Concept Note: Migrants in Crisis
Parallel Meeting to the MICIC Regional Consultation for the MENA Region
11-12 March 2016, Beirut, Lebanon

Background

Since 2011, governments and intergovernmental organizations have focused their attention on situations in which migrants are adversely affected by emergencies and disasters that strike their countries of destination or transit. This global focus on what was then referred to as "stranded migrants" emerged in response to the large-scale evacuations of migrants during the Arab Spring uprisings and subsequent natural disasters in Japan (earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disaster), Thailand (unprecedented flooding), Haiti (earthquake), United States (Hurricane Sandy), among others. These disasters and emergencies exposed significant deficiencies in the policies and procedures of both origin and destination countries in responding to the particular needs of migrants—documented and undocumented—to ensure their safety and to facilitate equitable access to assistance.

The "stranded migrant" concept gained political traction through efforts of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on International Migration, Peter Sutherland, at the 2012 Global Forum on Migration & Development (GFMD), who cited addressing the challenges of "stranded migrants" as a priority. Likewise, global civil society included stranded migrants in its 8-point, 5-year action agenda[1], expanding the concept to include migrants in distress. Point 3 of the action agenda calls for:

>…reliable, multi-actor mechanisms to address the assistance and protection needs of **migrants stranded in distress**, beginning with those trapped in situations of war, conflict or disaster (natural or man-made) but with the same logic and urgency with respect to migrant victims of violence or trauma in transit. This should include specific attention to egregious gaps in protection and assistance for migrant women who are raped, and the thousands of children that are unaccompanied and abused along the major migration corridors in every region of the world. Benchmarks could include further work and multi-stakeholder capacity-building on frameworks developed by agencies with such responsibilities including the international organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the consolidation of relevant principles and practices under existing refugee, humanitarian and human rights laws.

The 8-point, 5-year action agenda served as the cornerstone of civil society advocacy at the 2013 UN High Level Dialogue on Migration & Development (UNHLD), and the "stranded migrants" priority was reflected in the UN Secretary General's report during that process; the situation of stranded migrants was one of eight points of the Secretary General's action agenda.[2]

An important outcome of the UNHLD was the establishment of a new state-led initiative to address the plight of stranded migrants, following the narrow interpretation of migrants caught in crisis situations. The newly formed "Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative" (MICIC) is led by the United States and the Philippines with the participation of Australia, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, and the European Commission in partnership with the IOM, the UNHCR, Professor Susan Martin, and UN SRSG Peter Sutherland.[3] The MICIC initiative

>…aims to complement IOM's Migration Crisis Operational Framework (MCOF) by establishing principles and guidelines to define the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin and destination, neighbouring states, employers, international organizations, and civil society for the

[1] http://hldcivilsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/0261-HDL_The-5-year-Action-Plan-GB-web2.pdf
[2] http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---migrant/documents/genericdocument/wcms_243383.pdf
[3] http://www.iom.int/files/live/sites/iom/files/What-We-Do/docs/MICIC-Concept-Note-Final-2-14-14.pdf

purpose of protecting migrants affected by acute-onset crises like civil conflicts, natural disasters, and man-made disasters.[4]

MICIC is holding six regional state consultations in 2015 and 2016. To date, 3 meetings were already organized- Manila for the Asia and the Pacific (March 2015), Brussels for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (June 2015), and Dakar for Western and Central Africa (December 2015). The meetings for Southern and Central America and MENA region will take place in February and March 2016 respectively.

While civil society welcomes the initiative of governments to address the issues affecting migrants caught in crisis situations through the creation and implementation of sound procedural frameworks and response mechanisms, States must recognize that their responsibility extends to *perpetual crises* affecting migrant workers. Efficient humanitarian assistance extended to migrants is met when migrants' perspective on crisis is considered in drawing up policies and measures even before the onset of such disastrous conditions. Disasters and emergency situations are not the only crisis that migrants are in need of assistance but the daily crisis that they face with current policies that are limiting should be given equal attention as they restrain access to such aide. State-led initiatives must also be in place to address these urgent situations.

To inform civil society on the MICIC Initiative and strengthen CSOs position and advocacy strategy on expanding the MICIC framework, Migrant Forum in Asia, initiated a regional CSO parallel event to the first MICIC meeting. Result of the parallel event was then feed into the governmental meeting. Five CSO representatives participated in the governmental meeting.

The CSO process in Manila was recognised by governments and organising the same process for the rest of the regional state consultations was encouraged. Several representatives will be invited as well to present civil society perspectives in the Stats consultation. The CSO consultations for the Eastern Europe and Central Asia and Western and Central Africa were co-organised by the MADE Civil Society Network and the Global Coalition on Migration.

The fourth MICIC meeting which will be hosted by the government of Malta for the Middle East and Northern Africa will take place on 14-15 March 2016.

In line with the above, a CSO parallel process for MICIC Northern Africa and Middle East will be organised in Beirut on 11-12 March 2016. The consultation will be jointly co-organised by Migrant Forum in Asia, Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center, the Arab Network for Migrants' Rights, the Global Coalition on Migration and the MADE Network.

Civil Society regional consultation objectives:

- Provide a briefing and orientation for civil society on the MICIC Initiative and activities that form part of the initiative
- Formulate civil society recommendations to the Malta (MENA) MICIC Consultation that reflect rights-based, migrant-centered response mechanisms
- Develop a collective civil society advocacy strategy on expanding the MICIC framework and its intended Guidelines and Principles

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[4] http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---migrant/documents/genericdocument/wcms_243383.pdf

Program
Regional Conference on Migrants in Situations of Crisis:
CSO Parallel Event to the MICIC Initiative

11-12 March 2016
Beirut, Lebanon

Day 1 — Migrants in Crisis: Defining Crisis from the Perspective of Migrant Workers	
Registration	8:30-9:00
Opening Remarks & Introductions	9:00 – 10:30
• Welcome Messages	Bruno Atieh Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center
• Objectives and Agenda Review	Colin Rajah Global Coalition on Migration
• Introduction of Participants	
Coffee/Tea Break	10:30-10:45
Open Dialogue on Understanding Situation of Crisis Experienced by migrants	10:45 – 12:00
This session is designed to surface crisis experienced by migrant workers in the Arab region. Each country will be invited to share their own perspective on this issue.	Hessen Sayah Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center
Session 1: Presentation of Civil Society Framework	12:00 – 12:30
Following the preceding discussion, the global CSO framework looking at migrants in situations of crisis will be presented in relation to the MENA context.	Agnes Matienzo Migrant Forum in Asia
Lunch Break	12:30-01:30
Session 2: Examining existing mechanisms or infrastructures in responding to migrants in situations of crisis: Civil Society and Government response	01:30-02:30
A graphic presentation of the response mechanisms focusing on resources and human capacity in developing the agency of migrants.	Linda Alkalash Arab Network for Migrants' Rights
Comments and Open Discussion	02:30:03:30
Coffee Break	03:30-03:45
Session 3: Relevant global initiatives	03:45:04:15
This session is designed to inform participants of relevant global initiatives that address some of the crisis situations that affect migrants. These include the Senden Framework and the Nansen Initiative.	Zeina Mezher Labour Migration Programme-Lebanon – ILO

Session 4: Identifying priorities for action	04:15-05:15
This session is meant for the participants to deliberate on most immediate situations that need to be addressed by governments.	Colin Rajah Global Coalition on Migration
Closing session	05:15

Day 2 — Expanding the MICIC Initiative Framework	
Opening Remarks & Recap from Day 1	09:00- 09:30 Colin Rajah Global Coalition on Migration
Introduction to the MICIC Initiative	09:30-10:30 Speaker: Monique Frison MICIC Secretariat International Organization for Migration
Coffee Break	10:30-10:45
Comments and Open Discussion	10:45-12:00 Facilitator: Colin Rajah
Lunch Break	12:00 – 01:00
Breakout session: Recommendations for the Malta (MENA) Consultation Based from Day 1 deliberations and presentation on the MICIC Initiative, Participants will be asked to deliberate on possible recommendations for governments in address migrants in situations of crisis during pre-crisis, crisis period and post-crisis Participants will be divided into three working groups to discuss recommendations during pre-crisis, crisis period and post-crisis.	01:00:3:00 Session Facilitator: Colin Rajah Working Group facilitators: Agnes Matienzo Hessen Sayah Linda Alkalash
Coffee / Tea Break	03:00-03:20
Presentation of the outcomes of the three Working Groups	03:20-04:20 Facilitator: Colin Rajah Global Coalition on Migration
Synthesis and next steps	04:20-05:00 Colin Rajah Global Coalition on Migration
Closing of Day 2	05:00 Colin Rajah Agnes Matienzo Linda Alkalash