



WFP is grateful for the opportunity to comment on this and would like to make the following suggestions regarding the forthcoming global compact for migration.

1. Structure and elements of a global compact for migration, including purpose, goals, challenges and opportunities

Structure:

WFP would recommend that there is a section on 'Guiding Principles'. To the extent possible, these could be lifted directly from the New York Declaration (NYD), e.g. the principle that *migration should be a choice not a necessity*.

Elements:

WFP's expectation is that all of the content of the NYD will flow through into the global compact for migration, with the exception of those elements of the NYD that relate to the issue of responsibility-sharing for refugees (which we would expect to flow through into the global compact on responsibility-sharing for refugees).

Purpose:

WFP's expectation is that the purpose of the global compact would be to provide a vehicle whereby the relevant content of the NYD can be turned into concrete action. It would provide an 'accountability framework' that clarifies the roles and responsibilities of different actors within the system, e.g. Member States, the United Nations system, institutional donors etc.

Goals:

In accordance with the logic of the NYD, the global compact could be arranged around two main goals:

- i. Addressing the root causes of distress migration
- ii. Enabling safe, regular and orderly migratory movement

2. Actionable commitments that may be included in the Compact

Under the first goal – "addressing the root causes of distress migration" – WFP would like to see actionable commitments around:

- Tackling chronic food insecurity in places of origin, which is a known driver of out-migration. A recent WFP study¹, for example, found that a mere 1% rise in hunger means that an extra 200 people out of every 10,000 will flee their country.
- Finding better ways to deal with internal displacement, the poor management of which at present is leaving many forcibly displaced persons with no option but to abandon their country of origin. The aforementioned WFP study² found that most refugees and

¹ At the Root of Exodus: Food Security, Conflict and International Migration (WFP, 2017)

² At the Root of Exodus: Food Security, Conflict and International Migration (WFP, 2017)

international migrants had settled in at least one location in their own country before taking an onward journey to another country. It also found that many refugees and international migrants would prefer to stay as close to their place of origin as possible, provided that there is a protective environment, they have access to a livelihood opportunity and can meet all of their basic needs.

Under the second goal – “enabling safe, regular and orderly migratory movement” - WFP would like to see actionable commitments around:

- Providing vulnerable migrants with food assistance, when needed. As the food assistance agency of the United Nations, WFP finds itself having to provide humanitarian assistance to vulnerable migrants along migratory routes. In September 2015, for instance, WFP transferred high-energy biscuits in support of UNHCR’s humanitarian response to a mixed-migration movement into Greece. Thanks to this, an estimated 144,000 recent arrivals to Greece were provided with immediate food assistance.
- Providing specialized nutritional support to pregnant and lactating women, infants from 6-24 months, young children and adolescent girls. This is necessary in order to protect vulnerable migrants from malnutrition during “the first 1,000 days” of their life, which is critical for ensuring that they fulfil their full mental and physical potential³.

In addition to establishing ‘new’ commitments, the global compact might also indicate how other processes – if implemented effectively – might help to achieve better outcomes for migrants, places of origin and host communities/countries. For instance, at the World Humanitarian Summit and through the “Grand Bargain” process, humanitarian and development actors have already pledged to work together in a more coherent manner while donor agencies have pledged to support these efforts by providing financial support that is more predictable and flexible. The successful implementation of these existing commitments will enable the humanitarian-development system as a whole to be more effective in tackling chronic food insecurity in places of origin and finding better ways to deal with internal displacement. For example, for situations of protracted internal displacement the Compact could specify the need for humanitarian and development actors to co-design programmes and ensure that humanitarian response is, to the extent possible, laying the foundation for durable solutions through the promotion of self-reliance and social cohesion between displaced persons and host communities. These efforts would require donors to make longer term financial commitments.

3. Means of implementation and a framework for the follow-up and review of implementation

WFP’s expectation is that a mechanism will be identified for implementing and reviewing this global compact that avoids duplicative bureaucracy or the creation of any unnecessary new structures.

³ Maternal and Child Nutrition Series (The Lancet, 2013)