



## **Using the MICIC Initiative Guidelines To Advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

### **Introduction**

The world has witnessed an increasing number of natural disasters and conflicts in which non-citizens, including migrants and refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons are seriously affected (e.g. in Libya in 2011, in Japan during the tsunami and nuclear incident that same year, and more recently in Yemen). The Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) Initiative was launched to help States and other stakeholders to better protect migrants caught in a country experiencing a conflict or a natural disaster. Migrants have unique vulnerabilities in the context of these crises, but stakeholders can overlook migrants' needs in responses and migrants are especially vulnerable to "falling through the cracks" of preparedness measures and emergency and post-crisis efforts.

The MICIC Initiative "Guidelines to Protect Migrants in Countries Experiencing Conflict or Natural Disaster" (Guidelines) provide practical, concrete guidance on how to save lives, improve protection, and address the needs of migrants in countries experiencing crisis. The Guidelines are for all actors – States, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector – and cover preparedness, emergency response, and recovery.

### **The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

The Declaration and the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) applies to all countries, developed and developing, and it addresses development aspects of humanitarian affairs. It includes a number of migration-related targets: a call for eradicating forced labor and human trafficking; securing a safe working environment, including for migrant workers; reducing the cost of transferring migrant remittances; and significantly reducing the number of people affected by disasters. In the Declaration, States committed to cooperate internationally to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants regardless of migration status. In addition, target 10.7 of the 2030 Agenda calls for States to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

The 2030 Agenda makes several references to migration and migration related issues relevant for the MICIC Initiative, in particular commitments to:

- Reduce the impact of humanitarian crises and forced displacement on development progress;
- Empower vulnerable groups, including refugees, internally displaced persons, and migrants;
- Recognize the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development;
- Develop and implement holistic disaster risk management at all levels, in line with the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#).

## Using the Guidelines to Advance the 2030 Agenda

States can use the MICIC Initiative Guidelines to implement and advance commitments under the 2030 Agenda including:

a) **Achieving well managed migration policies**

The target to “facilitate orderly, safe, and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies” confirms the consensus on the need to further improve migration governance, and explore institutional gaps and best practices. The MICIC Initiative Guidelines provide advice on the roles and responsibilities of, among others, host States and States of transit and origin, and on what each can do at the pre-crisis preparedness, emergency phase, and post-crisis reconstruction and recovery phases to better protect and assist vulnerable migrants. The Guidelines identify practices, and could be used by States to assess and address gaps in their policies and programs.

b) **Building resilient communities and disaster risk reduction**

The Guidelines provide concrete recommendations and practices on incorporating migrants in disaster risk reduction strategies and contingency planning, at all levels, and for all actors and on empowering migrants to strengthen their resilience and coping mechanisms

c) **Reducing the impact of humanitarian crises**

The Guidelines could assist States in reducing risk and mitigate the negative consequences of humanitarian crises on migrants and their communities. Concrete guidance and practices are provided to help States, employers, recruiters, international organizations, and civil society develop policies and programs with the objective of decreasing the extent to which migrants need to rely on the humanitarian system (States and organizations) for assistance. Improved planning and capacity to respond to the needs of migrants contributes to a more effective emergency response and mitigates the impact of humanitarian crises.

d) **Empowering vulnerable groups, including migrants**

The Guidelines recognize the capacity of migrants to help themselves, their families, and their communities, as actors with their own capacities and resources. Guideline 3 provides advice on how States and other actors can empower migrants and fulfill their rights in ordinary times.

e) **Recognize the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development**

The Guidelines offer practices and approaches States can use to incorporate migration into recovery and development plans and to ensure that migrants who stay in the country post-crisis can contribute to recovery. In addition, States can use the Guidelines to assess how migrants who return to their country of origin can contribute to their local communities, and how to adopt a community-based, development approach to managing mass returns of migrants.