



GFMD Webinars on the Impact of COVID-19 on Migrants, Migration and Development

Dear *Friends of the Forum*,

The Chair, in consultation with the Troika, and in partnership with the three GFMD Mechanisms, is pleased to announce the organisation of a series of GFMD webinars, to take place beginning in late April, to address the impacts of COVID-19 on migrants, migration and development.

The purpose of these webinars is to afford stakeholders an opportunity to reflect on the challenges that migrants face as the current crisis undermines the capacities of governance and support structures; to take stock of effective responses that have been mounted to deal with those challenges; and to identify joint action and potential partnerships among GFMD constituents aimed at mitigating the adverse impact of the global public health crisis on migrants and migrant communities.

In the longer term, migrants are likely to be key to recovery efforts; with migrants contributing to economic regeneration and growth, and filling key roles in workforces impacted by the disease. States that take a human-centric approach to the formulation and implementation of national responses towards migrants during the crisis will likely benefit in the aftermath.

Each of two proposed 120-minute webinars, one in late April and another at a later date to be announced, will be delivered in two editions, to allow Friends of the Forum in various geographical regions and time-zones to take part. Participation in the webinars will be open to all Friends of the Forum.

The first webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, 28 April at 07:00 UTC (09:00 CET), and will be repeated on Thursday 30 April at 15:00 UTC (17:00 CET). It will be organized in successive and moderated discussion cycles that begin with taking stock of the most pressing migrant-specific COVID-19 related challenges, continue with the exploration of effective solutions and good practices, and end with a moderated chat-box Q&A on potential joint action and / or partnerships.

In advance of the first set of webinars, the Chair would like to invite all Friends of the Forum to reflect on, and respond to, two critical questions:

- What is the single most significant impact of COVID-19 on migrants or migrant-focused institutions in your city / country / region?
- What immediate and short-term measures and strategies constitute good practice in dealing with the impact of COVID-19 on migrants, work, and society at large?

Participants are requested to contribute responses using this [link](#). Responses will inform the content of the discussions on the webinars. The deadline for submissions is Friday 24th April.

In addition to the above, the Support Unit has been tasked with creating a dedicated page on the GFMD website where Friends of the Forum can access documents on guidelines and relevant mitigating policies and measures, published by GFMD stakeholders, including governments, the three Mechanisms and observer organisations, ahead of the webinar date. GFMD constituents are invited to share with the Support Unit any additional documents they deem useful in preparing for the webinar and for general educational purposes, above and beyond responses to the two above questions.

A second, more detailed note on webinar contributors, moderators, online access and logistical considerations will be circulated by the Chair on or before Friday 17 April.

Members of the Troika and the GFMD Mechanisms look forward to your active participation.

Sincerely,



Abdulla Al Nuaimi

On behalf of the GFMD 2020 Chair



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