

As the UN Migration Agency, and in its role as Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration, IOM is well-placed to guide the UN system in supporting governments to strengthen international migration governance capacities, in collaboration with civil society and key stakeholders. This issue brief is one of four that IOM has drafted to support stakeholders in their discussions on the recommendations of the UN Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, ahead of the inaugural International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) in May 2022. The brief draws on the extensive policy and operational experience IOM has acquired working around the world in close cooperation with States, partner agencies, civil society, the private sector, academia as well as migrants themselves, and presents insights and ways forward to support implementation of the Secretary-General's recommendations.

Why does the Secretary-General's report highlight the need for capacity-development?

The emergence of a common understanding that good migration governance can only be achieved through coherent and comprehensive policies that are evidence-based, gender-responsive and in line with international human rights standards has enabled the development of national, regional and international systems and frameworks working to reinforce such an understanding. Notable international developments in this regard include Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. As highlighted in the United Nations Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, capacity development of stakeholders at local, national and regional level is key to enabling effective implementation of the Compact and related national and regional instruments.

What are some of the key issues at stake?

Most countries have capacity gaps and, due to the complex and dynamic nature of migration, all countries can benefit from continuous capacity review and development. This means taking action on two fronts: strengthening institutional systems and services that support general inter-State cooperation, dialogue and the production of knowledge and data; and enhancing the capacity of States and other relevant stakeholders to implement and sustain specific Compact's objectives. Beyond the implementation of the Compact, these initiatives also contribute to enhancing local, national and regional policymakers' capacities to develop comprehensive,

evidence-based, and coherent migration policies and legislation aligned with international standards, thus setting a foundation for longer-term investments in systems-strengthening efforts for enhanced migration management.

Since 2018, practical initiatives have helped States, the UN system and other stakeholders enhance their capacity to implement, follow up and review the Compact's provisions across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. The United Nations system created specific institutional arrangements. This includes an UN-wide [Network on Migration](#), coordinated by IOM, that helps advance and strengthen global, regional and subregional cooperation and dialogue, most notably through the [Compact's regional reviews](#) that took place in 2020–2021. Over 90 Member States have submitted national voluntary reports to the regional reviews, highlighting what progress has been achieved across the twenty-three objectives of the Compact. Importantly, regional reviews helped identify obstacles to the implementation of the Compact, such as limited resources, technical and technological capacity and coordination challenges within Governments and with stakeholders.

A specific capacity-building mechanism was also established. It includes the [Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund](#), the first United Nations inter-agency pooled funding instrument in the field of migration. The Fund currently finances 12 joint programmes across five thematic areas and has received 113 joint programme ideas submitted from over 70 different countries/regions. The Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund allows migration stakeholders and the UN system to harness longstanding expertise, experience, and global footprint to enhance cooperation and coordination around international migration for the benefit of all. In countries like North Macedonia (project on [evidence-based migration policy](#)

planning and discourse) and regions like the East and Horn of Africa (project on addressing climate and environmental drivers and facilitate [safe migration](#)), joint initiatives are bringing together IOM migration knowledge with the complementary expertise of other UN agencies including the International Labour Organization, UN Population Fund and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, as well as key government and intergovernmental partners like the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the Platform on Disaster Displacement, a State-led initiative. These joint projects support national and regional policymakers to effectively manage migration dynamics, thereby contributing to the formulation of evidence-based migration policies and enhancing policy coherence. Meeting the Fund's fundraising targets for the future is therefore necessary to enhance stakeholders' capacities to implement the Compact.

Strengthening capacities to produce and use knowledge and evidence on migration is an essential component of improving migration governance. Available data and evidence on migration are often not sufficiently exploited by policymakers to advance the implementation of the Compact, and greater investments are needed to equip policymakers and practitioners with timely and reliable data and analysis. A [Migration Network Hub](#) – a virtual interactive meeting space – allows stakeholders to share experiences, whilst core and thematic working groups develop guidance and knowledge products. Regional data initiatives, such as the [Africa Migration Data Network](#) (AMDN), have been created to address data gaps and support data-sharing and harmonization efforts.

Capacity-development should also be informed by benchmarking and regular review and follow-up of progress in implementing the Compact. Baseline mappings can help assess the level of implementation in certain thematic areas, for example, the mapping addressing human mobility challenges in disaster and climate change contexts conducted by the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD), in partnership with IOM. Regular progress reviews can help identify priorities for and assess the impact of existing capacity-building measures.

Approaches to designing and delivering capacity development support should be regularly informed by a review of latest developments and learnings in the domain, to ensure they lead to fully institutionalized and sustainable changes in national stakeholder capacities and contexts. Such efforts can be supported by existing tools such as the [Capacity Development for Migration Management](#) (CD4MM) approach, which provides guidance on modern thinking in sustainable systems-strengthening principles, concepts and frameworks.

Developing benchmarks and mechanisms to measure progress and monitor implementation

Measuring progress in implementation remains a challenge. Looking ahead, developing benchmarks and mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the commitments in the Compact will be key. Such benchmarks and mechanisms should build on existing frameworks such as the (MGI). Tools like the MGI have proved invaluable to help countries develop programme baselines and end State objectives, particularly in terms of including migration policy best practices in their national migration frameworks. Building on MGI assessments, some governments have developed new policies that directly aim to implement the objectives of the Compact, such as a national migration policy in Iraq and a national policy on migrant health in Cambodia. MGI National Assessments are also informing the implementation of projects funded by the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund, as they facilitate the collection, sharing and analysis of data needed to develop evidence-based migration policy planning and discourse, like in North Macedonia.

Connecting the implementation of the Compact with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Rooting the implementation of the Compact in global efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is essential to amplifying impact on the ground. This entails enhancing capacity across the UN system to systematically consider how migration issues can be included in broader UN planning efforts. In collaboration with the Migration Network partners, IOM is leading the roll out of a training for [UN Country Teams](#) on Integrating Migration into Common Country Analyses and Cooperation Frameworks. This initiative brings together UN collective expertise to identify how to best integrate migration issues across activities developed at the national level to achieve sustainable development. The training concretely illustrates one of the recommendations of the Secretary-General Report: the necessity to integrate migration as a core component of sustainable development and to build on the existing global indicator Framework for Sustainable Development Goals to advance the Compact' implementation.

Ways forward

The IMRF can help States better harness the long-standing investments made in tools and initiatives that help implement the Compact, measure progress made and monitor implementation. IOM wishes to present considerations on how to promote capacity development in support of the Compact's implementation. These are listed below, beneath the relevant recommendations from the Secretary-General's report, which have been shortened here for brevity.

Secretary-General Recommendation: Meet the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund capitalization target and identify thematic priorities (paragraph 108)

- Provide financial and technical support to the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund to expand the reach and impact of joint programmes.

Secretary-General Recommendation: Integrate migration as a core, cross-cutting issue in sustainable development and other applicable frameworks (paragraph 109)

- Adopt a cross-cutting approach to migration governance by including migration considerations across all policy sectors and levels of government, and systematically link them to sustainable development planning, processes and goals as well as humanitarian action and peacebuilding efforts as appropriate.
- Better connect and root the Compact's implementation efforts in ongoing regional dialogues, processes and platforms, such as those spearheaded by regional economic commissions (RECs) and migration regional consultative processes (RCPs).

Secretary-General Recommendation: Develop benchmarks and mechanisms to measure progress and monitor implementation (paragraph 110)

- Strengthen States' ability to measure progress on and monitor the Compact's implementation by developing benchmarks and mechanisms building on existing mechanisms, such as the global indicator framework for Sustainable Development Goals and the Migration Governance Indicators.
- Systematically integrate migration implementation benchmarks into the Voluntary National Reviews and Voluntary Local Reviews submitted by States to the High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development.
- Ensure that the Compact's regional reviews and the IMRF build on the information recorded in Reviews and Voluntary Local Reviews, including by considering progress reported against the global indicator framework for Sustainable Development Goals.

Secretary-General Recommendation: Use the Migration Network Hub systematically to promote the cross-fertilization and exchange of ideas and disseminate information and good practices (paragraph 111)

- Utilize the Migration Network Hub as a central source for peer-to-peer learning and exchange, submitting case studies to enrich the repository of practices and joining online discussions to strengthen the evidence base for migration governance.
- Harness shared learning and best practices from previous experiences, policies, programmes, and processes to inform the implementation efforts of the Compact. This includes the elaboration of dedicated national implementation plans and mainstreaming the implementation of the Compact into other relevant national plans and strategies.
- Support, engage and invest in multi-stakeholder initiatives seeking to improve migration statistics, coordination of data capacity-development efforts and the sharing of innovative data practices, such as the Africa Migration Data Network.