

UN Women inputs to the GA Resolution A/RES/74/148 on the Protection of Migrants

UN Women works with governments, UN partner agencies and civil society organizations at the global, regional and national levels to promote and protect the human rights of women and girls in migration, by advocating for the implementation of gender-responsive migration policies and laws which contribute to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

UN Women holds the secretariat for the Expert Working Group for addressing women’s human rights in the Global Compact for Migration, composed of individual experts from UN agencies, Special Procedures mandate holders, human rights treaty bodies, civil society organizations and academia. The group highlights the importance of addressing the gender dimensions of migration, and advocates for the integration of gender equality considerations in the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), in line with the gender-responsive approach outlined in the guiding principles. UN Women in collaboration with the Expert Working Group has produced a Policies and Practice Guide to Gender-Responsive Implementation of the Global Compact for Migration. For each of the 23 GCM objectives, the Policies and Practice Guide identifies the specific issues facing women and girls, and the measures that need to be taken by governments and key practitioners to address these and promote and protect the rights of migrant women and girls.

UN Women with the support of Germany is implementing a 3 year programme entitled “Making Migration Safe for Women” which seeks to ensure that the development and implementation of national migration policies and laws in Niger are gender-responsive, and that international norms and standards for protecting and promoting migrant women’s rights are strengthened. It also seeks to enable migrant women and their organizations to advocate for the protection of their rights and strengthen the alliance building of migrant women’s organizations.

UN Women country offices implement programmes to concretely address the protection needs of migrant women in vulnerable situations. In Brazil, UN Women worked with 655 staff in government and humanitarian agencies to strengthen their capacity to assist migrant and refugee women. UN Women supported an estimated 4800 Venezuelan migrant women with psychosocial support and skills towards their integration in the host community, including in finding work opportunities.

In Myanmar, UN Women worked with 145 at-risk border communities and built the capacity of approximately 25,000 women to realize their human rights in the context of migration, including how to access existing services. UN Women worked with these women to raise awareness of the risks of trafficking in the region and what reporting mechanisms are available in cases of trafficking. In the province of West Java in Indonesia, UN Women has worked with local authorities to strengthen protections of migrant women. The result of this pilot scheme was the integration of provisions into local legislation promoting human rights-based and survivor-centred approaches to the protection of women migrant workers and the establishment of stronger mechanisms to prevent violence against them. Additionally, approximately 4500 migrant women have been trained on their rights in the context of migration and opportunities for safe migration.