

HISTORY & CONNECTION

The [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration \(GCM\)](#) is the first inter-governmentally negotiated agreement, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, covering all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner. The GCM was endorsed by the UN General Assembly on 19 December 2018, following nearly two years of consultations, stocktaking and international negotiations. It addresses the challenges and opportunities of international migration in a comprehensive and cooperative manner. The GCM serves as a framework for cooperation and dialogue among states, emphasizing the protection of migrant rights and enhanced international cooperation on migration and the issues surrounding it.

In many ways, the [Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative \(MICIC\)](#) can be seen as one of the precursors to the GCM. While the 2018 Global Compact for Migration is the most comprehensive multilateral agreement on migration, MICIC launched in 2016, was an example of “mini-multilateralism,” wherein a handful of governments under the co-leadership of the Philippines and the United States recognized the heightened vulnerability of migrants during crisis or environmental disaster and sought to help address this issue. As a result, these governments jointly created the practical, and non-binding MICIC Guidelines, focused on meeting the needs of migrants and host communities before, during, and after a crisis.



On Children’s Day, over 10,000 people came together in Rzeszów, Poland to celebrate. Inclusion events such as these help migrants connect with host communities © IOM 2023

MICIC Guidelines share a common objective of promoting and safeguarding migrants’ rights and well-being. Both documents were developed through a comprehensive, inclusive, and collaborative process involving governments, international organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders. Together the two documents aim to strengthen the protection, assistance, and inclusion of migrants, including during times of crisis.

The MICIC Guidelines are narrower in scope than the much broader Global Compact on Migration, but helped to inform certain aspects of the GCM’s design. In fact, in the 2016 [New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants](#), the document where UN Member States announced a commitment to deliver the Global Compact on Migration, the MICIC Initiative was explicitly mentioned as a tool for national authorities to support migrants in countries experiencing conflict or natural disasters. Furthermore, within the GCM itself, under Objective 2: *Minimize the Adverse Drivers and Structural Factors that Compel People to Leave their Country of Origin*, the MICIC Guidelines are explicitly mentioned in reference to including migrants in national emergency preparedness and response through state-led consultative processes.

While the MICIC Guidelines target migrants in the context of crisis or environmental disaster, the GCM provides a broader framework for safe, orderly, and regular migration globally. However, both the GCM and

KEY LINKAGES BY GCM OBJECTIVE

There are many ways in which the MICIC Guidelines can be valuable tools for realizing the objectives laid out in the GCM. The below list highlights some areas of interconnectedness between the two documents.

OBJECTIVE 2: MINIMIZE THE ADVERSE DRIVERS AND STRUCTURAL FACTORS THAT COMPEL PEOPLE TO LEAVE THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



2 MINIMIZE DRIVERS

This objective aims to address social, economic, environmental and political factors which may compel people to seek a livelihood elsewhere through irregular migration. It highlights the need to monitor and anticipate the development of risks and threats that might trigger or affect migration movements including by developing emergency procedures and toolkits and stresses the need to consider migrants in these efforts. As referenced in the GCM, the MICIC Guidelines can help states to ensure that migrants are accounted for in national preparedness and response systems. (MICIC Guideline 4 & 5).

OBJECTIVE 7: ADDRESS AND REDUCE VULNERABILITIES IN MIGRATION



7 REDUCE VULNERABILITIES

GCM Objective 7, which aims to address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration, has a direct connection to the MICIC Guidelines which aim to ensure migrants caught up in crises have equal access to assistance and support. The goals of GCM objective 7 can be achieved by ensuring that all persons enjoy inclusive access to consular assistance (MICIC Guideline 7), humanitarian assistance (MICIC Guideline 11), and life-saving information (MICIC Guideline 9).

OBJECTIVE 8: SAVE LIVES AND ESTABLISH COORDINATED INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS ON MISSING MIGRANTS



8 SAVE LIVES

GCM Objective 8 and the MICIC Guidelines both prioritize the preservation of migrants' lives. Various components mentioned in the MICIC Guidelines, such as ensuring access to humanitarian assistance (MICIC Guideline 11), establishing communications systems (MICIC Guideline 6), and moving people out of harm's way (MICIC Guideline 13) can help States realize this GCM objective. All items relate closely to the first principle of the MICIC Guidelines "First, save lives".

OBJECTIVE 14: ENHANCE CONSULAR PROTECTION, ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION THROUGHOUT THE MIGRATION CYCLE



14 CONSULAR PROTECTION

GCM Objective 14 and the MICIC Guidelines share a focus on cooperation, practice exchange, and bilateral agreements. Both underscore the value of such agreements for collaborative efforts, successful approach sharing, and consular service coordination to better aid and protect migrants. Consular services from a migrant's country of origin during a crisis form a key pillar of the MICIC guidelines. These guidelines offer concrete recommendations for orderly, efficient, and timely consular services during crises.

OBJECTIVE 15: PROVIDE ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES FOR MIGRANTS



15 ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES

GCM Objective 15 providing access to basic services for migrants, aligns with the principles of the MICIC Guidelines on non-discrimination and cooperation. The MICIC Guidelines champion fair treatment and equal access to services, particularly in crisis situations, without bias towards immigration status, nationality, ethnicity, gender, age, disability, or other differentiating characteristics (MICIC Guideline 11).



OBJECTIVE 16: EMPOWER MIGRANTS AND SOCIETIES TO REALIZE FULL INCLUSION AND SOCIAL COHESION



16 INCLUSION AND SOCIAL COHESION

The GCM Objective 16, which aims to empower migrants and societies for full inclusion and social cohesion, aligns with the MICIC Guidelines through the emphasis on providing support to migrants throughout their migration journey. The inclusion of migrants through community programmes complements this objective by encouraging social integration of migrants in their host communities. This is particularly important in the post-crisis space, to help migrants rebuild their lives (MICIC Guideline 14) and support in the recovery of their community (MICIC Guideline 15).

OBJECTIVE 23: STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION



23 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Objective 23 aims to enhance international collaboration and global partnerships to ensure safe and well-managed migration. This objective aligns with the MICIC Guidelines, which underscore the importance of international cooperation and coordination to protect the rights and address the needs of migrants affected by crises. This includes the establishment of coordination agreements before a crisis (MICIC Guideline 7) to improve rapid collective responses by multiple actors to support migrants

MICIC AND THE INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION REVIEW FORUM (IMRF)

The International Migration Review Forum is the primary intergovernmental global platform to discuss and share progress on the implementation of all aspects of the GCM. The first IMRF took place in May 2022 in New York. The MICIC Guidelines serve as a blueprint for concrete commitments to be made for the implementation of the GCM and helped guide discussion in Roundtable 1. During the IMRF, participants highlighted the role of regional and local actors and made a call for increasing space and resources at the local level. In addition, there was a clarion call for more meaningful participation of migrants. In the IMRF Progress Declaration Member States declare their “profound solidarity with and support for migrants caught up in situations of crisis in countries of transit and destination”.



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IOM provides emergency support to survivors of the earthquakes in Türkiye. March 2023. © IOM 2023

