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Children and Youth on the Move: Implementing Sustainable Solutions

Final Report
Thematic Workshop



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1 - INTRODUCTION



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

Against this backdrop, the GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairmanship of Morocco and Germany, in partnership with UNICEF, organized a thematic workshop entitled 'Children and Youth on the Move: Implementing Sustainable Solutions.' The workshop focused on informing the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) by identifying solutions to address priority issues for children and youth on the move.

The workshop was attended by over 180 representatives from around 30 participating UN Member States, 8 Observers and 26 civil society and private sector organisations, together with 13 young people with migrant backgrounds from Italy, Germany, the UK, and Morocco. The young delegates first came together to plan their contributions during a one-day, youth pre-meeting facilitated by UNICEF and the UN Major Group of Children and Young People. They then actively participated in both plenaries and every session of the workshop to offer reflections and calls to actions.

2 - MAIN THEMES

The two-day workshop was organized around six working sessions, tapping into the first-hand experiences of young migrants, local and national authorities, practitioners, experts, the private sector and the international community.

- Session I: Data to Protect, Data to Inform, Data to Deter?
- Session II: Protecting Children and Young Migrants Across Borders
- Session III: Africa -- A Continent on the Move?
- Session IV: Being a Young Migrant – from Object to Subject. Why and How Should You Invest in Us?
- Session V: Pathways Out of Vulnerability, Access to Services and Sustainable Solutions for Children and Families
- Session VI: Partnerships For and With Migrant Children and Youth

Over the course of the workshop, the participants identified the following priority issue areas and key recommendations:

Protection

- The best interests of the child should be the primary consideration in all cases involving migrant children, regardless of their migration status. The assessment procedure should ideally be conducted within the state's existing child protection systems and linked to a referral network to services, such as alternative care and family tracing and reunification.
- Child protection systems require increased investment in countries of origin, transit and destination, including strengthening the capacity of frontline workers.
- Alternatives to detention, such as family-based care and guardianship, are necessary to ensure that children are not placed in detention.
- Family unification through, for example, child-responsive labor migration policies, enables the right to family life, including for those migrants with low incomes.

- Return is one of several possibilities for migrant children and should always be grounded on several fundamental rights and principles: the right to family unity, non-refoulement and the child's best interest principle
- Cross-border cooperation is vital to ensuring a continuum of care and protection of migrant children and youth along migration routes. States should develop universally agreed guidelines and procedures for cross-border case management, and provide a mandate to organizations to work with foreign countries at a case management level.

Access to Services and Integration

- "Firewalls" between immigration enforcement and public services are needed to grant children access to basic services, such as healthcare and education.
- Education systems facilitate integration when they are inclusive of the needs of migrant children and youth and recognize education and skills qualifications across borders.
- Integration policies should be designed as a two-way process between migrants and host communities to address mutual fears and promote social cohesion. Ideally, services and integration programmes would serve both migrant and host communities.
- Discrimination of children and youth due to their or their parents' migration status needs to be further documented and addressed.

Inclusion

- Participation of migrant children and youth is critical to the development, implementation, monitoring and review of policies that affect them within the GCM process, and at the national and local level. A young migrant should be included in each member state delegation to the intergovernmental conference in Marrakesh in December 2018.
- The right skills, tools and platforms are needed to equip migrant children and youth for meaningful participation. The networking capacity and the influence of young people should not be underestimated.



Data Collection and Use

- Improved collection, use and protection of disaggregated data, including qualitative data, is necessary to better understand the factors affecting migrant children and youth on their journey and their needs, and to inform policy and programming solutions.
- Internationally agreed upon data protection standards for migrants and forcibly displaced populations should be developed. A mechanism to further develop and review data standards, especially for children, could be part of a data initiative to implement Objective 1 of the GCM or as a working group of the new UN migration network. There could be a side event on data in Marrakesh in December 2018 to further explore this opportunity.
- A nuanced approach to collecting data on migrant populations would ensure better understanding and response to specific vulnerabilities, such as a gendered approach and approaches that consider accompanied children, children with disabilities, LGBTQI children and trafficked children.

In addition to these priority focus areas, the workshop participants also urged African leadership, including the African Union, to address the “push” factors of migration by children and youth from Africa and prevent unsafe migration.

The participants also highlighted the needs of children and families left behind when family members migrate and the importance of developing policies and programmes to support them. Multi-stakeholder partnerships—across borders and across regions, through various levels of government, between multiple sectors and parts of society, and with young migrants themselves—are key to realising the commitments of the GCM.

3 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Day 1

3.1 - Opening plenary

“One way of making migration safer and better for young people is to have us part of the discussion... There needs to be space offered which allows young people to meaningfully contribute throughout the process of setting strategies, planning and implementing accordingly.”

- Reflections by a young delegate

[Welcoming Remarks: El Habib Nadir, Secretary General of the Ministry in charge of Moroccans Living Abroad and Migration Affairs and GFMD Co-Chair;

Speakers: Abdelkrim Benoutiq, Minister Delegate in charge of Moroccans Living Abroad and Migration Affairs; Driss El Yazami, President of the National Human Right Council and a member of the RINADH Steering Committee; Michele LeVoy, Director of PICUM; Ted Chaiban, Director of Programmes, UNICEF; Anas Ansar, Regional Focal Point for Central and South Asia, UN Migration Group for Children and Youth]

The opening plenary set the stage for the next two days of discussion, which focused on the importance of reaching the best possible outcome for children in the final weeks of the Global Compact for Migration negotiations and on transitioning from negotiation to implementation of the GCM commitments. Three core themes emerged in the plenary as crucial for children and youth: protection, inclusion and access to services.

Key considerations noted by the speakers include providing safe access to services for all migrants regardless of status through “firewalls” between immigration enforcement and public services; establishing alternatives to detention; ensuring that the best interests of each child are upheld regardless of status; strengthening regular channels for migration; and providing opportunities for host and migrant communities to come together to address xenophobia and discrimination.

The plenary further highlighted the importance of enabling civil society and not jeopardizing their ability to help migrants and refugees; of including national human rights institutions in the GCM for implementation, follow-up and review, and of involving migrant children in the development, implementation, follow-up and review of policies affecting them.

Several speakers highlighted the example of Morocco in emphasizing the importance of a national policy framework, which was adopted in 2013, for the regularization and integration of migrants. This policy provides regular pathways for migrant women and children, access to public and private schools and non-formal education for migrant children regardless of administrative status, preparatory courses for the inclusion of migrant and refugee children in the formal school system, integration of migrants and refugees with disabilities into mainstream services and integration of migrant children and youth into summer camps and trips organized by the Ministry of Youth and Sports. In 2014, 18,000 migrants were regularized. A second regularization campaign in 2017 received 25,600 applicants, with results currently being finalized.

3.2 - Working Session I: Data to Protect, Data to Inform, Data to Deter?

“We are not just numbers, but data is also important. Data related to our experiences could and should matter. Data is necessary to tackle wrong perceptions that fuel discrimination and give a better image of migration.”

- Reflections by a young delegate

[Chair: Dr. Frank Laczko, Director, International Organization for Migration (IOM) Global Migration Data Analysis Centre.

Speakers: Ms. Hataichanok Pakcharoen, Director of the Statistical Management System Division, National Statistics Office, Thailand; Claus Bech Hansen, UNICEF Data & Analytics; Dr. Nando Sigona, Birmingham University, UK; Bela Hovy, Chief of Migration Section, Population Division, UNDESA; Danielle Botti, Coordinator, Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat; Reflections by a young delegate]

There is limited data on children and youth on the move, yet without high-quality data, it is not possible to design the evidence-based policies and programmes needed to protect them nor can we make good use of their capacities and skills so they can live up to their full potential and contribute to their societies.

The session stressed that while quality data is the basis for any concerted efforts to provide protection for children and ensure their access to basic services, major data gaps persist when it comes to our knowledge of migrant and displaced children. There is a strong need to invest in data collection, hosting, and sharing mechanisms as well as in further research on vulnerabilities, dangers and challenges of child migrants to meet the high priority given to migration data in current migration debates and intragovernmental initiatives. Given the increasing reliance on data needs but insufficient data infrastructure, the speakers agreed that data needs must be better integrated in strategic considerations to support long-term planning.

The speakers also noted that there is a lack of internationally agreed upon data protection standards for migrants and forcibly displaced populations. To this end, they recommended that the GCM include a mechanism to develop such standards. Ensuring full compliance with data privacy rights was highlighted to guarantee that data is used to protect, not to harm, children. Therefore, it was recommended in GCM Objective 1 to include a specific mention of children as a vulnerable group and strict ethical standards in data collection. This could include a mechanism to further develop and review data standards around children, perhaps as a specific consortium to implement Objective 1 or as a Working Group of the Migration Network, and consideration of the specific needs of vulnerable migrant populations, such as children with disabilities, LGBTQI and trafficked children.

As an example, Thailand has developed a comprehensive data collection system to drive migration policies, including integration of migration and children-related topics in censuses and making the best use possible of administrative data. At the regional level, the Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative (4Mi) of the Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat is a low-cost and innovative practice that collects and analyses data, initially out of the Horn of Africa, through mobile phone applications and relies on community-based actors for reporting.

The Member States suggested organizing a side event on data and statistics in Marrakesh in December to put strong focus on this issue, which is often overlooked but needs to be at the forefront of discussions and debates given the centrality of good data to support policy, advocacy and programming decisions. Data sources should include the voices of children and youth, administrative data and census data, as well as new data sources such as Big Data.



3.3 - Working Session II: Protecting Children and Young Migrants Across Borders

"If you have a lion behind you and the sea in front of you, you really do not have to think twice ...you jump in the sea."

- Reflections by a young delegate

[Chair: Isabella Castrogiovanni, Senior Advisor Child Protection UNICEF Regional Office

Speakers: Heather Komendo, Migrant Protection and Assistance Specialist, IOM; Monika Sandvik-Nylund, Senior Regional Protection Adviser (Child) UNHCR, Kenya; Marjan Schippers, Representative of the Dutch guardian organisations NIDOS; Olivier Geissler, Executive Director, International Social Services; Dr. Chrissie Galle, International Lead, Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland; Reflections by a young delegate]

Providing integrated child protection care and support services for all migrant children, starting from when they first arrive at the border, is a key migration management tool to prevent children from going underground, being abused and exploited, or ending up in detention. Close cross-border cooperation and partnership among child protection actors along migratory routes is crucial to protecting children at all stages of their journey. This session drew on recent experiences of cross-border cooperation and identified elements that



could be replicated in other contexts, as well as areas where UNICEF and other actors can provide technical support.

The speakers underscored that the principle of “best interest determination” should systematically guide all decisions related to the care and protection of children on the move. Quality and sustainable solutions to child-specific migration challenges can be achieved by, namely: 1) ensuring that the immediate care and protection needs of migrant children are addressed; 2) providing opportunities for skills development and empowerment while supporting integration in the host community; and 3) enabling longer term educational and vocational opportunities that can provide prospects for the future, in the host country or back in the country of origin. Likewise, best interest determination should be conducted within the framework of the State’s existing child protection systems and led by national child protection authorities. It should be linked to a referral network for family tracing and reunification, alternative care and asylum

procedures. Yet, there are still tensions between migration policies and the obligations set by the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Priority is too often given to the determination of the migration status rather than the broader protection and psychosocial well-being of children.

Moreover, it was emphasized that detention is no place for a child; family-based or family-like alternative care is essential. For example, guardianship was recommended as an important protection measure for unaccompanied migrant children. To this end, guardians need to be trained on topics such as: intercultural understanding and sensitivity, intercultural and child-friendly communication, trauma and stress-informed guidance, asylum procedures and best interests of the child.

The panel mentioned that return is one of several possibilities for migrant children, and that it shall always be grounded on several fundamental rights and principles: the right to family unity, non-outrage and the child’s best interest principle. For unaccompanied and separated children, it is important to understand the reasons for the separation. Further, the panel noted that the care needs to go beyond immediate protection to ensure that the child is able to go to school, access professional opportunities, and maintain social relationships among others. Yet, national systems, including children’s language skills and intercultural communication skills may also limiting integration. Even when migrant children can by law access national systems and services, such systems may struggle to cope and respond rapidly when there is an uptick in child arrivals.

The reality of child migration in the field, the speakers mentioned, requires an effective reinforcement of the collaboration among countries to ensure that children move safely from one protection system to another and receive continuous care. The inter-state dialogue on migration and development should address the root causes of why children move and plan long-term solutions to respond to the movement of children. Cross-border collaboration is notably crucial for the evaluation of the child’s situation in the country of origin, country of transit or in a third country, and for identifying the most appropriate sustainable solutions—always taking into account the centrality of the best interest of the child.

The panel emphasized that transnational collaboration is vital and should not solely take place between the hierarchy of competent ministries, but also, and most importantly, among

professionals and first-line services providers themselves. There needs to be a universally agreed procedure for cross-border case management. One panelist provocatively made the point that if it is possible to ensure the cross-border transportation of commodities, such as unbroken cold chains for food items or for vaccines across very distant countries, while maintaining the quality of the product, it should be possible to ensure also a quality continuum of care and protection for children on the move across borders. Transnational collaboration is not only a North – South issue, but concerns all regions as most migrants move within their region.

The ECOWAS model of cooperation in West Africa was highlighted as an example of good practice. The West Africa Network for the protection of children focuses on ensuring that a continuum of services is delivered across the region within an eight-step procedure, ranging from the identification of a vulnerable child and provision of emergency care to their successful social re-integration. It links up relevant actors, and is recognized by national and regional authorities. This evidence-based initiative has made it possible to support more than 7,000 children, and shows that with the right political will, strong coordination of actors and a common procedure based on quality care, it is possible to find solutions for these children across borders.

The speakers also noted that while international agreements, guidelines and initiatives are essential to enforcing the rights of children on the move, the responsibility for concretely realizing these rights falls on the frontline workers and volunteers. As these actors come into daily contact with them, they carry the responsibility of making decisions in the best interests of each child and providing the most suitable care in a safe and enabling environment per their individual circumstances, needs and wishes. It is vital that that workforce has the most appropriate skills, knowledge and expertise necessary. Likewise, policy makers and other key stakeholders have the responsibility to continuously invest in national child protection systems to develop, resource and guarantee the availability of programmes and services that allow frontline workers to meet their responsibilities. Sustained and at-scale investment in the national social services workforce is pivotal to ensure that children on the move have access to the services they need. Such an investment must be recognized as central to all efforts to better manage migration.

3.4 - Working Session III: Africa - A Continent on the Move?

“Africa is young and rich, and its wealth is its youth... Many young people think Europe is a dream; migration is completely idolized in Africa. I’m not saying that migration is not a right but what I’m saying is young people can and should stay in Africa and develop it.”

- Reflections by a young delegate

[Chair: Prof. Mohammed Charef, Ibn Zohr University, ORMES, Agadir

Speakers: Maiga Binta, ECOWAS, Niger; Dr. Akram El Zayat, National expert, National Council for Motherhood and Childhood, Egypt; Najatte Kaaouss, Director, Programme and Operations, Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform; Daniela Blecha, MICIC Project Officer, International Centre for Migration Policy and Development; Reflections by a young delegate]

Nowhere in the world are children more central to a continent’s future—including its migration policy framework—than in Africa, where they account for about half of all inhabitants. This session explored challenges and solutions to make migration work for all children in Africa and from Africa. It looked at regional experiences and cooperation models and discussed the respective roles and contributions of the private and public sectors to address issues encountered by African children on the move.

Young people in Africa move for a range of reasons, including education and development opportunities and escaping poverty, climate change, conflict and insecurity. There is rural to urban migration within countries; migration within regions; and migration to Europe. The speakers urged the African Union to take a more forthright stance on migration and on addressing the factors that compel young people to leave their countries of origin. They underscored that the need for strong investment in peacekeeping and development across Africa, with the buy-in of both the public and private sectors. There is also a need to improve the collection of qualitative data on factors affecting these children on their journey, including the reasons why they migrate.

To support children on the move, the panel emphasized the importance of investing in and strengthening national child protection systems. The presence of national child protection officers at the borders in Uganda was cited as a good example. Egypt, which receives migration flows

from Syria and Sudan, is taking steps to integrate services for migrant children into its national protection system. This includes, for instance, capacity-building initiatives targeting government child protection officers, child protection committee members and other social workers.

The panel also emphasized the importance of establishing safe spaces for migrant children and having guardians appointed in a timely manner to ensure their interests are represented and protected. The speakers noted that a practice that works well in Africa as an alternative to detention is family-based care. Local families also benefit from the financial support offered by this model.

The session also focused on protecting migrant children before, during and after a natural disaster, which is relevant in Africa due to the frequency of natural disasters and the vulnerability of those without proper documentation and government support. Children need to be taken into account in contingency planning, yet this is difficult due to a lack of good data and information, such as age assessments.

Among other specific recommendations, the panel noted that there is a need for Egypt to build support networks and improve cross border coordination and information sharing with Sudan, Libya and Italy. The ECOWAS agreement of joint border control and free movement of goods and services across 15 countries and the West African Network to protect children on the move was again cited as an example of regional good practice that could be replicated in other regions. The protocol effectively means that there are open borders across ECOWAS countries, and its citizens have the right to move, stay and work without a visa.

Finally, speakers also noted that the African diaspora struggles with integration. Priorities in this area are citizenship and fighting marginalization and discrimination, especially employment discrimination against candidates based on their countries of origin.

Day 2

3.5 - Day 1 Recap

"We are living in a time of great tension, of great divide. We need to reach out to those who are in fear of diversity. We need to try to listen to them. And make them also listen to us."

- Reflections by a young delegate

[Speaker: Severine Jacomy Vite, Child Protection

Specialist, UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia]

This session summarized the key recurring themes from the prior day: protection, social inclusion, access to services, cross-country cooperation and the role of the social services workforce. The speaker noted that the GCM can help prevent the risks among migrant children throughout migration process and inform existing laws and positive practices of countries, such as the prohibition of child immigration detention and the development of alternatives, regularization as a policy tool, firewalls and data protection, family reunification and others rights to family life.

Reflections: How Do Children Who Do Not Move Experience Migration?

[Chair: Ana Fonseca, Chief of Mission, IOM

Speakers: Maria Regina Angela G. Galias, Chief Emigration Officer, Commission on Filipinos Overseas; Reflections by a young delegate]

Children are directly and profoundly affected by migration policies, labor mobility schemes, remittances or return decisions. This session, starting off Day 2, reflected on the experiences of groups of children affected by migration in ways that are often forgotten in current migration policy debates, including children of migrant parents who stay behind in their communities, children born as undocumented migrants and second-generation migrant children. Several recommendations and good practices emerged for supporting children who do not move and are affected by migration.

The session highlighted the need for precise data on children left behind as well as research on the multifaceted impact of parents' migration on children, including gender dimensions, psychosocial vulnerability when both parents are abroad and challenges during adolescence. To formulate targeted policies, research could also be used to examine issues of family fragmentation, remittance dependency and risky behavior of children. Discrimination of children due to their immigration status or that of their parents' needs to be further documented and addressed.

The speakers further reflected that the multiple cultural/linguistic/religious identities of children in the context of migration must be respected and celebrated, as part of their personal development and participation in society. For example, education systems should be more inclusive to children with migrant parents and children with multiple cultural/

linguistic/religious identities. Oftentimes, the richness of children's background is not valued and educational approaches are disconnected from their realities.

The speakers emphasized that parenting must be supported in all its forms, including 'distance parenting' using new technologies and policies guaranteeing regular returns or visits of migrant parents to their children back home. Programmes on parenting and guidance need to be directed to adults in charge of households, migrants and non-migrants. They further recommended that the right to family life must be better reflected in the GCM through child-responsive labor migration policies, stronger family reunification options, and family-type alternative care arrangements for unaccompanied and separated children.

Several additional recommendations also emerged from the Philippines' experience in supporting children and families left behind. Family members should be included in pre-departure orientation seminars and local government units should launch systems of continuous monitoring of children and families' well-being. Dialogues or fora with families left behind, and provision of legal, social and financial assistance must be extended to households with absent parents. National and local policies or long-term programmes for children and families left behind should include guidance and counseling, mentoring, post-arrival services for those joining their migrant families and creation of migrant centers in local communities. Finally, return should be made sustainable by attracting emigrants back and reintegrating them.

3.6 - Working Session IV: Being a Young Migrant – from Object to Subject. Why and How Should You Invest in Us?

"Young migrants are actors of change with rights – our future!"

- Key message from young delegates

UNICEF invited 13 young people with a migration background from Italy, Germany, the UK, and Morocco to actively participate in and contribute to the Agadir workshop as they know best the challenges, needs and priorities of young migrants. During the youth pre-meeting facilitated by UNICEF and the UN Major Group of Children and Young People, the young delegates came together to shape their advocacy messages and plan their contribution to the GFMD workshop proper the day after. Employing a participatory methodology, the young delegates led the preparatory

process. They shared personal experiences about migration, agreed on priority issues to address, and collectively came up with advocacy messaging, and conceptualized and planned their interventions for the GFMD workshop.

Utilizing diverse presentation tools such as dance and theatre during the session, the young delegates issued three calls to action and recommendations for the GCM. The first call to action was to policy makers and societies to integrate young migrants while giving them the chance to preserve their cultural identities. The delegates discussed the importance for children and youth to preserve their own identities in order to integrate successfully into new societies, as well as the potential this offers for the societies.

The second call to action was to recognize achievements and school/university degrees of young migrants across borders. When migrating to another country, certificates and diplomas are often not recognized or missing. The same goes for qualifications and skills they gained through job experiences. Young migrants who would like to continue their education in the country of destination often face problems trying to register with schools/universities. One delegate noted, "I understand that changing a system is difficult, but changes are necessary to include foreign youths to continue their studies and be useful for the society in the future." Likewise, those who would like to start a job in the country of destination either face difficulties finding a job or are confronted with far less wages than local workers. To address this issue, the delegates offered a solution that the young migrants could undergo short courses to evaluate their skills and see whether they are eligible for his/her chosen job. A recommendation for the GCM was to recognize the right to education of children on the move, through countries of transit and destination, and the crucial role of education in shaping futures.

The third call to action was meaningful participation. The delegates focused on the great potential of young migrants as "agents of change" and key actors within the migration debate. "Youths are underestimated, people talk in our name and we rarely have the occasion to express ourselves... Policies concerning young migrants should not be decided for them, but in strong and real collaboration with them." This also emphasizes the young migrants' right to information and right of expression, participation and peaceful assembly.

The delegates noted that to enable meaningful participation, support and skills should be provided to young migrants to equip them to become change makers in their communities and to help design more effective, sustainable and youth-appropriate migration policies. As good practice, the UK and Germany offer workshops for young migrants to teach them skills such as campaigning on issues of importance to them.

The delegates noted further that young migrants are not only able to identify challenges they face and suggest solutions and methods to tackle these, but they can also empower other young migrants to do the same. The networking capacity and the influence of young people is a key factor that should not be underestimated if they are given the right tools and platforms. For example, UNICEF Germany offered a platform for young migrants to meaningfully participate through designing and implementing a nation-wide survey that asked young people the topics that the German government should put on their political agenda. The survey successfully reached more than 8,000 young people due to support of young UNICEF volunteers who disseminated the survey through their personal networks. The survey results enabled decision-makers to hear directly from young migrants. In addition to working with policy makers, the delegates also emphasized that young migrants have the ability to develop and change public opinion and society. A young delegate noted that he gives workshops in local schools for children to learn about migration and meet young migrants, challenging the negative perceptions local children initially had about migrants. To establish initiatives with local children, the delegates recommended starting discussions in the classroom.

3.7 - Working Session V: Pathways Out of Vulnerability, Access to Services and Sustainable Solutions for Children and Families

[Chair: William Gois, Regional Coordinator, Migrants Forum in Asia

Speakers: Ambassador Georgi Velikov Panayotov, Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the UN in New York; Ester di Napoli, Office of the Ombudsperson, Italy; Ahmed Skim, Director of Migration Affairs, Morocco; Verena Knaus, Senior Migration Advisor, UNICEF; Khalid El Hanfioui, The National Council for Human Rights, Morocco; Reflections by a young delegate]

While all children are inherently vulnerable, it is often the lack of safe and regular migration

pathways that compounds migrant children's vulnerability. Many are in dire need of protection, but they can neither go back to their countries of origin nor do they have access to refugee or other status. There are individual and societal costs that result from such protracted irregular status and lives lived in permanent fear of detection and deportation. Speakers shared good practices and policy options that exist for national and local governments to ensure access to education, training, health, justice and protection for all children, including irregular migrant children.

This session identified several challenges in accessing services. There is discrimination between migrant children and nationals, as well as between regular and irregular migrants. There is a persistent lack of integration due to language barriers, isolation with young migrants living in remote areas, lack of support for the integration of migrant youth, pervasive discrimination and xenophobia. There is also a lack of financial resources and need for further capacity to translate good ideas into action and scale-up good models. Financial resources are critical to ensure quality services, appoint guardians, provide alternatives to detention, recruit and train social workers, and strengthen national child protection systems to address the needs of children on the move in a systematic and sustainable way. Meanwhile, migrant children's "capacity to dream" may be compromised if they are excluded and left with no access to services.

To counter the challenges above, the speakers put forward solutions and good practices at the national level that require resources, time, and changes in public policies. Italy, where there are over 13,000 unaccompanied migrant children, has a number of good practices. In 2017, it passed Law 47, which covers all protective measures applicable to unaccompanied migrant children—the first of its kind in Europe. The "Consulta dei ragazzi" ("youth council") is a new mechanism to ensure that young migrants are systematically consulted on issues that are of importance to them. It is funded by the EU commission to facilitate implementation of Law 47. The volunteer guardianship model is another new initiative in Italy that focuses on private citizens who are willing to support integration of unaccompanied migrant children—a "bottom-up" approach. There has been a good response from the Italian community so far, with over 2000 expressions of interest from citizens to become guardians for migrant children. The Ombudsman's office selects, screens and trains the guardians.

The guardianship authority also advocates with the Ministry of Education for inclusion of migrant children in the education system, emphasizing the need for cultural mediation.

In addition, Bulgaria grants free education and primary health care to all children regardless of status. It provides information on services and protection to migrant children and youth in a child-friendly manner. Finally, Bulgaria has committed making the resources needed available to ensure and sustain good quality services for migrant children and to support integration.

Finally, Morocco passed a new migration policy in 2013 based on an assessment of the situation of migrants and refugees in Morocco, grounded on the principle of human rights and solidarity. Multiple stakeholders are involved in the implementation of this law. Migrant children can be integrated into public schools without any documents. Migrants themselves are engaged in ensuring that the requirements for the regularization process are well understood among migrants. The National Council for Human Rights is also actively involved in the issue of migrant children in contact with the justice system, and has established a mechanism to follow-up on issues related to the protection of these children.

The session acknowledged that the upcoming Eleventh GFMD Summit Meeting, which will benefit from these discussions, is not the end of the process—it is just the beginning. There is a need to sustain collective work, continue building strong partnerships for migrant children and youth and advocate for the resources needed to fully realize the commitments in the GCM.

3.8 - Working Session VI: Partnerships For and With Migrant Children and Youth

“You need to be loved before you can do anything. So, to be integrated, you should be loved. Integration policies are mainly undertaken between/within migrants—but real integration should be with local populations, to address mutual fears.”

- Reflections by a young delegate

[Chair: Ambassador Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of Morocco to the UN in New York

Speakers: Fatima Alfeine, Coordinator, Group of

African States to the UN General Assembly; Tyesha Turner, Counsellor for Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs, Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the UN in New York; David Munir Nabti, Co-Founder and Managing Director of Bootcamp-LB, Managing Director of Elevate Impact Accelerator; Daniela Reale, Save the Children and Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts; Reflections by a young delegate]

Translating the objectives and commitments outlined in the Global Compact into practical change for children requires strengthened bilateral, regional and multi-lateral cooperation and innovative partnerships between local governments, regional and sub-regional organisations, civil society actors, the UN system, the private sector, and children and youth themselves. This session explored the partnerships, investments and monitoring mechanisms that are needed for these actions to materialize, from the global to the local level.

The session highlighted that inclusive and multi-stakeholder partnerships provide a strong platform that could influence policymaking. Such partnerships are indispensable and should be promoted on all governance levels to make the GCM a success. Local communities, as well as regional, national, and international entities together with private partners and young must partner to ensure effective implementation of the GCM. Panelists and Member States emphasized the need for inclusion of migrant children and youth in different areas of the GCM: 1) in the negotiation, consultation, and review process; 2) in the implementation of migration policies on the ground; and 3) in any action or decisions that directly concern them. A recommendation for the GCM is to make an explicit reference to children and youth in the implementation, follow-up and review process.

Inclusive partnerships are pivotal when it comes to integration of migrants in host communities. Integration is a two-way process that demands both the open-mindedness of the migrant and the host community. States should work to facilitate community-based exchange to support integration and combat discrimination and xenophobia.

4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION (BASED ON CLOSING PLENARY)



“Are you open and willing to change? Are you open to sharing space and power? Are you open to listening and believing that you can learn something from young people? Young people...we are the future, but that future depends on you, the decision-makers.”

- Reflections by a young delegate

[Speakers: Ambassador Götz Schmidt-Bremme, German GFMD Co-Chair; Ted Chaiban, Director of Programmes, UNICEF; Reflections by a young delegate]

Following two intense days of discussions in each working session, the closing plenary

National Level Solutions

summarized several issues that emerged as essential for the last round of negotiations and operationalization of the GCM: improving data on migrant children, safe access to services for all children, including irregular migrants; quality education and recognition of certification; alternatives to child detention; birth registration and legal identity; regularization; sustainable solutions in the best interest of the child, including returns; and family reunification.

The closing plenary further noted five key takeaways (5P's) that emerged from the two-

day workshop. The first was participation. The young people's participation in the workshop was fundamental, not an accessory. There must be real participation and representation of young people during the Marrakesh Summit. They should be involved in the drafting of national action plans, in designing integration programmes in host countries and reintegration programmes for returning children, and in monitoring and reviewing the implementation of migration policies.

The second was practices. After learning from good practices—not only from governments, but also from private sector and the civil society—it is crucial to replicate those practices wherever applicable. The GFMD, the GCM, the UN agencies and its partners can play a key role in prioritizing the collection and validation of good practices that are child and youth-friendly.

The third was policies. All stakeholders need to vigilantly advocate for the full respect of children's rights and best interests within the migration agenda to ensure that policies do not cause harm.

The fourth was people. It is people who make policies, who protect, who help children integrate. It is important to invest in those who can affect concrete changes in the lives of migrant children and youth, including social workers, teachers, guardians, volunteers, the national human rights institutions and ombudsman authorities.

Finally, the fifth key takeaway was partnerships. No state can manage migration alone; new and strong partnerships are needed to take the collective vision of the GCM forward. Partnerships need to be at all levels—local, national, regional and global. The GFMD itself is an example of the kind of multi-stakeholder partnership needed, involving states, civil society, private sector, UN agencies and, moving forward, deliberately and systematically involving children and youth themselves.

5 ANNEXES

5.1 - Policies and Practices

To address the priority issue areas and needs, the two-day workshop highlighted several solutions and promising practices at the national and regional levels to turn the Global Compact for Migration into action for migrant children and youth.

National Level Solutions		
Focus area	Champion	Practice
Alternatives to detention	Germany	Upon arrival, unaccompanied minors in Germany are generally assigned to a youth welfare office that acts as a preliminary representative. The child is placed into child-specific facilities and not detained while the youth welfare office conducts a primary screening considering the best interests of the child. The child is then assigned in a regular procedure of custody to a foster/family-based care.
National child protection systems	Egypt	Egypt is taking steps to integrate services for migrant children into its national protection system through capacity-building initiatives targeting child protection committee members and social workers.
Guardianship	Italy	Italy's volunteer guardianship model relies on private citizens who are willing to support integration of unaccompanied migrant children. Following expressions of interest from citizens, the Ombudsman's office selects, screens and trains the guardians.
Access to services	Multiple	Several countries, including Argentina, Bulgaria, Italy, Morocco and Spain, provide children access to services, such as education and health systems, regardless of their migration status.
Education Systems	Morocco	Morocco provides access to public and private schools and non-formal education for migrant children, regardless of administrative status, and has preparatory courses to prepare migrant and refugee children for inclusion in the formal school system.
Integration Policy	Morocco	Morocco is regularizing migrants, including children, to give them legal status. It is further integrating migrant children and youth into programmes and services with local children, such as programmes for children with disabilities and summer camps and trips.
Participation of Children and Youth	Italy	In Italy, youth councils ensure that young migrants are systematically consulted on issues of importance to them.
Participation of Children and Youth	UK and Germany	In the UK and Germany, there are workshops for young migrants to teach skills such as campaigning on key issues. Germany also offered a platform for young migrants' voices to be heard by decision-makers.
Data collection and use	Thailand	Thailand developed a comprehensive data collection system to support migration policies, including integrating migration and child-focused topics in censuses and making the best possible use of administrative data.
Children left behind	Philippines	The Philippines has national and local policies and programmes for children and families left behind. These include inclusion of family members in pre-departure orientation seminars; monitoring of children and families' well-being and government support to those who stay behind, including legal, social and financial assistance to households with absent parents.

Regional Level Solutions		
Focus area	Champion	Practice
Cross-border cooperation	ECOWAS Members	The West Africa Network for the protection of children focuses on ensuring a continuum of services are delivered across the region within an eight-step procedure, ranging from the identification of a vulnerable child and provision of emergency care to their successful social re-integration.
Guardianship	European Union	The PROGUARD project in the European Guardianship Network is a promising project to strengthen effective guardianship and cross-border coordination across Europe.
Data collection and use	Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat	The Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative (4Mi) of the Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat is a low-cost and innovative practice to collect and analyse data, initially out of the Horn of Africa, through mobile phone applications and community-based reporting.

5.2 - Workshop Agenda

Overview

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

Against this backdrop, the GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairmanship, in partnership with UNICEF, is organising a thematic workshop that aims to unpack priority issues at stake for children and young people on the move, such as protection gaps, social inclusion, and access to services

and labour markets. The event will also provide a platform to exchange examples of solutions -- effective migration policies and practices that can guide regional, national and local stakeholders in the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration with and for children and young people.

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

Objectives

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

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

Structure

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

The event will be a mixture of plenary sessions, Davos-style interactive panels and informal chats. Sessions will be structured to allow for a constructive exchange of promising practices and experiences among all participants. As part of a community action, participants will also be invited to join and contribute to UNICEF's public activation aimed at promoting positive attitudes towards refugee and migrant children during the 2018 World Football Cup.

Day One / 21 June, 2018	
08.30 – 09.00	Registration
09.00 – 10.30	<p>Opening Session</p> <p>Children have the most to gain and the most to lose when decisions are made about migration and displacement. As there is no migration policy or practice that is child-neutral, children need to be part of the discussion on matters that directly concern them. When children and their families have access to safe, legal routes for migration, it can offer tremendous opportunities for children and their families as well as the communities they join. If they migrate irregularly, their migration experience often creates or exacerbates vulnerabilities. Exposing children to immediate dangers and profound consequences. This opening plenary will provide an overview of the relationship between children and young people on the move and rights issues, including those to be covered in the two days of the workshop.</p> <p>Format: Keynote speeches</p> <p>Welcoming remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · El Habib Nadir (Morocco GFMD Co-Chair) <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Abdelkrim Benoutiq, Minister Delegate in charge of Moroccans Living Abroad and Migration Affairs · Driss El Yazami, President of the National Human Right Council and a member of the RINADH Steering Committee · Michele LeVoy, Director of PICUM · Ted Chaiban, Director of Programmes, UNICEF · Anas Ansar, UN Migration Group for Children and Youth Regional Focal Point for Central and South Asia
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee break
11.00 – 13.00	<p>Working Session I: Data to Protect, Data to Inform, Data to Deter?</p> <p>Without high-quality data, we cannot design the evidence-based policies we need to protect migrant and displaced children and their families. Nor can we make good use of their capacities and skills to maximize the impact of migration on sending, transit and receiving societies. Investing in overcoming data gaps is an investment in the future and should be a priority for all governments to ensure that children receive the protection they need to live up to their full potential and contribute to their societies. . Against the background of the global compacts on migration and refugees, this session will focus on challenges and opportunities regarding the collection, analysis and sharing of data relevant to migrant children and youth, including child protection safeguards, capacity development, privacy rights and good practices, and discuss how States and international organizations can best use data to protect migrant children.</p> <p>Format: Panel with brief presentations by experts and government representatives, followed by discussion</p> <p>Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Dr. Frank Laczko (IOM Global Migration Data Analysis Centre) <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Ms. Hataichanok Pakcharoen, Director of the Statistical Management System Division, National Statistics Office, Thailand · Claus Bech Hansen, UNICEF Data & Analytics · Dr. Nando Sigona, Birmingham University, UK · Bela Hovy, Chief of Migration Section, Population Division, UNDESA · Danielle Botti, Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat · <i>Reflections by a young delegate</i>

13.00 – 15.00	LUNCH
14.15 – 15.00	Side Event: UNICEF-EU-Morocco Launch of a new partnership project “Promotion of migrant children’s rights in Morocco”
15.00 – 16.30	<p>Working Session II: Protecting Children and Young Migrants Across Borders</p> <p>Providing integrated child protection care and services for all migrant children, starting when they first arrive at the border, is a key migration management tool to prevent children from going underground, being abused and exploited, or ending up in detention. Whenever children are concerned, child protection authorities – not immigration enforcement – should be in the lead. Close cross-border cooperation and partnership among child protection actors in countries of origin, transit and destination along some migratory routes is proving crucial to protect children at all stages of their journey, regardless of where they are and where they come from. Stepping up returns is a priority for many receiving States involved in GCM negotiations. However, there is very little discussion about when and how returns are in the best interests of children (both unaccompanied or in families), or about how successful reintegration support programmes for returnee children and youth look like.</p> <p><i>This session will draw on recent regional experiences of cross-border cooperation and identify elements of these schemes that could be replicated in other contexts, as well as areas where UNICEF and other actors can provide technical support. It will also review missing elements in returns practices and propose concrete ways to fill these gaps, including through pilot initiatives that could spin off the GCM once adopted.</i></p> <p>Format: Panel with brief presentations by experts and government representatives, followed by discussion</p> <p>Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Isabella Castrogiovanni, Senior Advisor Child Protection UNICEF Regional Office <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Heather Komendo, Migrant Protection and Assistance Specialist, IOM · Monika Sandvik-Nylund, Senior Regional Protection Adviser (Child) UNHCR, Kenya · Marjan Schippers, representative of the Dutch guardian organisations NIDOS · Olivier Geissler, International Social Services · Dr. Chrissie Galle, International Lead, Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland · <i>Reflections by a young delegate</i>

16:30- 18:00	<p>Working Session III: Africa -- A Continent on the Move?</p> <p>Nowhere in the world are children more central to a continent’s future than in Africa, where they account for almost half of all inhabitants. Between 2016 and 2030, Africa’s child population is projected to expand by about 170 million, bringing the total to 750 million children. Investing in their health, protection and education holds the promise of reaping a demographic dividend, and, if coupled with well-managed migration policies and practices, unlocking prosperity and development across the continent. To reap these benefits, understanding and responding to key drivers, such as urbanisation, climate change or income differentials within and between countries, is key.</p> <p>This session will explore challenges and solutions to make migration work for all children in Africa and from Africa. It will look at regional experiences and cooperation models and discuss the respective roles and contributions of the private and public sectors, including at local level. The discussion will be enriched by first-hand accounts of migrant children and youth from Africa who will share their aspirations, experiences and solutions</p> <p>Format: Davos-style panel, followed by interactive Q&A</p> <p>Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Mohammed Charef (Ibn Zohr University, ORMES, Agadir) <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maiga Binta, ECOWAS Niger • Dr. Akram El Zayat, National expert working for the National Council for Motherhood and Childhood, Egypt • Najatte Kaaouss, ADEPT Programme and Operations Director • Daniela Blecha, MICIC Project Officer, ICMPD <p>• <i>Reflections by a young delegate</i></p>
Day Two / 22 June, 2018	
08.30 - 09.30	<p>Day 1 Recap</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severine Jacomy Vite, UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia <p>Reflections: How Do Children Who Do Not Move Experience Migration?</p> <p>Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ana Fonseca (Chief of Mission, IOM) <p>Speakers :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maria Regina Angela G. Galias, Chief Emigration Officer, Commission on Filipinos Overseas <p>• <i>Reflections by a young delegate</i></p>

09:30 - 11:00	<p>Working Session IV: Being a Young Migrant – from Object to Subject. Why and How Should You Invest in Us?</p> <p>Session IV will be a youth-led session. 12 young people from around the world will share their experiences around the topic “Being a young migrant”. From 19-20 June, the young people will attend a Youth Pre-Meeting in Agadir, where they will conceptualize and plan Session IV. They are looking forward to sharing their views, opinions and stories with the audience!</p> <p>Format: Davos-style panel, followed by interactive Q&A</p>
11:00 - 11:30	<p>Coffee break</p>
11:30 – 13:30	<p>Working Session V: Pathways Out of Vulnerability, Access to Services and Sustainable Solutions for Children and Families</p> <p>While all children are inherently vulnerable, the current lack of safe and regular migration pathways compounds migrant children’s vulnerability. Many are in dire need of protection and cannot go back to their countries of origin, but do not have access to refugee or other status. Protracted uncertain status, living a life under the radar, being born to undocumented parents or living a life on a suitcase – in permanent fear of detection and deportation – takes an enormous toll on children and young people’s lives. What options exist for national and local governments to protect these children and youth without encouraging irregular migration? What good practices have been tried out offering pathways to regular status? How can governments expand family reunification and options for families to migrate together? How to design integration or reintegration assistance to address children’s specific needs?</p> <p>This session will explore how to close protection gaps for children and youth on the move in practice, including through increased access to sustainable solutions.</p> <p>Format: Moderated panel discussion</p> <p>Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William Gois, Regional Coordinator, Migrants Forum in Asia <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambassador Georgi Velikov Panayotov, Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the UN in New York • Ester di Napoli, office of the Ombudsperson, Italy • Ahmed Skim, Director of Migration Affairs, Morocco • Verena Knaus, Senior Migration Advisor, UNICEF • Khalid El Hanfioui, The National Council for Human Right, Morocco • <i>Reflections by a young delegate</i>
13:30 – 15:00	<p>LUNCH</p>
14.15 – 15:00	<p>#ChildrenUprooted campaign’s World Cup activities</p> <p>UNICEF is organizing a World Cup-themed lunch event as part of its #ChildrenUprooted campaign: screening the second half of the Denmark-Australia match as well as UNICEF’s World Cup video for the campaign. Attendees are encouraged to join the campaign’s #LongestGoal challenge.</p>

15:00 – 16:30	<p>Working Session VI: Partnerships For and With Migrant Children and Youth</p> <p>The commitments in the GCM will only make a real difference in the lives of children impacted by migration if they lead to concerted actions by national and local governments, regional and sub-regional organisations, civil society actors, UN entities, the private sector, and children and young people themselves. This session will explore the partnerships, investments and monitoring mechanisms that are needed for these actions to materialize, from the global to the local level. Participants will be challenged to think big and to identify two or three issues that could become vectors of change and lead to results at scale as part of GCM implementation.</p> <p>Format: Davos-style panel, followed by interactive Q&A</p> <p>Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ambassador Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of Morocco to the UN in New York <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fatima Alfeine, Coordinator of the Group of African States to the UN General Assembly• Tyesha Turner, Counsellor for Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs, Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the UN in New York• David Munir Nabti, Co-Founder and Managing Director of Bootcamp-LB, Managing Director of Elevate Impact Accelerator• Daniela Reale, Save the Children and Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts
16:30 – 17:00	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Young delegate• Ted Chaiban, Director of Programmes, UNICEF• Ambassador Götz Schmidt-Bremme (German GFMD Co-Chair)

WELCOMING REMARKS

C'est pour moi un plaisir et un honneur d'être parmi vous aujourd'hui dans le cadre de l'atelier organisé conjointement par le GFMD et l'UNICEF sur un sujet qui nous tient à cœur à savoir, la question des enfants et jeunes dans le contexte migratoire.

Nous avons inscrit dans l'agenda du GFMD cet atelier thématique, sur deux jours, pour se donner le temps nécessaire pour discuter de la question des enfants dans le contexte migratoire, notamment dans la conjoncture actuelle où la communauté internationale est en phase de négociation du pacte mondial sur la migration.

En effet, lors du processus de consultations du pacte, j'ai pu constater le grand intérêt de la communauté internationale sur la question des enfants migrants. Il faut aussi rendre hommage aux organisations de la société civile pour leur plaidoyer, durant cette phase, en faveur de la protection des droits des enfants migrants.

Je tiens également à exprimer mon soutien au plan d'action en six points de l'UNICEF pour assurer la protection et le bien-être des enfants réfugiés et migrants, qui apportent les réponses adéquates aux problématiques affectant les enfants migrants.

Le thème des enfants migrants est tout aussi d'une grande importance pour les Etats et plus spécialement pour le Maroc, et l'on retient avec grande satisfaction l'inclusion de la problématique des enfants migrants tout au long des objectifs du projet de pacte mondial sur la migration.

S'agissant de la pratique adoptée par mon pays le Maroc au sujet de la question des enfants et jeunes migrants, depuis l'adoption en octobre 2013 d'une politique migratoire et l'adoption d'une stratégie nationale de l'immigration et de l'asile, les pouvoirs publics ont mis en place un processus de régularisation avec des conditions très souples, et même suite à une recommandation du CNDH les femmes migrantes et par conséquent leurs enfants ont bénéficié d'une régularisation sans conditions.

Cette politique, au-delà de l'aspect purement juridico-administratif, est assortie de toute une

panoplie de mesures pour activer le processus d'intégration des migrants au sein de la société marocaine et y promouvoir le mieux vivre ensemble. L'accès aux établissements de l'éducation et de l'enseignement public et privé et aux cours de l'éducation non formelle, l'accès au système de santé, dans les mêmes conditions que les citoyens marocains, le dispositif d'assistance humanitaire mis en place en partenariat avec les associations et le Croissant Rouge Marocain, les facilités d'accès au logement subventionné par l'Etat, au marché de l'emploi, à la formation professionnelle... sont tout autant d'actions visant à faciliter l'intégration des nouveaux arrivants.

S'agissant des actions spécifiques aux enfants migrants j'aimerais évoquer certains éléments :

Dès le lancement de la politique migratoire du Royaume en octobre 2013, le Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale et de la Formation Professionnelle a promulgué une circulaire qui autorise les enfants immigrés et réfugiés à accéder aux écoles publiques et privées et à l'éducation non formelle au Maroc indépendamment de leur situation administrative. Sa mise en œuvre compte parmi les premières actions concrètes initiées suite à l'adoption de la nouvelle politique migratoire, témoignant ainsi de l'importance et de la priorité données à l'éducation des enfants.

Sur le plan opérationnel, cette action vise à faciliter l'inscription des enfants d'immigrés et réfugiés dans les établissements scolaires publics indépendamment de la situation administrative de leurs parents. Plusieurs actions d'information et de sensibilisation au profit des établissements scolaires et les familles d'immigrés ont donc été menées pour une meilleure application des dispositions prévues par la circulaire.

Le Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale et de la Formation Professionnelle a renforcé son dispositif à travers l'opération Caravane, opération de mobilisation communautaire pour l'insertion des enfants non scolarisés, notamment les enfants migrants, réalisée au niveau de toutes les provinces du Royaume.

L'intégration dans le système éducatif présente différents enjeux selon les acteurs concernés:

- Du point de vue de l'enfant : la langue constitue l'une des contraintes majeures. Pour y remédier, les associations spécialisées ont instauré un système de préparation adapté aux besoins des enfants immigrés et réfugiés.
- Du point de vue des parents : des réunions collectives avec les parents sont organisées tout au long de l'année, portant sur les questions d'absentéisme, de ponctualité et de suivi scolaire et pédagogique de l'enfant.

De même, il y a eu création de classes de mise à niveau en faveur des élèves immigrés pour faciliter l'adaptation et leur intégration dans le système éducatif formel et non formel, des classes de soutien scolaire ont été organisées. Ces programmes s'appuient sur des cours de « pré-intégration » en partenariat avec les associations sélectionnées dans le cadre des appels à projets menés par le Ministère Chargé des Marocains Résidant à l'Étranger et des Affaires de la Migration. Ces classes de mise à niveau et de soutien scolaire visent à améliorer les compétences éducatives des élèves immigrés et réfugiés dans certaines matières, afin de leur garantir une meilleure intégration dans le système scolaire formel.

Ces actions sont menées grâce au partenariat avec les associations qui jouent un rôle actif dans l'animation des classes de l'éducation non formelle au profit des enfants immigrés et réfugiés.

D'autres domaines d'actions sont concernés, je cite à titre d'exemple :

- Intégration des enfants, des jeunes immigrés et réfugiés dans les colonies de vacances et voyages organisés par le Ministère de la Jeunesse et des Sports : Cette action vise à faire participer les enfants et jeunes immigrés et réfugiés dans les activités de découverte (colonies de vacances, voyages, etc.) organisées par le Ministère de la Jeunesse et des Sports,

et ce par l'aménagement de meilleures conditions à leur intégration : sensibilisation des organisateurs et des enfants et jeunes marocains sur les valeurs d'ouverture, de non-discrimination et de diversité culturelle, information des immigrés en collaboration avec les associations et les représentations diplomatiques, etc.

- Intégration des immigrés et réfugiés dans les programmes destinés aux personnes en situation de handicap ou de vulnérabilité notamment les enfants et les femmes : Cette action vise à intégrer les immigrés et réfugiés, au même titre que les marocains, dans les programmes d'assistance aux personnes en situation de handicap ou de vulnérabilité (notamment les enfants mineurs non accompagnés, les femmes maltraitées, les mères célibataires, etc.), dans les différents programmes développés avec des partenaires de la société civile.
- Intégration dans les programmes d'assistance sociale et humanitaire : Ce programme vise à intégrer les immigrés dans les programmes de solidarité et de développement social notamment en faveur des femmes, enfants et handicapés et assister les immigrés et réfugiés victimes de la traite des êtres humains.

Le Maroc souhaite ainsi honorer ses engagements constitutionnels et conventionnels pour garantir le droit à l'éducation aux enfants marocains et étrangers. Le Maroc a en effet ratifié la convention relative aux droits de l'enfant et la Convention internationale sur la protection des droits de tous les travailleurs migrants et des membres de leur famille.

Je vous remercie pour votre aimable attention.

M. El Habib NADIR
Moroccan GFMD Co-Chair

THEMATIC WORKSHOP CHILDREN AND YOUTH ON THE MOVE: IMPLEMENTING SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

22 June 2018, 16h30 – 17h00, Atlantic Palace Resort, Agadir

– CLOSING REMARKS –

- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

- First of all, my esteemed Moroccan colleague GFMD-Co-Chair Mr. El Habib Nadir and I wish to thank all of you for spending the last two days with us here in Agadir. Knowing very well how busy the migration community is particularly this year, allow me to express how much we appreciate your dedication to the Forum.
- In particular, Morocco and Germany would like to thank our partners, UNICEF, for their commitment in supporting us with the Thematic Workshop on Children and Youth on the move. It has been a pleasure to prepare the program together with you and your colleagues, and it was an honor to engage in the discussions together.
- I wish to particularly highlight the invaluable inclusion of young people in our two day exchange and their commitment to strengthen the involvement of children and youth in our discussions. Let me assure you that your voices were heard and we are very grateful to afford the opportunity to bring you – the most relevant stakeholders in this context – to the table.
- The draft of the GCM that is currently being negotiated in New York reflects the discussions that we have held over the last two days here in Agadir.
- It underlines the UN member states' commitment to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in a migratory context. It streamlines child perspectives into the different objectives and takes into account, that children and youth on the move have different needs than adults.
- Having just heard a concise and comprehensive overview of our discussions over these two days from Ted Chaiban, I wish to leave you with three approaches to these topics that have yielded positive results in my own country, Germany.

1. Data

- The late Peter Sutherland already made detailed proposals for improving our knowledge of migration, clarifying the potential and capitalizing on 'big data', developing tools and

capacities to monitor migration-related SDGs and state performance as regards rights for people on the move through the creation of a global independent database.

- Both Agenda 2030 and the New York Declaration have highlighted the need to address data gaps and invest in data-capacity-building.
- Children are among the most vulnerable migrants and refugees, yet are often overlooked in data efforts.
- Since children's data collection and dissemination is a very sensitive issue, UNICEF is well suited to provide guidance on mainstreaming a child perspective into all stages of data analysis from devising methods for data collection to data processing while ensuring the right to privacy and protection of personal data of the child.
- UNICEF is well suited to provide all actors concerned with collecting migration and asylum data with training in ethical standards and age-appropriate methods that take into account children's rights and needs.
- Let me give you a concrete example of developing new instruments to capture data on migration:
- Germany has been hosting the IOM Global Migration Data Analysis Centre since September 2015, and one of its main goals is to support data capacity-building initiatives.
- UNICEF and IOM have been working closely together to provide GMDAC with input to this portal in order to achieve reliable, timely and accessible data and evidence on how migration and forcible displacement affect children and thus enabling states to put in place policies and programs to meet these specific needs.
- To this end, Germany was delighted to host the launch of a joint Call to Action that aims at protecting children on the move through better data availability in February in NYC.
- As a next step, IOM, UNICEF and the Federal Government of Germany have decided to hold an expert meeting, scheduled for this fall, to create a joint work package for improving data on migrant children.

2. Child protection authorities

- Children should not be held responsible for the adult's decision to migrate or send the child or youth on a perilous journey alone.
- The GCM draft recognizes the importance of the child's rights, especially the primary consideration of the best interests of the child as enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. With the commitment to these rights the GCM can support and foster the situation of migrant children, e.g. as regards specialized protection and assistance measures, procedural safeguards, access to education or alternatives to detention.
- **Let me give you an example to the last aspect:**
- Detention cannot be justified solely on the basis of the child being unaccompanied or separated, or on their migratory or residence status, or lack thereof.
- As far as unaccompanied minors are concerned, they are generally assigned to a youth welfare office which acts as a preliminary representative upon arrival in Germany.
- The child is then placed into child-specific facilities and is not detained.
- One objective of the preliminary taking into care by the youth welfare offices is a primary screening taking the best interests of the child into consideration.
- The unaccompanied child is then assigned in a regular procedure of custody to a foster/family-based care.
- It is at this stage that an individual plan of aid is drawn up examining the following: state of health, education possibilities and an overall social anamnesis.
- We look forward to continue working very closely with our partners on this as well as sharing our best practice with interested states that wish to establish a system that allows for alternatives to child detention in this context.

3. RETURN

- Let me now mention some important child protection measures that are in place in Germany concerning proceedings during instances of involuntary return.
- According to German law detention awaiting deportation is not permissible, if the purpose

of the detention can be achieved by other, less severe measures.

- Minors and families with minors may be taken into detention awaiting deportation only in exceptional cases and only for as long as reasonable taking into account the well-being of the child.
- In special cases where – in particular accompanied – minors are detained, the provisions of the police service instruction on processing matters involving young people must be respected.
- Such minors must be accommodated in separate rooms and in an age-appropriate manner and they must be cared for by suitable persons in a manner taking into account their age and needs.
- This applies in particular to cases where minors stay with their legal representatives. It is inadmissible to let minors stay with adults they do not know without supervision. The obligation to inform the legal representatives is also part of the aforementioned police service instruction.
- Before filing an application for detention, it is checked whether the minor can be accommodated in a youth welfare institution. In the application, it is explicitly mentioned that the person to be detained is a minor.
- In the case of families with minor children, it must be examined whether it is sufficient to detain just one parent in order to avoid the detention of children.
- Ladies and Gentlemen, these are just three examples on how the objectives of the GCM and actions therein can be implemented in order to successfully achieve our common goal to make migration safe, orderly and regular at all stages – and especially for children and youth on the move.
- We look very much forward to continue working with all of you in the sharing of best practices, exchange of innovative ideas and new approaches once the -GCM has been adopted.
- Thank you, again, for joining us in Agadir and have a safe trip home.

Ambassador Götz Schmidt-Bremme
German GFMD Co-Chair





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