

REPUBLIC OF KENYA | SECOND PROFILE 2022

MIGRATION GOVERNANCE INDICATORS



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Required citation: International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2022. *Migration Governance Indicators – Republic of Kenya Second Profile 2022*. IOM, Geneva.

ISBN 978-92-9268-421-1 (PDF)
ISBN 978-92-9268-422-8 (print)

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MIGRATION GOVERNANCE INDICATORS

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OBJECTIVE

The MGI aims to support well-managed migration policy by helping countries assess the comprehensiveness of their migration governance structures and identify priorities on the way forward.

MGI follow-up assessments identify the migration policy developments that have occurred since the countries' first MGI assessments, thus helping governments track their progress on national priorities as well as commitments taken at the regional and international levels.

The MGI can be used to spark a discussion with governments and other relevant stakeholders in the country on existing migration policy structures. It can help assess whether these structures, which have often been in place for several years, still address the main challenges and opportunities of today's reality.

INTRODUCTION

This is an era of unprecedented mobility, and the need to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility is becoming increasingly relevant.¹ The need to face the challenges and to maximize the opportunities that this mobility brings has been recognized with the inclusion of migration in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which highlights the positive contribution of migrants to inclusive growth and development. Migration is integrated in a number of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets, such as ending modern slavery and addressing the vulnerability of migrant workers. However, the central reference to migration in the SDGs is target 10.7 on facilitating “orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies”.²

The incorporation of target 10.7 into the 2030 Agenda created the need to define “planned and well-managed migration policies”. This is why, in 2015, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) developed the Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF). This Framework offers a concise view of an ideal approach that allows a State to determine what it might need to govern migration well and in a way that suits its circumstances.³ The Framework was welcomed by IOM Member States in the same year.

In an effort to operationalize the MiGOF, IOM worked with Economist Impact to develop the Migration Governance Indicators (MGI), a standard set of approximately 90 indicators to assist countries in assessing their migration policies and advance the conversation on what well-governed migration might look like in practice.

The MGI helps 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. However, the MGI recognizes that all countries have different realities, challenges and opportunities that relate to migration. Therefore, the MGI does not rank countries on the design or implementation of their migration policies. Finally, the MGI does not measure migration policy outcomes or institutional effectiveness. Instead, it takes stock of the migration-related policies in place and operates as a benchmarking framework that provides insights on policy measures that countries might want to consider as they progress towards good migration governance.

MGI follow-up assessments aim at showing the progress that countries have achieved in their migration governance policies since their first MGI assessment. Concretely, this report presents a summary of the main changes and achievements that have taken place in the migration governance structures of the Republic of Kenya (hereafter referred to as Kenya),⁴ as well as the areas with potential for further development, as assessed by the MGI.⁵

¹ IOM Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance, Seventeenth Session (S/17/4 of 29 September 2015), Article 2.

² IOM Council, 106th Session, Migration Governance Framework (C/106/40 of 4 November 2015), page 1, footnote 1. Available at <https://governingbodies.iom.int/system/files/en/council/106/C-106-40-Migration-Governance-Framework.pdf>.

³ Ibid.

⁴ The 2018 Migration Governance Snapshot for the Republic of Kenya is available at www.migrationdataportal.org/overviews/mgi/kenya#0.

⁵ The MGI initiative is a policy-benchmarking programme led by IOM and implemented with the support of Economist Impact. Funding is provided by IOM Member States.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

MiGOF

The IOM MiGOF sets out the essential elements to support planned and well-managed migration. It seeks to present, in a consolidated, coherent and comprehensive way, a set of three principles and three objectives which, if respected and fulfilled, would ensure that migration is humane, orderly, and benefits migrants and society.

PRINCIPLES

1. **Adherence** to international standards and fulfilment of migrants' rights.
2. **Formulates** policy using evidence and "whole-of-government" approach.
3. **Engages** with partners to address migration and related issues.

OBJECTIVES

1. **Advance** the socioeconomic well-being of migrants and society.
2. **Effectively** address the mobility dimensions of crises.
3. **Ensure** that migration takes place in a safe, orderly and dignified manner.

At the basis of

MGI

WHAT IT IS



A set of indicators that offers insights on policy levers that countries can use to strengthen their migration governance structures



A tool that identifies good practices and areas that could be further developed



A consultative process that advances dialogues on migration governance by clarifying what "well-governed migration" might look like in the context of SDG target 10.7

Which supports the measurement of

WHAT IT IS NOT



Not a ranking of countries



Not assessing impacts of policies



Not prescriptive



TARGET 10.7

"Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and **well-managed migration policies**."



KEY

FINDINGS

The MGI is composed of around 90 indicators grouped under the 6 different dimensions of migration governance that draw upon the MiGOF categories:



MIGRANTS'
RIGHTS
PAGE 14

Indicators in this domain look at the extent to which migrants have access to certain social services such as health, education and social security. It also looks at family reunification, access to work, and access to residency and citizenship. The international conventions signed and ratified are also included.



WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT
APPROACH
PAGE 16

Indicators in this area assess countries' institutional, legal and regulatory frameworks related to migration policies. This area also looks at the existence of national migration strategies that are in line with development objectives and overseas development efforts, as well as institutional transparency and coherence in relation to migration management.



PARTNERSHIPS
PAGE 19

This category focuses on countries' efforts to cooperate on migration-related issues with other States and with relevant non-governmental actors, including civil society organizations and the private sector.



WELL-BEING
OF MIGRANTS
PAGE 21

Indicators in this area assess countries' policies on the recognition of migrants' educational and professional qualifications, provisions regulating student migration and the existence of bilateral labour agreements between countries. Aspects of diaspora engagement in the country of origin and migrant remittances are also under this domain.



MOBILITY DIMENSION
OF CRISES
PAGE 23

This category looks at the type and level of preparedness of countries when they are faced with mobility dimensions of crises. The questions look at the processes in place for nationals and non-nationals both during and after disasters, including if humanitarian assistance is equally available to migrants as it is to citizens.



SAFE, ORDERLY AND
REGULAR MIGRATION
PAGE 25

This area looks at countries' approach to migration management in terms of border control and enforcement policies, admission criteria for migrants, preparedness and resilience in the case of significant and unexpected migration flows, as well as the fight against trafficking in persons.

SUMMARY OF UPDATES SINCE 2018

MIGRANTS' RIGHTS

In November 2021, the President approved the new Refugees Act (2021), which opens access to education, livelihoods and integration opportunities for refugees living in Kenya.

To ensure the voting rights of Kenyan citizens abroad, the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission developed in 2021 detailed regulations and procedures for diaspora registration and voting.

The Government of Kenya is reviewing the Kenya Diaspora Policy (2014) as of 2022 and enacted the Children Act (2010), which includes provisions for protecting migrant children.

WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH

The National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM) is a Government-led inter-agency migration coordination platform. Established in 2016, the NCM is mandated to strengthen migration coordination at the local, national, regional and international levels by steering migration debates and dialogue. The NCM meets quarterly and includes representatives of 45 government ministries, departments and agencies that operate through six technical working groups.

The Government of Kenya is also cascading migration governance dialogue by creating migration coordination platforms at the local level.

In 2022, the Government of Kenya appointed a third advisory committee on counter-trafficking in persons (CTIP) by way of gazettelement as well as a board of trustees for victims of trafficking.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Central Organization of Trade Unions (Kenya) and the Kuwait Trade Union Federation signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in 2019, aiming to jointly address issues affecting workers who migrate from Kenya to Kuwait for employment.

The Regional Ministerial Forum on Harmonizing Labour Migration Policies in the East and Horn of Africa was initiated in January 2021 in Nairobi, Kenya. The States parties to the process agreed to strengthen labour migration governance through common regional approaches and social dialogue.

In May 2021, Kenya joined the Champion countries initiative for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

WELL-BEING OF MIGRANTS

Kenya and the United Arab Emirates signed an MOU on labour cooperation in 2018. In 2021, Kenya and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland signed a bilateral labour agreement that establishes opportunities for Kenyan health-care professionals to work in the United Kingdom's National Health Service and for enhancing capacity-building.

In February 2022, Kenya ratified the International Labour Organization Convention 185 on Seafarers' Identity Documents and Convention 188 on the Work in Fishing Convention.

MOBILITY DIMENSION OF CRISES

The National Disaster Risk Management Bill of 2021 proposes a legal framework for the coordination of disaster risk management (DRM) activities in Kenya. It seeks to establish the National Disaster Risk Management Authority and the County Disaster Risk Management Committees that will, among other things, address the displacement impacts of emergencies and disasters.

National institutions responsible for and frameworks on DRM – i.e. the National Disaster Management Unit, the National Drought Management Authority, and the National Disaster Operations Centre, as well as the National Disaster Risk Management Policy (2017) and the National Emergency Response Plan and Standard Operating Procedures (2014) – also provide mechanisms to address the displacement impacts of disasters.

The Post COVID-19 Economic Recovery Strategy (2020) further addresses migration issues in the context of economic recovery.

The Government of Kenya enacted the Refugees Act (2021), which protects and provides for migrant and refugee rights.

SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION

In 2021, the Government of Kenya launched the Kenya Coordinated Border Management Programme for government officers stationed at the country's points of entry and exit, which includes a specialized curriculum that aims to enhance the whole-of-government approach between the agencies and ministries engaged in border management.

Kenya and Ethiopia signed in 2021 an operational procedure manual for the Moyale One Stop Border Post, aimed at boosting trade and movement between the two countries. The manual guides border officers in the implementation of border management operations.



1

ADHERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND FULFILMENT OF MIGRANTS' RIGHTS

1.1 Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

The Directorate of Immigration Services (DIS) continues to issue the Foreign Nationals Certificate for the identification of all foreigners staying in Kenya for more than three months. All immigration services have gone online, further improving service delivery to migrants. East African residents⁶ have the right to establish in Kenya in accordance with the Protocol on the establishment of the East African Community Common Market (2009).

Foreign nationals can apply for two types of permits, namely work permits (long term, a year and above, such as Class D, G and M permits) or special passes (short term)⁷ to pursue individual economic activities under the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Regulations (2012).

Foreign residents are eligible for permanent residence after holding work permits for at least seven years and continuously residing in Kenya for three years immediately preceding the application, as provided by the Kenyan Citizenship and Immigration Act (2011). Priority is given to highly qualified professionals and persons willing to invest in Kenya. Application for Kenyan citizenship is possible after living in the country for seven years and proving adequate knowledge of Kenya, and applicants must understand and speak Kiswahili or another local dialect.

According to the Constitution of Kenya, Article 3, Section 15, Clause 3 (2010), any child under the age of 8 years found in Kenya and whose nationality and parents are not known is presumed to be a Kenyan citizen. Family reunification is possible under the Children Act (2010), the Refugees Act (2021), and the Prevention, Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons and Affected Communities Act (2012).

Migrant children have access to primary and secondary education as established by the Basic Education Act (2013). Access to higher and vocational education is provided upon receiving a Pupil's Pass⁸ according to the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Regulations; the application fee is waived for East African Community (EAC) citizens. Kenyan citizens residing abroad can fulfil their migrant right to vote in presidential elections at Kenyan embassies, high commissions and consulates. The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) is responsible for conducting and supervising the national elections and referendums, as well as registering voters residing outside of Kenya. In 2021, IEBC presented election regulations with detailed procedures for diaspora registration and voting processes to enable Kenyan citizens to vote from more designated embassies.⁹ As of March 2022, IEBC is organizing voting for presidential elections at 12 designated Kenyan embassies in Burundi, Canada, Germany, Qatar, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the United Republic of Tanzania.

To date, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is revising the Kenya Diaspora Policy (2014). The revision aims to update the Policy to have a more comprehensive approach to Kenyan diaspora-related issues, taking into account recent developments and trends.

⁶ From the countries of Burundi, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United Republic of Tanzania, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda.

⁷ More information is available at <https://immigration.go.ke/work-permits-passes/>.

⁸ A Pupil's Pass is a type of student visa for international students, requested and issued upon admission to the educational or training institution in Kenya. The application for a Pupil's Pass has a fee of KSH 5,000 per annum, an equivalent of USD 45.3 (United Nations Operational Rates of Exchange, rate as of 1 October 2021).

⁹ The IEBC tabled a bill to amend Section 109 of No. 24 of 2011 of the Elections (Amendment) (No. 3) Bill (1b), a section on the registration of Kenyan citizens residing outside Kenya. The amendment seeks to review legislation for the progressive registration of citizens residing outside the country and the progressive realization of their right to vote (Parliament of Kenya, 2021a).

In November 2021, the President assented to the Refugees Act, which gives refugees in Kenya access to education, livelihoods and integration opportunities. The law reaffirms the commitment of the Government of Kenya to offer protection to refugees in line with the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) and the Organisation of African Unity Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa (1969). The Act strengthens the management of refugees by consolidating the provisions of several international legal instruments. The Act also has provisions in case of a large influx of refugees, including designation of areas for their reception, transit and residence, as well as the allocation of adequate and appropriate facilities and services. Additionally, the Government is developing refugee regulations to operationalize the Refugees Act as of March 2022.

1.2 Areas with potential for further development

The *Human Resource Policies and Procedures Manual for the Public Service* (2016) establishes guidelines on the employment of foreigners in the public sector. According to the established procedures, potential employers of foreign residents must apply and obtain authorization from the DIS and the Public Service Commission and prove that no Kenyan citizen with the required qualifications was available to undertake this employment.

Migrants have access to health-care facilities; however, undocumented migrants cannot enrol for insurance cover under the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF). Individuals not covered under the NHIF can pay out-of-pocket treatment or receive health care through non-governmental or international organizations.

Kenya does not have bilateral agreements to facilitate the transferability and portability of social security benefits and entitlements with other countries. However, the Draft Social Security Portability Bill was first presented to the EAC in 2015 to harmonize social security laws to facilitate the portability of social benefits within the Community.¹⁰ Its adoption would ensure the portability of social security benefits earned in the public and private sectors. In 2021, the EAC started revising the Draft Council Directive on the Coordination of Social Security Benefits (2011) to harmonize the issue of social protection and promote comprehensive policies on social protection among the EAC partner States. The purpose of the Directive is to provide rules and procedures for the coordination of social security benefits for workers and self-employed persons in the EAC.

There is no specific policy or strategy to combat hate crimes, violence and xenophobia against migrants. However, provisions against discrimination are embedded within Chapter 4 of the Constitution, the Penal Code (Cap. 63) (1930) and the Refugees Act.

¹⁰ More information is available at https://eatuc.org/news_and_events/workshop-to-review-progress-of-the-draft-social-security-portability-bill-for-the-eac-23rd-24th-march-2018-arusha-tanzania/.



2

FORMULATES POLICY USING EVIDENCE AND WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH

2.1 Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

The core legal framework on migration consists of the Kenyan Citizenship and Immigration Act (2011)¹¹ and the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Regulations (2012). The East African Community One Stop Border Posts Act of 2016 regulates the establishment of one-stop border posts and border controls, and it provides for the application of border control laws in the control zones of the adjoining States: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda.

The Directorate of Immigration Services (DIS) was established by the Citizenship and Immigration Act and operates under the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government. The Directorate is responsible for drafting and implementing Kenya's immigration policies. Core functions of the DIS include to control and regulate entry and exit of all persons; issue passports and other travel documents; control and regulate residency through issuance and renewal of work permits, residence permits and other passes; consider and grant Kenyan citizenship of qualified foreigners; issue entry visas and register all non-citizens resident in Kenya; declare and remove prohibited immigrants; provide consular services to Kenyan nationals and foreigners at all missions abroad; and collaborate with other ministries, departments and agencies regarding the collection of relevant primary data.

The Kenya Institute of Migration Studies¹² anchored under the DIS, specifically under the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM), is hosted at the Population Studies and Research Institute of the University of Nairobi. The Institute offers capacity-building programmes for migration practitioners within the region.

Kenya is committed to integrated and coordinated border management. The Border Control and Operations Coordination Committee (BCOCC) established under the Security Laws (Amendment) Bill (2014) includes representatives of the State agencies and departments dealing with migration, security, trade and transport. The Act also establishes the Border Management Committees at all entry/exit points to effectively execute its mandate. The BCOCC formulates policies and programmes for the management and control of the entry/exit points, coordinates the exchange of information between agencies responsible for border security and management, and oversees operations at entry/exit points. The DIS and the BCOCC are responsible for implementing immigration policy.

The Kenya Diaspora Policy¹³ (2014) steers the participation of the Kenyan diaspora in the national development process. Through the Kenya Foreign Policy, the Government seeks to deepen its engagement and partnerships with the Kenyan diaspora in order to leverage and harness their skills and expertise for national development. In 2021, the Government initiated the review of the Diaspora Policy to accommodate emerging diaspora trends. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Diaspora and Consular Affairs Directorate coordinates all relations with the diaspora. Other ministries, departments and relevant agencies also participate in the implementation of emigration-related activities and the Diaspora Policy. Kenya assists its nationals residing abroad through 65 diplomatic missions and 28 honorary consulates as of March 2022.

¹¹ In 2021, the Senate of Kenya introduced the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration (Amendment) Bill, which aims to establish mechanisms for the protection of the interests of Kenyans living abroad and to ensure their active participation in the socioeconomic development of Kenya. The Bill introduces the definitions of "Kenyan living abroad" and "returnee" into the legislation, as well as establishes the framework for the protection of these persons' interests both in Kenya and abroad (Parliament of Kenya, 2021b).

¹² More information on the Institute is available at <http://immigration.go.ke/kenya-institute-of-migration-studies/>.

¹³ The Kenya Diaspora Policy provides for the establishment of the National Diaspora Council of Kenya.

The NCM is a Government-led inter-agency migration coordination platform. Established in 2016, the NCM is mandated to strengthen migration coordination at the local, national, regional and international levels by steering migration debates and dialogue. The NCM meets quarterly and includes representatives of 45 government ministries, departments and agencies that operate through six technical working groups.¹⁴ The NCM promotes a whole-of-government approach to migration governance by providing an inter-agency coordination platform bringing together all stakeholders.

As of August 2021, the Government of Kenya, under the leadership of the NCM, is cascading the migration governance dialogue by creating migration coordination platforms at the local level. The programme takes cognizance of county-specific migration trends and targets to benefit counties in the context of county-specific migration and integrate mobility imperatives into County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) and harness their potential benefits. The programme targets the National Government Administration Officers in the counties, the county government officials, local opinion and community leaders, associations, and civil society/faith-based organizations.¹⁵

Migration-related data are collected by different agencies in Kenya. The DIS collects data on temporary and permanent residents, international student pass holders, work permit holders, and migration law enforcement (deportation or regularization cases); while the Department of Civil Registration Services records births and deaths in Kenya and of Kenyans abroad. The Department of National Registration Bureau also keeps data on nationals' and foreign nationals' identification documents. The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) collects and publishes data on remittances on a monthly basis.¹⁶ From March to May 2021, CBK in collaboration with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs rolled out an anonymous survey on diaspora remittances. The survey collected data on the cost and efficiency of sending remittances, challenges in sending cash and non-cash remittances, spending remittances, and opportunities for investments. The Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) is under the Kenya Continuous Household Survey Programme managed by KNBS. The QLFS collects information on the Kenyan labour market, labour force participation, employment, and unemployment and contains migration-related questions. The Government enacted the Data Protection Act in 2019, whose provision underpins the protection of data privacy, including migration.

The Kenya Population and Housing Census was last conducted in 2019 by KNBS. The questionnaire included numerous questions related to migrants, such as nationality, ethnicity, country of birth, country of citizenship, country of birth of parents, residence, reasons for migration, and household members currently residing abroad. The findings of the questionnaire are yet to be analysed as of March 2022.

The State Department for Youth Affairs under the Ministry of ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs developed the Kenya Youth Development Policy (2019), and among its interventions is to empower the youth and champion mainstreaming of the rights of diaspora and migrant youth. The State Department for Youth Affairs participates in forums on county outreach and dialogues on migration spearheaded by the NCM. The Kenya Youth Development Policy recognizes the diaspora youth in emergency and conflict situations and the need to provide measures to protect their rights through mainstreaming youth issues relating to migration.

¹⁴ The six groups include: Labour Migration and Diaspora Affairs; Migration Policy, Research and Data Management; Forced Migration and Social Protection; Migration and National Security; Migration and Development; and Monitoring, Evaluation and Results.

¹⁵ The first phase of the programme included the counties of Busia, Kisii, Kajiado, Kitui, Migori and Turkana.

¹⁶ Data on diaspora remittances are available at www.centralbank.go.ke/diaspora-remittances/.

2.2 Areas with potential for further development

The NCM drafted the Kenya National Migration Policy in 2018. In 2021, the draft was updated to accommodate emerging trends, including pandemics. However, the Policy has not been approved as of March 2022. The draft includes provisions for enhanced border surveillance, improvement of the existing crossing points' capacities, and the use of modern information and communications technology tools at entry ports. Moreover, it addresses the challenges and impacts of migration as well as gender issues.

Furthermore, there is no evidence of vertical policy coherence in migration governance in Kenya. The integration of migration into CIDPs still needs to be enhanced across all the counties in Kenya. Additionally, participation has been limited in developing the draft National Migration Policy or any other migration-related policies.



3

ENGAGES WITH PARTNERS TO ADDRESS MIGRATION AND RELATED ISSUES

3.1 Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

Kenya participates in several regional consultative processes (RCP) such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) (founding member since 1981) and the East African Community (EAC) (member since 2000). Moreover, Kenya is a member of the Northern Corridor Integration Projects (2013), as well as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). Apart from the EAC Common Market Protocol (2009) that provides for the free movement of persons and labour, Kenya is also benefiting from the free movement of labour and resources following the RCPs in COMESA and IGAD. Further, Kenya was among the EAC partner States who agreed to establish an EAC-RCP on Migration in a regional conference in Nairobi in March 2021.

IGAD's migration pillar facilitates coordination and follow-up on migration issues between IGAD and its member States. In February 2018, Kenya launched a National Consultative Workshop towards the development of the Regional Protocol on Free Movement of Persons. Soon after, the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons in the IGAD region was endorsed in a ministerial meeting in February 2020, with Kenyan representation.

In 2018, the African Union adopted the Revised Migration Policy Framework for Africa and its Plan of Action (2018–2030). The document reflects the current migration dynamics in Africa and guides African Union member States and the Regional Economic Communities in migration management.

Kenya is part of the Regional Ministerial Forum on Harmonizing Labour Migration Policies in the East and Horn of Africa (RMFM), launched in January 2020 in Nairobi. The RMFM is an Inter-State Consultation Mechanism on migration that brings together 11 States from the East and Horn of Africa region to address labour migration policies, foster labour mobility, and protect the fundamental human, labour, and social rights of workers migrating within the continent and from Africa to European Union member States, Gulf Cooperation Council member States and other countries.

In 2019, the Central Organization of Trade Unions and the Kuwait Trade Union Federation signed a cooperative agreement to jointly address issues affecting workers who migrate from Kenya to Kuwait for employment. In 2020, the Government of Kenya undertook bilateral negotiations with China, India, Malaysia, Thailand and the Republic of Korea to agree on visa extensions for its citizens whose visas expired during COVID-19 travel restrictions.

The Ministry of Labour in collaboration with IOM has established oversight and community feedback mechanisms. These mechanisms will enable continuous and rigorous monitoring of private employment agencies in the country, and ensure greater transparency in auditing these agencies and accountability in cases of human trafficking.

The Government continues to engage with civil society organizations in migration policy drafting and implementation, both directly and via platforms established in cooperation with IOM. The Government conducted a national validation and consultation meeting on its draft National Migration Policy through the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM) in 2018, which involved civil society representatives, academic and research institutions, and international agencies. The NCM serves as a platform for coordination between State and non-State actors, including the private sector and social partners, to enrich the migration policy. The Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), though not a part of the NCM, is among the private bodies that take part in migration policy setting. In particular, KEPSA has participated in the drafting of the Kenya Diaspora Policy (2014) to encourage the diaspora community's involvement in national development.

In May 2021, Kenya joined the Champion countries initiative for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. By becoming a champion country, Kenya has demonstrated its support for the Compact, including in the Global Compact for Migration Africa Regional Review, and received targeted support from the United Nations Network on Migration. In this regard, the Kenya United Nations Network on Migration was launched in 2021 for the United Nations Country Team to provide coordinated support to the Government of Kenya in implementing the Compact and other relevant policies.

Since 2021, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) has conducted high-level meetings with State and non-State actors to disseminate the findings of surveys carried out on the status of migrants in detention places. The surveys' recommendations are crucial to advocating alternatives to detention of migrants and ensuring that all stakeholders are apprised of the issue to reduce opportunities for migrant rights violations. The dialogues also extended to the IGAD National Human Rights Institutions working to harness cross-regional interventions. Further, the KNCHR has developed draft standard operating procedures to guide the monitoring of places of detention and migrant status, as well as the upholding of migrant rights.

3.2 Areas with potential for further development

The Diaspora Policy provides for establishing a National Diaspora Council that is yet to be operationalized as of March 2022. The Diaspora Policy and other strategies provide for diaspora and expatriate communities' engagement in policy development. However, neither the coordination mechanism nor a monitoring and evaluation framework envisioned in the Policy has been established. The Government initiated the process of reviewing the Diaspora Policy to have an updated comprehensive version that includes recent developments and trends to address diaspora-related issues.



4

ADVANCES THE SOCIOECONOMIC
WELL-BEING OF MIGRANTS AND SOCIETY

4.1 Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

Kenya has ratified 52 International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions, such as the Equality of Treatment (Accident Compensation) Convention (No. 19), the Workmen's Compensation (Accidents) Convention (No. 17), the Migration for Employment Convention (Revised) (No. 97)¹⁷ and the Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention (No. 143). Labour migration in Kenya is regulated by the Employment Act (2007), the Labour Institutions Act (2007), the Labour Relations Act (2007), and the Occupational Safety and Health Act (2007). In February 2022, Kenya ratified ILO Convention 185 on Seafarers' Identity Documents¹⁸ and Convention 188 on Work in Fishing.¹⁹ Both Conventions will come into force in 2023.

The Ministry of Labour is in charge of promoting decent work, skills development and sustainable job creation. The Ministry's strategic objectives include to inculcate a safety and health culture in workplaces; to promote harmonious labour relations, social dialogue and fair labour practices; to provide policy guidance on national human resource planning, development and utilization; to promote productivity and enhance competitiveness; to ensure adequate supply of relevant skills to industry; to develop, implement, and review labour market policies, legislation, and programmes for employment and sustainable job creation; to enhance efficiency, equity, transparency and accountability in results-based service delivery; and to coordinate the State Department's functions, programmes and activities.

The National Employment Authority (NEA) under the Ministry of Labour is responsible for monitoring employment opportunities in Kenya and provides an institutional framework for the monitoring of labour market demand. NEA also regulates private employment agencies and is responsible for their licensing. Several ministries, agencies and departments supply data for the Kenya Labour Market Information System (KLMIS) and the Directorate of National Human Resource Planning and Development of the Ministry of Labour. The KLMIS serves as a labour market observatory for the economy by providing labour market information on both the public and private sectors. Labour market assessment reports are produced on a quarterly basis. The Quarterly Labour Force Survey, a special modular survey under the Kenya Continuous Household Survey Programme, is used to collect data on the employment of the population, disaggregated by age and sex. Census data on the labour market are also disaggregated by migration status and sex.

Migrant skills and training are taken into consideration when issuing work permits, in particular the Class D permit.²⁰ The candidate applies for a Class D permit (specific employment offer) to the Directorate of Immigration Services for evaluation, along with the resume and copies of academic or professional certificates.

Several agencies under the Ministry of Education are tasked with the recognition of foreign qualifications and skills in Kenya. The Commission for University Education is responsible for the recognition and equation of diplomas, degrees, and certificates awarded by foreign universities and institutions as provided by the Universities Act (2012). The Technical and Vocational Education and Training Authority is mandated with equating credentials related to skills, knowledge and qualifications, whereas the Kenya National Examinations Council recognizes basic education certificates. The Kenya National Qualifications Authority²¹ was created in 2014 with an aim to establish standards for recognizing qualifications obtained both inside and outside of Kenya.

¹⁷ Kenya excluded provisions of Annexes I to III of the Migration for Employment Convention (Revised). More information is available at www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:11200:0::NO:11200:P11200_COUNTRY_ID:103315.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ The Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act (2011) establishes a Class D permit that is issued in consideration of migrant skills and training. More information is available at <https://immigration.go.ke/work-permits-passes/>.

²¹ The Kenya National Qualifications Authority is currently being operationalized and has limited capacities.

The National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) promotes industrial training, undertakes trade testing and issues certificates. NITA collaborates with NEA on undertaking predeparture training for migrant workers.

Kenya allows equal access to tertiary education for all international students in the country. International students wishing to undertake their studies in Kenya must apply for a Pupil's Pass as stipulated by the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Regulations (2012); students from the East African Community (EAC) are exempt from paying the Pupil's Pass fees.

Kenya has signed bilateral labour agreements (BLAs) with Qatar (signed in 2012, operationalized in 2014), with Saudi Arabia (signed in 2017, operationalized in 2019) for domestic workers, and with the United Kingdom (2021). The 2021 agreement with the United Kingdom also aims to increase the number of professionals from the health sector to work in the National Health Service and enhance capacity-building. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed with the United Arab Emirates in 2018 on labour cooperation. Kenya continues to negotiate BLAs/MOUs with other countries that are key markets for labour migrants from Kenya. Further, in 2020, the European Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development signed a bilateral agreement to improve opportunities for regular labour mobility.

There are established mechanisms to protect the rights of Kenyan nationals working abroad. Three labour attachés were appointed in Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, and they are charged with vetting potential employers, assisting in labour disputes, providing legal assistance on labour issues, ensuring the monitoring of the working conditions of migrant workers, and facilitating the repatriation of Kenyan workers when required.

The Money Remittance Regulations (2013) developed by the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) enhances the financial inclusion of remittance senders and receivers, including managing their fees, charges or commissions. The Kenya Diaspora Policy (2014) recognizes the importance of remittances and proposes innovative solutions to reduce their high cost. Kenya organizes annual diaspora conferences to inform diaspora members of investment and development opportunities, as well as ways to transfer back resources, remittances, investments and skills. Moreover, the Kenyan Government takes part in and hosts the African Institute for Remittances Networking and Consultative Forum. In 2021, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, in partnership with CBK, organized a National Remittances Stakeholders Network event that brought together national stakeholders who work to support remittance markets and promote financial inclusion as a key development outcome.

4.2 Areas with potential for further development

A draft National Labour Migration Policy updated in 2021 awaits approval by the Cabinet as of September 2022. The Policy seeks to establish a mechanism to promote inclusive and sustainable development through safe, orderly, and productive labour migration.

As highlighted in the 2018 MGI assessment, international students are not allowed to work during and after their studies. However, the EAC Common Market Protocol (2009) enables EAC citizens, including students, to apply for work and accept employment offers.

Kenya has not ratified the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990).



5

EFFECTIVELY ADDRESSES THE
MOBILITY DIMENSIONS OF CRISES

5.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

Kenya has institutions and mechanisms to respond to crisis situations that account for human mobility. The national institutions charged with the responsibility of disaster risk management (DRM) include the National Disaster Management Unit, the National Drought Management Authority, and the National Disaster Operations Centre. The National Disaster Risk Management Policy (2017) provides policy guidelines for disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. The existing National Emergency Response Plan and Standard Operating Procedures of 2014 provide national response mechanisms that address the displacement impacts of emergencies and disasters.

The National Defence University has developed and rolled out a Master of Arts in Crisis Response and Disaster Management, a programme that, among other areas, seeks to enhance capacity and integrate migration governance into the development agenda and DRM in Kenya.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through its diplomatic missions and honorary consuls abroad, has a strategy for providing emergency services to Kenyan citizens in the diaspora, which includes standard mechanisms for the relocation and evacuation of Kenyan nationals to safer places or their return to Kenya.

Migration issues are included in recovery strategies in Kenya. The National Treasury and Planning of Kenya prepared the post-COVID-19 Economic Recovery Strategy (2020) to mitigate the adverse socioeconomic effects of the pandemic. As of 2022, the Government of Kenya is in the process of establishing a migrant workers welfare fund. The fund's objective is to provide protection, welfare, and assistance to Kenyan migrant workers during migration, their stay in the destination country, and upon return to the home country.

5.2 Areas with potential for further development

There are no harmonized DRM legislative and institutional frameworks that can improve migration governance and address the needs of migrants before, during, and after emergencies and disasters, among other things. The finalization of the national legislation on DRM is an area with potential for further development.

The crisis communication systems in Kenya are limited and uncoordinated and do not address the needs of migrants. Nevertheless, the National Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) Policy (2019) commits to promote the use of ICT in natural disaster management for the prevention of and response to climate change and emergencies; require ICT service providers to make facilities available for emergency communication and the prediction, monitoring and early warning of disasters; and waive fees for the provision of ICT services in unserved and underserved areas and public institutions to enhance public safety, security, and emergency preparedness.

Kenya Vision 2030 (2007) does not include policy regulation or measures on the displacement of persons. The Prevention, Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons and Affected Communities Act (2012) asserts the duties and responsibilities of the Government towards internally displaced persons (IDPs) – namely the designation and facilitation of the settlement areas for IDPs; provision of basic social and health services; maintenance of public order, security and health; as well as adequate provision of the social and economic rights provided under Article 43 of the Constitution (2010). The Government of Kenya is yet to ratify the Kampala Convention (2009) to complement the Maputo Protocol (2003) and existing national frameworks to protect IDPs.

There is no government policy or strategy to promote the sustainable reintegration of migrants who fled the country during a crisis. Reintegration of returning migrants is not covered by the national development plan *Vision 2030*. The Kenya Diaspora Policy (2014), in turn, calls for the development of reintegration mechanisms (i.e. framework and negotiations for the transferability and portability of social security benefits, returnee absorption programmes, and debriefing and counselling of returnees), but there are no established programmes or policies yet.

Kenya diaspora associations across the globe support Kenyan migrants and work closely with Kenya's diplomatic missions in their operational areas during crises situations. However, there is no structured way of engagement between the Government of Kenya and diaspora associations.



6

ENSURES THAT MIGRATION TAKES PLACE IN A SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MANNER

6.1 Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

Information on immigration to Kenya is hosted on the Directorate of Immigration Services website and on all websites of Kenyan missions abroad. The eVisa programme was initially introduced in 2015, offering an online visa application platform for several types of visas. Since January 2021, an eVisa application has been mandatory for all persons wishing to visit Kenya under six visa categories: single entry visa, multiple entry visa (business, tourism or medical purposes), transit visa (for international connections not exceeding 72 hours), courtesy visa (for diplomatic, official and service passport holders coming into the country or transiting for official business or duties), East African tourist visa (for persons travelling to and within Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda for tourism), and a five-year multiple entry visa (for United States nationals entering Kenya for business or tourism).

Border Management Committees (BMCs) established at air, land and maritime borders under the Border Control and Operations Coordination Committee are in charge of the regulation of entry and exit from Kenya, border control, and security. The Joint Operations Centres – an operational arm of the BMCs – enforce border control at entry/exit points. The regional Better Migration Management Programme²² (2016–2022) implemented in Kenya, among other States, aims to strengthen national government practices on border governance management.

Immigration officers and other migration professionals are regularly trained on current migration trends and practices. Both national institutions and international organizations provide these trainings on a regular basis. Migration practitioners undertake a nine-month (three semesters) Post Graduate Diploma Programme in Migration Studies and other short-term courses provided by the Kenya Institute of Migration Studies (KIMS) since 2018. The Security Sector Programme of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development conducts various training on the topics of counter-terrorism, border security, human trafficking, migrant smuggling, etc. In July 2021, the Government of Kenya launched the Kenya Coordinated Border Management Programme at the Kenya School of Government. The Programme includes a specialized curriculum that aims to enhance the whole-of-government approach between ministries, departments, and agencies working in Kenya's points of entry/exit, including land, air and maritime borders.

In 2021, KIMS also introduced a short course on case management for victims of trafficking, targeting middle-cadre migration practitioners.

Kenya has ratified the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its two protocols: the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. The legal framework on counter-trafficking consists of the Counter-trafficking in Persons Act (2010) and the Victim Protection Act (2014). The Counter-trafficking in Persons Advisory Committee coordinates the anti-trafficking activities in Kenya. The Advisory Committee developed national referral mechanism guidelines to enhance stakeholder cooperation among all agencies. The Government established the National Assistance Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking to specifically cater to the needs of victims of trafficking.

²² Better Migration Management is a regional, multi-year, multi-partner programme co-founded by the European Union Trust Fund for Africa and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. The programme is implemented in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan and Uganda in collaboration with the African Union Commission and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

Kenya's Witness Protection Agency, established under the Witness Protection Act (2006), provides the framework and procedures for giving special protection, on behalf of the State, to persons in possession of important information and who are facing potential risk or intimidation due to their cooperation with prosecution and other law enforcement agencies. The Act allows local and international relocation of witnesses (both Kenyan nationals and foreigners). Witnesses can be relocated within or outside Kenya depending on the need. Other countries/authorities can also relocate their witnesses into Kenya for protection based on the provisions of the Witness Protection Act.

Migrant workers in Kenya are covered by national labour laws and policies. The Employment Act (2007) prohibits forced labour and regulates contractual relations between employers and employees. The Employment and Labour Relations Court is responsible for settling employment and industrial relations disputes, and migrant workers with regular status can appeal to the court to settle their employment disputes.

In 2021, Kenya and Ethiopia signed an operational procedure manual for the Moyale One Stop Border Post, aimed at boosting trade and movement between the two countries. The manual guides border officers in the implementation of integrated and coordinated border management operations to improve border crossing by making border clearance easier, faster, and cheaper without compromising regulatory requirements.

6.2 Areas with potential for further development

There is no defined policy on migrant detention. Migrants in an irregular situation can be detained and held in general police custody and immigration holding facilities, since Kenya has not yet established dedicated holding facilities and safe houses for migrants and victims of trafficking, as provided for in the Counter-trafficking in Persons Act (revised edition, 2012) and the Victim Protection Act. In practice, migrants intercepted during the smuggling process are presented to the court on the charges of unlawful presence in Kenya. Upon conviction, they are either fined or imprisoned for a term not exceeding 12 months or both.

The Witness Protection Reciprocal Regulations (2021), developed by the Witness Protection Agency, has the potential to enhance the protection of migrant witnesses.

Measures to attract Kenyans abroad are yet to be developed as of 2022. The Kenya Diaspora Policy (2014) proposes programmes to absorb returnees as well as to reintegrate them through debriefing and counselling. The existing returnee programmes and trainings are organized ad hoc by non-governmental organizations that offer reintegration support through counselling and awareness-raising.

Identified migrants in vulnerable situations are treated on a case-by-case basis as no formal policies or procedures exist. The Counter-trafficking in Persons Act provides guidance on referral and protection services for victims of trafficking. Under the Victim Protection Act, victims of crime and abuse receive support services, compensation, medical treatment, food, psychological care, etc.

There are no formal cooperation agreements in place to trace and identify missing migrants. However, Kenya is committed to the Sana'a Declaration (2013), the Khartoum Process (2014), and the Regional Committee on Mixed Migration for the Horn of Africa and Yemen, with the objective of increasing well-managed migration.



PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROTOCOLS ON THE RISKS OF THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

This annex summarizes key national COVID-19 policy responses in Kenya from a migration governance perspective. It is based on 12 questions that were added to the standard Migration Governance Indicators (MGI)¹ assessment in the country in order to effectively assess national migration governance in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Migrants in a regular situation have equal and free access to COVID-19-related health-care services. The National COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Plan (2021)² accounts for the migrant population as part of its community engagement objectives and provides for the vaccination of refugees during Phase II (July–December 2021) of the vaccine rollout.³



The Ministry of Health (MOH) provides information on COVID-19 in English, Kiswahili,⁴ and other local dialects through daily updates and reminders to observe COVID-19 protocols. The COVID-19 campaign utilized mainstream and social media to create awareness of COVID-19 protocols.

MOH introduced a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) under the COVID-19 Emergency Response Project (2021)⁵ for all workers in Kenya, including migrants, to channel complaints concerning unsafe or unhealthy work situations via email, phone calls, texts, in-person reports and official letters. Moreover, toll-free hotlines were established to contact MOH to address mental health concerns during the pandemic. Distressed persons exposed to the COVID-19 pandemic as patients, a person whose family member contracted COVID-19, or a person concerned about travel restrictions and lockdown measures could receive help under the guidelines on psychological first aid developed by MOH.⁶

¹ More information is available at www.migrationdataportal.org/overviews/mgi#0.

² Ministry of Health (MOH), National COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Plan (2021). Available at www.health.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/NATIONAL-COVID-19-VACCINE-DEPLOYMENT-PLAN-2021.pdf.

³ MOH, Frequently asked questions on COVID-19 vaccination in Kenya (2021). Available at www.health.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Frequently-asked-questions-on-COVID-19-Vaccination.pdf.

⁴ MOH, Frequently asked questions on COVID-19 vaccination in Kenya (2021) (Kiswahili). Available at www.health.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Frequently-Asked-Questions-on-Covid-19-Vaccination-MOH-Swahili-Version-Revised_06.09.2021.pdf.

⁵ MOH, Kenya COVID-19 Emergency Response Project: Security Management Plan (2021). Available at www.health.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Security-Management-Plan-SMP-KENYA-COVID-19-HEALTH-EMERGENCY-RESPONSE-PROJECT-P173820-1.pdf.

⁶ MOH, *Psychological First Aid (PFA): Guide for COVID-19 Response in Kenya* (2020). Available at www.health.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Mental-Health-GUIDE-FOR-COVID-19-RESPONSE-IN-KENYA_compressed-2.pdf.



PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROTOCOLS ON THE RISKS OF THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



Financial support mechanisms were established to reduce the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on the population, including migrants. As part of the 2019–2020 budget, the Government earmarked KSH 40 billion (0.4% of the GDP) for COVID-19-related expenditures, including the health sector, social protection, and funds for expediting payments of existing obligations to maintain the cash flow for businesses during the crisis.⁷ Tax measures included the reduction of the top pay-as-you-earn rate, the corporate income tax rate, and VAT and were applied to both Kenyan citizens and foreign residents until January 2021. The President established a fiscal stimulus package that included a 100 per cent waiver on income taxes for individuals who receive less than KSH 24,000 (the equivalent of USD 225) per month and a reduction of both income and corporate taxes by 5 per cent to cushion taxpayers.⁸



The Central Bank of Kenya lowered the cost of transaction, which allowed the growth of remittances.⁹ This and other measures such as the promotion of online and mobile-based money transfers¹⁰ enabled families to send money despite travel restrictions imposed by lockdown and COVID-19 containment measures.¹¹



In June 2021, Kenya signed an agreement with Cuba to increase the capacity of workers in the health sector by dispatching 101 Cuban doctors to Kenya.¹² This cooperation agreement builds on Cuba's efforts to support Kenya's health sector through brigades and exchange programmes even during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Kenya implemented automatic visa extensions for foreigners from September 2020 until 31 July 2021 through an online system.¹³ Persons whose visas or permits had expired were able to extend their stay by applying through the same online portal.

⁷ United Nations Development Programme, Accelerating progress in poverty eradication post COVID-19: The case of Kenya (2021). Available at www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2021/05/Dhiliwayo_Paper_-_The-Case-of-Kenya.pdf.

⁸ Republic of Kenya, Tax Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020. Available at www.parliament.go.ke/sites/default/files/2020-04/THE%20TAX%20LAWS%20%28AMENDMENT%29%20BILL%2C%202020.pdf.

⁹ Diaspora remittances increased from USD 2.796 million in 2019 to USD 3 million in 2021. Figures are from diaspora remittances in Kenya from January to August 2021 (data as of 1 October 2021). More information is available at www.centralbank.go.ke/diaspora-remittances/.

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¹¹ CBK, Kenya National Payments System Vision and Strategy 2021–2025 (2020). Available at www.centralbank.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CBK-NPS-Vision-and-Strategy.pdf.

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ANNEXES

MiGOF: Migration Governance Framework²³

In an attempt to define the concept of “well-managed migration policies”, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) devised a Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF), which was welcomed by the IOM Council in November 2015. For the purposes of the Migration Governance Framework, IOM defines governance as “the traditions and institutions by which authority on migration, mobility and nationality in a country is exercised, including the capacity of the government to effectively formulate and implement sound policies in these areas”.

The Framework sets out the essential elements of “good migration governance” – 3 principles and 3 objectives which, if respected and fulfilled, would ensure that migration is humane, safe and orderly, and that it provides benefits for migrants and societies.²⁴ IOM’s view is that a migration system promotes migration and human mobility that is humane and orderly and benefits migrants and society:

When it:

- (i) Adheres to international standards and fulfils migrants’ rights;
- (ii) Formulates policy using evidence and a “whole-of-government” approach;
- (iii) Engages with partners to address migration and related issues.

As it seeks to:

- (i) Advance the socioeconomic well-being of migrants and society;
- (ii) Effectively address the mobility dimensions of crises;
- (iii) Ensure that migration takes place in a safe, orderly and dignified manner.

The MiGOF does NOT create new standards or norms. In drafting the Framework, IOM relied on its expertise and analytical work, as well as on existing commitments, non-binding declarations and statements. It does NOT address global migration governance that is the international architecture for dealing with issues related to migration and human mobility. Instead, the focus is on the governance and management of migration from the point of view of the State as the primary actor. It does NOT propose one model for all States. The Framework presents a “high road” or ideal version of migration governance, to which States can aspire.

The MiGOF is based on the understanding that, as the primary actor in migration, mobility and nationality affairs, a State retains the sovereign right to determine who enters and stays in its territory and under what conditions, within the framework of international law. Other actors – citizens, migrants, international organizations, the private sector, unions, non-governmental organizations, community organizations, religious organizations and academia – contribute to migration governance through their interaction with States and each other.

²³ IOM Council, Migration Governance Framework, 106th Session, C/106/40 (4 November 2015). Available at <https://governingbodies.iom.int/system/files/en/council/106/C-106-40-Migration-Governance-Framework.pdf>.

²⁴ Migration Governance Framework infosheet (2016). Available at <https://publications.iom.int/books/migration-governance-framework>.

The MGI process



1

Launch of the MGI process

The first step of the process is to explain what the MGI entails to key government officials, in order to ensure full understanding of the project and complete buy-in.



2

Data collection

The second step of the process is to start the collection and analysis of data, based on about 90 indicators grounded in the 6 dimensions of the MiGOF. A migration governance profile based on the analysis of the findings is then drafted and shared with the government counterparts.



3

Interministerial consultation

The third step of the process is to convene an interministerial consultation where all relevant ministries and other stakeholders discuss the good practices and main areas that could be developed further as identified in the draft migration governance profile, as well as priorities on the way forward. It is also an opportunity for them to comment and provide suggestions on the draft profile.



4

Publication of the report on the Global Migration Data Portal

After the migration governance profiles are finalized and vetted by government counterparts, they are published on the Global Migration Data Portal²⁵ and uploaded on the IOM Publications Platform.²⁶

²⁵ You can find the profiles at <https://migrationdataportal.org/overviews/mgi#0>.

²⁶ Please see <https://publications.iom.int/>.



www.migrationdataportal.org/mgi

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