

The [Migration Cooperation Fund] Frequently Asked Questions

February 2019

WHAT IS IT?

The [Migration Cooperation Fund] is the “start-up fund” of the capacity building mechanism as called for in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). It will focus on meeting identified needs which will benefit from the input of more than one entity in order to support Member States’ implementation of the GCM. In essence, UN entities at the country-level will work with national partners in identifying migration needs and for which joint programming, capacity building and funding is necessary.

The [Migration Cooperation Fund] is not designed to absorb all migration projects and activities of the UN system, many or most of which will continue to be delivered on a bilateral or entity-specific basis.

The [Migration Cooperation Fund] will support primarily country-level implementation of the GCM. The [Migration Cooperation Fund] will focus on the GCM’s 23 objectives, grouped under five thematic areas to allow for earmarking, and to help ensure tracking of adherence to the GCM’s 360-degree vision. The [Migration Cooperation Fund] will also provide support to regional and global initiatives to support GCM implementation, for example policy discussions or activities related to establishing the connection hub and global knowledge platform of the capacity building mechanism.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

The [Migration Cooperation Fund] is important as it will provide initial financing or complement existing funding for projects to support Member States’ implementation of the GCM.

In its design, the [Migration Cooperation Fund] will emphasize:

- National ownership: country/region-specific projects will require the endorsement of the States concerned
- Cross-border and sub-regional initiatives
- Alignment with UN reform: projects at the country level will be signed off on by the Resident Coordinator
- A coherent and inclusive UN approach on migration: projects will need input from more than one UN entity
- Collaboration/complementarity with other UN funds: complementarity with UNDAF and other UN pooled-funds
- The GCM’s 360 approach: no one GCM objective will be privileged over others
- Inclusive governance: Fund implementation will be under the authority of a broadly representative Steering Committee chaired by the DG/IOM as Network Coordinator
- Increased transparency: there will be effectively real time internet access to all funding decisions
- A clear focus on results: through the development of a clear results-based matrix

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HOW DOES IT RELATE TO THE UN NETWORK ON MIGRATION?

The [Migration Cooperation Fund] will be established in the United Nations, fully supported by the United Nations Network on Migration, a collaborative community of United Nations entities with a focus on migration, under the strategic guidance and direction of an Executive Committee and with IOM serving as Coordinator and secretariat. The Network secretariat is responsible for the operational functioning of the Fund, through the Fund Management Unit. Both the Network and the Fund share the same overall objective: supporting Member States in their implementation of the GCM.

HOW DOES IT ALIGN WITH UN REFORM?

By strengthening the role of the Resident Coordinator and offering a pooled funding modality to support the implementation of the GCM, the [Migration Cooperation Fund] will be fully aligned with and supportive of the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the field of migration

HOW DOES THE FUND CONTRIBUTE TO THE SDGS?

The Global Compact for Migration is rooted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and builds upon its recognition that migration is a multidimensional reality of major relevance to the sustainable development of countries of origin, transit and destination. The Fund will help realize the intrinsic link between the GCM and the achievement of all seventeen SDGs, in particular but not exclusively with respect to target 10.7 which calls on States to “facilitate orderly, safe and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies”. Thorough consideration will be given to the SDG targets and indicators when developing the Fund’s result-based matrix in order to strengthen the linkages between the two frameworks.

WHO CAN APPLY?

United Nations Organizations can apply as primary recipients of grants and can work with and transfer funds to civil society and government partners. Funding applications at country-level must be formally endorsed by the national government, submitted by the Resident Coordinator and must be designed as joint programmes (more than one agency involved). The quality of the multi-stakeholder consultation process leading to the programme design will be among key criteria for fund allocation decisions.

WHO TAKES DECISIONS?

The Fund will have a Steering Committee – a multi-partner decision making body chaired by the Director-General of IOM as Coordinator of the Network – who will decide on all allocations. The Steering Committee will be comprised of: the Chair; 3 members of the Network (2 members of the Network Executive Committee and 1 other member amongst other members of the Network not on the Executive Committee); 3 donors; 3 countries of origin/transit; and 3 stakeholders.

The Steering Committee will be supported by a fund management unit, embedded in the Network Secretariat. The UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO) will act as Administrative Agent (Trustee).

HOW DOES IT ENSURE TRANSPARENCY?

The [Migration Cooperation Fund] will provide increased transparency on planning, implementation and delivery of results by including representation of stakeholders in the governance structure, consolidating reports on all activities undertaken and posting all information on the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO) Gateway. A consultative forum open to all Member States and stakeholders will be held annually. The Fund’s activities and results will also be reflected in the biennial report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly called for in the GCM.



WILL THE FUND RESULT IN AN INCREASE IN TRANSACTION COSTS FOR DONORS?

On the contrary, the UNDG pass-through modality at the heart of the Fund design greatly decreases transaction costs. The cost recovery structure includes a 1% Administrative Agent fee charged by the Trustee of the Fund (MPTFO) and a harmonized cost recovery rate for of 7% for all direct recipients. This rate is lower than indirect costs rates generally applied to bilateral agreements between donors and agencies. It is also important to underline that contributions to the Fund will not be subject to the 1% levy on tightly earmarked contributions (GA resolution A/RES/72/279).

The managing cost of the Fund (the hiring and functioning of the Fund Management Unit) is a direct cost to the Fund. As such, it is reviewed by the Steering Committee members and requires its formal approval. In line with best practices, it is recommended that such cost do not exceed 3% of the total budget of the Fund over its lifetime.

CAN DONORS EARMARK THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS?

Both the ability of stakeholders to decide collectively on the use of the funds and the collective commitment to respect the 360 principle of the GCM are key principles of the [Migration Cooperation Fund]. Donors are therefore strongly encouraged to provide un-earmarked contributions, which will be programmed by the Steering Committee, supported by the Fund Management Unit.

However, earmarking to the level of the five thematic areas is accepted and can be reflected in the contribution agreement.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

The aim is to build on the momentum generated by Marrakech to launch the [Migration Cooperation Fund] in April 2019. The vibrancy of the [Migration Cooperation Fund] will depend not just on its funding base but on the demand to draw from it identified at the country-level and across the full range of issues identified in the GCM. As an initial priority, the Steering Committee needs to be established to adopt the Terms of Reference of the [Migration Cooperation Fund]. Financial contributions are also sought to properly establish the Fund.

By the end of its first year of operations, the intention is:

- To have one project designed, approved and funded for each of the five thematic areas. This will help ensure that, from the start, the GCM's 360 commitment is respected;
- To have developed a comprehensive results framework that will allow the tracking and reporting of results achieved by the Fund and will enable the Steering Committee to adopt a results focus when making allocation decisions; and,
- An annual narrative and financial reports of each of the projects will be made public.

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE?

Member States, regional bodies, inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, businesses, foundations and individuals may all contribute to the [Migration Cooperation Fund]. All contributors need to sign a contribution agreement with the MPTFO, which acts as Administrative Agent (Trustee) for the [Migration Cooperation Fund]. The contribution agreement used for the Fund ("Standard Administrative Arrangement") has been developed by the UNSDG in consultation with many Member States and is the same that is being used for numerous other UN pooled funds.

Upon signature of the Standard Administrative Arrangement and in line with the agreed schedule of payments, contributors transfer funds to the bank account designated by the MPTFO.

Contributions will be converted to US dollars but can be made in any fully convertible currency.

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OBJECTIVES OF THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION

1. Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies
2. Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin
3. Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration
4. Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation
5. Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration
6. Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work
7. Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration
8. Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants
9. Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants
10. Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration
11. Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner
12. Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral
13. Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives
14. Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle
15. Provide access to basic services for migrants
16. Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion
17. Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration
18. Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences
19. Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries
20. Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants
21. Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration
22. Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits
23. Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration

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