MIGRATION GOVERNANCE INDICATORS

IOM
UN MIGRATION

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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.

The MGI can be used to spark a discussion within governments, with other relevant stakeholders in the country, on their 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 The Economist Intelligence Unit 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 offers insights on policy measures that countries might want to consider as they progress towards good migration governance.

This country profile presents a summary of the well-developed areas of the migration governance structures of Belize, as well as the areas with potential for further development, as assessed by the MGI.[4]

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[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 MGI initiative is a policy-benchmarking programme led by IOM and implemented with the support of The Economist Intelligence Unit. Funding is provided by IOM's 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

WHAT IT IS NOT

Not a ranking of countries

Not assessing impacts of policies

Not prescriptive

Which supports the measurement of

10 REDUCE INEQUALITIES

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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 12

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 14

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 15

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 17

Indicators in this area assess countries' policies regarding 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 18

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 19

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.

1 ADHERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND FULFILMENT OF MIGRANTS' RIGHTS

1.1. International conventions ratified

Table 1. Signature and ratification of international conventions

Convention name	Ratification
International Labour Organization (ILO) Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97)	**Yes (1983)**
United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (also known as Geneva Convention), 1951	**Yes (1990)**
United Nations conventions on statelessness, 1954 and 1961	**Yes (2015)**
ILO Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143)	**No**
United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), 1989	**Yes (1990)**
United Nations International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW), 1990	**Yes (2001)**
United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000	**Yes (2006)**

1.2. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

Migrants, regardless of status, have access to primary health care. The National Health Insurance system focuses on providing primary health-care services. According to a publication from the United Nations Human Rights Council Working Group (2018), the Ministry of Health in Belize provides equal access to health services to all without discrimination. For example, there is no distinction between service provision for seasonal migrant workers in the Banana Belt area and service provision for permanent citizens of the community.

According to the Education and Training Act (2010), citizens and permanent residents are eligible for admission to any government or government-aided primary or secondary school without needing to pay admission fees. Other special fees may be levied with the approval of the Chief Education Officer.

Through the Social Security Act and accompanying regulations (revised version 2003), the Government of Belize provides a basic level of social and economic protection for citizens and regular migrants active in the labour force, as well as their dependants. Registered migrants with temporary employment permits can register for social security and other employment benefits that are available to them.[5] These benefits

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[5] As established in the Social Security Act, these benefits include: (a) sickness benefit: periodical payments to an insured person who is rendered temporarily incapable of work as a result of employment injury; (b) maternity benefit: payment to an insured woman of a maternity allowance in the event of her pregnancy or a grant to an insured man in respect of his wife's confinement; and (c) invalidity benefit: payment to an insured person rendered permanently incapable of work as a result of employment injury. There are other benefits that may apply in case of an accident, like death benefit and funeral grant.

are subject to the conditions established in Part III of the Social Security Act and related regulations. Also, as per the social security scheme, retired Belizean nationals residing abroad are entitled to a pension. Upon meeting the minimum amount of required contributions and reaching the age of 62, nationals may return at any time to Belize to collect their pension.

The Government of Belize signed the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Agreement on Social Security in 1996, which aims to harmonize social security legislations among CARICOM member States. It also allows workers from member States that have signed the agreement to receive, along with their dependants, social security benefits from the countries where they have worked. The agreement covers contributory pensions for invalidity, disability, old age, and death as well as survivors' benefits. However, maternity allowances and sickness benefits are not covered.

Individuals can apply to the Department of Border Management and Immigration Services for permanent residency after one year of continuous residence[6] in the country. According to the Belizean Nationality Act (2000 revision), to obtain Belizean citizenship, the applicant must possess a permanent residence certificate and have resided in Belize for at least five years. The application must be submitted to the Nationality and Passports Department. There are two other options to obtain Belizean citizenship: when a foreigner marries a Belizean, he or she can apply for citizenship after being married for a year; and a person born outside Belize can obtain citizenship if at the time of birth, the father or mother was a citizen of Belize.

Non-nationals can vote in local elections under certain conditions. According to the Elections and Boundaries Department, individuals may vote if they are at least 18 years old, have resided in the electoral division for 2 months or more, and are either a citizen of Belize or a citizen of a Commonwealth country who is domiciled in Belize or have resided in Belize for more than 12 months (Government of Belize, n.d.).

1.3. Areas with potential for further development

Belize does not have a policy or strategy to combat hate crimes, violence, xenophobia and discrimination against migrants.

In order to access the labour market, foreign nationals must meet certain criteria. Individuals must have proper visas and regular status in the country to obtain work permits. In addition, the Labour Department requires proof that the position a foreigner is taking cannot be filled by a national.[7]

There are no provisions in national laws for overseas voting. However, voters employed in a Belizean embassy, high commission, diplomatic mission or consulate, along with their spouses and dependants, are permitted to vote via proxy.

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[6]   To be eligible, one cannot be absent from the country for more than 14 days within that one-year qualifying period.
[7]   The position must be advertised locally for at least three weeks, and it needs to be demonstrated that no suitable local applicant was found (IOM, 2013).

2 FORMULATES POLICY USING EVIDENCE AND WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH

2.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Immigration[8] is responsible for enacting the immigration policy in Belize and consists of the Department of Border Management and Immigration Services, the Nationality and Passports Department, and the Refugees Department. The Immigration Act (2000) regulates the requirements for entry and stay in Belize, including temporary employment permits.

In 2017, an Inter-ministerial Steering Committee, chaired by the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Immigration, was established to develop a national migration and development policy aligned with the Government's development strategy and national vision, as well as to provide guidance on its implementation. This Inter-ministerial Committee meets regularly, and it includes representatives from: the Ministry of Labour, Local Government and Rural Development; the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture; the Ministry of Health; the Ministry of Economic Development and Petroleum; the Ministry of Human Development; and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Also present is a representative from the Office of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet Secretary.

In 2018, Belize signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with IOM, for the Organization to support the creation of the country's first national migration and development policy.

The national census includes questions on migration. *Belize Population and Housing Census 2010* (SIB, 2013) includes information specifically relating to the foreign-born population, including data disaggregated by district of residence, country of birth, age and sex, and level of formal education completed.

2.2. Areas with potential for further development

The Government of Belize collects and publishes data on migration on a regular basis, but such data is not consistently used to develop national programmes and policies. Moreover, the data that is published is related to the tourism sector, and there is a lack of published data regarding migrant workers. The migration data collected during the 2010 census has not been analysed yet.

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[8] At the time of finalization of this report in October 2020, the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Immigration consists of three departments: Department of Border Management and Immigration Services, Nationality and Passports Department, and Refugees Department. The Department of Immigration and Nationality Services no longer exists.

3 ENGAGES WITH PARTNERS TO ADDRESS MIGRATION AND RELATED ISSUES

3.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

Belize is a member State of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), a group of 20 countries aiming to foster economic integration, foreign policy coordination, human and social development, and security between members States. As such, Belize signed the Treaty of Chaguaramas, which was revised in 2002 to allow for the eventual setting up of a single market and economy. The free movement of skills/labour in CARICOM allows nationals of member States to seek employment in any participating CARICOM country without having to obtain work and residence permits.

During the period 2014–2017, a labour market information system (LMIS) was established for the proper management of the free movement of skills within the 14 member States of CARICOM. In September 2017, LMIS.Stat was launched, comprising 1 regional and 14 national sites. This platform serves as a tool for the entry, storage and dissemination of CARICOM LMIS data. The regional site is public, while the national sites can be used by CARICOM member States to upload data – namely, 34 labour market indicators, which include the International Labour Organization's (ILO) key indicators of the labour market (KILM) and cover other areas such as economic activity, social security and migration.

Belize is part of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM), established in 1996 to encourage discourse on migration-related issues in Central and Northern America and in the Dominican Republic. One of the priorities of the RCM's 2009 Plan of Action is "to strengthen cooperation to combat migrant smuggling and trafficking".

The Government of Belize signed a memorandum of understanding with El Salvador in 2017 for technical cooperation in the area of security.[9] Within that framework, bilateral technical subgroups have been devised, including one subgroup on migration co-chaired by the Department of Border Management and Immigration Services of Belize and the General Directorate of Migration and Immigration of El Salvador.

Belize formally engages with members of its diaspora through the Belizean Diaspora Program, implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The programme seeks to "engage the Belizean Diaspora by documenting skills, resources and the return interest and plans of those willing to support the development of Belize". Its overall objective is to support the economic development of the country. The Government of Belize plans to use the information gathered through the programme to support policymaking.

The Government of Belize engages the private sector in migration-related conversations through the Executive Council of the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which represents more than 300 businesses in Belize. The committee engages in national discussions with the Government of Belize on multiple issues, including migration. The Refugee Eligibility Committee (re-established in 2016) is chaired by the Refugees Department, and its members include government representatives, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the National Trade Union Congress of Belize, the Belize Council of Churches and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

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[9] A technical cooperation meeting on security focusing on migration, intelligence sharing, and international security and terrorism was held in October 2017 following the signing of the memorandum of understanding.

3.2. Areas with potential for further development

The Government of Belize engages indirectly with civil society organizations (CSOs) through its election process for senators. According to the Sixth Amendment made to the Constitution of Belize in 2008, 1 of the 13 senators "shall be appointed by the Governor-General, acting in accordance with the advice of non-governmental organisations", including those dealing with migration issues.

The Government involves CSOs in discussions around refugees on an ad hoc basis. For instance, the Refugees Department engages with CSOs through monthly meetings of the Refugee Eligibility Committee.

In 2014, Belize and Guatemala signed an agreement on a Programme for Seasonal Workers, allowing "Belizean and Guatemalan workers in the territory of either party [to] enjoy the rights recognized under the international instruments to which both countries are Parties" (Government of Belize, 2014). However, this programme is yet to be implemented.

4 ADVANCES THE SOCIOECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF MIGRANTS AND SOCIETY

4.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

The country has measures in place to promote gender equality in the labour force, and these also apply to migrants. Under the Equal Pay Act (2011), the Government of Belize works towards ensuring that there is no disparity of wages based on gender.

International students who are nationals of Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member States that are party to the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas are allowed to take up employment in the country upon completion of their studies, in accordance with Article 46 of the revised treaty.[10] Guatemalan students are allowed to attend schools in Belize as private students from preschool to the second year of college. This process was formalized in December 2014 when both Governments signed an agreement. Since 2017, the Department of Border Management and Immigration Services has put in place student crossing cards as well as student permits to better regulate the daily flow of students across the border.[11]

4.2. Areas with potential for further development

There is limited data available for monitoring the labour market demand and supply for immigrants. Nonetheless, the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB) conducts a labour force survey twice a year (April and September). The last available results on its website (April 2018) include data disaggregated by ethnicity, sex, age, district, level of education, industry and country of birth of the labour force.

Belize committed to participate in the Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ) Framework of CARICOM, which includes 15 countries in the Caribbean, and has taken steps to become a certified country. CVQs are awarded to candidates who can demonstrate that they meet a certain level of occupational standard. Designed by practitioners, industry experts and employers, the scheme allows for easy movement within the CARICOM region. The Ministry of Education in each CARICOM member State is responsible for setting its curriculum in line with the approved standards and for supporting schools to deliver said curriculum. However, this scheme has not been widely implemented.

There are no defined programmes for managing labour immigration, nor are there different types of visas to attract specific labour skills. Belize's Immigration Act (Chapter 156) states that people can enter the country only with one of the following permits: an in-transit permit, a dependant's permit, a temporary employment permit, a student's permit, a special permit or a visitor's permit.

The Government of Belize does not promote the creation of formal remittance schemes. Nevertheless, the National Payment System Act (2017) regulates the operation of remittance service providers.

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[10] They must first apply for a skills certificate in their country of origin or in Belize, which is then validated in Belize and stamped on their passport.

[11] About 300 to 400 students cross the border twice a day, daily. This was previously unregulated as these students were enrolled in Belizean schools as private students and were crossing as daily visitors to attend school.

5 EFFECTIVELY ADDRESSES THE MOBILITY DIMENSIONS OF CRISES

5.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

The National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) coordinates disaster risk management in the country. The Belize National Hazard Management Plan (2003) aims to address the major natural and technological hazards that affect Belize, by providing "direction and coordination at national level, for [the] evacuation of communities in Belize by emergency management officials". It establishes early warning and alert systems and a mechanism for organizing evacuations and the safe transport of displaced populations. The plan also provides national arrangements for the return of displaced populations to their homes once the threat has subsided.

There are communication systems in place led by the National Emergency Coordinator (NEC) and the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC). The Belize National Hazard Management Plan outlines that in events requiring national-level coordination, the NEOC is activated. The NEOC then works with district and special emergency committees to alert the population and inform them about evacuation plans if needed. While the early warning and alert systems do not explicitly take into consideration specific vulnerabilities of migrants, there is a guideline for disaster and recovery on NEMO's website with "considerations for different cultures", referring to the many cultures in Belize and the differences that should be considered when dealing with disaster in an inclusive way – for instance, the language.

The voluntary, online system for the registration of Belizeans overseas captures information on nationals living abroad, such as their age, marital status, level of education and occupation. This initiative of the Government of Belize aims to determine the number of Belizeans living overseas and to foster a closer relationship with them. However, its implementation has been limited, due to technological difficulties.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also launched a voter registration drive in 2010, as part of the Belizean Diaspora Program, to expand the Belizean Diaspora Medical Brigade and the Belizean Diaspora Law Enforcement and Defense Brigade.

5.2. Areas with potential for further development

Belize's main regulations on disaster risk reduction are the Disaster Preparedness and Response Act (2000), the National Hazard Mitigation Policy (2004) and the National Hazard Mitigation Plan (2007).

Horizon 2030, the national development framework for Belize, which contains the main issues, goals, objectives and strategies that will guide institutional behaviour, does not include measures regarding the displacement or reintegration of returning migrants. Moreover, the National Recovery Plan is yet to be developed by the National Recovery Committee as of September 2020, as stated in the Belize National Hazard Management Plan.

Belize has no provisions to make exceptions to immigration procedures for migrants whose country of origin is experiencing crisis. The Refugees Act (2000) prohibits access to asylum-seeking procedures for immigrants who do not seek asylum within the first 14 days after entering Belize. Persons who attempt to apply for asylum after 14 days are referred to the Department of Border Management and Immigration Services.

There are no specific legal provisions for the sustainable reintegration of migrants who have fled the country during a crisis. However, if migrants have proof of legal ownership of their assets, they may claim their property when they return to Belize.

6

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

6.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

The Border Management Agency, established by the Border Management Agency Act (2011), is tasked with integrated border control and security. The key functions of the agency include administering, controlling, and managing prescribed border points; coordinating emergency services at these border points; and providing border security. The Government uses the Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS), developed by IOM, to manage its borders more efficiently – through real-time reporting on the 1.5 million border crossings per year in Belize. MIDAS automatically checks all recorded entry and exit data at border posts. It also allows the collection of biometric data and more accurately captures information such as issuance of visas and registration of residence permits at all border entry points. In addition, it is capable of carrying out live searches against the International Criminal Police Organization's (INTERPOL) Fixed Network Database (FIND) through a direct connection.

The Government of Belize has established the Diaspora Returnee Incentive Program to attract members of the Belizean diaspora who are thinking of returning, for them to have funds to invest in the country. Diaspora members who qualify for the programme are entitled to various benefits, including the advantage of bringing with them personal effects free of all import duties and taxes, with a value of up to USD 20,000. The programme also targets Belizeans "who have a [recurring] monthly pension or income from a guaranteed source, which they would be depositing and spending in the local economy".

The Anti-Trafficking in Persons (A-TIP) Committee, elevated to a council in 2013, coordinates governmental efforts to combat human trafficking. The Council has since been active in various ways – conducting a legislative review of the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Act in the same year, organizing awareness-raising campaigns, as well as initiating the operation of a hotline to report suspected cases of exploitation and human trafficking. As part of the Government's efforts to formalize the committee, the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Act raised the committee's status to that of council, allowing it to hold quarterly meetings and have a permanent coordinator.

Since 2018, in partnership with IOM, Galen University has provided trainings for, among others, the Customs and Excise Department, the Ministry of Immigration, the Police Department and non-governmental organizations involved in migration issues. It aims to provide in-depth understanding of the needs of vulnerable migrant populations, such as women, children, indigenous people and LGBTIs. Furthermore, since 2019, the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports, and Culture and Galen University, in collaboration with IOM, have implemented a series of five courses on migration, leading to a diploma in migration management best practices.

6.2. Areas with potential for further development

In May of 2017, the National Assembly of Belize approved legislation on the Advance Passenger Information System (APIS) for pre-security screenings of all travellers, including citizens, migrants and visitors. The APIS will also have an enhanced connection to INTERPOL screening systems to enable the identification of persons of interest under various categories through the border management system. APIS files will be imported directly into the MIDAS, and all names on the manifests will be automatically scanned.

An immigrant can be detained on multiple grounds in Belize, including if they are deemed to be an unauthorized or "prohibited" immigrant or if they have been issued an expulsion order, an order of banishment or a deportation order. According to the Immigration Act, immigration officers can

request a court order for the removal of a "prohibited" immigrant from the country, or their detention until removal is possible. Belize does not have a dedicated migrant detention facility. Non-citizens detained based on their migratory status are held in the Belize Central Prison, the country's sole prison, which falls under the authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

There is no formal government programme or dedicated policy that focuses on facilitating migrant reintegration in Belize. The Diaspora Returnee Incentive Program targets Belizeans with funds to invest either in housing or business and does not provide reintegration support for returning migrants.

The country does not have systems in place to identify missing migrants within the national territory.

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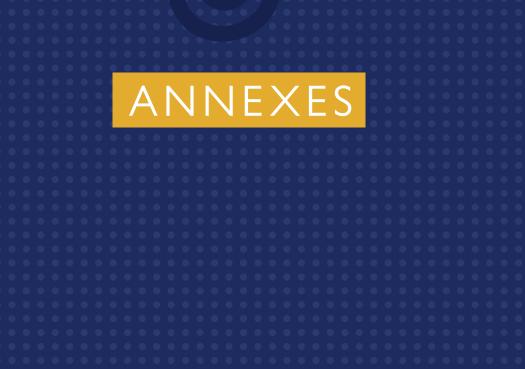
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ANNEXES

MiGOF: Migration Governance Framework[12]

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.[13] 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.

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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 identified and main areas that could be developed 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 Portal[14] and uploaded on the IOM Online Bookstore.[15]

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[14] You can find the profiles at https://migrationdataportal.org/overviews/mgi#0.
[15] Please see https://publications.iom.int/.

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