

## I. 2018 Achievements: Highlights of Key Activities since 23<sup>rd</sup> RCM:

The Working Group on International Migration in the Arab Region, co-chaired by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), the League of Arab States (LAS) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), was established in 2014 to coordinate the work programmes on international migration of regional actors in the Arab region and to promote joint research on migration. UNICEF joined the Working Group (WG) in 2018, bringing the total number of members to 17 participating organizations.<sup>1</sup> During the same year, another request for Membership has been reiterated by WFP and will be the subject of approval during the next RCM meeting. In 2018, the activities of the Working Group primarily focused on: a) the completion and launch of the Situation Report 2017 in English and Arabic, b) the Capacity Building Workshop on Migration and the SDGs, c) the Mapping Report on Migration-Related Programmes, Projects and Activities in the Arab Region, d) the commencement of the Situation Report on International Migration 2019 edition, and e) technical support to the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP).

- **Launch of 2017 Situation Report on International Migration: Migration in the Arab Region and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

The [2017 Situation Report on International Migration](#) was translated into Arabic, and formally launched in Arabic and English in Cairo on July 2nd, 2018, at the same time as IOM's World Migration Report 2018 by then IOM Director General William Lacy Swing. The launch was organized by IOM, in close coordination with UNESCWA. Several members of the Working Group on International Migration were present and showcased their knowledge products. There were over 135 participants including from diplomatic missions, regional entities, Government of Egypt officials, civil society, media and academia.

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<sup>1</sup> The members of the working group include: United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), the League of Arab States (LAS), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Entity for Gender Empowerment (UN-Women), and the World Health Organization (WHO).

- **Capacity Building Workshop on Migration and the SDGs**

In the context of the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and the forthcoming Global Compact on Migration, the co-chairs of the Working Group, UNESCWA, LAS and IOM, organized a two-day [capacity building workshop on migration and sustainable development](#). The workshop, held in Cairo on the 16th and 17th of July 2018, targeted official representatives of relevant ministries operating in the field of migration and SDGs in the Arab Region and was conducted by technical experts. The objective was to strengthen government capacities in achieving migration related targets of the 2030 Agenda, particularly SDG 10.7. The workshop introduced the 2030 Agenda at the global, regional and national levels. It unpacked the SDGs and examined how migration is integrated in different thematic areas, such as decent work, migrants in crisis, and migrants' rights and health, including those of women and girls, the impact of climate change, and urban development issues. Interactive working sessions focused on the importance of ascertaining national priorities and introduced approaches to reviewing existing policies considering regional and global commitments and frameworks, and developing subsequent plans of action in migration in the context of the 2030 Agenda. Special emphasis was placed on the efforts and good practices taken by Member States in implementing adequate policies and ensuring data availability to measure progress in achieving the SDGs.

Government representatives from 13 different LAS member States attended, including: Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Palestine, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen. Participants in the workshop benefited from Working Group members' expertise as they presented experiences on mainstreaming migration-related SDGs and targets into national policies, plans, and monitoring frameworks. The workshop was the first pilot for the region, and relied on different tools, such as IOM's Migration and SDGs Guide for Practitioners.

Equally, on the sidelines of the workshop, a meeting was held for Working Group members to connect and participate in a brainstorming session for the upcoming 2019 Situation Report on International Migration in the Arab Region. The meeting contributed to the concept note of the Report, and narrowing the thematic focus of the Report's third chapter.

- **Mapping Report on Migration-Related Programmes, Projects and Activities in the Arab Region**

Building on prior mapping exercises conducted in 2014 and 2016, a 2018 survey set out to chart the migration related programmes, projects, publications and other activities of members of the Working Group for the period 2016-2019, creating a clear and comprehensive overview of recent, ongoing, and future projects. The result of the survey, the [2018 Mapping Report on Migration-Related Programmes, Projects and Activities in the Arab Region](#), serves as a key foundation through which UN agencies Working Group members ensure complementarity and relevance of

migration work in the Arab region. It also critically informs the literature review and research needs for the forthcoming 2019 Situation Report on International Migration in the Arab Region, including the thematic focus of the Report's third chapter. Finally, the results of the survey serve as a reference for external parties seeking to further coordinate and complement efforts related to migration and displacement as undertaken by the members of the Working Group. This survey is equally being used as a basis for other regions to complete similar mappings.

The survey responses were analyzed to produce a report with a descriptive outline of the activities, projects and programmes of the different Working Group members, in addition to key challenges, gaps and future initiatives. The report can thus be used as a basis for further identifying needs and priority areas and forging collaboration between international and regional organizations on the issues relating to international migration in the Arab region.

- **Outline of 2019 Situation Report on International Migration in the Arab Region**

After liaising with all Working Group agencies on research contributions to migration in the Arab region, their identification of research gaps and proposals, the outline of Situation Report on International Migration in the Arab Region (SRIM) has been approved by the Working Group and research is under way, spearheaded by IOM and UNESCWA and supported by Working Group members. Chapter I of the report will present migration data and review principal international migration trends in the Arab region and by sub-region (2017 - 2019). Chapter II will present new developments in migration governance in the Arab region from 2017 to 2019. Chapter III will situate the GCM in the context of the Arab region, identify priority areas for the Arab region, provide an institutional and policy map for each priority area that showcases policies and programs adopted across the region, as well as opportunities for policy interventions at national and regional levels.

- **Providing Technical Support to the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP)**

During the [fourth meeting of the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs \(ARCP\)](#), held on May 7th and 8th, 2018 at LAS Headquarters in Cairo, the Working Group members were invited to provide an update to Member States on the progress of the negotiations for the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, as well as the Global Compact on Refugees. The meeting informed Arab Member States on the processes and drafts that had been released for the two compacts. IOM and UNESCWA co-led the session on the GCM, with contributions from ILO and UNFPA, while UNHCR led the session on the GCR, with contribution from UN-Habitat.

## II. Main Activities and Outputs Planned for 2019

- **Expert Group Meeting on Situation Report on International Migration**

To validate the research findings for the 2019 Situation Report on International Migration, the Working Group will hold an Expert Group Meeting. The meeting will engage collaborators and members of the Working Group in an interactive and constructive discussion on issues of concern and next steps for the report. The Situation Report will be shared once completed, and input will be sought on issues that will come out of the first round of reviews. These discussions will serve as a basis for further work on the report. It is expected to take place in the first quarter of 2019.

- **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration - National and Regional Implementation Meeting**

Following the formal adoption of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) by Member States at the Intergovernmental Conference to be held in Morocco in December 2018, the Working Group will hold a meeting to discuss national and regional implementation in the Arab region. This will serve both as a follow up to the pre-consultation meeting in September 2017, as well as provide an opportunity for States to discuss at the national and regional level the implementation plans and share good practices and opportunities for implementation and review. Tools such as Migration Governance Indicators and MIGOF can be discussed, among others, in order for States to explore and build upon national priorities and challenges, as well as opportunities for future regional synergies, in line with the SDGs 2030 Agenda.

- **Capacity Building Workshop on Migration Governance in the Arab Region**

Building on the positive responses received from participants of the first Capacity Building Workshop on Migration and the SDGs and their expressed need for additional training and capacity building activities, a workshop on strengthening migration governance in the Arab region is proposed to be organized tentatively in the third quarter of 2019. The workshop will target mid-level representatives of specific governmental sectors and will aim to build their knowledge and skills relevant to migration governance. The workshop's thematic focus will be further developed by the beginning of 2019 in consultation with members of the Working Group as well as LAS member States.

- **Publication of the 2019 Situation Report on International Migration in the Arab Region**

The 2019 Situation Report on International Migration is scheduled to be published in the fourth quarter of 2019. The publication will be launched at an event to which Working Group members, government counterparts, experts and civil society organizations will be invited. The location is

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Working Group on International Migration

Co-chairs: LAS, IOM and ESCWA

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yet to be determined. Media coverage for the launch of the publication will be arranged, including a press release and media presence. The publication will be available in soft and hard copy, in both English and Arabic.

### **III. Decisions Requested from the Members of the RCM (if any):**

- All working group members are kindly requested to inform UNESCWA of any updates regarding their leadership and focal point(s).
- Confirmation of WFP's request to join the RCM Working Group.