



Youth Forum

Impact Report

2018





Organized by the United Nations Major
Group for Children and Youth



In official partnership with



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Summary:

Snapshot of the Youth Forum

Youth Forum Impact Report



The ICM Youth Forum took place on the 8th and 9th of December in Marrakech. It served as an official side event to the Intergovernmental Conference to adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (ICM). It brought together a diverse group of 150 young leaders from over 50 countries to discuss, consult, and commit to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

Many high-level officials participated in the Forum, including Opening Ceremony speakers, Ms Louise Arbour, UN SGSR for International Migration; Ambassador Laura Thompson, IOM Deputy Director-General; and Laurence Chandy, UNICEF Director of Data, Research and Policy. Our Closing Ceremony speakers included Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, UN SG's Envoy on Youth, Ms. Ilse Hahn, Head of Division on Policy Issues of Migration and Displacement for BMZ, and Ms. Maria Teresa Ponce Carrion, youth representative of the Government of Ecuador, next year's Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).

The objectives of the Forum were threefold:

1. **Capacity-building:** Build knowledge and capacity in young leaders to take action on emerging issues of migration;
2. **Policy (Consultation):** Facilitate the consultation of youth on regional priorities and action points regarding the implementation and follow-up of the GCM; and
3. **Advocacy:** Serve as the main channel for youth voices to be heard at the ICM, and work towards its institutionalization.

The Forum succeeded in achieving all three objectives.

Policy priorities highlighted by the attendees of the Forum shaped the UNMGCY statement at the ICM. You can read the full statement on [our campaign website](#).

We concluded the Forum with three challenges to all stakeholders: **Engage us**, by giving us a guaranteed seat at the decision-making table. **Invest in us**, by ensuring we have the funding to meaningfully participate in all platforms. **Count us in**, by collecting data disaggregated by age so that evidence based policies can be put in place. Read our full priorities [here](#).



During the ICM, we amplified youth voices and reported the outcomes of the Forum with key stakeholders, including the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres. The [youth speaker](#) at the Opening Ceremony of the ICM had been selected through an open call by UNMGCY, and we had a strong presence at the GFMD Civil Society and Government days. We received support from many high level speakers and officials, and, in particular, the government of Ecuador expressed their interest in having the Forum as part of next year's official GFMD program.

The Forum was a success, thanks to our close partnership with UNICEF and IOM: specifically, the valuable operational support given by their teams and their financial support combined with that of the European Union, Open Society Foundations, Save the Children and Masters Climate Solutions. The Forum was made possible by the tireless work of all the Forum Organizing Committee members, the commitment from keynote speakers and workshop facilitators, and the incredible energy and passion of all participants.

Why Youth Forum?

Young people make up 32% of international migrants: specifically, 11% were found to be under the age of 24 in 2017 (UN DESA Statistics, 2018). Young migrants have challenges and priorities specific to their age, and therefore, we need responsive policies that better reflect the high number of youth migrants. In order to achieve this, it is crucial to include youth as critical stakeholders and partners in all relevant decision-making processes.

The United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UNMGCY) is the UNGA-mandated, official, formal, and self-organised space for children and youth (under 30) to contribute to and engage in certain intergovernmental and allied policy processes at the United Nations. Our mission at UNMGCY is to act as a bridge between youth and the UN system, and to help realize our collective right to meaningful youth engagement as enshrined in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child and other UN compacts. The Migration Working Group of UNMGCY has been taking the lead on consulting with youth stakeholders around the world, and engaging youth in the GCM process.

To work towards the meaningful engagement of youth in the GCM process, and to promote responsive policies reflecting the priorities and needs of young people: We needed to conduct comprehensive consultations during Migration Week: consultations which comprised of young people from all over the world. As a result of this need, in official partnership with UNICEF and IOM, we organised a two-day Forum in Marrakech, on 8 and 9 December, ahead of the ICM.

The **goals** of the Forum were the following:

1. Engage with youth and strengthen capacity for their action on the implementation, follow up and review to the GCM (Capacity-building).
2. Consolidate priorities that matter to youth to provide a unified voice in the advocacy and policy actions during the GCM implementation, follow up, and review (Policy cohesion).
3. Institutionalize meaningful youth engagement in the decision-making processes and implementation, follow up and review of the GCM (Amplify youth voices).

We built the Forum program around these goals, and in the next section, we evaluate the results we obtained against them.

Our Impact

The Forum took place over the course of two days on 8-9 December. It was an action-packed weekend filled with workshops, events, networking, and commitments to action. In particular, the first day focused on capacity-building, while the second engaged participants in the discussion of regional priorities and the drafting of individual action plans to contribute to the implementation of the GCM. A full schedule can be found in Annex I.



The Forum was followed by an evaluation survey, filled out by more than half of the participants, from which we can gauge the impact of the Forum.

Capacity-building

The knowledge and skills capacity-building sessions took place on the first day of the Forum. The first two rounds of workshops were aimed at building knowledge on the most important issues raised in the GCM and at the GFMD, which included the focus on the relations between migration and health, climate change, human trafficking, decent labour, gender, and the role of narratives and campaigns in shaping policy. These sessions were run by some of our thematic global focal points, by youth activists, and by other specialists in these themes.

The capacity-building sessions in Round 3 built upon the previous sessions to focus on practical tools to advance the implementation of the GCM, especially through the use of social media and integration through the arts and sports. These sessions were run by young experts and activists, and by UNICEF technical experts. The full list of topics can be found in the full Forum Program in Annex I.

The content presented and input came from a unique background of selected participants, with a mixture of individuals selected from civil society, UN agencies, youth in academia, and youth not yet active within the topic of migration – making for a very rich balance of perspectives.

Through the workshops, the participants gained more technical knowledge of migration issues and awareness of avenues for taking action.

Participants learned how they could practically and effectively become more engaged. Nearly 88%, upon the conclusion of the Forum, reported a higher level in understanding of key migration issues. Indeed, an increase in overall technical knowledge was reported across different backgrounds and exposure to migration issues. Those with little to no knowledge of migration issues indicated a significant increase in their understanding of the GCM, and a vast majority of the those with more experience reported to have furthered their existing knowledge. Specifically, 72% of those with prior technical knowledge and 89% with both prior technical knowledge and active involvement agreed that the Forum increased capacity. Please refer to Figure 1.

Reported as particularly informative were the sessions: “Gender and Migration”, “GFMD Youth Rapporteur”, and “Migration Policy: the Impact of Narratives”.

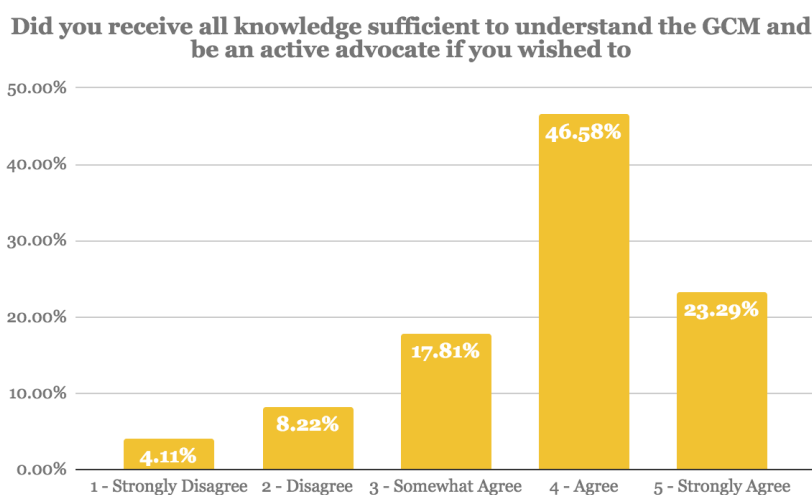
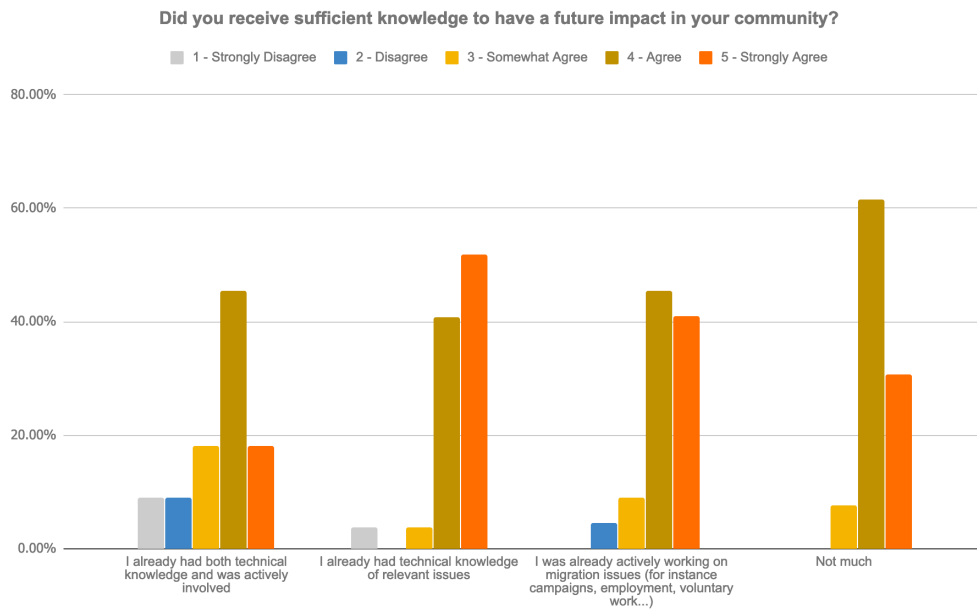


Figure 1

Practical application of technical knowledge

94% of the respondents indicated that, as a result of the capacity-building sessions, they felt they had enough knowledge to make an impact in their communities. This is true for all backgrounds, with some variation. Please refer to Figure 2.



How engaged were you in migration issues before the Youth Forum? **Figure 2**

Reported as particularly impactful were the sessions on migration and health, human trafficking, and migration narratives. Please refer to Figure 3.

Action plans for implementation of the GCM

Workshops on the second day were action-oriented as we ran hands-on capacity-building sessions, helping participants design and plan projects that they could implement to contribute to the implementation of the GCM in their local communities.

How much impact do you think you can have with these tools thanks to the session by...

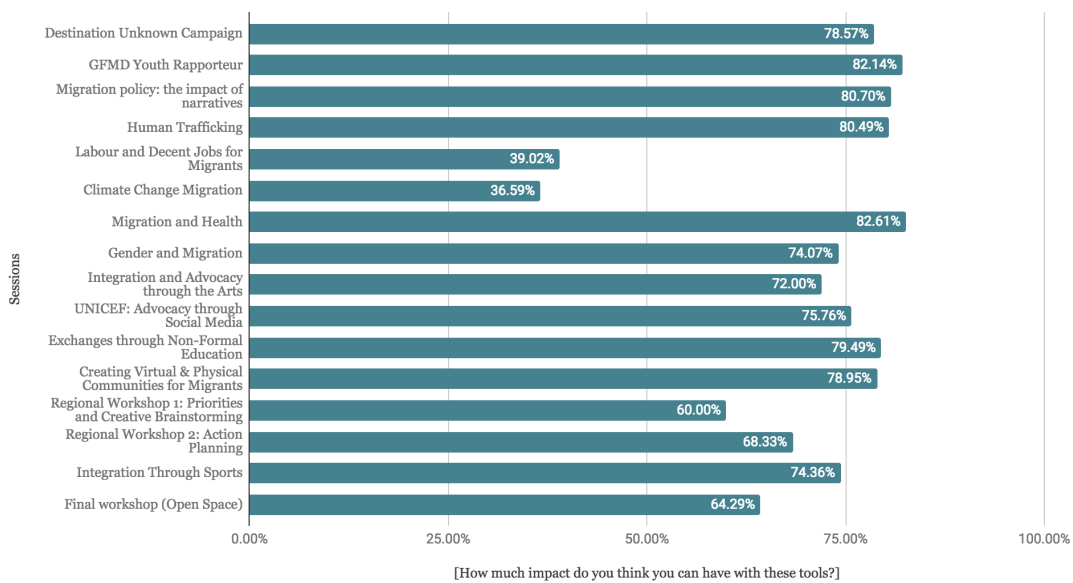


Figure 3

Projects themes spanned from the social and economic integration of new migrants in host societies, to promoting evidence-based and positive narratives on migration and migrants as a whole.

Thanks to the Youth Forum, do you feel empowered to run my projects and efforts in your community?

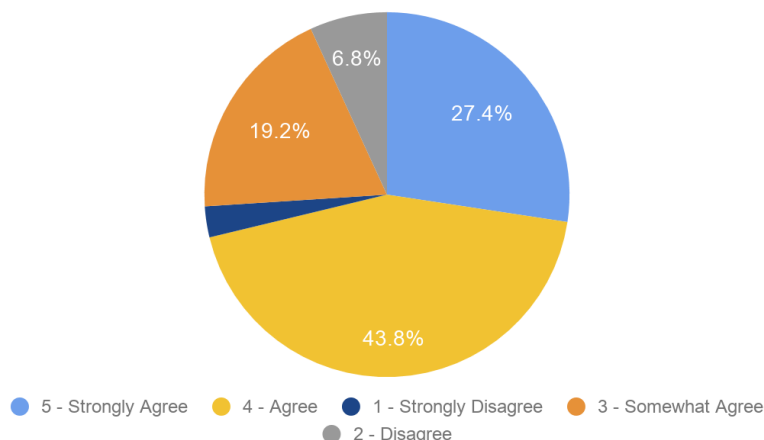


Figure 4

90% of respondents reported feeling empowered to take action in their communities. Both participants with technical knowledge and experience, and those with little to no experience in migration reported feeling empowered and confident that they would be able to be a part of the implementation of the GCM. Please refer to Figure 4.

An aim of the Youth Forum, unlike previous conferences, was to not lose participants and create sustainable linkages, therefore, a virtual networking space was created for participants to share their ideas, needs, and contacts, so that they could continue to engage and support each other. In the future, we will be running virtual workshops to help further develop ideas and offer a supportive space.

Policy Consultations and Regional Priorities

Throughout the Forum, engagement and consultation with participants helped us consolidate priorities that have been used to determine our policy agenda.

Throughout the Forum, the following **thematic priorities** emerged:

- The creation of jobs for youth, and decent work;
- The promotion of quality education and transnational recognition of skills;
- The investment in the mitigation of drivers of forced migration, such as climate change and disaster risk reduction;
- And finally, combating the exploitation of youth, such as human trafficking and child detention, that can occur throughout each phase of migration.

On the second day of the Forum, regional workshops took place to discuss the priorities in the regions and brainstorm on plans to tackle them. The **regional priorities** that emerged were:

- Africa: Increase efforts to facilitate integration of migrants in their host and origin communities, including through entrepreneurship and skills training.
- Americas: Mitigate economic drivers of migration by increasing local opportunities, and facilitating safe and orderly migration for migrants displaced as a result of conflict and emergency situations.
- Asia: Ensure further legal pathways for migration, with attention given to those displaced from such drivers of migration as climate change.
- Europe: Ensuring migrants' access to basic services, and combating misinformation on migrants and migration processes, policies, and impact.
- Middle East and North Africa: Ensure access to education and work protections for youth migrants.

As a result of these consultations, we have been able to consolidate our policy priorities and agenda. Since the conclusion of the Forum, we have pushed these specific priorities and challenges to relevant stakeholders in various platforms.

Amplifying Youth Voices

We prepared a [policy brief](#) and a [statement](#) to share with stakeholders involved in the GCM process. This includes the policy priorities listed above, as well as three specific challenges to the UN system, governments, and civil society stakeholders that are necessary to ensure meaningful youth representation and the achievement of our policy agenda:

1. **Engage us.** Give us a guaranteed seat at the decision-making table. This is before, during and after the Global Forum on Migration and Development, within the UN Migration Network, and throughout all governmental platforms at regional, national, and local levels of implementation.
2. **Invest in us.** Help us with funding to enable youth engagement in all of these platforms, and in all levels of implementation.
3. **Count us in.** Ensure data collection disaggregated by age in order to know the number of youth impacted and to thus be able to formulate evidence-based policies.

We shared the outcomes of the Forum, our priorities and our asks with many representatives and stakeholders at the Forum, at the ICM, and at Migration Week side events, including:

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

A delegation met with the UN SG during the ICM, to share the Forum's outcomes and priorities, as well as to push for a greater role for youth in the implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM. The SG listened to our priorities and showed strong support for our challenges to stakeholders, in particular for youth to be engaged in relevant decision-making platforms, such as the UN Migration Network.

He called for youth to actively engage in the implementation of the GCM. In particular, he urged us to focus on leveraging our social networks to spread awareness on migration issues, and to combat misinformation and negative narratives on migrants. Here is a [video](#) coverage of the meeting by the UN.



IOM and UNICEF

As official partners of the Forum, we worked closely with IOM and UNICEF, and their respective teams. Upon the conclusion of the Forum, we reported the Forum's outcomes and consolidated priorities for them to review. This is reflected in such documents as this [article](#) by IOM. We are grateful to have had UNICEF and IOM, and their respective teams, as strong partners and supporters for this Forum.

Youth Speaker in the Opening Ceremony of the ICM

The ICM youth speaker, Cheryl Perera, was selected by UNMGCY through an open call, and addressed the ICM Opening Ceremony in a moving and galvanizing speech. She spoke about her role in the fight against child trafficking and the commitment of young people towards the implementation of the GCM. She included our three challenges to stakeholders ("Engage us, invest in us, and count us in.") in her speech. Please find here a link to her [full speech](#).

Government Representatives

UNMGCY representatives had the opportunity to meet with various representatives of stakeholders and governments, including the United Kingdom, who showed keen interest in the Forum, and a representative of the European Parliament who came to observe the event and meet participants.

Statement at the ICM Plenary Dialogue, a representative of UNMGCY gave a statement on the outcomes of the Forum which included our priorities, asks, and commitments to the GCM, during the Plenary Dialogue on the second day of the ICM. Here is the [video](#) and the [written statement](#). A representative of UNICEF and Save the Children marked in their statements their support for the Forum and the work of the UNMGCY ([UNICEF speech](#) and [Save the Children speech](#)).



At multiple side events and receptions during Migration Week, including a panel discussion organized by ILO, which included UNMGCY Migration Working Group Global Focal Point, Roxanne Tajbakhsh who spoke as a panelist.

We are working towards the **institutionalization** of the Forum, so as to increase its importance and degree to which its outcome can help influence policy on behalf of youth. We were thrilled to have received support from many speakers, including:

Multiple representatives of the delegation of Ecuador, next year's Chair of the GFMD, including in the Closing Ceremony of the Forum, stated their support for the Forum and expressed their keen interest in having the event as part of the **official program of the GFMD in 2019**. They called on youth to work on ideas in preparation of the upcoming GFMD in 2019.

Louise Arbour, UN Secretary General's Special Representative on International Migration stated that the contribution of the Forum to the GCM's implementation is of great value, as it is the only forum that brings together youth with an exclusive focus on international migration.

Laura Thompson, Deputy-Director General of IOM stated that youth has to hold its political leaders to account, through active participation in international fora and processes. The Forum is an important part of these efforts, and it is in line with UN's recent adoption of the Youth Strategy.

Laurence Chandy, Director of Data, Research and Policy, UNICEF stated that UNICEF stood as an ally in all of the asks and priorities that were identified at the Forum, and issued advice for UNMGCY moving forward on them.

Ilse Hahn, German Ministry of Development stated that the GCM and other international processes such as the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda should facilitate youth participation, empowerment, protection and prevention.

UN Youth Envoy Jayathma Wickramanayake, stood as an ally to the Forum and stated that, in line with the UN Youth Strategy, it is crucial that youth representation is mainstreamed and strengthened.



We received positive feedback from many stakeholders at the Forum and ICM, including from the European Parliament and other civil society organizations. For this, we are very grateful.

Our Participants

We selected **200 participants** from over **2,500 applicants** under the age of 30, based on the merit of their application. We took the following into account: regional and country balance, technical knowledge of migration and the GCM, active involvement in migration issues, and leadership potential and experience.

Regional Representation

For regional balance, we selected representatives from all regions, to bring diverse concerns, experiences, and expertise to the table. We were able to have a significant number of Moroccan participants, given the location of the conference. However, it was difficult to get representation from more distant regions, especially from the Americas and the Pacific, as the journey was more expensive and few youth had the resources to self-fund their participation. The generous funding of our partners and sponsors, such as IOM, Save the Children, and Open Society Foundations, allowed us to bring youth from those underrepresented regions. This made for a more balanced Forum.

Participants Regional Representation

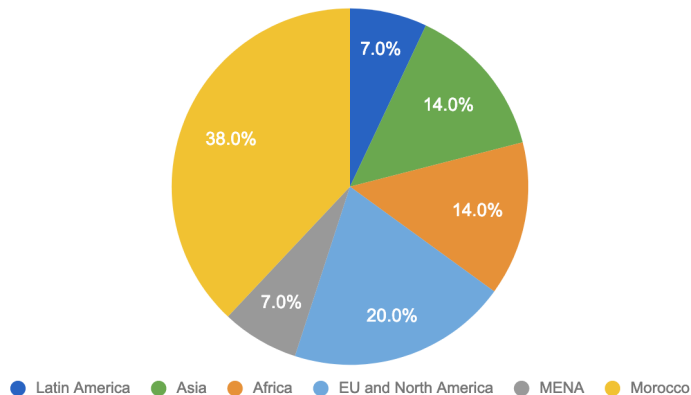


Figure 5

More than 50 nationalities were represented, and over 30% of participants were found to be living outside their country of birth. Please refer to Figure 5.

REGION	COUNTRIES OF NATIONALITY
Asia and the Pacific	Bangladesh, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam, Nepal, China, Sri Lanka, Japan, Thailand, South Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Australia

Americas	Brazil, Nicaragua, Mexico, Honduras, Costa Rica, Colombia, United States
Africa	Kenya, Gambia, Nigeria, Madagascar, South Africa, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Central African Republic
MENA	Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria, Yemen, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey
Europe	Sweden, Greece, Canada, Serbia, Belgium, Austria, Spain, Germany, United Kingdom, France, Poland, Italy, Cyprus, Albania, Finland, Hungary

Professional and Technical Backgrounds

We selected participants for their ability to contribute to the event in their deep technical knowledge and practical experience, and we selected young leaders that had a track record of engagement in other relevant sustainable development issues, in addition to a keen interest in migration governance.

In particular, around half of the participants were working in a professional capacity in development issues, ranging from founders and CEOs of local social enterprises or not-for-profit initiatives focused on youth migrants, to employees of international organizations, such as the IFRC.

Others were involved in migration through volunteering, ranging from helping the resettlement of Venezuelan migrants to engaging in campaigns to support safe migration and to combat misinformation around migration. Around 17% were university students from around the world, studying issues related to migration, ranging from law to international relations, and to doctorate students studying communities of migrants.

Socioeconomic Backgrounds

We managed to have a balanced range of backgrounds, especially medium and medium high, i.e. parents and respondents having completed secondary or post-secondary education.

The funding provided by our sponsors to cover accommodation and flights helped most of the participants from low and medium socioeconomic backgrounds to take part in the Forum. Except for one participant, all low-income participants were either sponsored or funded.

In particular, the funding of flights enabled the participation of some of our most qualified, knowledgeable and active applicants, and was instrumental in doubling Latin American presence and contribution. Without such funding, only 6 representatives would have been present. Please refer to Figure 6.

Self-evaluation of participant's socio-economic background (Income, Education, Occupation of participants and of their family).

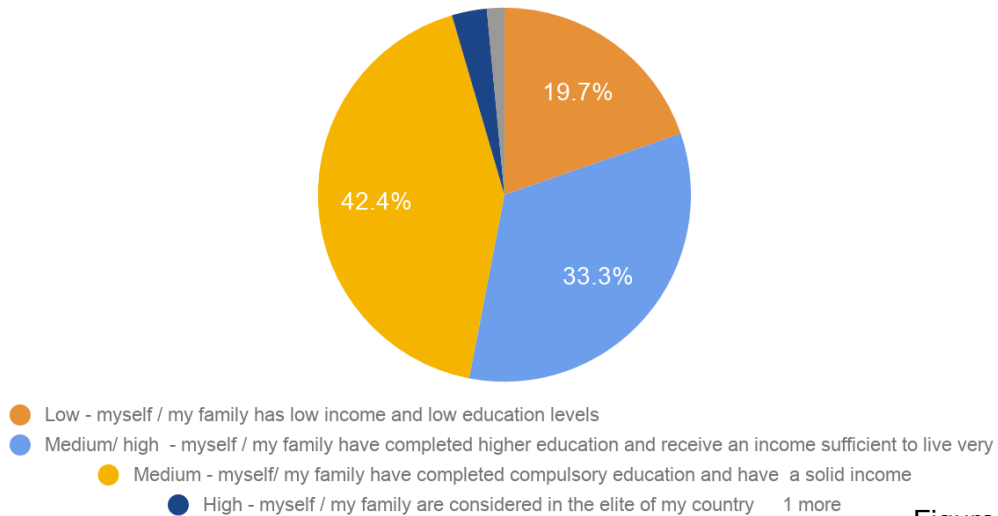


Figure 6

Some of the participants took the initiative to shoot a video on the impact of the GCM on youth, available [here](#).

Spotlight on Funded Participants

IOM and UNICEF

Youth Forum Impact Report

The financial support provided by IOM and UNICEF was instrumental in making this Forum a reality and, most importantly, accessible to young participants.



Part of the grant was used to cover the flight and accommodation costs of 15 outstanding participants without the ability to fund their own journey. We selected them for their strong leadership experience on emerging issues of migration and for their deep technical knowledge. The selected participants included a passionate Malaysian visual campaigner working to combat stereotypes around migrants and refugees, an Afghani activist who coordinates workshops to help the prevention of human trafficking in Tunisia, and a refugee in Gambia who has been actively working for the past 5 years on efforts targeted at ending the conditions that trigger refugee movements and irregular migration.

The participation of these outstanding young leaders greatly enriched the discussions and learning at the Forum, and ultimately, our policy priorities. They are young leaders who will continue to have an impact in their community and who have helped fellow participants with their experience and knowledge.

Support for the accommodation of 100 participants helped most of the participants attend - as those who had to self-fund their travel were not able to fund their own accommodation. Further, the support for the flight costs of 5 Organizing Committee members, as well as the accommodation costs of 10, was what made the arrival and work of these volunteers possible.

Spotlight on Funded Participants

Save the Children, Open Society Foundations

Support by Open Society Foundations in collaboration with Save the Children allowed for 16 more participants to be present at the Forum.

The backgrounds of funded participants ranged from doctorate students studying discrimination and migrants' representation at the political level, to a start-up CEO working to strengthen economic and social integration for young women migrants, to a young campaigner and law researcher focusing on migrants' human rights and integration.



“With your support, you’ve helped, not just to educate myself in the topic of migration, nor just experience a mutual enrichment between the participants with whom I interacted with, but your support opened the path for me to gain a family that without them knowing, remind me what perseverance and hard work can accomplish, despite what poor support you might get from others.

Soon enough, at the end of January, the small team I’ve gathered – currently consisting of three Hondurans and one Mexican, we’ll begin working on what I hope to be an important campaign against the irregular migration of children aged 0-5 years, as a first attempt to start learning and probing the terrain to improve our future efforts. I hope you’ll be able to see its fruits in a few months,” said an Open Society Foundations and Save the Children-funded participant.

Our Campaign

Next Steps

Youth Forum Impact Report

The ICM Youth Forum was part of our *#youth4migration* campaign which included a digital and social media campaign, consultations with youth groups and stakeholders prior to the ICM, a youth delegation to the GFMD, and substantive presence as speakers or audience of important events during Migration Week. Please find [here](#) the impact report for the digital campaign.

The Road to Marrakech has ended, and the GCM has been adopted. It is a major milestone, but implementation is what really matters.

We are committed to the effective implementation of the GCM—to leveraging our networks to bring new innovative solutions to the table; to contributing to the global knowledge platform through the collection of evidence, practices and initiatives for youth migrants; to using our voices to combat and prevent xenophobia and discrimination in our schools and workplaces; and to ensuring that the least privileged, most marginalized young people are included in our organisations.

We have already been running a very successful digital campaign leading up to the Youth Forum. As a result of our consultations and the Youth Forum, we are now equipped with strong policy priorities that we will be working on. We will be continuing our work this year through the UNMGCY Migration Working Group, and we will be looking for more ways to involve youth and speak for youth during the implementation, follow-up and review process of the GCM.

The road to Quito, Ecuador, has now begun. We look forward to working with the GFMD Leadership to include the Forum as part of the official program, and integrate its inputs in the discussion through meaningful engagement of youth representatives and speakers during Civil and Government Society Days.

Our challenges to you: Engage us. Invest in us. And count us in.

Please contact migrationgfp@unmgcy.org for more information.





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Annex I: Youth Forum Programme

The Youth Forum activities were meant to facilitate capacity and knowledge-building, in addition to strengthening the role of young people in the implementation, follow-up and review process of the GCM.

Through this Forum, we were able to bring together UN Member States, UN organizations, humanitarian and development partners, the private sector and affected communities with youth from different countries and communities to discuss, engage and chart the way forward for the involvement of young people in the implementation, follow up and review processes of the GCM from global to local level. This gave the young people the opportunity to design a roadmap and actionable plan to implement the GCM on the community level.

Day 1 of the Programme

Time	Event	Title
09:00 - 10:30	Opening Plenary	
10:45 - 12:00 Knowledge-building Sessions on the Global Compact for Migration	Workshop	GFMD Youth Rapporteur
	Workshop	Migration Policy: The Impact of Narratives
13:00 - 14:00	Optional Networking Fair 1	
14:00 - 15:15 Knowledge-building Sessions on the Topic of Migration	Workshop 1	Human Trafficking
	Workshop 2	Labour and Decent Jobs for Migrants
	Workshop 3	Climate Change Migration
	Workshop 4	Migration and Health
	Workshop 5	Gender and Migration
15:30 - 16:45 Inspiration Through Skills Workshops	Workshop 1	Integration Through Sports
	Workshop 2	Integration and Advocacy Through the Arts
	Workshop 3	UNICEF: Advocacy Through Social Media
	Workshop 4	Exchanges Through Non-Formal Education
	Workshop 5	Virtual and Physical Communities for Migrants
17:00 - 17:30	End of Day Brief	

Day 2 of the Programme

Time	Event	Title
09:00 - 10:30 Region Blasts for Priority Settings in GCM iFuR	Workshop 1	Europe
	Workshop 2	Africa
	Workshop 3	Americas
	Workshop 4	Asia
	Workshop 5	MENA
10:45 - 12:00 Priority setting and/or regional action plans	Workshop 1	Europe
	Workshop 2	Africa
	Workshop 3	Americas
	Workshop 4	Asia
	Workshop 5	MENA
13:00 - 14:00	Optional Networking Fair 2	
14:00 - 15:15	Workshop 1	Action Plan Workshop
	Workshop 2	
	Workshop 3	
	Workshop 4	
	Workshop 5	
15:30 - 16:45	Closing Session	

Annex II - Regional Priorities

Notes on the Regional Blast for Africa at the Youth Forum.

The main objective of this session is to ensure that participants review the inputs of the previous sessions, raise awareness, brainstorm creative ideas on practical projects/action plans of implementation as well as increase their knowledge on Regional Priorities.

The participants shared their impressions about Saturday's sessions, with the themes cutting across subjects on Migration Narrative, Climate change and migration, Human Trafficking, and Social Media and Advocacy. They believed them very relevant to understanding and addressing the realities of the region.

Participants were also discussed the Common African Position (CAP) on the GCM by the African Union. This gave them the opportunity to build their understanding and Action Plans around the GCM in relation to the Africa Region. Having discussed about the regional priorities in relation to the GCM, participants were certain of its complementarity and as tailored implementation of the GCM geared towards the key priorities of the African region.

Participants also discussed important themes, including the inclusion of migrant communities in the diaspora to scale up and complement efforts in the implementation process of the GCM. They identified entrepreneurial skills development has been something identified as a key component in integrating migrant and returnees into the host and origin communities. They discussed the potential for the use of technology as a tool in improving governance and protection of migrants along all migratory routes. Some participants raised the importance of Investment in research and data to increase policy and decision making around migration at all levels. Also, many supported the need to ensuring the availability of proper mechanisms and accountability systems through inter-regional collaboration to protect all migrants moving inter-regionally.

Overall, there are many priorities for action. A prominent one that emerged from the discussion is to increase efforts to facilitate the integration of migrants in their host and origin communities, including through entrepreneurship and skills training.

Notes on the Regional Blast for Americas at the Youth Forum.

It was asked to relate the topics discussed the previous day with the situation in Latin America and what are the priorities that should be addressed. The participants started discussing the context of the migration in the Americas and saying that usually the continent has a broad politic of open borders, but that policy makers within countries do not consider migrants and diversity during the decision making. In the same sense, after the person migrate, they need to find policies that will integrate them to society and allow them to have a decent and regular type of work, to insert them in society and not make them vulnerable and marginalized.

There were three major issues discussed in depth among the participants that will be summarized by the following part. The participants brought up some interesting topics as the need to re-configure gender migration research and policies. Women cannot be seen as weak and victims, but many times they take the lead to carry the whole family with themselves, running from a violent and insecure environment. Moreover, when people talk about human traffic for sexual exploitation, there are many focus on women, but there is few talk about men sexual exploitation and the units able to help this kind of situation are very rare. Therefore, there is a need to see gender-migration issues from a more holistic perspective and policy-makers need to address these issues considering all the complexities.

Another topic brought up is the need to regulate safe pathways for labour-migration. In the youth view, most people who migrate in Latin America are only looking for a safe / non-violent environment and a way to live their life, sustaining themselves. If there was a 'legal' or regular way to migrate, they would not cross borders in dangerous situation or find themselves in irregular situations in other countries. Policies facilitating hiring foreigners and also incentivizing diversities are an interesting way to promote this. However, it was also discussed the need for migrants to respect the country's laws and to understand that they have rights and duties in the other country.

The last topic approached is the interaction of environmental phenomena (mostly disasters) with other social factors as violence and conflict, that happen often in central America and the Caribbean and the need for the governments to see that it is more than only economic drivers that make people move. Therefore, there is a need to change the discourse of refugees vs. economic migrants, to understand the bigger picture.

The priorities for action in the Latin American region are complex, but some of the most prominent ones that were identified are to mitigate economic drivers of migration by increasing local opportunities, and facilitating safe and orderly migration for migrants displaced as a result of conflict and emergency situations.

Notes on the Regional Blast for Asia-Pacific at the Youth Forum.

Participants reviewed the key areas for reform and concrete action as identified by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) as necessary for the Global Compact on Migration in the region. They discussed and showed support, in particular, for the following points:

1. Creating more and simpler regular pathways for labour migration of low-skilled migrant workers, in line with countries' identified needs and development strategies and international human rights norms (Objective 5);
2. Ensuring the fair treatment of migrant workers in line with existing national labour regulations and human rights standards, including in informal sectors, such as domestic work;
3. Reducing remittance transaction costs and creating more regular remittance channels with low costs;

4. Creating opportunities for regular migration for those choosing to migrate as a climate change adaptation strategy or those who are forced to migrate as a result of natural disasters;
5. Combating trafficking and smuggling of migrant workers through information campaigns, better law enforcement, regional and subregional cooperation, creating more opportunities for safe and regular migration, as well as through protection of victims of trafficking and smuggling.

Participants also discussed the varied experiences of migrants, including the different drivers in the home country (including climate change and lack of economic opportunities) and varying situations in the receiving community, in terms of policies and societal structure.

One of the priorities that emerged from the discussion and brainstorming is the need to ensure further legal pathways for migration, with attention given to those displaced from such drivers of migration as climate change. Other themes and ideas, included the importance of considering gender patterns, access to legal and cultural training specific to the host communities to facilitate integration, the importance of tools to facilitate economic opportunities, the importance of formal education and skills trainings.

Notes on the Regional Blast for MENA at the Youth Forum.

There was a great representation of MENA Countries, especially Morocco and the discussion was very lively. Participants discussed the misinformation and lack of knowledge of the reasons why people decide to migrate. It is often depicted as a choice born out of a fleeting desire, rather than an important and often hard choice made by people in constrained situations. Many drivers were cited, including lack of economic opportunities, conflict, and climate change. Participants in particular discussed how little attention and prevention mechanisms have been put in place for the impact of climate change, and also to prevent it.

A very important point of focus was the life and protection of migrants. Participants raised the point that legal status affects their treatment greatly. Undocumented migrants are often abused, especially in the context of labour and access to services. Thus the lack of protection for migrants and the lack of sufficient legal pathways for migration causes migrants to be in unsecure situations, facing human trafficking as well as lack of legal protection and services in the receiving countries.

Moreover, migrants of all statuses face discrimination in their access to services, including healthcare and education, labour, and face xenophobia when trying to assimilate in their new places of living. The language barrier also often plays a role to enhance these separations.

Participants advocated for more protection for migrants, especially youth, in their migration journey (avoiding trafficking), in their laboural contexts once in the country of arrival, and by providing universal access to basic services such as education and health. Finally, participants also noted that it is crucial to take into account the

different national and local contexts in policy making, something that they noted has not always been done in the past to the detriment of the success of the policies.

Notes on the Regional Blast for Europe at the Youth Forum.

The participants discussed the current situation in Europe, referring also to specific sub-regional and national context, as well as cross-cutting themes. In particular, it was stressed the need to tackle root causes of migration, including climate change and conflict areas. Participants also discussed how the lack of regular pathways to migration creates high levels of risks of being a victim to human trafficking and other human rights violations.

Moreover, participants recognized the need to provide basic services to all migrants, regardless of their status, in line with universal human rights. They also recognized the difficulties of doing so, and for this reason called for partnerships across borders to help each other to ensure that everyone's human rights are respected.

Another important point that was raised was the crucial role of integration in making migration safe and orderly. Efforts need to be put in place to actively encourage integration across cultures and people, and many participants suggested actions to do so through cultural/sports activities, workshops, and awareness raising campaigns not only targeted at the government but also at the public. The use of social media and videos was raised as particularly effective. Possible challenges to overcome were considered, such as different languages within Europe, and varying levels of education and engagement.

In relation to awareness campaigns, the need to spread awareness about the GCM and debunking misinformation was identified as an action point. It was also deemed of most importance to raise awareness about the impact of migrants in their host communities, and of the different possible policies at place. This needs to be coupled with efforts to ensure that all migrants have access to basic services so that their human rights can be respected.

Annex III - Summaries of High-Level Statements

Opening Ceremony

Louise Arbour, UN SG SR on Migration

The GCM brings to the fore existing legal norms and principles, including those related to the rights of children. The best way to operationalise this and to appropriately frame migration policy is to ensure that children and youth are the main advocates of their own interests. Indeed, children and youth face specific challenges, which the UNICEF Youth Poll has in part captured: 40% travel alone, 30% received no help in their journey and 58% have lost at least one year in schooling. This means that the aforementioned principles are often not implemented and respected, including the fundamental human right to education. Other important issues are migrant children and youth detention, as well as inadequate guardianship systems. The GCM is an important instrument that seeks to address these issues. Specific operational calls for action include reducing youth unemployment and ensuring the availability of education.

Agreeing on the GCM is an achievement and its adoption is a milestone, but implementation is what really matters. In this regard, the Youth Forum plays a unique role, as it is the only forum that brings together youth with an exclusive focus on international migration. Migration will increase in the future and we are entering a new phase in human mobility, which will require concerted policy responses and efforts. If well managed, migration is a source of prosperity. In this context, the contribution of the Youth Forum to the GCM's implementation is of great value.

Laura Thompson, Deputy-Director General of IOM

This is the largest generations of youth ever, forming the majority of the world's population. Moreover, this generation has largely grown up without mental borders due to the internet and in heterogeneous societies, so youth is more likely to be 'ethnic and color-blind' than previous generations. If we want to continue living in open societies where the values inclusiveness and diversity are respected, and where migration continues to be an important driver of progress, then concerted efforts are needed by youth. Indeed, in order to make migration a positive force and to ensure the positive migratory experience of individuals, good policy is needed. However, in the context of rising populism and growing xenophobia, this is becoming more difficult. The open nature of our societies is under threat. To counteract these trends, youth has to hold its political leaders to account to promote the open society that they want to live in. Alternatively put, youth as well as a range of other actors have to 'come out of the closet'.

Specifically, regarding the GCM, this means harnessing the energy of youth to further its implementation and to promote a positive narrative through advocacy and by sharing information via social networks. At the same time, youth has to engage with policy-makers on their own grounds through active participation in international fora and processes. The Youth Forum is an important part of these efforts. Indeed, this is an exciting time for youth engagement in light of the UN's recent adoption of the Youth Strategy.

Laurence Chandy, Director of Data, Research and Policy, UNICEF

Youth should focus on making their voices heard to make a difference, which is particularly important in the context of the the upcoming implementation phase of the GCM. In fact, during the Marrakesh Migration Week, there have been promising movements in this direction, as the GFMD as well as the ICM are inviting youth speakers.

UNICEF Youth Ambassador of the U-Report

The U-Report is an information-gathering mechanism that shares a poll via SMS. The about six million U-reporters in over 50 countries allow UNICEF to get real-time updates in crisis situations. 40 000 of the responders were migrants are refugees between 14 and 24 years of age. One third were male and two thirds were female. They were from all over the world. In response to the first question, 'why did you leave?', 67% responded that they forced to leave, of which 57% noted because of violence. Some also left because of poverty or to seek an education. The U-Report led to four main findings regarding children and youth on the move:

- 1) Many young migrants and refugees make their journey alone
- 2) They receive little help along the way and many miss out on their education
- 3) They feel discriminated against
- 4) They are determined to succeed in the face of these challenges

On the basis of these findings, the he calls for youth to have a seat on the table and to have their ideas taken seriously. This requires serious investment in youth.

Closing Ceremony

Jayathma Wickramanayake, UN SG Youth Representative

There is the underlying notion in international agreements that youths are responsible for their future implementation, but all too often the lack of financing or space means that youth play no role in their creation. Involving young people has a positive impact on the substantive content of international agreements themselves, as ideas become better and more practical. Therefore, in line with the UN Youth Strategy, it is crucial that youth representation is mainstreamed and strengthened. It is the right of young people to be heard.

The debate surrounding migration and the GCM is particularly polarised, and focuses disproportionately on the negative aspects of migration. However, most migration is regular and has an overwhelmingly positive impact on our societies. In international fora, when discussing migration, we must be sure to listen and reflect on these critical voices, but we must also humanise migration to avoid treating it as an abstract concept. The GCM is a strong platform to guide future policy and youth have a key role to play in its review and implementation.

Representative of Ecuador to the Youth Forum

The Representative highlighted the inclusive approach of Ecuadorian Chairmanship, which calls on youth to work on ideas in preparation of the upcoming GFMD in 2019. The Youth Forum will be an important element of the 2019 GFMD. In fact, the Ecuadorian GFMD Chairmanship is in the process of breaking the GFMD into

regional components, in line with the Youth Forum's structure. In this sense, the Youth Forum will be complementary to the 2019 GFMD.

Ilse Hahn, German Ministry of Development

Germany reiterates its commitment to the GCM and its three fundamental objectives of achieving a shared understanding of migration, developing improved migration policies and building unity and coherence in policy responses.

One third of migrants are youths, which face specific vulnerabilities, including an increased risk of trafficking and exploitation, the lack of access to education and other basic services, as well as the exposure to racism and xenophobia. In light of this, and taking into account the important role of youths in society, the GCM and other international processes such as the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda should facilitate youth participation, empowerment, protection and prevention. Since the GCM takes the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, youths are very much part of the process. Regarding the GCM's implementation, youth ideas and inclusion is needed to formulate impactful programmes.

Laurence Chandy, Director of Data, Research and Policy, UNICEF

During the GFMD and the Youth Forum, youth has highlighted for three main priorities: that youth should have a seat at the table, that it should receive adequate investment and that their ideas should be taken seriously. UNICEF stands as an ally in all of these issues and issues the following advice:

- Regarding having a seat at the table, this is increasingly being recognised, particularly in light of Ecuador's efforts to institutionalize youth engagement in the GFMD. Other opportunities include the establishment of the UN Migration Network and the GCM accountability mechanism.
- Regarding receiving investment, efforts should focus on the national level.
- Regarding being taken seriously, youth should focus on content creation, so that they can share constructive, original ideas when given the opportunity to share.