



International Organization for Migration

COUNCIL 110th Session, Friday 29 of November 2019.

Statement by Ms. Monica Ferro, Director of the Geneva Office

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you chair.

Like the Member States before me, I would like to congratulate you in your election and wish you the best of luck in your mandate.

In accordance with the objectives laid out in the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and in line with the UN repositioning process, UNFPA engages with the UN system and the UN Network on Migration in supporting the implementation of the Global Compact at the national level.

We recognize the need for all of us to operate in a rapidly changing environment and the need to be equipped with evidence and tools to contribute effectively to migration governance at global, regional and national levels.

For that, we are committed to work with all members of the UN family, in particular the IOM, and Member States and partners to ensure our activities are well planned and well-coordinated.

Internally, UNFPA established a Fund-wide hub of migration experts to enhance the critical mass of UNFPA staff supporting the network, as relevant to our specific mandate on population data, protection, and health.

With respect to data, we at UNFPA understand that numbers matter because people matter; and currently systematic demographic data on migrant population is



hard to come by. We are committed to assisting Member States to collect and utilize accurate data, nationally relevant and internationally comparable, on issues related to migrants.

UNFPA's work in strengthening national population data systems speaks to the objective 1 of the Compact. In doing so, we promote the role of the population and housing census as the backbone of national statistical systems, and as part of the UNFPA strategy for the 2020 census round, we advocate for all countries to include migration-related questions in national censuses, including questions on 1) country of birth, 2) country of citizenship, and 3) year or period of arrival.

In addition, we work with NSOs to ensure timely analysis and dissemination of census data, disaggregated and tabulated in accordance with international standards. With respect to protection, UNFPA has widespread activities in more than 130 countries, including all the major countries of migration origin and transit. We continue to be an active and critical partner in circumstances of humanitarian crises providing lifesaving reproductive health and gender-based violence (GBV) services.

Our offices are active in relief and protection efforts and the provision of sexual and reproductive health care, including antenatal and postnatal care services, safe delivery and dignity kits, HIV and Sexually transmitted infections (STI) counseling and testing, and counseling and emergency care for those subjected to gender-based violence.

UNFPA works closely with others in the United Nations system, particularly UN Women and WHO, to end gender-based violence (GBV), and within the UN system, leads the GBV Area of Responsibility in humanitarian settings.



UNFPA is committed to delivering sexual and reproductive health services in the midst of conflict, the aftermath of natural disaster and in transition settings. Building resilience and preparedness for “building back better” is a global priority.

Lastly, UNFPA partners with the Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative (4MI) to focus on the health policy and service needs of young migrants in urban hubs, including Beirut, Cairo, Tunis and Nairobi, and in the next phase Niamey, Ouagadougou and Bamako. All of these cities are experiencing high transit mobility, both internal and international, and they are locations where UNFPA has strong country support programmes. Data will be used to better understand the specific needs of young men and women migrants to strengthen UNFPA’s direct work in service delivery, protection and support systems.

The aspiration to ‘leave no one behind’ cannot be met without identifying those who often go uncounted and understanding who faces the greatest inequalities, and therefore supporting countries in collecting data on who is most likely to be systematically disadvantaged at the various stages of mobility is of greatest importance to UNFPA.

Thank you