Working Group on International Migration in the Arab Region

2018 Mapping Report: Migration-Related Programmes, Projects and Activities in the Arab Region
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I. Introduction

Migration and displacement remain prominent features of the Arab region. The inherently cross-cutting nature of migration carries implications for many key aspects of economic, social and environmental development. The constant transformation of economic, social, environmental and conflict factors in the region ultimately translate into pathways and needs of people on the move – men, women, boys and girls – that are ever-changing. Accordingly, the situation of migrants, refugees and other displaced persons requires the coordination of many actors in order to address their health, education, labour and human rights.

In the context of the development of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration and in line with the 2030 Agenda’s Sustainable Development Goal 10.7 on “facilitating orderly, safe and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies,” as well as other migration-related SDGs, the Working Group on International Migration in the Arab Region (hereafter, “the Working Group”) has sought to continue its coordination and complementarity of work with the third biennial mapping of migration-related activities. The co-chairs of the Working Group are the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the League of Arab States (LAS) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). This report is the collective result of the participation of 14 of the 17 members of the Working Group, including: Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Entity for Gender Empowerment (UN Women), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA), 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), and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Building on prior mapping exercises conducted in 2014 and 2016, the 2018 survey set out to chart the migration and displacement-related programmes, projects, publications and other activities of member organizations of the Working Group over the period 2016-2019, creating a clear and comprehensive overview of recent, ongoing, and future projects. This survey of existing publications, data and research, in addition to programmes and activities, serves as a key foundation through which UN agency 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. 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.

A structured survey tool was designed and completed by the focal points in each participating agency to collect information on the agency’s mandate and approach to migration and displacement, programmatic responses in the field of international migration and its activities supporting implementation of migration-related aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A qualitative research methodology was used to evaluate survey responses seeking to take into account the relevant work undertaken by participating members of the Working Group.

The responses to the survey were reviewed and analyzed in order to produce a report with a descriptive outline of the activities, projects and programmes of the different agencies, in addition
to key challenges and gaps and future initiatives. Due to varying scopes and mandates of Working Group member agencies, some agencies provided regional-level activities, while others also provided examples of country-level activities. 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. The co-chairs of the Working Group will present the main findings at the meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism in October 2018.
II. Organizational Mandates and Approaches to Migration

Members of the Working Group each have specific mandates and operational guidance to engage in their respective work throughout the region. As a cross-cutting phenomenon, migration is relevant to many sectors and therefore the work of several organizations. While member organizations have unique focus areas, there is a recognized need for coordination and consistency of views towards migration. The Working Group serves to help facilitate a common, shared vision and approach to migration-related work in the Arab region.

Below are the respective mandates and approaches towards migration-related programmes and activities as portrayed by each Working Group member organization. Key common themes reflect the continuity of several important perspectives, including understanding migration through the lens of human rights; supporting interlinkages between migration and development; facilitating positive economic and social impacts for migrants, sending and receiving countries; underlining the importance of regional and inter-agency cooperation, synergies and knowledge regarding migration. The approaches of participating Working Group members are outlined below.1

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) works on all forms of migration, including voluntary migration, mainly undertaken for socio-economic reasons, and forced migration, induced by conflicts, human-induced crises and natural disasters. The drivers and impacts of migration are intimately linked to FAO’s global goals of fighting hunger and achieving food security, reducing rural poverty and promoting the sustainable use of natural resources. FAO has a unique role to play in better management of rural migration flows in view of its experience in supporting the creation of better conditions and resilient livelihoods in rural areas. Rural migration can sometimes lead also to international migration. Together with its partners, FAO commits to further expand its work towards strengthening the positive contribution that migrants, refugees and internally displaced people can bring for poverty reduction, food and nutrition security and resilience of rural households.

FAO has the following key priorities on rural migration:

- Address the adverse drivers of rural out-migration and the structural factors that compel people to move;
- Understand and analyse the pull and push factors for people’s mobility;
- Invest in sustainable livelihoods and build resilience of rural households - humanitarian and development actions addressing immediate needs and providing durable solutions are crucial;
- Contribute to conflict prevention to reduce forced displacements and contribute to sustaining peace processes;
- Improve the management of labour migration and open safe channels for regular migration;
- Harness the development potential of migrants, especially in terms of food security and poverty reduction.

1Organizations are listed in alphabetical order.
**International Labour Organization (ILO)**

The International Labour Organization’s (ILO) work is guided by its constitutional mandate to protect the interests of workers in countries other than their own, relevant international labour standards, the 2006 ILO Multilateral Framework for Labour Migration, the 2014 Agenda for Fair Migration, the 2016 Bali Declaration of the 16th ILO Asia and Pacific Regional Meeting, and the 2017 International Labour Conference Resolution and Conclusions concerning fair and effective labour migration governance.

ILO priority areas of work concerning the governance of labour migration and mobility in the Arab region concern the following:

- Promoting fair recruitment in key labour migration corridors involving countries in the region on the basis of international labour standards and the ILO General Principles and Operational Guidelines for Fair Recruitment, 2016;
- Improving employment and working conditions for migrant workers, such as those relating to wages and occupational safety and health, and addressing conditions that amount to forced labour;
- Ensuring fair and effective dispute-resolution mechanisms and access to justice for all migrant workers;
- Promoting the good governance of migrant domestic workers in the region, in accordance with the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189); and
- Enhancing the voice of migrant workers through promoting the right to organize, freedom of association, and social dialogue.

**International Organization for Migration (IOM)**

With 172 Member States, a further eight States holding observer status and offices in over 100 countries, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. It does so by providing services and advice to governments and migrants. IOM works with its partners in the international community to assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration, advance understanding of migration issues, encourage social and economic development through migration and uphold the well-being and human rights of migrants. The IOM Constitution recognizes the link between migration and economic, social and cultural development, as well as the right of freedom of movement.

IOM’s overall approach to migration is described in the IOM Migration Governance Framework (MIGOF), which was welcomed by IOM Member States in 2015. Furthermore, the humanitarian dimensions of IOM’s work are underpinned by IOM’s Principles for Humanitarian Action (PHA), which provide the foundation for the IOM Migration Crisis Operational Framework and aim to ensure that the Organization acts based on robust principles and as part of the humanitarian response system.

Across the Arab region, IOM implements the organization’s full programmatic spectrum, including movement and resettlement; emergency preparedness and response; post-crisis transition and recovery; migration health; labour migration and migration and development; counter-trafficking

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2 The ILO Asia and Pacific region includes the GCC States, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen.

and migrant assistance, including return and reintegration assistance; integrated border management; and migration policy and research.

IOM’s objectives in the Arab region are to:

- Enhance capacity, knowledge and dialogue on migration, migration management, and migration policymaking among States, civil society and other stakeholders in the region;
- Contribute to safe, protected, and regular migration, in full respect of the human rights of all migrants, and with a view to improving development outcomes of migration for migrants and societies in countries of origin and countries of destination;
- Improve preparedness for and responses to the migration dimensions of humanitarian crises, with a focus both on vulnerable mobile populations and affected communities.

In terms of migration-related activities, RO Cairo supports the mission’s work and actively contributes to support SDG 10.7 on safe, orderly and regular migration. This entails: labour and human mobility, counter-trafficking, migration health, migration policy, integrated border management (IBM), among others.

IOM has offices in Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Yemen, Somalia, Djibouti, and Mauritania. IOM also has some operational and/or administrative presence in Comoros, United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

**League of Arab States (LAS)**

The League of Arab States (LAS) and its specialized organizations offer a framework for Arab countries to cooperate on issues related to migration and human mobility within the region, and with sending and receiving regions, with the aim to: develop more effective policies for utilizing migration in favor of Arab regional development, integration and international cooperation and to communicate with its expatriates and build bridges of dialogue and cooperation with them for the benefit of both parties.

The importance of the issue of international migration in the region has become clear over the past decade, as the declarations of Arab summits have consistently included references to international migration and Arab expatriates. These ongoing references reflect the interest and importance of promoting the role of Arab expatriates in the development of their home countries, in addition to defending migrants’ rights, regulating migration of Arab workers abroad, giving attention to skilled Arab migrants and strengthening their relationship with their home countries.

As an implementation of these declarations, LAS has developed many programmes to reach its objectives and priorities. Among LAS’ most important efforts are the capacity building programmes aiming to improve the migration management capacity of the Arab governments and the cultural programme for second and third generations of Arab expatriates to engage them with their home countries. In the implementation of these programmes, LAS organized cultural trips, conducted studies and reports, organized conferences, meetings, seminars, workshops and field visits.

Undertaking to continue intensive regional cooperation in the field of migration, LAS assists its Member States to establish a fruitful dialogue and cooperation in the field of international migration between them and with other regions. It focuses on supporting them to develop more effective policies for utilizing migration in favor of Arab regional development, integrating expatriates in national development plans and building bridges of dialogue.
LAS has been working on establishing new mechanisms for cooperation in the field of migration in the Arab Region. It established an Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP), as a State-driven, non-binding, flexible and informal forum to facilitate dialogue and cooperation between LAS Member States on migration and refugee issues.

Over the previous decades, LAS has built cooperation with various organizations related to migration and has formed a strong base of partnerships. The Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) of the Arab States between LAS and the UN and specialized agencies was established in 1999. In addition to having memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with many international and regional organizations, LAS has also established mechanisms of cooperation with other regions. The Afro Arab summit, the Summit of South American-Arab Countries and the European Union-Arab League Foreign Affairs Ministerial Meetings are some examples of these mechanisms of cooperation.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

The approach of Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa (ROMENA) on migration is to advocate for a human rights-based approach to migration governance and protection of the human rights of all migrants, preventing discrimination against migrants based on migration status and nationality.

The activities of the OHCHR focus on monitoring and reporting on the human rights of migrants in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region as well as capacity building on human rights for government officials and civil society representatives, including national human rights institutes.

United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

Work related to migration is part and parcel of the United Nations Children’s Fund’s (UNICEF) broader mandate. As the organization focuses on vulnerabilities of all children, regardless of their migration status, migrant children are being targeted through UNICEF programmes with a focus on those most disadvantaged. UNICEF refers to ‘children on the move’ as all children who are ‘uprooted’ due to conflict, crisis, violence, natural disasters, economic reasons or a combination thereof. Work related to “international migration” is at the core of UNICEF work in the MENA region, given the large number of uprooted children, in particular as a result of conflict and violence. UNICEF is also increasing engagement on migration-related programming in North Africa countries, especially in Libya, Morocco and Egypt.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supports long-term development approaches for addressing challenges around migration and displacement. UNDP works with country partners to advance the development dimensions of migration and displacement in the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, the Global Compact for Migration, the Global Migration Group, the Global Forum for Migration and Development, the Platform on Disaster Displacement, and other important fora on migration and development. This includes support to mainstream migration into national and local development strategies in concert with IOM. UNDP is expanding its cooperation across the Arab region to adapt to climate change, a growing root cause of forced migration and internal displacement across the region.

UNDP also works closely with national partners and sister UN agencies to help displaced communities respond to and recover from crisis in places like Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. UNDP’s local projects help address the plight of forced migrants, refugees, internally displaced people and their host communities through:
• Supporting national and local governments to mainstream resilience-based solutions into development and crisis response plans, including localized SDGs;
• Addressing root causes/drivers of forced migration and displacement;
• Advocating for and strengthening the humanitarian and development nexus in addressing protracted displacement,
• Investing in resilience-based approaches to development to ensure migrants, refugees, IDPs and host communities can cope, recover and sustain development gains in crisis and post crisis situations.

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA)

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA) serves as the Secretariat which supports Member States in Africa. ECA’s mandate is to promote the economic and social development of its Member States, foster intra-regional integration, and promote international cooperation for Africa’s development. Made up of 54 Member States, and playing a dual role as a regional arm of the UN and as a key component of the African institutional landscape, ECA is positioned to make unique contributions to the continent’s development, including incorporating migration as a positive influencer for development. ECA convenes and supports member States and improvement of migration governance. ECA aims to embark upon a program to increase African research capacity for the independent and critical analysis of trends, causes and impacts of African migration from an African perspective.

UN-ECA’s Social Development Policy Division carries out the coordination, documentation and management of information; as well as dissemination of information and associated tasks related to migration. This work now centers around the High-Level Panel on Migration, launched in 2017 with former President of Liberia’s Ellen Johnson Sirleaf as chair, as well as the regional context and preparation for the GCM. A Technical Committee of the HLPM is aided by the Secretariat and provides substantive support on key areas of work, such as in undertaking research and relevant studies.

ECA’s work programme on migration draws upon joint migration programs with partners, ECA research outputs, regional protocols and frameworks on migration (including the African Union Convention on Cross Border Cooperation [Niamey Convention]); the African Union Border Programme and Measures for its Consolidation; the Revised Migration Policy Framework for Africa; the African Common Position on Migration and Development; the Declaration on Migration; the Joint Labour Migration Programme; the African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA) agreement; and the Protocol on Free Movement of People and Goods) as well as recommendations from the African Regional Consultative Meeting on the GCM and the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA)

Migration is a key component of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia’s (UN-ESCWA) mandate to support social and economic development in the Arab region. ESCWA’s primary mission is to support policy analysis and build knowledge and capacity on international migration and displacement among its Member States. UN-ESCWA’s work centers on enhancing migration partnerships and cooperation to improve policy coherence and coordinated responses to international migration challenges, and integrating migration into the development agenda, including in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

ESCWA’s current mandate to work on migration-related issues is derived from its general mandate to promote inclusive and sustainable development in the Arab region. ESCWA’s Member States have
further specifically directed ESCWA “to extend support to Member States in the area of international migration by raising awareness, training decision makers and fostering regional dialogue, and support their efforts to collect good quality data on migration in all its forms in order to ensure that policies are evidence-based.”

ESCWA plays a key regional role in coordinating efforts on international migration, displacement and development among Member States and multilateral organizations in the Arab region. General Assembly Resolution A/RES/71/280 requests “regional economic commissions... to organize discussions among States Members of the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders to examine regional and sub-regional aspects of international migration and to provide inputs, in accordance with their respective mandates, to the preparatory process of the global compact.”

Pursuant to ECOSOC Resolution 1998/46 to hold "regular interagency meetings in each of the five regions (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America & Caribbean and Western Asia) with a view to improving coordination among the work programmes of the organizations of the United Nations system in each region," ESCWA established the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM), first convened in 1999. Since 2013, the RCM has included a Regional Working Group (WG) on International Migration in the Arab Region to coordinate efforts of international and regional actors in the Arab region and promote joint research and interventions on migration and displacement; the Working Group that contributes to this Mapping Report. As Secretariat of the Working Group, ESCWA coordinates an important flagship report for ESCWA and the Working Group, the biennial Situation Report on International Migration in the Arab Region, as well as organizes the input of external experts and partners into other knowledge production efforts in the form of policy briefs and bulletins.

ESCWA also addresses international migration in the context of its work providing support to the implementation, follow-up and review of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Cairo Declaration on Population and Development (ICPD Beyond 2014).

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

UN-Women’s mandate endows it with an aim to: (i) support the strengthening of global norms and standards; (ii) promote more effective coordination, coherence and gender mainstreaming across the UN system in support of commitments for gender equality and women’s empowerment; and (iii) support Member States, upon request, to translate global norms and standards into legislation, policies and development plans at the regional, national and local levels as part of its operational activities. It also enables UN Women to inform support for development of global norms and standards with country-level experiences.

UN Women works globally to make the vision of the SDGs a reality for women and girls and stands behind women’s equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on five priority areas:

- Expanding women’s voice, leadership and participation;
- Ending violence against women and girls;
- Strengthening women’s full participation in conflict resolution and peace processes;
- Enhancing women’s economic empowerment; and
- Making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting.

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4 ESCWA’s second meeting of the Executive Committee, December 2015, E/ESCWA/2015/EC.2/9/Report, Recommendation 6(m)
Since its establishment, UN Women has advocated for gender-responsive migration governance which promotes the labour and human rights of all migrant women and girls through the design and implementation of migration policies, programmes and laws that address their needs, priorities and vulnerabilities. In the context of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), UN Women has highlighted the importance of integrating a strong gender equality perspective to ensure that the GCM contributes to achieving SDG 5 on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. UN Women produced expert recommendations on addressing women’s human rights in the global compact for migration as a key advocacy tool to lobby for the inclusion of gender equality considerations in the GCM. UN Women acts as the substantive Secretariat of the Expert Working Group on addressing women’s human rights in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, which is composed of experts from treaty bodies, special procedure mandate holders, UN agencies, civil society and academia.

In the Arab region, UN Women has focused on issues related to migration from the viewpoint of forced migration and displacement. To this end, in Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, Palestine and Yemen, UN Women responds to the needs of displaced populations through a resilience and empowerment approach which combines cash assistance to alleviate immediate suffering, skills development, protection services and engagement around women’s leadership.

**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and his Office (UNHCR) is mandated to lead and coordinate international action to protect and assist refugees and other persons of concern, including asylum seekers, stateless persons and returnees, and seek solutions to their situation. Although UNHCR does not have a general mandate for internally displaced people, it is authorized by the General Assembly to be involved operationally in certain circumstances. In the context of mixed migration situations, UNHCR’s concern is to ensure that the measures to address irregular migration take full account of the human rights and protection dimensions of population movements and uphold the specific rights of refugees and other persons of concern under international law.

In light of the Arab region’s challenging humanitarian landscape, characterized largely by mass displacement and complex mixed movements, UNHCR implements a comprehensive strategy targeting interventions in the countries of origin and transit in sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa, and in countries of destination. UNHCR supports, wherever possible, measures that reduce the need for refugees to undertake dangerous journeys, by raising awareness of risks of irregular migration and increasing protection and opportunities where refugees are. UNHCR works to safeguard access to territory and to provide protection solutions for persons of concern to the Office, including protection against *refoulement*. The office provides capacity building to national and international actors engaged in border management and responses to rescue at sea, provides emergency assistance to persons of concern rescued/intercepted at sea or on land and advocates for release from detention in countries where this is a practice. In a number of countries, UNHCR is responsible for the registration of asylum seekers and refugees, issuance of documentation and processing for status recognition and solutions. Through outreach and profiling in various countries, UNHCR aims to build a more comprehensive picture of mixed movements and adjust responses including through strengthened inter-agency collaboration, data collection and analysis, and case management.

UNHCR works with governments and other partners to improve the protection environment for displaced people in and from the Middle East and North Africa.

Community-based and age, gender and diversity-sensitive approaches to protection remain an integral part of the Office’s response in the region. In 2017, almost 3,000 community members were involved in identifying and referring people at heightened risk to the Office.
Reinforcing strategic partnerships, providing protection and advocating for protection space, supporting access to asylum, expanding opportunities to find durable solutions for people of concern and strengthening IDP coordination and response remain UNHCR’s priorities in the region in 2018. UNHCR continues working with governments and partners to improve access to safety, protection from refoulement, and solutions. Awareness-raising activities, such as UNHCR’s information campaign highlighting the risks of dangerous crossings, will aim to help people make informed decisions about the risks of onward movement and their options, including voluntary repatriation in conditions of safety and dignity and access to protection services.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

UN-Habitat is the United Nations’ programme working towards a better urban future. Its mission is to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all. This mandate has been endorsed and the agency has taken on a coordination role in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, which among other issues commits to promoting international, national, subnational and local climate action, including climate change adaptation and mitigation, and supports the efforts of cities and human settlements, their inhabitants and all local stakeholders as important implementers. At the Arab regional level, UN-Habitat provides technical support to Member States based on the objectives of the Arab Strategy for Housing and the Sustainable Urban Development 2030 (implementation framework for urban related Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 11, and New Urban Agenda).

The New Urban Agenda is an urbanization action blueprint for partners in government, the UN, civil society, communities, the private sector, professionals, the scientific and academic community, in support of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development; especially SDG 11 – making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. While migration is a global phenomenon, with one in seven people in the world being an internal or international migrant, the effects of migration are most felt at the local level. The reasons are twofold. First, migration is a key driver of cities’ growth. In many parts of the world, migration is driving much of the increase in urbanization, making cities much more diverse places in which to live. Second, migrants are individuals with specific needs during times of crises, but who can also become agents of development when the right policies are put in place.

In the Arab Region, UN-Habitat has implemented a wide range of initiatives related to cities and migration. This includes city level initiatives at both country and regional scale. The focus hereby has been mostly in addressing aspects of inclusivity in cities facing a rapid and high impact of displaced populations, both refugees and IDPs. This has included the access to adequate and affordable housing, provision of basic urban services and employment opportunities, the upgrading of markets and public spaces, among other issues. A recently launched Report on Migration and Inclusive Cities - A Guide for Arab City Leaders highlights various good practices by local governments and other key stakeholders addressing host and displaced communities’ dynamics, and suggests the up-scaling of replicable practices to other contexts, among those also climate migration management.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

UNODC, as the guardian of the Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants Protocols, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), is providing, upon request, technical assistance to Member States in preparation for ratification and implementation of the two Protocols.

UNODC is the UN entity focusing on the criminal justice element of the crimes of human trafficking and migrant smuggling. Member States are provided with technical assistance to align their national
legislations and policies with the UNTOC and the two Protocols while strengthening the national criminal justice systems to address these crimes in an effective manner. UNODC works with national, regional and international partners to promote prevention measures, including awareness raising, the protection of the human rights of the victims, and to strengthen prosecution capacities. To achieve these objectives, UNODC organizes training and capacity building activities for law enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges on different topics including detection, identification, investigation, forensics and digital evidence using UNODC training manuals and different e-learning modules.

Additionally, due to the cross-border aspects of these crimes, UNODC also focuses on promoting and strengthening regional and international cooperation in identification, investigation, information sharing and mutual legal assistance utilizing the UNTOC as a tool of regional and international cooperation.

**United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**

UNFPA is working to increase understanding of migration issues, advocate for better migration data, and promote the incorporation of migration into national development plans. This is achieved through putting in place institutional structures and policy frameworks, as well as creating databases and information systems on diaspora populations as a component towards better integrating diasporas into development strategies. UNFPA is also advocating for addressing the special concerns of women and other vulnerable migrants, and works to meet the emergency reproductive health needs of refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced people, migrants and vulnerable host communities.

**World Health Organization (WHO)**

In May 2017, the World Health Assembly endorsed Resolution 70.15, promoting the health of refugees and migrants. The resolution Member States to strengthen international cooperation on the health of refugees and migrants in line with the New York Declaration. The resolution also urges WHO Member States to consider providing necessary health-related assistance through bilateral and international cooperation to those countries hosting and receiving large populations of refugees and migrants. The eight guiding principles are as follows:

1. The right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;
2. Equality and non-discrimination;
3. Equitable access to health services;
4. People-centered, refugee- and migrant-and gender -sensitive health systems;
5. Non-restrictive health practices based on health conditions;
6. Whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches;
7. Participation and social inclusion of refugees and migrants; and
8. Partnership and cooperation.

Mixed migrants remain marginalized, which in turn denies access to healthcare largely due to their legal status. Yet, for every Member State to meet its Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, particularly target 3.8, vulnerable groups, which include mixed migrants, must have access to universal health coverage. The right to health should be seen as inclusive and a driver of social change, not conditional on one’s legal status, but rather an inalienable right.

As such, WHO’s approach toward international migration in the Arab region is to ensure that everyone is under the umbrella of universal health coverage through the following priorities:
1. Building on existing international, inter-regional and national cooperation;
2. Improving health information and communication;
3. Promoting research capacities;
4. Achieving public health preparedness;
5. Ensuring an effective public health response.
III. International Migration-Related Activities in the Arab Region

This mapping exercise surveyed members of the Working Group regarding their past (2016-2017) and future (2018-2019) migration-related programmes, projects and activities. This section provides an overview of the results of this part of the survey by thematic area and respective member organization.¹

Labour migration and mobility, decent work and development

Labour migration is a significant feature of the Arab region and represents the movement of people to, through and from Arab countries, contributing to economies and sustainable development in their countries of destination and origin alike. Labour migration is multi-dimensional and a number of UN agencies work to support Member States to facilitate safe migration pathways, enable access to remittances, ensure and improve worker rights and organization, and promote the inclusion of women in the workforce.

FAO published the report *Agricultural Transformation in the Near East and North Africa Region and the Challenge of Youth Employment and Migration*, which analyses the relationship between agriculture transformation, employment and migration with a proposed three-pronged policy approach for the region.

Most ILO activities concerning labour migration and mobility in the Arab region during 2016-2017 were conducted through three projects: Regional Fair Migration Project in the Middle East (FAIRWAY), Integrated Programme on Fair Recruitment (FAIR) and Work in Freedom: Preventing trafficking of women and girls in South Asia and the Middle East (WIF).

Through the FAIRWAY project, ILO has produced several research and policy briefs to increase dialogue on key policy areas relevant to migrant workers. These briefs include: Recruitment in the Asia-Arab States corridor (September 2016), Internal labour market mobility (kafala) (May 2017), Workers who become irregular through no fault of their own: Policy brief (June 2017), Protection of construction workers (February 2018), Mapping of migrant worker resource centers (February 2018), and Domestic workers (March 2018).

In addition, through the FAIRWAY project, ILO has provided direct assistance to migrant workers through member-based organizations and unions (including the Domestic Workers Union in Lebanon under FENASOL and the General Federation of Bahraini Trade Unions). This assistance has led to the creation of a member-based organization of domestic workers in Kuwait and strengthened the domestic workers’ union in Lebanon. In the coming two years, ILO plans to continue these activities and to begin capacity building support to Ministries of Labour for more just and accessible dispute resolution mechanisms (by migrant workers) and a public campaign and media engagement to change discriminatory attitudes towards migrants (My Fair Home campaign, production of documentary (together with WIF), training to editors/journalists). The campaign will seek to achieve

¹ Includes only activities of Working Group members that replied to the survey questionnaire (annex).
fairer reporting on migration issues and to ensure employers of domestic workers are informed about their obligations.

The WIF project has included several facets promoting protection of migrant workers. These include an assessment of the Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Services Limited (BOESL) practice of recruiting migrant garment workers from Bangladesh to Jordan and provision of ILO technical assistance to the Ministry of Labour in Jordan to review regulations and instructions on migrant workers (including migrant domestic workers).

ILO provided direct assistance to the Government of Lebanon on conclusion of bilateral agreements with countries of origin (WIF/REFRAME), policy advice as part of the National Steering Committee on migrant domestic workers in Lebanon, capacity building to the Government of Lebanon and NGOs on fair recruitment, and a national information campaign in Lebanon on forced labour. In addition to support for the Domestic Workers Union in Lebanon, ILO provides assistance to the Migrant Community Centers.

The following research is ongoing in Lebanon:

- Understanding the care economy in the context of Lebanon (2018)
- Migrant Domestic Workers in the Courts (provisional title) (2018)

To date, in 2018, through the WIF project, ILO has held a training workshop for members of the Jordanian Recruitment Agency Association of Domestic Workers (JRAA) on “Decent work, recruitment and household needs for domestic workers.” The training aimed at enhancing the capacity of recruitment agencies on decent work, and on demographic changes and how they affect demand for domestic workers. ILO conducted an assessment of the Medical-Life and Financial Insurance for Migrant Domestic Workers in Jordan and a workshop to validate the report took place in May 2018. ILO also hosted a panel discussion on Protecting Wages of Migrant Domestic Workers. Speakers included representatives of the Government of Jordan, the Jordanian Recruitment Agency Association (JRAA) and NGOs.

The FAIR project has provided a view to establishing a fair recruitment corridor between Nepal and Jordan, through which two high-level consultations took place in Amman with international garment brands, factories, labour recruiters, trade unions, government officials and other key stakeholders to support the design and implementation of the pilot. ILO also held quarterly learning sessions with garment factories and developed and delivered a skills training curriculum and pre-departure programme for garment workers moving to Jordan. As a result, fairly-recruited workers have been placed in garment factories as of 2017 and have shown increased awareness of their rights and responsibilities and are more likely to raise issues of concern. A meeting of the Project Advisory Committee of Better Work Jordan was conducted to introduce the ILO General Principles and Operational Guidelines for Fair Recruitment for key stakeholders in the garment sector.

The WIF and FAIR projects also facilitated a bilateral meeting between representatives of Governments of Jordan and Nepal to discuss the agreement on labour issues between both countries. As a result, the agreement was finalized and signed in October 2017. Important provisions on non-payment of recruitment fees or related costs to migrant workers were incorporated.

National consultations took place in January 2018 to present the ILO General Principles and Operational Guidelines for Fair Recruitment to different stakeholders including, but not limited to, relevant government ministries, trade unions, employers, NGOs and IOs. A meeting with the Better
The Work Jordan Project Advisory Committee was conducted in January 2018 to discuss fair recruitment in the garment sector. Participants agreed on the principle that workers should not pay any recruitment fees. As a result, the committee approved introducing a no-fee policy in the garment sector as of January 2019. Activities related to conducting quarterly learning sessions for factories and one event for international brands, labour recruiters, governments, factories and other key stakeholders will continue to take place in 2018. Tufts University is undertaking an impact assessment to measure the socio-economic impact of the recruitment pilot. The assessment is expected to be finalized before the end of 2018.

The Workers’ Center project includes the provision of ILO support to develop the Al-Hassan Workers Center in the Al-Hassan Industrial Zone (Irbid) in Jordan, through enhancing the capacity of the Center’s staff and improving its services and activities. Phase 2 will continue ILO support to enhance the capacity of and services provided to migrant workers by the Al-Hassan Workers Center in the Al-Hassan Industrial Zone (Irbid) in Jordan, and establish two more centers in other industrial zones.

In the reporting period, ILO convened an interregional Consultation on Labour Migration and Mobility from Asia/Africa to the Middle East, Beirut, 4-5 October 2017, gathering Jordan, Lebanon, GCC countries, and countries of origin in Africa and Asia to discuss shared priorities for labour migration (Background Paper and Conference Summary Report).

The ILO-Qatar Technical Cooperation Programme 2018-2020 supports the Government of Qatar’s efforts to implement numerous reforms related to laws and regulations on employment, as well as to provide additional guarantees that promote and protect workers’ rights through: improvement in payment of wages; enhanced labour inspection and occupational safety and health systems; refinement of the contractual system replacing the kafala system and improvement of labour recruitment procedures; increased prevention, protection and prosecution against forced labour; and promotion of the workers’ voice.

IOM aims to foster a better understanding of the links between migration and development to better harness the benefits of migration for sustainable development and poverty reduction. Globally and within the Arab region, IOM works with governments to mainstream migration into development planning. IOM engages in several activities to promote Labour Migration and Human Development (LHD) in the form of policy research, publications, capacity building, training and direct assistance to migrant and refugee communities. LHD activities in the Middle East and North Africa region include promoting social cohesion through the Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) for North Africa, which is conducted throughout North Africa with the aim of promoting youth employment and expatriates’ and diaspora engagement. The outcomes of this activity focus on vocational training, livelihoods, remittances and labour market policies reviews, as well as the inclusion of connecting countries of origin with countries of destination through diaspora.

UN Women implemented a three-year project promoting and protecting women migrant workers’ labour and human rights by engaging with international and national human rights mechanisms to enhance accountability. The project was EU-funded and focused on joint research, capacity building and advocacy programmes to promote women migrant workers’ rights and protect them against exclusion and exploitation at all stages of migration. It aimed to contribute to this objective by: i) strengthening strategic international human rights mechanisms and national human rights institutions, and collaborating with parliaments and governments to ensure accountability to women migrant workers (WMW) at all stages; and ii) strengthening WMWs’ organizations so they can effectively engage with these mechanisms and governments to ensure greater accountability at all stages of migration. The project had a global outreach and has been anchored nationally in three pilot countries: Mexico, Moldova and the Philippines.
A joint initiative with IOM is being developed for Arab States and will focus on promotion of safe and gender-equal opportunities for migrant women workers in the MENA region. The programme advocates for and helps develop relevant labour migration related policies in the target countries that are gender responsive, progressively addressing the vulnerabilities of women migrants and engaging employers to actively promote the participation of women migrant workers in the local labour market.

UN Women, as part of a programme implemented by its Asia and Pacific regional office, will hold a training for labour attachés from South Asian countries who are based in the Middle East, with participation from CSOs, recruitment agencies and government partners (who will be invited to observe) from the region. The workshop will include training on gender-sensitive support to women migrant workers by labour attachés, and validation of outputs from the project (gender-sensitive guidance on employment contracts; multi-country assessment (Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Jordan, Kuwait and Lebanon) of the use of standard contracts; and gender-sensitive self-assessment tool for recruitment agencies. In addition, as part of the newly launched Global Gender Migration Project (GGMP), UN Women, along with joint partners, will also target women migrant workers migrating to or having returned from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States, and will include a specific programme of gender and migration capacity building for GCC States.

UN-ESCWA is currently undertaking a Development Account project to develop “Guidelines for Drafting a Migration Strategy in the Sudan”. This project is undertaken in partnership with the National Population Council of the Sudan to guide the development of a National Migration Strategy, using analysis of trends and patterns of international migration in Sudan, priority areas for policy interventions in the field of migration, and a development approach to migration.

WHO is working toward implementing the Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030 and WHO/EMRO has been supporting all countries in the region to achieve a well-functioning civil registration and vital statistics. The Global Strategy includes focus on policies on migration of health workers, including addressing their migration and emigration, attracting unemployed health workers, and bringing health workers back into the health care sector. The strategy also reaffirms the importance of the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel, which calls upon a global strategy on human resources for health for countries to strive to use their own human resources for health (HRH) to meet their needs, to collaborate towards more ethical and fair international recruitment practices, and to respect the rights of migrant health workers.

Emergency and post-crisis response

The Arab region has witnessed a range of crises in recent years, with some countries impacted by protracted crisis. These emergency and crisis situations result from various factors, such as natural disasters, economic challenges, political unrest, among others. This increases vulnerabilities among populations and migrants living in the country, including the risk of displacement and irregular migration. Members of the Working Group are implementing a wide range of projects in the region to work with stakeholders to respond to crisis, reduce risks, enhance and strengthen resilience and collectively participate in supporting the population through whole-of-society approaches.
ILO has adopted a development-focused and employment-driven strategy to support host communities and refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, within the framework of the Regional Refugee Response and Resilience Plan (3RP). It aims to preserve social and economic stability and build resilience at the national level, in line with national plans and local chapters of the 3RP. Embedded in the principles of decent work, the ILO strategy builds on its core mandate to promote employment, social dialogue, social protection and international labour standards (ILO Response to the Syrian Refugee Crisis, April 2018).

IOM provides ongoing support by way of policy support and capacity building to countries in areas of community stabilization, post crisis assistance, and policy support in responding to humanitarian crises. IOM developed the Migration Crisis Operational Framework (MCOF) as a tool to prepare governments for potential crises. It also developed other mechanisms, such as Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as the Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) framework for countries to assist migrants in times of emergencies. The agency’s work in the Middle East is focused in Iraq, Sudan, Libya, Yemen, Egypt and Morocco, among other countries.

Based on systematic and continued needs assessments, IOM delivers a wide range of critical services to various crisis-affected populations, including migrants, IDPs, refugees, asylum seekers and host communities. Through capacity-building measures, IOM also supports governments to increase their effectiveness in delivering emergency assistance and in responding to crises. IOM delivers non-food items, hygiene kits and winterization items to displaced populations and to migrants in detention centers, and provides shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene assistance to people affected across the MENA region. Given the protracted nature of crises in the region, IOM focuses on building resilience and livelihoods for displaced and affected communities.

Resettlement is another major area of activity for IOM in the Arab region. IOM also provides health and psychosocial support, emergency consular services, counter-trafficking interventions and protection to vulnerable migrants, including migrants caught in countries experiencing crises. Disaster risk reduction activities and humanitarian communications are also considered priorities, while IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix tracks the location of displaced populations and maps their needs.

IOM will continue to support governments’ efforts to provide timely and needs-based assistance, including needs assessments, land, sea and air evacuation for stranded migrants, assistance to vulnerable migrants, humanitarian border management, and delivery of life-saving emergency assistance to affected populations in urban and rural settings.

OHCHR is working to enhance protection of human rights for migrants in vulnerable situations through the publication of OHCHR and Global Migration Group (GMG) Principles and Guidelines, supported by Practical Guidance on the Human Rights Protection of Migrants in Vulnerable Situations, as well as through training and capacity building on implementation.

OHCHR promotes advocacy for respect for human rights of all migrants and implementation of a human rights-based approach to migration issues by monitoring and reporting human rights violations against migrants. This effort includes an advocacy campaign – StandUp4Migrants – implemented through social media in the MENA region. The organization also works to facilitate cooperation, support, and build the capacity of civil society and human rights institutes/organizations to advocate for a human rights-based approach to migration governance. It does this through capacity building for and dialogue among representatives from civil society and human rights institutions on advocating towards governments for a human rights-based approach to migration issues in the context of implementation of commitments made in the GMC and obligations undertaken by ratification of international human rights law.
UN Women, at the regional level, seeks to promote knowledge on the gendered impact of displacement and forced migration and to provide platforms for women to engage in decision making on their needs in displacement. In addition, UN Women is working with LAS to support their institutional response to addressing the issues of women in crisis (refugees and host communities). This has included supporting the development and implementation of a regional Executive Action Plan on the protection of women and girls.

UN Women offices in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Yemen and Palestine are rolling out support to women affected by crisis and displacement and to partners engaging in humanitarian and resilience programming. Across these contexts, this work is done through an integrated humanitarian-development framework that targets those affected by crisis (refugees and host communities), and seeks to build national systems and structures. A two-pronged strategy is utilized to achieve the following results:

- Make long-term humanitarian and development assistance more responsive to women’s and girls’ needs, and increase their role and leadership;
- Meet women’s basic needs through increased access to recovery and livelihood opportunities, paired with comprehensive protection services and support to the justice sector to promote accountability for violence against women.

UNHCR co-chairs the Mixed Migration Task Force with IOM\(^6\), which aims to bring together key humanitarian partners to better protect refugees and migrants; to coordinate national level responses to mixed migration challenges; to leverage comparative advantages of different actors to more efficiently deliver programming; to mitigate duplication of efforts; and to enhance coordination between international actors.

UNDP works with other UN agencies to help communities affected by conflict and host communities in the Arab region respond to and recovery from crisis. This includes large scale initiatives in places like Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. In Iraq, for example, UNDP and partners implement a Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS), a $787 million initiative with provision from over 25 donors, supporting 1,960 projects in areas newly liberated by ISIL. Projects focus on issues such as cash for work, rehabilitation of housing, health and education facilities, power supply and water treatment facilities. This contributes to a safe environment for return of over 3.6 million people. In Yemen, UNDP partners with the World Bank to implement the $300 million Yemen Crisis Response Project which supports 1,744 projects in over 300 districts across the 22 governorates of Yemen. This includes large cash-for-work projects, including water harvesting, agricultural lands and school rehabilitation and maintenance of access roads, as well as support to restore community assets through reconstruction of community infrastructure, and support to financial service providers and micro, small & medium enterprises to sustain and scale up business operations through improvement of access to finance for clients impacted by the conflict.

UNFPA is part of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Crisis, which provides direct assistance of minimum initial services packages for reproductive health in emergencies to migrants and refugees.

UN-Habitat has a sub-regional project towards a housing, land and property (HLP) based methodology for stabilizing and creating conditions for peace in countries affected by the Syrian crisis. The project involves key institutions at national and local levels in urban areas in Lebanon and

\(^6\) In Somalia, Djibouti, Yemen, Libya and Tunisia.
Syria, as well as refugee and host communities, which have enhanced capacities to understand and implement HLP issues, including use of key land tools. The project also involves documentation and processes supporting improved HLP rights in the current areas of settlements and in the areas of return available. The project involves research, publications, capacity-building, and direct assistance.

UN-Habitat is a partner of the Center for Mediterranean Integration – Host Communities Network, which is involved in capacity building and training for local governments and civil society in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, Lebanon, and Iran. The Network’s aim is to link local governments for knowledge and experience exchange addressing inclusive city development and migration, refugee and displacement issues.

WHO held an expert consultation involving 22 Eastern Mediterranean countries with the purpose of bringing international and national stakeholders together to discuss the public health of the large numbers of forcibly displaced populations.

Refugees, displaced and stateless persons

Members of the Working Group are collaborating with governments in the Arab region to take into account people who have been forced to leave their homes, such as refugees, displaced and stateless persons, in their national planning. Various projects are being implemented to build capacity of States as well as provide vulnerable individuals with targeted support and assistance tailored for their specific needs.

FAO pays particular attention to both internal and international movements and to the intersection between forced and voluntary migration, when people move because they perceive that there are no alternatives to move out of poverty in their communities except to migrate. FAO has an important role to play in addressing the adverse drivers of internal and international migration from rural areas and in harnessing the development potential of migration, especially in terms of food and nutrition security and poverty reduction.

FAO completed 24 projects in 2016-2017 related to rural livelihood for refugees, host communities, returnees and IDPs, particularly in Iraq, Sudan, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Yemen and Palestine. FAO’s approach focuses on supporting livelihoods and promoting food security, fostering the integration and peaceful coexistence of forced migrants and improving resilience of rural host communities and reducing drivers of rural out-migration. It also plans to complete 10 new migration projects over the coming biennium with the same communities and objectives in Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, and Sudan.

IOM works closely with governments, UNHCR, non-government organizations and other partners to provide resettlement assistance to refugees. IOM is in charge of conducting pre-departure refugee health assessments intended to ensure that people travel in a safe and dignified manner, are fit to travel, receive appropriate assistance when required, and do not pose a hazard to other travelers or receiving communities. IOM also organizes pre-departure orientation programmes to prepare refugees by providing practical information on the country of resettlement, and to assist them in setting realistic goals and developing the skills and attitudes needed to succeed in their new environment. IOM’s movement and travel operations work to ensure that refugees are transported
smoothly to their final resettlement destinations by supporting them in obtaining travel documents (such as exit permits, transit/entry visas, passports, etc.), assisting refugees in embarkation, transit and arrival airports, providing operational/medical escorts and providing arrival assistance and handover to reception authorities. In the last decade, between 2007 and 2016, IOM has organized the resettlement movements of over 1.13 million refugees and other vulnerable persons of concern from 186 locations around the world.

Under the Community Health Volunteer (CHV) outreach strategy, established under previous projects, IOM Egypt has continued to strengthen the capacity of health service providers to deliver high quality, migrant-friendly health care services and has expanded it to other nationalities. Following the growing number of Syrians coming to Egypt, IOM has now established and trained a CHV network within the Syrian community in Egypt. Currently, IOM supports five CHV networks within the Sudanese, Somali, Eritrean, Ethiopian, and Syrian community. Several trainings have been conducted focusing on community mobilization, delivering health awareness messages, conducting basic counseling, and identifying particularly vulnerable migrants in need of further assistance, including potential victims of trafficking.

IOM provides emergency aid, non-food items, camp infrastructure support, and vocational training in Iraq. Trained IOM teams provide psychological first aid to Syrians and migrants as needed. IOM Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) also carried out a comprehensive needs assessment of returnee and refugee populations in Iraq. Furthermore, IOM has constructed a 21,000-liter water tank that provides clean water to all camp residents. IOM Iraq's assistance primarily concentrates in the governorates of Duhok and Anbar, in addition to technical assistance in Ninewa with the development of a new camp in al Kasek.

In Jordan, IOM provides basic primary health care services, health referrals, tuberculosis (TB) prevention activities and capacity building on TB case management through fixed and mobile medical clinics for refugees crossing the border and host communities as well. IOM's medical team has established a presence in the King Abdullah Park facility in Ramtha and has medically assessed thousands of Syrians, including those living with host families. Since mid-August 2012, IOM Amman has been managing the transit/reception facility in Za'atri camp to assist all new refugee arrivals, providing pre-registration and initial health screening and referrals and basic hygiene items as needed. IOM also strengthened the ground transportation system for movement of arriving refugees and migrants from border points, and facilitated the transportation of Syrian nationals to the Za'atri refugee camp. With the rapid increase in the influx of refugees, nearing 4,000 new arrivals per day, IOM Amman implements 24-hour shifts to meet the demands of the Syria emergency crisis. In Jordan, IOM provides basic primary health care services, facilitates health referrals, and conducts tuberculosis (TB) prevention activities and capacity building on TB case management through fixed and mobile medical clinics for refugees crossing the border and for host communities. IOM's medical team has established presence in the King Abdullah Park facility in Ramtha and has medically assessed thousands of Syrians, including those living with host families.

IOM is assisting newly displaced, vulnerable families in the north and south of Lebanon and in the Bekaa Valley. IOM works to ensure the provision of emergency shelter materials, psychosocial support, as well as non-food items (NFIs) to displaced Syrian and Lebanese returnees, as host communities' resources are increasingly overstretched. IOM particularly focuses on returning Lebanese nationals exiting Syria who arrive without a sufficient social service net, and is currently mapping and profiling 25,000 Lebanese returnees.
LAS and UNHCR, in collaboration with the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, co-organized a training workshop on International Refugee Law in July 2017. The workshop brought together officials of LAS member States and LAS General Secretariat; Arab Parliament; Arab Administrative Development Organization; and the Arab Women Organization, with participants from Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Tunisia.

In September 2017, UNHCR and LAS signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at establishing a global cooperation framework for an effective response to the needs of refugees in the Arab region and to facilitate better humanitarian access and emergency response.

LAS and UNHCR also concluded the draft of the Arab Convention on the Situation of Refugees in Arab Countries, which is being discussed in a joint committee of experts from Arab ministries of Justice and Interior and will be submitted to the respective Ministerial Councils for adoption. In parallel, the Office continued to work closely with LAS on a number of thematic issues including child protection, sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) and statelessness.

UNHCR is also involved in the ongoing Telling a Real Story Campaign, with the purpose of creating a platform where refugees share their experiences and inform their communities about the realities and risks of undertaking dangerous journeys. While they may know that journeys are dangerous, many refugees do not understand these dangers fully, and often have highly unrealistic expectations about life in Europe and the complexity of asylum procedures. UNHCR will also engage in the second phase of the Dangerous Crossings Awareness Raising Campaign, which will conduct grassroots activities in refugee camps and villages in Ethiopia and Djibouti; conduct focus-group discussions, theatre performances, screening of videos; and engage refugees and local media.

In 2017, UNHCR advised countries developing national asylum legislation and worked closely with the League of Arab States on a draft “Arab convention regulating the status of refugees in the Arab States”.

UNHCR works with national authorities on the adoption of a national legal framework in Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, and Mauritania in order to support the establishment of effective national asylum systems as part of migration management policy frameworks that provide for a comprehensive response to mixed movements. The effort involves ongoing support and capacity building to governments in the process of developing national legislation on asylum or national migration strategies with a focus on elements of such strategies relating to refugee protection.

Furthermore, to identify people in need of international protection and target interventions, UNHCR conducts profiling activities of mixed flows across the region and other forms of research that support evidence-based programming. UNHCR will strengthen research and analysis at national and regional levels to better inform national and cross-border responses. This builds on the work done on the refugee and migration emergency in Europe and complements work by other actors, such as IOM and the Dakar and Nairobi-based Regional Mixed Migration Secretariats and its Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative (4Mi). UNHCR will also advocate for the harmonization of indicators and tools used by different agencies in order to support data quality and consistency for future joint assessments.

UNHCR is also working to develop regional frameworks for nationality and birth registration to increase access to civil registration. UNHCR will continue efforts towards adopting a regional strategic approach on the prevention and reduction of statelessness, which builds on the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2014-2024. Key interventions will focus on developing regional frameworks for nationality and birth registration, increasing access to civil status documentation, as
well as strategic advocacy, the promotion of women’s nationality rights, engagement with regional bodies and capacity-building initiatives.

**UNICEF** brings direct assistance to children refugees, IDPs and affected host communities in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Yemen, Sudan, Libya, Djibouti, Palestine and Egypt.

**UN Women** aims to strengthen the resilience of refugee women and girls and host communities through addressing economic vulnerabilities and violence by increasing women’s access to financial assets and recovery and income opportunities, while providing immediate and life-saving protection services. This is paired with efforts to engage men and boys to reduce violence against women and increase acceptance of women’s empowerment/equality.

One of such programmes is UN Women’s Leadership, Empowerment, Access and Protection in Crisis Response (LEAP) programme, implemented since 2012 to support gender responsive humanitarian action including women’s active participation in economic life. Components of the LEAP programme have been implemented in Jordan since 2012 and in Egypt, Iraq, and Lebanon since 2014. Overall, the LEAP programme aims to improve the gender responsiveness of humanitarian action by:

i. Ensuring that humanitarian/crisis response planning, frameworks and programming are informed by gender analysis and needs assessments;

ii. Increasing access to protection and economic opportunities for vulnerable and displaced women affected by sudden onset emergencies through safe/social spaces and income generation opportunities. These social spaces promote awareness raising; access to multi-sectoral services and referral mechanisms; women support groups; child care services; as well as facilitating access to skills training, cash for work and livelihoods support; and

iii. Bridging the humanitarian/development divide in protracted and slow onset crises by promoting positive coping mechanisms and sustainable livelihoods for marginalized women.

Currently, an external evaluation of the programme is taking place that shall inform the design and implementation of LEAP II. One of the key preliminary findings is the holistic approach utilized by UN Women in which protection services, awareness raising, and action research around social and cultural norms complemented the economic activities. UN Women is also implementing a regional flagship programme funded through the European Union’s Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syria Crisis that aims at strengthening the resilience of Syrian women and girls and host communities in Iraq, Jordan and Turkey.

**Human trafficking and migrant smuggling**

**Human trafficking** – the acquisition and exploitation of human beings by illegal means such as force, fraud or deception – and **migrant smuggling** – the deliberate process of evasion of immigration laws by the act of facilitating illegal entry of a person in exchange for financial compensation – are phenomena of human mobility in the Arab region, which often overlap as many smuggled migrants are vulnerable to trafficking due to the irregular nature of their journey that leaves them at the mercy of their smugglers. Human trafficking and smuggling of migrants represent great challenges for the Arab region. Members of the Working Group are closely collaborating with governments and civil society organizations to improve detection
mechanisms and provide assistance and protection to these vulnerable categories of migrants.

UNODC provides capacity building and grants to civil society organizations in Morocco to strengthen identification and service provision to victims of trafficking in persons (TIP). The overall aim is to ensure that trafficking victims receive adequate protection and assistance in Morocco. To achieve this, UNODC will work towards strengthening capacity for the identification of victims, streamlining referrals to assistance services and ensuring adequate protection of the human rights of TIP victims.

UNODC also engaged in capacity building aimed at criminal justice practitioners to strengthen efforts to combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Egypt. The objective is to strengthen capacities of criminal justice officials to address the crimes of human trafficking and migrant smuggling, including international cooperation.

Action against trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants in Morocco and Egypt target criminal justice practitioners, Government, civil society, victims and smuggled migrants. Interventions also include strategic and policy development, legislative assistance, capacity-building, regional and transregional cooperation, and protection and assistance to victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants, including children.

UNODC programming in Libya is part of a broader regional North Africa program. UNODC works with Libyan authorities to build law enforcement capacity. This includes providing training to Directorate for Combating Illegal Migration (DCIM) guards/officers and Libyan prosecutors on issues and challenges related to migrant smuggling (Libyan officials are trained in Tunis – but may be trained inside Libya should the security situation allow). This program includes two inter-regional meetings to discuss migrant smuggling in the region and abuses of migrants. Training workshops are delivered to law enforcement officers of the Ministry of Interior’s Department for Combating Illegal Migration (DCIM), Coastal Security and the Libyan Coast Guard, as well as prosecutors. The objective of the training is to strengthen the capacity of Libyan law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners to combat migrant smuggling in Libya. The training workshops usually feature several UNODC expert trainers and representatives of the Attorney-General’s Office in Italy, EUNAVFOR-MED, UNHCR and IOM. Key areas of focus include investigation skills, debriefing and interviewing techniques, prosecution, international cooperation, and the provision of assistance and protection to smuggled migrants. Training workshops are based on UNODC’s Anti-Human Trafficking Manual for Criminal Justice Practitioners and the In-Depth Training Manual on Investigating and Prosecuting the Smuggling of Migrants, with some workshops focusing on case-based investigative scenarios or mock trials.

In Sudan, UNODC provides technical assistance on legislative reform to align national laws with the UNTOC and the two protocols. UNODC conducts direct advocacy with politicians, policy makers and Members of Parliament, and organizes awareness work sessions (information briefings and roundtable discussions) with relevant policy makers, senior government officials and Members of Parliament aimed at communicating the importance of incorporating into national legislation and implementing the provisions of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementary protocols. Additionally, UNODC conducts legislative gap assessments on the existing legal framework using, among others, the UNODC Needs Assessment Toolkit on the Criminal Justice Response to Human Trafficking and the UNODC Assessment Guide to the Criminal Justice Response to the Smuggling of Migrants.
Another focus area for UNODC in Sudan is strengthening the criminal justice system. Training and capacity building activities are organized for law enforcement officials, prosecutors and judges on detection, investigation, suppression and prosecution of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants utilizing UNODC guides and manuals.

For 2018-2019, UNODC aims to work on dismantling the criminal networks operating in North Africa involved in migrant smuggling and human trafficking through capacity building with criminal justice practitioners in Morocco, Libya, Tunisia and Egypt. The overall objective will be achieved through:

1. Enhanced detection and interception capacities of front line officers and agencies at selected border crossing points and key hub cities along smuggling routes;
2. Strengthened identification and investigation capacities of first responders (including law enforcement officers, healthcare professionals and social workers, Libyan Department to Counter Illegal Migration, labour inspectors and other relevant practitioners) with regards to migrant smuggling and human trafficking cases while protecting victims;
3. Enhanced skills and knowledge of relevant law enforcement agencies on special investigation techniques, allowing relevant authorities to more effectively and rapidly dismantle criminal networks; and
4. Strengthened practical expertise and skills of criminal justice practitioners in prosecuting and adjudicating migrant smuggling and human trafficking cases, notably through regional and international cooperation.

ILO’s WIF project partners with Tamkeen NGO, ICMPD, IOM and UNODC to provide input to the National Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy and Action Plan in Jordan as part of a committee headed by the Ministry of Justice. Four regional policy briefs were developed in 2016.

IOM provides direct assistance to abused, exploited, and trafficked migrants. Promoting an individualized approach to assistance and protection, services include medical care, psychosocial counselling, provision of shelter and legal aid, and voluntary return and reintegration support. In this region, IOM has given priority to ensuring that anti-trafficking mechanisms are mainstreamed during all phases of a crisis response to reduce vulnerabilities and protection gaps.

IOM has trained officials on national and international legal frameworks and best practices on international migration, countering transnational organized crime involved in smuggling of migrants, document examination procedures, and links between migration and terrorism. IOM also developed its activities in Humanitarian Border Management (HBM), which ensures the effective management of large-scale population movements in an emergency scenario, while putting in place safeguards at the border to monitor any threats that could undermine migrants’ human rights and safety, as well as national security.

IOM contributes a range of services, from technical support and contributions to anti-trafficking in persons laws, formulations of committees, studies on the status of trafficking in persons, as well as direct assistance to legal entities and practicing officials addressing trafficking in persons, in addition to direct assistance to victims of trafficking, including assisted voluntary return and reintegration. The Migrant Assistance Division (MAD) in MENA region has counter trafficking activities centered mostly in North Africa, Egypt and Sudan.

UNHCR’s global efforts in combatting human trafficking and smuggling of migrants are detailed in Chapter V Sustainable Development Goals and Migration.
Migrant Health

Access to health services is a considerable challenge for migrants in the Arab region as some national healthcare systems may struggle to respond to the needs of their inhabitants. The work of the members of the Working Group is therefore focused on both the direct provision of health services and protection to migrants, as well as strengthening national health systems. This can entail rehabilitating and/or constructing health facilities to meet the health service needs particularly in areas most affected by crisis-induced displacement in the region, among others.

WHO has a comprehensive research agenda for the upcoming biennium with defined objectives and a multi-generational approach, focusing on burden/advantages of displaced populations and on how migrant care on health should be developed. It is also part of a network on migrant health linking regional academic institutions, EMRO collaborating centers and universities – particularly those within the region – and a forum to present research outcomes should be established. WHO will announce a call for papers/special issues for both short- and long-term public health concerns of displaced populations and migrants in the Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal (EMHJ). The organization also aims to promote research capacities on mixed migration and health in Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen by engaging academia, civil society, UN agencies, Ministries of Health, host communities and mixed migrants. It aims for a gap analysis and road map and a meeting to be organized to discuss findings and resources towards improving health information and communication and ensuring an effective public health response.

In Egypt, WHO provides regular medical consultations at PHC centers, supports effective referral to secondary healthcare, runs a rehabilitation programme for children living with disabilities, conducts community health awareness sessions for newly arrived refugees and runs capacity building for Syrian communities. In addition, WHO finances the provision of secondary and tertiary health services through four specialized medical centers.

In 2017, in Iraq, WHO supported a mobile network of 69 mobile clinics and 96 ambulances. In particular, mobile health services are being used to target hard-to-reach populations with healthcare and immunization services. WHO led the health cluster emergency response to the Mosul Operation, most of which occurred during 2017. A highlight of the response was the effective manner in which trauma management services, including first-aid, triage, stabilization of cases and referrals were carried out.

WHO, through funds made available by donors (China, the European Union, Japan and Kuwait), facilitated access for Syrian displaced persons and refugees in Lebanon to chronic medication through the national chronic medication programme operated by the Young Men Christian Association (YMCA). The Lebanese MoPH, with the support of WHO, has initiated the NCDs screening protocol to be adopted in all its centers. The initiative targets individuals who are 40 years old and above. It aims to screen for any risk of cardiovascular disease as well as to provide treatment when needed. The MoPH, with WHO support, has provided the point of care testing machines and strips to support the NCD initiative for Lebanese and non-Lebanese. WHO’s support in Lebanon has also included leveraging available humanitarian funds to accelerate the strengthening of health systems, to build health professional capacities and to fill critical gaps.
The Libyan MOH and WHO conducted a health service availability and readiness assessment (SARA) in 2017. WHO expanded the early warning and response network (EWARN) of communicable diseases in Libya and provided technical support to IOM for selected detention centers to be covered by EWARN. Since 2016, WHO, in collaboration with the MOH and local NGOs, has provided medical supplies and mobile medical teams as part of the emergency response for IDPs in schools and camps. In collaboration with UNICEF and the national center of disease control, WHO was able to vaccinate IDPs and migrants during polio and measles national immunization campaigns in 2017. IOM and WHO are also providing life-saving medicines and supplies to hospitals and PHC centers in areas hosting a large majority of migrants.

Collaborative efforts are ongoing between the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to support and strengthen health services for Palestinian refugees. These efforts mainly focus on joint advocacy for the right to health of Palestinians under occupation and on supporting the integration of mental health services into PHC within the framework of the family practice approach. WHO, through its right to health advocacy project, has examined the scope of the complex bureaucratic impediments facing Palestinian patients in trying to reach medical facilities.

WHO also supported the Sudan MOH response through providing technical and operational assistance to 89 cholera treatment centers (CTCs) in states hosting SSRs. The response treated over 13,000 cases of acute watery diarrhea in refugee populations and provided medicines and medical supplies in addition to operational costs for staffing and referral.

WHO has strengthened and expanded the disease surveillance and response system (EWARS) in Syria. EWARS supports the early detection of and response to highly contagious childhood diseases such as polio and measles, helping avert their further spread. In 2017, 16 mobile medical clinics and teams supported by WHO conducted almost 400,000 consultations and referred 21,000 patients for further treatment. In addition, WHO provided direct technical and financial support to seven partners providing healthcare services in IDP camps. WHO also focused on comprehensive trauma care by improving access to immediate trauma care so as to reduce the incidence of patients with lifelong disabilities; enhancing the emergency referral system; supporting the provision of phased trauma care and physical rehabilitation services; and strengthening the management of patients with disabilities. Increasing numbers of healthcare facilities are now providing physical rehabilitation services. WHO donated medicines, supplies and equipment to help maintain essential services in hospitals and other healthcare facilities throughout Syria. In 2017, WHO distributed almost 14 million treatments across the country and supported over 560,000 trauma cases. Over 21,000 patients were referred for treatment through the strengthened referral system. These efforts benefited all segments of the population, including IDPs, refugees and migrants. WHO has supported the scaling up of mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) by training healthcare staff and community health workers on basic mental health interventions and has supported the integration of MHPSS into PHC centers. Over 400 PHC and community centers throughout Syria are now offering integrated MHPSS services.

UNFPA provides policy support, research, publications, capacity building, training, and direct assistance relating to mixed migration health and protection, with the aim of contributing to improving health, well-being and protection of individuals affected by mixed migration, in particular women and youth, before, during and after migration. It is also involved in research and in policy dialogues on international migration within the ICPD framework in which it emphasizes migrant health and sexual reproductive health for young migrants. It continues policy support and capacity building to population councils, data producers and users, organizations and civil society to
contribute to improving health, well-being and protection of individuals affected by migration and displacement, in particular women and youth, before, during and after migration.

IOM provides health services to migrants in the Arab region, including general primary and secondary health care, emergency health care, and mental health and psychosocial support. In the region, especially in the context of displacement and humanitarian emergencies, tuberculosis prevention, screening and treatment has emerged as a priority. IOM carries out health screenings for migrants prior to repatriation and assisted voluntary return, and for refugees being resettled. In 2017, IOM provided mental health and psychosocial support interventions in Iraq, Lebanon and Yemen.

The IOM Migration Health Division (MHD) also conducts outreach activities in host and migrant communities, including awareness-raising sessions on nutrition, basic hygiene, and infection prevention. Additionally, community-level interventions include trainings for community workers, peer educators and medical care-givers to enhance their capacity to provide quality medical and psychological care. MHD provides a range of healthcare services including medical screening, assessments, immunization, medical data-sharing, and medical escorting for resettling refugees as well as health promotion, migrant-sensitive life-saving primary care and referrals for migrants including internally displaced persons in crisis and post-crisis situations. Furthermore, in line with UN Sustainable Development Goal 17 Partnerships for the Goals, IOM MHD implements projects in partnership with governments, NGOs, and the private sector to further improve the quality of health services provided to host and migrant communities.

IOM furthermore contributes to rehabilitating and constructing health facilities in crisis and post-crisis situations; facilitating policy dialogues on migration health to promote the exchanges of lessons learned between the governments for better migration management; and building the technical capacity of the partners, particularly governments, for migrant-sensitive quality healthcare services as well as migrant-inclusive health policy.

Gender equality

Gender-sensitive programming is critical to ensure targeted actions are implemented to address their specific needs. Working Group members are working to design responses to the tailored, specific needs of women, men, boys and girls. Women migrants face specific challenges during the migration process. They may be exposed to greater vulnerabilities, such as gender-based violence, exploitation, and genital mutilation. To this end, members of the Working Group are working to promote gender equality and ensure that women’s rights are fully integrated in national policies and existing protection mechanisms and structures.

ILO has engaged in work to promote the rights, empowerment and enhanced economic integration of female domestic workers, as well as support improved labour migration governance and ethical recruitment. The FAIRWAY project includes research and policy briefs on domestic workers in the region. The organization also provides direct assistance to migrant workers through strengthening of

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7 The full health assessment provided under MHD’s auspices includes registration, counselling, obtaining refugees’ consent for the assessment, nursing operations (including recording of the refugees’ medical history), physical examinations, phlebotomy/lab services, radiology imaging, and immunization.
member-based organizations and unions, including the Domestic Workers Union in Lebanon. The WIF program includes technical assistance to the Ministry of Labour in Jordan to review regulation and instruction of migrant workers, including migrant domestic workers. It also includes policy advice as part of the National Steering Committee on migrant domestic workers in Lebanon.

UNFPA is engaged in research on female genital mutilation (FGM), gender-based violence and population movements in Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. The research is aimed at looking into how migrants’ attitudes and practices concerning FGM in their destination country are linked to practices in their region or country of origin. For the next biennium, it will continue working on mixed migration health and protection through policy support, research, publications, capacity building, training and direct assistance regarding gender-based violence. It is also planning to conduct specific research on child marriage and mobility in Iraq, Djibouti, Yemen, and Egypt to analyse how conflicts in the Arab region impacted on the prevalence of child marriage among displaced populations.

UN Women, through the Women’s Leadership, Access and Protection (LEAP) in Crisis Affected Contexts, has and will continue to work on women’s rights, empowerment, refugee issues, and employment, by giving livelihoods support, protection services, and leadership engagement to refugees and displaced women in Yemen, Palestine, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, and Lebanon.

UN Women developed a Global Gender Migration Project, aiming to enhance legislative, policy and institutional mechanisms to address the safe, orderly and regular migration of women to ensure the promotion and protection of their human and labour rights, and the full integration of the human rights of all women within the core policy mechanisms for global migration governance. The project targets: migrant women at all stages of migration, including women migrant workers; national governments; key regional instruments including the African Union; civil society organizations including migrant women’s organizations; the private sector; trade unions; and international human rights treaty bodies. The project covers, among others, GCC states. Expected results include: 1) Gender is mainstreamed in national migration policies, programmes and services; 2) Effective management of knowledge and an increased understanding of gender equality considerations and women’s empowerment in the context of migration; 3) National and regional stakeholders promote and protect the rights of women at all stages of migration in line with the international human rights framework.

Furthermore, UN Women is planning a capacity building and training workshop in Beirut for labour attachés from South Asian countries based in the Middle East, CSOs, recruitment agencies and government partners, aiming for labour attachés to have enhanced knowledge to provide gender sensitive support to women migrant workers.

Together with the IOM Regional Office for Arab States, UN Women will promote safe and gender equal opportunities for migrant women workers in selected countries within MENA region. Partnering with ILO Regional Office for Arab States, UN Women will promote decent work and productive employment for women in Egypt, Jordan and Palestine. The programme key components focus on making the labour laws and related policies gender responsive, engaging with private sector and promoting policies and practices that attract and retain women in business, as well as challenging gender stereotypes about women and men’s responsibilities concerning unpaid care and household work. The programme focus is not solely migrant women, however, the results shall indirectly have an impact on migrant women, especially through the first outcome that considers labour-related policies, such as working conditions and minimum wage legislation. UN Women is working together with UNIDO and FAO on a joint regional programme promoting women’s active economic engagement in selected value chains.
**UNHCR** intervenes through specific programming to ensure the safety of refugee women from violence and exploitation, to enhance gender-sensitive programming, and to strengthen national protection mechanisms. In this context, UNHCR continues implementing strategies that protect refugee children and enhance its gender-sensitive programs and services, ensuring these are inclusive and easily accessible for all.

**Migrant children and youth**

*Migrant children and youth, whether accompanied or alone, face increased vulnerability and unique challenges, including a wide range of risks of abuse and exploitation. Members of the Working Group are striving to enhance and strengthen child protection systems in transit and destination countries to be able to respond to the specific needs of this category of vulnerable migrants.*

**IOM** is engaged in supporting children and youth migrants, particularly unaccompanied and separated migrant children. In coordination with relevant agencies, IOM’s activities include family tracing, assisted voluntary return and reintegration, assistance to child victims of trafficking, and family reunification within the context of emergency response. IOM also engages in research, as well as initiatives to promote social and economic integration of marginalized youth as a way of providing alternatives to irregular migration. IOM engages in awareness-raising and empowerment activities targeting youth at risk of irregular migration.

The inter-agency North Africa Mixed Migration Task Force and its Mixed Migration Hub (MHub)\(^8\) is currently engaged in research on unaccompanied and separated children migrating to, through and from North Africa, as well as detention of migrant children and alternatives to detention. The North Africa Mixed Migration Task Force is comprised of Working Group members **IOM, OHCHR, UNHCR** and **UNODC**, as well as the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Save the Children and the Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS).

**FAO** conducts research on structural drivers on migration that include the links between the challenges of youth employment in the region and migration. FAO’s projects related to migration target rural communities, including youth, to improve resilience of rural host communities and to reduce drivers of rural out-migration.

**UNICEF** gives direct assistance to children who are refugees, IDPs or are part of host communities affected by migration. It provides access to services and protection in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Yemen, Sudan, Libya, Djibouti, and Palestine. The organization conducts routine data collection on children in detention in Egypt, and does research and technical contributions to three migration hub studies on migrants and youth in North Africa, including on topics of unaccompanied and separated children, alternatives to child detention, and legal analysis of migration related legislation. For the upcoming biennium, it will conduct research on migrant children stranded in Libya.

In 2016-2017, **UNFPA** carried out the Young People and International Migration Project, a research project in Beirut, Cairo, Tunis, and Nairobi covering drivers of young people migration, including their experiences during the migration process, their health needs (SRH), and policies for

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\(^8\) See [http://www.mixedmigrationhub.org/](http://www.mixedmigrationhub.org/)
programming. The study involved interviewing 1,326 international youth migrants, defined as those who were not living in their country of birth and were aged between 15 and 24. The project will continue into the next biennium with new selected cities still to be determined. UNFPA also conducted the Regional Advocacy Workshop on Youth Mixed Migrants in Tunis, involving all Arab countries and with participation of institutions involved on migration issues, LAS, NGOs and other partners and stakeholders. The workshop centered on youth mixed migrants’ issues, particularly sexual reproductive health services and needs.

For the next biennium, UNFPA is planning to conduct research on child marriage and mobility in Iraq, Djibouti, Yemen, and Egypt to analyse how conflicts in the Arab region impacted on the prevalence of child marriage among displaced populations.

In order to protect the rights of all children falling under UNHCR mandate, particularly refugees and asylum seekers, and to support the establishment of comprehensive child protection systems in Libya, UNHCR is involved in a new tripartite initiative launched in May 2018 in Libya with UNICEF and IOM. The initiative will enhance migrant and refugee child protection through established procedural safeguards for the implementation of a consistent set of actions for the protection of unaccompanied and separated migrant and refugee boys and girls under the age of 18. Furthermore, in 2018 and beyond, the response will aim to strengthen implementation of the best interests procedures, with particular attention to addressing needs for alternative care arrangements and family tracing and reunification (FTR). These efforts will be complemented by greater attention to positive engagement with refugee adolescents and youth, with a view to supporting them in reaching their full potential, including through linking efforts with education and livelihoods programming. UNHCR’s objectives are to empower refugees, and to facilitate access of refugee children and youth to education, livelihood opportunities.

**Environment, climate change and migration**

*Environmental factors influence human mobility and are one of the drivers of migration. Natural conditions and disasters (storms, floods) and gradual environmental degradation (coastal erosion, water scarcity, heat stress) impact migration, and are further exacerbated by climate change. These environmental causes often have damaging effects on people, assets and livelihoods. Climate change is expected to intensify in the region, thus increasing the risks and the effects of natural hazards. The work of the members of the Working Group aims at supporting countries of the region to prepare, respond and mitigate environmental stresses and their effects.*

In addition to providing humanitarian assistance and supporting recovery and resilience for communities affected by natural disasters and environmental degradation, including most recently in Sudan and Yemen, IOM also promotes research, policymaking and practical adaptation measures to tackle the links between migration, environment and climate change.

**UNDP** is the UN’s largest provider of grant assistance to countries on issues of climate change and the environment, with over $4 billion of grant initiatives ongoing today in over 140 countries. This includes new initiatives to help countries implement the Paris Agreement on climate change and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). In the Arab region, UNDP has been expanding its
climate change cooperation in recent years in places such as Djibouti, Egypt, Lebanon, Somalia, Sudan and Tunisia, to help countries become more resilient to climate change and more frequent and severe droughts. This includes helping countries access scaled up financing from Green Climate Fund and other sources of climate finance. In Egypt, for example, UNDP helps national partners implement a new $31 million programme to reduce the risks from rising sea levels in the Nile Delta, where more than five million people stand at risk of climate induced displacement in coming decades.

**UN-Habitat** will undertake in 2018-2019 a regional programme towards sustainable, safe, resilient and inclusive urbanization in the context of climate migration in North Africa, covering Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, and Sudan. The programme will include policy development, research, capacity building and training of national and local governments, civil society, and communities of origin and destination. Main results of the program, at the preparatory phase, are for key stakeholders at national and local levels to have a better understanding on environmental and climate-induced aspects of migration, at areas of origin, transit and destination impacting rural and urban areas in five North-African countries. At the implementation phase, the main results are for key stakeholders at national and local levels to have the capacity to jointly plan and implement pilot projects focusing on mitigation and adaptation of environmental and climate-induced aspects of migration, at areas of origin, transit and destination impacting rural and urban areas in five North-African countries. Lastly, at the evaluation phase: for key stakeholders at national and local levels to have exchanged with peer experiences and good practices on mitigation and adaptation of environmental and climate-induced aspects of migration, at areas of origin, transit and destination impacting rural and urban areas.

**Migration and urban planning**

*Migration, whether internal or international, is an important driver of the growth of cities and urbanization. Migration to cities, when poorly planned for, can come with challenges for migrants and local communities alike. Members of the Working Group are collaborating with both local and national authorities to support migrant communities in cities as well as communities in cities themselves to ensure balanced and equal access to basic services.***

**UN-Habitat** is part of the regional project Mediterranean City-to-City Migration, which includes Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan, and Lebanon, and aims: 1. To facilitate cooperation among city representatives and experts by instituting a city representative and expert network in five Southern and five European cities for stakeholder dialogue, data collection and the development of City Priority Papers on migration planning. 2. To increase migration-related knowledge by elaborating city migration profiles identifying the migration situation, and cities' priorities, capacities and practices for migrants' access to rights and services; 3. To enhance communication within the network and towards the public at large by developing IT-based information-gathering and exchange tools (including an interactive website; expert network; data and document repository); and 4. To improve migration planning through the elaboration of city priority papers on migration planning for participating cities, as well as a toolkit for local-level migration planning.

**UN-Habitat** is also part of the Migration and Inclusive Cities in the Arab Region project. The project’s short-term goals include to sensitize local authorities and improve knowledge on data and needs relating to migrant communities in their cities; and create awareness of local governments,
municipalities and city professionals’ knowledge on best practices in addressing significant gaps that exist between migration policies on the national level and migrants’ urban experiences at the local level. The long term goals are: proactive and long-term approach for better integration of migrants among their host communities; promotion for national and local governments, municipalities, city professionals, associations of cities and city dwellers as well as civil society and private sector to face the challenges of national immigration policies and to fill the gap between national and local governments; for key urban training institutions in the Arab region to apply elaborated training curricula (for national and local governments, municipalities and city professionals) on innovative urban solutions; to encourage municipalities to facilitate a dialogue between host and migrant communities outlined (i.e. economic, housing, education, public health, public space, gender awareness, and cultural, social, political, and civic engagement), focusing on urban planning, legislation and economy; for regional, national and international networks of cities in the Arab region to promote migration and inclusive, integrated, resilient and sustainable urbanization across the Arab region.

Land and sea: border management and safety of migrants and refugees

Following the increase of human mobility in the Arab region, States are challenged to facilitate safe and regular migration through their borders. The protection of migrants in large scale migration movements, especially in situations of crisis and irregular migration, pose particular challenges for safety of migrants. Members of the Working Group are striving to support countries of the region to improve policy, legislation, migration governance systems and structures, and operational systems to improve safe border management that responds effectively to diverse migration challenges.

IOM supports States in strengthening the operational capability of border crossing points and in enhancing concerted border management cooperation of various stakeholders (intra-institutional, inter-institutional and international). Specifically, IOM provides policy support, research, training, capacity building and direct assistance to migrants and refugees through its Integrated Border Management programme in Libya, Egypt, Iraq and the Sudan. IOM provides all migrants with proof of legal identity, proper identification and documentation in line with principles to enhance the availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration. It also works to address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration; strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants; use migration detention only as a last resort and work towards alternatives; enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle; and cooperate in facilitating dignified and sustainable return, readmission and reintegration.

IOM is working with its funding partner DFID to implement a multi-country, multi-sector, route-based programme across the Central Mediterranean Route. The programme Safety, Support and Solutions in the Central Mediterranean Route (CMR) aims to make migration safer and more orderly, resulting in fewer deaths and less suffering along the CMR. The two-year programme began in February 2018 and will be implemented across 11 countries: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cote D’Ivoire, Gambia, Guinea, Libya, Senegal, Mali, Niger, Morocco, and Tunisia. The main objectives of the programme are to:
1. Increase protection for migrants and refugees in transit, particularly the most vulnerable, so that they are protected from harm, are able to meet their basic needs and are informed about the risks of irregular migration;
2. Enable more refugees to access long-term protection and durable solutions (assisted voluntary return and reintegration, access to resettlement programmes or asylum in first safe country);
3. Improve understanding by governments and humanitarian agencies of migration trends and improve their response;
4. Ensure migrant access to alternatives to irregular migration (staying where they are or moving legally); and
5. Facilitate sustainable reintegration of returnees through generation of and facilitation of access to employment opportunities.

IOM is also engaged in a new programme dedicated to migrant assistance, return and reintegration in North Africa under the EUTF North Africa Window.

In 2018-2019, **OHCHR** will engage in work to enhance protection of human rights at international borders; provide government agencies with a practical tool to ensure that human rights are protected in migration governance at international borders; and provide civil society and human rights organizations with a tool to conduct advocacy on monitoring human rights at international borders. It will work to achieve this goal through the publication of OHCHR Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders in Arabic and through training and capacity building on implementing OHCHR Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders.

**UNHCR** will engage in technical and capacity building support for authorities to identify, document and refer to relevant procedures persons of concern at arrival points. The organization’s objective is to provide capacity building of officials working in detention, border points and key departments sensitizing them on refugee and asylum-seeker rights, while advocating at the highest level in relation to policies affecting access to territory and treatment upon arrival in line with international standards.

**Expatriates, diasporas and migrants living abroad**

Many countries in the Arab region have large expatriate communities located around the world. Expatriate engagement is an important potential driver of development and economic growth. To that end, members of the Working Group are working to support Member States create sustainable and effective mechanisms to engage expatriates living abroad.

**LAS** held several awareness raising and diaspora engagement activities. In 2016, LAS celebrated Arab Expatriates’ day in Washington, DC, during which Arab expatriate figures and Arab civil society organizations in countries of destination were honored on their accomplishments to serve their community. LAS continues to publish “The Arab Expatriate”, an informative newsletter targeting Arab expatriates, officials of LAS Member States, experts and researchers. The fifth issue was published in January 2017, in which the foreword highlighted irregular migration in the Arab region. The sixth issue was published in April 2018, which focused on the GCM, the GCR and LAS efforts in this regard. The issues included the latest events and activities LAS has organized in the field of
migration and Arab expatriates, as well as the activities it participated in and were organized by other entities, its initiatives in the field of migration, news on Arab communities living abroad, information on Arab expatriate figures, in addition to some information about Arab communities abroad. The seventh issue will be published in the first half of 2019.
IV. Regional Dialogue and Coordination

Many of the aforementioned activities are undertaken at the regional, as well as national, level by the respective agencies in the Arab region. This section includes key activities which have involved several multilateral agencies in cooperation as well as Member States. Several of these initiatives are ongoing from previous biennia, such as the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP), the Abu Dhabi Dialogue and the Migration Hub (MHub). Notably, regional cooperation in the context of the deliberative process for developing the GCM was new in this biennium.

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)

ESCWA, IOM and LAS organized the Arab regional consultation on migration in preparation for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) in September 2017. This consultation brought together representatives of Arab Governments, regional and international organizations, the private sector, trade unions and civil society organizations to discuss the realities and challenges of migration in the Arab region. Five issue briefs on key themes of migration in the region accompanied the discussion, and an outcome document summarized the regional perspectives and challenges for input into the GCM.9

IOM further supports Member States in the GCM process at national and regional levels. Specifically, it engages in technical support in national consultations and briefings in Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Sudan, Jordan, Bahrain and UAE. An informal dialogue for regional consultation on the GCM was also held in Tunisia.

In October 2017, ECA, in partnership with AUC and IOM, hosted the regional consultative meeting on the GCM. The latter meeting followed a consultative process in the five sub-regions of the continent including North Africa. This culminated into the December 2017 meeting and subsequently ushered in the intergovernmental negotiations on the Global Compact for migration held in the United Nations in New York in six sessions between February and July 2018. These negotiations for Africa were led by Comoros supported by ECA, AUC and IOM.

A consultative meeting on migration was held in Addis Ababa on 22 June 2018, ahead of the final round of negotiations for the GCM on 9-13 July 2018. The two co-facilitators of the Global Compact, namely, the Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations, Jürg Lauber, and the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, Juan Gómez Camacho; and the Special Representative for International Migration, Louise Arbour, briefed the ambassadors and representatives of African States. Two representatives of the High-Level Panel on Migration for Africa, ECA, AUC and IOM were present. The meeting provided an opportunity for the Member States to discuss issues and provide inputs before the last round of negotiations.

Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP)

LAS is the chair and secretariat of the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP), which is a State-driven, non-binding, flexible and informal forum to facilitate dialogue and cooperation between LAS Member States on migration issues. The ARCP convenes Member States to inform global processes on positions and perspectives from the Arab region. Recently, the ARCP has convened regional sessions to provide input to the development of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact for Refugees. Since 2015, the ARCP has made position paper contributions to the 8th, 10th and 11th sessions of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). The ARCP gave special attention to the 10th and 11th rounds of the GFMD under the Moroccan and German co-chairmanship. The migration related targets of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda are a permanent topic discussed in the ARCP regular meetings. The ARCP has also issued annual statements on the occasion of World Refugee Day.

Recent regular meetings of the ARCP were held in May 2017 and in May 2018. During its fourth meeting, the ARCP, in collaboration with Working Group member organizations (IOM, UN-ESCWA, UNHCR, UNFPA, ILO and UN-Habitat), provided 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 (GCR). The meeting informed Arab Member States on the processes and drafts that had been released for the two compacts. IOM and ESCWA co-led the session on the GCM, with contributions from ILO, UNFPA and Morocco, as the host of the Intergovernmental Conference to adopt the GCM in December 2018. UNHCR led the session on the GCR, with contributions from UN-Habitat. UNHCR provided details on the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) developments worldwide including on its four key pillars (ease pressures on host countries, enhance refugee self-reliance, expand third-country solutions, and support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity), and to reaffirm the need for continuous responsibility sharing with refugee hosting countries.

LAS also held an extraordinary meeting of the ARCP in August 2016 in preparation of the UNGA High-Level Plenary Meeting on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants, and another extraordinary meeting in July 2017 in preparation for the ongoing consultations on the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Both meetings were co-organized with IOM and UNHCR, and the adopted outcome documents were submitted to the UN concerned entities.

The seventh Global Meeting of Chairs and Secretariats of Regional, Inter-Regional and Global Consultative Processes on Migration was organized by IOM in Geneva in October 2017. UN-ESCWA, LAS, and representatives of the ARCP and the Abu Dhabi Dialogue participated in the meeting, as well as representatives from the GCC.

The High-Level Panel on Migration (HLPM)

UN-ECA serves as the Secretariat for the High-Level Panel on Migration (HLPM) led by the former President of Liberia, constituted in January 2017. The HLPM pursues a two-prong strategy: a) affirming Africa’s commitment to global objectives and values and b) harnessing migration for Africa’s development in the context of international cooperation. The third meeting of the panel on 28-29 May 2018 in Geneva was attended by 13 panel members and 15 technical committee members. The panel came up with actionable commitments that will lead to the successful implementation of HLPM work plan and engagements with continental and global processes on
international migration. These include the completion of the HLPM main report, a side event featuring the HLPM and its report to be held on the sidelines of the GCM launch in Morocco in December 2018, and a meeting in January 2019 on the sidelines of the AU Summit to present the final report for adoption by heads of state.

The HLPM has prepared five country case studies, including Morocco, where a number of good practices have featured in the country report. Notably, concerning improving the integration of migrants, the new Moroccan Constitution of 2011 is highlighted as a milestone in Moroccan migration governance. Guided by the national Constitution, Morocco issued its National Immigration and Asylum Policy in 2013 regarding the non-discrimination of foreign migrants and the protection of their right, is based on humanitarian considerations and promotes integration. Morocco is strengthening efforts to absorb irregular immigrants from Africa and to grant them legal residence to fully integrate them into Moroccan society after becoming a country of destination. The mechanisms for integrating African immigrants include vocational training, education, social assistance, employment, and cultural integration.

As part of the new Moroccan migration policy, a campaign for the exceptional regularization of foreigners with an irregular administrative status in Morocco took place in 2014. Under this campaign, 25,000 foreigners from 116 countries were regularized. Based on the guidelines of the national Constitution, Morocco issued its National Immigration and Asylum Policy in 2013. The Moroccan migration policy rightly reflects migration as an opportunity rather than a social, economic or political threat. It focuses on burden sharing between countries of origin, destination and transit, as well as the responsibilities and duties of migrants themselves. It has bilateral, regional and international governance dimensions.

**Abu Dhabi Dialogue**

A number of member agencies of the Working Group (ILO, IOM, UN Women) participate as observers in the Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD) among the Asian labour origin and destination countries, which include the GCC states. At the 5th ADD Senior Officials’ Meeting, held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 8-9 May 2018, the Joint Communiqué of the meeting expressed the joint commitment of the participating governments to develop their bilateral and multilateral cooperation among four work streams: (1) Comprehensive Information and Orientation Programming; (2) Strengthening Joint Country of Origin and Country of Destination Oversight and Monitoring of Recruitment Practices; (3) Certification and Mutual Recognition of Skills; and (4) The Future of Domestic Work in the Gulf.

**Migration Hub (MHub)**

The Mixed Migration Hub (MHub) is the knowledge platform of the North Africa Mixed Migration Task Force, which includes Working Group members IOM, OHCHR, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNODC. This database records and visualizes migratory movements to, through and from North Africa. Forming part of a range of data sources, MHub has established data collectors in six origin, transit and destination countries for migrants moving to, through and from the North Africa region. MHub provides information on routes, flows and trends in mixed migratory movements in North Africa. It provides support to governments and other agencies on research on refugees and migrants, conducts in-house research and analysis, and commissions external researchers to undertake dedicated multi-country studies. MHub has field researchers stationed in a number of
countries along key migratory routes undertaking field surveys with people on the move. MHub also conducts academic outreach and holds research events with research partners and stakeholders.

The Migration Hub has small data collection activities in Italy focusing on new arrivals through the Central Mediterranean. It hopes to expand its activities into Spain and increase its data collection capacity in the year 2018-2019. It studies irregular migration and child migrants, with a thematic focus on Libya, information sharing and policy development.

Capacity Building

In the context of the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and the forthcoming GCM, the co-chairs ESCWA, IOM and LAS, in cooperation with the other members of the Working Group on International Migration in the Arab Region, organized a two-day capacity building workshop on 16-17 July 2018 in Cairo, Egypt. The workshop focused on migration and sustainable development, conducted by technical experts dedicated to the officials in the concerned ministries working in the field of migration and SDGs in the Arab Region. The workshop introduced the 2030 Agenda at the global, regional and national levels and strengthened government capacities in achieving various SDG targets of the 2030 Agenda, particularly SDG 10.7. It unpacked the SDGs and examined how migration is integrated in different thematic areas, such as decent work, migrants in crisis, migrants’ rights and health – including those of women and girls –, the impact of climate change and urban development issues. The workshop assisted Member States in ascertaining their national priorities, reviewing existing policies in light of regional and global commitments and frameworks, and developing subsequent plans of action in the area of migration in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

In October 2017, ILO convened an interregional Consultation on Labour Migration and Mobility from Asia/Africa to the Middle East, in Beirut on 4-5 October 2017, gathering government, worker, employer and civil society representatives from Jordan, Lebanon, GCC countries, and countries of origin in Africa and Asia to discuss shared priorities for labour migration (Background Paper and Conference Summary Report). Further inclusive interregional dialogues on discrete topics of labour migration are being planned.

LAS continues to engage in established mechanisms of cooperation with other regions. The Africa-Arab Technical and Coordination Committee on Migration (TCCM), co-chaired by the African Union (AU) and LAS and established according to a resolution from the 3rd Africa-Arab Summit in Kuwait 2013, held its second meeting in Cairo in March 2016 and its third in Addis Ababa in January 2018.
V. Sustainable Development Goals and Migration

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, for the first time, provided an indicator for demonstrating migration’s links to development, recognizing the positive contribution of migrants, calling for cooperation on safe, orderly and regular migration and the full respect for the human rights of migrants, refugees and displaced persons, regardless of status, and stressing the need to strengthen resilience of communities hosting refugees (paragraph 29, declaration).

In the spirit of leaving no one behind, several of the SDG targets and indicators are directly or indirectly linked to international migration and mobility. Central to international migration remains target 10.7, under goal 10 (reducing inequality within and among countries), which calls to “facilitate orderly, safe and regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of well-managed migration policies”. Select targets and indicators linked directly or indirectly to international migration are:

- Strengthen and retain health workforce in developing countries (3.c)
- Increase the number of scholarships for study abroad (4.b)
- Eradicate human trafficking (5.2, 5.3, 8.7, and 16.2)
- Protect labour rights, including for migrant workers, in particular women migrants (5.4, 8.5, 8.8)
- Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration (10.7)
- Reduce transaction costs of remittances (10.c)
- Ensure legal identity, including through birth registration (16.9)
- Disaggregate data by migratory status (17.18)

These global commitments have paved the way for further best practices to be elaborated in the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular migration, to which countries of the Arab region have contributed in the drafting and negotiations stages. The diversity of migration benefits and challenges in the region reflects itself in the variety of organizations and activities that are also seeking to support Member States in achieving the SDGs and supporting safe, orderly and regular migration. Partnerships between Member States at the bilateral and regional levels are key to achieving success, and this section provides an overview of how members of the working group are supporting these processes.

**FAO** pays particular attention to both internal and international movements and to the intersection between forced and voluntary migration, when people move because they perceive that there are no alternatives to move out of poverty in their communities, except to migrate. FAO has an important role to play in addressing the adverse drivers of internal and international...
migration from rural areas and in harnessing the development potential of migration, especially in terms of food and nutrition security and poverty reduction. In support of the SDGs, FAO strives to ensure that the rural poor are provided with sustainable livelihood options within their communities, so to make migration an informed decision and not an act of desperation. Moreover, FAO advocates for regular labour migration channels, including for lower-skilled workers and those working in the agricultural sector. FAO also contributes to building community resilience and promoting investments in protecting, saving and rebuilding livelihoods of displaced populations and host communities. In this regard, FAO aims to address how agricultural and rural development policies can reduce the need for distress migration and how rural migration and remittances can contribute to sustainable agriculture and rural development through investments in agriculture, poverty reduction and food security in areas of origin.

At the global level, FAO advocates for the importance of agriculture and rural development in addressing current migratory flows, including in the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. FAO is member of the Global Migration Group (GMG) and is acting as GMG co-chair for 2018, together with IOM. As the priority for their co-chairmanship, FAO and IOM will work to bring together the relevant expertise of the 22 GMG entities in a range of migration-related policy field, thus strengthening the GMG’s overall support to achieving the SDGs.

ILO’s work on labour migration and mobility in the Arab region is oriented around ensuring decent work for all workers, in accordance with the decent work elements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and particularly SDG 8: promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. The most relevant SDG targets are:

- SDG 8.4: By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value
- SDG 8.7: Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms
- SDG 8.8: Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment

Specific to SDG target 10.7, ILO and the World Bank are possible custodians for the development of a methodology for SDG indicator 10.7.1: recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of yearly income earned in country of destination. This work is building on ILO-World Bank surveys on the costs of low-skilled labour migration, which have been undertaken under the auspices of the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD). In November 2018, ILO will also host a meeting of its tripartite constituents of governments, employers’ and workers’ organizations to arrive at a definition of recruitment fees and related costs which will inform the work on SDG indicator 10.7.1 and which will also draw on good practices, experiences and lessons learned from the Arab region, among other regions.

IOM has incorporated the SDGs and notably 10.7 in all IOM project proposals. This has led to synergies in programme implementation; joint advocacy with Member States and resource mobilization. Equally, the participation and contribution towards the upcoming Situation Report compiling data on migration trends and SDGs in the Arab Region are some additional key elements. IOM further seeks to foster the inclusion of migration and specific vulnerabilities of migrants into government responses to transnational crime, terrorism and prevention of violent extremism. Lastly,
the migration dimension is integrated into Monitoring and Evaluation plans of all SDGs in response to inter-connectedness and inter-dynamic nature of SDGs within the spirit of the principle of leaving no one behind. The MENA Regional Strategy Results Framework, the Migration Governance Framework (MIGOF) further aid to this monitoring.

**LAS**, as the secretariat of the ARCP and through its different mechanisms (such as the Working Group on International Migration in the Arab Region and Africa-Arab Technical and Coordination Committee on Migration), addresses the migration related targets in the SDGs and provides support to its Member States in partnership with other entities.

The migration-related targets of the SDGs were reflected in the ARCP’s programming document and 2016-2017 work plan which were adopted during the second meeting held in May 2016, while its 2018-2019 work plan was adopted during its fourth meeting held in May 2018. According to the 2016-2017 and 2018-2019 work plans, “the migration-related targets of the SDGs” is a permanent topic on the agenda of the annual ARCP meetings. LAS invites members of the Working Group, mainly UN-ESCWA and IOM, to give presentations and provide technical support to Member States during the sessions dedicated to the SDGs, while Member States are given the chance to present their visions and efforts in this regard with the aim of enhancing regional dialogue as well as sharing information, experiences and best practices.

LAS gives special attention to capacity building of the officials of its Member States. In this framework, it organizes a training workshop in cooperation with UN-ESCWA and IOM, and with participation of some member agencies of the Working Group. The workshop took place in Cairo on 16-17 July 2018, aiming at raising the awareness of Member States’ officials and improving their knowledge base on migration-related SDG targets and indicators.

The Africa-Arab Technical and Coordination Committee on Migration (AA-TCCM) also focuses on the migration related targets of the SDGs. Its Work Plan for 2017-2019 includes: “Follow up on implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals as they relate to migration”, from 2019 onwards.

**OHCHR’s** publication of OHCHR Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders and OHCHR and GMG Principles and Guidelines Supported by Practical Guidance on the Human Rights Protection of Migrants in vulnerable situations in Arabic, and the dissemination of these contents to government bodies, civil society actors and other international organizations in the MENA region will enhance the ability of governments achieve SDG 10.7 with a human rights-based approach. From a human rights perspective, all migration governance policies have to be planned and implemented with the respect for, and protection of, the human rights of individual migrants as one of the core principles.

Capacity building of government officials and civil society, in particular on migrants in vulnerable situations, as well as monitoring and reporting activities, contributes to the efforts of eradicating trafficking in human beings, SDGs 5.2, 8.7, and 16.2. Advocacy work for legislative and policy changes to ensure that all migrants are guaranteed the protection of all human rights, including rights at work, regardless of their migration status, type of work and type of contract they hold, contributes to promoting decent work and labour rights for all migrants, SDGs 5.4, 8.8.

**UNICEF** programmes are addressing the needs of all vulnerable children regardless of their migration status. UNICEF’s work around this agenda is cross-sectorial in nature involving primarily education, protection, health and adolescents’ interventions. Programming for migrant children is also spanning through the humanitarian-development continuum and is centered around investment in strengthening national systems to deliver services to all children without any
discrimination, including based on migration status. Whilst most interventions related to the migration agenda are mainstreamed throughout all our programmes, in some contexts UNICEF does support more targeted interventions in support specifically of migrant children – e.g. humanitarian interventions in support of children and women in detention in Libya; targeted educational activities, etc. Strengthening national systems across all relevant social sectors – with a focus on Education, Child Protection and Health – also entails capacity building of relevant service providers, supporting legislative/policy reforms, as needed to advance the rights of migrant children, and related advocacy initiatives. Generating evidence also remains a critical priority to inform programming and advocacy efforts. Growing efforts are ongoing to promote and support cross-country and cross-regional collaboration along specific migratory routes. With this, UNICEF is also contributing primarily to the following SDG related targets - 2, 8.7, 16.2, 16.9, and 17.18.

UN-ESCWA provides a framework for the formulation and harmonization of sectoral policies for member countries, a platform for congress and coordination, a home for expertise and knowledge, and an information observatory. UN-ESCWA approaches international migration from a social development perspective with a particular focus on the rights of migrants, the integration of migration into development strategies and the support of dialogue on migration.

UN-ESCWA is mandated to support efforts to identify regional priorities and establish frameworks for follow-up and review (FUR) of progress at national and regional levels. Specifically, UN-ESCWA is also mandated to assist countries during the roll-out and implementation of the SDGs (Follow-up and review of Agenda 2030 (A/RES/70/684), Twenty-Eighth ESCWA Ministerial Session, ESCWA Executive Committee 2015).

ESCWA also leads regional efforts in FUR through organizing the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development and leads capacity-building activities that also include work on migration.

UN-Habitat is the United Nations’ programme working towards a better urban future. Its mission is to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all. This mandate has been endorsed and the agency has taken on a coordination role in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda which, among other issues, commits to promoting international, national, subnational and local climate action, including climate change adaptation and mitigation, and supports the efforts of cities and human settlements, their inhabitants and all local stakeholders as important implementers. At the Arab regional level, UN-Habitat provides technical support to Member States based on the objectives of the Arab Strategy for Housing and the Sustainable Urban Development 2030 (implementation framework for urban related Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 11, and New Urban Agenda).

UNFPA, at regional and national levels, has included migration within its programme frameworks. Its projects work towards human rights and SRH services through evidence-based policies; addressing needs of women and young people; policies for older populations including migrants; the demographic dividend; and data issues including generation, measurements, and monitoring, which are all part of the SDGs.

UNHCR’s work incorporates several SDGs in focus:

**SDG 4:** Since 2012, UNHCR has partnered with the Educate A Child (EAC) programme to help hundreds of thousands of refugee children to attend school in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. The EAA-UNHCR partnership has reached almost 770,000 vulnerable out-of-school children in countries across Asia and Africa. The partnership with EAC has also helped UNHCR to ensure that refugees and other conflict-affected children are included in Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) on education, ensuring education for refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs). It is also a priority
of the EAC programme to support countries in their efforts to ensure that refugees are included in national education planning (http://www.unhcr.org/educate-a-child.html?query=SDGs).

**SDG 16:** UNHCR is currently rolling out its Population Registration and Identity Management EcoSystem (PRIMES), which includes state of the art biometrics. UNHCR will focus on refugee registration as a functional subset of a multi-sector and multi-purpose ID infrastructure and assist States to register and document all individuals living on the State’s territory, including those under the organization’s mandate. UNHCR will assist States to conform to international standards of data security and privacy.

**SDGs (5.2, 8.7, and 16.2) on eradicating human trafficking:** UNHCR is actively involved in enhancing State capacity to identify and protect victims of trafficking from among persons falling under its mandate and who have fled situations of armed conflict and violence. UNHCR’s Guidelines on International Protection No. 12 provide guidance on claims for refugee status related to situations of armed conflict and violence, and UNHCR’s Guidelines on International Protection No. 1, on the needs of persons fleeing gender-related persecution, further explains that human trafficking, sexual slavery and conjugal slavery/forced marriage, are common forms of persecution in many situations of armed conflict and violence. UNHCR’s Guidelines on International Protection No. 7 concern the application of Article 1A(2) of the 1951 Convention and/or 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees to victims of trafficking and persons at risk of being trafficked (http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/publications/legal/443b626b2/guidelines-international-protection-7-application-article-1a2-1951-convention.html).

UNHCR has developed an online facilitator’s guide as part of a comprehensive training on sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response that explores the inter-linkages between trafficking, smuggling, gender, sexual and gender-based violence, and forced displacement. It includes case studies and provides recommendations on how to mitigate against the risk that a man, woman, girl or boy may become a victim of trafficking on account of their gender or prior experience of gender based-violence.

UNHCR co-leads the Task Team on Anti-Trafficking to the Global Protection Cluster, which will produce global guidance on practical measures needed to address trafficking in persons through the cluster response and is a working group member of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT).

**UNODC’s mandate** includes assisting States Parties in implementing the provisions of the United Nations Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. Projects implemented in this field aim at assisting States in combating trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants and dismantling criminal networks that engage in such activities, including smuggling activities that put the safety and lives of migrants at risk (e.g. smuggling of migrants by sea). This work directly links to achieving goals 5.2, 8.7, and 16.2. Furthermore, UNODC promotes international cooperation in fighting against organized criminal groups that operate across borders, and an important component of all UNODC projects in the area of migrant smuggling is the protection of the rights of smuggled migrants.

UNODC also contributes to SDG 10, which addresses the facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration (Target 10.7), including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies. UNODC recognizes that successful strategies to manage migration must be framed within the more inclusive and comprehensive context of development. To achieve this target in the Arab Region, UNODC assists Member States in expanding their capacity to prevent and combat the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, to protect trafficking victims and
smuggled migrants and ensure that their rights are respected, and to promote cooperation between Member States. The Protocols of the Smuggling of Migrants and the Trafficking in Persons under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime are the tools to facilitate cooperation and provide a range of shared actions to combat these crimes, which in turn contributes to orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration.

Additionally, UNODC provides normative, analytical and operational assistance to Member States for strengthening the effectiveness, fairness and accountability of their criminal justice institutions and enable them to better tackle trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. These efforts contribute to targets 16.2 and 8.7.

**UN-Women** partners with governing bodies, civil society organizations, UN agencies, and other institutions to advocate to meet gender equality and women’s empowerment and to ensure that no woman, man, boy or girl is left behind, especially women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination such as women and girl migrants and refugees. This involves raising awareness on the 2030 agenda, increasing capacity of partners, networking as well as producing knowledge. All UN Women’s programmes and projects are designed to contribute to SDGs relevant to organizations’ mandate, including migration related goals. In addition, UN Women, through its role to promote more effective coordination, coherence and gender mainstreaming across the UN system in support of commitments for gender equality and women’s empowerment, advocates for migrant women’s needs to be recognized and addressed.

UN Women works on supporting women migrants and refugees in the Arab region by helping Member States in:

- removing and repealing discriminatory laws and policies and supporting the enactment of gender responsive legislations (5.1, 5.c, 10.3, and 16.b);
- advocating for gender responsive planning and budgeting (SDG 5.c) and full and effective participation in leadership and decision-making (SDG 5.5, SDG 16.9);
- implementing policies that promote full and productive employment and decent work (SDG 8.5 and 9.5), including measures to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work (SDG 5.4), and to ensure universal social protection and services (SDG 1.3, SDG 5.4, SDG 10.4);
- eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation (SDG 5.2).

By supporting the collection of high-quality, timely, accessible, reliable and disaggregated data by sex, age, family status, income, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographic location and other characteristics will also support evidence-based policy formulation as well as strategic planning (SDG 17.18).

UN Women in the Arab States supports governments in translating global sustainable development goals into regional and country context. An example is the support provided to Government of Kuwait on implementation of SDG 5. Through this type of support, UN Women is involved in addressing migration-related gender issues in the region.

**WHO** continues to work on achieving SDG 3, specifically promoting SDG 3.8, which for SDG 10.7 means that migrants should have access to healthcare. In addition, for SDG 3.c, WHO is working toward implanting the Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030.
WHO/EMRO has been supporting all countries in the region to achieve a well-functioning civil registration and vital statistics.
VI. Knowledge and Research

This section provides an overview of research gaps identified by member organizations in relation to international migration and displacement in the Arab region, as well as topics that should be considered for future reports, policy briefs, EGMs and other outputs of the working group.

Knowledge gaps – Quality data is of foremost concern

Availability, consistency and specificity of migration-related data in the Arab region continues to be the most-identified knowledge gap by members of the Working Group. The survey results underline clearly the need for improvement in migration data disaggregated by age, sex, reasons for movement, countries of origin and destination in the Arab region.

Improving data and evidence on migration and evidenced-based policymaking remain among the main objectives of the Working Group. The lack of data is not unique to the region, as evidenced by a strong emphasis on the importance of data collection and availability which is included as of chief concern in the Member State-led forthcoming Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The Working Group recognizes that data alone is not a solution, but the responsible management and use of better migration data can lead to improved migration policies.

Member agencies have highlighted the need for capacity building for Member States in the collection, sharing and use of data. In the meantime, member agencies are also undertaking important initiatives to immediately address gaps in information.

**FAO** has completed a regional report on the contemporary situation of rural migration in the Near East and North Africa Region. The report is based on secondary data analysis. It uses academic and grey literature on international and internal migration, rural migration, rural development, agriculture, climate change and migration, with regional studies as well as case studies at national level. Desk-based analysis was complemented with semi-structured interviews conducted with regional experts and representatives of international organizations. The study covers 19 countries in NENA region (Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Mauritania, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Sudan, Iran, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen) as well as the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The analysis does not rely on the collection of quantitative or statistical data on migration.

**ILO** is conducting a “Labour Force and Households’ Living Conditions Survey for Lebanon” (LFHLCS). The survey is currently at the stage of field work and data gathering. It will soon involve data processing and analysis with a view to providing a critical reading of and policy formulation regarding the labour force and living conditions in the country. ILO is also working on draft guidelines concerning statistics of international labour migration, to be discussed and endorsed at the 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, Geneva, 10-19 October 2018. Once endorsed, these guidelines will set standards for statistics on international labour migration and migrant workers in order to guide countries, including those in the Arab region, in updating and integrating their existing statistical programmes in this field.

**IOM** supports the capacity development of Arab governments in data collection, management and analysis, as well as stimulation of knowledge and data production within academic circles in the
region. IOM also generates primary data and knowledge through its numerous research studies on a range of migration issues in the Arab region.

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is active in five countries in the region (Syria, Iraq, Libya, Sudan and Yemen) and collects data on internally displaced, returning IDPs and migrants through its ongoing Mobility Tracking and Flow monitoring activities. DTM data is publicly available on displacement.iom.int and flow.iom.int global portals, and on global.dtm.info. Iraq has a dedicated portal as well: iraqdtm.iom.int.

IOM’s Global Migration Data Analysis Center, located in Berlin, has the objective of strengthening data on migration globally. In the MENA region, IOM is engaged in various ongoing data initiatives, and also collects valuable data through its many research studies including the Missing Migrants Project, which tracks deaths of migrants, including refugees and asylum-seekers, who have gone missing along mixed migration routes worldwide, including in the Mediterranean and the Middle East, as well as the platform of the North Africa Mixed Migration Task Force (comprised of IOM, UNHCR, OHCHR, and UNODC). The Mixed Migration Hub (MHub) – the knowledge platform of the North Africa Mixed Migration Task Force – includes Working Group members IOM, OHCHR, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNODC and has built a database to record and visualize migratory movements to, through and from North Africa.

Routine data collection by IOM is conducted by the following divisions and purposes: Migration Health Division: health assessments; Resettlement Migrants’ Movements: case data on resettlements and movement; Migrant Protection Assistance: case and survey data on counter-trafficking and assistance to migrants and case data on assisted voluntary return and reintegration; DTM: flow monitoring, mobility tracking surveys and registration; LHD: case data on migrant training and data on migrant resource center.

In addition, ad hoc assessments and surveys are carried out in different countries on different population groups and with different thematic focus.

Several agencies – namely ILO, IOM, LAS, UNFPA, and UNHCR – are supporting the Household International Migration Surveys in the Mediterranean Countries (MED-HIMS) programme. A regional, coordinated programme of household surveys, MED-HIMS aims to address the lack of data on international migration in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean by collecting comparative data on the characteristics and behavior of migrants and on the determinants and consequences of international migration. MED-HIMS is a regional programme of coordinated international migration surveys requested by the National Statistical Offices of eight Arab countries (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia). MED-HIMS is made up of a number of modules that aim to collect data in the Mediterranean countries on out-migration, return migration, forced migration, intention to migrate, circular migration, migration of highly-skilled persons, irregular migration, type and use of remittances, behavior, attitudes, perceptions and cultural values of people with regard to international migration, as well as relevant information on individuals and households, and the local communities involved.

MED-HIMS is active at the regional level, where mainly the common methodology and instruments are discussed and developed/reviewed and activities are evaluated/planned under the coordination of international organizations, and at the national level, where the household surveys are implemented under the responsibility of the national statistical institutes.

Reports from the Egypt-HIMS Survey were issued in January 2016 and May 2017 with plans to implement a second survey in 2018. The results of the Jordan-HIMS Survey completed in 2014 were issued in June 2016.
LAS is seeking to establish an information system for migration and Arab Expatriates Affairs, which is based on the integration of migration information systems in the Arab countries. The system includes a number of databases, including: i) a database of highly-skilled Arab expatriates; ii) a database of associations, unions and organizations established by Arab communities in countries of destination; iii) a database of laws, legislation and regulations related to migration and expatriates and database of experts; and iv) a database of researchers and migration research centers. The establishment of such a system will contribute to create the necessary mechanisms to ensure evidence-based policymaking and to maximize positive impacts on economic and social development in the Arab world.

UN-ESCWA aims to respond to the capacity development needs of Member States in terms of data production, analysis and dissemination as key prerequisite for effective national review and monitoring of progress towards the achievement of the SDGs. It also chairs the Thematic Working Group on the 2030 Agenda which will support the monitoring and reporting on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including migration-related indicators. The Thematic Working Group on SDG Data aims to establish and maintain a unified set of regional SDG data that will be used by all agencies for their studies and reports in a consistent way.

UN-Habitat recently launched the Report on Migration and Inclusive Cities - A Guide for Arab City Leaders, which highlights various good practices by local governments and other key stakeholders addressing host and displaced communities’ dynamics, and suggests the up-scaling of replicable practices to other contexts, among those also climate migration management. It produced city and neighborhood profiles for Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Libya, and migration profiles for select cities: Tangier - Morocco, Tunis - Tunisia, Amman - Jordan, and Beirut - Lebanon.

UNFPA is working on a mixed young migrants study (under publishing); female genital mutilation and population movements within and from the Arab Region (under publishing); and child marriage and mobility (in process).

UNHCR established the Mediterranean Data Portal: UNHCR Information-sharing web portal to track migration movements across the Mediterranean. Thousands of women, men and children have lost their lives or gone missing during the treacherous journey across the Mediterranean Sea. The situation urgently required enhanced coordination and improved information sharing between a variety of actors involved in the emergency response. As such, UNHCR launched a comprehensive data portal focused on the situation affecting refugees and migrants throughout the Mediterranean and on routes across Europe. This work is part of a larger inter-agency effort to support data portal platforms focused on various other emergencies. The website makes available operational data, statistics, maps, reports and situation updates related to the Mediterranean crisis.

In 2017, the World Bank-UNHCR joined efforts to establish joint data center to improve global statistics on forced displacement. Joint UNHCR-World bank also created research on Forced Displacement and Mixed Migration in the Horn of Africa.

UNODC is mandated to send questionnaires to Member States for the biannual Global Report on Trafficking in Persons. The Global Reports are publicly available and are expected to be launched in November/December 2018.

UN Women works to fill knowledge gaps around the status and needs of women in the region. The work to date has focused on data collection on primarily women refugees. The agency is also
working to monitor the employment opportunities provided to refugee women in Iraq and Jordan. One such report is Restoring Dignity and Building Resilience: Monitoring Report of UN Women’s Programming in Za’atari Refugee Camp, developed in 2015. Currently, a study is being conducted on the impact of conflict on women in Libya, including migrant women. In 2018, UN Women launched the flagship report “Turning Promises into Action”, which provides a comprehensive assessment of progress, gaps and challenges in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from a gender perspective. The report monitors global and regional trends in achieving the SDGs for women and girls based on available data and provides practical guidance for the implementation of gender-responsive policies and accountability processes. This global monitoring report tries to capture the extent to which we managed to achieve results for women and girls based on the new development consensus and the SDGs and what is needed to bridge the remaining gaps between the rhetoric and reality.

WHO is conducting comprehensive public health assessments of mixed migrants’ health.
Gaps in existing migration research

Members of the Working Group were asked to identify gaps in available research on migration in the Arab region. This section provides a comprehensive list of research gaps identified by respective member organizations. The table below highlights the common themes by listing specific research gaps that were identified by more than two member organizations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common identified research gaps</th>
<th>Number of member organizations that identified the gap</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of reliable, consistent, available data (at regional, national and local levels)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender and age-disaggregated data</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migration due to climate change and environmental factors</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Push factors and drivers for migration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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In addition to the overarching recognized need for more collection, availability and specificity (i.e. gender, age, migrant status-disaggregated) of migration-related data, a comprehensive list of specific topics highlighted by member organizations is provided below.

| Gaps in migration-related research identified by Working Group member agencies |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| **FAO**              | • Rural dimension of internal and international migration and displacement, given that a large share of migrants originate from rural areas and most migration flows take place internally.  
                        • Sex and age disaggregated data on rural migration, as well as its determinants, dynamics and consequences |
| **ILO**              | • Reliable and harmonized data on migrant workers in the region disaggregated by sex, age and sector of employment |
| **IOM**              | • Migration due to climate change  
                        • Push factors for increased migration across Central and Western Mediterranean routes |
| **LAS**              | • Challenges to measuring migration  
                        • Lack of a unified definition of “international migration/migrant”  
                        • Technical support for States in the preparation of their censuses and to build their capacities in collecting and analyzing data  
                        • The need for modern statistical methods to provide the necessary data on time in order to provide support/assistance to refugees and IDPs, since traditional methods take too much time. This requires developing tools that allow relevant stakeholders to take advantage of demographic data in addressing the... |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>• Migration due to climate change</td>
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</table>
| UN-ESCWA     | • Institutional mapping of countries’ infrastructure to manage migration-related policies  
|             | • Migrant needs and identities beyond nationality and numbers  
|             | • The links between environmental degradation, climate change and migration  
|             | • The links between migration and health |
| UN-HABITAT   | • Link between national policy and local level implementation  
|             | • Climate induced displacement – causes and effects |
| UN-Women     | • Migration and gender-based discrimination in the region  
|             | • Labour market profiles of women migrants  
|             | • Women on the move in the Arab region: challenges and opportunities; differentiated needs of women concerning health, education and training, safety and security, protection from gender-based discrimination, violence and harassment, and human trafficking  
|             | • Employment determinants of migrant women  
|             | • Decent work and women migrant workers: legislative frameworks and practical implications  
|             | • Contribution of migrant women and men in development of the region and host countries |
| UNFPA        | • Migration as a population dimension  
|             | • Migration policies at a national level  
|             | • An integrated policy approach |
| UNICEF       | • Impact of return programmes on children and their families  
|             | • Impact of migration for children who are left behind by their migrating parents/primary care givers  
|             | • Migration through places with conflict (e.g. Yemen)  
|             | • The situation of migrant children in the Gulf countries from a child rights perspective (access to rights and basic services)  
|             | • Gender and disability consideration in migration |
| WHO          | • In the area of public health, health information and surveillance systems are not capturing mixed migrants |
VII. Thematic Focus of the 2019 Situation Report on International Migration in the Arab Region

Members of the Working Group were asked to provide suggested topics for the thematic focus of the 2019 Situation Report on International Migration in the Arab Region. This section provides a comprehensive list of the proposed topics. Each topic proposed by member agencies of the Working Group was taken into consideration for developing the proposed thematic focus of the 2019 Situation Report, which will be agreed upon with input from the Working Group members. The remaining proposed topics will also inform future research policy briefs, capacity building, and other activities of Working Group members. The full list of proposals is included below.

The table below highlights the common themes among the proposed topics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Theme</th>
<th>Number of agencies that proposed a related topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Migration by population sub-group</td>
<td>Children, women (6); Older persons (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better understanding mixed migration (subtopics: health, rural, women, children)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contextualizing the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) for the Arab Region, and linking it with SDG 10.7 on well-managed migration policies</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changing causes of migration (climate and environment-induced, rural to urban)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migration as part of population policy (ageing, enhancing the demographic dividend, addressing brain drain)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

List of topics proposed by members of the Working Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Topics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>• Agriculture and rural development considered in the root causes of migration, including rural poverty, food insecurity, inequality, unemployment, lack of social protection as well as natural resource depletion due to environmental degradation and climate change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILO</td>
<td>• Migration governance (with a view to moving towards whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches in accordance with the guiding principles of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Focus Areas</td>
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</table>
| IOM          | Migration due to climate change and environmental factors  
|              | Migrant youth and unaccompanied and separated minors  
|              | Rural to urban migration, as it affects international migration and in the context of rural women  
|              | Gender dynamics in migration movements |
| LAS          | Adopting the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM): its expected effect on States’ policies and on migrants themselves  
|              | Return migration  
|              | Image of migrants and refugees in the receiving communities  
|              | Migrants vs. asylum seekers and refugees (needs, legal status and protection rights)  
|              | Xenophobia/islamophobia  
|              | Mixed migration flows (focusing on Gulf of Aden) |
| OHCHR        | Follow-up on the adoption of the GCM and ongoing discussion on implementation of SDGs, strategically useful for actors concerned with migration to focus on aspects of SDG 10.7 to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration  
|              | Acknowledging ‘orderly’, ‘safe’, ‘regular’ and ‘responsible’ migration and their different implications to and for individual migrants, states of origin, states of transit and states of destination |
| UNDP         | Migration due to climate change and environmental factors |
| UN-ESCWA     | Specificity on migrant identity, needs, and ability to access by migrant population type, i.e. by demographic (age/gender/nationality), by arrival pathway (regular, irregular, victims of trafficking/smuggling), etc.  
|              | Achieving the GCM: examine three to five objectives especially relevant to the region, explore the legislative framework, and status of, conclude with recommendations to implement in order to be aligned with SDGs  
|              | Brain drain/gain, understanding innovative ways to capitalize on for development, beyond remittances, including skill transfers |
| UN-Habitat   | New Urban Agenda implementation in the Arab region and mainstreaming of migration issues: national urban policies, urban planning and design, urban finance and urban legislation, as well as local implementation for inclusive cities in the Arab region. |
| UN-Women     | Gender and migration research and analysis, both in terms of challenges but also opportunities and benefits from migration are important to highlight in order to increase awareness and knowledge among governments, private sectors and communities as a whole that would lead to changed perception for migration and migrant women and men. |
| UNFPA        | Migrants' experiences in cities of origin, transit, and destination  
|              | Health needs and services including psychosocial, sexual and reproductive health and family-based violence (FBV) for women and young people  
|              | Migration within ageing policies  
|              | Economic empowerment and enhancing the demographic dividend |
| | Documentation and human rights  
|  | Data generation and monitoring within SDGs  
| **UNHCR** | The situation of unaccompanied and separated children in the region, considering the specific situation of refugee and asylum seeking unaccompanied and separated children  
| **UNICEF** | Specific needs of children and youth, including:  
|  |  
|  | o Impact of return programmes on children and their families  
|  | o Impact of migration for children who are left behind by their migrating parents/primary care givers  
|  | The situation of migrant children in the Gulf countries from a child rights perspective (access to rights and basic services)  
|  | Gender and disability consideration in migration  
| **UNODC** | Trafficking in persons in conflict situations, to operationalize Security Council resolutions 2331 and 2388  
| **WHO** | Innovative ways for mixed migrant communities to be included in the public health system of countries facing complex emergencies |
VIII. List of Publications

This section provides a list of migration-related publications provided by members of the Working Group since 2016. This list includes publications provided by the Working Group members and may not be exhaustive.

Working Group on International Migration in the Arab region


FAO

Rural Migration in the Near East and North Africa: Regional Trends and Country Profiles

Agricultural Transformation in the Near East and North Africa Region and the Challenge of Youth Employment and Migration

ILO

Good practices and lessons learned on promoting international cooperation and partnerships to realize a fair migration agenda for migrant domestic workers in Africa, the Arab States and Asia (2016)

Ways forward in recruitment of low-skilled migrant workers in the Asia-Arab states corridor (2016)

Labour migration in Asia and the Pacific and the Arab States (2016)

Global estimates of modern slavery: Forced labour and forced marriage (2017)

Regional brief for the Arab States on 2017 Global Estimates of Forced Labour and Forced Marriage (2017)

Employer-Migrant Worker Relationships in the Middle East: Exploring scope for internal labour market mobility and fair migration (2017)

Migrant workers in an irregular situation through no fault of their own: pathways and response options in the Arab States (2017)

Common interests, shared goals: Promoting decent work from Asia and Africa to the Middle East (2017)

A Mapping of Migrant Resource Centers in Arab States (2018)

Domestic workers and employers in the Arab States: Promising practices and innovative models for a productive working relationship (2018)

Exploratory study of good policies in the protection of construction workers in the Middle East (2018)
IOM

New Evidence on Yemeni Return Migrants from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (2018)

A New Home - Resettling Syrian Refugees to Canada (2018)


Migrant Vulnerability to Human Trafficking and Exploitation: Evidence from the Central and Eastern Mediterranean Migration Routes (2017)


Four Decades of Cross-Mediterranean Undocumented Migration to Europe: A Review of the Evidence (2017)

Harrowing Journeys: Children and youth on the move across the Mediterranean Sea, at risk of trafficking and exploitation (2017)

Assessing the risks of Migration along the Central and Eastern Mediterranean Routes: Iraq and Nigeria as Case Study Countries (2016)

Assessing the Evidence: Migration, Environment and Climate Change in Morocco (2016)

Migrant Smuggling Data and Research: A global review of the emerging evidence base (2016)

Egyptian Unaccompanied Migrant Children: A case study on irregular migration (2016)

LAS

The fifth issue of "The Arab Expatriate" Newsletter (2017)

The sixth issue of "The Arab Expatriate" Newsletter (2018)

UNDP

Climate Change, Migration and Displacement (2017)

UN-ESCWA

Syria at War: five years on. (2016)

Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region, 2015-2016.

National Study on International Migration in the Sudan (ongoing)

UNHCR
Global Report 2017

UNHCR Desperate Journeys Report 2018

Central Mediterranean Route Situation (2018)

UNODC

Global Study on Smuggling of Migrants (2018)

Global Report on Trafficking in Persons (2016)

UN Women

Disrupted families: The gendered impacts of family reunification policies on Syrian refugees in Germany (2018)

Reconfiguring care relationships: Ethiopian migrants in Australia and Lebanon (2017)

Recommendations for addressing women's human rights in the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (2017)

Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces: Global Results (2017)


WHO

Annex: Survey Questionnaire

**Working Group on International Migration in the Arab Region**

*Mapping of existing and future migration-related work*

The Aim of the Survey

Building on mapping exercises conducted in 2014 and 2016, this survey charts the activities of member organizations of the Working Group on International Migration in the Arab region in the field of migration and forced displacement. Migration is a complex global phenomenon related to many key aspects of economic, social and environmental development. The situation of migrants in the Arab region requires coordination of many actors to address the health, education, labour and human rights situations of migrants. Due to the inherently cross-cutting nature of migration and displacement and the constant transformation of economic, social, environmental and conflict factors in the region, it is of great importance to create a clear and comprehensive overview of the different projects that are taking place now and are planned for the future. The scope of the present mapping exercise therefore covers the years 2016-2019.

The secondary purpose of this mapping exercise is to inform the literature review and research needs in order to determine the thematic focus of the *2019 Situation Report on International Migration*. This survey of existing publications, data and research, in addition to programmes and activities, serves as a key foundation on which to ensure complementarity and relevance of the upcoming report.

Finally, the consolidated results of the survey will serve as a reference for external parties seeking to further coordinate and complement efforts related to migration as undertaken by the members of the Working Group.

The co-chairs of the Working Group, ESCWA, LAS and IOM are grateful for the participation of Working Group member organizations in this useful exercise.
**2018 Migration-Related Activity Mapping Questionnaire**

**Working Group on International Migration in the Arab Region**

*Working Group member agencies are kindly requested to return the completed questionnaire to Annelisa.Lindsay@un.org (UN-ESCWA) by 15 May 2018.*

I. Overview of the Organization’s Projects on Migration in the Arab Region

1. Briefly describe your organization’s approach to international migration in the Arab region and main areas of focus.

2. What migration-related activities or outputs has your organization undertaken in the Arab region in 2016-17?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Type of Activity or Output (policy support, research, publication, capacity building, training, direct assistance to migrants/refugees/communities)</th>
<th>Topic(s) covered (nationality/statelessness, labour migration, irregular migration, human trafficking, migrant smuggling, refugees and displacement, expatriate/diaspora engagement, migrant health, migrants’ rights, border management, other)</th>
<th>Countries covered</th>
<th>Main beneficiaries (migrants, refugees, communities of origin/destination, governments, civil society, other)</th>
<th>Main results and outcomes (objectives, if not yet completed)</th>
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*Please include weblinks where available*
3. What migration related activities or outputs is your organization planning to undertake in 2018-19?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title *Please include weblinks where available</th>
<th>Type of Activity or Output (policy support, research, publication, capacity building, training, direct assistant to migrants/refugees/communities)</th>
<th>Topic(s) covered (nationality/statelessness, labour migration, irregular migration, human trafficking, migrant smuggling, refugees and displacement, expatriate/diaspora engagement, migrant health, migrants’ rights, border management, other)</th>
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II – Sustainable Development Goals and Migration

1. How does your organization implement or orient projects towards SDG 10.7 goal and other migration-related goals and targets?

Sustainable Development Goal 10.7: “Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.”

Other migration-related targets:

- Strengthen and retain health workforce in developing countries (3.c)
- Increase the number scholarships for study abroad (4.b)
- Eradicate human trafficking (5.2, 8.7, and 16.2)
- Promoting decent work and migrant labour rights, in particular for women migrants (5.4, 8.8)
- Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration (10.7)
- Reduce transaction costs of remittances (10.c)
- Ensure legal identity, including through birth registration (16.9)
- Disaggregate data by migratory status (17.18)

III – Existing gaps in research

1. Is your organization engaged in any (one-off or continuous) data collection efforts on migration and displacement in the Arab region? Please specify what kind of data is
collected, in which countries, and whether the data is publicly available.

2. In which aspects of migration in the Arab region do you think knowledge gaps exist? What is the evidence of these gaps? What would be the best way to fill these gaps?

3. What research topic(s) does your organization propose for the 2019 Situation Report on International Migration and why?

4. What research topics do you think should be considered for policy briefs, expert group meetings and other outputs of the Working Group?