



## **First Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the Arab Region**

### **Guiding template for the review of the implementation of the GCM**

This template is in line with the UN Network on Migration proposed framework to assist Member States in conducting reviews of GCM implementation at the national level, in preparation for regional reviews. It is intended to provide an outline and elements that Member States could consider when preparing the national review. The template serves to promote consistency and comparability between reviews across regions. This review is voluntary in nature, and countries have the flexibility to adapt it to their national context and priorities.

#### **I. Methodology (*should not exceed 500 words*)**

Describe the methodology followed to prepare the national review of the GCM:

- a. Did you establish a mechanism responsible for coordinating the review? Which entities were represented in the coordination mechanism? Does it have a chair?*

Since the adoption of the GCM, the GoJ has appointed focal points in charge of following up and reporting on the implementation of the GCM. To date, there are focal points at the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Interior (MoI), Labor (MoL), Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC). Other Ministries such as the Ministry of Health (MoH) and units/departments under these ministries are also heavily involved, including the Department of Statistics.

- b. If you did not establish a specific mechanism, who was responsible for the review?*

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates (MoFAE) is responsible for the review and collects input from the various relevant Ministries.

- c. Which government entities were involved in the review process?*

MoFAE, MoPIC, MoH and MoI

- d. Did you consult with local-level authorities during the review process (such as municipalities or governorates)?*

N/A

- e. *Did you engage with different non-governmental stakeholders (such as the private sector, trade unions, civil society organizations, academia, migrant communities, etc.)? If yes, who did you engage with and how?*

In August, the GoJ held a meeting with the UN National Migration Working Group to discuss interests and priorities. Follow up meetings will include non-governmental organizations, private sector and other relevant entities.

- f. *What data was available to you to conduct the review? What difficulties did you face in obtaining the data?*

The Government of Jordan established a policy to govern migration, including creating a unified database of all non-Jordanians resident in Jordan. This database is based on input and updates from all relevant entities that deal with or provide services to migrants. Analysis of this data help the decision makers in drafting policies and making evidence-based decisions. The policies governing migration in Jordan have taken into consideration all types and trends of migration, ensured implementation of national laws and ensured the ability to reach out to the most vulnerable to provide protection.

- g. *Were you able to review all of the objectives, or did you choose to focus on specific objectives that you consider a priority in your country? Why are they a priority?*

This review only gives a brief overview of the work that has been done in Jordan in regards to the GCM. Progress however, has been limited due to several reasons including the COVID-19 pandemic, which has prevented the implementation of the GCM to be initiated in any wider sense.

Nonetheless, ensuring decent work and mitigation measures to prevent labour and other forms of exploitation were at the forefront during the lockdown period in the spring of 2020.

- h. *Did you receive any support from the UN country teams, and/or the UN Network on Migration to prepare for the national review?*

IOM and ILO Country Offices have been providing technical assistance in preparation for the upcoming national review.

## II. Policy and enabling environment (should not exceed 1500 words)

- a. *Has the government collaborated with different stakeholders in implementing the GCM (such as in developing migration-relevant policies, designing and implementing migration-relevant projects, encouraging multi-stakeholder dialogue, etc.)? If yes, please list the stakeholders involved (e.g recruiting agencies, migrant organizations ...).*

Through the UN National Migration Working Group, the GoJ has been able to consult and potentially collaborate on migrant related issues with a number of UN agencies including; IOM, ILO, UNHCR,

UNODC, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA and UNRCO. Looking forward, this Working Group intends to include organizations from the NGO and CSO sectors as well.

- b. Has the government integrated GCM implementation into SDG implementation and other relevant processes? If so, how?*

MoPIC is the co-chair of the UN-Government committee looking at the implementation of SDGs.

Besides the UN Sustainable Development Framework which was signed between MoPIC and the UN in 2017, the GoJ, with the support of the UNCT in Jordan, have developed a Socio-Economic Recovery Framework (SEF) for Jordan to ensure an adequate response to COVID-19. The Framework, not final yet as comments by the ministries on the draft is yet to be finalized. The SEF recognizes the vulnerability of migrant workers in the Jordanian context, and the need to take action in order to address their situation.

- c. What migration-relevant policies have you developed since the adoption of the GCM in December in 2018? Did you reform existing policies in line with the GCM? Which ones? (please provide title and date of policies) What challenges and barriers did you face in developing or reforming those policies? Did you adopt any specific policies that targeted migrants in light of the COVID-19 pandemic?*

A Domestic Workers by-law has been issued by the Ministry of Labor, with an improvement towards protection of the domestic workers in comparison with the previous by-law. The by-law was published in the official gazette in July 2020. One of the main challenges in reforming these policies was to engage the relevant stakeholders in reforming the regulation, and the time needed to adopt these amendments.

A revised version of the Anti-Trafficking Law has been prepared and finalized by the end of 2019 by the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons. The draft law has been submitted by the Ministry of Justice on behalf of the Committee to the Parliament. However, it has not yet been issued by the Parliament.

- d. Can you elaborate on any policies and/or provisions in policies you have developed or incorporated in relation to specific category of migrants, such as women migrant workers, child migrants, and undocumented migrants?*

The Domestic Workers' Regulation introduced enhanced protection on payment of wages, complaints privacy and the workers right to leave work in case of sexual or physical abuse or a violation of the workers' fundamental rights.

See above.

- e. Did you have to adopt new policies or measures as a result of regional migration dynamics, policies or measures?*

See above.

- f. Did you adopt any institutional reforms to respond to the GCM (did you establish new bodies or mechanisms, or restructure existing ones? Did you change working procedures?)*

- g. *Are there any relevant regional, sub-regional and cross-regional strategies, frameworks, and implementation plans? How have you contributed to implementing them? What are the main gaps and challenges you face in implementing them?*

N/A

III. Progress on GCM objectives (*should not exceed 2000 words*)

- a. *Did your government develop implementation plans for the GCM? What is the status of implementation of the 23 objectives of the GCM?*

To date, the GoJ has not developed any dedicated implementation plan for the GCM. However, the migration perspective has been taken into account in the development of plans countering the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as plans focusing on the UN's work in Jordan in a wider perspective (CCA). The status of the 23 objectives in the GCM remains to be properly assessed.

- b. *What steps has the government taken to integrate the GCM guiding principles into migration governance frameworks and GCM implementation plans?*

see above.

- c. *What success, challenges and gaps do you face in reaching GCM objectives? What potential risks do you foresee? How could they be addressed? Have you taken any mitigation measures? (please highlight any trends, successes, challenges, emerging issues, including as impacted by regional dynamics).*

Looking forward, there is a number of factors that poses a risk towards migrants in Jordan. First and foremost, there is the ongoing pandemic, and the consequences of actions taken to mitigate the spread of the virus. Actions like these affect already vulnerable migrants substantially, and risk putting them in an even more vulnerable position. Looking past the more obvious and direct risks of lack of access to food and water due to comprehensive lockdowns, the downturn in the global economy risks affecting migrants' workers access to work and putting them in an even more vulnerable position. For example, the garment sector globally has been hit particularly hard by the economic crisis resulting from the pandemic and this has also adversely affected the garment sector in Jordan. Actions have been taken by the GoJ to mitigate the effects of these risks on migrants. Recently, the new Minister of Labour allowed migrant workers who registered on the leave portal but did not withdraw their social security entitlements to stay and work in the country (which was not permitted previously).

There is also the risk of resurging conflict in neighboring countries such as Syria, Iraq and Palestine, which would lead to an influx of refugees and migrants into Jordan.

Jordanians who work abroad, most notably in the Gulf countries, are likely to return home after losing their jobs due to the economic downturn caused by COVID-19 and the fall in oil prices. An inward migration

will likely cause an increase in the unemployment rate and disrupt the labor market in Jordan, especially that most Jordanians abroad are highly educated while available jobs in Jordan are for low-skilled workers.

- d. What are some promising practices and lessons learned that may be relevant for other countries in the region (or across regions)? Please highlight innovative policies or promising practices related to any of the objectives, especially those targeting categories of migrants who are more vulnerable. Where possible, information should be based on statistical as well as qualitative data.

Prior to COVID-19 situation, the Ministry of Labor was working towards identifying alternative labor markets and concluded an agreement with Germany. Such a process can be replicated for other destination countries.

Temporary labour migration, which contributes to sustainable development in Jordan, by meeting labour demand in the agriculture, construction, garment and domestic work sectors, and in migrants' countries of origin, as well as providing direct benefits to migrant workers and their families, can be a good practice. Further policy and legislative measures, however, are needed to ensure a more holistic approach to labour migration to Jordan in terms of admission, stay and departure of migrant workers that is in accordance with international human rights and labour standards and the GCM. In this regard, more targeted bilateral cooperation with migrant worker countries of origin can also be developed.

#### IV. Means of implementation *(should not exceed 500 words)*

- a. How are you mobilizing means of implementation to ensure the achievement of the GCM objectives (for example, allocating budgets, building partnerships, collecting data, and building capacities)?

Regarding migration-related issues, Jordan has a strong relationship with the UN agencies IOM and ILO. The two organizations have supported GoJ in the preparations and consultations leading up to the signing of the GCM. Following this, they have been very much involved in establishing the Jordanian National Migration Working Group (2019), which aims at bringing together all relevant UN and non-governmental organizations in Jordan, to work with the GoJ in implementing the GCM. The work of the NWMG is still in its initial phase, focusing on connecting all the relevant stakeholders and mapping the road ahead. The COVID-19 pandemic has slowed this work, as the focus shifted to mitigating the consequences of the pandemic. However, after the first biannual meeting with the GoJ in August 2020, the work of the group has once again resumed and is looking forward to a hopefully productive 2021.

- b. What challenges do you face in mobilizing means of implementation?

In the wake of the Syrian civil war, which led to Jordan receiving a large influx of refugees, as well as the ongoing pandemic, donor fatigue is becoming a main obstacle to the mobilization of financial resources needed for the implementation of the GCM. Migrants contribute to sustainable development in countries

of destination and origin; however, amidst the refugee crisis and regional instability, this fact is not as clear as should be in the minds of the public and practitioners.

- c. What additional resources do you need? Do you have a plan to mobilize them?

Still to be identified.

V. Next steps *(should not exceed 500 words)*

- a. Based on the outcomes of this review, what areas do you consider a priority? what steps are you planning to enhance the implementation of the GCM?

GoJ will continue to work with the UN National Migration Working Group and other relevant partners to ensure that the GCM will be implemented. The first step would be to, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, develop a roadmap to guide the way forward and act as a supporting document in fundraising for necessary programming.

- b. How will the results of the review be disseminated? What additional actions will you take in preparation for the first IMRF that will be held in 2022?

MoFAE has shared this report with relevant ministries and collected their input. Other relevant stakeholders will also be contacted and the report will be regularly updated. MoFAE will seek the support of the NMWG to organize an inter-ministerial meeting to discuss and agree on the roadmap.