

Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (Migration MPTF): Frequently Asked Questions on Preparation/Submission of Concept Notes

February 2020

What is the role of stakeholder(s)? What level/type of participation is expected in both the design and implementation phase?

People-centred, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches are guiding principles of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and, as such, are key principles for the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF). This means that, when designing and implementing the joint programmes, the Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs) should engage and partner with other stakeholders.

In the design phase, this may entail, inter alia, consultations with migrants and/or migration affected communities as well as with civil society organizations and national/local government, thorough review of existing programmes implemented by other stakeholders in order to avoid duplication and build synergies, and so on.

At the implementation phase, to the extent possible, programmes should be implemented with and through partners (line ministries, local authorities, NGOs and others). While only PUNOs can be direct recipient of funding from the Migration MPTF, the PUNOs can (and are strongly encouraged to) transfer funds to implementing partners in line with their own financial regulations and rules.

Are multi-country proposals accepted? Can the Migration MPTF support programmes with Regional Economic Commissions?

Yes and yes.

For multi-country proposals (cross-border programmes involving a small number of countries, 2 or 3), please ensure to have Resident Coordinator (RC) and PUNO signatures from each country (and at a later stage, national authority signatures from each country).

For larger regional projects (for example, through a regional or sub-regional group such as the African Union or Southern African Development Community), the above requirement to have every RC and PUNO signature will be waived. Such concept notes will be assessed on a case by case basis and will need to include a strong justification for the framework and how it remains the expression of a national priority by the various states of the region/sub-region.

The budget threshold will remain the same for multi-country proposals as for single country proposals, no matter if one or more PUNOs are expected to implement activities in multiple countries.

How much funding is available for programming? What is the pipeline of projects?

Based on contributions and commitments received to date, USD 10m to USD15m are expected to be available for programming at the time of the next Steering Committee meeting, on 31st March. This is in line with the initial funding target (USD 25m in year one) and shall allow for an initial set of joint programmes covering multiple thematic areas to be set into motion in 2020.

While the initial funding target was modest, the ambition of the Fund is to grow significantly over the coming months/years and additional funding is very likely to become available. Thus, the Migration MPTF Steering Committee will constitute a pipeline of joint programmes comprising all concept notes deemed relevant and interesting but for which insufficient resources are available at the time of the meeting. These pre-approved concept notes may be financed whenever resources become available (no need for PUNOs to re-submit).

This pipeline of projects will answer the question as to what GCM implementation could look like and allow prospective donors to have a clear idea of the kind of interventions their contributions would help support. Answering these questions through the pipeline of projects and demonstrating the Migration MPTF's ability to swiftly initiate implementation of innovative joint programmes with the resources at hand, will be key to mobilize additional resources.

Who is eligible to receive funds? Will all 22 priority countries receive funding?

All countries, regardless of priority status or not, are eligible to apply.

It is not expected that all priority countries will receive funding from the Migration MPTF in its initial allocation phase. Funds expected to be available for programming at the time of the next Steering Committee meeting (USD 10m to USD 15m) would not be sufficient and being a priority country does not give any entitlement. When identifying a number of priority countries to help rationalize the technical support provided by the Fund Management Unit, the Migration MPTF Steering Committee has explicitly reiterated that it will accept submissions from all countries willing to implement the Global Compact and consider these on an equal footing.

All concept notes deemed relevant and interesting by the Steering Committee will be included in a pipeline of joint programmes (see above).

Can proposed joint programmes contribute to multiple thematic areas?

For tracking the use of resources and earmarking purposes, all joint programmes shall primarily relate to only one of the five Migration MPTF thematic areas. This "primary thematic area" must be clearly identified on the cover page of the concept note (as required by the concept note template itself).

However, any joint programme can contribute to some GCM objectives outside the primary area and therefore have a positive "secondary" impact on other thematic areas as well. These positive effects shall be spelled out in the narrative part of the concept note (in particular under sections 2 and 3 on expected results and theory of change).

What is required to confirm government support at the concept note submission stage? Proposal submission stage?

At the concept note submission stage, you do not need to submit a government support letter nor signature. There just needs to be a confirmation that the proposal has the support from and ownership of the national government (via answering Yes/No on the concept note signature page).

If and when the Migration MPTF Steering Committee decides to allocate resources towards the implementation of the joint programme, the country will be asked to turn the concept note into a full joint programme document within 3 months. At that point the signature from a high-level representative of the national government will be required on the proposal signature page.

What is the minimum and maximum budget?

The minimum total budget of any joint programme to be funded must be at least USD 500,000 times the number of PUNOs, with each PUNO expected to receive at least USD 100,000. For instance, if three organizations participate, the budget of the joint programme needs to be at least USD 1.5 million, while one organization can receive as little as USD 100,000, if the other two receive a combined total of at least USD 1.4 million. Please refer to section 3.3 of the Operations Manual.

There is no maximum budget.

How many UN Organizations can participate in a joint programme?

There is no fixed maximum number but, in line with UNDG guidance on joint programmes (*please refer to section 3.1 on page 13 – links to references are available at the end of this FAQ document*), we would recommend for each joint programme to include two to four Participating UN Organizations. Participation of a greater number of organizations very often results in serious coordination problems and reduced effectiveness/efficiency.

What is the minimum and maximum duration?

The maximum duration is 3 years. There is no minimum duration.

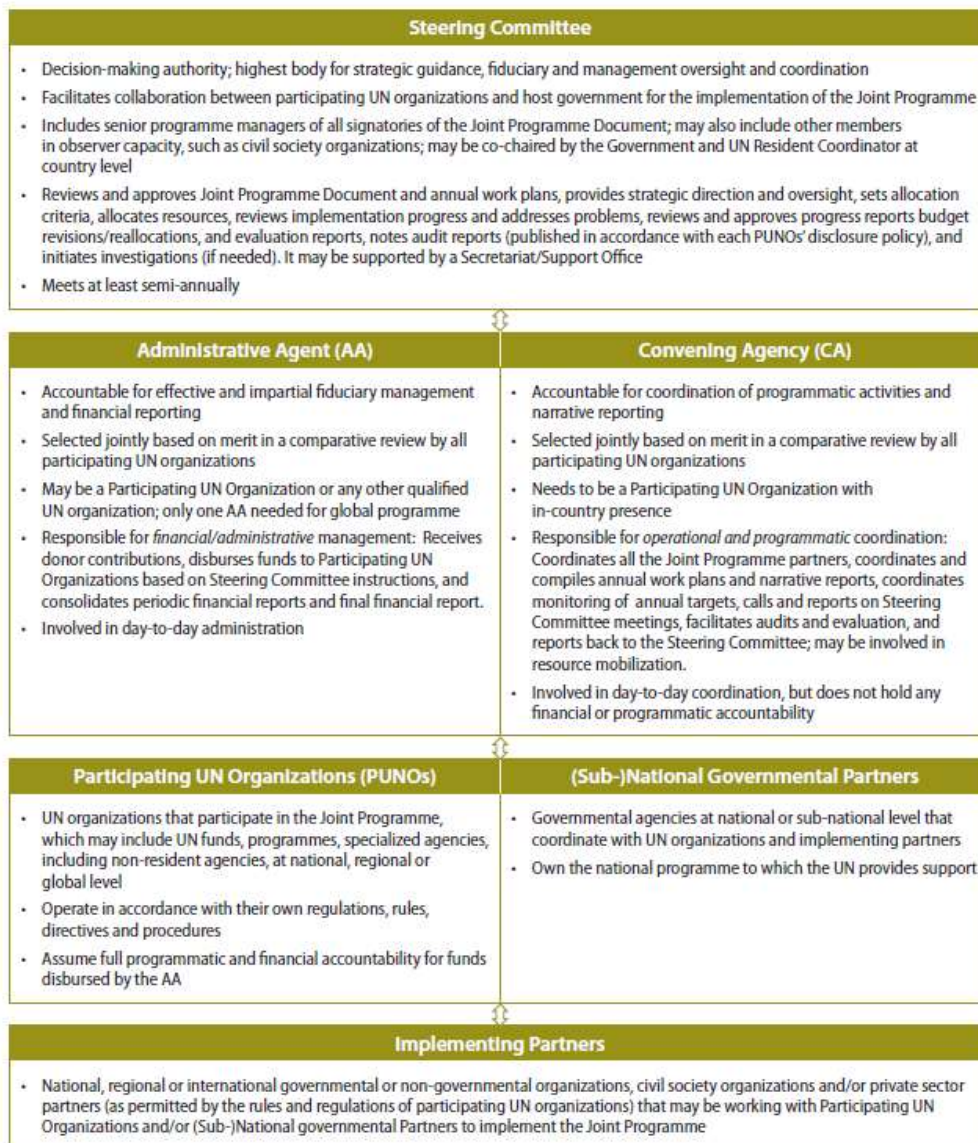
What is the minimum (and maximum) number of UN entities who can participate in a particular joint programme?

The minimum is two (2). There is no maximum.

What is the difference between a Convening UN Organization and a Participating UN Organization (PUNO)?

For each joint programme funded by the Migration MPTF, the PUNOs will have identified amongst themselves a “Convening UN Organization”. This organization will have the additional responsibility to ensure the overall coordination of the joint programme and prepare the consolidated narrative report on the programme (consolidation of the financial report will be done by the Administrative Agent). Additional costs related to performing the Convening UN Organization functions can be included in the joint programme budget.

Please see below for definitions of the various roles (*please refer to section 3.2 on page 14 of the UNDG Guidance Note on Joint Programmes*). For the Migration MPTF, the Administrative Agent will be the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, housed in UNDP New York (<http://mptf.undp.org/>)



Is it possible for the PUNO to implement some of its activities through other UN Agencies (not another PUNO) by entering into a UN to UN agreement with transfer of funds?

- YES for very small amounts (e.g. USD 5,000 for services such as conferencing), using the UN-to-UN transfer agreement
- NO for any significant amount.

The “UNDG Guidance on Establishing, Managing and Closing Multi-Donor Trust Funds” (see: <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/undg-guidance-establishing-managing-and-closing-multi-donor-trust-funds>), states:

Whenever a MDTF has been established, transfers of resources between Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs) should only occur between the AA and the PUNOs to avoid multiple cost recovery charges by PUNOs. Therefore, all UN organizations that expect to receive funding from a MDTF should become PUNOs by signing the MOU and funds should flow directly from the AA to each PUNO. If a PUNO received funds and it is later decided that another PUNO should implement part of the programme, funds should ideally be returned to the AA for redistribution as approved by the Steering Committee, unless the amount is not material. – page 16

This rule was adopted to avoid the cascading of transaction costs, which is a **serious concern for donors**. Under the pass-through modality, the indirect costs charged by the UN are capped at 8% (1% AA fee + harmonized 7% indirect costs for all PUNOs). What happens when a PUNO then enters into a UN-to-UN transfer agreement with another agency is that this UN agency charges its own standard cost recovery rate on the funds received on top of the already charged 8%.

For small amounts, the increase in transaction costs is almost immaterial and is not a real concern so it is acceptable. For larger amounts, the above concern applies. Such an arrangement would also beg the question, if a UN agency is implementing a component of the programme which requires a large amount of the fund, then why should it not be considered as a PUNO?

What is the deadline for submission?

End of February is the deadline for submission of concept notes to be considered at the 31 March Steering Committee meeting.

However, this does not mean that concept notes cannot be submitted at a later date. concept notes can actually be submitted at any point of time and will be considered on a rolling basis. Missing the end of February deadline means that the concept note will be considered at a subsequent Steering Committee meeting, as described in the Operations Manual (Please see section 4.1).

References:

The Migration MPTF Operations Manual (includes concept note template in Annex C):

<http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/MIG00>

UNDG Guidance Note on Joint Programmes: <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/undg-guidance-note-joint-programmes>

Contact Us:

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