



ABOUT The *Data Bulletin: Informing the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration* series aims to summarize in an accurate and accessible fashion existing evidence on migration to support the discussion and any follow-up activities.

As part of the project “Support to IOM for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration,” funded by the European Union, *Data Bulletin* outlines the strengths and limitations of relevant migration data and highlights innovative data practices that are pertinent to the Global Compact for Migration. This publication reflects the collaborative nature of the Global Compact for Migration process by including relevant contributions from different parts of IOM, as well as other agencies and migration experts.

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Migration Profiles: A useful tool for understanding and improving governance of migration

What are Migration Profiles?

An analysis of available accurate and disaggregated data on some or all migration-relevant aspects of a country's national context, prepared in consultation with a broad range of stakeholders, which can be used to enhance policy coherence, evidence-based policymaking on migration and the mainstreaming of migration into development plans.¹

A Migration Profile is an output of an elaborate process involving consultation with many different actors in an effort to help identify data gaps and identify strategies to address those gaps and produce the evidence required to inform policy on all economic, developmental, demographic, social and other aspects that impact migration and vice versa.

To date, more than 100 profiles² have been developed with funding from the European Commission, International Organization for Migration (IOM), and its Member States. These have been implemented by international stakeholders including the European Commission, IOM, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), among others, or by national governments, and have therefore taken different forms. For instance, some countries have opted for a “Migration Profile Light,” a shorter version of a Migration Profile indicating key areas of interest and priority for a country, as well as data on a set of indicators. However, Migration Profiles are more likely to contribute to capacity-building and use of evidence for policy where the exercise is not limited to the production of a report, but where the Migration Profile process involves capacity-building and coordination activities. These elements also ensure greater sustainability and country ownership of the Migration Profile.

Migration Profiles differ from other migration trend reports³ in that they:

- Take a structured and comprehensive approach not only to the **analysis of migration patterns and migrant characteristics**, but also to the impact of migration on the receiving or sending country;
- Present an overview of the migration **policy and governance framework**;
- Review action taken as part of **international cooperation** on migration;
- Suggest possible actions that could assist in harnessing the maximum benefit of **migration for sustainable development**.

A Migration Profile also helps identify and develop strategies to address **data gaps** and produce the evidence required to manage migration effectively.

Although conceived as flexible and country-specific tools, Migration Profiles strive for **international compatibility**. Learning from the experiences of past Migration Profile exercises, IOM developed a standardized template and pre-

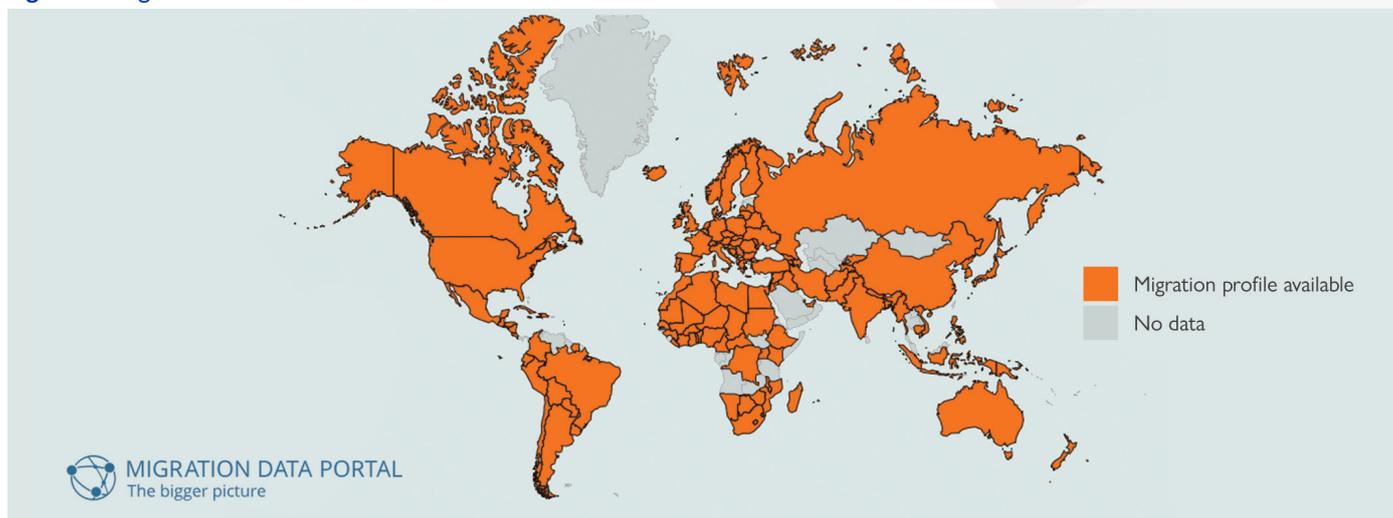
¹ IOM, *Glossary on Migration*, IML Series No. 34, (forthcoming).

² Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), Migration Profiles Repository (n.d.). Available from <https://gfmd.org/pfp/policy-tools/migration-profiles/repository>

³ Including ICMPD, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, European Migration Network and, ICMPD, United Nations Development Programme.



Figure 1: Migration Profiles in the world



Source: Migration Data Portal, available from: www.migrationdataportal.org/data?i=migprofile&t=2017

designed report structure. The template offers a “menu” of thematic modules that might be included in a Migration Profile report, depending on the country’s priorities and specific migration context, and lists possible relevant indicators and data sources. The template is contained in Making the Most of the Process,⁴ a guide prepared by IOM that offers concise practical guidance on how to initiate, implement and follow up on a Migration Profile process in a particular country.

Migration Profiles as a process

Rather than an end to itself, a Migration Profile is the beginning of a sustained process of interministerial cooperation and capacity-building for systematic data gathering, analysis, reporting and use for policy. By bringing relevant national and international stakeholders around the same table, the Migration Profile exercise can **promote important discussions about migration policy, as well as coherence between migration and other sectoral policies, and improve coordination between**

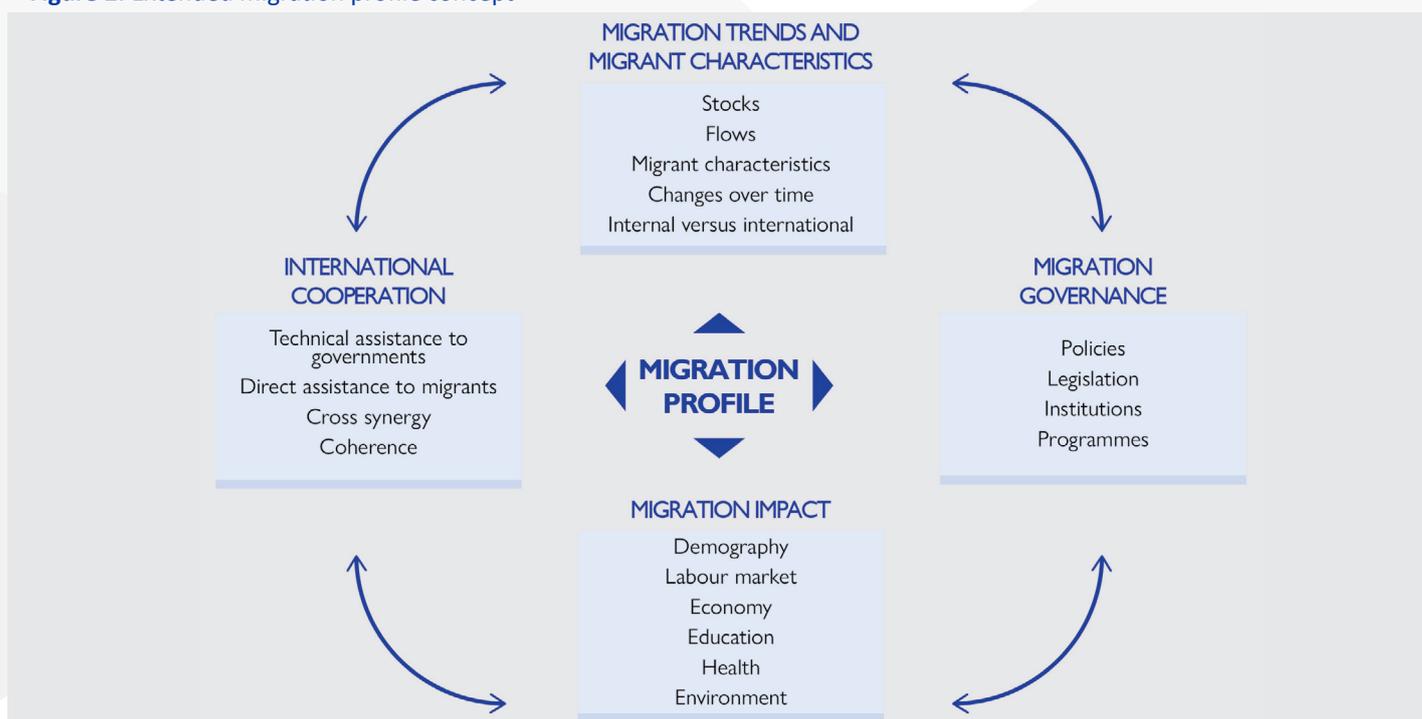
⁴ See <https://publications.iom.int/books/migration-profiles-making-most-process>

ministries and other stakeholders. Migration Profiles have a maximum impact when developed gradually over time, when they are accompanied by capacity-building activities and supported by policy formulation and partnership development. They can be used in tandem with the Migration Governance Indicators, a tool that aims to advance conversations on migration governance by clarifying what “well-governed migration” might look like in the context of United-Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Target 10.7.⁵

Ideally, the Migration Profile is developed with a wide range of stakeholders – governmental agencies, international partners, civil society and the research community – to ensure sustainability, policy relevance and linkages with a country’s overall development framework.

⁵ See <https://migrationdataportal.org/snapshots/mgi#0> and IOM “Measuring migration governance”. *Data Bulletin: Informing a Global Compact for Migration*, no. 3 (IOM, Geneva, 2017), available from <https://gmdac.iom.int/data-bulletin-measuring-migration-governance>. FAQ Portal explains the difference between Migration Profiles and the Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) project and the new “Migration Governance Profiles”.

Figure 2: Extended migration profile concept



Migration Profiles in Practice

In 2017–2018, the development of national MPs for all the 15 Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Mauritania was managed by IOM as part of the “Support to Free Movement of Persons and Migration in West Africa project” (FMM West Africa), funded by the European Union and ECOWAS. The Migration Profiles aim to provide a comprehensive overview of national migration trends and dynamics using all available data in the 16 countries involved.⁶ These processes help promoting a coherent and proactive policy approach to migration by governments in the region.

Although Migration Profiles are primarily intended to describe migration within the national context, these can also take a regional lens. Following the production of the National Migration Profiles in the 15 ECOWAS countries, a **regional migration profile** was developed in 2018 (to be published in 2019) for the area to further capture and analyse mobility trends within the region and their impact on individual countries as well as the region as a whole. The profile also takes stock of institutional and policy frameworks on migration governance and migration data practices across the 15 countries and based on this offers tailored recommendations. In this way, the regional profile helps work towards increased harmonization of migration data in the region and stronger regional migration governance. There have also been other regional-level Migration Profiles developed by IOM, such as for Latin America.⁷

How can Migration Profiles support the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration?

The final text of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration⁸ includes 23 objectives, the first of which is to “collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies”. The Global Compact for Migration specifically mentions the development and use of country-specific Migration Profiles to that end.

Case study: Ghana

Ghana developed its first Migration Profile in 2009. Some of the main issues identified throughout the process included (a) a lack of accurate and timely statistics on migratory movements to/from the country, including on irregular migration; (b) a lack of information on migrant characteristics; and (c) limited coordination and data-sharing across national institutions.

In response to these findings, several recommendations were developed:

- **Promote effective capacity-building to improve migration data collection and analysis;**
- **Design a web portal for data on the diaspora;**
- **Create a migration database, including research;**

⁶ Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d’Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

⁷ For an overview of existing Migration Profiles, see GMDAC’s Data Portal at: <https://migrationdataportal.org/data?i=migprofile&t=2017>. The portal includes Migration Profiles by IOM, Migration Policy Institute, Migration Policy Centre, Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography and, International Migration Institute).

⁸ Negotiated and agreed by 193 Member States in July 2018.

- **Develop an integrated and holistic approach to migration management; and**
- **Regularly update the migration profile.**

Some outcomes of this process included the following:

- A **National Migration Policy (NMP)** adopted in 2016, the first in Ghana’s history. It lists key migration policy concerns and strategies to address them as well as opportunities for development;
- **Training** of 48 government officials from 11 institutions in 2015, with the support from IOM Ghana and the IOM Development Fund;
- The creation of an **Interministerial Steering Committee on Migration**; and
- The establishment of the Ghana Integrated Migration Management Approach funded by the European Union and jointly implemented by IOM and Ghana Immigration Service. It established a national migration data management framework that enhances data capacity and sharing for policymaking and assesses organizational capacity of stakeholders in migration data management. It also produced a guide on the use of migration data (**Ghana Handbook Initiative**).

The 2009 Migration Profile is currently being updated to map new trends for 2010–2017.⁹ The 2017 Ghana Migration Profile, funded under GIMMA aims to:

- Improve monitoring and evaluation of migration with respect to the many ongoing processes and policies, such as the NMP and the SDGs, by providing baseline on the current situation regarding migration to, from and within Ghana and recommendations for progress that can be measured with each update of the 2009 Migration Profile;
- Provide recommendations regarding mainstreaming migration into development policies.

As part of the 2017 Migration profile exercise, a persistent limited coordination and data sharing across national institutions was identified, resulting in the recommendation that under the Ghana Integrated Migration Management Approach a memorandum of understanding (MoU) is signed between collaborating actors on migration data to ensure communication and cooperation among agencies working with data. Such an MoU was signed in March 2018.

Migration Profiles are a useful tool to build capacities on migration data collection, analysis and use for policy

- Migration Profiles recommend sources – both statistical and administrative – that may be used to generate data on a number of migration indicators of relevance for a particular country, while highlighting the potential drawbacks and limitations of such sources.
- They also identify data gaps and potential strategies to improve data collection and analysis for policy planning purposes.
- In addition, the Migration Profile process applies a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach, such as through the establishment of a Migration Profile Technical Working Group, which often serves as a mechanism around which different government agencies and other

⁹ It should be noted that not all Migration Profiles in the region, including Ghana’s, were updated through support by IOM’s FMM project.

stakeholders – sometimes for the first time – gather to discuss migration. Ideally, the technical working group outlives the Migration Profiles process and can be used more broadly for migration governance purposes, such as developing a national migration policy.

Migration Profiles contribute to effective migration mainstreaming

The Global Compact for Migration also highlights the need to collect disaggregated data on all migration-relevant aspects in a national context, including those on labour market needs, demand and availability of skills, the economic, environmental and social impacts of migration, health, education, among others.¹⁰ The consideration of interlinkages between development and migration processes in the definition of a national development strategy or the design of sectoral policies is also known as “migration mainstreaming”.

Migration mainstreaming is a process for integrating migration issues in a balanced manner in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in any development and poverty reduction-related spheres. The goal of this process is to provide support for a more development-friendly migration phenomenon.¹¹

Migration Profiles offer a multi-disciplinary analysis of how migration affects a wide range of areas related to development, such as demographics, economy, human capital, the labour market, employment and social cohesion.

Findings and recommendations developed as parts of a Migration Profile exercise are incorporated into a broader policymaking context. This occurs not only in migration governance, but also in the context of countries’ broader developmental agendas, addressing issues, such as poverty reduction, the environment and labour market regulation and employment policies.

¹⁰ Global Compact for Migration Objective 1.j.

¹¹ IOM, 2010:16, cited in GFMD, 2009:3.

In several countries, the information compiled in the Migration Profile report has served to feed poverty reduction strategies and labour market and employment strategies.¹²

Ways forward: Migration Profiles and implementation of the Global Compact for Migration

The Global Compact for Migration recognizes the need for the international community to address migration collectively and places a key focus on using diverse partnerships to make progress the objectives. To make Migration Profiles a more useful tool in supporting the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration, IOM has identified some key actions based on its experience of working with governments worldwide. These include the following:

Facilitating more systematic sharing between countries of Migration Profile exercises

Organizing a series of regional workshops on Migration Profiles to encourage countries to exchange and share experiences.

Establishing partnerships among agencies to promote a common approach to Migration Profiles

Systematically consolidating relevant data in a transparent and user-friendly manner, while encouraging inter-agency collaboration to avoid duplication.

Creating a common global database to help promote the sharing of information

The Global Compact for Migration asks States to support further development of and collaboration between existing global and regional databases and depositories, including the IOM Global Migration Data Portal and the World Bank’s Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development.

¹² See https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/migrationprofileguide2012_1oct2012.pdf

IOM’s GMDAC

In response to growing calls for better data on migration, and for better use and presentation of migration data, IOM has created the Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC).

Located in Berlin, Germany, the Centre aims to provide authoritative and timely analyses of data on global migration issues as a global hub for data and statistics on migration.

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