be achieved during that period, and to implement them in neighbouring countries; the need to formulate a support plan to build the capacity of member States; and the necessity of establishing a support fund for member States most in need.

programme appropriately, as well as enabling women to register their children and avoid statelessness. She concluded by stressing the importance of combating discrimination against migrants at all levels, and to promote migrant inclusion in a way that benefits migrant children and enables them to positively contribute to the communities hosting them.

42. Ms. Sara Al-Khatib, Rapporteur for Women Migrant Workers, representing the UN Women-UNICEF convened Regional Stakeholder Consultation for the Arab States on Advancing GCM Implementation for Women Migrant Workers, Migrant Children and Youth in the Arab Region and Programme Officer at the Solidarity Centre in the Middle East. She presented the recommendations on women migrant workers, emanating from the regional consultations, notably:
strengthening the labour protection measures and social safety nets available to them, and compensating them for lost wages during the pandemic; producing sex-disaggregated data and ensuring labour law coverage in line with international standards and conventions, and strengthening relevant accountability mechanisms; strengthening gender-responsive policies and programs on pre-post arrival information on rights and obligations, employability, fair and ethical recruitment, and portable social security. The recommendations also focused on ensuring the representation of migrant women and their groups that support them in policy and programme development processes; guaranteeing the right to representation and collective bargaining; empowering women to save money and control remittances; providing coverage for migrant workers in laws on violence against women, and comprehensive access to services, regardless of status. The recommendations also included abolishing discriminatory laws and social norms; providing alternatives to detention and deportation; ensuring that dialogues and action on migration address children abandoned by migrant parents and those born to migrant mothers; and promoting the use of consultative processes and civil society participation in addressing political concerns over migration.
43. The two interventions were followed by an open discussion. Mr. Nidal Maqlabh, Director of the Legislation Department at the National Centre for Human Rights in Jordan, discussed the centre's role in contributing to the protection and promotion of workers' rights in general, and the rights of migrant workers in particular. He outlined some recommendations, including working to transform the challenges of refugees displacement into development opportunities in host countries; calling on the international community to support host communities and migrants; shifting from an emergency approach to assistance to a sustainable approach; empowering and activating the role of municipalities and involving them in projects related to migrants; and calling for the creation of a national legal framework regulating all issues related to refugees.
44. Ms. Susanne Mikhail, Regional Director of UN Women, emphasized the importance of cooperation at the national and regional levels to achieve the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration, and the importance of following its guiding principles. She stressed the need to involve civil society, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and academics in that work. She noted that some Governments were spearheading efforts to adopt various legislation, policies and programmes related to wage protection, and strengthening complaint mechanisms, among other initiatives. She stressed the need to complete work on legislation and policies dealing with the issues of migrant women and girls and domestic workers, in particular.
45. Ms. Karina Nersesyan, Deputy Regional Director at the United Nations Population Fund, highlighted the importance of complementarity between the Global Compact for Migration and the International Conference on Population and Development, in terms of focusing on the relationship between migration, displacement and human rights. She stressed the need to collaborate with relevant stakeholders to develop research, strengthen data on migration dynamics, and build capacity in that area, and called for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all migrants, regardless of their legal status. She also noted the importance of developing approaches that reduced the vulnerability of migrant women, including the need to support and strengthen efforts to provide health care to all migrants, especially women. She addressed the importance of accessing

2. *Roundtable 2: Review of objectives 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 21 of the Global Compact for Migration*

58. The session was facilitated by Ms. Zeina Mhanna, board member at Amel Association International and Professor at the American University of Beirut. Mr. Ali Abdulraman Hadi, Assistant Director of the Department of International Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding at the Iraqi Ministry of Interior, stressed the importance of identity verification as a key step for repatriation. He said that the Iraqi Ministry of Interior had launched a campaign to verify identities by verifying the residency of people on its territory. Such efforts were of great importance for returnees to Iraq, since they guaranteed their access to basic services such as health, education and shelter, and their reintegration into society. He emphasized that identity verification was an essential component of success under the objective 21, and that it was a key method to support repatriation. With regard to border management, action was being taken in various areas, including trade and public health. He said that border management required border controls and monitoring entry points of irregular migrant flows. He stressed that effective border management and re-establishing sustainable security was a shared responsibility, both civil and military, and must involve the various relevant ministries. An integrated border management model must be developed based on local community participation in monitoring criminal activity. Effective and integrated coordination between various stakeholders must also be ensured, as it enhanced the chances of achieving integrated border management and identity verification. He indicated the establishment of for returnees to Iraq, since they

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them to invest, granting them a number of investment privileges, and promoting their participation in political life. Tunisia had also worked to strengthen the role of Tunisian women living in the diaspora, and had provided them with facilitations for administrative procedures.

72. Mr. Javier Aguilar, Regional Adviser for Child Protection at the MENA Regional Office of UNICEF. He reflected that the integration of migrant children was still a challenge in the Arab region and suggested solutions based on good practices seen in the region and globally. While evidence from the region showed that migrant children, especially unaccompanied and separated children, were vulnerable to various forms of exploitation. He recommended to explore bilateral coordination between neighbouring countries, as well as the regional leadership among the Arab States to establish cross-border collaboration, including collaboration between consulates, with a specific focus to end the detention of migrant children, ensure the care and protection of unaccompanied children, to expedite family tracing and reunification measures and find solutions for undocumented migrants who may be at risk of statelessness. He added that operational measures were important for children: Hiring and training social workers and making sure migrant children have access to appropriate reception and care, healthcare, and education and that access to basic services for migrant children should be achieved using whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches and leave no child behind. National governments are the primary duty bearers to adopt inclusive laws and policies, and that this should be complemented by increased budgets to finance services. He emphasized that migrant children and youth repeatedly tell us is that we must also invest in countering anti-discrimination and xenophobia and that we should not forget the potential of engaging children from migrant and hosting communities themselves. s continued commitment to collaborating with partners to advance the rights of migrant children and young people.

73. Mr. Pedro De Vasconcelos, Manager of the Financing Facility of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), addressed the objective 20 on 'migrant s remittances, highlighting the paramount importance of such remittances to migrant families, their role in ensuring access to social services, and their implications for development in countries of origin, as a a vital source of income for millions of individuals and families across the world. In particular, for the Arab region, remittances flows are extremely relevant. In 2019 migrants sent over \$ 60 billion to their families in North of Africa and the Middle east. Despite the initial predictions, remittances were basically the only

only 1.6 per cent below compared to 2019 and are projected to increase this year. This demonstrates once more the incredible resilience of migrants, especially in times of crisis. In conclusion, he noted a series of activities undertaken by IFAD, among which the Global Forum on Remittances, Investment and Development (GFRID) and the campaign for the International Day of Family Remittances, both

led to further challenges related to funding sources. She added that Lebanese expatriates had greatly helped citizens, especially through remote job search platforms.

76. Ms. Najwa Hanna, of the General Confederation of Lebanese Workers and Sub Regional secretary for Arab countries of the Public Services International, noted the pivotal role of public sector workers in implementing human rights. She said that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many migrant workers had lost their jobs, and were left without money to return to their countries. Since most of them worked in the informal sector, the risk of being arbitrarily expelled without any compensation had increased. Migrant workers also struggled to access health-care services, although they had at times been on the frontlines of the pandemic, endangering their lives by carrying out hygiene and sterilization work. She made two key recommendations to the Conference, namely ensuring universal access to health care and vaccines against the COVID-19 virus and providing comprehensive social protection in response to the pandemic and other crises.
77. The representative of the Sudanese delegation, Mr. Seddik El Fadl Hilal, described the burden that irregular migration imposed on his country. He noted that the Sudan sought to ensure the integration of Sudanese migrants abroad, by taking a set of economic decisions aimed at reviving the economy and facilitating financial transfers from abroad through the banking system, given past difficulties caused by sanctions. He added that the Sudan had participated in many programmes for the return of Sudanese migrants to their country to participate in its reconstruction. He stressed the importance of rehabilitating infrastructure in cities and at border points to better control borders, which required the cooperation of Arab countries and concerted efforts from relevant stakeholders.
78. Mr. Mohamed Wajdi El Aydi, from the municipality of Sfax in Tunisia, stressed the pivotal role of municipalities in implementing the Global Compact for Migration. He highlighted that most problems associated with migration occurred at the local level, so solutions should also be devised locally. He stressed that municipalities should be given the role they deserved, and a programme should be developed to achieve local governance.
79. Ms. Ola Boutros, of the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs, said that there were 214 centres affiliated with the Ministry that provided development services. Those centres were spread across the Lebanese territory, provided health and medical services to all without discrimination between citizens and migrants, and provided capacity-building. However, migrants constitute 35 per cent of the population of Lebanon, which had greatly increased the burden on those centres and led to a decline in the services they provided. She therefore highlighted the need to provide international support and cooperation to continue offering basic services.

4. *Roundtable 4: Review of objectives 1, 3, 7, 17 and 23 of the Global Compact for Migration*

80. Dr. Amani El Jack, Associate Professor at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, moderated the session. Ms. Siham Mourabit, Head of the Human Rights, Humanitarian and Social Affairs Division of the African Union Directorate at the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stressed the importance of the African Migration Observatory established by the African Union to address data shortages in African countries. It collected, analysed and exchanged data between those countries, provided an exchange platform for African experts and researchers, and served as a capacity-building tool. She added that the observatory had so far accomplished two tangible achievements, namely providing the first African databases, and creating a portal for Africa on migrant movements.
81. The representative of national human rights institutions, Mr. Issam Younis, President of the Arab Network for National Human Right Institutions in the State of Palestine, said that the Arab region was witnessing exceptional circumstances that required collaboration between various stakeholders. He added that Arab countries were countries of transit, destination and origin for migrants, and that the

region faced major challenges in the field of migration that required strengthening collaboration, developing plans that took into account human rights and equality issues between women and men, ensuring implementation of legislation, encouraging adherence to all international agreements on migration, and creating an environment conducive to respecting laws. He stressed the importance of the role of national institutions in Arab countries in that regard. He explained that the reality of the Arab region imposed a distinction between migration and asylum, noting that Jordan was hosting the largest proportion of refugees in the region.

82. The representative of the media, Ms. Khadija El

86. Ms. Rebecca Lamade, Regional Head of Programmes for the Middle East, North Africa, Central Asia and Eastern Europe at the World Food Programme (WFP), stressed that investing in the generation of good quality data and analysis is now more important than ever to support evidence-based policy formulation and implementation. Evidence-based analysis should be prioritized to support governments in the formulation of policies and strategies as well as in the direct delivery of critical services and assistance to those who most need them. Ms. Lamade also highlighted the importance of adopting innovative programmatic solutions, such as digital platforms, to contribute to addressing migration-related issues in close collaboration with host governments and specialized actors (including academic institutions, private sector, UN agencies). In particular, she mentioned more inclusive and vulnerability-sensitive assessments, registration and targeting modalities as well as two-way communication

92. Ms. Hamida Rais, Director General of International Cooperation on migration at the Tunisian Ministry of Social Affairs, highlighted that Tunisia was forming a working group to follow up on the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration and to develop an action plan to speed it up. She stressed the importance of relevant United Nations entities organizing training courses for focal points

98. Ms. Carmela Godeau, IOM Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, stressed the importance of the Conference in advancing the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration in the Arab region, and in enhancing understanding of progress, challenges and gaps, as well as opportunities and best practices in implementation. She invited participants to continue reviewing the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration; strengthening the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and improving regional cooperation and dialogue on migration issues.
99. Ms. Enas Al Fergany, Director of the Department of Refugees, Emigrants and Migration Affairs at the League of Arab States, on behalf of Ms. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, Assistant Secretary-General for the Social Affairs Sector, expressed her gratitude to Member States that had made presentations, despite the exceptional circumstances in the region. She thanked the various stakeholders for their role in achieving an inclusive social approach, and all those who had contributed to organizing the Conference; and called for maintaining dialogue, learning from peers, and unifying the Arab vision on migration.
100. Ms. Mehrinaz Elawady, Leader of the ESCWA Population, Gender Justice and Inclusive Development Cluster, thanked all participants for their commitment and attendance. She identified six basic priorities that would frame joint action in the coming period, namely reforming employment systems; combating trafficking in persons; strengthening bilateral and regional cooperation on migration governance; guaranteeing the rights of migrant children and women; ensuring that migrants have access to services without discrimination; and reducing irregular migration.

Annex I

Outcome document of the multi-stakeholder consultation on the regional review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the Arab region 23 February 2021

The International Organization for Migration and ESCWA, in collaboration with members of the United Nations Network on Migration in the Arab region, held the multi-stakeholder consultation on the regional review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the Arab region on 23 February 2021. Participants agreed on a number of key messages. Zohry, an expert in immigration studies at the American University in Cairo.

I. Role of stakeholders

- Participants emphasized the importance of a whole-of-society approach, one of the main guiding principles of the Global Compact for Migration, which ensured the involvement of all stakeholders of different affiliations in various follow-up activities of the implementation and review of the Global Compact for Migration.
- The need for stakeholders to encourage

- The need for consistency between national laws and international frameworks to protect migrants and ensure the rule of law and equality before the law for all, including migrants.
- The need to provide data disaggregated by sex and age to ensure that policies take into account gender equality and the needs of children and young people.
- The need to promote the social inclusion of migrants and their involvement in relevant policymaking processes, and to raise awareness of migration issues at various local and national levels.
- The limited recognition of skills within the Arab region and the need to recognize skills and activate bilateral and regional cooperation in that field.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the fragility of migrants' situations, and highlighted the need to strengthen collaboration among all stakeholders to ensure that the rights of all migrants are protected and to build on the benefits of migration for development.
- The need to facilitate family reunification procedures and find an alternative to the detention of migrant children, establish policies to protect them, ensure their access to basic services, and provide information on services available to migrant children.
- Developing gender-sensitive protection policies for migrants, including wage protection and protection from violence, facilitating remittances, and combating discrimination.
- Emphasizing the role of cities, which constitute large migration hubs in all countries, in the governance of migration, and stressing the need to involve local authorities in the development and implementation of migration policies.
- The structural factors behind the negative drivers of migration in the Arab Region, including armed conflicts, natural disasters, poverty, hunger, social inequalities and weak governance, must be addressed, to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration.
- Emphasizing the rejection of discriminatory transactions against migrants and supporting the role of consular assistance (with consent), especially for migrant women and irregular migrants, especially in times of crisis.
- The need for migrants to have access to COVID-19 vaccines without discrimination.

Annex II:

Regional Stakeholder Consultation for the Arab States on Advancing GCM Implementation for Women Migrant Workers, Migrant Children and Youth in the Arab Region: Reviewing Progress and Addressing Continuing Challenges

Co-organized by UN Women Regional Office for the Arab States and UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office

15th February 2021

OUTCOME REPORT ¹

I. Background

On the 15th February 2021, the UN Women Regional Office for the Arab States and the UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office co-organized a virtual Regional Stakeholder Consultation,

because of legal status affects many migrant children and young people. Access to employment opportunities is a particular issue affecting young migrants, especially young women. A recent complexity has been added by the COVID-19 pandemic, where most education platforms moved online. Technological illiteracy and limited access to computers and smartphones further widened the education and skills gap for migrant children and youth. There are concerns that stateless, undocumented or unregistered children may not be included in COVID-19 vaccination campaigns in some States. Discrimination and xenophobia are major issues facing migrant children. Stigma against survivors of gender-based violence and against children suffering from mental health problems can also impact access to services. In most cases, unaccompanied and separated provided them as they turn 18, with no transition period and no solutions for their future.

A large group of children affected by migration who tend to be invisible are those who are left behind in countries of origin by migrating parent(s). They are usually left with extended family members, with an arrangement that their parent(s) will send back remittances to care for them. However, remittances are not always spent on these children, and they may suffer neglect. This problem is exacerbated when employers do not enable migrant women to retain contacts with children who have been left behind, to monitor their welfare. Many of these problems are caused by the lack of family reunification rights for migrant women and children in the region.

III. Recommendations

Migrant women workers

Through investments in COVID-19 response and long-term recovery:

- Ensure job preservation, including increased labor mobility and labor protections, full compensation for wage loss, social safety nets, vaccinations, amnesty programs;

- Generate sex-disaggregated data and undertake gender analysis on the social-economic, labor market situation of women migrant workers;

- Ensure labor law coverage in line with ILO and CEDAW standards including for domestic workers with robust capacity-building, enforcement and accountability, especially for law enforcement officials, recruiters and employers;

- Strengthen gender-responsive policies and programs on pre-post arrival information on rights/obligations, employability, fair and ethical recruitment, portable social security, wage protection, savings-mobilization and efficient remittance transfer;

- Dismantle sponsorship systems and ensure employment-

- worker ability to contract new jobs with ad

- to remain in the country without a loss of residence status and contract new jobs and access justice if needed while being allowed to work;

- Ensure representation of migrant women, and their support groups at all stages of policy and programming processes;

- Ensure the right to organize and collective bargaining;

- Provide coverage under violence against women laws and access to services to all women migrant workers, regardless of migration status;

- Eliminate discriminatory laws and social norms based on gender, race/ethnicity, maternity, economic, nationality and migration status;

- Provide alternatives to detention and deportation;

- Enhance the use of Regional Consultative Processes including with CSO

Migrant children and young people

Better consider the agency of migrating children and young people, listen to their needs and aspirations, and ensure that services are designed and perceived to be safe;

Reform laws to include and protect migrant children based on need, not on status, and ensure the inclusion of migrant children within national child protection systems and other national services, including education and healthcare, with firewalls from immigration authorities;

Strengthen the capacities of the social services workforce and police and border authorities on

Establish child-sensitive cross border coordination and case management. Increase the presence of trained child protection professionals, such as social workers, in border areas;

Ensure that adequate and timely best interests procedures are in place for children;

Prohibit immigration detention of children in national legislation and ensure that appropriate care and reception options are available for migrant children and families. Support NGOs and CBOs in offering community-based alternative care and reception;

Where immigration detention is still used, facilitate access by NGOs and CBOs and other relevant organizations to monitor;

Ensure provision of information on services for migrating children in a child-sensitive manner, along migration routes;

Establish joint initiatives among the Arab States that allow for recognition of previous education qualifications of migrants and facilitate access of migrant youth to employment opportunities;

Encourage private sector involvement in providing programs that bridge education and skills gaps for migrant youth focusing on reducing barriers for girls and young women and helping address technological literacy and access gaps;

economies;

Shape public narratives through anti-discrimination and anti-bullying campaigns, and invest in work with young people of migrant and host communities to counter xenophobia;

Increase legal pathways for children and families to migrate in a safe and regular manner and make them more accessible in practice;

Establish longer-term post-return monitoring for children.

Interdependent recommendations relevant for migrant women workers and children

Ensure that sex and age disaggregated data is collected, to better program with gender-responsive and child-sensitive approaches as central considerations;

Include in the discourse about migration - and generate evidence about - the issues of children left behind by their migrant parents, as well as children born to migrant mothers;

Introduce gender-sensitive labour migration policies nationally and cross-border and ensure that these policies address the intersecting realities and rights of women and children;

Provide comprehensive social protection, including child care/guardianship and protection measures, to children left behind in countries of origin and to those born to migrant mothers in countries of destination; Review and reform family reunification laws and regulations to make family reunification more accessible to migrant women and children in the region;

Ensure that migrant women wor

and that they are provided with the means to retain communications;

When returns to countries of origin take place, put policies in place to protect family unity, ensuring that children are not separated from their parent(s) through deportation processes or detention, and that families are not detained;

Undertake gender- and child-sensitive reviews and reforms of birth registration and nationality laws and regulations, with a focus on women to register their children and pass on nationality to their children;

Enhance cross-border collaboration, including through consular services, in order to ensure the nationality rights and birth registration of children born to migrant workers and avoid statelessness.

amounted for 13.8 percent. The survey successfully captured the voices of nearly half of the respondents who have not been part of neither the national nor regional level consultations.

Third: The cross-cutting and interdependent GCM guiding principles

12. As for the GCM guiding principles, and despite the examples provided by respondents on how the GCM guiding principles were applied/integrated in the GCM implementation in their countries, the results of the survey indicate that respondents are not satisfied with the degree of application/integration of such principles in the implementation of the GCM. The respondents who indicate the needs for further improvement ranged between 60 percent for the child-sensitive approach to more than 70 percent for the whole-of-society approach.

The Way Ahead

follow up and review of the implementation of the GCM in the Arab region through the analysis of an online survey designed specifically for that purpose. Despite the progress made towards the implementation of the GCM in the Arab region, it is evident that the progress of the GCM implementation needs further improvement. The following areas may need to be considered in the near future:

- Improving the adoption and the integration of the guiding principles of the GCM, especially the whole-of-government principle and the whole-of-society principle.
- s on the implementation of a specific set of GCM

of other GCM objectives since the the 23 GCM objectives are interlinked in a way or another.

- Governments and stakeholders need to learn from each other and strengthen intra-national and international knowledge and practice experience exchange.
- Stakeholders should be more included in the development and implementation of national strategies and plans.
- More focus should be devoted to securing resources