



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Expert Group Meeting on the 2021 Situation Report on International Migration in the Arab Region Concept Note

I. Background

The Situation Report on International Migration in the Arab Region (SRIM) is a biennial report, which has since its first edition in 2015 provided an overview of key data, policy developments and major trends in the area of international migration and displacement in the Arab region. The thematic focus of the 2021 edition of the report is on resilient migrants, in a clear link to the COVID-19 pandemic in addition to other major crisis that have occurred in the region, which have had substantial fallout for the lives and livelihoods of migrants and refugees in the region.

The report is one of the key outputs of the Issue-based Coalition on Migration in the Arab Region (IBC), formerly known as the Working Group on International Migration in the Arab Region. The main purpose of the IBC is to coordinate the complementary efforts of international and regional actors in the Arab region related to migration and displacement, as well as to promote joint research and activities in this area. Today, the IBC brings together 23 participating organizations and is co-lead by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the International Labour Organization and the League of Arab States (LAS).¹

II. Objectives of the publication

SRIM 2021 builds on previous editions of the report and works toward progressively building knowledge on international migration and displacement in the Arab region. The report provides a comprehensive and up-to-date overview of migration and displacement trends and patterns, a compendium of recent developments and new policies regarding the governance of migration and displacement in the region, and an analysis of migrant resilience in the Arab region. The main objectives of SRIM 2021 are to:

- Provide an update of the latest migration and displacement trends and patterns in the Arab region, with a focus on international migrant stocks based on the UN Population Division's International Migrant Stock 2020 database and on refugee data provided by UNHCR and

¹ United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), League of Arab States (LAS), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), United Nations Volunteers (UNV), United Nations Entity for Gender Empowerment (UN Women), World Food Program (WFP) and World Health Organization (WHO).

UNRWA, complemented by other relevant data sources including: IOM, World Bank, ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF, IFAD and IDMC;

- Give an overview of developments in the governance of migration and displacement in the Arab region between April 2019 and December 2020, by thematic areas; and
- Provide a regional analysis of migrant resilience region in face of exogenous shocks such as the global health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Moving beyond a singular lens approach focused on statistical analyses, the Report seeks to examine migrant experiences and challenges, illuminate how migrants are responding to the pandemic and highlight policies facilitating migrant resilience in the Arab region.

III. Meeting objectives

The Expert Group Meeting (EGM) aims to bring together the drafting and coordinating teams from ESCWA and IOM, focal points from the members of the Issue-based Coalition on Migration in the Arab Region (IBC), as well as experts in migration and displacement to review the draft of SRIM 2021. The draft of Chapters 1 and 2 with consolidated input received from IBC members and the first draft of Chapter 3 will be shared with the participants two weeks prior to the meeting, at the latest. The EGM will serve as an opportunity to discuss, provide input, and validate the research findings of the report.

IV. Logistical information

a. Date and time

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, 29 June 2021 from 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm EEST (Beirut time).

Registration for the meeting begins at 2:45 pm EEST.

b. Location

The meeting will be held via MS Teams. Details for accessing the meeting will be shared with participants via e-mail.

c. Language

The meeting will be held in English.

V. Agenda

Tuesday, 29 June 2021 (Beirut time)

14:45 - 15:00	Registration
15:00 - 15:15	Welcoming remarks and overview of the report - ESCWA - IOM - UNHCR
15:15 - 15:45	Presentation and discussion of Chapter I
15:45 - 16:15	Presentation and discussion of Chapter II
16:15 - 17:15	Presentation and discussion of Chapter III
17:15 - 17:30	Closing remarks and the way forward

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