

Ad Hoc Working Group on the Impacts of COVID-19 on Migrants, Migration and Development

Work Plan (DRAFT)

In line with the Terms of Reference adopted for the ad hoc Working Group on the Impacts of COVID-19 on Migrants, Migration and Development, the following work plan has been formulated and agreed upon. The implementation of the work plan would be done in close consultation with the GFMD Chair.

The co-chairs and members of the ad hoc Working Group will share the responsibility towards achieving the Objectives and proposed related Actions below. Specific sub-groups may be formed on a voluntary basis to take responsibility of particular actions.

A Preliminary Calendar is annexed to this work plan, which will be updated in the coming months as proposed actions are firmed up.

The ad hoc Working Group will aim to meet approximately every 6-8 weeks, in order to safeguard progress in the work on the various objectives.

Objective 1: Create a space to share best practices, initiatives and call for actions

Within the GFMD community of governments, civil society, the private sector and local authorities/ cities, a broad spectrum of actions have been taken to address the impacts of COVID-19. The GFMD is uniquely placed as a global multi-stakeholder forum which provides a space for these actions to be shared. The information shared would also be used to shape the discussions at the upcoming GFMD Summit in Dubai (see Objective 3) and potentially lead to joint initiatives and partnerships (see Objective 4).

Actions:

- Review the existing GFMD COVID-19 Information Hub and together with the Support Unit, identify possible improvements (Deadline: Early September 2020).
- Renew a call by the GFMD-Chair to the GFMD community to submit best practices, initiatives and call for actions (Deadline: Mid-July 2020).

Objective 2: Develop a GFMD working paper on short- and long-term issues according to the phases of COVID-19 interventions – such as prevention, response and recovery

COVID-19 is not only a short-term health crisis but will have repercussions of varying magnitude on all of our societies for the months and years to come. Certain impacts beyond the health crises are already tangible – e.g. the reduction of remittances flowing to developing countries or drastic economic impact on businesses, especially the SMEs, that resulted in a significant number of workers, including migrants, having lost their jobs. Other possible developments can be anticipated but are more difficult to clearly qualify and quantify – e.g. impact on human mobility, including on labour migration, economic shifts and related changes in skills needs, recruitment processes, reintegration of returnee migrants, irregular migration, etc. With the broad spectrum of knowledge embedded in the GFMD community, we could envisage developing a working paper on both current and future impacts as well as possible measures to be taken. Such a paper could also guide us in future pandemics or other forms of emergencies affecting human mobility.

Actions:

- Develop a concept for a working paper (Deadline: September 2020).
- Coordinate with UN Migration Network and other relevant actors, such as think tanks and academic institutions (Deadline: October 2020).
- Coordinate inputs on specific regional impacts from the thematic leads of the regional meetings.
- Present working paper at a dedicated GFMD webinar and finalize the paper based on inputs (Deadline: November 2020).

Objective 3: Support the preparatory work of the Government Roundtables as well as coordinate closely with the three mechanisms and the ad hoc Working Group on Public Narratives on Migration.

The strategy proposed is rather to mainstream – where relevant – COVID-19 related issues in existing formats of the GFMD Summit in Dubai, instead of creating additional formats. Building on objectives 1 + 2 as well as the outcomes of the regional meetings, the ad hoc WG would interact with the responsible teams preparing the Roundtables to ensure an informed inclusion of COVID-19 in the six themes. Furthermore, we would also coordinate with the three mechanisms, through their members in the ad hoc WG. Finally, we would coordinate with the ad hoc WG on Public Narratives on Migration.

Actions:

- Coordinate and identify potential joint actions with Roundtables teams and thematic leads (Deadline: according to RT work plan).
- Coordinate and identify potential joint actions with three mechanisms (Deadline: according to work plan of the mechanisms).
- Coordinate and identify potential joint actions with ad hoc WG on Public Narratives on Migration (Deadline: October 2020).

Objective 4: Identify initiatives that could be catalyst for partnerships

The theme of this year's GFMD Chair is "The future of human mobility: Innovative partnerships for sustainable development." The ad hoc WG will identify initiatives that could generate partnerships amongst the GFMD community. To this end, the WG will coordinate with the process of the Migration Laboratory as well as with the three mechanisms. The Migration Laboratory could work towards possible partnerships related to COVID-19. With the three mechanisms, the WG could identify possible actions to be taken in facilitating innovative partnerships – e.g. the Migration Challenge.

Actions:

- Exchange with Labour Mobility and Partnerships (LaMP) (Deadline: October 2020).
- Exchange with the three Mechanisms (Deadline: September – December 2020).

Objective 5: Reflection regarding possible adjustments in the way the GFMD works based on COVID-19

The pandemic has exacerbated existing challenges in the field of human mobility and may also have unearthed new ones. Building on the work of the working paper (see Objective 2), some questions may have to be answered to ensure that the GFMD is fit for purpose in delivering benefits to its community, including during times of crises. Such questions may include: are all the relevant players at the table? Does the GFMD have the instruments to deliver an added-value? Is it flexible enough to respond to such crises?

Actions:

- Internal reflection within the ad hoc WG. (Deadline: December 2020).
- Provide input to various ongoing discussions on the future of the GFMD based on the outcome of the discussion in the ad hoc WG. (Deadline: ongoing).
- Prepare a report to be presented during the GFMD Summit in Dubai (Deadline: January 2021).