

Global Concessional Financing Facility Technical Advisory Group Meeting

May 28, 2024, by Video Conference

Key Decision

- *The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) selected by consensus the Netherlands and Moldova to serve as the co-chairs for a one-year term in accordance with TOR of the TAG Technical Note and paragraph 65 of the GCFE Operations Manual, with immediate effect. The Netherlands will be represented by Ms. Ana Uzelac Senior Policy Officer Development Approaches to Forced Displacement, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Moldova will be represented by Mr. Ion GUMENE, Secretary of State, Ministry of Finance.*

Summary of Meeting

Introductory Remarks

The co-chair of the meeting, Ms. **Ana Uzelac** Senior Policy Officer Development Approaches to Forced Displacement, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Representative of the Netherlands, welcomed participants to the TAG meeting. Ms. **Uzelac** provided a brief overview of the GCFE, role of the TAG and introduced the agenda of the meeting.

Item for Decision **Selection of TAG Co-Chairs.**

Action Point: To formalize the process for selection of TAG Co-Chairs, there will be a discussion in the next meeting of the TAG and a proposal will be developed for consideration of the GCFE Steering Committee (SC).

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Item for Presentation / Discussion: **Policy and Dialogue Framework on Refugee Policy and Protection Issues in GCFE Benefiting Countries.**

Discussion: An update was provided on revisions to the Technical Note on Strengthening Dialogue on Refugee Policy and Protection Priorities as endorsed by the SC along with the proposed timelines for the MENA regional review to be undertaken by the UNHCR. The regional review for Jordan and Lebanon is expected to be completed by September with discussions on the dialogue to follow in Autumn.

Action Point: Members of the TAG saw merit in providing technical input on advisory basis to the reviews prior to submission to the SC. The Coordination Unit (CU) will consult UNHCR on the role of the TAG and Country Coordination Committees (CCC) in the review process and update the TAG in its next meeting.

Item for Discussion: **Preliminary Discussion on Jordan: Modernizing Education, Skills, and Administrative Reforms (MASAR) Project.**

Discussion: TAG has an important advisory role with regard to Funding Requests, which are intended to provide technical input to the deliberations of the SC Information Meeting organised midday through the review and decision process.

Salient technical points on the MASAR Funding Request by the TAG is provided below:

- There could have been some mention of the work already taking place by donors in relation to the overall aims of the MASAR.
- For example, Canada is currently investing C\$120 million (concessional financing) for modernising/ updating of vocational education laboratory and workshops (equipment and refurbishment) and education technology, expansion of classrooms and spaces, including targets for inclusion refugee students; C\$41 million to-date on ensuring education access for refugee students; C\$22 million to the MSSRP (WB/IBRD) including access to basic services and job opportunities for refugees in host communities; C\$7 million with UNESCO and C\$3.5 million with GIZ focusing on improving vocational education pedagogy, career guidance, linkages with private sector, strengthening TVET providers, addressing perceptions on vocational education and trades as desirable and viable career options, etc; C\$17.5 million (50 million to-date) on improving teacher skills including on delivering vocational education; and C\$32.5 million (~110 million to-date) on sector strengthening including EMIS development and education governance, management and delivery at central and decentralised levels (field directorates and schools).
- The narrative and numbers in the Funding Request and Project Appraisal Document (PAD) should be aligned.
- The rationale for the number of refugee student beneficiaries maybe clarified in relation to the 70/30% ratio formula for intervention in support of host communities and refugees.

Action Point: Summary of the TAG meeting with recommendations to strengthen the MASAR Funding Request will be shared with the SC prior to the Information Meeting as technical advice to inform discussions.

Item for Presentation: **GCFE Steering Committee Meeting Chişinău, Moldova – June 4-5, 2024.**

Discussions: With the annual in-person SC meeting a week away, the Coordination Unit provided an update on program and preparations for the meeting. A two-day program has been developed which includes one day field visits to GCFE supported interventions. This will be followed by GCFE Steering Committee work sessions to take stock of displacement issues and priorities in the regions and countries of concern to the Facility; review and update GCFE project

pipelines and associated funding targets; and reach decisions on key issues related to the governance of the Facility.

AOB/Closing

Ms. **Uzelac** thanked members for a productive first meeting and looked forward to continuing discussions in the TAG.