

Draft Concept Note and Program Overview

Thematic Workshop

Children and Youth on the Move: Implementing Sustainable Solutions

21-22 June, 2018 | Agadir, Morocco

Overview

Migration is an empowering experience for millions of children and young people around the world. Most of them migrate safely and regularly within their countries or regions, enriching the societies they leave and join. In a context of growing demographic inequities between ageing societies and countries with burgeoning youth populations, economies will soon compete to attract young migrants whose skills and talents are promising. Africa, given its demography, geography and economy, will play a key role in these dynamics.

Against this backdrop, the GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairmanship, in partnership with UNICEF, is organising a thematic workshop that aims to unpack priority issues at stake for children and young people on the move, such as protection gaps, social inclusion, and access to services and labour markets. The event will also provide a platform to exchange examples of solutions -- effective migration policies and practices that can guide regional, national and local stakeholders in the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration with and for children and youth.

Themes that will run through all workshop discussions include: frameworks to improve cooperation on migration to the benefit of the next generation of child and youth migrants (with a particular focus on regional cooperation); existing good practices that effectively mitigate risks for children and young people on the move and maximise the benefits of their migration; knowledge gaps that impede the co-creation of migration policies with and for children and young people; and aspirations and needs of child and youth migrants. The workshop will tap into the first-hand experiences of young migrants, local and national authorities, practitioners, experts, the private sector and the international community.

Objectives

Start preparing for implementation of the Global Compact for Migration, from the local to the global level, by:

1. Exchanging practical examples of effective child-sensitive migration policies and practices that can be replicated regionally or globally, with a focus on the African continent.
2. Identifying and co-creating solutions to address priority issues for and with children and young people on the move.
3. Building multi-stakeholder coalitions that will take forward some of the identified solutions to address key issues at stake for migrant children and youth.

Structure

The workshop will tap into the first-hand experiences of young migrants, local and national authorities, practitioners, experts, the private sector and the international community. Young people will contribute as active participants, experts and thought leaders.

The event will be a mixture of plenary sessions, parallel breakout working groups, TED-style interactive panels and informal chats. Sessions will be structured to allow for a constructive exchange of promising practices and experiences among all participants. During an interactive market place session, participants will have a chance to meet and exchange with Morocco-based partners and practitioners working directly for and with migrants. As part of a community action, participants will also be invited to join and contribute to UNICEF's public activation aimed at promoting positive attitudes towards refugee and migrant children during the 2018 World Football Cup.

Day One / Thursday 21 June, 2018

08.30 – 09.00 Registration

09.00 – 10:00 **Opening Session**

Children have the most to gain and the most to lose when decisions are made about migration and displacement, and they deserve a place in every discussion on these issues. When children and their families have safe, legal routes for migration, it can offer tremendous opportunities for both the children who migrate as well as the communities they join. If they migrate irregularly, migration is subject to much greater risk. In these situations, it is children who often face the most immediate dangers and most profound consequences. This opening plenary will provide an overview of the relationship between children and young people on the move and critical development and rights issues, including those to be covered in the two days of the workshop.

Format: Keynote speeches

10:00 – 10:30 **Reflections I: *Half glass full?***

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee break

11.00 – 13.00 **Working Session I: Data to Protect, Data to Inform, Data to Deter?**

Without high-quality data, we cannot design the evidence-based policies we need to protect migrant and displaced children and their families. Nor can we make good use of their capacities and skills to maximize the impact of migration on sending, transit and receiving societies. Investing in overcoming data gaps is an investment in the future and should be a priority for all governments to ensure that children receive the protection they need to live up to their full potential and contribute to their societies. This session will focus on challenges and opportunities regarding the collection, analysis and sharing of data relevant to

migrant children and youth, including child protection safeguards, capacity development, privacy rights and good practices, paying attention to South-South and intra-regional migratory flows.

Format: Panel with brief presentations by experts and government representatives, followed by discussion

13.00 – 15.00 LUNCH & MARKET PLACE & Uprooted World Cup Activation

This will be an opportunity to showcase and share examples of responses to the specific needs of child and youth migrants, including as part of delivery of basic social service, including organisations and partners from Morocco and different regions.

15.00 – 16.30 Working Session II: Protecting Children and Young Migrants Across Borders

Providing integrated child protection care and services for all migrant children, starting when they first arrive at the border, is a key migration management tool to prevent children from going underground, being abused and exploited, or ending up in detention. Whenever children are concerned, child protection authorities – not immigration enforcement – should be in the lead. Close cross-border cooperation and partnership among child protection actors in countries of origin, transit and destination along some migratory routes is proving crucial to protect children at all stages of their journey, regardless of where they are and where they come from. Stepping up returns is a priority for many receiving States involved in GCM negotiations. However, there is very little discussion about when and how returns are in the best interests of children (both unaccompanied or in families), or about how successful reintegration support programmes for returnee children and youth look like.

This session will draw on recent regional experiences of cross-border cooperation and identify elements of these schemes that could be replicated in other contexts, as well as areas where UNICEF and other actors can provide technical support. It will also review missing elements in returns practices and propose concrete ways to fill these gaps, including through pilot initiatives that could spin off the GCM once adopted.

Format: Panel of 4-5 speakers, followed by facilitated discussion

16:30- 18:00 PLENARY I: Africa - A Continent on the Move?

Format: Davos-style panel, followed by interactive Q&A

08.30 – 09.00 Day 1 Recap

09:00 – 09:30 **Reflections II: How Do Children Who Do Not Move Experience Migration?**

- The impact of financial and social remittances on children left behind
 - Young second-generation migrant on transnational families and identities
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09:30 – 11:00 **PLENARY II: Being a Young Migrant – from Object to Subject. Why and How Should You Invest in Us?**

The world is beginning to acknowledge the catalytic impact of investing in adolescents and youth, including those on the move. This session will be driven by young migrants, who will focus on what drives them to leave their homes and talk about their hopes and the challenges they face. It will then dive into a number of key areas where innovative approaches and partnerships with the private sector and other actors can change the lives of young people impacted by migration for good, such as skills development for life and work, international recognition of qualifications, blended learning models that use technology and human interactions and combine digital and non-digital materials, and community-based interventions that address the different psychosocial needs and vulnerabilities of adolescent girls and boys in the context of migration.

Format: Davos-style panel, followed by interactive Q&A

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 – 13.30 **Working Session III: Pathways Out of Vulnerability, Access to Services and Sustainable Solutions for Children and Families**

While all children are inherently vulnerable, the current lack of safe and regular migration pathways compounds migrant children's vulnerability. Many are in dire need of protection and cannot go back to their countries of origin, but do not have access to refugee or other status. Protracted uncertain status, living a life under the radar, being born to undocumented parents or living a life on a suitcase – in permanent fear of detection and deportation – takes an enormous toll on children and young people's lives. What options exist for national and local governments to protect these children and youth without encouraging irregular migration? What good practices have been tried out offering pathways to regular status? How can governments expand family unification and options for families to migrate together?

This session will explore how to close protection gaps for children and youth on the move in practice, including through increased access to sustainable solutions.

Format: Moderated panel discussion

13.30 – 15.00 **LUNCH**

15.00 – 16.30 PLENARY III: Partnerships *For* and *With* Migrant Children and Youth

The commitments in the GCM will only make a real difference in the lives of children impacted by migration if they lead to concerted actions by national and local governments, regional and sub-regional organisations, civil society actors, UN entities, the private sector, and children and young people themselves. This session will explore the partnerships, investments and monitoring mechanisms that are needed for these actions to materialize, from the global to the local level. Participants will be challenged to think big and to identify two or three issues that could become vectors of change and lead to results at scale as part of GCM implementation.

Format: Davos-style panel, followed by interactive Q&A

16.30 – 17.00 Closing remarks

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