



6th Steering Committee Meeting

14 December 2021

Summary of Decisions

PARTICIPANTS

Chair of the Steering Committee:

- **Antonio Vitorino** (IOM – Director General)

Member States:

- **Abdul-Karim Hashim Mostafa** (Iraq - Ambassador and PR in Geneva)
- **Evan P. Garcia** (Philippines - Ambassador and PR in Geneva)

Donors:

- **Katharina STASCH** (Germany - Ambassador and PR in Geneva)
- **Erika Martinez Lievano** (Mexico - Chargé d’Affaires, PM in Geneva)
- **Richard Taylor** (UK – Global Agenda Policy Manager, Conflict, Security and Migration Department)

Stakeholders:

- **Vittoria Zanuso** (Mayors Migrations Council - Executive Director)
- **Felipe González Morales** (Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants)
- **Carolina Gottardo** (International Detention Coalition – Executive Director)

United Nations:

- **Monica Ferro** (UNFPA – Director, Geneva Office)
- **Verena Knaus** (UNICEF – Global Lead, Migration and Displacement)
- **Santino Severoni** (WHO - Director, Health and Migration Programme)

Ex-officio members:

- **Jennifer Topping** (UNDP MPTF Office - Executive Coordinator)
- **Philippe Grandet** (Migration MPTF Fund Management Unit - Head)

In absence:

- **Ghana**

AGENDA

The Steering Committee had before them the following agenda:

OPENING REMARKS

15:00 – 15:10 Opening remarks by the Chair of the Steering Committee

FUNDING STATUS

15:10 – 15:20 Overview of funding status by the Executive Coordinator of the UNDP MPTF Office
 15:20 – 15:25 Presentation by the Chair/Fund Management Unit of the advocacy plan in the lead-up to the IMRF
 15:25– 15:40 Discussion on suggested approach and fundraising opportunities

IDENTIFICATION OF STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

15:40 – 15:45 Reflection by the Chair including on the feedback received from Member States and Stakeholders during the Consultative Forum (10 December)
 15:45 – 16:05 Discussion on strategic priorities

JOINT PROGRAMME DOCUMENTS, CONCEPT NOTES AND JOINT PROGRAMME REVISIONS

16:05 – 16:10 Presentation by the Chair/Fund Management Unit of the recommendation for approval/rejection of the sixteen concept notes and three joint programme documents received since the June Steering Committee meeting
 16:10 – 16:20 Discussion on the recommendation

ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES AND IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITIES

16:20 – 16:25 Presentation by the Chair/Fund Management Unit of the recommendation for the selection of additional joint programmes to be financed and for the identification of new priorities, in line with the 2021-2022 Investment Plan
 16:25 – 16:35 Discussion on proposed allocation of resources and suggested new priorities

FMU BUDGET

16:35 – 16:40 Presentation by the Chair/Fund Management Unit of the Fund Management Unit budget
 16:40 – 16:45 Discussion on proposed budget

WAY FORWARD

16:45 – 17:00 Discussion on key next steps

STEERING COMMITTEE DECISIONS

The following is a summary of decisions reached, all by consensus, under each agenda item.

Funding Status

While from a financial perspective the Fund is healthy and viable, in order to deliver on the expectations of the Member States that called for its establishment and to fulfil its potential, the Fund needs to continue growing and reach the USD 70 million capitalization target set by the Steering Committee by the International Migration Review Forum.

To this end, the Steering Committee agreed to focus its advocacy and resource mobilization efforts around the preparation of the IMRF, which provides a natural and legitimate platform to mobilize support for the Fund. It was also noted that a key component of this plan is the Pledging Initiative that will be launched by the UN Network on 17 December. While the pledges do not need to be financial and are expected to take many forms, contributions to the Migration MPTF will be an important item in the menu of options available to Member States to demonstrate concrete commitment to the implementation of the GCM.

Identification of Strategic Priorities

By adopting the 2021-2022 Investment Plan in December 2019, the Steering Committee committed to seek the greatest degree of diversity in line with the GCM 360-degree approach, when selecting joint programmes. This diversity would be measured from a variety of angles including geographic balance, nature of partnerships, types of interventions, categories of beneficiaries, and so on.

The current portfolio reflects this: Not only do the funded and priority joint programmes cover a broad geographic spread and all thematic areas, but they also cover a wide range of issues and recognize particular challenges, for example those faced by woman migrants, as well as the need to strengthen human rights protection and combat xenophobia.

Climate Change is an area where the Fund needs strengthening. As evidenced by the discussions during the Consultative Forum held on 10 December, the Fund is regarded as a relevant tool to address some of the climate change challenges, and while it currently supports a joint programme on the topic in the IGAD region and another one has been identified as a priority in the Pacific, it was agreed that the Fund must continue bringing partners together and supporting initiatives with a focus on climate change adaptation and resilience strengthening.

As such, the Steering Committee makes an explicit recommendation to strengthen this area of work by encouraging new submissions related to climate change (under any of the thematic areas, as they all can be relevant) and by giving such submissions particular consideration in future priority selection processes.



In view of the dramatic impact of the COVID pandemic and the current difficulties to implement the Afghanistan joint programme (“Managing Health Risks linked to Migration in Afghanistan: Operationalization of International Health Regulations”) due to the political context, the Steering Committee also recommended dedicating special attention to initiatives with a health component, noting the many obstacles faced by migrants in accessing essential health care services and emphasizing how such disparities undermines the realization of global health goals.

Finally, the Steering Committee reiterated its commitment to strongly align with the GCM guiding principles. The Steering Committee assessed very positively the mainstreaming of the whole of government approach as well as the human rights and gender responsiveness principles, both supported by a dedicated programme marker and Fund-specific guidance. While the whole of society approach is very much integrated in the preparation of final joint programme documents and the implementation phase, it has been noted that concept note submissions can often be considered weaker in this respect. Finally, the Steering Committee recognized a gap in operationalizing the guiding principle of child sensitivity and committed to addressing this going forward.

Joint Programme Documents, Concept Notes and Joint Programme Revisions

Joint Programme Documents

The Fund prioritized 10 joint programmes (2 per each thematic area), in line with the Investment Plan approved at the December 2020 Steering Committee meeting. Seven priority joint programmes previously submitted by Indonesia, Serbia, Ethiopia, Regional Pacific, Ecuador, Morocco, and Peru have already been approved; and 3 new joint programme documents were submitted for review and consideration by this Steering Committee meeting.

All 3 joint programme documents were received in full. Upon confirmation of eligibility, adherence to the GCM principles, and quality assessment, all three joint programmes were approved:

Approved Priority Joint Programmes					
Thematic Area	Country, Countries, or Region	Region /Sub-Region	Joint Programme Title	Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs)	Budget (USD)
2	El Salvador	Americas/ Central and North America	Strengthened government capacities in protection and reintegration of migrants and their families, for an integrated approach with a focus on human rights	IOM WFP UNFPA	3,400,000



Approved Priority Joint Programmes					
Thematic Area	Country, Countries, or Region	Region /Sub-Region	Joint Programme Title	Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs)	Budget (USD)
2	Gambia	Africa/ West and Central Africa	Addressing the drivers and causes of migration-related vulnerabilities among border communities along the Trans-Gambia transport corridor	ITC IOM UNDP UNICEF	2,350,000
3	Gabon, Togo	Africa/ West and Central Africa	Addressing irregular migration and combatting transnational crime in human trafficking along maritime and land routes from Togo to Gabon	UNODC UNICEF	2,200,550

For the Gabon-Togo joint programme, it was noted that some clarification and additional information would need to be included in the document related to beneficiaries and integration of cross-cutting principles.

Concept Notes

Sixteen new concept notes were received ahead of the meeting, bringing the total of submissions to 113 from 70 different countries and regions to date. Following the eligibility and quality review, the following 6 concept notes were included in the pipeline of joint programmes.

Concept Notes approved for inclusion in the Pipeline of Joint Programmes				
Thematic Area	Country	Region /Sub-Region	Joint Programme Title	PUNOs
TA1	Kyrgyz Republic	Asia/ Central Asia	Strengthening national capacity to collect, process, analyse and use migration data and statistics for evidence-based policy development in the Kyrgyz Republic	UNFPA, ILO, IOM, UN Women, WFP
TA1	<u>Central Asia:</u> Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	Asia/ Central Asia	Supporting the Governments of Central Asian States in the implementation of the GCM	IOM, UNDP, UNESCO
TA2	Zimbabwe	Africa/ Southern Africa	Strengthening Protection, Safety and Wellbeing Of Unaccompanied Minors And Separated Children In Zimbabwe	IOM, UNICEF

Concept Notes approved for inclusion in the Pipeline of Joint Programmes				
Thematic Area	Country	Region /Sub-Region	Joint Programme Title	PUNOs
TA4	Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia	Europe/ Europe	Western Balkans: Labour Migration for the Benefit of All	IOM, ILO
TA4	Republic of Moldova	Europe/ Europe	Leveraging the positive impact of migration on Moldova’s development through improved policy evidence and better engaged diaspora	IOM, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO
TA5	Kyrgyz Republic	Asia/ Central Asia	Enhancement of social cohesion and inclusive development processes in Kyrgyzstan by promoting safe reintegration of returned migrant workers, with special attention to women and youth	UN Women, UNESCO, UNFPA, IOM

For among those that were not selected, the Steering Committee expects the Fund Management Unit to provide constructive feedback in view of encouraging resubmissions or new submissions.

Joint Programme Revisions

Three funded joint programmes requested revisions that required Steering Committee approval because variations between budget categories exceeded 20% even if the total budget remained unchanged.

The Steering Committee noted that the revisions requested by the teams implementing the “Bridging Recruitment to Reintegration in Migration Governance” joint programme in the Philippines and the “Addressing drivers and facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration in the contexts of disasters and climate change” in the IGAD region did not affect the expected results and were fully justified to adjust to the context of the pandemic and the security situation in Ethiopia. Accordingly, both revision requests were approved.

A third request of a similar nature was submitted for the Chile-Mexico joint programme but still required some work to be finalized. However, it was looked upon favourably by the Steering Committee and the authority to approve the changes was delegated to the Fund Management Unit.



Allocation of Resources and Identification of Priorities

Allocation of Resources

Taking into consideration the volume of resources available, the donor earmarking, and thematic balance, it was agreed to allocate resources to the following three joint programmes which were amongst the approved priority joint programmes.

Allocation of Resources to Joint Programmes					
Thematic Area	Country, Countries, or Region	Region /Sub-Region	Joint Programme Title	PUNOs	Budget (USD)
1	Indonesia	Asia/ East and Southeast Asia	Migration Governance for Sustainable Development in Indonesia	IOM, UNDP, UN Women	1,700,000
2	Gambia	Africa/ West and Central Africa	Addressing the drivers and causes of migration-related vulnerabilities among border communities along the Trans-Gambia transport corridor	ITC, IOM, UNDP, UNICEF	2,350,000
4	Ecuador	Americas/ South America	Socio-economic integration of migrants and host communities focused on national and local governments and innovation projects	IOM, UNDP, UN Women	1,500,000

In addition to funding availability limitations per thematic area, the selection considered geographic balance and diversity of interventions.

Identification of New Priorities

In line with the approach outlined in the 2021-2022 Investment Plan and following the decision to fund three priority joint programmes (Indonesia under thematic area 1, Gambia under thematic area 2, and Ecuador under thematic area 4), three new priority joint programmes needed to be identified from within the pipeline to maintain two priority joint programmes under each thematic area (i.e. ten in total).

On an exceptional basis, an additional priority joint programme was selected for thematic area 3 to address concerns about the potential difficulty to implement the existing priority in the current security context.

The following four joint programmes were selected as priorities:



- For thematic area 1, “Strengthening Fact-Based and Data-Driven Migration Governance and Management” in **Nigeria**.
- For thematic area 2, “Strengthening Protection, Safety and Wellbeing of Unaccompanied Minors and Separated Children” in **Zimbabwe**.
- For thematic area 3, “Strengthening Coordination and Exchange of Information between Law Enforcement in Prosecution of Smuggling of Migrants and Human Trafficking” in **Costa Rica**.
- For thematic area 4, “Leveraging the positive impact of migration on Moldova’s development through improved policy evidence and better engaged diaspora” in the **Republic of Moldova**.

Overall, the eleven priority joint programmes and their respective status in the approval process are summarised below:

Priority Joint Programmes						
Thematic Area	Country, Countries	Region /Sub-Region	Joint Programme Title	PUNOs	Budget (USD)	Status of Joint Programme document
1	Nigeria	Africa/ West and Central Africa	Strengthening Fact-Based and Data-Driven Migration Governance and Management in Nigeria	IOM, UNODC	2,000,000	Requested
1	Serbia	Europe / Europe	Promoting evidence-based migration governance for maximizing development potential of migration	IOM, UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR	2,000,000	Approved
2	El Salvador	Americas / Central and North America	Strengthen the government capacities in protection and reintegration of migrant persons and their families for a holistic approach with a human rights focus	IOM, WFP and UNFPA	3,400,000	Approved
2	Zimbabwe	Africa/ Southern Africa	Strengthening Protection, Safety and Wellbeing Of Unaccompanied Minors And Separated Children	IOM, UNICEF	2,483,375	Requested
3	Costa Rica	Americas / Central and North America	Costa Rica: Strengthening Coordination and Exchange of Information between Law Enforcement in Prosecution of Smuggling of Migrants and Human Trafficking Transnational Crimes	IOM, UNODC, UN Women, UPU	2,300,000	Requested

Priority Joint Programmes						
Thematic Area	Country, Countries	Region /Sub-Region	Joint Programme Title	PUNOs	Budget (USD)	Status of Joint Programme document
3	Ethiopia	Africa / East Africa	Provision of essential services, protection and economic empowerment to support the inclusion and integration of migrant street children, youths, and adolescents in Addis Ababa	ILO, UN Habitat, WHO	1,500,000	Approved
3	Gabon-Togo	Africa / West and Central Africa	Addressing irregular migration and combatting transnational crime in human trafficking along maritime and land routes from Togo to Gabon	UNODC, UNICEF	2,200,000	Requested
4	Regional Pacific	Asia / Pacific	Labour Mobility for Sustainable Development and Climate Resilience in the Pacific	ILO, IOM	1,850,000	Approved
4	Republic of Moldova	Europe/ Europe	Leveraging the positive impact of migration on Moldova's development through improved policy evidence and better engaged diaspora	IOM, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO	2,000,000	Requested
5	Morocco	MENA / MENA	Making Migration Work for All: Improved Social Cohesion and fair access to services for migrants in Morocco	IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF	2,000,000	Approved
5	Peru	Americas / South America	Strengthening socioeconomic inclusion and access to comprehensive quality healthcare and protection of refugees and migrants and receiving communities in the COVID-19 context in the district of San Juan de Lurigancho-SJL, Lima, Peru	ILO, IOM, UNFPA, WHO	2,053,567	Approved



The Fund Management Unit (FMU) Budget

Since it was established in the second half of 2019, the Fund Management Unit has been fully funded by IOM, as part of its overall support to the UN Network on Migration Secretariat. It has been a de facto contribution of IOM to the Fund.

The Fund Operations Manual foresaw a transfer of these costs to the Fund itself by the end of the start-up phase, covering the 2019 to 2021 period. Rather than abruptly transferring all costs, with IOM's support, the Steering Committee has opted for a gradual approach and agreed to have 25% of the FMU's budget covered by the Fund in 2022, with the remaining 75% to be covered by IOM. It is expected that in successive years, the Fund's share will increase and IOM's share decrease.

Way Forward

In line with the Operations Manual, two meetings of the Steering Committee will be scheduled in 2022: the first one in June and the second one in December, immediately following the Consultative Forum.

One of the top priorities will be to strengthen advocacy and resource mobilization efforts leading up to, and at the IMRF itself, including soliciting support for the Pledging Initiative. The consolidated Annual Report is to be prepared early this year to allow for its circulation ahead of the IMRF.

Rotation for 2022 will concern the six remaining original members, who will keep their seat until end of June. By mid-April, following consultations with the relevant groups for their respective membership categories, the Chair will appoint the six incoming members (one Network member, two donors, one country of origin, transit and destination and two stakeholders). These incoming members will join the June 2022 Steering Committee meeting and its preparation as observers to facilitate the transition.