

No.33

INTERNATIONAL
DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION

GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION IMPLEMENTATION IN PRACTICE:

Successes, Challenges and
Innovative Approaches

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Publisher: International Organization for Migration
17 route des Morillons
P.O. Box 17
1211 Geneva 19
Switzerland
Tel.: +41 22 717 9111
Fax: +41 22 798 6150
Email: hq@iom.int
Website: www.iom.int

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACT	Access to COVID-19 Tools
COP 27	United Nations Climate Change Conference 2022
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease
DFA	Department of Foreign Affairs, the Philippines
DMW	Department of Migrant Workers, the Philippines
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
ICAT	Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally displaced person
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMRF	International Migration Review Forum
IOM	International Organization for Migration
OFW	Overseas Filipino worker
SAFE	Safe Access to Fuel and Energy
SMP	Skills Mobility Partnership
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
WHO	World Health Organization

The primary goal of IOM is to facilitate the orderly and humane management of international migration ... To achieve that goal, IOM will focus on the following activities, acting at the request of or in agreement with Member States: ...

7. To promote, facilitate and support regional and global debate and dialogue on migration, including through the International Dialogue on Migration, so as to advance understanding of the opportunities and challenges it presents, the identification and development of effective policies for addressing those challenges and to identify comprehensive approaches and measures for advancing international cooperation. (IOM Strategy, adopted by the IOM Council in 2007)

IOM launched the IDM at the fiftieth anniversary session of the IOM Council in 2001, at the request of the Organization's membership. The purpose of the IDM, consistent with the mandate in IOM's Constitution, is to provide a forum for Member States and observers to identify and discuss major issues and challenges in the field of international migration, to contribute to a better understanding of migration and to strengthen cooperation on migration issues between governments and with other partners. The IDM is a platform for the Organization to listen and learn from its Member States and partners, and build an evidence base for projects worldwide. The discussions also contribute to the overall implementation of the SDGs, particularly target 10.7.

The inclusive, informal and constructive format of the IDM has helped to create a more open climate for migration policy debate and to build confidence among the various migration stakeholders. In combination with targeted research and policy analysis, the IDM is providing an open forum for debate and exchanges between all relevant stakeholders and has contributed to a better understanding of topical and emerging migration issues and their linkages with other policy domains. It has also facilitated the exchange of policy options and approaches among policymakers and practitioners, with a view to achieving more effective and humane governance of international migration.

The IDM is organized by the IDM Unit of IOM's Governing Bodies Secretariat. The International Dialogue on Migration Publication Series (or "Red Book Series") is designed to capture and review the results of the events and research carried out within the framework of the IDM. The Red Book Series is prepared and coordinated by the IDM Unit. More information on the IDM can be found at www.iom.int/idm or by contacting idmworkshop@iom.int.

This publication presents a report of the discussions held at the first session of IDM 2022 which took place from 28 February to 2 March. It presents the key insights from the three-day Dialogue and offers the reader a compilation of innovative approaches to advance the implementation of the Global Compact shared by the participants at the meeting. It also contains a list of all innovative approaches presented in the report.

Cecilia Cannon, Senior Researcher, Global Governance Centre and Global Migration Centre at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva is the author of this report. Paula Benea, Migration Policy Officer in the IDM Unit, coordinated the report's drafting and general production. Helen Weldu, Project Support Associate, IDM Unit, provided assistance during the review process of this report. Dejan Keserovic, Head of the Governing Bodies Secretariat, provided overall guidance.

The IDM Unit would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution and guidance of all relevant colleagues in IOM Headquarters as well as in national and regional offices, both during the production of this report as well as during the preparation stages of the Dialogue.

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FOREWORD

It is a pleasure to present to you the official report of the first session of IOM's International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) in 2022, entitled Global Compact for Migration Implementation in Practice: Successes, Challenges and Innovative Approaches.

In line with Article 1, paragraph 1 (e) of the IOM Constitution, the IDM has been providing “a forum to States as well as international and other organizations for the exchange of views and experiences, and the promotion of cooperation and coordination of efforts on international migration issues” since its creation in 2001.

In this spirit, and as requested by United Nations Member States in United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/280 on the modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, a series of dialogues was held in 2017 and 2018 to support the preparatory process for the Global Compact by providing a space for in-depth exchanges of views between Member States and other relevant actors. A core objective of the IDM is to foster inclusive and genuine discussions on a wide range of migration issues. To that end, these preparatory dialogues drew on the experience of all relevant actors – national and local governments, civil society, the private sector, migrant and diaspora organizations, academic experts and media organizations, among others. The results informed the stocktaking meeting in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, in 2017, as well as the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Marrakech, Morocco, in 2018.

Beyond the preparatory process and the adoption of the Global Compact, each edition of the IDM has aimed to further strengthen international cooperation on all aspects of migration governance and to support Member States in achieving the objectives of the Global Compact.

This year, the first IDM session focused on the Global Compact, in response to the call of United Nations Member States in United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/195 for the IDM “to contribute to the International Migration Review Forum by providing relevant data, evidence, best practices, innovative approaches and recommendations as they relate to the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration”.

The event, which took place from 28 February to 2 March, gathered over 1,200 participants, including more than 600 government delegates from 150 countries. As previously expressed during the preparatory process for the Global Compact, there was general agreement that focused action was needed to advance the implementation of both the Global Compact and the Sustainable Development Goals. In the words of Abdulla Shahid, the President of the Seventy-sixth Session of the United Nations General Assembly: “We have made commendable strides in the past three years, despite the challenges of COVID-19. Yet our successes remain fragile and we must solidify and build upon them. Much work remains to be done and our concerted action is needed.” Further efforts must be made to strengthen coordination, collaboration and multilateral dialogue on the objectives set in the Global Compact, especially as we work towards the re-establishment of coordinated and predictable global mobility.

The present document is the outcome of a three-day exchange between Member States, stakeholders and partners. It presents the key messages and innovative practices shared by the wide range of actors present, and is intended to be a resource for governments and stakeholders participating in the first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), as well as to further the implementation of the Global Compact. The breadth of innovative practices captured in this document demonstrates strong and continuing commitment to the Global Compact. Although it has not been possible to provide an exhaustive list of all the initiatives implemented by States and other actors in the context of the Global Compact, those that have been included reflect the progress which has been made. I encourage you to consult this document and follow up directly with the contact person listed under each practice if you are interested in further information or collaboration.

As Member States acknowledged on several occasions, this event reaffirmed the key role played by the IDM in promoting the use of evidence and best practices in Global Compact implementation and beyond, including for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It is my hope and wish that this forum will continue to be a valuable space for exchange, an accelerator of networks and partnerships, and a source of best practices and experience that can be used by governments and other actors in their day-to-day work.

I am grateful to all the ministers and other senior government officials, the President of the United Nations General Assembly, the co-facilitators of the IMRF Progress Declaration and the Chairperson of the IOM Council, as well as to the many experts, representatives of civil society, young people, migrants and diasporas, members of the United Nations Network on Migration, fellow United Nations entities and international organizations, and other relevant actors who joined this preparatory session to share their valuable experiences, innovative practices and challenges in order to advance progress towards implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.



António Vitorino
Director General

KEY INSIGHTS

Strengthening international cooperation

We must re-establish coordinated and predictable global mobility, with an equitable future of mobility for all:

- States and stakeholders must implement comprehensive, effective and humane migration policies, aligned with the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (Global Compact for Migration), and with the broader vision of facilitating planned, safe and regular migration pathways, while protecting those in need.
- Collaboration is central to implementing the Global Compact. We can achieve a lot more when we work together, much more than any single actor can achieve alone.

Saving lives and protecting migrants in vulnerable situations

We must strengthen and improve cooperation to save lives, protect the rights of migrants and reduce risks and vulnerabilities for migrants:

- Deaths and disappearances of migrants pose unique challenges, including the scope of the problem, that migrants go

missing along different migration routes, and that irregular migration is cloaked in invisibility.

- Locating and identifying missing persons require transnational mechanisms involving countries of destination, transit and origin. The establishment of a high-level panel on deaths in transit could ensure the provision of life-saving humanitarian assistance.
- Better data collection, protection and exchange will facilitate the identification of deceased and missing migrants. The exclusive use of data for humanitarian search purposes must be assured.
- Expanding regular migration pathways and regularization options could help ensure that people are not induced to embark on dangerous, irregular migration journeys.
- Open coordination and cooperation among governments, civil society and migrant and refugee rights organizations can help save lives, and locate and identify missing migrants. Organizations working on the ground and assisting migrants and their families should be supported, not criminalized.

Combating migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons

Expanding regular migration pathways and regularization options could help to undercut criminal smuggling and trafficking networks:

- While the criminal justice approach to addressing smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons is important, it should target organized criminal networks and crime perpetrators, not smuggled migrants and victims of trafficking, nor the humanitarian actors working to save lives and protect migrants in situations of vulnerability.
- Anti-smuggling and counter-trafficking efforts must focus more on prevention and protection through increased human safety, stability and security – for example, by creating education and employment opportunities, and addressing discrimination.
- Noting that criminalization of smuggled migrants continues to be a reality in many countries, Member States should recall that the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Protocol on Smuggling of Migrants, one of the three Palermo Protocols) provides that migrants shall not become liable to criminal prosecution just for the fact of having been smuggled (article 5).

- Greater efforts to implement the principle of non criminalization of trafficking victims for illicit conduct as a result of their being trafficked will ensure that penalties are not imposed on victims of trafficking (article 5 of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons)).
- Further efforts are needed to improve data granularity and coverage on trafficking in persons to bolster the effectiveness of evidence-based anti-trafficking responses, including administrative records and prevalence estimates.
- Cross-sectoral, whole-of-government and whole-of-society partnerships are needed to combat smuggling and trafficking, including with the financial and technology sectors.

Legal identity: enabling regular migration and access to rights

Ensuring universal access to legal identity contributes to many aspects of the Global Compact for Migration, including the protection of the rights of people on the move and access to services:

- People on the move, including irregular migrants, must be recognized before the law to ensure respect for human rights without discrimination, and access to documentation and services.

- Migrants who lack proof of legal identity or legal documents face increased risks of unsafe and irregular migration, have more difficulty reuniting with family and returning to their countries of origin; and those caught in crisis situations find it harder to access critical services, including evacuation assistance.

- Identity documents, including civil documents, must be standardized and digitalized across countries, while safeguarding the protection of data and individuals.

- All countries can improve national civil registration and consular representation abroad to ensure non-discriminatory access to legal identity and travel documents, regardless of migratory status. This will help counteract the growth of parallel shadow societies that enhance vulnerabilities and foster segregation and crime.

- Where people are unable to produce a birth certificate, other forms of identity management – such as national identification (ID) card schemes, population registers, or fully digital ID schemes – should be introduced and linked with the core civil registration.

Enhancing predictability and addressing inequalities for the future of human mobility in the pandemic era

Human rights-based predictability of human mobility and migrant-centred, inclusive responses ease adverse effects during times of crisis:

- The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic highlighted and exacerbated structural inequalities and challenges faced by migrants, especially by those in irregular situations or situations of vulnerability. Increasing equitable access to social protection and services, including health services, can boost predictability.

- Only 13 percent of the population of low-income countries has been vaccinated. As governments and authorities move towards enforcing a range of vaccination and testing requirements for travel, cross-border movement has become more costly, creating further inequalities in access to regular migration pathways. This incentivizes disorderly, unsafe and irregular movement, generating opportunities for trafficking and exploitation.

- Intersectoral collaboration around migration management, and greater

access to regular migration pathways can enhance the predictability of human mobility. Amid increasing digitization, care should be taken to avoid human rights violations and ensure protection of personal migrant data.

- The [COVAX facility](#) seeks to reach migrants and refugees in conflict situations and fragile States, donating 1 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines to more than 144 countries.
- Member States should assess and include the needs of people on the move and human mobility issues as they negotiate a possible international agreement on pandemic preparedness and response, as decided at the special 2021 World Health Assembly session. Efforts should align with preparations for the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), work on the Sustainable Development Goals and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.
- Commitment to universal health coverage, equity in access to COVID-19 vaccines and universal access to social services are essential for ensuring equitable, rights-based approaches to migration. Countries should not request proof of vaccination as the only pathway to exit or enter a country.
- A new global social contract to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals should take into account labour

migration systems, and should address the drivers of forced migration, such as poverty, unemployment, war, crises, climate change and natural disasters, and should protect migrants from racism and xenophobia.

Migration, environment and climate change: from adaptation to regular pathways

Migration issues must be integrated into climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction policies and frameworks at the national, regional and global levels:

- Climate change often aggravates pre-existing socioeconomic challenges, and threatens peace and security, increasing the complex drivers of migration.
- Progress has been made to advance political discussions on migration relating to disasters, climate change and environmental degradation. Yet, systematic implementation of global commitments and recommendations should continue to be strengthened. States must move towards more and improved regular migration for people affected by environmental disasters and climate change.
- Ahead of the United Nations Climate Change Conference 2022 (COP 27), States and actors at national and regional

levels should work together to ensure that human mobility induced by climate change is fully accounted for and addressed in global negotiations.

- Climate change adaptation must be complemented by implementation and financing, with a just transition approach. Regular pathways must be enhanced to support legal migration, with mobility creating and transferring resources and enhancing sustainable development in countries of origin and destination.

Migrant inclusion in COVID-19 recovery and social protection: a renewed social contract

Building inclusive societies and expanding social protections can empower migrants and communities:

- It is imperative that COVID-19 recovery planning and social protection schemes include populations at risk of being left behind, such as migrant women, children, older persons, migrants with diverse sexual orientation and gender identity, and persons with disabilities.
- Empowering migrants and diaspora communities is important to ensure fully inclusive national preparedness and COVID-19 response plans. Whole-of-government and whole-of-society

approaches can foster inclusive societies and combat stigmatization and discrimination.

- The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that cities are key front-line players in responding to global crises. City experiences across the globe must be listened to within the decision-making of national governments and regional and global institutions.
- Capacity-building activities should target young people, including migrant youth. Migrant youth should be included in all stages of policy and programme design, implementation and review, so that they can be part of the solution to make migration safe for everyone.
- Labour mobility and human rights must go hand in hand. Protection for migrants against racism and xenophobia must be central to a renewed social contract, with migrant health workers serving at the front line of the pandemic often subjected to Asian hate.
- Advancing the digital inclusion of migrants will expand their access in digital spaces, and will improve their digital literacy and language skills.

Rethinking skilled migration to address persistent labour shortages

Greater cooperation on cross-border skills mobility can respond to skills and labour shortages, while supporting migrants and contributing to the socioeconomic development of countries of origin:

- Innovative and forward-looking skills mobility approaches can address today's skills and labour requirements, and help fill chronic global labour shortages. Innovative initiatives bolster regular, safe and orderly migration, and harness skills that many migrants, including those in need of protection, possess and are eager to put to work.
- There is a need to increase legal mobility pathways available to skilled workers from the Global South, and to ease restrictions and complexities.
- Partnerships and investment in joint skills development can promote human capital formation and positive labour market outcomes in both countries of origin and those of destination.
- Integrating a skills lens into migration, education and labour market policies generates targeted strategies tailored to labour market needs, and bolsters the participation of a diverse groups of migrants in the economy.

- Upskilling and training young men and women with a focus on creating new job opportunities, including in the green economy enhances their contribution at home or abroad.

INTRODUCTION

Strengthening international cooperation on migration

The adoption of the Global Compact for Migration was a historic opportunity to shape a new global framework for migration. It is based on a common conviction that, through international cooperation, we can manage global migration in a manner that is effective, just, humane and beneficial to migrant communities and host countries. While progress has been made, concerted action is needed to recover lost ground on implementing both the Global Compact for Migration and the Sustainable Development Goals.

This International Dialogue on Migration session was held within the context of a fresh conflict that has forcibly displaced more than 7 million people inside Ukraine,¹ and has caused more than 4.5 million refugees to flee that country since 24 February 2022.² Ongoing conflicts in Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Yemen, Gaza–Israel, Myanmar, Somalia and other areas continue to force people from their homes.

“We need to reduce the risks against disasters and emergencies and protect those displaced communities. There is a huge challenge of combating discrimination and xenophobia against all populations and migrant peoples. We have to increase our technical ability in a coordinated manner.”

Catalina Devandas Aguilar, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica, IOM Council Chair

“We have made commendable strides in the past three years, despite the challenges of COVID-19. Yet our successes remain fragile and we must solidify and build upon them. Much work remains to be done and our concerted action is needed.”

Abdulla Shahid, President of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

At the same time, intensifying global challenges are multiplying the complex drivers of migration. Unemployment has risen in recent years, with the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimating that 205 million people will be unemployed in 2022.³ Inequalities have increased, with the World Bank reporting that the COVID-19 pandemic led to 97 million more people being in poverty in 2020.⁴ The World Bank has also projected that

climate change could force 216 million people across six world regions to move within their countries by 2050.⁵

The COVID-19 pandemic was also marked by racism and xenophobia relating to remarks about the virus' origins. Migrants and racial ethnic minorities faced unequal access to vaccines, and disproportionate adverse health-socioeconomic effects in terms of higher infection rates and deeper economic distress.⁶

These challenges require enhanced technical abilities in a coordinated manner. There is an urgent need for the re-establishment of coordinated and predictable global mobility, with a lifting of COVID-19 travel bans that have created unprecedented blocks to flows in human mobility, and with more equitable access to regular mobility for all. Multilateral dialogue and robust communications must re-set the narrative. States and stakeholders must implement comprehensive, effective, and humane migration policies in practice, aligned with the Global Compact for Migration, and with a broader vision of facilitating regular migration pathways, while offering protection to those in need.

Held online from 28 February to 2 March 2022, this Dialogue focused on "Global Compact for Migration

Implementation in Practice: Successes, Challenges and Innovative Approaches". It was aligned with the priorities set by the United Nations Secretary-General's report on the progress on the implementation of the Global Compact, namely: inclusivity, strengthening regular pathways, greater efforts to save lives and track missing migrants, and capacity-building.

General Assembly Resolution [A/RES/73/195](#) on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration invites the International Dialogue on Migration "to contribute to the International Migration Review Forum by providing relevant data, evidence, best practices, innovative approaches and recommendations as they relate to the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration."

This Dialogue will inform the May 2022 IMRF, which will bring together Member States, migrant associations, civil society, the private sector, trade unions and other stakeholders. The IMRF will signal continued strong commitment to multilateralism on migration. The United Nations Migration Network has launched a [pledging initiative](#), encouraging Member States and other relevant stakeholders

to pledge actionable commitments to further implementation.

“At the IOM Council in December, I heard the call from many governments to address the re-establishment of coordinated and predictable global mobility, and continue to support those migrants halted in transit, or stranded, as a result. The future of mobility cannot become precarious, or the preserve of the few. We must work to ensure it is equitable for all.”

António Vitorino, Director General, IOM

The Permanent Representatives of Bangladesh and Luxembourg to the United Nations in New York – co-facilitators for the Progress Declaration that will be adopted at the IMRF – have introduced a zero draft, following informal briefings with Member States and stakeholders. They are holding intergovernmental

consultations to agree on an evidence-based and action-oriented declaration. In addition to the intergovernmental consultations and town hall briefings with stakeholders, the Progress Declaration will be informed by the Secretary-General's report, regional reviews, the United Nations Migration Network's dialogues, and the International Dialogue on Migration.

“The Declaration will highlight the overall evaluation of progress in implementing the Global Compact for Migration and its 23 objectives, and the Compact's 360-degree approach and guiding principles... We envisage a forward-looking document to guide action.”

Rabab Fatima, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, Co-facilitator of the IMRF Progress Declaration

¹ International Organization for Migration (IOM) news, “7.1 Million People Displaced by the War in Ukraine: IOM Survey”, 5 April 2022.

² United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Operational Data Portal, “Refugees fleeing Ukraine (since 24 February 2022)”, last updated 16 April 2022.

³ International Labour Organization News, “Slow jobs recovery and increased inequality risk long-term COVID-19 scarring”, 2 June 2021.

⁴ Daniel Gerszon, Mahler Nishant, Yonzan Christoph Lakner, R. Andres Castaneda Aguilar and Haoyu Wu, “Updated estimates of the impact of COVID-19 on global poverty: Turning the corner on the pandemic in 2021?” World Bank Blogs, 24 June 2021.

⁵ World Bank Press Release, “Climate Change Could Force 216 Million People to Migrate Within Their Own Countries by 2050”, 13 September 2021.

⁶ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) “Race to the Top: Confronting racism and discrimination in development”.

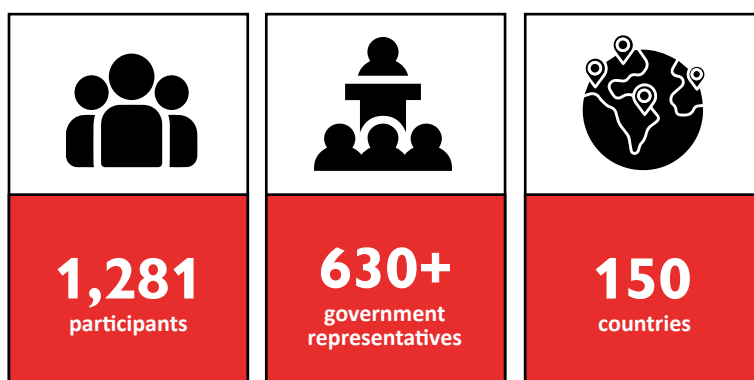
HIGH-LEVEL PANELLISTS: STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON MIGRATION

- António Vitorino, Director General IOM
- Abdulla Shahid, President of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
- Rabab Fatima, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, Co-facilitator of the IMRF Progress Declaration
- Catalina Devandas Aguilar, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica, IOM Council Chair

Participation and methodology

This International Dialogue on Migration fostered dialogue among UN Member and Observer States, as well as a diverse group of stakeholders and partners working on the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration. These actors were invited to present innovative approaches to advance implementation of the Global Compact's 23 objectives.

High engagement in the International Dialogue on Migration





Criteria for sharing innovative approaches at the IDM:

- > Advancing implementation of the Global Compact for Migration
- > Proven effective
- > Replicable by other organizations and/or in other contexts
- > Open to collaboration and/or sharing lessons learned

Structure of this report

This summary report is intended as a resource for governments and stakeholders participating in the IMRF, and to further the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration. The report is structured around the overarching topics that guided the International Dialogue on Migration sessions ([see full agenda](#)). Key updates, insights and examples shared by the panellists and participants are summarized for each topic under Successes, Challenges, Ways forward, and Innovative approaches.

We also list the panellists and participants from the floor, on whose contributions this summary report was produced, with links to their full interventions, where they were made available to us. Links to useful resources on each topic are also provided.

We showcase the innovative approaches presented by participants, highlighting the lead organization(s) of the initiative, period of the initiative, geographical scope, short description, impacts, lessons learned, useful resources and contact details. We encourage readers to follow up directly with the contact person listed under each innovative approach for further information, to collaborate with them.

The information provided in each innovative approach is intended to reflect

what was presented by the participants themselves during the International Dialogue on Migration and/or as submitted by them in writing to IOM. We additionally sought to complete the information with details in public web pages about the initiatives (where available), and included links to those web pages under ‘useful resources’.

A full list of innovative approaches captured in this report can be seen in the Annex. All participants had the opportunity to take the floor to present their practices. Some actors presented several practices in detail, others presented one or two practices in detail, others referred to practices briefly, while others did not present any innovative practices. In this report, we have endeavoured to share all practices presented and referred to, with as much detail as was presented, to serve as a resource to facilitate implementation of the Global Compact. We have included quotes from participants throughout this report, and attribute them to the speakers with as much detail as was made available to us during the Dialogue.

It is clear from all of the innovative approaches shared by participants that collaboration is central to progress on implementing the Global Compact for Migration – that we can achieve a lot more when we are working together, much more than any single actor can achieve alone.

Part I. Reducing risks and vulnerabilities for migrants

1.1. Saving lives and protecting migrants in vulnerable situations

Worldwide, more than 45,000 people are known to have died during migration journeys since 2014, with many more deaths remaining undocumented. Even when documented, migrant bodies are only rarely identified, leaving countless families facing the ambiguous loss of not knowing what happened to their relatives after they left home. The United Nations Secretary-General stressed in his recent report that governments have paid too little attention to

Objective 8 of the Global Compact for Migration – “Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants” – with few examples of concrete actions provided in the 2021 regional reviews of the Compact. This lack of action runs counter to the Global Compact’s calls for “safe” migration, and is contrary to the right to life and its corollary duties for States, enshrined in international human rights law.

Objective 1 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
“Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies.”

Objective 2 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
“Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin.”

Objective 3 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
“Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration.”

Objective 4 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
“Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration.”

Objective 7 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
“Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration.”

Objective 8 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
“Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants.”

United Nations General Assembly, 2018, [Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#), A/CONF.231/3

Successes

Successes include the following:

- The successful location and identification of missing persons involves countries of destination, transit and origin to enable the comparison of information in these locations. Some countries have introduced systems that ensure data are used exclusively for humanitarian search purposes.
- Online platforms are helping all actors working to identify missing migrants to share expertise, experience and information. They facilitate the collection and management of data and information about where missing people might be and what happened to them; how to deliver psychosocial, legal and financial support that missing people's families need; what forensic standards and best practices can help analyse and identify mortal remains and solve missing persons cases; how to prevent migrants from going missing; and to find, share and analyse relevant data to find them when they do.
- Diaspora communities have demonstrated that they can play an important role in contributing to the development of their countries of origin when they return, bringing expertise, creating businesses and participating in politics. Their understanding of the root causes of irregular migration enables

them to provide alternative opportunities to youth and survivors of human trafficking, which at times dissuades them from embarking or re-embarking on dangerous journeys.

"We have worked with over 2,500 young men and women who returned back home with reintegration packages... The reintegration of migrants back into society is what we are looking for, in a very safe, dignified and voluntary manner."

Mariam Yassin Hagi Yussuf, Special Envoy
for Children's and Migrants' Rights
Office of the Prime Minister, Somalia

- Civil society has shown that the protection of women, children and others in irregular migration situations works best when a combination of actions are taken: using the courts to secure documentation, which increases access to schools, health care and other services; establishing shelters that offer protection and support; building networks to unify civil society efforts to assist migrants along migratory routes – for example, through cross-regional centres; incorporating transnational mechanisms and inter-State cooperation to search for disappeared migrants.

- Cross-regional collaboration between refugee and migrant rights organizations can help to unify standards and language around combating racism and xenophobia; foster experience-sharing, dialogue and cooperation between civil society organizations; amplify local, regional and international advocacy work on refugees and migrants; and build bridges between members in the region to foster the incorporation of transnational mechanisms and inter-State cooperation.

Challenges

Challenges include the following:

- Migrants, and especially youth, are driven to embark on irregular migration journeys for many reasons: instability imposed by rebel groups, conflicts, climate change, drought and other vulnerabilities. On these dangerous journeys, they experience all sorts of human rights violations, including unlawful detention, kidnappings and being held for ransom.
- The pandemic further reduced opportunities for regular migration, pushing people to take irregular routes, putting them at risk of death. Political and health crises – exacerbated by conflicts, drought, climate change and other risks – have led many nationals to leave their countries through dangerous, irregular routes, leading to

many lives lost. People sell everything they own to attempt dangerous journeys, with many of the journeys failing, leaving them with nothing to live on. Women and children are particularly vulnerable to abuse and human rights violations while on the move.

“Pandemic-related border closures have reduced already limited opportunities for regular migration, pushing more people to take unsafe, irregular routes that put them at greater risk of disappearance and death. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration evokes a moral and humanitarian imperative to prevent the loss of life and other tragedies during migration.”

Ugochi Daniels, Deputy Director General
for Operations, IOM

- The deaths and disappearances of migrants pose unique challenges. These include: the enormous scope of the problem; that migrants go missing along different migration routes, not just deaths at sea; that irregular migration is often clandestine and cloaked in invisibility, making it easier to continue the practices; and that response to missing persons requires a complex involvement of families and others needed to register cases in countries of origin, transit and destination.

“The European Court of Human Rights, as well as our steering committees and mainstream bodies, have emphasized the special protection that States need to provide to vulnerable persons in the context of asylum and migration.”

Representative of the Council of Europe

Ways forward

There is a need to strengthen and improve cooperation on saving lives, protecting the rights of migrants and reducing the risks and vulnerabilities for migrants:

- Progress on Objective 8 can only be made through collaboration – governments working together with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), civil society, IOM, experts, embassies, the families of missing migrants and other actors to form cross-border commissions, committees, network systems of databases, and other innovative practices.
- There is a need to expand regular migration pathways and regularization options to offer safe legal pathways, so that people are not induced to embark on journeys through dangerous, irregular migration routes. Finding the

right balance between policies to control borders and manage migration on the one hand, and providing protection for migrants on the other, is critical.

“Even well-meaning policies to limit smuggling, for example, can have the unintended impact of actually pushing more and more migrants on ever-more risky and dangerous migration routes. Some of these policies actually have the potential to aggravate the problem rather than to be a solution in themselves.”

Florian von König, Deputy Head,
Missing Persons Project, ICRC

- Concrete action, including effective policy and programming, must be prioritized to ensure the prevention of loss of life. Efforts must focus on policy changes that address the risks caused by deterrence-based migration frameworks. The establishment of a high-level panel on deaths in transit could focus attention on the issue and facilitate action. This could help break through the bottlenecks and build capacity related to search and rescue operations, and the provision of life-saving humanitarian assistance for victims and those in situations of vulnerability.

“Ahead of the IMRF, thought should be given to what mechanisms can bring continued attention, and inform and support the policy assessment and revision. We ask, is it time to consider what a high-level panel on deaths can play in ensuring sustained attention, and correlating dialogues for the prevention of loss of life?”

Laurel Townhead, Friends World
Committee for Consultation

- Better data collection and actions to identify migrants who have died or gone missing, and support to their families, need to be stepped up. Solutions for locating and identifying missing persons must involve countries of destination, transit and origin to enable the comparison of information in these locations. The migratory context is highly sensitive and the use of data exclusively for humanitarian search purposes must be assured.

“One way forward for governments at the IMRF on Objective 8 is to move to a global commitment for action on the ground, along entire migratory routes.”

Florian von König, Deputy Head,
Missing Persons Project, ICRC

- It is important to honour those who have disappeared by identifying the remains of those who have lost their lives, contacting their families, moving those remains closer to the communities where their families are located; and to fight impunity for their deaths, and provide families and friends of those disappeared access to justice.

“To fight for Objective 8, we need joint action in four phases that is focused on the migrant person... First, prevention of those deep roots that cause a person to be so desperate as to risk their own life. Second, protection of migrants by fighting against smuggling and trafficking networks... Third, rescuing, and all States are obliged to do so... And fourth, to honour those who have disappeared.”

Representative from the Government of Spain

- To protect women, children and others in irregular migration situations, a combination of actions is required: using the courts to secure documentation in order to facilitate access to schools, health care and other services; establishing shelters; building networks to unify civil society efforts to assist migrants along migratory routes; incorporating transnational mechanisms and inter-State cooperation to search

for disappeared migrants; and building cross-regional collaboration between refugee and migrant rights organizations to unify standards to combat racism and xenophobia, to foster experience-sharing, dialogue and cooperation among actors in regions.

“States must find the right balance between their twofold moral responsibility to protect their citizens... and to provide assistance to migrants and assure their integration within society... a holistic and integrated approach to migration that centres on the human dignity of migrants, promotes their integral development, and ensures the effective protection of and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants, regardless of their migration status.”

Archbishop Gabriele Caccia, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations

and assisting migrants and their families should be protected and supported, and should not be criminalized by governments.

“Organizations working on the ground and assisting migrants should be protected and supported, and should not be fought by governments.”

Lala Arabian, Insan Association,
Cross-Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants

- Governments, civil society actors, and other organizations working to protect the rights of migrants and refugees are necessary partners for saving lives and protecting migrants in vulnerable situations. There must be open coordination and cooperation among them in order to save migrant lives and locate and identify missing migrants. Organizations working on the ground

Innovative approaches

1.1.1 ACTION PLAN ON PROTECTING VULNERABLE PERSONS IN THE CONTEXT OF MIGRATION AND ASYLUM IN EUROPE

ORGANIZATION

Council of Europe

PERIOD

2021–2025

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Member States of the Council of Europe

DESCRIPTION

In May 2021, the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers endorsed a five-year Action Plan on Protecting Vulnerable Persons in the Context of Migration and Asylum in Europe. The Action Plan defines vulnerable persons in the context of migration and asylum as persons found to have special needs after individual evaluation of the situation, who are found to be entitled to call on States' obligations to provide special assistance, drawing on existing legal standards, such as the European Union Directive.

Actions undertaken in the framework of the new Action Plan are structured around three pillars: (a) human rights, with the aim to support Member States in strengthening the safeguards and systems in place to prevent abuse, neglect, exploitation of and violence against migrants and refugees in vulnerable situations; (b) the rule of law, with the aim to improve Member States' justice systems to be adapted to vulnerable migrants, including children; and (c) democracy, with the aim to support Member States to enhance inclusion and foster democratic participation through the enabling exercise of the right to education, in line with relevant Council of Europe standards.

Support is also given to the frontline workers, with the aim to provide practical guidance to Member States on how to identify and address vulnerability through their asylum and migration procedures, including reception procedures, and promoting good practices and embedding pertinent safeguards for those identified as vulnerable in migration contexts. Support is also given for intercultural integration, social inclusion and education, as well as to facilitate dialogue with migration and asylum authorities, and to enable intersectional and cross-border exchanges.

IMPACTS

- Provision of tailor-made and ad hoc expert support aimed at preventing abuse, neglect, exploitation, violence against migrants and refugees in vulnerable situations.
- The provision of legal aid and procedures concerning migrants and refugees in vulnerable situations without discrimination and with the appropriate procedural safeguards in line with relevant Council of Europe standards.
- Legal professionals working with migrants and refugees in Member States become familiar with European standards on topics such as hate crime, hate speech, harassment, racism and homophobia.
- Member States are able to effectively and efficiently identify and address vulnerable migrants and asylum seekers.

LESSONS LEARNED

There is a need for further action and coordination among all relevant stakeholders to protect vulnerable persons in the context of migration and asylum in Europe. There are a number of players in the field of migration and asylum and to this end, further co-ordination, information exchanges as well as avoiding overlaps and complementing existing efforts are key to a targeted and effective implementation of the policy and co-operation frameworks.

RESOURCES

- [Council of Europe Action Plan on Protecting Vulnerable Persons in the Context of Migration and Asylum in Europe \(2021-2025\)](#)

CONTACT

Leyla Kayacik, Special Representative of the Secretary
General on Migration and Refugees, Council of Europe

Leyla.Kayacik@coe.int

1.1.2 CROSS-REGIONAL CENTER FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

ORGANIZATION

Insan Association, Cross-Regional
Center for Refugees and Migrants

PERIOD

Ongoing

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Middle East and North Africa

DESCRIPTION

The Cross-Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants was established to deepen exchange in the Euro Mediterranean and Arab regions, amid large flows of refugees and migrants. It is comprised of active refugee and migrant rights organizations, and works to combat racism and xenophobia, promote the rights of refugees and migrants, unify standards and language around the rights of these categories, and be inclusive. The Center also works to foster experience-sharing, dialogue and cooperation between civil society organizations in Euro-Mediterranean countries and the Arab world, and amplify the local, regional and international advocacy work on refugees and migrants. Members in the different regions try to build bridges and incorporate transnational mechanisms and inter-State cooperation.

IMPACTS

Greater coordination and cooperation among civil society organizations that are working to protect the rights of migrants and refugees that helps to save migrant lives and investigate missing migrants.

LESSONS LEARNED

Civil society – in its diversity, as regards services, approaches and strategies – constitutes the natural environment where all segments of society can trust and benefit. As such, it should be considered a natural partner for governments and United Nations agencies that are seeking to uphold rights of people.

RESOURCES

- [Cross-Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants.](#)

CONTACT

Lala Arabian, Executive Manager/Protection Coordinator,
Insan Association, Cross-Regional Center for Refugees and
Migrants

larabian@insanlb.org

1.1.3 MISSING PERSONS PROJECT

ORGANIZATION

International Committee of the Red Cross

PERIOD

2018–2022

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Global

DESCRIPTION

Through the Missing Persons Project, the ICRC has convened a community of practice including practitioners, experts, institutions, States and families that currently counts more than 1,000 participants. With hundreds of thousands of people missing worldwide as a result of conflict, violence, migration and natural disasters, the Project aims to improve efforts to prevent and resolves cases of missing persons and to support the families affected. Through an online platform and in-person meetings, the Project has allowed all those working on this issue to share expertise, experience and information with their peers, work on joint initiatives and solutions, and give the issue the full attention it deserves. Through its community of practice, the project has developed a range of guidance materials including several specifically related to missing migrants. These deal with the creation of multi-stakeholder search mechanisms, the interaction with families of missing migrants and data collection for the search. Other guiding documents developed by the project pertain to the dignified management of the dead, as well as the creation of national mechanisms for the search for missing persons. As of mid-2022 the Project's activities are becoming a permanent feature of the ICRC's Central Tracing Agency.

IMPACTS

Improves efforts to stop people from disappearing, find those who have gone missing and support the people affected.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Cases show that the efficient identification of deceased migrants is possible. For example, in Austria in 2015, a truck was found with 70 deceased migrants; and a boat sank in the English Channel in November 2021, killing 28 migrants. In both cases, every single person, with two exceptions, was identified within a matter of weeks.
- In Central America, governments, families and civil society cooperate successfully through the Proyecto Frontera which has allowed for the identification of several hundred missing migrants. Multi-stakeholder cooperation is key.

RESOURCES

- [Missing Persons Project.](#)
- [Guidelines on Coordination and Information-Exchange Mechanisms for the Search for Missing Migrants.](#)
- [Guiding Principles on Interaction with Families of Missing Migrants.](#)
- [Core Dataset for the Search for Missing Migrants.](#)

CONTACT

Florian von König, Deputy Head, Missing Persons Project, ICRC

fvonkoenig@icrc.org

1.1.4 PRE-DEPARTURE TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR FIRST-TIME MIGRANT WORKERS (BRIEFLY REFERRED TO)

ORGANIZATION

Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment

PERIOD

Ongoing

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Sri Lanka

DESCRIPTION

With a view to making migrant workers aware of the work-related risks, Sri Lanka provides a pre-departure training programme for all first-time migrant workers, particularly in the domestic household sector.

IMPACTS

Raises awareness of the risks that migrant workers face.

LESSONS LEARNED

Not available

RESOURCES

- Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment

CONTACT

M. Mallikaratchy, Additional Director General,
Economic Affairs (Technical Cooperation), Ministry of
Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka
Chathura Weerasekara, Permanent Mission of Sri
Lanka to the United Nations

manorie.mallikaratchy@mfa.gov.lk

chathura.weerasekara@mfa.gov.lk

1.1.5 PROJECT ON IRREGULAR CHILD MIGRATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO

ORGANIZATION

SOS Children's Villages

PERIOD

2017–2021

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Central America

DESCRIPTION

This project aims to improve the lives of teenagers within the context of Central America, with the goal of preventing irregular migration. The first objective was to empower more than 8,000 boys and girls, informing them about their rights. The second objective was to strengthen the protection services for teenagers through increased information-sharing in five countries. Third, support for the emotional recovery of migrants was provided in El Salvador, with agreements established between education and migration departments in each country for this purpose. Finally, political advocacy was carried out to promote the rights of teenagers, especially in Mexico, directed at the harmonization of services for teenagers, but also the approval of public policies that protect and support children and teenagers.

IMPACTS

- Greater awareness among teenagers about their rights.
- Strengthened protection services for teenagers and psychological support.
- Strengthened policies that provide services and public protection for children and teenagers.

LESSONS LEARNED

- The most important requirement for the success of this project was the coordination and joint work between different actors.

RESOURCES

- [Experiencia BMZ Regional Niñez Migrante](#)
- [Migración Infantil Irregular en Centroamérica y México](#)

CONTACT

Ruben Lopez Herrera, Regional coordinator of the child migration project in Central America and Mexico, SOS Children's Villages

Ruben.Herrera@aldeasinfantilessos.org.sv

1.1.6 PROTECTING AND SUPPORTING MIGRANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN

ORGANIZATION

Insan Association, Cross-Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants

PERIOD

Ongoing

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Middle East and North Africa

DESCRIPTION

To protect women, children and others in irregular migration situations, the Insan Association and Cross-Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants work on a combination of actions: using the courts and legal pathways to secure documentation so that they can be registered and access schools, health care and other services (Insan); establishing shelters for women and children that offer protection and support (Insan); building networks to unify civil society efforts to assist migrants on both sides of the Mediterranean (Cross Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants), for example through cross-regional centres for refugees and migrants; and incorporating transnational mechanisms and inter-State cooperation to search for disappeared/missing migrants.

IMPACTS

Vulnerable women and children are better protected and are safe from abuse and harm; in addition, unifying civil society and transnational and inter-State cooperation would significantly ameliorate the chances of finding disappeared migrants, whether alive or deceased.

LESSONS LEARNED

Cooperation and coordination are key for reaching best results, and coordination should include civil society, State actors and United Nations agencies. Civil society should be recognized as an essential partner and actor for both governments and United Nations agencies to cooperate with, not to be regarded only as a threat.

RESOURCES

- [Insan Facebook page.](#)
- [Insan Association website.](#)
- [The Cross-Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants Facebook page.](#)

CONTACT

Lala Arabian, Executive Manager/Protection Coordinator, Insan Association, Cross-Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants

larabian@insanlb.org

1.1.7 THE ROLE OF RETURNING DIASPORA IN PREVENTING IRREGULAR MIGRATION

ORGANIZATION

Office of the Prime Minister, Somalia

PERIOD

Ongoing

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Somalia

DESCRIPTION

The Somali diaspora community plays an important role in contributing to the development of Somalia when they return home, bringing back expertise, contributing businesses and participating in politics. They understand the root causes of irregular migration, and play an important role in providing alternative opportunities for youth and survivors of human trafficking, rather than embarking on dangerous journeys.

IMPACTS

Returning diaspora communities play an important role in providing opportunities for youth and survivors of human trafficking who can dissuade them from embarking on dangerous journeys.

LESSONS LEARNED

The Government of Somalia has been on the front line when it comes to stranded Somalia migrants, working closely with IOM and with the support of the European Union. The enormous numbers of migrants who have lost their lives in dangerous journeys, who never had the chance to be documented, and the exorbitant prices that kidnappers are asking families for the ransom of migrants, encourage the returning Somali diaspora to step up efforts to create opportunities in Somalia so that the youth do not feel pressured to embark on dangerous journeys.

RESOURCES

Not available

CONTACT

Mariam Yassin Hagi Yussuf, Special Envoy for Children's and Migrants' Rights, Office of the Prime Minister, Somalia

mariam.specialenvoyfgs@gmail.com

Contributors and their interventions

PANELLISTS

- Ugochi Daniels, Deputy Director General for Operations, IOM (moderator)
- Mariam Yassin Hagi Yussuf, Special Envoy for Children's and Migrants' Rights, Office of the Prime Minister, Somalia
- Florian von König, Deputy Head, Missing Persons Project, ICRC
- Lala Arabian, Executive Manager/Protection Coordinator, Insan Association, Cross-Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

- China
- Council of Europe
- Friends World Committee
- Holy See
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- SOS Children's Village
- Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Useful resources

- International Organization for Migration (IOM), “Families of Missing Migrants: Their Search for Answers and the Impacts of Loss: Lessons Across Four Countries” (summary report), 2021.
- IOM Missing Migrants Project, “Support Needed for Families of Missing Migrants: Evidence from IOM's ‘Assessing the Needs of Families Searching for Relatives Lost in the Central and Western Mediterranean’ Project” (policy recommendations), 2021.
- IOM Missing Migrants Project, regional resources.

1.2. Combating migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons

Objective 9 of the Global Compact for Migration calls for strengthening international cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination for a transnational and effective response to the smuggling of migrants. A key action to advance this objective is ensuring access to pathways for regular migration. COVID-19 has adversely impacted on regular pathways, both for those seeking to migrate and those seeking to return home. Given that the lines between migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons are sometimes blurred, with increased abuse and exploitation of smuggled migrants, smuggling may often turn into trafficking.

“UNODC data show that smuggled migrants are regularly subjected to extreme violence, torture, rape and kidnapping at all stages of the migration cycle.”

Silke Albert, Project Coordinator on Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling Section, UNODC

often exposed to further harm, they are at high risk of falling into the hands of criminal networks and being subjected to violence, exploitation and abuse. According to the latest data collected by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 45 per cent of all identified victims were trafficked across borders. Even when support is available, victims may not be able to return home or to their place of habitual residence because of threats from traffickers. Moreover, they may be at high risk of being re trafficked. In some cases, victims seeking protection and judicial remedies are punished further through stigmatization, victim-blaming and shaming, and even criminalization, leading to arrest and detention.

Objective 10 aims to prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration. Undocumented migrants in irregular situations are easy prey for traffickers. Given that they are unprotected and are

Objective 5 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
“Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration.”

Objective 9 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
“Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants.”

Objective 10 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
“Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration.”

United Nations General Assembly, 2018, [Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#), A/CONF.231/3

Successes

- While much has been done since the adoption of the Global Compact for Migration to combat migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons, the scale of the problems leaves a lot more work to be done.
- The criminal justice approach to addressing smuggling and trafficking is important, and progress is being made on that front in many countries, with more of a focus on prosecuting perpetrators and protecting victims.
- Some States provide regularization alternatives to migrants in an irregular situation, on human rights, humanitarian or refugee grounds. This ensures that trafficked victims seeking help are not put at risk of being re trafficked,

or punished through stigmatization, victim-blaming and shaming, and criminalization, leading to arrest and detention.

Article 18 of the 1998 Legislative Decree 286 of Italy allows victims of trafficking to be granted an initial 6 months temporary residence permit that can be prolonged by a further 12 months if this is deemed to be necessary. When the maximum of 18 months has expired, the victim can change the temporary residence permit issued to a work or study visa.

- The principle of non-criminalization of trafficking victims for illicit conduct as a result of their being trafficked is enshrined in article 5 of the Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons, stressing the importance of protecting and assisting victims of trafficking with full respect for their rights.
- Through the adoption of the Political Declaration on the Implementation of the Global Action Plan Against Trafficking in Persons, Member States reaffirmed their strong political will to take decisive concerted action to end human trafficking.

Challenges

Challenges include the following:

- Despite the progress made to prosecute perpetrators and protect victims in some countries, in many countries migrants who have been trafficked and smuggled continue to face criminal prosecution, instead of protection.
- Traffickers and smugglers are resorting to more aggressive tactics to lure young people into dangerous journeys, such as waiting outside schools and universities in some countries. Since the increased border closures during the pandemic,

traffickers and smugglers are resorting to more dangerous migratory routes.

- Data on trafficking in persons, including administrative records and prevalence estimates, remain limited, reducing the effects of evidence-based anti-trafficking responses.

“According to a study by the Observatory on the Smuggling of Migrants, the demand for smuggling services is largely determined by both limited availability of legal channels and the complexity and cost of legal migration, which some migrants simply cannot afford.”

Silke Albert, Project Coordinator on Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling Section, UNODC

- Humanitarian actors are often criminalized for rescuing migrants in distress on the grounds of facilitation of illegal entry. This practice is unjustified because the Palermo Protocol on Smuggling of Migrants, which supplements the Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, provides against the criminal liability of migrants (article 5), and it requires an illicit financial or other material benefit as an essential element of the criminal conduct to prosecute.

“Too frequently, criminal justice action is misdirected and inadequately implemented.”

Silke Albert, Project Coordinator on Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling Section, UNODC

“This is an issue that involves an extremely wide range of stakeholders, not just the obvious ones of governments and civil society, but also, increasingly, the private sector.”

Federico Soda, Chief of IOM Mission in Libya

Ways forward

Some ways forward include the following:

- There is a need to expand regular migration pathways and regularization options to offer safe legal pathways, so that people are not induced to embark on journeys through dangerous, irregular migration routes.

“There is plenty of evidence to show that there is no real solution to the problem of smuggling other than increasing regular pathways and regularization.”

Bandana Pattanaik, International Coordinator at the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

- Additional efforts are needed to improve data granularity and coverage to bolster the effects of anti-trafficking responses. This requires the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders, including the private sector.

- Criminal justice should target the actual perpetrators, namely organized criminal networks and kingpins who orchestrate the crimes, and should not target instead smuggled and trafficked migrants who are not liable for the criminal conduct, nor the humanitarian organizations working to save lives and protect migrants in situations of vulnerability.

- There is a need for Member States to refrain from criminalizing humanitarian actors for rescuing migrants in distress. They can recall that article 6 of the Palermo Protocol on Smuggling of Migrants, which supplements the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, requires an illicit financial or other material benefit.

- Noting that criminalization of smuggled migrants continues to be a reality in many countries, Member States should recall that the Palermo Protocol on Smuggling, which has been negotiated and ratified by Member States, establishes international

obligation upon its parties. Member States are bound to respect and enforce their provisions, including article 5, which provides that migrants shall not become liable to criminal prosecution for having been smuggled.

- The criminal justice and human rights-based approaches must go hand in hand. The criminal justice approach can be supported when more focus is placed on prevention in the sense of increasing human safety, stability and security through the creation of education and employment opportunities, and addressing discriminatory practices in society.

this will make sure that penalties are not imposed on victims of trafficking.

“Exploitation has become so endemic to so many work situations that, rather than looking to assist victims and punish perpetrators, States actually need to take proactive steps to create and guarantee jobs and protect labour rights, to make decent work a norm rather than just an aspiration.”

Bandana Pattanaik, International Coordinator at
Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

- Greater efforts are needed to implement the principle of non-criminalization of trafficking victims for illicit conduct as a result of their being trafficked in practice. With the help of the international community,

Innovative approaches

1.2.1 ALLIANCE 8.7 GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR ERADICATING FORCED LABOUR, MODERN SLAVERY, HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND CHILD LABOUR

ORGANIZATION

Alliance 8.7

PERIOD

2016–present

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Global

DESCRIPTION

Alliance 8.7 is an inclusive global partnership committed to achieving Target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – eradicating forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour around the world. The Alliance brings together actors at all levels to collaborate, strategize, share knowledge and ultimately accelerate progress, so we can deliver on this commitment by 2030. The strength of the Alliance lies in the diversity of its partners and their commitment to reaching across borders and meeting the challenges together.

IMPACTS

- Coordinated global action on Sustainable Development Goal Target 8.7, harnessing their expertise collectively.
- Help advance other sustainable development goals addressing poverty, education, gender equality, decent work, inequalities, and peace and justice. The Alliance focuses on three main areas:
 - Accelerating action
 - Better coordinate research and knowledge sharing
 - Drive innovation and increase and leverage resources

LESSONS LEARNED

- There is widespread agreement on the need to eradicate forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour, and most States have national plans and strategies in place. However, there is an urgent need to align these plans and their associated strategies with the ambitious deadlines States have set in the Sustainable Development Goals. Alliance 8.7 identifies **pathfinder countries** that commit to significantly accelerated action and will work with them to achieve Target 8.7.
- There is a need to agree on indicators for Target 8.7, fill data gaps in key areas such as forced labour and support governments with monitoring progress towards eradication. Better coordination on research agendas is required to prevent duplication. Knowledge sharing arrangements are also key. Hundreds of powerful datasets and other studies already exist, but most of them are not publically available and tend to sit in silos. There is no efficient mechanism for disseminating lessons learned and good practices to those designing programmes or to access all relevant information in a one-stop-shop. To address these issues, a **Knowledge Platform – Delta 8.7** was developed in 2018.

- In some areas, the problems and solutions need to be better understood and, in others, innovative solutions offer the opportunity to accelerate action. New approaches need to be tested and technology harnessed. Fostering collaboration between governments, workers' and employers' organizations and other public, private and civil society organizations has the potential to enhance innovative processes such as financing models. **Thematic Action Groups** have been established to coordinate research, advocacy and implementation in priority areas including: Supply Chains; Rule of Law; Migration; and Conflict and Humanitarian Settings.

RESOURCES

- Alliance 8.7
- Alliance 8.7 pathfinder countries
- Alliance 8.7 Delta 8.7 Knowledge Platform
- Alliance 8.7 Thematic Action Groups

CONTACT

Alliance 8.7

Alliance87@ilo.org

1.2.2 COLLABORATING TO RAISE AWARENESS AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

ORGANIZATION

Government of Japan

PERIOD

Ongoing - present

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Japan/Asia

DESCRIPTION

The Government of Japan works with various organizations, including the Japan International Cooperation Agency, UNAFEI, UNODC and UN-Women, to provide organizations with training and awareness-raising about trafficking in persons throughout Asia. Japan has long worked with and financially supported IOM for the provision of repatriation and reintegration support to migrant victims of trafficking, including vocational services and legal and medical assistance. Japan also provides funding through IOM for the maintenance of the website of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime which contributes to information sharing on policy dialogue and awareness raising on practical measures to address issues.

IMPACTS

Raises awareness and capacity among relevant organizations across the region to combat trafficking and protect and assist victims.

LESSONS LEARNED

Not available yet

RESOURCES

Government of Japan

CONTACT

Natsuki Matsumoto, Permanent Mission of Japan
to the United Nations

natsuki.matsumoto@mofa.go.jp

1.2.3 COUNTERING THE SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS THROUGH BORDER LIAISON OFFICES (BRIEFLY REFERRED TO)

ORGANIZATION

Government of Japan/UNODC

PERIOD

Ongoing - present

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Japan/global

DESCRIPTION

The Government of Japan has worked with UNODC to establish border liaison offices and cooperation mechanisms that strengthen countermeasures to smuggling of migrants across countries' borders.

IMPACTS

The project helps relevant law enforcement authorities of each Member State to establish agreements on border control, particularly through enhanced information exchange mechanisms.

LESSONS LEARNED

Not available yet

RESOURCES

Government of Japan

CONTACT

Natsuki Matsumoto, Permanent Mission of Japan
to the United Nations

natsuki.matsumoto@mofa.go.jp

1.2.4 ENSURING JUDGES ARE SPECIALIZED IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND RELATED CRIMES

ORGANIZATION

Prosecuting Officer for Crime and
Special Cases, Republic of Moldova

PERIOD

2019–present

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Republic of Moldova

DESCRIPTION

In 2019, the Superior Council of Magistrates of the Republic of Moldova examined the issue of ensuring judges are specialized in combating human trafficking and related crimes. Since 2020, the country has judges who specialize in human trafficking and related crimes, such as forced labour, organization of illegal immigration and trafficking. Upon the request of the judges themselves, the Council's decision was amended to ensure that a victim-centred approach is mainstreamed into the action of prosecutors, in view of the extreme protection needs faced by victims of trafficking.

IMPACTS

- Ensures greater justice for traffickers and those carrying out related crimes.
- Ensures a victims-centred approach is carried out by prosecutors, to meet the protection needs of victims of trafficking.

LESSONS LEARNED

A victims-centred approach is vital for ensuring the protection needs of victims of trafficking.

RESOURCES

- Republic of Moldova, Decision on the Pilot Project for the Specialization of Judges to examine cases of trafficking in human beings and related crimes (original language), 2018.
- Republic of Moldova, Decision on the Specialization of judges in the field of combating trafficking in human beings and related crimes (original language), 2020.
- Republic of Moldova, Decision to amend the Decision of the Supreme Judicial Council on the Specialisation of judges in the field of combating trafficking in human beings and related crimes (original language), 2020.

CONTACT

Prosecuting Officer for Crime and Special Cases,
Republic of Moldova

s.russu@procuratura.md

1.2.5 FOUR-PRONGED STRATEGY TO COMBAT AND ERADICATE TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (BRIEFLY REFERRED TO)

ORGANIZATION

Government of Eritrea

PERIOD

Ongoing

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Eritrea

DESCRIPTION

The Government of Eritrea has implemented a four-pronged strategy to combat and eradicate trafficking in persons and mitigate the effects on victims:

1. Socioeconomic development, to create opportunities for citizens to thrive in their own country.
2. Enhance the legal and institutional capacity of relevant law enforcement bodies to combat trafficking in persons, in partnership with UNODC.
3. Support victims of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants, and ensure the provision of technical assistance.
4. Focus on the de-stigmatization of trafficked and smuggled migrants.

IMPACTS

- These efforts have contributed to combating and eradicating transnational organized crimes more broadly, and strengthening the struggle for peace and security across Africa.

- They work towards eradicating inequalities, reducing the vulnerabilities of irregular migrants and combating sexual exploitation.

LESSONS LEARNED

Not available

RESOURCES

Not available

CONTACT

Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the United Nations

1.2.6 GUIDE ON LEGAL NORMS AND INSTRUMENTS FOR COMBATING ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

ORGANIZATION

Prosecuting Officer for Crime and Special Cases, Republic of Moldova

PERIOD

2019–present

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Republic of Moldova

DESCRIPTION

The Republic of Moldova developed a guide on international and national legal norms and instruments in the field of combating child abuse and sexual exploitation using information and communications technologies. The guide presents a unitary approach to addressing cases of sexual exploitation, and describes best practices in the field. The guide can be followed by prosecutors and investigation officers during criminal investigation processes. It was developed in cooperation with national non-governmental organizations.

IMPACTS

Assists prosecutors and investigation officers to be aware of international and national legal norms and instruments during criminal investigation processes related to child abuse and sexual exploitation.

LESSONS LEARNED

There is a need for a unitary approach to addressing cases of sexual exploitation.

RESOURCES

- A guide is available for legal professionals upon request via the contact details below.

CONTACT

Prosecuting Officer for Crime and Special Cases,
Republic of Moldova

s.russu@procuratura.md

1.2.7 GUIDELINE ON CONDUCTING PARALLEL FINANCIAL INVESTIGATIONS

ORGANIZATION

Prosecuting Officer for Crime and Special Cases, Republic of Moldova

PERIOD

2019–present

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Republic of Moldova

DESCRIPTION

The Republic of Moldova developed a guide to conducting parallel financial investigations. The guide was developed with the support of IOM.

IMPACTS

Assists prosecutors and investigation officers in developing parallel financial investigations during prosecution in cases of trafficking in human beings.

LESSONS LEARNED

Qualitative criminal prosecution in cases of trafficking in human beings is indispensable for the seizure and confiscation of money of the traffickers used or obtained as a result of crime of exploitation of persons.

RESOURCES

- General Prosecutor's Office, Republic of Moldova, [Guideline on conducting Parallel Financial Investigations](#), 2019.

CONTACT

Prosecuting Officer for Crime and Special Cases,
Republic of Moldova

s.russu@procuratura.md

1.2.8 AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND PROTECTING VICTIMS

ORGANIZATION

Government of Argentina

PERIOD

Ongoing–present

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Argentina

DESCRIPTION

Argentina has been working for many years on policies to fight migrant smuggling and human trafficking. It has a specific Act incorporated in the Penal Code, which has led to the generation of structures, areas, programmes and practices at the local, provincial and national levels. Migration law establishes the regulations for victims of trafficking or illicit migrant smuggling. Within a biannual framework, the joint work of the Executive Committee and the Federal Committee on combating human trafficking and ensuring the protection and assistance of victims has implemented public policies to increase access to jobs, housing, therapy and reparations to victims. The National Plan of Argentina 2022 includes 100 actions, assistance to victims and prosecution of criminal networks, among other things. To advance the National

Plan, regional offices were created to rescue and help victims of trafficking, with the aim of preventing crime and protecting and assisting victims. This allows victims to provide testimony to judges. Argentina has also proposed and implemented in the South American Conference on Migration the creation of six working networks, one of them to fight against migrant smuggling and human trafficking, with the aim of creating consensus on this topic in the South American region. Through this network, best practices and progress made are shared related to regulation, trainings, awareness-raising, publications and protocol generation.

IMPACTS

- Codifying principles in law simplifies processes and administration. It led to the creation of structures, areas, programmes and practices at local, provincial and national levels to prevent crime and assist and protect victims.
- Accompanying and providing assistance to victims of trafficking creates a safer space for victims to provide testimony to judges.
- Regional networks can boost consensus on combating trafficking and protecting victims, and facilitate the sharing of best practices relating to regulation, trainings, awareness-raising and protocol generation.

LESSONS LEARNED

Combating trafficking in persons and protecting victims require an integrated approach that combines law, policies and programmes that aim to prevent crime and protect and assist victims.

RESOURCES

- Law N° 25.632
- Law N° 26.842
- Guía MERCOSUR para la atención de las mujeres en situación de trata de personas con fines de explotación sexual
- Diagnostico Regional La Trata de Mujeres Con Fines de Explotacion Sexual en el Mercosur
- Mecanismo de articulación para la atención a mujeres en situación de trata internacional
- Plan Nacional de Lucha contra la Trata y Explotación de Personas 2020/2022
- Área de Detección Temprana de Trata y Tráfico de Personas en fronteras

CONTACT

Carlos Catella, Government of Argentina
Mariano Higa, Government of Argentina
Andrés Pérez Esquivel, Government of Argentina

ccx@mrecic.gov.ar
hgj@mrecic.gov.ar
aperezesquivel@migraciones.gob.ar

1.2.9 A MANUAL TO RAISE AWARENESS OF TRAFFICKING AMONG MIGRANTS GOING ABROAD FOR WORK

ORGANIZATION

Government of Madagascar

PERIOD

2019 – present

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Madagascar/Global

DESCRIPTION

The Government of Madagascar created a manual containing guidelines for migrants and workers going abroad for work, to raise awareness of the risks and forms of human trafficking. The manual was elaborated by an inter-ministerial committee composed of the Ministry in charge of Labour, the Ministry of Business and the Ministry of Public Security. It defines the roles and responsibilities of these ministries in managing the emigration of migrant workers. The procedure was established to prevent human trafficking and to protect migrant workers from this scourge. The prior satisfaction of the steps provided for in this manual is a condition for obtaining the authorization to leave the territory of Madagascar for Madagascan migrant workers, namely: a) to have the work contract endorsed by the Embassy of Madagascar, which must ensure the real existence of the employer and the position to be filled; b) to have the employment contract endorsed by the Malagasy Ministry of Labour, Employment, Public Service and Social Laws; c) to be the subject of a morality investigation by the Ministry of Public Security; d) to present the duly stamped work contract, the plane ticket, the copy of the passport, the report of morality to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Diaspora Directorate, for a mention “Seen in passing”; e) to proceed with the consular pre-registration at the Diaspora Directorate; f) to bring all these documents to the Ministry of Public Security at Ivato International Airport when crossing the Madagascan border. This manual is currently being validated at government level. However, the procedure mentioned above is already applied when migrant workers leave the territory of Madagascar.

IMPACTS

The manual provides a better understanding of human trafficking for Madagascans planning to go abroad for work. The manual is a tool for managing and securing the exit of Madagascan migrant workers, as well as for preventing possible criminal offences and risks of human trafficking at departure point. It also allows a better traceability and monitoring of the situation of Madagascan migrant workers abroad.

LESSONS LEARNED

Not available

RESOURCES

Not available

CONTACT

Jessie Athina Razafison, Director of Diaspora,
Government of Madagascar

ddia@diplomatie.gov.mg

1.2.10 PRINCIPLE OF NON-CRIMINALIZATION OF TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

ORGANIZATION

Inter-Agency Coordination Group against
Trafficking in Persons (ICAT)/United Nations
Office on Drugs and Crime

PERIOD

Ongoing

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Global

DESCRIPTION

The principle of non-criminalization of trafficking victims for illicit conduct as a result of their being trafficked is not clearly stated in article 5 of the Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons, but has emerged as best practice. Sometimes as a result of their victimization, trafficking victims engage in illegal conduct, such as involvement in the sex trade, involvement in drug production or trafficking, petty crime, possession or the use of fraudulent documents, or entering another country in a manner that does not comply with its immigration laws. In many cases, victims are forced or otherwise compelled by traffickers to commit crimes or illegal conduct. This fact is then used by traffickers as a means of maintaining further control over their victims. The principle on non-criminalization of trafficking victims is in line with the core purposes of the Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons, including to protect and assist victims of trafficking with full respect for their human rights.

IMPACTS

- Allows the protection and assistance of trafficking victims with full respect for their human rights, and ensures that penalties are not imposed on them.
- Encourages victims to report crimes committed against them and participate as witnesses in trials against traffickers without fear of being censured themselves.
- Maintains the interests of justice by ensuring that victims are not punished for conduct that they would not otherwise commit.

LESSONS LEARNED

- The non-criminalization principle can cover a broad range of unlawful acts and can apply to all stages of the criminal justice system, and to non-criminal proceedings, such as immigration administrative ones. The threshold for the principle's application has not been consistently stated or defined.
- Training to support early victim identification and referring victims to needs-appropriate services are critical. Grounded in a rights-based framework, the principle must be applied in a non-discriminatory, gender- and age-responsive manner.
- Developing clear policies, practices and laws supports the effective implementation of the non-punishment principle.
- The non-criminalization principle can be extended to enable criminal records to be vacated or expunged for individuals who were convicted of crimes committed as a direct result of trafficking.

RESOURCES

- Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, [Non-Punishment of Victims of Trafficking](#) (issue brief), 2020.
- Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, 2012, [The International Legal Frameworks concerning Trafficking in Persons, 2021](#).

CONTACT

- Silke Albert, Project Coordinator on Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling Section, UNODC silke.albert@un.org
- ICAT iccat@un.org

1.2.11 RESOLUTION ON THE POLITICAL DECLARATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL ACTION PLAN AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

ORGANIZATION

Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT)

PERIOD

2010–present

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Global

DESCRIPTION

2021 Political Declaration on the Implementation of the 2010 United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons: draft resolution submitted by the President of the United Nations General Assembly.

IMPACTS

Through the adoption of the Political Declaration, Member States reaffirmed the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, evincing their strong political will to take decisive concerted action to end human trafficking.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Combating trafficking requires strong partnerships between governments, civil society and the private sector; while integrating the perspectives of survivors and recognizing trafficked persons as agents of change.
- Survivor narratives play a significant role in crafting the right policies and practices, because survivors know first-hand how human traffickers operate and the strategies they use to bond victims to slavery.

RESOURCES

- United Nations General Assembly 2021, [Political Declaration on the Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons: draft resolution/submitted by the President of the General Assembly, A/76/L.11](#), 2021.

CONTACT

- ICAT iccat@un.org

1.2.12 NATIONAL PLAN AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (BRIEFLY REFERRED TO)

ORGANIZATION

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

PERIOD

2021–2025

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

DESCRIPTION

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has created a National Office to work with survivors of trafficking in persons. The Country has developed a five-year Plan and a Road Map to prevent and combat the crimes of trafficking in persons, and highlights the non-criminalization of victims.

IMPACTS

- These efforts have contributed to combating and eradicating transnational organized crimes more broadly, and strengthening the struggle for peace and security.
- They work towards eradicating inequalities, reducing the vulnerabilities of irregular migrants and combating sexual exploitation.

LESSONS LEARNED

The dividing line between migrant smuggling and trafficking of persons is very thin. Migrant smugglers can themselves be victims of trafficking. Countries of origin, transit and destination must work together to exchange information about the networks that work on trafficking and smuggling.

RESOURCES

- [The five-year plan and road map are available on the government website](#)

CONTACT

Marco Antonio Magallanes Grillet, Director
General of the Department for Consular Affairs,
Government of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

marco.magallanes70@mppre.gob.ve

Contributors and their interventions

PANELLISTS

- Federico Soda, Chief of IOM Mission in Libya (moderator)
- Silke Albert, Project Coordinator on Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling Section, UNODC
- Bandana Pattanaik, International Coordinator at the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

- Argentina
- Eritrea
- Japan
- Madagascar
- Republic of Moldova
- Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Useful resources

- Digidiki, V., J. Bhabha, A. Bhatia, S. Peisch, V. Sattler, B. Cordaro and H. Cook, “[See Migration Like Water](#)”: An Analysis of IOM Flow Monitoring Survey Data on Migration Flows in West and Central Africa. FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University, Boston, and International Organization for Migration, Geneva, 2021.
- International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2015 – 2019, [Fatal Journeys report series](#) (report series).
- IOM Thematic Papers:
 - IOM Thematic Paper: Combating Trafficking in Persons and Other Forms of Slavery.
 - IOM Thematic Paper: Countering Migrant Smuggling.
 - IOM Thematic Paper: Protection of Human Rights and Vulnerable Migrants.
- International Labour Organization (ILO), [Global estimates of modern slavery: Forced labour and forced marriage](#). Geneva, 2017.
- International Labour Organization (ILO), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), IOM and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), [Ending child labour, forced labour and human trafficking in global supply chains](#), 2019.
- Mullally, S., [Report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children](#), 2021.
- Stöckl H., C. Fabbri, H. Cook, C. Galez-Davis, N. Grant, Y. Lo, L. Kiss, C. Zimmerman, “[Human trafficking and violence: Findings from the largest global dataset of trafficking survivors](#)”, *Journal of Migration and Health*, 16 November 2021:100073.
- UNICEF and IOM, [Harrowing Journeys: Children and youth on the move across the Mediterranean Sea, at risk of trafficking and exploitation](#), 2017.

- United Nations Network on Migration Policy Brief: [The Global Compact for Migration \(GCM\): Well Governed Migration as an Essential Element of Effective COVID-19 Response](#).
- United Nations Network on Migration Statement: [COVID-19 Does Not Discriminate; Nor Should Our Response](#).
- United Nations Secretary-General Policy Brief: [COVID-19 and People on the Move](#).
- UNODC Policy Brief: [Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Trafficking in Persons](#).
- UNODC, [Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2020](#) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.20.IV.3).
- [Video](#): Director General's Statement for the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly for the Appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Human Trafficking, 22-23 November 2021.
- Walk Free Foundation and IOM, [Migrants and their Vulnerability to Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery, and Forced Labour](#), 2019.

Part II. Facilitating regular migration

2.1. Legal identity: enabling regular migration and access to rights

Everyone has the right to be recognized as a person before the law, and to enjoy their human rights without discrimination. Objective 4 of the Global Compact for Migration calls on Member States to “Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation”. Proof of legal identity, including proof of nationality, is generally a requirement for crossing borders in a regular manner. While the right to a legal identity is universally recognized, access to proof of legal identity remains a challenge in several regions. Approximately 1.1 billion

people lack access to legal identity, including many migrants, refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons. Many migrants end up in vulnerable situations in another country, without access to any form of documents, and with no consular representation. In many cases, their documents were stolen, lost or confiscated by employers. All migrants, irrespective of their legal status, must have non-discriminatory access to legal identity and adequate documentation through rights-compliant systems.

Objective 4 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
“Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation.”

Objective 5 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
“Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration.”

Objective 14 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
“Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle.”

United Nations General Assembly, 2018, [Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#), A/CONF.231/3

Successes

Successes include the following:

- Ensuring universal access to legal identity contributes to many aspects of the Global Compact for Migration. Some countries are issuing ID cards to their nationals living abroad in an irregular situation, enabling them to enjoy their human rights, and allowing them access to education, health services, banks and other services, irrespective of their migration status.

“Recognizing legal identity of people regardless of their migratory status is fundamental for enabling their access to human rights.”

Jaime Vázquez Bracho, Director General for Consular Services, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico

- In the absence of passports or official ID, some countries are granting asylum seekers cards with photos that facilitate life in the country, by confirming that they are asylum seekers, by providing details of where the asylum seeker has the right to work, and to facilitate access to essential services, including health care and education. Firewalls between education, social welfare and police systems facilitate the education of asylum seekers and undocumented minors, without fear of retribution.

“Neither schools nor the social welfare board have any obligation to notify the police authority regarding undocumented families.”

Kristof Tamas, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Justice, Division for Migration, Sweden

- There is consensus among United Nations agencies and other international organizations that Member States should introduce systems that allow people a holistic coverage of legal identity from birth to death, including universal birth registration. In cases where people, for whatever reason, are not able to produce a birth certificate as they move forward during life, States have for many years rolled out additional forms of identity management systems, such as national ID card schemes,

“IOM is very pleased to be part of the United Nations Legal Identity Task Force, a group of 13 United Nations agencies delivering on the commitment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to provide legal identity for all, a key enabler of rights and protection for people on the move.”

Ugochi Daniels, Deputy Director General for Operations, IOM

national population registers, or increasingly fully digital ID schemes.

- The United Nations Legal Identity Task Force, a group of 13 United Nations agencies delivering on the commitment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to provide legal identity for all, is working to enable the rights and protection for people on the move. This work is also linked to the 2021 United Nations Our Common Agenda, which underpins identity for all as a central tenet to accessing justice.

Challenges

Challenges include the following:

- Migrants who lack proof of legal identity or legal documents face increased risks of unsafe and irregular migration, have more difficulty reuniting with family and returning to their countries of origin, and those caught in crisis situations find it harder to access critical services, including international evacuation assistance.
- Many asylum seekers lack passports when filling in their asylum applications.
- Identity and civil registration documents, below the level of passports, are not standardized across countries. Many States still lack robust and inclusive civil registration systems or the capacity to issue

adequate identity and travel documents, and to link these to national identity management systems and common databases. There is a lack of consular services to register life events and issue documentation for nationals abroad, while safeguarding the right to privacy and protection of personal data.

- The Global Forum on Migration and Development identified three challenges related to ensuring migrant access to legal identity: (a) the lack of documentation as a basis to prove legal identity; (b) migrants who deliberately move without documentation; and (c) the difficulties of effectively advising migrants on their rights, obligations and methods of seeking support.

“The international community should assist countries of origin to ensure broader delivery of authentic birth certificates, ID cards and travel documents.”

Kristof Tamas, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Justice,
Division for Migration, Sweden

Ways forward

Ensuring universal access to legal identity contributes to many aspects of the Global Compact for Migration, including the protection of the rights of people on the move and access to services:

- People on the move, including irregular migrants, must be recognized as people before the law, to enjoy respect for human rights without discrimination, and to have the right to a legal identity and adequate documentation to protect their rights and facilitate access to services.
- More work needs to be done to standardize identity documents, including civil documents, across countries, and to digitalize access to legal identity (while safeguarding the protection of data and individuals). We know that this is possible because countries across the world have already standardized passport systems.

“In countries where migrants do not have any consular representation, then there must be a way for migrants to be able to access and download digital versions of identity documents that will be recognized by the host country.”

Niall McCann, Policy Advisor and Project Manager,
Legal Identity, UNDP

- There is a need for all countries to improve national civil registration to ensure non-discriminatory access to legal identity and travel documents for all, regardless of migratory status, and to counteract the existence of a parallel shadow society that enhances vulnerabilities and lead to segregation and crime. There is also a need for consular representation abroad, and stronger cooperation between States.

“If you do not link death registration with various forms of national ID systems, then your database day after day is full of dead people. And then there’s a problem of the overall confidence that the public has in the integrity of the identity management system.”

Niall McCann, Policy Advisor and
Project Manager, Legal Identity, UNDP

- In cases where people are not able to produce a birth certificate, additional forms of identity management – such as national ID card schemes, national population registers, or fully digital ID schemes – should be introduced and linked with the core civil registration system of birth and death registration.

Innovative approaches

2.1.1 ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS AND UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS

ORGANIZATION

Division of Migration,
Government of Sweden

PERIOD

Ongoing - present

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Sweden

DESCRIPTION

In the context of 85 per cent of asylum seekers lacking passports when filling in their asylum applications in Sweden, the Government of Sweden has three measures that facilitate the identification of individuals:

- Issuance of an Asylum Seeker plastic card (now also with digital records), with a photo.
- Asylum seekers and undocumented migrants have the right to subsidized health care for essential care, including maternal and reproductive health care. Children under the age of 18 are entitled to the same health and dental care as permanent residents.
- Since 2013, undocumented children have the right to education in preschool classes, primary school, special primary school and special schools. If they start their education before turning 18, they also have the right to upper secondary school and continuing education. Neither the schools nor the social welfare boards have any obligation to notify about undocumented families, and can keep information about the student confidential.

IMPACTS

- The asylum seeker card is not equivalent to an ID card, but it facilitates life in Sweden for asylum seekers. It includes information on where an asylum seeker has the right to work; it can be used by authorities and employers, or when opening bank accounts; and grants asylum seekers reduced pharmacy fees.
- Subsidized essential health care for asylum seekers and undocumented migrants, and full health care for asylum seekers and undocumented minors, ensure access to health care.
- Access to education for asylum seekers and undocumented migrants reduces inequalities. Firewalls between education, social welfare and police facilitates the education of asylum seekers and undocumented minors, without fear of retribution.

LESSONS LEARNED

- The asylum seeker card is not equivalent to an ID card, but it facilitates life in Sweden for asylum seekers. It includes information on where an asylum seeker has the right to work; it can be used by authorities and employers, or when opening bank accounts; and grants asylum seekers reduced pharmacy fees.
- Subsidized essential health care for asylum seekers and undocumented migrants, and full health care for asylum seekers and undocumented minors, ensure access to health care.
- Access to education for asylum seekers and undocumented migrants reduces inequalities.

Firewalls between education, social welfare and police facilitates the education of asylum seekers and undocumented minors, without fear of retribution.

RESOURCES

Not available

CONTACT

Kristof Tamas, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Justice,
Division for Migration, Sweden

kristof.tamas@regeringskansliet.se

2.1.2 CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT TO OBTAIN A LEGAL IDENTITY

ORGANIZATION

Government of Sri Lanka

PERIOD

Ongoing

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Sri Lanka/global

DESCRIPTION

Sri Lanka has taken a number of measures to realize Objective 4 of the Global Compact for Migration, and to ensure that all migrants have a legal identity and adequate documentation:

- The creation of an enabling environment to obtain a legal identity, such as boosting access to passports and building the capacity of foreign diplomatic offices to offer consular support for obtaining legal identity, where such identity has been lost or misplaced, especially in countries where significant numbers of Sri Lankan labour migrants reside.
- To enhance migrant worker protection, standard employment contracts for departing migrant workers are a mandated requirement for registering them with the Sri Lanka Bureau of foreign employment. Educating migrant workers about the terms and conditions of a standard contract is conducted at the pre-departure orientation by the bureau.
- An amnesty period was recently declared for unregistered Sri Lankans working overseas, to guarantee welfare and protection while bringing them into the system.
- Diplomatic missions in labour-receiving countries assist in renewing passports and registering births and marriage certificates overseas. For those who do not have a passport, identity is verified and a temporary passport is provided during repatriation. A mechanism is in place to issue death certificates upon receiving reports of deaths that have occurred overseas, to family members in Sri Lanka.
- In the wake of COVID-19, Sri Lanka launched a dedicated vaccination programme for immigrant workers to ensure they are fully vaccinated prior to departure, and to ensure they have internationally recognized vaccines to meet the requirements of host countries.

IMPACTS

- Registration of employment contracts for departing migrant workers assists in maintaining records, including a passport number or a national card, identity card number, and information about the employers and family members.
- Legal identity is crucial in facilitating the regular processes in sending remittances, as those without legal identity are prone to using illegal money transfer mechanisms.
- Legal identity facilitated the vaccination drive in Sri Lanka for migrant workers.

LESSONS LEARNED

Not available

RESOURCES

Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment

CONTACT

M. Mallikaratchy Additional Director General/
Economic Affairs (Technical Cooperation) Ministry of
Foreign Affairs
Chathura Weerasekara, Permanent
Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations

manorie.mallikaratchy@mfa.gov.lk

chathura.weerasekara@mfa.gov.lk

2.1.3 HOLISTIC COVERAGE OF LEGAL IDENTITY FROM BIRTH TO DEATH

ORGANIZATION

United Nations Development Programme
(UNDP) and other United Nations agencies

PERIOD

2018-present

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Global

DESCRIPTION

Since 2018, UNDP, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), IOM and other United Nations agencies have a united position on the issue of legal identity, which broadly states that not only should everyone on the planet have the means to prove who they are, but that Member States should implement systems that allow people to be able to have a holistic coverage of legal identity from birth to death. This includes universal birth registration. In cases where people are not able to produce a birth certificate, additional forms of identity management – such as national ID card schemes, national population registers or fully digital ID schemes. When Member States do this, these systems should be linked with the core civil registration system of birth and death registration. Any forms of national population registers and national ID card schemes should also be linked. For refugees, the position of UNHCR is that host countries of registered refugees should include refugees in their national identity management systems, regardless of the issue of citizenship or nationality. This ensures refugees have access to birth, civil and death registration for any life events that occur on the territory of a host government.

IMPACTS

- Boosts access to basic services for migrants, refugees and displaced persons.
- The national ID system linked to the core civil registration facilitates the identification of citizens who reached the age of entering into national ID systems, and prevents risk of one person with two different identities (i.e. one person registered under different names under Civil Registration and national ID systems).
- Ensures that legal identity retires with the death so that databases and identity management systems have integrity and are not full of dead people, which can lead to corruption.

LESSONS LEARNED

- UNDP and IOM in partnership have jointly developed [Free movement zones: Guide for issuance and border management](#), and if the standardization of national ID documents is realized, cross-border data-sharing will become easier and will significantly empower migrants.
- For vulnerable migrants who do not have legal identity documents (either because they

were stolen or confiscated by employers, etc.) and do not have a consulate close by, the digital legal identity system where one can download its identification to their own devices and prove who they are will enhance their security and safety.

RESOURCES

- United Nations Country Team Operational Guidelines on United Nations Legal Identity Agenda implementation.
- United Nations Legal Identity Agenda Task Force Guidelines: Maintaining Civil Registration and Vital Statistics during the COVID-19 Pandemic (living document, to be updated).
- Guidance to UNDP Country Offices on the privacy, data protection and broader human rights dimensions of using digital technologies to combat Covid-19.
- United Nations Strategy on Legal Identity for All.
- UN Legal Identity Agenda website.
- Compendium of UN policy on data protection and privacy.
- Free movement zones: Guide for issuance and border management.
- Event Report on the engagement of private sector: Future of Technology and Institutional Governance in Identity Management.
- Background Note on Sex Discrimination in Birth Registration.

CONTACT

Risa Arai, Programme Specialist, (Legal Identity), UNDP

Risa.arai@undp.org

2.1.4 IOM INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGY ON LEGAL IDENTITY

ORGANIZATION

International Organization for Migration

PERIOD

2022–ongoing

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Global

DESCRIPTION

IOM is implementing an institutional strategy on legal identity that aims to step up its efforts to deliver non discriminatory access to legal identity documentation through adequate and rights compliance systems for all migrants, irrespective of their legal status. The approach of IOM includes a strong focus on gender protection, noting that migrants in vulnerable situations, often women and girls, may face greater challenges when it comes to accessing registration and identity documents.

IMPACTS

Non-discriminatory access to legal identity documentation through adequate and rights compliance systems for all migrants, irrespective of their legal status.

LESSONS LEARNED

Not available

RESOURCES

- IOM website [Identity Management](#)
- Links with materials and information, including [IOM's legal Identity Strategy](#), and other resources.

CONTACT

Nelson Gonçalves, Identity Management and Biometrics Officer, IOM

ngoncalves@iom.int

Luis Pi-Nuñez, Policy Officer, Immigration and Border Management, IOM

lpinunez@iom.int

2.1.5 ISSUING CONSULAR ID FOR IRREGULAR MIGRANTS ABROAD

ORGANIZATION

Government of Mexico

PERIOD

2002-present

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Mexico/global

DESCRIPTION

Consular ID is a document that recognizes the legal identity for Mexican nationals living abroad, regardless of their migratory status. It is not exclusively for undocumented migrants, but it is useful for people living without documents abroad. Following the September 2001 terrorist attacks, which made it necessary for Mexican nationals to have a more reliable source of identification, Mexico expanded its issuance of consular IDs with higher matricula in 51 consulates in the United States. It now also issues consular IDs in Spain and Costa Rica. Since 2006, constant improvements to the material of the ID have been introduced – including biometrics, contactless electronic chips, micro text and other added security benefits – that make it more difficult to be reproduced. As of June 2022, Consular ID cards can be obtained in any consulate regardless of the address of the person who requests it, and will include key information – such as height, weight, eye colour, hair colour and details of minors, parents and tutors – to fight child trafficking.

IMPACTS

- Consular IDs reduce the exclusion and discrimination of undocumented migrants. They certify a person's address, which serves as proof of address for banks and private entities. They are portable and practical for people to carry, unlike passports.
- Consular IDs provide consular protection and facilitate census data gathering, with more than 30 million Mexicans living abroad. They are an accepted form of ID before local and federal government departments, and are also in hospitals, schools and police offices, and are used for health services, such as vaccinations.
- As of December 2021, Mexico had registered around 3.5 million currently valid consular IDs (57 per cent for men, 41 per cent for women, and only 1.5 per cent for minors).

LESSONS LEARNED

It is important to include materials in the consular ID that reduce the possibility of its replication. It is important to include details that will maximize its utility by the ID holder among a wide range of social and economic services in daily life.

RESOURCES

- Government of Mexico, [Certificado de Matricula Consular](#).

CONTACT

Jaime Vázquez Bracho, Director General for Consular Services at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico

2.1.6 PANEL TO REDUCE HUMAN EXPLOITATION, IRREGULARITIES AND CRIME IN THE LABOUR MARKET

ORGANIZATION

Division of Migration, Government of Sweden

PERIOD

Ongoing

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Sweden

DESCRIPTION

The Government of Sweden has created a new panel to reduce human exploitation, irregularities and crime in the labour market, including the employment of people without work permits. The Swedish police have been given increased powers for internal migration control. Measures are also underway to improve the Swedish population register to better understand who resides in Sweden. Everyone living in Sweden is registered and issued with a personal identity number, which is used in contacts with government agencies, banks, hospitals and other service providers. The Swedish tax agency has recently received funding to detect, investigate and remedy errors in the population register.

IMPACTS

Uncovers the parallel shadow society that supports segregation and crime.

LESSONS LEARNED

Not available

RESOURCES

Not available

CONTACT

Kristof Tamas, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Justice,
Division for Migration, Sweden

kristof.tamas@regeringskansliet.se

2.1.7 REGULARIZING UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS

ORGANIZATION

Government of Uruguay

PERIOD

Ongoing

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Uruguay

DESCRIPTION

The basis of the migration policy in Uruguay is to regularize migrants. Their positive contribution starts with regularizing their situation, and they are therefore granted access to the processing of identity documents as soon as they start their residency. This is also related to the compliance of other objectives of the Global Compact for Migration, such as Objective 6, which is to facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and surrogate conditions, and to provide the migrant access to basic services.

IMPACTS

Having the relevant documentation allows the migrant to have access to services in the same conditions as other nationals. They can work, study, trade, access health-care services and housing, and also have the freedom to be involved in the legal framework of the country. This allows them to contribute to society.

LESSONS LEARNED

Providing documentation to the migrant is the starting point, allowing them to integrate in the society and allowing implementation of Objective 4 and other objectives, such as Nos. 2 and 3.

RESOURCES

Not available

CONTACT

Juan José Riva, Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the United Nations

jose.riva@mrree.gub.uy

2.1.8 SUPPORTING CITIZENSHIP AND FIGHTING STATELESSNESS (BRIEFLY REFERRED TO)

ORGANIZATION

Government of Chad

PERIOD

Ongoing

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Chad

DESCRIPTION

Chad granted specific ID numbers for everyone living in the country. It will also have the possibility to give travel cards and travel documents. Chad welcomes refugees coming from various countries. With the support of UNHCR, it launched a project to support citizenship and fight statelessness. In its refugee camps, the country has been able to provide ID documents and birth and death certificates. Its consular services help to give permits and other documents to refugees.

IMPACTS

Ensuring ID documents and birth and death certificates for all, including refugees in camps, increases security and the safety of migrants.

LESSONS LEARNED

Not available

RESOURCES

Not available

CONTACT

Ramadane Djarsia, Representative,
Government of Chad

2.1.9 TEMPORARY PROTECTION FOR VENEZUELAN MIGRANTS

ORGANIZATION

Migration Department,
Government of Colombia

PERIOD

2021 – present

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Colombia

DESCRIPTION

Colombia was hosting more than 1,480,000 Venezuelans as of August 2021. Of these, 18 per cent were in a regular migration situation, 17 per cent in an irregular migration situation, and 64 per cent in the process of accessing Colombia's regularization mechanism Temporary Condition of Protection for Venezuelan Migrants. This allows Venezuelan migrants to work in Colombian territory in the same conditions as Colombian citizens. They can also access the institutional, public and private labour sector, with their rights protected.

IMPACTS

- The issuance of this permit means the re-establishment of the dignity of the migrant with a high-quality document, which is formalized as to the rights and duties of Venezuelan migrants in Colombia.
- This grants Venezuelans access to essential human rights, taking into account their needs, allowing them to be incorporated into the economic fabric of the country, and to have access to a visa, which will last for 10 years. This mechanism enables Colombia to have a comprehensive analysis of a migrant population, which will allow the country to formulate integration public policies focused on generating well-being for the migrants and the families, as well as their adaptations to the hosting communities.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Not to know who is in the country poses a risk in terms of collective safety. It is, therefore, a great barrier and hurdle to include everybody in order to legislate and formulate social economic policies. Not to regularize migration also increases the difficulty of bringing criminals to justice, and makes it difficult to prevent crime.
- Some implementation challenges include budget development, the strengthening of capacity, and institutional coordination problems such as, for example, migrant smuggling and trafficking, and xenophobia. But Colombia has received international support, which has allowed it to complement the actions carried out by the Government and to create synergies among the different actors to move forward in an efficient way to development policies that will safeguard human rights and lead efforts to mobilize a coordinated response for the benefit of both migrants and the host territories.

RESOURCES

Not available

CONTACT

Juan Francisco Espinosa, Director for Migration,
Government of Colombia

2.1.10 UNITED NATIONS LEGAL IDENTITY AGENDA TASK FORCE

ORGANIZATION

United Nations Legal Identity
Agenda Task Force

PERIOD

2018–ongoing

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Global

DESCRIPTION

The United Nations Legal Identity Task Force is a group of 13 United Nations agencies delivering on the commitment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to provide legal identity for all. It aims to support Member States to develop a legal identity system that ensures universal civil registration of all vital events, translated into regular, reliable and comprehensive vital statistics, resulting in legal identity for all.

IMPACTS

- A key enabler of rights and protection for people on the move.
- Support for country implementation through technical and financial support to United Nations Country Teams in respective countries.
- Development of international standards relating to digital identity, use and scale of biometrics, content of identity credentials, and confidentiality and privacy of individual information.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Promotion of cross-border global mobility and migration angle in IOM and UNDP led the process of developing guidance to ensure that ID and residence documents can be internationally standardized so as to meet international travel document security standards (as established by the ICAO). The publication [Free Movement Zones: Guide for Issuance and Border Management](#) was launched in October 2021.
- Providing technical assistance and capacity development to strengthen civil registration systems have served to consolidate the firm commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals.
- A coordinated whole-of-UN approach for implementation to close the global legal identity gap has ensured promotion of the Task Force to as broad an audience as possible.

RESOURCES

- [United Nations Legal Identity Agenda Task Force.](#)

CONTACT

Nelson Gonçalves, Identity Management and Biometrics
Officer, IOM
United Nations Legal Identity Taskforce

ngoncalves@iom.int

un.lia@undp.org

Contributors and their interventions

PANELLISTS

- Ugochi Daniels, Deputy Director General for Operations, IOM (moderator)
- Jaime Vázquez Bracho, Director General for Consular Services at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico
- Kristof Tamas, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Justice, Division for Migration, Sweden
- Niall McCann, Policy Advisor and Project Manager on Legal Identity, UNDP

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

- Chad
- Colombia
- [Portugal](#)
- Sri Lanka
- [Uruguay](#)
- Guyana
- [Venezuela \(Bolivarian Republic of\)](#)

Useful resources

- International Organization for Migration (IOM), [Migration Governance Indicators Success Stories](#) (report), 2021.
- International Organization for Migration (IOM), [International Migration Law Information Note on Consular Assistance](#), August 2021.

2.2. Enhancing predictability and addressing inequalities for the future of human mobility in the pandemic era

COVID-19 has illustrated how integral migrants are to the societies they reside in, and the essential role they play in key economic sectors. However, it has also highlighted and exacerbated the structural inequalities and challenges already faced by migrants, especially by those in irregular situations or situations of vulnerability. The continued changes to admission and stay requirements have had a direct impact on the accessibility and inclusivity of cross-border mobility, increasing already existing disparities in accessing regular migration. While efforts are underway to reopen borders with COVID-19 testing and vaccination protocols, the management of cross-border travel remains localized, fragmented and largely uncoordinated. Migrants and travellers remain under continued threat of being stranded or unable to migrate.

“As many governments and authorities are moving towards vaccination requirements for crossing borders, amid costs of multiple rounds of testing and sometimes verification of documents that can hit people traveling from areas with limited testing capacity hard – all told, this is making cross-border movement more costly and unequal. And the big concern here is that rising costs of travel and regular migration create incentives for disorderly, unsafe and irregular movement, and create fertile ground for smugglers and traffickers to exploit.”

Meghan Benton, Director of Research, MPI
International Program, MPI Europe

Objective 5 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
“Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration.”

United Nations General Assembly, 2018, [Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#), A/CONF.231/3

Successes

Successes include the following:

- Some countries, such as Thailand, granted temporary visas to people who could not return home during COVID-19 lockdowns, to prevent them from becoming irregular. Ensuring that everyone was registered helped to manage the situation, reduced vulnerabilities and increased access to health and other services. This boosted predictability and ensured migrants remained healthy, which in turn enhanced their socioeconomic contributions to society.

“Having migrants on record helped to increase the effectiveness of migrant management and reduced the vulnerability of migrants... Healthy migrants can better contribute to the society they live in... This also reduces inequalities in society in line with Objective 15 of the Global Compact.”

Rongvudhi Virabutr, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations Office at Geneva

- Countries were able to implement successful programmes for testing, quarantine and treatment when they provided information and assistance to migrants in their mother tongue, and

when they provided COVID-19 treatment free of charge to everyone, irrespective of migratory status.

- Some countries that are a global source of skilled migrants adopted internationally recognized certification of their vaccination programmes, which facilitated access to travel for their nationals.

- Efforts have been made to make vaccines available to migrants and refugees in conflict situations and fragile States through the COVAX facility, which has donated 1 billion doses of vaccines to more than 144 countries.

- The issue of universal health coverage and equity in access to COVID-19 vaccines is high on the agenda of Member States, with many striving for an equitable, rights-based approach to migration. Those able to ensure migrant access to social services, including health care provided by the State, are able to uphold the rights of migrants.

- The World Health Organization (WHO) Member States Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies is reviewing all the recommendations from different external bodies and panels to be able to recommend a set of measures that countries and international organizations, including the United Nations agencies, need to take.

Challenges

Challenges include the following:

- During the pandemic, people on the move suffered inequalities related to access to health care, their ability to self-isolate and bear the costs of not working, of being excluded from social protection packages, access to vaccines, facing increased racism and xenophobia, and working in sectors that rendered them more exposed to the virus itself.
- As of December 2021, out of 180 countries, territories and authorities, 132 included refugees in their vaccine roll-outs, 149 included regular migrants and 84 included irregular migrants. Meanwhile, some 68 per cent of people in high-income countries had been vaccinated, versus only 13 per cent in low-income countries.⁷

“How can we ensure that requirements for travel and admission don’t further entrench inequalities and access to regular migration?”

Meghan Benton, Director of Research,
MPI International Program, MPI Europe

- As governments and authorities move towards vaccination and testing requirements for travel, cross-border movement is more costly and unequal,

which creates incentives for disorderly, unsafe and irregular movement, and fertile ground for traffickers.

Ways forward

There is a need for human rights -based predictability of human mobility and migrant-centred, inclusive responses during times of crisis.

- At the IOM Council in December 2021, governments called to re-establish a coordinated and predictable global mobility, and to continue to support migrants who are halted in transit or stranded. Migration governance must be part of the solution in times of crisis in order to improve the predictability of human mobility, whether during a sudden crisis such as the pandemic, or more protracted challenges such as climate change.
- There is a need for Member States to work together across borders and sectors to enhance the predictability and certainty of cross-border mobility, while fully integrating public health concerns, and building capacity to manage admission and stay safely and equitably. Countries should lift or ease international traffic bans, particularly blanket travel bans.
- Commitment to universal health coverage, equity in access to COVID-19 vaccines and universal access to social services are essential for ensuring

equitable, migrant-centred, rights-based approaches to migration. Given the inequitable access to vaccines globally, countries should not request proof of vaccination as the only pathways to exit or enter a country.

- More transparent and increased collaboration around migration management, as well as easier and greater access to regular migration pathways, are needed to enhance predictability of human mobility. Precautions should be put in place amid increasing digitization to avoid human rights violations and increased inequities.

- The COVID-19 pandemic reiterates the need for collaboration among States to build a universal regime to prepare for future disasters. Member States should fully assess and include the needs of people on the move and related human mobility issues as they negotiate a potential international legal instrument on pandemic preparedness.

“There is a need for community readiness and resilience for health emergencies. Working with the local stakeholders and players... to identify what their obstacles to access to pandemic tools and health services are and how to overcome that.”

Nedret Emiroglu, Director, Country Readiness
Strengthening for Health Emergencies, WHO

- Efforts should be coherent among ongoing political and policy processes, including those for the future international pandemic preparedness and response agreement, the preparations for the IMRF, work on the Sustainable Development Goals and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

- The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development — the annual Sustainable Development Goals review mechanism – can provide a complementary annual review forum through which attention can be drawn to the policies required to support migrants worldwide. The role of migration in advancing all Sustainable Development Goals presents cross-cutting importance, warranting dedicated attention at the High-Level Political Forum.

“There is a lot more that can be done by countries nationally in their own voluntary national reviews to draw attention to what they are doing on... migration.”

David Donaghue, Distinguished Fellow, Overseas
Development Institute

- A new global social contract to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals should take into account labour migration systems and address the drivers of forced migration, such as poverty, unemployment, war, crises, climate change and natural disasters. Migrants must also be protected from racism and xenophobia.

“We call for resolutely cracking down on racial discrimination, hate crimes against immigrants, politicization of health issues, and call for working together to create a fair and favourable environment for immigrants.”

Jie CHEN, Director General,
Department of Policy and Legal Affairs,
National Immigration Administration, China

Innovative approaches

2.2.1 ACCESS TO COVID-19 TOOLS (ACT) ACCELERATOR + COVAX FACILITY

ORGANIZATION

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, FIND Diagnosis for all, Gavi, The Global Fund, Unitaid, Wellcome, WHO, World Bank, UNICEF and the Pan American Health Organization

PERIOD

2020-present

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Global

DESCRIPTION

The Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator is a global collaboration to accelerate development, production and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines. Launched at the end of April 2020, the ACT Accelerator brings together governments, scientists, businesses, civil society, philanthropists and global health organizations to speed up an end to the pandemic by supporting the development and equitable distribution of the tests, treatments and vaccines. The COVAX facility has donated 1 billion doses of vaccines to more than 144 countries, including to some migrants and refugees in conflict and fragile States.

IMPACTS

- Improved access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines for vulnerable groups, including migrants and refugees in conflict and fragile States.
- Reduced mortality and severe disease and restoring full society and economic activity globally.
- Facilitated high-level control of COVID-19 disease in the medium term.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Between February–March 2021, a systematic international policy analysis of all 104 National Deployment and Vaccination Plans (NDVPs) submitted to the COVAX Facility indicates that the majority of these NDVPs did not explicitly include migrants (72%). Only 17% of 104 NDVPs explicitly included irregular migrants.
- While more recent data show that the situation has improved, little is known about inclusion of irregular migrants.

RESOURCES

- [The Access to COVID-19 Tools \(ACT\) Accelerator.](#)
- [COVAX Facility.](#)
- [WHO SAGE values framework for the allocation and prioritization of COVID-19 vaccination](#)
- [WHO SAGE Roadmap for prioritizing uses of COVID-19 vaccines](#)
- [COVID-19 immunization in refugees and migrants: principles and key considerations: interim guidance, 31 August 2021](#)
- [Strengthening COVID-19 vaccine demand and uptake in refugees and migrants](#)

CONTACT

Nedret Emiroglu, Director, Country Readiness
Strengthening for Health Emergencies, WHO
Santino Severoni, Director, Health and Migration
Programme, WHO

emiroglun@who.int

severonis@who.int

2.2.2 THE REGULARIZATION OF MIGRANTS IN TIMES OF CRISIS

ORGANIZATION

Government of Thailand

PERIOD

2020–2021

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Thailand

DESCRIPTION

Border closures during the COVID-19 pandemic prevented workers from returning to their homelands. The Government of Thailand introduced temporary work permit extensions to prevent migrants from becoming irregular. Thailand also allowed the registration of undocumented workers from Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar who were staying in the country irregularly. This ensured access to basic services, social security and health coverage for migrants (with the issuance of migrant health worker cards), irrespective of their status, and including undocumented workers. Basic health knowledge and assistance were also provided to migrants in their mother tongue.

IMPACTS

- Having migrants on record increased the effective management of the pandemic, reduced the vulnerability of migrants and increased their access to basic services.
- Ensuring access to basic services and universal health coverage for migrants reduces inequalities, and ensures healthy migrants who can better contribute to society.
- During the pandemic, this facilitated the coordination of tests, quarantine and treatment. Everyone in the country was included and could receive treatment free

of charge, including migrants, irrespective of their status. This greatly helped with the predictability of mobility and management of the pandemic response.

LESSONS LEARNED

It is important to ensure access to migrant-friendly health services in order for migrants to continue to contribute to society, and to better manage crises.

RESOURCES

Not available

CONTACT

Rongvudhi Virabutr, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations in Geneva

Chompunut Phasuphan, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations in Geneva

chompunut.p@hotmail.com

Contributors and their interventions

PANELLISTS

- Meghan Benton, Director of Research, MPI International Program and MPI Europe (moderator)
- Rongvudhi Virabutr, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations Office at Geneva
- Nedret Emiroglu, Director, Country Readiness Strengthening for Health Emergencies, WHO
- David Donoghue, Distinguished Fellow, Overseas Development Institute

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

- Argentina
- Friends World Committee for Consultation
- Japan
- Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Useful resources

- International Organization for Migration (IOM), [Cross-Border Human Mobility Amid and After COVID-19](#) (policy paper), July 2020.
- Migration Policy Institute and IOM, [COVID-19 and the State of Global Mobility in 2020](#) (report), 2021.
- International Organization for Migration (IOM), [COVID-19 Digital Health Certificates for Cross-Border Mobility and Migration](#) (issue brief), August 2021.
- International Organization for Migration (IOM), [COVID-19 Immigration, Consular and Visa Needs and Recommendations](#) (issue brief), January 2021.
- International Organization for Migration (IOM), [Ensuring Migrants' Equitable Access to COVID-19 Vaccines](#) (web platform), n.d.
- International Organization for Migration (IOM), [Health, Border and Mobility Management: A framework to empower governments and communities to prevent, detect and respond to public health threats along the mobility continuum](#) (framework report), 2021 edition.

2.3. Migration, environment and climate change: from adaptation to regular pathways

Climate change is upon us, producing both rapid and slow onset events. Extreme weather events and disasters are consistently on the rise, and remain a reality for millions worldwide. The numbers of people on the move will continue to multiply, with an estimated projection of 216 million climate migrants by 2050.⁸ The 2018 Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration recognizes that migration in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters is a reality. This was a historical development in the governance of migration. States have formally recognized the impacts of the environment, including climate change, on migration.

This achievement built on several other frameworks. In 2015, States adopted the Paris Agreement on climate change, which acknowledged the human rights of migrants and urged States to respect them when taking climate action. The same year, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was adopted, in which States highlighted displacement as a consequence of disasters. In 1994, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification was the first-ever intergovernmental

environmental agreement to explicitly link migration issues with environmental change.

“Although significant progress has been made to advance political discussions on migration in the context of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation at the global level, a coherent and systematic implementation of global commitments and recommendations needs to continue to be strengthened.”

Caroline Dumas, DG Special Envoy for Migration and Climate Action, IOM

Objective 2 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
“Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin.”

Objective 5 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
“Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration.”

United Nations General Assembly, 2018, [Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#), A/CONF.231/3

Successes

Successes include the following:

- Some countries are exploring protection options and policy tools, as well as legislative changes to protection status, that could expand to include people forced to move due to disasters, climate change and environmental degradation.
- Efforts to increase the free movement of people on the African continent can help to respond to the humanitarian situation, which has seen increased numbers of displaced persons, including from climate induced displacement. Some subregions, such as those represented by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the Economic Community of West African States, already have free movement protocols that facilitate environmental migration and avert and minimize disaster displacement.

“We are exploring various protection options and policy tools, such as whether legislative changes to temporary protected status could bolster protection, as well as improving protection of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and vulnerable migrants outside our national boundaries.”

Eileen Wedel, Deputy Director, Office of Population and International Migration, United States

- In May 2022, the African continent will host its second Humanitarian Pledging Conference. One of the main thematic issues discussed will be climate change, disasters and forced displacement in Africa. This presents the opportunity for engagement and in-depth discussions on finding durable solutions prior to the United Nations

Climate Change Conference 2022 (COP 27), which will be presided and hosted by Egypt, and which will focus on climate change and development, as well as climate change and mobility.

“In the context of disasters and climate change, the first step is to have the continental protocol ratified, which will allow free movement from one place to the other within the continent, and would ease the restrictions across borders. One of the challenges to displacement from climate incidents are borders.”

Margaret Anyetei-Agama, Acting Director
for Health and Humanitarian Affairs,
African Union Commission

- Some countries are upskilling young men and women, training them, providing advice and focusing on creating new job opportunities and the green economy, which helps prevent choices of irregular migration, which are usually made out of desperation.

Challenges

Challenges include the following:

- Climate change often aggravates pre existing socioeconomic challenges, and threatens peace and security, increasing the complex drivers of migration.

“Climate change often combines with challenges such as poverty, decline in fertility of land, and threats to peace and security. All these factors create complex drivers for migration, and they have a multiplier effect on migration.”

Neveen El-Husseiny, Deputy Assistant Foreign
Minister for Refugees and Migration Affairs and
Combating Human Trafficking, Egypt

Ways forward

There is a need to develop tangible action to integrate migration issues into climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction policies, as well as into national and regional frameworks:

- Although significant progress has been made to advance political discussions on migration in the context of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation at the global level, a coherent and systematic implementation of global commitments and recommendations needs to continue and be strengthened.
- We must prepare for the future, noting that the adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation are reshaping contemporary migration patterns worldwide. Efforts must focus not only on providing humanitarian responses, but also averting and minimizing displacement induced by natural

hazards, in line with the Global Compact objectives.

- Climate change adaptation must be complemented by implementation and financing, with a just transition approach. Regular migration pathways must be enhanced to support the creation and transfer of resources and enhancing sustainable development in countries of origin and destination. States must move towards more and improved regular migration for people affected by environmental disasters and climate change.

“The most vulnerable may be those who are unable to move – what we call trapped populations – or those compelled to risk their lives to find a better future... due to the impact of climate change.”

Neveen El-Husseiny, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for Refugees and Migration Affairs and Combating Human Trafficking, Egypt

- Attention must be given to how States can develop tangible action to integrate migration into disaster risk and climate policies, and vice versa. Coherent and systematic implementation needs to continue to be strengthened, and States must move towards more and improved regular migration for people affected by disasters, climate change and

environmental degradation. Evidence for measuring progress is crucial for guiding policies.

- Ahead of the United Nations Climate Change Conference 2022 (COP 27), States and actors at national and regional levels should work together to ensure that human mobility induced by climate change is fully accounted for and addressed in global negotiations.

“States must be clear on what minimizing adverse drivers entails. Developing adaptation and resilient strategies to climate change means more adaptation planning, more disaster risk reduction, especially by countries on the front lines. However, it also means high emissions countries have the responsibility to support such endeavours financially and technically.”

Kayly Ober, Refugees International and Steering Group Member of the Climate Migration and Displacement Platform

2.3.1 AFRICAN CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

ORGANIZATION

African Union Commission

PERIOD

2020–2030

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

African Union member States,
regional economic communities

DESCRIPTION

The African climate change strategy, adopted by all African Union member States, aims to build resilience of the African continent to the negative impacts on climate change in order to achieve not only the Sustainable Development Goals, but also the aspirations of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union. The strategy aims to contribute to the achievement of the Agenda 2063 Vision by building the resilience of the African continent to the impacts of climate change. The Logical Framework presents the road map, and contributes to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 13: “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”, through streamlined adaptation and mitigation responses to climate change in Africa.

IMPACTS (intended)

- Effective institutional capacities to implement climate change strategies.
- Climate change strategies are streamlined and implemented.
- Africa speaks with one voice.
- Resilience built, and vulnerability reduced.
- Investments into climate-related areas.
- Increased access to finance and technology.

LESSONS LEARNED

Not available

RESOURCES

- African Union, [Africa Climate Change Strategy 2020–2030](#).

CONTACT

Margaret Anyetei-Agama, Acting Director for
Health and Humanitarian Affairs, African Union
Commission

2.3.2 AFRICAN CLIMATE MOBILITY INITIATIVE

ORGANIZATION

African Union Commission

PERIOD

2021–present

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

African Union member States

DESCRIPTION

The African Union Commission adopted the Climate Mobility Initiative, in partnership with IOM and other key partners. It supports the African continent to harness the potential of human mobility in the current climate crisis. This is important

to create strong linkages between migration and the humanitarian context and situation on the continent, given the extensive climate-related humanitarian situation in Africa resulting in forced displacement.

The Initiative is intended to:

- Support the African continent to harness the potential of mobility in the context of the climate crisis;
- Advance efforts for addressing climate-forced displacement and migration;
- Generate political momentum, a common policy agenda, and resources to shape the future of mobility in Africa;
- Advance data-based, comprehensive solutions to support people-centred adaptation to climate mobility actors;
- Protect those on the move, and further the resilience of African communities confronting the climate crisis.

IMPACTS

Not available

LESSONS LEARNED

Not available

RESOURCES

- African Union, [Launch event and media advisory](#), African Climate Mobility

CONTACT

Margaret Anyetei-Agama, Acting Director for Health and Humanitarian Affairs, African Union Commission

2.3.3 CLIMATE SENSITIVE LIVELIHOODS

ORGANIZATION

Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

PERIOD

Ongoing

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Global

DESCRIPTION

FAO works with rural populations to address the adverse drivers of climate-related migration by promoting the sustainable use and management of natural resources, strengthening climate-resilient livelihoods and creating green employment opportunities in rural areas. FAO also works on harnessing the potential of migration for climate change adaptation by fostering policy coherence and multisectoral approaches, while also promoting transfer of social and financial remittances into green sectors, innovation and technologies to boost the uptake of climate-resilient agricultural practices.

IMPACTS

- Climate change is a top-line corporate priority at FAO. Through its large portfolio of projects and programmes aimed at strengthening the resilience of rural livelihoods and promoting sustainable agricultural practices and ecosystem restoration, FAO supports governments to address the adverse drivers of climate-induced migration and displacement. FAO strives to make migration a choice rather than a necessity in the context of climate change and beyond, as well as to harness the potential of migration as a climate change adaptation to benefit areas of origin, transit and destination.
- Following are some examples to exemplify the work of FAO relevant to climate change and migration:
 - Through the Green Climate Fund-funded RECLIMA project, FAO is improving the resilience of family farmers in the Dry Corridor of Central America, an area of great climatic vulnerability and high poverty, whose deterioration is driving migration. RECLIMA seeks to improve access to water, build local capacity to manage natural resources sustainably and restore degraded ecosystems.
 - Through the Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE) initiative, FAO improves access to energy of refugees, IDPs and host communities through the promotion of sustainable natural resources management; fuel-efficient technologies for cooking, heating and livelihood activities; and strengthened livelihoods' resilience. This approach contributes to reduced risks related to conflict over natural resources, as well as to improved food security of refugees, IDPs and host communities.
 - FAO is currently implementing in Zimbabwe a project called "Migration and Climate Change: tackling climate-migration challenges and fostering climate adaptation", aimed at enhancing policy and programme coherence between migration, climate change and rural development.
 - FAO is developing a Global Guide on Integrating Migration into climate adaptation policies, specifically National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The Guide aims at supporting policymakers and practitioners with integrating migration considerations into these processes through the lens of rural livelihoods. The overall goal is to enhance policy coherence and ultimately address the root causes of climate-induced migration, while fostering the role of migration in building resilience through inclusive climate action.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Climate adaptation and mitigation policies and programmes need to consider migration in order to (a) address specific needs of migrants, since migration can increase exposure to climate change; (b) reduce the risk of unintentionally caused displacement and/or affect migration patterns; and (c) recognize and harness the potential of migration as climate adaptation strategy.
- Policy frameworks that promote regular migration pathways (e.g. seasonal migration) are needed in order to maximize the benefits of migration for climate change adaptation and resilience. There is increasing evidence that well-planned and well-managed migration is an important adaptation and risk diversification strategy, especially for rural households that rely on climate-sensitive resources.
- In order to harness the positive contribution of migration to climate change adaptation, it is of critical importance to create enabling environments in areas of origin, transit and destination, and recognize gender-specific needs. This will require improved coherence and coordination between sectoral policies and programming, as well as enhanced collaboration between policy actors at subnational, national, regional and international levels.
- More research is needed to understand the climate–migration–adaptation nexus and inform policies and programmes to address adverse drivers of migration, while harnessing the potential of migration to reduce vulnerability to climate change

RESOURCES

FAO Migration Framework – Migration as a choice and an opportunity for rural development

CONTACT

FAO

celso.decarvalho@fao.org

JacquelineAnn.Demeranville@fao.org

giorgia.prati@fao.org

2.3.4 DECENT LIFE INITIATIVE (BRIEFLY REFERRED TO)

ORGANIZATION

Government of Egypt

PERIOD

2020–present

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Egypt

DESCRIPTION

The Government of Egypt adopted the Decent Life Initiative, which aims to improve the standards of living, infrastructure and create job opportunities for 58 per cent of the population in 4,584 villages in 20 governorates, including those that are classified as high-risk areas that will be negatively impacted by climate change. It was launched by the President in 2020. So far, two phases were implemented according to a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach. Interventions under the initiative include providing housing and utilities, improving infrastructure, better land productivity, better health and education services, economic empowerment and creating economic livelihoods, enacting food security and providing social services, and encouraging waste recycling in a more environmentally sustainable manner.

IMPACTS

The initiative prevents men and women from embarking on irregular migration journeys out of desperation.

LESSONS LEARNED

Not available

RESOURCES

- [Haya Karima Decent Life Initiative.](#)

CONTACT

Neveen El-Husseiny, Deputy Assistant Foreign
Minister for Refugees and Migration Affairs, and
Combating Human Trafficking, Egypt

neveen.elhusseiny@gmail.com

2.3.5 INTEGRAL SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT (BRIEFLY REFERRED TO)

ORGANIZATION

Guatemala, United Nations Economic
Commission for Latin America and
the Caribbean

PERIOD

Ongoing

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Guatemala

DESCRIPTION

The Integral Sustainability Project has created different priority projects to strengthen value chains, bolster environmental sustainability, allow for human mobility, and integrate the private sector and small and medium-sized enterprises.

IMPACTS

Not available

LESSONS LEARNED

Not available

RESOURCES

Not available

CONTACT

Andrea Ozaeta, Government of Guatemala

2.3.6 PRESIDENT'S EMERGENCY PLAN FOR ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE (PREPARE)

ORGANIZATION

United States of America, Department of State

PERIOD

Ongoing

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

United States/global

DESCRIPTION

In response to a severe and urgent crisis the President of the United States announced President's Emergency Plan for Adaptation and Resilience (PREPARE) to support developing countries and communities in vulnerable situations around the world in their efforts to adapt to and manage the impacts of climate. This is a whole-of-government initiative that will serve as the cornerstone of the United States Government response to addressing the increasing impacts of the global climate crisis in order to enhance global stability. The President will work with Congress to provide USD 3 billion in adaptation finance annually for PREPARE by fiscal year 2024 – the largest United States commitment ever made to reduce climate impacts on those most vulnerable to climate change worldwide. PREPARE will activate a coordinated approach that will bring the United States' diplomatic, development, and technical expertise to help more than half a billion people in developing countries to adapt to and manage the impacts of climate change through locally led development by 2030.

IMPACTS

- Save lives and livelihoods, support sustainable and healthy communities and ecosystems, and reduce the impacts of climate change.
- Cooperation with other donors, integrate climate risk considerations into multilateral efforts, and strive to mobilize significant private sector capital for adaptation.

LESSONS LEARNED

Not available

RESOURCES

- The United States White House, The “[President's Emergency Plan for Adaptation and Resilience \(PREPARE\)](#)”

CONTACT

Eileen Wedel, Deputy Director, Office of Population and International Migration, United States Department of State, focal point for climate change, migration, and the Global Compact for Migration

WedelEM@state.gov

2.3.7 REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON MIGRATION

ORGANIZATION

United States of America,
Department of State

PERIOD

2021–present

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

United States/global

DESCRIPTION

In Executive Order 14013, “Rebuilding and Enhancing Programs to Resettle Refugees and Planning for the Impact of Climate Change on Migration”, the United States President called for an assessment of the impact climate change is having on migration. This report marks the first time the United States Government is officially recognizing and reporting on this linkage. The report identifies migration as an important form of adaptation to the impacts of climate change and in some cases, an essential response to climate threats, to livelihoods and well-being; therefore it requires careful management to ensure it is safe, orderly, and humane. Development and humanitarian assistance programs help address underlying causes of forced migration and displacement in the face of insecurity. Addressing individuals’ human security can decrease the likelihood of migration and the second-order implications for international security. It is critical to approach these efforts in a way that acknowledges that in almost all cases climate change is not the sole driver of migration.

One of the principle recommendations of this report is the establishment of a standing interagency working group on climate change and migration to coordinate United States Government efforts to mitigate and respond to migration resulting from the impacts of climate change. Through this working group, representatives from across the scientific, development, humanitarian, democracy and human rights, and peace and security elements of the United States Government will work together to coordinate the Country’s policy, strategy, and budgeting affecting populations vulnerable to climate impacts. This working group will provide a venue for developing long-term strategies consistent with the evolving scientific understanding of climate impacts, such as those communicated through the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the United States National Climate Assessment.

IMPACTS

- Adaptation and resilience for people in countries facing the impacts of climate change.
- Protection and safe migration pathways for people displaced by the impacts of climate change.

LESSONS LEARNED

Not available

RESOURCES

- The United States White House, [Report on the Impact of Climate Change on Migration](#), October 2021.

CONTACT

Eileen Wedel, Deputy Director, Office of Population and International Migration, United States Department of State, focal point for climate change, migration, and the Global Compact for Migration WedelEM@state.gov

Contributors and their interventions

PANELLISTS

- Caroline Dumas, Special Envoy for Migration and Climate Action, IOM (moderator)
- Eileen Wedel, Deputy Director, Office of Population and International Migration, United States Department of State
- Margaret Anyetei-Agama, Acting Director for Health and Humanitarian Affairs, African Union Commission
- Kayly Ober, Senior Advocate and Programme Manager for the Climate Displacement Programme, Refugees International

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

- Guatemala
- Holy See
- Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations

Useful resources

- Bower, E. and S. Weerasinghe, [Global Mapping: Leaving Place, Restoring Home: Enhancing the evidence base on planned relocation cases in the context of hazards, disasters and climate change](#), Platform on Disaster Displacement (database of planned relocation cases), 2021.
- Dal Pra, A., H. Dempster and M. Traore Chazalnoël, [How can the UK Better Facilitate Environmental Migration?](#) IOM, United Kingdom and CGD (blog post), 14 December 2021.
- Francis, A., [Free Movement Agreements and Climate-Induced Migration: A Caribbean Case Study](#), Columbia Law School, Sabin Center for Climate Change Law (case study), September 2019.
- GP20 Initiative, [Working Together Better to Prevent, Address and Find Durable Solutions to Internal Displacement: GP20 Compilation of National Practices](#) (best practices), 2020.
- International Organization for Migration (IOM), [Internal Displacement in the context of the slow-onset adverse effects of climate change – Submission by the International Organization for Migration to the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons](#) (Geneva, 2020).
- Leonhardt, M., [Regional Policies and Response to Manage Pastoral Movements within the ECOWAS Region](#), IOM (report), 2017.
- The Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage Associated with Climate Change Impacts, Task Force on Displacement ([all six mapping reports](#)):
 - Activity I.1: [Mapping Human Mobility and Climate Change in Relevant National Policies and Institutional Frameworks](#), IOM (summary report), 2018.
 - Activity II.2: [Mapping Human Mobility \(Migration, Displacement and Planned Relocation\) and Climate Change in International Processes, Policies and Legal Frameworks](#), IOM (summary report), 2018.

- [Activity II.4: Mapping of Existing International/Regional Guidance/Tools on Averting,](#)
- [Minimizing and Addressing Displacement and Durable Solutions](#), UNHCR (summary report), 2018.
- Weerasinghe, S., [In Harm's Way: International protection in the context of nexus dynamics between conflict or violence and disaster or climate change](#), UNHCR Division of International Protection, PPLA/2018/05 (report), December 2018.
- Weerasinghe, S., [Bridging the Divide in Approaches to Conflict and Disaster Displacement: Norms, Institutions and Coordination in Afghanistan, Colombia, the Niger, the Philippines and Somalia](#), UNHCR and IOM (report), 2021.
- Wood, T., [The Role of Free Movement of Persons Agreements in Addressing Disaster Displacement – A study of Africa](#), Platform on Disaster Displacement (report), May 2019.
- Yonetani, M., [Mapping the Baseline – To What Extent Are Displacement and Other Forms of Human Mobility Integrated in National and Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies?](#) Platform on Disaster Displacement (mapping report), October 2018.

Part III. Advancing migrants' socioeconomic inclusion and empowerment

3.1. Migrant inclusion in COVID-19 recovery and social protection – a renewed social contract

Effective social protection systems are crucial to safeguarding poor and vulnerable people when crisis hits. Yet the emerging pattern of COVID-19 responses with lockdowns and other types of restrictions shows that countries with weak State-run social assistance lag far behind in shielding livelihoods and the economy from lasting damage.

“State responses that leave out migrants exacerbate pre-existing vulnerabilities.”

Marius Olivier, University of North West, South Africa;
Director, Institute for Social Law and Policy

Migrants, especially the young, become one of the hardest hit groups during economic downturn – more likely to become unemployed, to resort to precarious work with reduced income, and to face discrimination. Many overseas workers returned to their home countries during the COVID-19 pandemic, while others undertook dangerous journeys to find work. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to adversely affect the socioeconomic

well-being of migrants. Structural barriers – such as the limited or lack of access to rights, social services and social protection – have magnified the already adverse situations of migrants, particularly women, children, persons with disabilities, older people, members of the LGBTQI+ community, and those in situations of informality and irregularity. Undocumented migrants in the informal sector face an ongoing lack of social protection.

With vaccines being more widely available yet unequally distributed, efforts are underway to reopen borders with requisite COVID-19 testing or vaccination protocols.

However, many migrants are under continued threat of being stranded, separated from their families, or unable to access regular migration pathways, while facing high health risks, social isolation and digital poverty. Many migrants also continue to be targets of discrimination, hate speech and racism, undermining mutual trust, social cohesion and their positive contributions to the pandemic. In the

spirit of the renewed social contract, and in line with the Global Compact for Migration, it is crucial not only to mobilize “duty bearers”, but also to empower both migrant and local communities to effectively respond to the pandemic and foster inclusive and cohesive societies.

Objective 15 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
“Provide access to basic services for migrants.”

Objective 16 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
“Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion.”

Objective 17 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
“Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration.”

Objective 19 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
“Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries.”

United Nations General Assembly, 2018, [Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#), A/CONF.231/3

Successes

Successes include the following:

- Some governments and international institutions, for example in Latin America and the Caribbean, have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by providing social protection measures that are aimed at assisting migrants experiencing the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19.
- During the pandemic, some countries included asylum seekers, refugees and some categories of documented migrants in pandemic response legal frameworks, and social protection, relief and distress grants; others provided one-time monetary payments to their nationals living abroad, or supported returning migrants; and many countries in the Global North gave access to social insurance for documented migrant workers. Some countries provided monetary assistance to their nationals living abroad, for their repatriation, recovery, return and reintegration.
- In November 2021, the Arab Ministerial Forum on Social Protection adopted a Declaration on Social Protection.

- When national legislation prohibited migrants from accessing pandemic-relief funds, some cities focused on professional reskilling of migrant communities and supported business through grants and in-kind human resources. They established a COVID-19 equality group by engaging universities and other stakeholders, to understand the impact of COVID-19 on migrant communities and address inequalities exacerbated by the pandemic. They then worked with the health-care system, where the majority of nurses and doctors are from migrant communities. This was essential for economic recovery.

“COVID-19 exposed and exacerbated pre existing inequalities in cities, yet there was a revolution of generosity with people helping each other. We must harness the goodwill and generosity that brings everybody together and understand that we are dealing with people who have responsibilities in both their host cities and countries of origin.”

Forward Maisokwadzo, Inclusion Adviser of the
Mayor of Bristol

- COVID-19 has acted as a catalyst for the reform of traditional labour mobility sponsorship systems, such as the Kafala system in the Middle East that binds

workers to their (oftentimes abusive) employers or sponsors, and prohibits them from transferring to another employer, or from going home without their sponsor’s consent.

- Networks that bring together health professionals to share and exchange knowledge between the Global North and the Global South, and between diaspora communities and their countries of origin, helped to optimize responses during the pandemic, and to improve health care for people in low- and middle-income countries. Lessons were also drawn from the response to past health crises, such as Ebola in Sierra Leone, to optimize responses to the pandemic.

“Sierra Leone was hit hard by Ebola. As a consultant in Geneva, we developed the guidelines on Ebola regarding personal protective equipment, and we joined hands with colleagues from Uganda and leveraged the diaspora during the COVID-19 pandemic. I was trained in Sierra Leone. I live in Switzerland. We have to come to join hands with our colleagues to say, hey we are here to help.”

Charles Senessie, President,
Afro-European Medical and Research

- Some countries are codifying the Global Compact's 23 objectives into law, including by defining ethical recruitment that enhances the protection of their migrant workers abroad.

Challenges

Challenges include the following:

- While some governments and national institutions provided social protection to migrants who were experiencing negative socioeconomic impacts from the pandemic, other countries continued to exclude migrants from national social protection responses.
- The response to the pandemic in some countries has reflected a pre-COVID exclusion pattern, negatively affecting regular migrants who are already excluded from national social protection responses. In most countries, irregular migrants largely fell through the cracks in terms of access to social protection. They depended completely on humanitarian assistance provided by international organizations and non governmental organizations.

"Governments have extended social protection schemes to the most vulnerable, but often this has not necessarily included migrants and migrant workers. Exclusion can be costly in the long term, whereas inclusion from the onset pays off for everyone."

Marius Olivier, University of Northwest, South Africa; Director, Institute for Social Law and Policy

- Even when cities embrace inclusive policies, national legislation can prohibit them from sharing public funds with migrants. People who have been working to support their families lost their jobs during the pandemic, and were left with no welfare support, hindering their families and their mental health, and limiting their ability to rebuild their skills and careers, and integrate into the community.

"Racism, discrimination and xenophobia are deeply entrenched in policy practices, leading to human rights violations and placing migrants in situations of vulnerability."

Laurel Townhead, Friends World Committee for Consultation

Ways forward

There is a need to build inclusive societies and expand social protections to empower all migrants (regular and irregular), including by providing them access to health-care services and vaccinations:

- Policymakers must recognize and value the role migrant workers play, including those in the informal economy. They are entitled to compensation for their work, to social protection without discrimination, and to key social services in countries of origin and destination.
- COVID-19 recovery planning and social protection schemes must be inclusive of the diverse needs and intersectional identities of populations at risk of being left behind in communities, such as migrant women, children, older persons, migrants with diverse sexual orientation and gender identity, and persons with disabilities. This includes vaccine distribution and provision of services such as health care and education.

“During the pandemic, leaders of migrant communities have played important roles in raising awareness about dividers, the virus and the vaccination, and delivering humanitarian

aid to those affected in those communities.”

Sarah Khatib, Solidarity Centre and International Workers' Rights

- Lessons learned from the COVID-19 social protection responses put in place include combining protection measures with enhanced access to health care, as well as social work and child protection services, which helps to address exclusion errors and meets the needs of multiple vulnerabilities. Allowing migrants to participate in labour market activity provides a lifeline for individuals and households in the wake of border closures. Acknowledging remittance service providers as essential services allows migrant workers to keep assisting their families in countries of origin. Inclusion in social protection and immigration services can eliminate the requirements to report undocumented migrants to immigration departments.

“Beware of unintended consequences flowing from formal inclusion of migrant workers in social protection, but exclusion in reality.”

Marius Olivier, University of Northwest, South Africa; Director, Institute for Social Law and Policy

- Migrants and diaspora communities should be empowered to ensure inclusive national preparedness and response plans. To achieve this, countries must act together by developing or strengthening humanitarian and development plans through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. Combating stigmatization and discrimination will foster inclusive and cohesive societies.

“Countries must act in concert by developing and strengthening humanitarian plans through a whole-of-government and society approach.”

Representative from the Government of Nigeria

- The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that cities are key front-line players in responding to global crises. Cities must work with local partners, national governments and partners internationally. The voice of the city is critical. City experiences across the globe must be listened to at the centre of decision-making, both within national governments and at global institutions.

“These global issues help to push us cities to work together through partnerships, as well as sharing and learning from each other.”

Forward Maisokwado, Inclusion Adviser to the Mayor of Bristol

- Capacity-building activities should target young people, including migrant youth, so that they can gain the skills needed to take up jobs in the formal economy, rather than staying in the informal economy. Migrant youth should be included in all stages of policy and programme design, implementation and review, so that they can be part of the solution to make migration safe for everyone. There is a need to move beyond recognizing the vulnerabilities of migrant youth to maximize their role in spurring development and broader prosperity.
- Labour mobility and human rights must go hand in hand. Protection for migrants against racism and xenophobia must be central to a renewed social contract, with migrant health workers serving at the front line of the pandemic often subjected to Asian hate.
- A renewed social contract must also include access to social protection for all, including undocumented migrants working in the informal sector.

“Thus, Portugal stands for a renewal of our social contract proposed in Our Common Agenda, adapted to the global challenges our time, anchored in our shared political, civic and socioeconomic human rights acquis, fully taking into account migrants, young people and future generations.”

Glória Sousa, Directorate-General for Foreign Policy,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Portugal

Innovative approaches

3.1.1 AFRO-EUROPEAN MEDICAL AND RESEARCH NETWORK

ORGANIZATION

Afro-European Medical and Research Network

PERIOD

Ongoing

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Global

DESCRIPTION

The Afro-European Medical and Research Network (AEMRN) non-profit organization has a strong vision of helping to improve the quality of life for people from and living in resource-limited settings. Based in Bern, Switzerland for its European headquarters, and Sierra Leone for its Africa regional headquarters, it initiates projects related to health and food security in various resource-limited countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. AEMRN serves as a platform wherein active professionals from such disciplines as education, medicine, engineering, nursing and faith-based organizations can interact at various levels of self-initiated conferences, seminars, workshops, exchange programmes and voluntary work camps.

IMPACTS

- The AEMRN team offers services and fosters cross-cultural exchange and global peace, both within a multinational and multi-professional team, as well as the people it will be interacting with to help.
- It contributes to the medical, mental, social, educational and every sound well-being of mankind irrespective of race, creed, beliefs, faith and social affiliation.

LESSONS LEARNED

Lessons could be drawn from Ebola, where AEMRN had the infrastructure to mount a response for the COVID-19 pandemic. Airports were closed, so they sent money to colleagues, and especially front-line workers, for things such as hand sanitizer. The pharmacists

learned how to make hand sanitizer without importing it, and how to make face masks. The diaspora gathered money through a media campaign and platform, and sent it to local colleagues who could mount a response in most African countries. The diaspora can do a lot.

RESOURCES

- [Afro-European Medical and Research Network](#).

CONTACT

Charles Senessie, President of Afro-European
Medical and Research Network

csenessie@aemrnetwork.ch

3.1.2 CODIFYING THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION'S 23 OBJECTIVES INTO LAW

ORGANIZATION

Migrant Workers' Affairs, Department of
Foreign Affairs, the Philippines

PERIOD

2019-2021

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

The Philippines

DESCRIPTION

Philippine President Rodrigo Roa Duterte signed into law the Republic Act (RA) No. 11641 creating the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW). The law was created given the mandate of the State: to protect the rights and promote the welfare of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and their families; to make overseas employment a choice, not a necessity; to strengthen the domestic labour market for the effective reintegration of OFWs; and to progressively align programmes and policies towards the fulfilment of the 23 objectives of the Global Compact for Migration. This new Department shall cover all matters relating to OFWs, including prospective overseas workers in the Philippines and overseas workers who have returned and reintegrated back to the country. The general functions of the DMW are to: protect the rights and promote the welfare of OFWs, regardless of status and of the means of entry into the country of destination; formulate, plan, coordinate, promote, administer and implement policies in relation to overseas employment and reintegration; undertake systems for regulating, managing and monitoring overseas employment and reintegration; and empower and train them to gain appropriate skills, and ensure access to continuous training and knowledge development.

IMPACTS

- The Philippines is the first country in the world to include in its law the progressive realization of the 23 objectives of the Global Compact for Migration. While the Global Compact is a non-binding framework, it will now be legally enforced in the Philippines through this law. This is consistent with the country's pursuit of fair and ethical recruitment, decent work, labour mobility and human rights for migrant workers.
- As the law likewise defines ethical recruitment that enhances the protection of Filipino migrant workers, it complements the country's campaign to reform the Kafala system, which has been the battle cry for migrant protection. The Philippines, as a country of origin, has been actively partnering with progressive countries of destination in the Middle East on this campaign.

- Thus, the DMW is created to specifically address the issues and concerns of Filipino migrant workers. It can serve as a single destination for OFWs in checking available overseas jobs, processing and issuance of overseas employment certificates, legal assistance for cases, repatriation, reintegration and other necessary assistance.
- It merges seven existing offices with migration-relation related functions. Current services offered to migrant workers will also be served overseas with the new Migrant Workers Office, which will be established in Philippine embassies and consulates. Thus, the creation of DMW will integrate all services offered by the merged agencies and provide cohesion to existing policies during pre-deployment, deployment and reintegration. Important programmes such as reintegration and training would also be given more attention.
- In addition, there will now be a greater voice and representation of OFWs in the Government – at the cabinet level with a designated secretary, and with presence at the local and provincial level.

LESSONS LEARNED

- A whole-of-government approach in crafting migration policies at the national level can enable meaningful integration and simplification of public services provided to migrants.

RESOURCES

- Republic Act No. 11641
- United Nations Migration Network Hub Repository of Practices.

CONTACT

Sarah Lou Y. Arriola, Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs, the Philippines sarah.arriola@dfa.gov.ph

3.1.3 CITY SUPPORT FOR MIGRANT COMMUNITIES HIT HARD DURING THE PANDEMIC

ORGANIZATION

Bristol Mayoral Office

PERIOD

2020–present

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Bristol, United Kingdom

DESCRIPTION

During the pandemic, Bristol established a COVID-19 equality group to understand the impact of COVID-19 on migrant communities, and to work with the health-care system, where the majority of nurses and doctors are from migrant communities. Understanding people's experiences by engaging universities and other partners in conversation, then using the One City approach, Bristol examined how to address the inequalities that have been exacerbated by the pandemic, which is essential for economic recovery. Some people in the community are victims of slavery and exploitation; people have experienced trauma or mental health issues. Bristol considers how they can start to rebuild their lives and careers. Wrap-around support that brings migrant communities together is important. Support from the central Government helps the city to decide where to provide resources and funding, including to migrant community businesses and enterprises that were hit hard by the pandemic. Bristol focused on professional reskilling of migrant communities.

IMPACTS

- Support to migrant community businesses and enterprises, and addressing inequalities exacerbated by the pandemic, particularly among vulnerable migrant communities.

LESSONS LEARNED

- In the absence of a safety net, where migrants were not able to access support due to national legislation, cities can offer support to businesses affected, not only through grants, but also providing other kinds of human resources support.
- Local authorities cannot do it alone. It is critical they engage with local partners, as well as the national Government, to examine what migrant communities might experience. The pandemic taught that collaborative working and partnerships are a must, and inspire hope in cities' migrant communities.

RESOURCES

- Bristol City Office and One City Plan

CONTACT

Forward Maisokwadzo, Inclusion Adviser of the Mayor of Bristol

3.1.4 DRAFT RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS TO MEMBER STATES ON PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANT, REFUGEE AND ASYLUM-SEEKING WOMEN AND GIRLS

ORGANIZATION

Council of Europe

PERIOD

To be adopted

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Member States of the Council of Europe

DESCRIPTION

The Council of Europe is working on a recommendation to protect the rights of migrant refugees and asylum-seeking women and girls, which is expected to be adopted in the first half of 2022. The draft recommendation includes a section on integration calling on member states to highlight the contribution that migrant and refugee girls and women bring to culture and society as a whole as a way to facilitate their integration and empowerment.

IMPACTS

Ensuring that migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls can effectively access and exercise their rights.

LESSONS LEARNED

Not available

RESOURCES

- [Draft Recommendation CM/REC\(2022\)...](#) of the Committee of ministers to member States on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls

CONTACT

Caterina Bolognese, Head of Division, Human
Dignity and Gender Equality Department

Caterina.Bolognese@coe.int

3.1.5 EUROPEAN QUALIFICATIONS PASSPORT FOR REFUGEES (EQPR) - PHASE III

ORGANIZATION

Council of Europe

PERIOD

2022 – 2024

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Member States of the Council of Europe

DESCRIPTION

The [European Qualifications Passport for Refugees](#) was launched in 2017 with the aim to help refugees and hosting countries to facilitate refugees' integration into their new societies. EQPR is a fair assessment of refugees' qualifications that cannot be fully documented. Refugees who do not have any proof of their prior learning can participate and have their qualifications assessed. It is a standard document that clearly presents the result of the assessment. The assessment part of the document contains information describing the highest achieved qualification(s), as well as work experience and language proficiency. The explanatory and advisory sections contain information about the status of the document and a short description of the project. EQPR is portable from one country to another if and when the refugee moves. Currently, the third phase of the EQPR project is being implemented.

IMPACTS

Enhance the integration of refugees and support them and their new communities to build inclusive societies through access to education and employment.

LESSONS LEARNED

- The methodology used within the EQPR project is very reliable and credible when it comes to assessing qualifications held by refugees even in case they are not adequately documented. Moreover, the involvement of higher education institutions in the project has brought a significant trust towards the project which resulted in enabling, so far, more than 60 EQPR holders to access study programmes at French, Italian and British universities.
- EQPR is a tool that was developed to help Member States address the challenges brought by the refugee crisis, by building the capacity for a sustainable response to the possible crisis situations.

RESOURCES

- [Council of Europe/UNESCO Convention on the Recognition of qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region](#)
- [The European Qualifications Passport for Refugees methodology](#)

CONTACT

Sarah Keating, Head of Division, Co-operation
and Capacity Building, Education Department

Sarah.Keating@coe.int

3.1.6 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO MIGRANT CRISES

ORGANIZATION

SOS Children's Villages Colombia

PERIOD

2018–present

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Colombia

DESCRIPTION

Since 2018, SOS Children's Villages Colombia has provided a humanitarian response to the migration crisis, with almost 2 million Venezuelan migrants and refugees in the country, as well as returned Colombians. Actions have focused on the protection, integration, shelter and education in emergencies for the most vulnerable migrants, with presence in various regions of the country. The humanitarian work extends to the crisis caused by COVID-19, another condition that is on top of the pre existing situations that the country has endured. This increased the risk of migrants to COVID-19 and, of course, the need to improve support to them, with a focus on children and families.

IMPACTS

Mitigate the effects of a lack of stable income for migrating children, pregnant women and families, which make it impossible for children and families to have access to safe places to live, or have water, soap or face masks.

LESSONS LEARNED

It is important to centre all responses to migration on children as the most vulnerable migrants and most in need. Families are the best to articulate responses to migrant populations. COVID-19 has put children at risk and, of course, the possibility of their families to responding and protecting them has also decreased.

RESOURCES

- [SOS Children's Villages Colombia.](#)

CONTACT

Angela Maria Rosales, National Director of SOS
Children's Villages Colombia

angela.rosales@aldeasinfantiles.org.co

3.1.7 INCLUDING MIGRANTS IN COVID-19 RESPONSE PLANS (BRIEFLY REFERRED TO)

ORGANIZATION

Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran

PERIOD

Ongoing

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Islamic Republic of Iran

DESCRIPTION

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has extended assistance to migrants by providing educational, health and medical services, with a view to alleviating suffering. By their full inclusion in the national COVID-19 response, the Government ensured migrants free access to COVID-19-related tests and treatment. The Islamic Republic of Iran has done its utmost to provide migrants with livelihoods, access to job opportunities, free and inclusive education for children, health services, universal public health insurance and COVID-19-related assistance. All foreign nationals residing in the Islamic Republic of Iran have been included in the national vaccination plan, irrespective of their legal status, with approximately \$4 million of vaccine administered so far.

IMPACTS

Alleviated the suffering of migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic and ensured continued livelihoods.

LESSONS LEARNED

Not available

RESOURCES

Not available

CONTACT

Ehsan Matinrazm, Permanent Mission of the
Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations

e.matinrazm@mfa.gov.ir

3.1.8 INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODY FOR DRUG PREVENTION

ORGANIZATION

Council of Europe

PERIOD

2010 - ongoing

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Member States of the Council of Europe

DESCRIPTION

The Intergovernmental group for Drug Prevention conducts since 2010 capacity-building training tailored for policymakers, but also for professionals working with refugees and migrants in the field of addiction. There are currently 15 countries taking part in this programme.

IMPACTS

Builds the capacity of policymakers and professionals working with refugees and migrants in the field of addiction.

LESSONS LEARNED

- There is a need for capacity-building of the intercultural competencies of professionals working in the field of addictions and drug prevention (health professionals, psychosocial staff, law enforcement agents) with refugees and migrants.
- There is a need for developing tailor-made, gender-sensitive and culturally adapted prevention, harm, reduction, and treatment interventions.
- Access to health care system for refugees and migrants should not be limited to physical health, but it should include access to mental health services and addiction treatment, including opioid agonist treatment (OAT).

RESOURCES

- Handbook on Guiding principles for professionals working with migrants and refugees in the field of addiction (forthcoming).

CONTACT

Denis Huber, Council of Europe
Ourania Botsi, Council of Europe

Denis.Huber@coe.int
Ourania.botsi@coe.int

3.1.9 REFORMING TRADITIONAL SPONSORSHIP SYSTEMS

ORGANIZATION

Migrant Workers' Affairs, Department of
Foreign Affairs, the Philippines

PERIOD

2018–present

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Philippines/global

DESCRIPTION

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) pursued cases and embarked on partnerships to combat trafficking involving overseas Filipinos. This is in response to the unintended consequences brought by the Kafala system, a traditional sponsorship system in the Middle East. Various human rights and media groups have labelled this employment condition as “modern day slavery”. Among these is the case of two overseas Filipino workers who were survivors of trafficking and sexual exploitation committed by fellow Filipinos and foreign nationals in Bahrain. Both Philippine survivors gave their statements in the Philippines, and the suspects were later apprehended, prosecuted and convicted in Bahrain. There were also reports of trafficked Filipino women in the Syrian Arab Republic in 2020. They were all undocumented workers who ran away from their employers and were eventually sheltered at the Philippine Embassy in Damascus. In 2021, the DFA brought home 110 trafficked Filipinos, who were assisted in filing criminal complaints against the traffickers both in the Philippines and in the Syrian Arab Republic. Since last year, bilateral meetings have been held for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the United Arab Emirates and the Philippines on the Cooperation in Combating Human Trafficking. Both sides continue to conduct exchanges on best practices and views to improve cooperation against trafficking.

IMPACTS

- The case of Filipino trafficking survivors from Bahrain highlights the international collaboration of the Philippines and Bahrain in addressing trafficking and crimes concerning migrants. This is a first of its kind, as the cooperation in seeking justice knows no geographical borders. This was pursued even without a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty between the Philippines and Bahrain. Rather, Objective 23 of the Global Compact for Migration was used as a platform for international cooperation and partnership.
- With the filing of trafficking cases involving Filipino women in the Syrian Arab Republic, the Philippine Embassy in the Syrian Arab Republic received an unprecedented win for the first human trafficking case filed before the Damascus Court, making it a landmark judicial victory awarded by a Syrian Court in favour of Filipinos. The Syrian traffickers incurred a penalty of 500,000 Syrian pounds, the highest amount ever meted out by a Syrian Court.
- Finally, the Memorandum of Understanding is the first cooperation agreement between the United Arab Emirates and the Philippines to address trafficking. It will implement safety measures and mechanisms for the prevention and appropriate response to both victims and traffickers.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Political will from both countries of origin and those of destination is key to reforming the system, and allows regular migrant workers to be freelance workers.

RESOURCES

- [Gulf Daily News – Eight jailed for human trafficking.](#)
- [Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs, PH Embassy in Damascus wins first human-trafficking case vs recruitment agency, 8 February 2022.](#)
- [Business Mirror, After a difficult repatriation, DFA empties Syria shelter of human trafficking survivors, 28 June 2021.](#)
- [Philippine News Agency, DFA repatriates 7 Filipino trafficking victims from Syria, 19 September 2021.](#)
- [ABS–CBN News, DFA repatriates 8 human-trafficking victims from Syria , 9 October 2021.](#)
- [Memorandum of Understanding between the Philippines and United Arab Emirates on Cooperation in Combating Human Trafficking.](#)

CONTACT

Sarah Lou Y. Arriola, Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs, Philippines

sarah.arriola@dfa.gov.ph

3.1.10 SUPPORT TO NATIONALS ABROAD DURING THE PANDEMIC

ORGANIZATION

Migrant Workers' Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs, the Philippines

PERIOD

2020–present

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

The Philippines/global

DESCRIPTION

The COVID-19 response of the Government of the Philippines can be summarized in 5Rs: Relief, Repatriation, Recovery, Return and Reintegration:

- **Relief:** The Department of Foreign Affairs, through its global network of embassies and consulates, has been providing assistance to distressed overseas Filipinos in the form of financial and welfare assistance, temporary shelter and eventually repatriation. Overseas offices of migration-related government agencies also provide similar assistance in a whole-of-government approach.
- **Repatriation:** Repatriation under the state of a global health pandemic is new to the country, as it is for most governments. The Philippines never closed its borders, both for those going out of the country and those coming in. DFA also facilitated the expatriation of foreign nationals in the country who wish to return to their respective homeland.
- **Recovery:** To ensure safety of repatriates upon arrival in the country, the inbound passenger cap for commercial airlines was made flexible, to provide enough quarantine and testing support.
- **Return:** Since the Philippines is an archipelago, many returning overseas Filipinos have to fly to their final destination city. The Government assisted in securing domestic flights and in prior coordination with local governments.
- **Reintegration:** Reintegration initiatives such as loan programmes to provide working capital for start-ups, scholarship programmes for reskilling or upskilling, and financial literacy trainings for returning Filipinos were given. DFA also worked with international and bilateral partners to ensure the fast and efficient roll-out of the country's vaccination programme.

IMPACTS

- As of 1 April 2022, the Department of Foreign Affairs facilitated the repatriation of 459,570 overseas Filipinos, composed of 353,590 land-based workers and 105,980 seafarers. It also mounted 113 chartered flights to return Filipino nationals, no matter the cost.
- The Government put up facilities for the safe return to work overseas, including a policy for seafarers called the “green lane” – allowing crew change in Philippine ports while minimizing the risks of COVID-19 during lockdowns – recognizing that essential workers must play an important role towards economic recovery.
- The Government continues its efficient roll-out of the vaccination programme and issuance of the WHO international certificate of vaccination, called VaxCert PH in the Philippines. Ensuring access to vaccines that are compliant with international health standards, including the recommendations of the WHO smart vaccination certification Working Group, issued in September 2021, is instrumental for migrants who wish to return to work. Migrant protection has been at the core of the Philippines' services, in partnership with countries of destination and migration stakeholders.

LESSONS LEARNED

Having a State-led response for crisis management integrates all government efforts into a coordinated and whole-of-government approach, thereby adding protection of migrants, regardless of status and nationality, in the country's national and local policies.

RESOURCES

- [Joint Circular No. 01: Guidelines for the Establishment of the Green Lane Policy.](#)
- [Joint Circular No. 01-A: Amendments to the Green Lane Policy Guidelines.](#)
- [VaxCert PH.](#)

CONTACT

Sarah Lou Y. Arriola, Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs, Philippines

sarah.arriola@dfa.gov.ph

3.1.11 TOOLKIT TO SUPPORT INTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN EDUCATION AND SOCIETY

ORGANIZATION

Council of Europe

PERIOD

2022 - 2024

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Member States of the Council of Europe

DESCRIPTION

The Council of Europe has developed a set of tools to support Member States in their efforts to respond to the challenges faced by those who are providing language support to migrant and refugee adults and children. The tools are designed to support the early stages of language development of newly arriving refugees, including children, as they adjust to their new environment and education institutions. They are designed to assist organizations, teachers and volunteers who are providing language support for refugees who arrive with no knowledge, or very little knowledge, of the language of the new country. The project is closely connected with the activities of the Education Policy Division in the framework of the longstanding Linguistic Integration of Adult Migrants (LIAM) project.

IMPACTS

Migrants and refugees, including children, receive the support they need to learn the language of their host country, which fosters greater inclusion and integration in schools and local communities.

LESSONS LEARNED

It is crucial to provide hands-on, well-structured and easily adaptable educational resources and guidelines. The tools are optimally and widely used when broad dissemination is complemented with trainings on how to use them effectively.

RESOURCES

- [Toolkit for language support for adult refugees \(available in 7 languages\). Tools and guidelines adapted for children.](#)
- [Guide for the development and implementation of curricula for plurilingual and intercultural education.](#)

- Handbook for curriculum development and teacher training. The language dimension in all subjects.

CONTACT

Marta Medlinska, Programme Manager,
Education Policy, Education Department

Marta.Medlinska@coe.int

Contributors and their interventions

PANELLISTS

- Marius Olivier, Extraordinary Professor: Faculty of Law, University of Northwest, South Africa; Director: Institute for Social Law and Policy (moderator)
- Sarah Lou Y. Arriola, Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs, the Philippines
- Forward Maisokwadzo, Inclusion Adviser of the Mayor of Bristol
- Charles Senessie, President of Afro-European Medical and Research Network

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

- Council of Europe
- Quaker United Nations Office
- Islamic Republic of Iran
- Nigeria
- Portugal
- Solidarity Centre
- SOS Children's Villages Colombia

Useful resources

- Arab Ministerial Forum on Social Protection “Declaration on Social Protection”.
- iDiaspora, GRFDT, CISAN and ADEPT, [Maximizing Diaspora Engagement: Building Trust, Mobilizing Resources and Ensuring Sustainability](#). Insights and reflections paper. IOM (Geneva, 2021).
- International Organization for Migration (IOM), [Ensuring migrants’ equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines](#) (web portal), n.d.
- International Organization for Migration (IOM), [The Power of Digitalization in the Age of Physical Distancing: Strengthening social connections and cohesion through the digital inclusion and connectivity of migrants](#), 2020.
- International Organization for Migration (IOM), [No Social Exclusion in ‘Social’ Distancing: Leaving No Migrants Behind in COVID-19 Response](#), 2020.
- International Organization for Migration (IOM), [Integrating Migration into COVID-19 Socioeconomic Response: A Toolkit for Development Partners](#) (toolkit), 2020.
- International Organization for Migration (IOM), [Countering xenophobia and stigma to foster social cohesion in the COVID-19 response and recovery](#) (issue brief), 14 July 2020.
- International Organization for Migration (IOM), [The Future of Diasporas](#) (edited volume), 2021.
- International Organization for Migration (IOM), [The Power of Contact: Designing, Facilitating and Evaluating Social Mixing Activities to Strengthen Migrant Integration and Social Cohesion Between Migrants and Local Communities](#), 10 May 2021.
- Routed Migration and (Im)mobility Magazine and iDiaspora, [Empowering global diasporas in the digital era](#) (report), 2021.
- United Nations, [COVID-19 and People on the Move](#) (policy brief), June 2020.
- United Nations, [COVID-19 and Universal Health Coverage](#) (policy brief), October 2020.
- United Nations, [Our Common Agenda – Report of the Secretary-General](#) (report), 2021.
- United Nations Network on Migration, [Promising practices in the provision of essential services to migrants](#) (case studies), January 2022.

3.2. Rethinking skilled migration to address persistent labour shortages

Around the world, countries lack not only the workers required to maintain critical infrastructure and economic productivity, but also fall short on much-needed skills to spur innovation and growth. There is potential for greater use of skilled migration to meet labour market needs in a way that is mutually beneficial for countries of destination, origin and migrants. After all, migrants of all categories, including those with special protection needs, are in possession of diverse skills, talents and experiences, which too often remain unrecognized and underutilized. To leverage the potential of skilled migration for all will require cross-border cooperation, multi-stakeholder engagement and new approaches to skills-based mobility, such as those captured in skills mobility partnerships.

When effectively put to use, skills mobility partnerships can drive human capital and skills development in origin and destination countries; address skills and labour market needs; and contribute to the skills development in countries of origin, competitiveness and higher pay of workers. Skills mobility partnerships not only serve local labour markets and development, but also drive

cross-country cooperation to reduce the skills divide and socioeconomic inequalities between countries and regions. Collaborative, multi-stakeholder approaches to skills-based migration can help align education and training with labour market needs so that everyone involved benefits.

Objective 15 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
“Provide access to basic services for migrants.”

Objective 16 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
“Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion.”

Objective 17 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
“Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration.”

Objective 19 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
“Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries.”

United Nations General Assembly, 2018, [Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#), A/CONF.231/3

Successes

Successes include the following:

- When faced with border and travel restrictions during the pandemic, some countries continued to meet their migration intake quotas by offering permanent residency to temporary workers in essential occupations and international graduates already in the country. The unique labour and economic needs of smaller centres and rural and remote areas have successfully attracted and retained skilled immigrants and recent international graduates.
- Skills mobility partnerships promote safe, orderly and regular migration and abroad. Global skills partnerships,

pathways, providing migrants with decent work opportunities at home where the country of destination provides training to migrants and non-migrants in countries of origin, increase rather than drain human capital in countries of origin. This enables countries of origin to become more productive and more competitive, and possibly even attract more foreign direct investment – thus, they have more bargaining power in skilled mobility agreements, and countries of destination can focus on the development impact of their migration pathways on top of filling their labour market shortages.

“These migrants possess the skills and experience needed to fight and recover from the pandemic, and drive the economy of the future.”

Marian Campbell Jarvis, Assistant Deputy Minister,
Strategic and Program Policy, Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship, Canada

- Progress has been made on upskilling, training and providing advice to youth to broaden their job opportunities and enhance their ability to contribute to labour markets at home and abroad. Value is created for all stakeholders participating in government-to-government and business-to-business mobility partnerships when the candidate is placed at the centre. Migrants thrive as contributors to the society and economy of both countries when both countries of origin and those of destination share the costs for training migrants, because they possess the skills that are needed in both countries.

- While many countries closed their doors to refugees during the pandemic, some countries offered complementary pathways for them, allowing skilled refugees who can fill specific labour market needs to arrive not as refugees, but as economic immigrants.

“Having a job is very important, but equally important is the welcoming community to support integration.”

Avneet Kaur, Senior Head, Advisory and
International Collaborations, Indian National
Skills Development Corporation

“Expanding the concept of refugee mobility from a solely humanitarian focus to one which includes mobility based on refugees’ skills, abilities and other attributes helps to change the narrative on refugees by focusing on their skills, education and experience, rather than just their vulnerability.”

Marian Campbell Jarvis, Assistant Deputy Minister,
Strategic and Program Policy, Immigration,
Refugees and Citizenship, Canada

- The global task force on refugee labour mobility, which brings together all partners needed to implement labour complementary pathways, will allow lessons to be shared between countries. Exploring innovative means to expand complementary pathways for refugees is a means to increase access to protection in third countries, in addition to traditional resettlement pathways. This also supports the Global Compact for Migration by expanding safe and regular migration pathways. In order to allow a larger

number of people in need of international protection to access these complementary pathways, countries of destination should consider investing in skills development among such populations in the countries that host them, alongside with nationals.

Challenges

Challenges include the following:

- During the pandemic, countries around the world faced border and travel restrictions that stifled the movement of migrants and refugees, exacerbating existing labour shortages required for critical infrastructure and economic growth.
- Countries of origin are facing a shortage of legal pathways for mobility and the mutual recognition of skills and qualifications. It is a complicated process with many restrictions, including expensive international assessment and certification rates.
- While many point to the development power of remittances – and financial, skill and technological transfers that skilled migrants send home – countries of origin continue to face brain drain as long as there is no shared investment in skills development in countries of origin, which would help to build a pool of well-skilled workers

from which countries of destination can recruit.

- Recruitment agencies can be very potent actors in the private sector. There is a need for frameworks to be elaborated that would allow a greater degree of compliance and discipline of the recruitment agencies so that they understand what their responsibilities are.

Ways forward

Holistic and broad stakeholder cooperation can leverage cross-border skills mobility to respond to skills and labour shortages, while supporting migrants and contributing to the socioeconomic development of countries of origin:

- As countries across the globe confront new skills and labour requirements, there is a growing need for innovative and forward-looking approaches to address chronic shortages and develop regular, safe and orderly migration options that build the skills for a future of work. The way forward on increased legal pathways of mobility must also include skills development in countries of origin, to mitigate the effects of brain drain.

“If we want to have more equitable benefits for countries of origin and destination, I think there is a need for a dramatic increase of investment in human capital development, and increasing the skills pool in general in all countries, particularly for the traditional countries of origin.”

Ummuhan Bardak, Senior Human Capital Development Expert, European Training Foundation

- There is a need to increase legal mobility pathways available to skilled workers from the Global South, and to ease restrictions and complexities. Partnerships and investment in joint skills development and mobility pathways can promote human capital formation and positive labour market outcomes in both countries of origin and those of destination. Skills development in the countries of origin not only promotes positive labour market outcomes in both countries of origin and those of destination, but it also helps to reduce the skills divide between countries of origin and destination, and thus can help to reduce inequalities (Sustainable Development Goal 10).

“Expanding pathways for legal migration, including labour migration, and better matching skills, are important elements of our comprehensive approach to migration. We will not be able to manage irregular migration if we don’t focus more on regular migration.”

Johannes Luchner, Deputy Director-General,
Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs,
European Commission

- The harmonization of skills and education qualifications between countries can help to level the playing field and facilitate technical and social

acceptance. International assessment and certification rates are currently too expensive for individuals from developing countries. There is a need for more institutions in countries of origin to provide these services at affordable rates.

“Policymakers should assess the challenges and opportunities in relation to the most suitable and realistic skills development options for agricultural migrant workers, considering their short stays and their varying degree of skills applicability upon their return home.”

Representative FAO

“Migration is interwoven into the fabric of society. Migrants own businesses, work as physicians, dentists, nurses, nurse aids, and account for significant labour force growth.”

Marian Campbell Jarvis, Assistant Deputy Minister,
Strategic and Program Policy, Immigration,
Refugees and Citizenship, Canada

- Integrating a skills lens into migration, education and labour market policies will allow for more targeted strategies in the future that are tailored towards labour market needs and will unlock the potential of migrants of different categories to participate in human capital creation and equitable economic growth.
- Building upon the UN 2.0 Quintet of Change, there is a need for improved data and foresight to better align education, migration and labour market systems, and also for enhanced cross-country cooperation along skills anticipation, assessment, development, transfer and recognition.

Innovative approaches

3.2.1 ATLANTIC IMMIGRATION PROGRAM AND RURAL AND NORTHERN IMMIGRATION PILOT

ORGANIZATION

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, Canada

PERIOD

2017–present

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Canada: Atlantic, rural and northern regions

DESCRIPTION

While most migrants are attracted to the three largest cities of Canada – Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver – the expanding economies of the country's smaller centres and rural and remote areas, such as in the Atlantic and northern regions, face demographic and labour shortages. Programmes such as the Atlantic Immigration Program and Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot were introduced to spread the benefits of economic immigration across the country. Canadian provinces have grouped together to create a pathway to permanent residency for migrants who want to permanently settle and live in these regions. Migrant workers in almost every occupation are eligible to become permanent residents, and international students can become eligible for permanent residency by completing a 2 year post-secondary program at a designated learning institution in the participating regions.

IMPACTS

- The programmes offer new pathways to migration and permanent residency that are over and above existing federal immigration programmes.
- The Atlantic Immigration Program helps to spread the benefits of economic immigration to the four Atlantic provinces by attracting and retaining skilled immigrants and recent international graduates, to meet the unique labour and economic needs of the Atlantic region of Canada.
- The pilot phases of these programmes have allowed the federal government to test innovative approaches to attract and retain skilled immigrants, evaluate the design of the pilot and assess its outcomes prior to making a decision on the future of the program.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Piloting and permanently phasing in innovative pathways have allowed Canada to test policy and programme changes designed to increase the retention of newcomers in rural and remote regions and draw economic growth.

RESOURCES

- Government of Canada, Immigration and Citizenship, [Atlantic Immigration Program](#) (website).
- Government of Canada, Immigration and Citizenship, [Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot](#) (website).

CONTACT

Korey McKinnon, Director, Regional Economic Programs and Policies Division

Korey.McKinnon@cic.gc.ca

3.2.2 DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION SERVICES

ORGANIZATION

One Digital World

PERIOD

Ongoing

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Global/bilateral/multilateral

DESCRIPTION

One Digital World aims to address Sustainable Development Goals 4 and 10 to empower migrants with skills, knowledge and language skills needed for integrating into the community. The organization addresses health-care access, legal services to ensure access to human rights and safety and employable skills for self sufficiency.

IMPACTS

One Digital World facilitates the integration of migrants into society and work, and mitigates the challenges and barriers migrants face when arriving in a new country.

LESSONS LEARNED

One Digital World's research and experience have led it to recommend private and public sectors to invest in diversity, equity and inclusion services, so employing a diverse workforce, incentivizing both public and private employment authorization, needs to be faster and done correctly.

RESOURCES

- [One Digital World](#)

CONTACT

Casey Myers, Executive Director and Founder of One Digital World

casey@onedigitalworld.net

3.2.3 ECONOMIC MOBILITY PATHWAYS PILOT (COMPLEMENTARY PATHWAYS FOR SKILLED REFUGEES)

ORGANIZATION

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, Canada

PERIOD

2020–present

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Canada

DESCRIPTION

The Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot combines refugee resettlement and economic immigration. It helps skilled refugees immigrate to Canada through existing economic programmes; and gives employers access to a new pool of qualified candidates to fill job openings. This allows Canada not only to continue to offer refugees protection in Canada, but also to expand the concept of refugee mobility from a solely humanitarian focus to one that includes mobility based on refugees' skills, abilities and other attributes, alongside protection. Through the economic mobility pathways pilot, skilled refugees who can fill specific labour market needs in Canada arrive not as refugees, but as economic immigrants.

IMPACTS

- Exploring innovative means to expand complementary pathways for refugees' increased access to protection in third countries, and offers new tools for refugee protection, in addition to traditional resettlement pathways.
- Complementary pathways for skilled refugees support the Global Compact for Migration by expanding safe and regular migration pathways.
- Allowing skilled refugees who can fill specific labour market needs in Canada to arrive not as refugees, but as economic immigrants, helps to change the narrative on refugees by focusing on their skills, education and experience, rather than just their vulnerability.

LESSONS LEARNED

Refugees are able to access economic immigration pathways, with some assistance necessary to help remove barriers related to their unique situations of displacement (such as with travel documents, settlement fund requirements, documentary evidence, and the window of time to acquire work experience).

Creating this type of innovative pathway helps refugees find permanent homes in Canada based on their skills and experience, helps employers address their labour market needs, and helps build a diverse and inclusive Canada.

RESOURCES

- Government of Canada, Immigration and Citizenship, [Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot](#) (website).

CONTACT

Korey McKinnon, Director, Regional Economic Programs and Policies Division

Korey.McKinnon@cic.gc.ca

3.2.4 GLOBAL SKILL PARTNERSHIPS

ORGANIZATION

Center for Global Development

PERIOD

Ongoing

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Global/bilateral

DESCRIPTION

A Global Skill Partnership is a bilateral labour migration agreement between equal partners. The country of destination agrees to provide technology and finance to train potential migrants with targeted skills in the country of origin, prior to migration, and gets migrants with precisely the skills they need to integrate and contribute best upon arrival. The country of origin agrees to provide that training and gets support for the training of non-migrants, too – increasing rather than draining human capital. The dual track model allows trainees to pick which track they want to go down: a “home” track for non-migrants, and an “away” track for migrants. Those who choose to stay are plugged into the local labour market, with increased skills and earning potential. Those who choose to move also have increased skills and earning potential, and the ability to migrate legally and safely. They could also be provided with additional training in soft skills – for example, in different languages or other facets of integration.

IMPACTS

- The Global Skill Partnership is a migration model that ensures that mobility contributes to development for all.
- Countries of origin get support for their broader development goals. Countries of destination manage migration in safe, legal and ethical ways. Trainees access safe migration pathways and new opportunities.
- Both countries of origin and those of destination get new workers, with needed skills, to help businesses thrive.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Lessons can be drawn on how to choose a partner country; which sectors to work in; and how to bring all partners on board, both substantively and financially, especially in the private sector.
- Lessons for employers include how to work across government departments, countries and a range of different entities to align priorities and objectives; how to pilot, test, monitor and evaluate; and finally how to scale the model.

RESOURCES

- Global Skills Partnerships, [Migration that works for everyone](#).
- Global Skills Partnerships, [Start a GSP](#).
- Center for Global Development, [Expanding Legal Migration Pathways from Nigeria to Europe: From Brain Drain to Brain Gain](#).

CONTACT

hdempster@CGDEV.ORG

Helen Dempster, Policy Fellow and Assistant Director,
Migration, Displacement and Humanitarian Policy, Center for
Global Development

3.2.5 GLOBAL YOUTH FORUMS

ORGANIZATION

United Nations Major Group on
Children and Youth

PERIOD

Ongoing

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Global

DESCRIPTION

Three global migration youth forums have brought together hundreds of youth and consultations, gathering the perspectives of tens of thousands of young people who care about migrant issues. As such, youth want and should be involved in the development of policies that are of key interest to them. Young people must also be meaningfully involved in international policy debates, with “meaningful” being the key word. Unlike the diplomatic community, young people do not have extensive experience in navigating spaces such as the Global Compact for Migration regional reviews or the IMRF. The youth forums offer a space for children to facilitate engagement in policy processes. The platform prepares young people for their participation and allows them to articulate their thoughts and learn how to advocate effectively.

IMPACTS

- Greater engagement of youth in policy processes.

LESSONS LEARNED

- To maximize the role of youth in migration policy processes, Member States and need organizations to support and scale these types of tools and platforms provided by youth for youth.

RESOURCES

- [United Nations Major Group on Children and Youth.](#)

CONTACT

Alicja Lelwic, Social and Economic Integration Lead at the
United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth

alicja.lelwic@unmgcy.org

3.2.6 GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT COOPERATION (BRIEFLY REFERRED TO)

ORGANIZATION

Government of the Philippines

PERIOD

Ongoing

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

The Philippines/global

DESCRIPTION

Government-to-government cooperation models can be scaled up depending on need. For example, the Philippines has government-to-government cooperation with Germany for nurses, and with Canada for certain skills depending on the province. The Government negotiates with individual provinces.

IMPACTS

Not available

LESSONS LEARNED

Not available

RESOURCES

Not available

CONTACT

Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations

3.2.7 GRANTING PERMANENT RESIDENCY TO TEMPORARY WORKERS DURING THE PANDEMIC

ORGANIZATION

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship,
Canada

PERIOD

2021

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Canada

DESCRIPTION

In 2021, Canada opened an innovative pathway to permanent residency for over 90,000 temporary workers already employed in essential occupations in Canada, and to recent international graduates. By doing so, Canada navigated the difficult period of closed borders

and travel restrictions by making the most of the talent already within its borders in ways that supported both Canadian businesses and migrants. The migrants possess skills and experiences needed to fight the pandemic, recover from the pandemic and accelerate economic growth and drive the economy of the future. By doing so, Canada reaffirmed its focus on the positive social and economic contributions that migrants bring

IMPACTS

- Provision of permanent residency to migrants on temporary visas and recent graduates.
- Retention of skilled and experienced migrants in Canada, to help fight the pandemic, recover from the pandemic, accelerate economic growth and drive the economy of the future.
- Canada could continue to meet its immigration targets for new permanent residents during the pandemic, and fulfil its commitment to offering safe, orderly, regular pathways for migration to Canada.

LESSONS LEARNED

Adjustments to immigration policies during times of crisis do not always need to be restrictive and have negative effects. Policy adjustments to accommodate health regulations can continue to support safe, orderly, regular pathways of migration.

RESOURCES

Government of Canada, Immigration and Citizenship, [Temporary public policies: Temporary resident to permanent resident pathway](#)

CONTACT

James McNamee, Director, Federal Economic Programs and Policies Division
Suzie Racine, Assistant Director, Federal Economic Programs and Policies Division

James.McNamee@cic.gc.ca

Suzie.Racine@cic.gc.ca

3.2.8 MEASURING SKILLS GAPS AND UNDERSTANDING SKILLS NEEDS

ORGANIZATION

EMSI Burning Glass

PERIOD

Ongoing

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Global/bilateral/multilateral

DESCRIPTION

Emsi Burning Glass is a labour market analytics company that collects job posting and online social profile data from over 45,000 online job sites to develop a comprehensive, real-time portrait of the labour market. These types of data can provide a localized look at what skills are particularly in demand so people can see, for example, within an occupation and city the skills that are being primarily demanded by employers. People can also use big labour market data to track shortages in the labour market.

IMPACTS

- Provides a localized look at what skills are in demand within occupations, within cities, and by employers.
- Big labour market data enable the tracking of shortages in the labour market.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Most economies require some baseline level of digital skills, so including digital skills-building – even if that is just basic digital literacy, how to use a computer – is transferable across a wide range of occupations. For example, in the construction sector, people are relying more on digital skills, such as AutoCAD or other 3D tools. In manufacturing, people are relying on digital skills to help understand where in the manufacturing process different components are, using iPads to track and log some of those processes. Digital literacy is not relegated only to office jobs, but is happening across many sectors.
- If employers start to offer things such as a signing bonus or a starting bonus, or an immediate pay upon start, that can indicate they don't have enough people in the pipeline. This is happening, for example, in health care, agriculture and construction. Other indicators include advertising the salary. In the United States, it is an uncommon occurrence to put salary information directly in a job posting, but if employers start doing it increasingly, that can indicate they are trying to be more transparent and trying to widen the applicant pool.

RESOURCES

- [EMSI Burning Glass](#).

CONTACT

Layla O'Kane, EMSI Burning Glass

layla.okane@emsibg.com

3.2.9 PRE-DEPARTURE TRAINING PROGRAMMES AND RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING PROGRAMMES FOR MIGRANTS (BRIEFLY REFERRED TO)

ORGANIZATION

Government of Sri Lanka

PERIOD

Ongoing

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Sri Lanka

DESCRIPTION

The Sri Lanka Bureau of foreign employment conducts training programmes for migrants prior to departure, including in language training, possible workplace hazards and briefings on the culture and etiquette of the destination country. This includes a framework to conduct training and skills development targeting emerging markets. A project proposal is under way to enhance the existing recognition of prior learning programmes. The project proposes to provide a skills passport based on national competency standards and aims to develop a skills pool.

IMPACTS

These trainings have over the years contributed to qualitative improvement in the skill of migrant labour.

LESSONS LEARNED

Not available

RESOURCES

Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment

CONTACT

M. Mallikaratchy, Additional Director General,
Economic Affairs (Technical Cooperation),
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka

manorie.mallikaratchy@mfa.gov.lk

Chathura Weerasekara, Permanent Mission of
Sri Lanka to the United Nations

chathura.weerasekara@mfa.gov.lk

3.2.10 SCALING VOCATIONAL SKILL TRAINING INITIATIVES

ORGANIZATION

National Skill Development
Corporation India

PERIOD

2021

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

India/Global

DESCRIPTION

The National Skill Development Corporation is a public-private partnership that funds enterprises, companies and organizations that provide skills training in 37 sectors. It promotes skills development by supporting the creation of large, scalable, quality, for-profit vocational institutions. It also bolsters support systems that focus on quality assurance and information systems, and train-the-trainer academies, either directly or through partnerships. India manages its “business of mobility” through more than two dozen government-to-government partnership mobility agreements, in addition to business-to-business engagements.

IMPACTS

- Positions India as a global source of quality talent.
- Leads to global job opportunities for Indians and provides international career mobility opportunities for Indians already settled abroad.
- Facilitates the international benchmarking of qualifications.
- Ensures candidates are skilled and certified, and have the requisite cultural orientation, while delivering value for the employers throughout the recruitment facilitation process.
- Improves the income of migrating workforces and transfers, and opens new markets for skilled workers.

LESSONS LEARNED

- There are not enough legal pathways for mobility from India. It is a complicated process, so easing some of the restrictions, building awareness and making information readily available eases the bottlenecks.
- The mutual recognition of standards, both in terms of skills and education, is important.
- Sharing the burden of costs for skills training and cultural orientation between countries of origin and destination can bolster the contribution migrants make in countries of destination.

RESOURCES

- [National Skill Development Corporation.](#)

CONTACT

Avneet Kaur, Senior Head, Advisory and
International Collaborations, Indian National
Skills Development Corporation

avneet.kaur@nsdcindia.org

3.2.11 SKILLS MOBILITY PARTNERSHIPS

ORGANIZATION

International Organization for Migration

PERIOD

Ongoing

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Global/bilateral/multilateral

DESCRIPTION

Skills Mobility Partnerships (SMPs) are agreements concluded between States to commit to joint skills development and mobility pathways to promote human capital formation and positive labour market outcomes in both countries of origin and those of destination. SMPs are a much-needed opportunity for safe, regular and orderly pathways for various categories of migrants. Although they may vary in form, modality and level of stakeholder involvement, they all place skills development at the heart of their efforts. Under SMPs, stakeholders cooperate to identify skills and labour market needs, and jointly develop approaches to enable training and skills recognition mechanisms that benefit migrants as well as origin and destination economies. Implemented effectively, SMPs thereby support destination countries

to meet skill shortages and labour market needs, improve migrant's skills sets and thereby career prospects, and not least contribute to country of origins' development through remittances, capacity-building and skills transfer.

IMPACTS

- SMPs are a tool to address countries' most pressing skills and labour needs, all the while contributing to the socioeconomic development in both countries of origin and those of destination.
- Taking a comprehensive approach towards skills mobility, SMPs are on the one hand aimed at strengthening the structures and links between education, training, labour markets and migration, and on the other to facilitate the movement of workers for employment and training.

LESSONS LEARNED

For SMPs to be sustainable and effective, they require multi-stakeholder cooperation within countries and across borders on a range of issues, including, among others, labour market data and information, skills classification and recognition, as well as on the social aspects of employment and mobility.

RESOURCES

- [Towards a Global Approach to Skills Development and Labour Mobility.](#)

CONTACT

Fabio Jiménez, Head, Labour Mobility and Markets Unit,
Labour Mobility and Social Inclusion Division, International
Organization for Migration

jfjimenez@iom.int

3.2.12 THEMATIC WORKING GROUP ON SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS RECOGNITION (BRIEFLY REFERRED TO)

ORGANIZATION

Government of Sri Lanka

PERIOD

2021 – present

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Global

DESCRIPTION

The Thematic Working Group on Skills and Qualifications Recognition held its sixth meeting in May of 2021.

IMPACTS

Some key achievements include promoting the recognition of skills and qualification frameworks within the Colombo Process Member States, and between Member States and countries of destination.

LESSONS LEARNED

Not available

RESOURCES

[Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment](#)

CONTACT

M. Mallikaratchy, Additional Director General,
Economic Affairs (Technical Cooperation),
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka

manorie.mallikaratchy@mfa.gov.lk

Chathura Weerasekara, Permanent Mission of Sri
Lanka to the United Nations

chathura.weerasekara@mfa.gov.lk

Contributors and their interventions

PANELLISTS

- Amy E. Pope, Deputy Director General for Management and Reform, IOM (moderator)
- Marian Campbell Jarvis, Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic and Program Policy, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, Canada
- Avneet Kaur, Head, International Collaborations and Corporate Strategy, Indian National Skills Development Corporation
- Helen Dempster, Policy Fellow and Assistant Director, Migration, Displacement, and Humanitarian Policy, Center for Global Development

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

- Angola
- EMSI Burning Glass
- European Training Foundation
- Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
- One Digital World
- Philippines
- Sri Lanka
- Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Useful resources

- IOM, [Skills Mobility Partnerships: Towards a Global Approach to Skills Development and Labour Mobility](#) (information sheet).
- IOM Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance, [Skills-based Migration and Partnerships: Elements and Essential Prerequisites](#), S/25/5, September 2019.
- IOM Labour Mobility and Human Development Division, [Labour Mobility and Skills in Response, Recovery and Post COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (policy brief), January 2021.
- Mattia, D. and N. M. Ndoeye, [Paving the Way for Future Migration: A Belgian-Tunisian Skills Mobility Partnership](#), Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) and IOM (report), 28 September 2020.
- MATCH project, [Looking at Labour Mobility Initiatives from the Private Sector Perspectives: Key Lessons Learned](#) (report of dedicated workshops), 2021.

Looking forward

The breadth of innovative practices shared during this three-day International Dialogue on Migration, by governments, civil society, migrant associations, scholars, youth, the private sector, diaspora communities, United Nations agencies and other international organizations, demonstrate a strong commitment to implementation of the Global Compact for Migration. And yet despite the progress made, the shocks from COVID-19 have exacerbated migration-related challenges, leaving much work to be done.

“We heard consensus to improve cooperation to expand legal pathways to offer alternatives to the current dangerous migration routes, and thereby undercut criminal networks who seek to exploit vulnerable people.”

Amy Pope, Deputy Director General for
Management and Reform, IOM

The sessions of this Dialogue, together with those held at previous editions of the Dialogue, focused on topics that are integral to implementing the Global Compact for Migration, and in particular relating to the priorities highlighted by the United Nations Secretary-General's

report: Inclusivity, strengthening regular pathways, greater efforts to save lives and track missing migrants, and capacity -building. They have brought together all migration stakeholders for an open discussion on their experiences, policy approaches, effective practices, and successes, but also their challenges. As we look forward to the International Migration Review Forum, we must make an effort to ensure that young people — our future — are involved in the development of bilateral and multilateral migration policies and instruments, such as skills partnerships. We must take notice of and act on the repeated calls from youth for access to decent jobs, the elimination of barriers to access the labour market, and more legal migration pathways cannot go unheard. As we look forward to the International Migration Review Forum, we must make an effort to ensure that young people — our future — are involved in the development of bilateral and multilateral migration policies and instruments, such as skills partnerships. We must take notice of and act on the repeated calls from youth for access to decent jobs, the elimination of barriers to access the labour market, and more legal migration pathways cannot go unheard.

“Young people must also be meaningfully involved in international policy debates, with ‘meaningful’ being the key word. Unlike the diplomatic community, young people do not have extensive experience in navigating spaces such as the Global Compact for Migration.”

Alicja Lelwic, Social and Economic Integration
Lead at the United Nations Major Group for
Children and Youth

This report aims to provide a pool of resources that can be used by Member States both in their own Global Compact for Migration review processes, as well as in regional review processes and the upcoming International Migration Review Forum.

Beyond the review processes, we hope that this report can catalyse innovative implementation practices, build and strengthen capacity, and foster the expansion of intergovernmental and other initiatives to develop joint approaches among actors working towards the common goal of achieving the Global Compact’s 23 objectives.

“The European Union agrees with the Secretary-General’s report that stresses capacity-building as a key recommendation.”

Johannes Luchner, Deputy Director-General,
Directorate-General for
Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission

The practices shared at the International Dialogue on Migration and summarized in this report are by no means an exhaustive list of policies and practices being implemented by Members States and other stakeholders to advance the Global Compact for Migration. They contribute to a broader, growing repository of best practices that aim to inspire innovation, foster collaboration between actors working to achieve the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration, and further its ongoing implementation.

What is clear from the innovative approaches shared by participants in this dialogue is that collaboration is central to progress on implementing the Global Compact for Migration – that we can achieve a lot more when we are working together, much more than any single actor can achieve alone.

“Global migration challenges require effective and comprehensive multilateral approaches, as well as strong international partnerships based on a shared understanding and a shared narrative, and joint policy priorities. The Global Compact provides these common principles and narratives that all countries can refer to.”

Johannes Luchner, Deputy Director-General,
Directorate-General for Migration and
Home Affairs, European Commission

Contributors and their interventions

PANELLISTS

- Amy E. Pope, Deputy Director General for Management and Reform, IOM (moderator)
- Alicja Lelwic, Social and Economic Integration Lead at the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth
- Johannes Luchner, Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission

Annex 1. List of innovative approaches in this report

