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Global Compact  
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# Arab States Regional Workstream for The Protection of Persons on the Move and Their Right To Liberty

- **Co-Chaired by MENA Regional OCHCR and UNICEF**
- **Co-Presented by Kinga Janik, OHCHR and Rosal Fischer, UNICEF**

**Participating Agencies: IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, OHCHR, ICRC**

# The Arab States Regional Workstream for the Protection of Persons on the Move and Their Right to Liberty

## Co-Chairs and Participating Agencies

### Co-Chairs



UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



unicef

### Participating Agencies



IOM  
UN MIGRATION



UNHCR  
The UN Refugee Agency



UNODC



ICRC

# GCM TALK SEPTEMBER 2023: Beirut and Online, Closed Session with Arab Member States

الأمم المتحدة  
حقوق الإنسان  
مكتب المفوض السامي



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GCM  
Talks



IOM  
UN MIGRATION

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DE L'EUROPE  
ET DES AFFAIRES  
ÉTRANGÈRES

Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité



## احفظ التاريخ

### حماية الأشخاص المتنقلين وحقوقهم في الحرية

التاريخ: الاثنين 25 سبتمبر/ ايلول 2023

التوقيت: 14.00 - 15.30 بيروت

جلسة افتراضية **جلسة مغلقة للدول العربية الأعضاء فقط**

سيتم توفير الترجمة الفورية الى العربية والانكليزية والفرنسية.

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# Protection of Persons on the Move and Their Right to Liberty



## GCM Talk: Achievements

**Important achievements were shared with the participants by the champion Arab country. These include:**

- Including GCM objectives in national laws and working with migrants and refugees on a rights-based approach,
- Providing migrants with basic rights and services, such as healthcare and education,
- Launching common platforms for migrants and refugees,
- Creating committees within the government which work on the governmental and societal approaches to ease the process of integrating migrants and providing them with their basic needs, eventually decreasing the levels of migrants trafficking and involvement of migrants with drugs or other substances, and
- Implementing an out of camp policy to mitigate immigration detention.

# Protection of Persons on the Move and Their Right to Liberty

## GCM Talk: Challenges



Challenges and achievements were presented by Arab Member States and other participants. Some of the challenges identified in this GCM Talk are:

### *Implementing the Global Compact for Migration*

- Setting national policies in accordance with the GCM Objectives, more specifically in this case **Objectives 9, 13 and 14.**
- Working on specifying the rights of non-nationals especially children in the national laws.
- Following up on the progress achieved by the states and ensuring accountability.

### *Protecting vulnerable people on the move*

- Enhancing the continuum of care and protection of women and children who are forcibly displaced and who travel alone.
- Providing children and people on the move with available services and making those services accessible to them.
- Encouraging member states to apply concrete alternatives to detaining migrants, especially migrant children. Objective 13 of the GCM states that detention of migrants should be used as a last resort and alternatives should be used instead.

# Protection of Persons on the Move and Their Right to Liberty

## GCM Talk: Challenges



### *Pressure on destination countries*

- Transnational political challenges on destination countries.
- Economic and political pressures affect the vulnerability of migrants and make them more subjected to human rights violations and abuses.

### *Integrating Migrants*

- Addressing and challenging right-wing and negative rhetoric that is spread against refugees.
- Promoting the inclusion of people on the move, especially children and youths in decision making.
- Committing to the economic, social, and cultural rights of migrants.
- Avoiding the politicization of children and people on the move.

### *National, Regional and International Cooperation*

- Enhancing cooperation between the state and civil society on migration-related issues.
- Migration issues are not only related to the origin and destination countries and require regional or international cooperation to find durable solutions.
- Promoting regional cooperation on working to end immigration detention/administrative custody.

# The Arab States Regional Workstream for the Protection of Persons on the Move and Their Right to Liberty

## Arab Member States Survey to identify thematic priorities, modalities and frequency

### Recommendations and Key Takeaways

The panelists and the participants highlighted some key areas in which intervention and increased efforts would be beneficial:

#### *Cooperate on Inclusive Services for Children and People on the Move*

UNICEF highlighted that services for children and people on the move should be available and accessible. The high influx of migrants and refugees as a result of instability in some states in the Arab region subject destination states to pressure on their public services. Therefore, the accessibility of basic needs and services to vulnerable migrant groups should be considered as the first line of defense and would require cooperation at the national and regional levels, from the official authorities and the UN agencies. The Champion Arab state's experience showed that integrating GCM objectives in the national laws and committing to treat migrants with a rights-based approach has made the process of providing services for them easier. The champion country has established shelters for human trafficking victims, has launched a common platform for migrants and refugees, created a helpline in cooperation with government committees, and enhanced labor migration governance and labor mobility.

## The Arab States Regional Workstream for the Protection of Persons on the Move and Their Right to Liberty

## Arab Member States Survey to identify thematic priorities, modalities and frequency

### *Include youths in decision-making*

The representative from MYCP specifically provided the recommendation to establish youth councils on sub-national and international levels, as youths are not included in decision-making. Furthermore, this is important because in 2023 until September, roughly 60 million children have been on the move globally because of external circumstances. This number has doubled since 2018, which recorded 30 million children being on the move.

### *Establishment of a Peer Community of Practice*

A recommendation suggested by almost all panelists, and which was one of the aims of the GCM talk is to establish an Arab States Peer Community of Practice to share experiences, good practices, challenges, and achievements.



# Protection of Persons on the Move and Their Right to Liberty

## Arab Member States Survey toward the Workstream Workplan 2024-2025



Quarterly Workplan Template for Regional Workstreams - 2024

#	Activity	Responsible Agencies	Progress/Remarks	Timeframe and Plan of Action									
				Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4			
1	Child Sensitive Practices at borders and points of dis/embarkation										Mapping report on MENA good practices IDC/UNICEF: GCM Arab States UNNM Review Activity for further joint-agency dissemination/uptake.		
2	Human and Child Rights Sensitization and Awareness	Update and genericize the joint UN/ICRC training border guards in MENA package based on the KSA Training 2022											
equal 2	Anti-racism and discrimination initiatives					Module for law enforcement authorities (including border guards) on anti-racism measures							
3	Rights based identification and referral of vulnerable persons	Update and genericize the joint UN/ICRC training border guards in MENA package based on the KSA Training 2022											
equal 3	Community and Family-Based Alternatives to Immigration Detention	Consider for the 2025 Workplan as the next step											
	Based on the GCM Talk survey responses from 3 countries (Iraq, Lebanon and Libya)												
	Validated with OHCHR and other interested Agencies in early 2024.												

# Workstream Workplan: 2024-2025

- 1. Promising Practices Regional Mapping Report Toward Ending The Deprivation of Liberty of Children on the Move: Launch and awareness**
- 2. with IOM, UNICEF, OHCHR, UNHCR Inter-Agency Regional Border Guards Training Package for the Protection of Vulnerable Persons CR, UNODC, ICRC**
- 3. Training Module for Law Enforcement (including Border Guards) on anti-racism measures**



**THANK YOU**