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## GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT (GFMD) QUITO, ECUADOR

### CIVIL SOCIETY DAY, 22 JANUARY 2020

#### [Background note](#)

#### [Theme 1](#)

#### [Access to Services](#)

#### **Introduction**

Ensuring access to services is, in the short-term, essential to the survival of migrants, to the protection of their rights, and in the longer term, their capacity to live a life of dignity, contributing to the community in which they live. However, every day, migrants around the world face barriers to accessing essential services that are indispensable to their survival and basic dignity. Factors such as legislative restrictions, fears of arrest, detention and deportation, prohibitively high service costs, and language issues all come into play, with some of the more targeted obstacles motivated by various national interests including perceived security, social and economic threats. In some contexts, service provision has even been criminalized or public officials have been legally mandated to report irregular migrants seeking services.

During this session, we will discuss a range of challenges, initiatives, and good practices in working in partnership with other civil society actors, State and local authorities and the private sector to ensure access to essential services for all migrants, as well as proposals to enhance such partnership. We will also discuss the role of the Global Compact on Migration in ensuring that all people migrating have access to the assistance they need, regardless of their status.

#### **Objectives/focus of the break-out session:**

- Discussion of relationships between the States & the individuals seeking the service - is it seen as a right or obligation?
- Carving out spaces (ie with local authorities)
- Leaning more towards economic & social rights:
- Access to justice, legal documents (for example: right to due process or a service)



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## Questions to guide the morning and afternoon sessions:

1. Civil society often works in partnership with governments and local authorities to provide social services to migrants – What are key elements of success in these partnerships?
2. How can services for migrants be ensured?
  - *What are challenges faced and good practices in ensuring services?*
  - *How can civil society support governments and local authorities to expand services for migrants, irrespective of their status?*
  - *How can we move the discussion towards ensuring services to all persons under the jurisdiction of a State, omitting considerations of their nationality?*
  - *Accountability/quality of the services (for example, what criteria do organizations have to meet when they are the providers; are they self-imposed? Sector specific?).*
3. Even if services for migrants exist, migrants often do not know about it, or they find out about them by chance through word of mouth. How can effective accessibility be ensured?
4. The GCM states that migrants, independently of their status, should have access to basic social services – what those services are, has not been defined. What would those services be? Do we need to define them?
  - *Are there basic services/fundamental rights that could be conditioned upon the migration status of migrants when the public good is at stake?” For example: ensuring access to healthcare to all members of a community, improves the overall health and reduces costs of treatment and irreparable harm such as acute health conditions or illnesses, disability or death. Also, ensuring access to justice to all members of a community improves the safety of a community and strengthens the rule of law.*
5. Migrants, especially those with an irregular status, often mistrust authorities and services, being afraid of being denounced to the authorities. What kind of principles should be at the basis of any service provided? Are you aware of any experiences that can be shared?