



IOM IRELAND COUNTRY STRATEGY 2021–2024

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

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IOM Ireland Country Strategy 2021–2024



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Foreword by IOM Ireland Chief of Mission, Lalini Veerassamy

IOM is a key actor in the field of human mobility, supporting migrants across the world, and a key source of advice and expertise on all aspects of migration policy and practice. On 15 November 2019 during the 110th Session of the IOM Council, IOM presented its Strategic Vision 2019–2023 to Member States setting out the context in which IOM currently operates and how it is expected to develop during the next decade within a strengthened strategic direction and focusing on three key pillars: 1) Resilience, 2) Mobility and 3) Governance. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is also a reference point for the IOM, offering a framework for setting priorities. IOM's priorities and work thread through the 23 objectives.

IOM has been a long-standing partner of the Government of Ireland since the IOM mission was established in Dublin in 2001. I am pleased to present the IOM Ireland Country Strategy 2021–2024 which aligns with the Strategic Vision and the IOM European Economic Area Regional Strategy in the context of our 20th Anniversary in Ireland. The Strategy outlines the strategic vision and goals identified to allow IOM Ireland to achieve and realize its full potential. It sets out IOM Ireland's strategic direction to assist the Government to achieve progressive development for the benefit of both migrants and the local population. The process of formulating the Strategy provided the Organization with an opportunity to take stock of our strengths, to determine our future vision, and to put forward plans to address new challenges in response to changing needs.

Over the past ten years, the profile of incoming migrants to Ireland has become more diverse, including those coming to apply for International Protection from conflict affected areas. The Strategy sets out a path for IOM to meet new challenges and opportunities which exist in the field of migration. IOM aims to support the Irish Government in facilitating effective migration management, contributing to its national development priorities, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as other key national and international development priorities, such as the new EU Pact on Migration, Ireland's commitments towards the Global Compact for Migration and IOM's Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF).

This Strategy is being released at a very uncertain time for migration globally. COVID-19 has impacted migration exponentially and initial research is suggesting that the pandemic has exacerbated pre-existing inequalities. It is more important than ever for IOM to have a clear view of the way forward in the coming years, exploring ways in which existing programmes can be improved and new programmes can be developed to meet current needs and challenges. Over the coming four years, with the collaboration of our talented staff, the support of our Regional Office in Brussels, IOM Headquarters in Geneva, we aspire to work collaboratively in providing comprehensive support to the Government of Ireland and national partners in managing migration in a coherent, humane and balanced manner.

Lalini Veerassamy
Chief of Mission, IOM Ireland
Dublin

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "L. Veerassamy", with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Foreword by the Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee

I commend IOM Ireland on the development of this Strategic Commitment Document 2021–2024. It dovetails with many of the commitments that I have set out in my Justice Plan 2021 and my Department’s Statement of Strategy 2021–2023.

My Department has enjoyed a close and positive working relationship with IOM Ireland since its Mission was established in Ireland some twenty years ago. This is based on our shared goal of effective migration management and mutual recognition of the economic, social and cultural benefits of migration to our shores. Migrants make a vital contribution in our daily lives in Ireland, from health and social care to food supplies and local services. The COVID-19 pandemic has only served to highlight this importance.

IOM Ireland is a key partner in our Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) Programmes and in the resettlement process for refugees under the Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP). Last October, we partnered together to jointly launch a public awareness initiative on human trafficking with the key messages that human trafficking is a crime, anyone can be exploited and to empower the public to recognize the signs of human trafficking.

I am acutely aware that a lack of security of status in the country can leave people more vulnerable to the dangers of exploitation. Some unscrupulous employers can and do take advantage of people who are in a precarious legal situation. I am fully committed to introducing a regularization scheme for the undocumented by the end of this year. The support of trusted organizations, like IOM Ireland, will be crucial when we begin to roll out the Scheme and encourage people who currently live on the margins of our society to come forward and participate.

Promoting safe, orderly and regular migration is a key commitment under the UN Global Compact for Migration and the Sustainable Development Goals 2030, which Ireland is committed to upholding. In my own Department, we are committed to delivering a fair immigration system for a digital age. Over the next three years, we will develop a fully digital, customer-centric immigration service and restructure our immigration services to better serve our customers and our country. I look forward to our continued engagement with IOM Ireland and their support to help us to realize these ambitious targets.

I wish Lalini and her team in IOM Ireland every success in the coming years as they implement their commitments under this document. I can assure them that my Department and I will continue to support their endeavours and the delivery of our shared objectives for the benefit of our migrant communities.

Minister for Justice
Helen McEntee, TD

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen McEntee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'H' and 'M'.

ACRONYMS

AVRR	assisted voluntary return and reintegration
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
DFA	Department of Foreign Affairs
DoJ	Department of Justice
EEA	European Economic Area
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GMMA	Global Migration Media Academy
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IRPP	International Refugee Protection Programme
MiGOF	Migration Governance Framework
MGI	Migration Governance Indicators
NGO(s)	non-governmental organization(s)
SDG(s)	Sustainable Development Goals
SRF	Strategic Results Framework
SIDS	small island developing States
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees



1. INTRODUCTION



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

Established in 1951, IOM is the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration with 174 Member States, a further 8 States holding Observer status, and offices in over 100 countries. By collaborating with its key stakeholders, migrants and Member States, IOM works to navigate the complexities of migration by promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. To advance this aim, IOM provides services and advice to governments and migrants from an integral and holistic perspective, including links to development, in order to maximize the benefits and opportunities of migration and reduce its challenges.

As recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, human mobility is inextricably linked with sustainable development. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – and the commitment to leave no one behind and to reach the furthest behind – will not be achieved without due consideration of migration.

This Strategy will support the Government of Ireland to achieve this, ultimately leveraging the potential of migration through a whole-of-government approach to achieve sustainable development outcomes for all. It is a direct contribution to the Decade of Action to fast track progress for reaching the Sustainable Development Goals. It brings greater coherence and development impact to IOM's activities and allows for a joined-up approach to the way the Organization designs and delivers its operations, as called for in the IOM's Strategic Vision.¹

The IOM's Strategic Vision, adopted by IOM Member States in 2019, spans the period of 2019 to 2023. The Vision articulates how IOM plans to meet its new and emerging responsibilities. It sets out the “direction of travel” for IOM, is forward looking and encourages “joined up thinking”. This document is aligned with the Vision and its corresponding Regional Strategy² and Strategic Results Framework (SRF), which are anchored in the overall framework of the 2030 Agenda.

1 110th Council Session (15 November 2019) “IOM Strategic Vision” C/110/INF/1.

2 IOM Brussels Regional Strategy (2020) EEA, Switzerland and the UK Regional Strategy 2020 – 2024.

1.2 IOM IRELAND

IOM has been a long-standing partner of the Government of Ireland since the IOM mission was established in Dublin in 2001. Over the years, IOM has partnered with stakeholders from all levels of society to help the country achieve progressive development for the benefit of both migrants and the local population.

IOM aims to support the Irish Government in facilitating effective migration management, contributing to its national development priorities, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as other key national and international development priorities, such as the new EU Pact on Migration, Ireland's commitments towards the Global Compact for Migration and IOM's Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF).

IOM Ireland seeks to provide continued support to the Government and non-governmental partners in the various key migration thematic areas such as counter-trafficking, labour migration, migration health, immigration and border management, integration, as well as movement management, amongst others. Since IOM became a Related Organization of the United Nations system in September 2016³ and the adoption of the Global Compact for Migration in December 2018, there has been a need for IOM to diversify and fulfil a broader mandate in the field of migration. In light of this – IOM Ireland will broaden its scope in the next five years, delivering a range of programmes which assist migrants, advocating for migrants and their rights in Ireland and supporting the Government of Ireland with policy areas related to migration such as regularization and complementary pathways.

³ General Assembly (8 July 2016) "A/70/976" "Agreement concerning the Relationship between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration".



2. POLITICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL OUTLOOK FOR IRELAND



2. POLITICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL OUTLOOK FOR IRELAND

2.1 MIGRATION TRENDS AND IOM'S INVOLVEMENT IN IRELAND SINCE 2001

2.1.1 Overview

According to the 2016 General Census, more than 14 per cent of the population living in Ireland is of foreign origin and have come to Ireland for a variety of reasons from a wide range of countries. In April 2020, there were an estimated 644,400 non-Irish nationals residents in Ireland accounting for 12.9 per cent of the total population.⁴ Over the past ten years, the profile of incoming migrants has become considerably more diverse, including those coming to apply for International Protection from conflict affected areas. In 2019, 16,383 employment permits were issued by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.⁵ Ireland was historically a country of net emigration and there is an estimated 70 million descendants of Irish emigrants, through several generations, starting with those who left around the time of the Famine.⁶ As of 2017, the number of Irish citizens abroad was estimated to be approximately 1.47 million.⁷

2.1.2 IOM Ireland Funding

The Department of Justice (DoJ) remains since 2001 the main technical and financial government partner to IOM in Ireland. The mission has consistently received funding from the DoJ to take the lead on the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programmes as well as the resettlement of refugees to Ireland. IOM Ireland has also worked on trafficking in persons, gender-based violence (GBV), support to vulnerable migrants and integration related matters. Since 2015, the DoJ has provided up to 5,254,476 USD to IOM Ireland. This Strategy aims to strengthen the existing collaboration with our key national partner in Ireland, while also exploring new partnerships with other Government departments, think tanks, the private sector, academia and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). This Strategy for IOM Ireland aims to align itself with the priorities of the new EU cycle of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). Ireland will be allocated with funding going to national projects to support the issue of migration management in the country.

4. Central Statistics Office (20 August 2020) "Population and Migration Estimates April 2020" Press Statement.

5. DETE (3 January 2019) "Employment Permit Statistics" Publications "Employment Permit Statistics 2019".

6. DFA, Irish Abroad Unit (20 June 2017) "Irish Emigration Patterns and Citizens Abroad".

7. Ibid., p.5.

2.1.3 Current context

The COVID-19 pandemic has major ramifications for migration. Many countries have responded to COVID-19 with tighter immigration regulations, impacting mobility. Lockdowns and border closures across the globe have led to the return of migrants who have lost employment and find themselves in precarious situations. Smuggling and human trafficking have continued despite restrictions. While at first sight, COVID-19 restrictions might seem likely to dissuade crime, these measures may drive crime further underground.

Traffickers are adjusting their business models to the “new normal” created by the pandemic, particularly through the abuse of communications technologies. COVID-19 impacts the capacity of state authorities and NGOs to provide essential services to victims of trafficking. Most importantly, the pandemic has exacerbated economic and societal inequalities that are among the root causes of human trafficking.⁸

COVID-19 has led to a rise in xenophobia and campaigns on disinformation targeted towards migrants. IOM is committed to protecting people and counteracting stigma. On 8 May 2020, the United Nations Secretary General, António Guterres said that “the pandemic continues to unleash a tsunami of hate and xenophobia, scapegoating and scare-mongering” and urged governments to “act now to strengthen the immunity of our societies against the virus of hate”.⁹

COVID-19 has significantly impacted the work of IOM across the globe, presenting challenges as well as opportunities for IOM to support Government efforts to balance public security and health, while ensuring that migrants are protected. IOM programmes for 2021 have been designed to ensure activities can continue and be modified where necessary in the case that COVID-19 restrictions continue to be in place.

⁸ UNODC (2020) “Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Trafficking in Persons”.

⁹ António Guterres (8 May, 2020) Twitter.



3. GLOBAL, INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND IRELAND



3. GLOBAL, INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND IRELAND

3.1 IOM KEY MIGRATION GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORKS

The Regional Strategy for the period 2020–2024 is grounded in the IOM’s Strategic Vision 2019–2023¹⁰ and its strategic pillars: resilience, mobility and governance, that reflect the IOM commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration. The regional strategy is based on the MiGOF and the Migration Crisis Operational Framework and this commitment document aligns itself with the regional strategy as well as the SRF, the framework for measuring IOM’s progress towards the Strategic Vision.

In November 2015, IOM Member States endorsed the MiGOF, through Council Resolution 1310. This tool does not entail any new obligations for Member States, but builds on existing international instruments, norms and research to ensure that migration is governed in an integrated and holistic way. IOM uses MiGOF to advise governments on both policy and programmatic priorities that lead to the development of targeted, impactful and strategic programmes.

The Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) were developed to assess national frameworks and help to operationalize the MiGOF. The MGI are a standard set of approximately 90 indicators, which help countries identify good practices as well as areas with potential for further development and can offer insights on the policy levers that countries can use to develop their migration governance structures.¹¹

3.2 GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

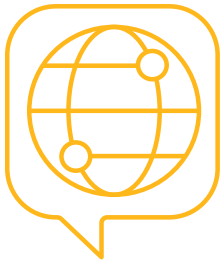
The Global Compact for Migration is the first-ever UN global agreement on a common approach to international migration in all its dimensions. The global compact is non-legally binding. It is grounded in values of state sovereignty, responsibility-sharing, non-discrimination, and human rights, and recognizes that a cooperative approach is needed to optimize the overall benefits of migration, while addressing its risks and challenges for individuals and communities in countries of origin, transit and destination.

10. IOM Strategic Vision 2019–2023: Setting a course for IOM, C/110/INF/1.

11. IOM (2019) Migration Governance Indicators: A Global Perspective.

Ireland participated in the Europe and North America virtual Regional Review of the Global Compact for Migration on 12–13 November 2020. The Government of Ireland will support the implementation of IOM's Global Migration and Media Academy (GMMA) project, and it will form a core part of the Irish government's strategy for the Global Compact for Migration. The GMMA project aims to contribute to Objective 17 of the Global Compact for Migration, to eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration.¹²

The Global Compact for Migration is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. The SDGs' central reference to migration is made in target 10.7 to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies, which appears under Goal 10, to reduce inequality within and among countries. Other targets that directly reference migration mention trafficking, remittances, international and student mobility.



GLOBAL MIGRATION MEDIA ACADEMY

REPORTING THE FULL STORY

¹² Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, A/CONF.231/3. United Nations (2018).

3.3 THE EU'S NEW PACT ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM

The EU's New Pact on Migration and Asylum launched in September 2020 makes it clear that the EU is now more than ever committed to the delivery of a more resilient, humane and effective migration and asylum system. The Pact aims to put in place a comprehensive framework for asylum and migration management at EU level with integrated policymaking in six priority areas:¹³

Using the Pact as a roadmap, IOM Ireland programming will focus on a coherent and effective approach to migration management. IOM Ireland's strategic priorities over the next four years are informed and guided by the Pact, focusing on areas such as: skills and talent; continuing to implement solidarity approach through relocation and resettlement of refugees; combating smuggling and trafficking in persons; supporting in effective voluntary return and reintegration.

- Stronger trust fostered by better and more effective procedures
- Well-managed Schengen and external borders
- Effective solidarity
- Skills and talent
- Deepening international partnerships
- Flexibility and resilience

¹³ European Commission (2020) "New Pact on Migration and Asylum".



4. NATIONAL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES IN LINE WITH IOM'S REGIONAL PRIORITIES



4. NATIONAL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES IN LINE WITH IOM'S REGIONAL PRIORITIES

4.1. RESILIENCE

Main objective:

Ensure continuous national capacity to effectively respond to migration challenges and vulnerabilities at any time.

4.1.1. Specific Objective 1: Address the mobility dimensions of crisis situations in the region through prevention, preparedness, principled response and long-term solutions

IOM Ireland will support the Government of Ireland to fulfil its commitment to offer protection space¹⁴ for those in need through the provision of support for resettlement and relocation programmes¹⁵ and the development of complementary pathways and the implementation of family reunification programmes.¹⁶

Based on its long experience, IOM will be able to effectively advise on and support health assessments and pre-departure orientation¹⁷ in support of resettlement and relocation programmes, as requested by the Irish Government. To ensure greater probability of success, IOM will work with the Irish Government to prepare the groundwork for integration in Ireland before resettlement or relocation takes place. IOM Ireland stands ready to support the repatriation of Irish citizens abroad in times of crisis, should the situation arise.

In the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, building on the Organization's global presence and data collection abilities, IOM is committed to develop reference data collection, guaranteeing stakeholders' access to timely, contextually specific and correct information on migrants' needs.¹⁸ This stands ready to support the Irish Government in strengthening disease surveillance at points of entry.¹⁹

¹⁴ This aligns to the IOM Strategic Results Framework Objective 2b.

¹⁵ SRF Objective 3: Migrants and societies benefit from safe, orderly and regular migration.

¹⁶ SRF Objective 3: Migrants and societies benefit from safe, orderly and regular migration.

¹⁷ SRF Objective 3: Migrants and societies benefit from safe, orderly and regular human mobility.

¹⁸ SRF Objective 4: Migration benefits from a whole of government and whole of society approach.

¹⁹ SRF Objective 3: Migrants and societies benefit from safe, orderly and regular human mobility.



A Syrian family who arrived in Dublin in November 2020 under the IRPP Resettlement Programme. © IOM 2020

4.1.2. Specific Objective 2: Strengthen national policies and practices to address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration

IOM Ireland will undertake advocacy, capacity-building, research and targeted technical assistance with the Government to implement holistic approaches to addressing vulnerabilities in migration. IOM Ireland is moving towards a vulnerability approach for all current programmes. IOM will contribute to strengthening protection and access to needs-based support and rights of migrants who are survivors of human trafficking, GBV and other forms of violence, exploitation and abuse.²⁰

IOM Ireland intends to increase the capacity of state agencies to provide accessible, relevant and effective support to survivors of GBV and suspected victims of trafficking in Ireland.²¹ IOM Ireland will provide intercultural competence training to State, shelter and non-state personnel. Cultural mediators, will be trained and available to act as a bridge between victims and State Agencies, exercising intercultural awareness and sensitivity. IOM will advocate for implementing holistic approaches to addressing vulnerability and strengthening protection and access to needs-based support for migrants who are survivors of human trafficking, gender-based violence (GBV), exploitation and abuse, social exclusion, and discrimination on various grounds.²²

**#ANYONE
CAN BE EXPLOITED**

Human Trafficking is happening in Ireland.
It is a crime.

Know the signs
www.anyonetrafficked.com

If you suspect someone is a victim of trafficking contact
1800 666 111 or 999/112

 Riadas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland 

Image from the Anyone Campaign. © IOM 2020

20 SRF Objective 2: Individuals and communities are empowered and resilient.

21 SRF Objective 2: Individuals and communities are empowered and resilient.

22 SRF Objective 4: Migration benefits from a whole of government and whole of society approach.

4.1.3. Specific Objective 3: Enhance understanding and response to adverse drivers of human mobility due to environmental degradation, disasters and climate change.

IOM Ireland stands ready to facilitate research and analysis that will help create a better understanding of human mobility linked to disasters, climate change and environmental degradation to be able to advise relevant policy actions.²³ IOM will provide recommendations to the Government of Ireland in line with best practices set out by the IOM Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) Division. IOM is committed to

developing a collaborative approach with Department of Foreign Affairs and within that, Irish Aid and stands available to support and contribute to A Better World, Ireland's Policy for International Development;²⁴ geographical strategies such as Ireland's Strategy for Africa which sets out Ireland's plan to expand its presence in Africa;²⁵ and the Irish Aid Strategy for Partnership with small island developing States (SIDS).²⁶ The SIDS Strategy has a focus on climate and disaster resilience recognizing that many SIDS are disproportionately vulnerable to a range of natural and climate-induced disasters.



IOM Staff in Beira, Mozambique in the aftermath of Cyclone Idai which made landfall on 14 March 2019 leaving more than 73,000 people homeless. The response was supported by Irish Aid.
©IOM 2019/Amanda NERO

23 SRF Objective 2: Individuals and communities are empowered and resilient.

24 DFA (2019) 'A Better World', Ireland's New Policy for International Development.

25 DFA (26 November 2019) Global Ireland – Ireland's Strategy for Africa to 2025.

26 DFA (June 2019) Ireland's Strategy for Partnership with small island developing States.

4.1.4. Specific Objective 4: Strengthen social inclusion and cohesion for migrants and societies

IOM Ireland will engage in targeted initiatives that aim to empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion²⁷ by eliminating all forms of discrimination, reducing inequality and enabling intergroup contact, while promoting evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration.²⁸ In response to the call to “leave no one behind”, which is at the core of the 2030 Agenda, IOM will support the efforts of the Irish Government and local authorities to integrate the needs of migrants into national and local plans, policies and strategies across sectors.

IOM Ireland will continue to deliver the newly launched service called virtual counselling, which aims to better prepare migrants who wish to return to their country of origin as part of the AVRR programme, linking them in with the IOM team in their country of origin to learn more about services available,

allowing them to make more informed decisions.²⁹

IOM Ireland will continue to develop online resources for the Migrant Resource Hub.³⁰ Additionally, more substantial pre-departure integration support which will be delivered in the Migrant Hub, located at the IOM Ireland office in Dublin. These services will include CV development, interview preparation, skills development and certification, among others to help the AVRR applicant to start the thought process about their reintegration plan and to increase their job opportunities before returning.

In 2021 and beyond, IOM Ireland will work to strengthen partnerships with NGOs to strengthen community-led projects and public awareness and communication campaigns that promote social cohesion.³¹ Migrant ambassadors / focal points will be recruited to facilitate effective information provision, raising awareness of the services which IOM offer.

27 SRF Objective 2: Individuals and communities are empowered and resilient.

28 SRF Objective 4: Migration benefits from a whole of government and whole of society approach.

29 SRF Objective 3: Migrants and societies benefit from safe, orderly and regular human mobility.

30 IOM Ireland Migrant Resource Hub.

31 SRF Objective 2: Individuals and communities are empowered and resilient.



IOM Ireland coproduced a film featuring Shairoze Akram for the Global Migration Film Festival 2020. Shairoze is the first GAA player of Pakistani origin to win an All Ireland and a role model for young people from non-Irish backgrounds. © IOM 2020

4.1.5. Specific Objective 5: Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development³²

IOM Ireland works with a wide range of diaspora groups in Ireland to share information on IOM services. In 2021, IOM will continue to support diaspora communities in Ireland, connecting them with their countries of origin, and, as such, facilitate their contributions to sustainable development in all stages of the migration continuum. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, IOM will assess the impact of the ongoing crisis on migrant communities and promote their contributions to crisis response and socioeconomic recovery, both in their host and origin countries.

IOM Ireland is carrying out research on migrant remittances through interviews and online surveys. The purpose of this research is to get an initial understanding of the channels used and the barriers which exist. This research and subsequent report will be used to inform and develop future programmes which aim to contribute to SDG Target 10.7, to reduce the transaction costs of migrant remittances to less than 3 per cent.

IOM Ireland welcomes the Irish DFA's new Diaspora Strategy (2020–2025) which sets out what the Government will do over the next five years to support and engage with Irish diaspora communities abroad. IOM is available to support as requested with the implementation of this strategy.³³



IOM Ireland Outreach Coordinator, Egide Dhala greeting attendees at a Migrant Information Day in 2016. © IOM 2016

32 SRF Objective 2: Individuals and communities are empowered and resilient.

33 DFA (2020) Ireland's Diaspora Strategy.

4.2. MOBILITY

Main objective:

Enhance efficient, predictable and rights-based mobility pathways to effectively pursue safe, regular and orderly migration.

4.2.1. Specific Objective 1: Enhance labour market-responsive and rights-based labour mobility pathways to the region³⁴

IOM Ireland stands ready to provide policy recommendations to the Government to develop labour migration pathways for those outside of the EEA, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. It was announced in December 2020, that the DoJ is considering a scheme to give 17,000 undocumented migrants residency rights in Ireland. The scheme would assist undocumented migrants who are long-term resident in the State.

The proposed scheme is detailed in a policy document to offer a framework for residency which is likely to be published in the new year.³⁵ IOM Ireland is committed to provide support and expert advice, drawing on experience from other countries and best practices.

IOM Ireland also stands ready to support or carry out policy research as on labour market needs in Ireland. This relates with Ireland's responsibilities under the new EU Pact on Migration and Asylum which flags that the EU is currently losing the global race for talent. The Impact of Demographic Change in Europe report shows that Europe has an ageing and shrinking population and skills shortages that need to be addressed.³⁶

IOM is eager to work more closely with the private sector in Ireland to support the development of rights-based and ethical recruitment schemes and promote International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS) standards. Furthermore, IOM will sustain its support in facilitating transnational dialogue between countries of origin and countries of destination on, among others, matters related to skills partnerships and the protection of migrant workers.

4.2.2. Specific Objective 2: Promote safe, dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration³⁷

IOM will work through direct assistance, technical assistance and advocacy to continue implementing voluntary return and reintegration programmes that protect the human rights of migrants while ensuring the necessary safeguards

³⁴ SRF Objective 3: Migrants and societies benefit from safe, orderly and regular human mobility.

³⁵ O'Halloran, Marie (6 December 2020) *Irish Times* "Scheme being considered to give 17,000 undocumented migrants residency rights".

³⁶ EU Commission (2020) "Skills and Talent – Attracting the talent we need" EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.

³⁷ SRF Objective 3: Migrants and societies benefit from safe, orderly and regular human mobility.

for migrants in vulnerable situations. IOM will continue facilitating dialogue in Ireland, providing technical assistance on return and readmission policies, and legal and operational frameworks. Moving forward, assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) programmes will systematically include virtual counselling, health and psychosocial support options, as well vulnerability assessment and responses. All applicants for AVRR will be offered a group or individual virtual counselling session and they will be offered more comprehensive pre-departure reintegration supports, including skills development, CV building and interview preparation at the Migrant Hub. IOM will advocate for and provide technical assistance to the Government of Ireland

to facilitate sustainable reintegration of returnees by promoting a holistic assistance methodology, looking at the economic, social and psychosocial and health aspects of reintegration.

4.2.3. Specific Objective 3: Support the implementation of Integrated and Efficient Border Management Framework³⁸

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath, support can be provided to the Government of Ireland to balance the approach and responses to maintain public security and public health, starting with border controls and movement within, into and out of European Union territory.



AVRR beneficiary in his shop in Georgia which he set up with reintegration grant. © IOM 2012

38 SRF Objective 3: Migrants and societies benefit from safe, orderly and regular human mobility.

4.3. GOVERNANCE

Main objective:

Improve migration governance through a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach and through regular international dialogue and cooperation on migration.

4.3.1. Specific Objective 1: Promote a rights-based, strategic, comprehensive approach to migration governance³⁹

The Government of Ireland has implemented many positive policies to the benefit of migrants in recent years; Ireland has strong policies which promote a rights-based approach to migration.

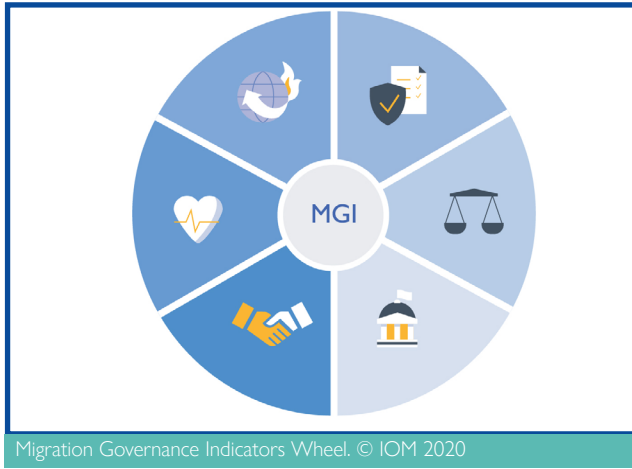
IOM Ireland will raise the visibility of Ireland's strong policies and will stand available to support future policy developments to fill gaps and will work towards a more comprehensive approach to migration governance in Ireland with greater coordination among

Irish institutions and Government agencies. If requested, IOM can support the Government of Ireland to develop a comprehensive approach to migration governance, utilizing the Migration Governance Indicators (MGI), a tool which provides a framework to help countries in the assessment of the comprehensiveness of their migration policies, as well as to identify gaps and areas that could be strengthened.⁴⁰

IOM Ireland will continue advocating with Irish institutions and national counterparts for a comprehensive, whole-of-government approach to migration, specifically in relation to legislative, policy and programmatic actions. IOM Ireland will, as appropriate, work with national authorities in Ireland to support them in meeting the commitments they made in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, the Global Compact for Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees for promoting policies and practices in line with these international frameworks.

³⁹ SRF Objective 4: Migration benefits from a whole of government and whole of society approach.

⁴⁰ IOM (2019) [Migration Governance Indicators: A Global Perspective](#).



4.3.2. Specific Objective 2: Enhance collection and utilization of accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies and balanced public discourse on migration⁴¹

Accurate and disaggregated data serves as a foundation for evidence-based policies that can promote social cohesion. Sound analysis and evidence-based information that is communicated strategically can contribute to balancing public discourse and reducing discrimination.

IOM Ireland, through close coordination with IOM’s Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC), will, as appropriate, encourage the Government to collect accurate, comparable and reliable data to share relevant data, while observing data protection principles, and promote the digitalization of migration data collection, use and management. Accurate data will also allow migration stakeholders in Ireland to effectively monitor and evaluate the implementation of policies over time.



⁴¹ SRF Objective 4: Migration benefits from a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

4.3.3. Specific Objective 3: Support coherent migration governance across sectors and ensure policy coherence at the national level⁴²

IOM Ireland is committed to facilitate dialogue and support stronger coordination in migration policy in Ireland, to ensure coherence at the national level. It will engage with relevant stakeholders in Irish institutions, agencies and governments to support close linkages between migration and specific sectoral policies, such as justice and fundamental rights, health, employment and social inclusion, foreign policy, security, humanitarian aid, gender mainstreaming, development cooperation, climate action and research. IOM stands ready to support the authorities towards stronger coordination and provide technical support to mainstream migration into

sectoral policies to ensure the effectiveness of each policy and that there is coherence between internal and external migration governance policies. Furthermore, IOM will engage in working with local authorities to ensure policy coherence.

4.3.4. Specific Objective 4: Facilitate international cooperation and partnerships for safe, orderly, and regular migration⁴³

IOM will continue to strengthen its role in all migration-related discussions Ireland. IOM Ireland will, as appropriate, support the Government of Ireland to meet its obligations under the new EU Pact on Migration and Asylum once the process is finalized and the Pact is operational.

⁴² SRF Objective 4: Migration benefits from a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

⁴³ SRF Objective 4: Migration benefits from a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.



5. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT



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5.1 PARTNERSHIPS

5.1.1 Government bodies

The Department of Justice remains the main technical and financial partner to IOM in Ireland. This includes the work that the mission in Ireland carries out with the Immigration Service (ISD), the Community Safety Policy Division, the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) and An Garda Síochána more generally on Trafficking in Persons and Diversity, the International Protection Services. IOM Ireland has consistently received funding from the Department of Justice to take the lead on the Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes as well as the resettlement of refugees to Ireland but has also worked on trafficking in persons and integration related matters. IOM Ireland aims to strengthen the existing collaboration with its key national partner in Ireland.

As migration is a complex and multifaceted issue which crosses the mandate of many departments, IOM would like to build relationships with other key Government and State bodies such as: the Central Statistics Office; the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission; the European Social Research Institute; Department of Children, Equality Disability, Integration and Youth; Department of Foreign Affairs; Department of Environment, Climate

and Communication; Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection.

5.1.2 NGOs and migrant assistance entities

IOM Ireland will develop broader engagement with potential referral partners such as NGOs, migrant assistance entities, community representatives and leaders, migrant associations and their representatives and information centres. Direct contact will be established as well as on-going engagement through dedicated events and information-sharing sessions across Ireland. Networking at a grassroots level will be expanded in a similar way with the IOM Outreach Team deepening connections with organizations nationwide that work with migrant population.

5.1.3 Embassies and Consulates

Relationships with resident and non-resident embassies will be nurtured to garner a sense of trust and to compound their support for IOM programmes, promoting further referrals of their most vulnerable citizens who may need assistance with their return as well as streamlining the travel document process if new documents are needed for applicants.

5.1.4 Trade Unions

IOM Ireland is interested in exploring partnerships with trade unions in Ireland with the objective of reaching migrants who are outside the more traditional outreach channels which have been engaged. Not all migrants engage with local NGOs in person or via social media which means there is a cohort of migrants who might be unaware of services offered by IOM. In the current COVID-19 crisis with migrants in situations of vulnerability and destitution with rising unemployment and job insecurity, trade unions could be a beneficial channel for identifying and assisting migrants who might find themselves in precarious circumstances in the coming months.

5.1.5 Private sector and research institutions

IOM Ireland plans to explore partnerships with important global and national private companies, business representative groups such as the Irish Business and Employers Confederation (IBEC) and academia / research institutions based in Ireland.

Planning for private sector engagement only commenced in late 2019; in 2021 and beyond it is planned that a strategy will be developed to move this forward.

5.2 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Strengthening a results-based approach in IOM is an institutional priority to improve our performance, accountability, and knowledge management. IOM Ireland will enhance internal capacity to ensure high-quality programming that contributes to migration governance and sustainable development outcomes. IOM aims to strengthen Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) in the EEA region and linked to this, IOM Ireland has nominated an M&E focal point for the office who will act a resource person in the office to support other colleagues on M&E. Moving forward, IOM Ireland will strengthening M&E frameworks, allowing IOM Ireland to perform to the highest standards and ensure accountability and learning.

5.3 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION

The vision of this country strategy will be communicated both internally and externally through a communications strategy which will serve to increase knowledge of the services which IOM Ireland offers. IOM Ireland aims to invest in clear communication, finding ways to communicate complex issues in an objective and balanced way, ensuring messaging is consistent with IOM guidelines.

IOM will continue improving the digitalization of all processes with respect to direct assistance to migrants. IOM Ireland aims to tackle misinformation through the GMMA which will be based in Ireland. In addition to this, IOM Ireland plan to adapt key messages according to its different audiences; follow emerging communication trends; build a strong communication network with relevant stakeholders in Ireland.



An IOM Ireland case worker providing information on AVRR. © IOM 2020



6. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

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In 2024, IOM Ireland will be a more diverse mission, delivering a range of programmes which apply a rights-based, holistic approach to the benefit of migrants. IOM Ireland will continue to innovate, diversify and find ways to deliver strong programmes in the COVID-19 context and beyond. With increased monitoring and evaluation, IOM will take greater learnings from projects, renewing and adapting programmes as needed in a changing context to ensure the greatest impact is achieved.



IOM Ireland and IOM Lebanon staff outside the hotel quarantine facility for resettled Syrian refugees in November 2020. © IOM 2020

