

## **Fostering partnerships to realize migration-related goals in the Sustainable Development Agenda and managing the future of human mobility: *Policy Brief on Youth Perspectives in MENA Region.***

Promoting coordination and collaboration between different governments, civil society, and all stakeholders' efforts to achieve our shared goals is crucial in order to avoid duplication, improve efficacy, and better distribute resources. Following the GFMD Chair's recognition of "*Fostering partnerships to realize migration-related goals in the Sustainable Development Agenda and managing the future of human mobility*" as a priority theme, the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UN MGCY) led an open MENA regional consultation on youth perspectives and priorities on this topic, for which we consulted 20 locally-based youth-led and youth-focused organizations with a national or international focus, acting in 6 countries, and representing 15,000 young leaders in migration issues. The results of these consultations are summarized in this policy brief.

### **Key Youth-Led and Youth-Focused Projects**

Youth organisations are at the forefront in fostering partnerships to include migrants in the achievement of the SDGs, including through:

- Promoting education and intercultural exchange through education mobility programs and exchange volunteering opportunities. .
- Providing quality education to children and youth from refugee and migrant backgrounds to ensure they are not left behind in the achievement of SDG4, including through after hours and in afternoon shifts and through innovative projects working directly with local communities in response to their needs. .
- Lobbying for policy reform, including for the abolition of outdated labour laws, for instance the Kafala system, and work to remove causes of vulnerability in migrant populations. .=
- Fostering social entrepreneurship led by young people, supporting them to develop business solutions and projects to leverage opportunities and support migrant communities .

### **Policy Recommendation for Government and Other Actors**

To achieve the SDGs by 2030 and ensure migrants are not left behind, partnerships are a not only a tool but a necessity. **Stakeholders, including those present in these consultations, should act as leaders in our countries of operation and work to align our goals and targets to the 2030 Agenda, as well as to invest resources in multi-stakeholder partnerships with rigorous monitoring and review.**

Grassroots organizations, including youth-led initiatives, are doing excellent work to include migrant populations in the achievement of the SDGs, and they also have specific knowledge of their beneficiary populations. However, they are often left behind in more important partnerships. **We call on governments, INGOs, and donors, to leverage the impact and added capacity of grassroots organizations by engaging them in direct partnerships and joint efforts.** As youth, we stand ready to partner with our initiatives.

Youth and children will be left behind if we do not address their priorities in a timely and effective manner, including ensuring continuity of education. **We call on governments to ensure that the priorities of young migrants and children are included in all development and policy plans, including education and labour market insertion.** As youth, we stand ready to share our lessons learnt and best practices, partner to make this a reality, and nominate young people to support in the design of inclusive policies and projects responsive to children and youth specific circumstances.