

City of Bo | PROFILE 2022

MIGRATION GOVERNANCE INDICATORS LOCAL



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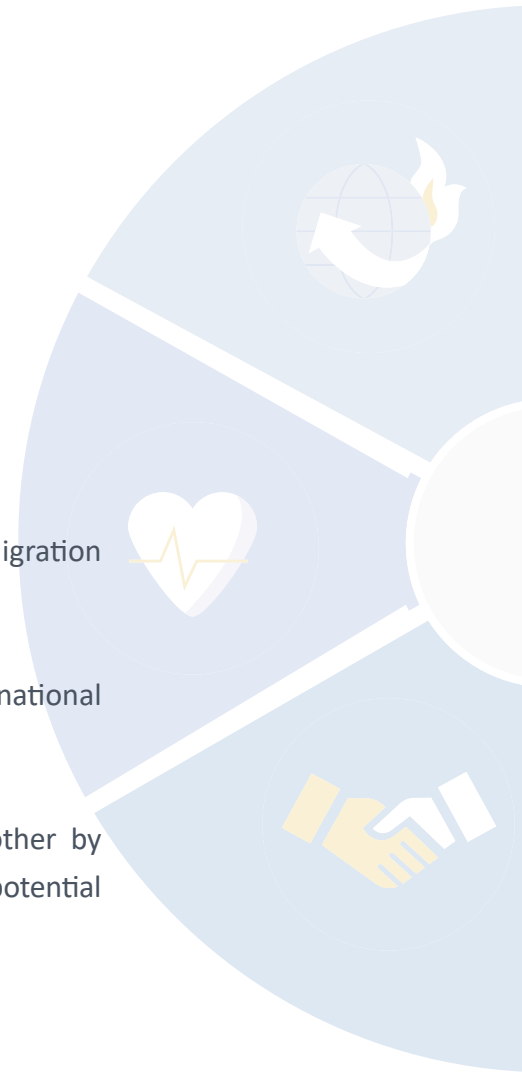
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MIGRATION
GOVERNANCE
INDICATORS
LOCAL

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OBJECTIVES

- 1 Help local authorities take stock of the migration initiatives they have in place.
- 2 Foster dialogue on migration between national governments and local authorities.
- 3 Enable local authorities to learn from one another by sharing common challenges and identifying potential solutions.



“Rapid urbanization continues to transform the demographic landscape of many countries around the world. Cities are already home to the majority of international migrants, driven by opportunity as well as necessity, and local authorities are becoming leaders in finding creative solutions for rapid social change, supporting communities through innovation.”¹

¹ António Vitorino, IOM Director General, Report to the 109th session of the IOM Council (November 2018). Available at www.iom.int/speeches-and-talks/director-general-report-109th-session-council.

INTRODUCTION

The Migration Governance Indicators

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. That same year, IOM in collaboration with Economist Impact developed the Migration Governance Indicators (MGI), a set of 90 indicators that help States assess the comprehensiveness of their migration governance structures.

The indicators constitute a starting point to engage governments in a consultative process that allows them to identify areas that are well-developed and others that would benefit from further development, and most importantly priorities that are in line with the specific challenges and opportunities a given country is facing.

The MGI is characterized by three main fundamental attributes:

1. The MGI is a **voluntary** exercise: The MGI is conducted in countries that have requested to be part of the process.
2. The MGI is **sensitive to national** specificities: The MGI recognizes the different challenges and opportunities of each context, and therefore, does not propose a one-size-fits-all solution, but rather spark a discussion on what well-governed migration can mean.
3. The MGI is not a static tool, it is a **process**: The MGI is not a static tool to collect data on countries' migration frameworks. It is rather the first step of a dynamic process that can enable governments to identify areas of their migration policy in need of further development, or that could benefit from capacity-building.

Migration Governance Indicators: From national to local

The role of cities and municipalities in migration governance² has grown significantly in recent decades, given the rapid pace of urbanization and the importance of cities as destinations for all forms of migration and displacement. Researchers, policymakers and international development agencies have all highlighted the crucial role of cities and municipalities in both accommodating migrants and formulating sustainable responses to migration-related matters.

With this in mind, in 2016, United Nations member States adopted the New Urban Agenda at the Habitat III Conference in Quito (Ecuador). This was the first time that a United Nations framework fully integrated migration into the strategic planning and management of cities and urban systems. Its adoption was a significant recognition of the role of local governments not only in the management of migration at the local level but also in realizing the urban dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This includes, but is not limited to, Sustainable Development Goal 11, which has been designed to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

In an effort to support the discussion between levels of governments on migration governance, IOM has adapted the MGI³ to the local level. The Local MGI seeks to offer a more comprehensive picture of a country's migration governance landscape by juxtaposing a local dimension to MGI national assessments. Like its national equivalent, the Local MGI⁴ is based on a set of approximately 80 indicators helping local authorities take stock of local migration strategies or initiatives in place and identify good practices as well as areas with potential for further development. The aim of the exercise is to foster dialogue

² Migration governance refers to the system of institutions, legal frameworks, mechanisms and practices aimed at regulating migration and protecting migrants. It is used almost synonymously with the term "migration management", although migration management is also sometimes used to refer to the narrow act of regulating cross-border movement at the State level.

³ The Migration Governance Indicators were developed in 2015 by IOM in collaboration with Economist Impact. More information is available at <https://migrationdataportal.org/snapshots/mgi#0>.

⁴ More information is available at <https://migrationdataportal.org/local-mgi>.

on migration between national governments and local authorities and enable local authorities to learn from one another by discussing common challenges and identifying potential solutions.

While the Local MGI retains the attributes of the National MGI, it is also anchored in the notion that cities and local authorities have different capacities, competencies and added value when it comes to governing migration. Therefore, the methodology has been adapted to reflect that the degree of fiscal and political autonomy of participating cities influences the kind of migration governance they can practically and legally engage in. Furthermore, new indicators of the level of autonomy and capacities have been added to give some context to the results of the assessment.

Given the differences outlined between the MGI at the national and local levels, the purpose of the Local MGI is not to provide a baseline, but rather to be a tool for government authorities to have an introspective look at the measures they have in place to manage migration, as well as to share their experiences. Furthermore, it recognizes that good practices can take different forms depending on the division of competencies between local and national authorities. Therefore, the Local MGI analysis should not be interpreted as an invitation to change the division of competencies, but rather be understood as a tool to spark a discussion on what cities can do on migration within the scope of their mandate. A comprehensive picture of migration governance can be captured only by looking at different levels of government.

In 2021, four MGI assessments were carried out simultaneously in Sierra Leone at the local level for the cities of Bo, Freetown, Kenema and Makeni.

This report is the result of the implementation of the Local MGI in the city of Bo (Sierra Leone). This profile summarizes key examples of well-developed areas as well as areas with potential for further development of the local migration governance.



CONTEXT

Migration trends

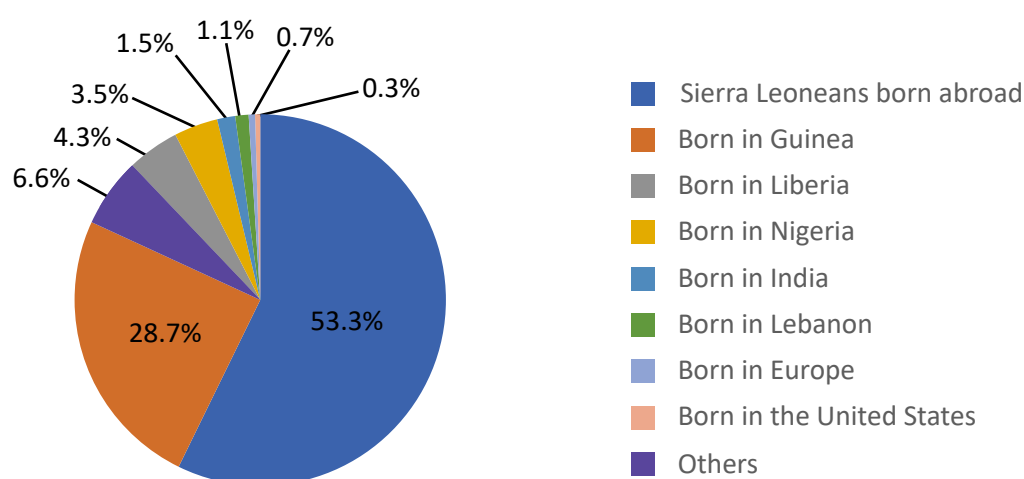
There is limited data on migration at the national and local levels in Sierra Leone. The *Sierra Leone 2015 Population and Housing Census: Thematic Report on Migration and Urbanization* (Statistics Sierra Leone, 2017a) shows that Bo District was 1 of only 4 districts (out of a total of 14 at the time) with positive net lifetime migration,⁵ along with Kenema and the two districts in the Western Area (Western Area Rural and Western Area Urban).

National-level data compiled by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs for Sierra Leone estimate an international migrant stock in midyear 2020 of 53,700, representing 0.7 per cent of the total population. The total number of emigrants was 152,500, and Sierra Leone had a net migration of -21,000 in total in the five years prior to 2019.⁶ Sierra Leone's National Migration Policy (2020) estimates the number of Sierra Leoneans in the diaspora to be 336,000.⁷ The main destinations for Sierra Leonean emigrants are the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, Australia, other European countries such as Germany and the Netherlands, and neighbouring African countries such as Guinea, Liberia, Senegal and Nigeria.

According to the 2017 Migration Profile for Sierra Leone, the main specified reasons for emigration include family reunification (37.5%), education (6.3%) and remunerated activities (2.5%) (European Commission, 2019). It is estimated that at the national level, 8,000–10,000 young people in Sierra Leone embark on irregular migration annually, of which 25 per cent are victims of human trafficking.⁸

According to the 2015 *Sierra Leone Census Thematic Report on Migration and Urbanization*, over half of lifetime immigrants in Sierra Leone were Sierra Leoneans born abroad, who at the time of the census had returned home, while over a quarter were born in Guinea.⁹ About 8 per cent of the foreign-born population of Sierra Leone were living in Bo District at the time of the 2015 census.

Figure 1. Nationalities of lifetime immigrants in Sierra Leone, 2015



Source: Statistics Sierra Leone, 2017a.

⁵ Where immigration is greater than emigration.

⁶ More information is available at https://migrationdataportal.org/data?i=stock_abs_&t=2019&cm49=694.

⁷ The National Migration Policy has not been published as of September 2021.

⁸ More information is available at <https://sierraleone.un.org/en/106033-statement-rcmr-babatunde-ahonsi-review-implementation-global-compact-safe-orderly-and>.

⁹ A lifetime immigrant is defined as someone who was enumerated in Sierra Leone but was not born in the country.

Sierra Leone's administrative structure

Sierra Leone is a constitutional parliamentary Republic with three levels of government: national government, local councils and chiefdom councils. Decentralization was reintroduced with the Local Government Act (2004)¹⁰ and revised with the National Decentralization Policy (2010). There are no constitutional provisions for local governments; hence, the Constitution (1991) and the Local Government Act provide the main legal framework for local councils.

There are 22 local councils in the country, made up of 7 municipal councils in urban areas and 15 district councils in predominantly rural areas. Bo is the capital and largest city of Bo District, located in the Southern Province of Sierra Leone. The city is divided into 17 wards for electoral purposes, and a councillor represents each ward. Bo Town Council was re-established under the Local Government Act and became a city council in 2017.¹¹

¹⁰ Sierra Leone's local government structures were removed in the 1970s and reinstated by the Local Government Act in March 2004.

¹¹ Sierra Leone's local government structures were removed in the 1970s and reinstated by the Local Government Act in March 2004.

Competencies of the city

<p>Level of decentralization of local authorities</p>	<p>The Local Government Act mandated 80 functions to be devolved to local councils. To date, 71 of these have been devolved. Services that are operated locally include primary and secondary health care, primary and junior–secondary education, environmental health, agriculture extension services, rural water supply, waste management and community development.</p> <p>Local councils develop strategic plans and budgets in accordance with national development plans and sectoral policies. National-level ministries, departments and agencies are responsible for sectoral policy matters. They provide technical guidance and monitor the performance of relevant functions devolved to the local councils. The sectoral ministries (for the devolved services such as health, education, agriculture and social welfare) are decentralized at the district level with a department under the local council headed by a sectoral district officer, and they develop their own sector plans in accordance with national sectoral policies for approval by the local councils.</p>
<p>The competencies of cities in relation to migration</p>	<p>Migration policy is drafted at the national level, and local authorities rely on national agencies for guidance and funding for its implementation. Local authorities do not have dedicated staff for migration issues.</p> <p>Migration issues – such as border management; the issuance of visas, passports and work permits; refugee services; and investigative aspects of irregular migration – are handled by the central Government. Local councils do not perform functions directly relating to international migration but are responsible for service delivery affecting and affected by internal migration patterns. For example, local councils provide education, housing and city planning that affect both national and migrant populations.</p>
<p>Local financing mechanisms and the restrictions on their use</p>	<p>Local councils and their operations are financed by their own revenue collections and transfers from both central Government and line ministries. Sierra Leone’s Local Government Act allows local councils to raise revenues from local taxes; property rentals; licenses; fees and charges; and mining revenues, interest and dividends. It also provides for three types of transfer from the national Government: administrative grants, grants for decentralized services, and local government development grants. The grants from the national Government that are transferred to local councils for local service delivery are earmarked for delivery of services in all sectors devolved to local councils. The transfer amounts are calculated using a standard formula for service delivery plus an estimate of administrative costs. Local councils prepare their budgets, which must receive approval from Parliament before transfers are made. The 2021 National Budget projects that the city of Bo will generate SLL¹² 5,351,460,000 (approximately USD 521,735) as own-source revenue.</p>

¹² SLL is the abbreviation for Sierra’s local currency – the Sierra Leonean leone. The currency symbol is Le.

Local participation in the formulation of migration policy

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security led efforts to develop the National Migration Policy and the Sierra Leone National Labour Migration Policy (2018), respectively. The National Migration Policy has been validated by stakeholders and tabled in Cabinet for adoption, and the National Labour Migration Policy is in the process of being implemented as of November 2021. Local councils and district councils were involved in the development of the National Labour Migration Policy through consultations, meetings and workshops, but they were not involved in the formulation of the National Migration Policy. Both policies state that they were developed through extensive consultations with a range of stakeholders but do not mention specifically the involvement of local councils. The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development was recently included in the Technical Working Committee of the National Migration Policy, and by extension so too were the country's local and district councils, including the Bo District Council.



KEY FINDINGS

The Local MGI is composed of around 80 indicators grouped under the 6 different dimensions of migration governance that draw upon the MiGOF categories:



MIGRANTS' RIGHTS
PAGE 17

Indicators in this category look at the extent to which migrants have access to certain social services such as health, education and social security. They also examine measures to ensure integration and access to work.



WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT
APPROACH
PAGE 19

Indicators in this category assess the institutional frameworks of cities, municipalities or states for migration. This area also examines the existence of migration strategies consistent with development objectives, as well as institutional transparency and coherence in migration management.



PARTNERSHIPS
PAGE 20

Indicators in this category focus on cities, municipalities or states' efforts to cooperate on migration issues with the national government as well as other cities and relevant non-governmental actors, including civil society organizations and the private sector.



WELL-BEING
OF MIGRANTS
PAGE 21

Indicators in this category assess cities, municipalities or states' initiatives in terms of international student mobility, access to the labour market and decent working conditions for migrant workers. Aspects related to diaspora engagement and migrant remittances are also included in this domain.



MOBILITY DIMENSION
OF CRISES
PAGE 22

Indicators in this category examine the type and level of readiness of cities, municipalities or states to deal with aspects of mobility crises. The questions focus on the processes in place for citizens and non-citizens both during and after disasters, especially if humanitarian assistance is available for migrants and citizens.



SAFE, ORDERLY AND
REGULAR MIGRATION
PAGE 23

Indicators in this category look at the cities, municipalities or states' approaches to migrant safety as well as return and reintegration policies and the fight against trafficking in persons.



ADHERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND FULFILMENT OF MIGRANTS' RIGHTS

1.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

Migrants can access social services, including health care, on the same level as nationals regardless of status, even though the Bo City Council (BCC) does not have specific mechanisms in place to support migrants' access to these services. The Local Government Act (2004) mandates local councils, including BCC, to deliver primary and secondary health-care services to their respective communities. BCC has a health committee chaired by an elected councillor, of which the district medical officer is also a member. This committee is primarily responsible for reviewing, approving and supervising the health-related plan for the city. The plan is prepared by the Bo District Health Management Team.

Furthermore, according to the Bo City Council Development Plan (2021–2023), BCC is responsible for services such as education and road maintenance. With support from the Government and partners, these services are provided and can be accessed by everyone including migrants. In total, the Local Government Act listed 80 functions to be devolved to local councils, including BCC, such as waste management and water supply management.

There are non-governmental organizations (NGOs) providing migrant-specific services in Sierra Leone, including in the city of Bo, and most focus on the survivors of human trafficking. These include World Hope International (WHI), the Advocacy Network Against Irregular Migration (ANAIM) and Don Bosco Fambul. WHI and Don Bosco Fambul operate shelters for survivors of trafficking and sexual and gender-based violence, offering immediate medical assistance and psychosocial counselling in addition to food and accommodation. ANAIM supports returning migrants with irregular status in the country of destination (mostly nationals) by referring them to such services and identifying job placements. BCC plays a role in supervising activities devolved by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs, such as those related to trafficking in persons. The Ministry works closely with these NGOs in providing services to victims of trafficking and returning irregular migrants.

1.2. Areas with potential for further development

While BCC does not have specific measures to ensure that migrants can access primary and secondary public education, migrants, regardless of status, can enrol in all public education institutions if they pay tuition fees. According to the Local Government Act, management of district education schools, funding of primary to mid-secondary schools approved and assisted by the Government, and school supervision functions are devolved to local councils. The operation of schools and the implementation of other education-related activities in the city of Bo are managed by the District Education Office under the supervision of BCC.

There are no measures in place to integrate migrants in the public education system at either primary or secondary level in the city of Bo. The Bo City Council Development Plan does not include any migrant integration activities within its education priorities.

There is no mechanism established by BCC to provide migrants with legal advice and services. However, a referral mechanism is in place at the national level to ensure legal advice for survivors of trafficking. Additionally, Sierra Leone's Legal Aid Act (2012) aims to "provide accessible, affordable, credible and sustainable legal aid services to indigent persons", and eligibility is based only on income levels.

There are no specific measures at the local level aimed at combating discriminatory practices towards migrants in the provision of social services. Local authorities in Bo have not conducted any information or awareness-raising campaigns aimed at fighting xenophobia and exclusion. However, the National

Migration Policy (2020), developed by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, proposes to “develop an action plan to prevent and detect the exploitation, abuse and discrimination of national and migrant workers”.

BCC does not offer specific information or orientation programmes for newly arrived immigrants. The Bo City Council Development Plan does not include any migration-related activities. Such information is offered through the Sierra Leone Immigration Department’s offices, which are supervised by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the central Government. The Immigration Department is decentralized, with offices in various cities, including Bo.¹³

There are no specific measures in Bo to assist those who wish to emigrate, but there are some measures at the national level. For example, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security helps Sierra Leoneans wishing to emigrate for employment abroad, and it is responsible for registering and monitoring international job seekers.

Migrants are not allowed to vote in elections at any level in Sierra Leone, as stipulated by the Public Elections Act (2012).

There are no specific measures or procedures at the local level in the city of Bo aimed at ensuring the protection of migrant children, unaccompanied minors and children left behind. At the national level, the Refugees Protection Act (2007) specifies procedures to ensure the protection of unaccompanied minors in refugee situations and child victims of trafficking. These procedures and processes are managed by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs.

¹³ However, most of the services requested at various locations in the country are provided only through referrals to the Immigration Department’s headquarters in Freetown.



2

FORMULATES POLICY USING EVIDENCE AND WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH

2.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

There are efforts to ensure vertical policy coherence on migration-related issues in the city of Bo. The Bo City Council (BCC) participated in regional meetings held as part of the consultative process during the drafting of the National Labour Migration Policy (2018) and the National Migration Policy (2020).

2.2. Areas with potential for further development

There is no agency or department in the city of Bo responsible for designing migration policies and strategic plans. BCC has a three-year strategic plan, the Bo City Council Development Plan (2021–2023), which was developed in consultation with ward development committees and community-based organizations. The Plan responds to local needs and the city's development priorities and strategies, but it does not include migration-related issues. Migration policies are developed at the national level.

There is no dedicated coordination mechanism for migration issues at the local level in the city of Bo. However, when migration issues such as child trafficking and surges in population movements due to natural disasters become a security concern, they are discussed at the Provincial Security Committee (PROSEC) meetings, also held in the city of Bo. Generally, the PROSEC meetings comprise representatives from the Sierra Leone Police, civil society organizations, the local city council and the paramount chief.¹⁴ They meet monthly and are primarily responsible for security coordination and conflict resolution at the regional level.

The city of Bo does not have a website or migrants' office to streamline orientation services for immigrants, providing information regarding migrants' rights, obligations and access to public services. However, local authorities in Bo regularly provide information on services offered on their billboards, as mandated by the Local Government Act (2004). Additionally, BCC has a social media page providing basic information about local services, mainly in English, although there is no migrant-specific information. At the national level, the provision of orientation services for immigrants is the responsibility of the Sierra Leone Immigration Department. The Immigration Department is the first point of contact for migrants, and from there, they can be referred to the other relevant agencies, such as the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MLSS) for work permits, or the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs for social protection issues.

There is no department in the city of Bo tasked with coordinating efforts to engage with diaspora groups. Issues related to diaspora engagement are not mentioned in the Bo City Council Development Plan. However, some diaspora groups based in the city of Bo have organized themselves nationwide, such as the Lebanese, Nigerian, Chinese and Guinean communities. Their focus is primarily on the welfare of their members, and they engage with ministries at the national level on an ad hoc basis.

City-level public servants in Bo do not receive training on cultural sensitivity, gender or human rights. At the national level, the Immigration Department and the MLSS have regional offices in the city of Bo that are responsible for immigration-related activities, and staff members of these departments have received training on cultural sensitivity on an ad hoc basis.

BCC does not collect or publish migration-related data. At the national level, migration data (namely on migrants' entries and exits, residential permits issued, and naturalization) are collected by the Immigration Department, and data on migrant workers (particularly on the issuance and renewal of work visas and permits) are collected by the MLSS. The National Labour Migration Policy and the National Migration Policy aim to improve data collection at the national level, but relevant measures are yet to be implemented as of November 2021.

¹⁴ Paramount chiefs are leaders of chiefdoms, which are units of administration in Sierra Leone.



3

ENGAGES WITH PARTNERS TO ADDRESS MIGRATION AND RELATED ISSUES

3.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

The Bo City Council (BCC), in collaboration with the Bo District Council, supervises the implementation of some activities of the National Task Force on Human Trafficking chaired by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs.

3.2. Areas with potential for further development

BCC does not engage civil society organizations, migrant associations, the private sector, members of the diaspora, or academia in agenda-setting and implementation of migration-related policies and programmes. Migration is not among the functions devolved to local councils. Therefore, agenda-setting on migration-related issues is carried out at the national level.

BCC is not part of any international network on migration-related issues or bilateral programmes for city-to-city international cooperation on migration-related issues.

BCC cooperates on an ad hoc basis with IOM or other United Nations agencies on migration issues. The Council, for example, supports awareness-raising activities for the topic of irregular migration with IOM's Migrants as Messengers project.¹⁵ However, such issues are handled mostly at the national level.

¹⁵ The Migrants as Messengers project – a peer-to-peer awareness-raising campaign platform through which migrant returnees across West Africa share their testimonies with their friends, family and wider communities on social media – is in its second phase (2019–2022).



4

ADVANCES THE SOCIOECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF MIGRANTS AND SOCIETY

4.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

The Bo City Council Development Plan (2021–2023) is gender-responsive, and measures to promote gender equality at the local level apply to migrants. In addition to implementing the policy that provides free health-care services to pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers and children under 5, among others, the Development Plan also highlights some of the gender-sensitive activities that were implemented in 2019 and 2020. These include, among others, large-scale awareness-raising of the country's three Gender Acts, encouraging the functioning of a well-established family support unit within the city, and promoting the construction and functioning of a safe home for gender-based violence victims in Bo.

4.2. Areas with potential for further development

The Bo City Council (BCC) does not monitor the local labour market demand for immigrants nor the local labour supply and the effects of emigration.

BCC does not implement specific programmes to promote and facilitate the inclusion of migrant workers in the workforce or to help hire migrants, including in the public sector at the local level. At the national level, migrants are granted work permits only when no Sierra Leoneans are available for recruitment. The Sierra Leone Local Content Policy (2012) stipulates that at least 20 per cent of an organization's managerial positions and 50 per cent of intermediate positions must be held by Sierra Leonean citizens.

There are no programmes at the local level to support foreign residents in entrepreneurship in the city of Bo. However, ad hoc training interventions for vulnerable groups have been organized with the support of civil society organizations, whereby foreign residents also benefit from these interventions, such as those on skills development.

There are no measures in place in the city of Bo to encourage international students to work locally after graduation. International students wishing to stay in Sierra Leone to work must follow the general procedures for applying for a work permit and meet the criteria set out by the General Law (Business Start-up) (Amendment) Act (2007).

There are no programmes put in place by BCC to reduce or monitor the costs of sending and receiving remittances. At the national level, the Ministry of Finance oversees remittance-related issues, and the Office of Diaspora Affairs under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation is responsible for promoting the formal banking system with respect to remittances. One objective of the National Migration Policy (2020) is the removal of barriers to sending remittances, such as the high fees associated with transmission; however, action plans for the implementation of the Policy are yet to be developed as of November 2021.



5

EFFECTIVELY ADDRESSES THE MOBILITY DIMENSIONS OF CRISES

5.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

During emergencies, a communication protocol is deployed at the national level. During the Ebola outbreak and the COVID-19 pandemic, a dedicated telephone hotline was established for the public to report suspected cases. Each report is escalated to the relevant authorities for necessary action to be taken. A coordinating structure that reports to national authorities is also set up at the local level. In the case of the COVID-19 response, the local coordinating structure, the District COVID-19 Emergency Response Centre, has several pillars (communication/social mobilization, case management, surveillance, psychosocial support, etc.) to support the response effort for all residents, including migrants. It has representatives from local authorities – including the Bo City Council (BCC), development partners, non-governmental organizations and security forces.

The communication protocols in place take into consideration the specific vulnerabilities of migrants. All the information is provided in English and local languages. Information about the specific crisis is typically shared through radio programmes, which are produced in various local languages, often spoken by migrants residing in the communities. For example, the communication pillar of the National COVID-19 Emergency Response Centre (NaCOVERC) developed the national campaign “Corona Fet Na We All Fet” (“The fight against Corona is everyone’s fight”) in the main local language, Krio, with radio slogans developed in several other local languages.

5.2. Areas with potential for further development

There is no strategy currently in place at the local level for emergency management that accounts for human mobility and the specific needs of migrants and displaced persons in the city of Bo. Bo District has its own District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC), comprising representatives from the Office of the President’s National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) and the Office of National Security, civil society organizations, the Sierra Leone Police, BCC, and the paramount chief, among others. While the NDMA has the mandate to categorize and rank disaster levels, the DDMC manages the response to local-level disasters. If the emergency is large-scale, it is classified as a national disaster, and the NDMA leads the response. Regardless of the scale of the disaster, the DDMC plays a key role in early warning through its communication system, acting as a first responder, supporting the NDMA in victim and beneficiary registration, and coordinating relief efforts at the local level.

BCC does not have coordination agreements, partnerships or referral systems in place with key actors to assist migrants during local emergencies; nor does it have a contingency plan in place to manage large-scale population movements in times of crisis. Large-scale emergencies are managed at the national level by the NDMA under the Office of National Security.

BCC does not have a disaster risk reduction strategy with specific provisions for preventing and addressing the displacement impacts of disasters, such as provisions for refugees and internally displaced persons. Through an Act of Parliament in 2020, the NDMA was established with the primary objective of managing disasters and similar emergencies throughout Sierra Leone and developing the capacity of communities to respond effectively to disasters and emergencies.

There is no emergency response strategy in place at the local level that is gender responsive. The Bo City Council Development Plan (2021–2023) does not address emergency response. Similarly, there are no mechanisms in place at the local level aimed at protecting migrant children or unaccompanied minors during crises in the city of Bo. At both the local and national levels, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs is responsible for social protection issues during crises for all persons, irrespective of nationality, as well as for the reunification of children and their families or caregivers.



6

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

6.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

All national police personnel, including those posted in the city of Bo, receive training on migration-related issues – namely on human trafficking – at the Sierra Leone Police Training School, which is under the command of the Sierra Leone Police.

Even if there are no specific mechanisms in place at the local or national level to ensure that migrants have access to justice and public safety, Sierra Leone's Legal Aid Act (2012) does not distinguish between citizens and migrants in its criteria and procedures for determining eligibility for legal aid. Legal issues relating to migrants residing in the city of Bo have been addressed by the Legal Aid Board in its Bo city office.

6.2. Areas with potential for further development

There are no programmes at the local level to train public servants in the city of Bo on migration rules, but labour officers and social workers employed by the central Government to work at the local level receive ad hoc training on labour migration and trafficking through national ministries.

There is no programme at the local level that focuses on facilitating migrants' reintegration in the city of Bo. At the national level, the National Migration Policy (2020) includes a chapter on the "Return and reintegration of Sierra Leonean emigrants", which has specific strategies to improve the national infrastructure for attracting skilled emigrants and promoting reintegration.

The Bo City Council (BCC) has not taken steps to facilitate the arrival of refugee populations under its jurisdiction. Local councils in Sierra Leone do not have any formally delegated authority regarding refugee matters. Sierra Leone's Refugees Protection Act (2007) does not specify the role of local councils in the provision of services for refugees arriving in their locality. The national revised Contingency Plan for Possible Population Movement (2020) notes that refugees are to be referred to the National Commission for Social Action.

BCC does not have a local strategy to combat human trafficking. However, the National Task Force on Human Trafficking – established by Sierra Leone's Anti-Human Trafficking Act (2005) and co-chaired by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs and the Ministry of Justice – undertakes awareness-raising campaigns on the issue. The Task Force, bringing together relevant ministries, departments and agencies – with support from IOM – has been decentralized to 14 districts,¹⁶ in order to enable a more direct response to incidents and provide support services to victims. Additionally, both the National Migration Policy and the National Labour Migration Policy (2018) contain sections with aims to improve the central Government's response to migrants' vulnerability to trafficking.

¹⁶ The city of Bo is part of the Bo District Task Force.

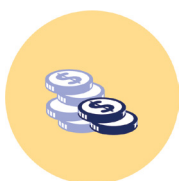


PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROTOCOLS ON THE RISKS OF THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

This annex summarizes key local COVID-19 policy responses in the city of Bo from a migration governance perspective. It is based on 11 questions that were added to the standard Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) assessment in Bo in order to effectively assess local migration governance in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.



With the support of development partners, the Government of Sierra Leone is providing free COVID-19-related health services – such as contact tracing, testing and treatment – to everyone regardless of nationality or migratory status, with no specific measures at the local level to facilitate migrants' access to such services. Sierra Leone's COVID-19 response is directed by the National COVID-19 Emergency Response Centre (NaCOVERC), located in Freetown and which has been decentralized to the districts – including Bo District – where District COVID-19 Emergency Response Centres have been established.¹



The Bo City Council does not offer fiscal and social security measures in the context of COVID-19 that are available to migrants who reside in the city. However, at the national level, some fiscal and social security support has been provided to everyone irrespective of nationality. For example, during the lockdowns in Sierra Leone, food was distributed by the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) to disadvantaged and vulnerable groups residing in the city of Bo, irrespective of their nationality. With support from the World Bank, NaCSA is working with local councils, including BCC, to implement unconditional cash transfers targeting disadvantaged people whose living conditions have been worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic, irrespective of migratory status.



The COVID-19 response team in Bo District has provided relief items, such as food, water, and sanitizers, and in some cases, accommodation for quarantined persons, irrespective of their migratory status.

¹ World Health Organization, Updates on COVID-19 Sierra Leone. Available at <https://who.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/e5d453431c2143639d2ea3ef585e20a6>.



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



Information related to COVID-19 is written and shared in English and some local languages, which most migrants understand. However, there are no channels or mechanisms through which migrants can share their needs during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.



There are no measures in place at the local level to support or facilitate the reintegration of nationals and residents returning to the city of Bo in the context of COVID-19. However, IOM assists in the repatriation of nationals who have been victims of smuggling or trafficking, and those who have been stranded abroad during the COVID-19 pandemic, from multiple countries, including Senegal, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire and the Niger. IOM also provides a reintegration package consisting of food, psychosocial counselling and livelihood assistance – implemented with support from the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa.^{2,3}

² International Organization for Migration (IOM), Stranded Sierra Leoneans return amid COVID-19 pandemic, part of 2,800 returns along humanitarian corridors in West, Central Africa. 14 August 2020. Available at www.iom.int/news/stranded-sierra-leoneans-return-amid-covid-19-pandemic-part-2800-returns-along-humanitarian-corridors-west-central-africa.

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MIGRATION
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LOCAL



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ANNEXES

MiGOF: Migration Governance Framework¹⁷

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.¹⁸ 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 Local MGI process

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



2 Data collection

The second step of the process is to start the collection and analysis of data based on adapted indicators from the MGI. A draft local migration governance profile based on analysis of the findings is then shared with the government counterparts.



3 Multi-stakeholder discussions on the results of the MGI

The third step of the process is to convene a consultation where local and national government officials and other stakeholders discuss the good practices and main gaps identified in the draft local migration governance profile. It is also an opportunity for them to comment on and provide suggestions to the draft profile.

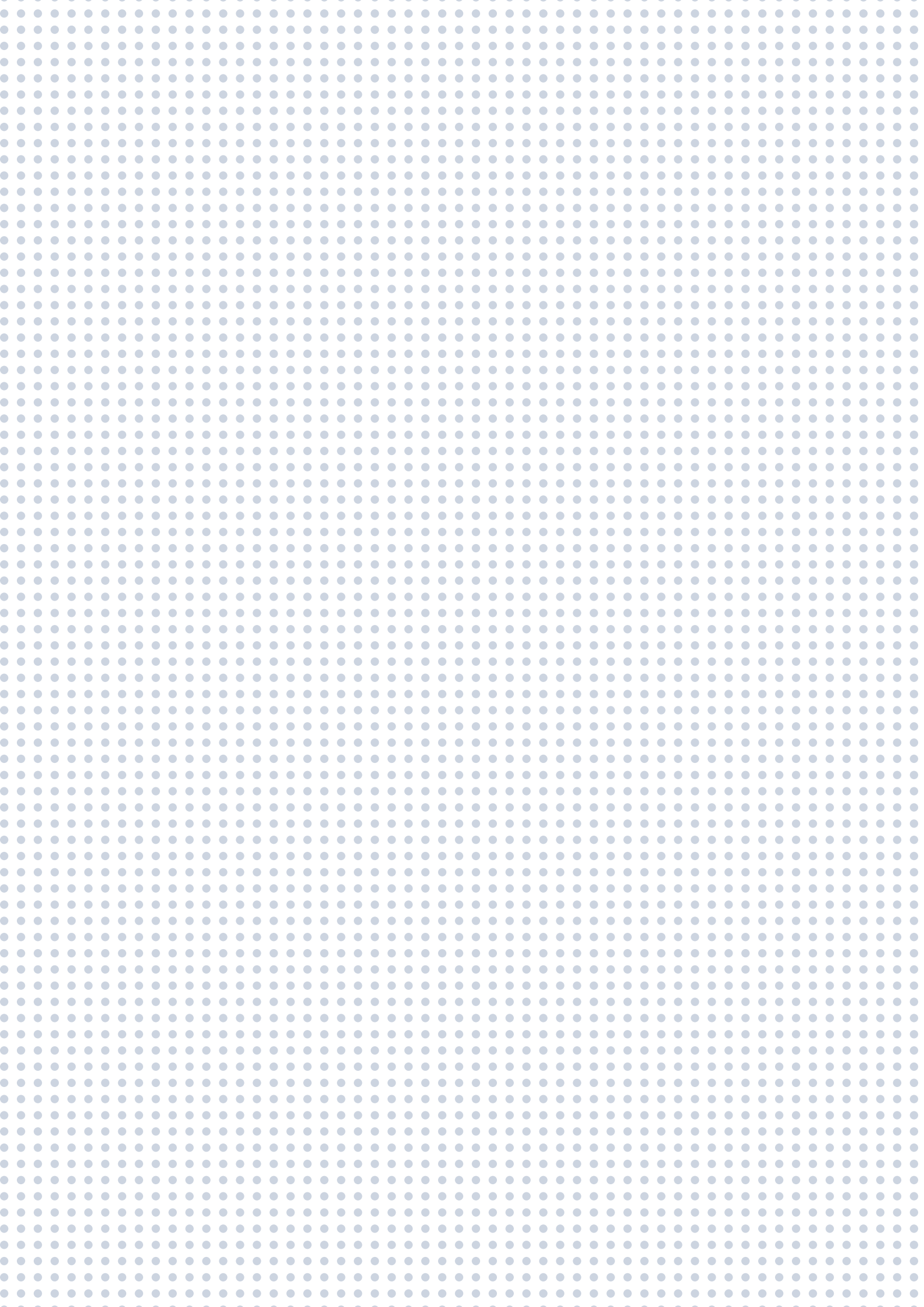


4 Final report

The last step is to finalize the local migration governance profile, obtain final validation from the local authorities, and publish a printed version of the report as well as an online version on the Global Migration Data Portal¹⁹ and upload it on the IOM Publications Platform.²⁰

¹⁹ You can find the profiles at <https://www.migrationdataportal.org/overviews>.

²⁰ Please see <https://publications.iom.int/>.





www.migrationdataportal.org/mgi

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