

**Inputs for the Secretary-General's Report on the Global Compact on Migration**  
**UN Human Security Unit**

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**I. STRUCTURE AND ELEMENTS OF GLOBAL COMPACT – CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

*Facilitating partnerships and cooperation across institutional mandates*

- **Multi-stakeholder collaboration to address the drivers and root causes:** Collaboration across sectors and institutions is required to effectively address the drivers and root causes of large movements of migrants through efforts to combat poverty, reduce vulnerability, and build resilience. As a dynamic and practical policy framework for addressing widespread and cross-cutting threats facing Governments and people, the application of human security has proven effective in facilitating comprehensive and multidimensional strategies that capitalize on the comparative advantages of a diverse network of stakeholders. This approach advances joint analysis, planning and implementation at the country level thereby ensuring greater synergy among stakeholders towards a common strategy.
- **Strengthening the humanitarian-development nexus:** There is particular need to strengthen linkages between the actions of humanitarian and development actors, ensuring greater coherence between immediate, humanitarian assistance and medium- and long-term sustainable development efforts. As a systemic approach, human security helps avoid loosely coordinated but essentially individually focused solutions that are compartmentalized around different categories of people or sectors of operation. By taking a comprehensive, prevention-oriented focus and by examining the overall needs of affected communities, the human security approach helps clarify the continuum between humanitarian and development interventions in order to transcend the divide.
- **Expanding partnerships to strengthen governance and management of migration:** The complex push and pull factors contributing to migratory trends and flows requires engagement of a range of stakeholders, from national and local governments, to the private sector, civil society and international organizations. While Governments retain the primary responsibility for the governance of migration, frameworks such as human security that help guide the formation of partnerships across institutions and actors are critical to addressing the multidimensional nature of migration and realise its developmental benefits.

*Inclusive and whole of society approaches to protracted displacement*

- Realizing the economic and sustainable development benefits of migration requires responses that strengthen the resilience of host communities, in addition to advancing the

immediate and long-term needs and contributions of migrants. In the context of protracted displacement, it becomes more vital to focus efforts on realizing the social and economic benefits of migration in a manner that promotes social harmony among migrants and host communities. Actions at the international, national and local levels are necessary to effectively address discrimination and promote inclusivity and social harmony. Among these, advancing community-based development programmes that are mutually beneficial can enhance engagement among these groups, thereby changing perceptions and highlighting the numerous contributions that migrants and refugees can bring to host communities and countries.

- The human security approach provides an effective tool to strengthen local and national capacities for sustainable migration management and to better identify avenues for working through national and local institutions and service providers. The application of human security gives rise to inclusive and accountable institutions that protect and empower host communities and migrants thereby improving social harmony and providing the space for all groups to live free from fear, want and indignity.

#### ***Addressing the drivers of migration and focusing on preventive action***

- To capitalize on the many benefits of migration and minimize the risks, the international community must focus their efforts on better addressing the drivers of irregular migration that force people to move in search of safety and dignity. The prevention-oriented and context-specific approach of human security can help draw attention to current, emerging and future risks at the local and national level that call for proactive responses to stem crises that may lead to large involuntary movements of people. Greater attention to the needs and vulnerabilities at the community level can support the development or strengthening of early warning systems and guide preemptive resilience-building responses that reduce the likelihood of larger crises developing.
- Refugees and migrants can find themselves doubly vulnerable when staying in areas prone to natural disasters or conflicts. Through the application of human security, national and local governments can identify varying levels and types of vulnerability among local populations in order to develop comprehensive strategies tailored to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of people on the ground, both host communities and refugees and migrants. Doing so can help reduce the human, economic and social costs of such crises and prevent or mitigate further forced migration.

#### ***Disaggregated data to reach the most vulnerable and ensure no one is left behind***

- People on the move, regardless of legal status, may be in highly vulnerable situations and in need of protection. At the same time, certain groups, such as women and children, victims of trafficking or smuggling, and persons with disabilities, may face heightened or additional threats during the migratory journey. A human security assessment of the needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of individuals and groups, appropriately disaggregated to capture variances, can help guide the inclusion of gender- and age-sensitive analyses in national policies and practices of countries of origin, transit and

destination. It can also support the development of targeted interventions to reduce the risks facing vulnerable groups, particularly those arising from a lack of essential services or the threat of criminal networks. Such action will better ensure the rights and dignity of all refugees and migrants, particularly those in the most vulnerable situations.

### ***Integrating migration into the humanitarian and development mechanisms of the UN system***

- The necessity of better integrating migration into the work of the development and humanitarian mechanisms of the UN system has been widely recognized. In this regard, human security can be a valuable tool to support the integration of migration into the work of the Organization. Rather than creating new layers or streams of work, the approach builds upon and strengthens existing frameworks by addressing potential gaps; by combining existing tools to accelerate delivery and make better use of scarce resources; and by fostering greater collaboration to implement system-wide responses by the different pillars of the UN system in a more comprehensive and targeted manner.

## **II. ACTIONABLE COMMITMENTS THAT MAY BE INCLUDED IN THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON MIGRATION**

- A methodological framework such as the human security approach can facilitate actions that are needed in order to advance safe, orderly and regular migration. Therefore, it is crucial to provide support to and expand the application of existing and proven mechanisms, such as the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, that provide a framework for comprehensive, integrated, people-centred and preventive action based on partnership.

## **III. EXAMPLES OF UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND FOR HUMAN SECURITY (UNTFHS) PROGRAMMES ON MIGRATION**

Numerous United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS) programmes have demonstrated the added value of the human security approach for addressing the complex drivers and consequences of migration in a manner that promotes the safety and dignity of all people. By promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships that develop comprehensive and systematic responses, human security supports synergies between actors, coherence of strategies, and the strengthening of national and local capacity to better manage migration in a safe and humane manner. These programmes also provide valuable lessons on how the combination of institutional policies with community-based empowerment activities helps address gaps in the management of migration, which result in improved resilience, reduced tensions, social harmony, and a life of dignity for all.

### ***Costa Rica and Panama: Addressing the root causes of temporary migration***

The *Ngöbe* and *Buglé* indigenous groups of western Panama face a complex and interconnected set of threats, including widespread poverty, low agricultural productivity, limited economic opportunities, lack of appropriate health care, inadequate access to essential public services, and intermittent droughts and floods. In search of seasonal employment, these migrants are driven to

neighbouring Costa Rica. Undocumented and without labour protection, they often encounter poor working conditions and low wages. To develop an effective comprehensive cross-border strategy, the programme addresses the root causes of insecurity and out-migration, as well as seeks to create the institutional environment necessary to protect the human rights and dignity of these mobile indigenous populations. By bringing together the relevant United Nations entities, in partnership with local and national authorities, the programme strengthens the economic, food and health security of those most vulnerable in Panama, while simultaneously improving essential services and worker protections in Costa Rica and along the migratory route.

*Moldova: Proactively addressing the conditions that create or exacerbate human trafficking*

The prevention of human trafficking and migrant smuggling is a major migration challenge, requiring technical cooperation across origin, transit and destination countries. Durable solutions also require addressing the conditions that can make people vulnerable to trafficking and smuggling. In Moldova, pervasive poverty and gender discrimination have led many young women in search of a living to become entangled with sex traffickers. In response, a human security programme has helped extend a comprehensive package of legal and other essential services to curb these violations and protect women at risk. The establishment of the Centre for Protection and Prevention has institutionalized assistance and coordination of legal, employment and health services at the local level. Local legislation has been strengthened and aligned with national statutes. Awareness campaigns reaching the most disadvantaged rural areas have empowered people with a better understanding of the risks as well as their legal and human rights. This holistic approach combining institutional capacity building with direct service provision to victims and women at risk has helped address some of the root causes of human trafficking in Moldova.

*Ecuador: Strengthening local capacities for peace and development*

The consequences of conflict go beyond national borders. Human trafficking and the illegal economy often take root in places where the vulnerable are easily exploited. While Colombia has successfully subdued decades of conflict, illegal armed groups and criminal networks have congregated along and crossed the border with Ecuador. Consequently, the Northern provinces have seen an increase in violent crime, the illicit trade of drugs, and human trafficking. A human security programme was developed in collaboration with local civil society and communities in tandem with national and regional governments to strengthen the capacity of authorities and to promote inclusive economic development in the border region. To prevent human trafficking, training was provided to law enforcement, the judiciary, health workers and the education sector on the protection, assistance and monitoring of victims. Meanwhile, vulnerable groups such as women, the youth and refugees were empowered with alternative livelihood options through vocational training and assistance in small business development. By building partnerships with relevant stakeholders and engagement with civil society organizations, the programme has developed a multi-sectoral and people-centred response to reduce community vulnerability to trafficking.

*Mexico: Supporting partnership and local capacity building to ensure safety and dignity in transit*

Each year, hundreds of thousands of people from Central America embark on a 1,500-mile journey that takes them through southern Mexico in search of safety and opportunity. Along the way, many encounter hardships, with some becoming victims of crime or experiencing tense encounters with local communities. To improve the human security of migrants in transit, multiple UN entities came together as part of a Global Migration Group initiative, working with national and local authorities and civil society to develop a comprehensive framework to promote safe and orderly migration. Addressing both the institutional arrangements necessary to safeguard people and the community-based activities essential for empowerment, the programme strengthened mechanisms for coordination and exchange between federal and state officials, UN agencies and CSOs and improved capacity for the identification, assistance and referral of vulnerable migrants; expanded access to social and health services through shelters along the transit route; and ensured the provision of vital information on security concerns, legal entitlements and available services for those in transit. The programme also promoted broader engagement of host communities in dialogues on the rights of migrants and cultural events to enhance social cohesion and reduce tension. By bringing together a range of international, national and local stakeholders to develop an integrated strategy, the programme resulted in a sustainable and targeted system for ensuring the safety and human rights of migrants in transit.