Focus on: Migration Profiles - A flexible tool for developing evidence-based migration and development policies

Over the past decade, migration has become an increasingly debated and relevant area of policymaking for many governments worldwide. There is a growing consensus to integrate migration into national development plans and an urgent need for a better evidence base to promote informed and sustainable migration and development policies.

In recent years, Migration Profiles (MPs) have emerged as an evidence-based approach to policymaking and as a useful data collection and capacity-building tool to promote policy coherence on migration and development. The usefulness of MPs has been stressed by different governments (to date, more than 70 Migration Profiles have been prepared), highlighted in various Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) discussions (such as the three GFMD thematic workshops on MPs in 2011), and explored by thematic Working Groups of the Global Migration Group (GMG) and the GFMD.

Originally proposed by the European Commission (EC) in its Communication on Migration and Development in 2005 [COM (2005) 390], MPs have evolved significantly in terms of format, content and objectives. At the same time, international organizations and governments continue to adopt different approaches when developing and implementing MP exercises.

Recognizing that there is a lack of common understanding on what a Migration Profile is, an absence of comprehensive guidance on how to develop and implement MPs, and increasing interest by governments in MPs as policymaking tools, the Migration Research Division of IOM decided to develop a concise and user-friendly guidance tool – Migration Profiles: Making the Most of the Process – based on IOM’s extensive...
experience in developing and implementing MPs in collaboration with governments in different world regions.

The guidance tool is composed of two parts: Part I, *A Practical Guide*, offers succinct and operational guidelines on how to initiate, implement and follow up an MP process in a particular national or regional context. It explains how international partners can provide technical guidance and support to governments in relation to the purpose(s), possible components and complementary capacity-building activities, the appropriate template, necessary financial and human resources, and follow-up initiatives to an MP exercise.

Part II, *A Framework for Developing a Template*, is an extended and revised version of the template(s) used by IOM in past MP exercises and consistent with the MP core indicators currently developed by the GMG. This flexible template aims to provide a “menu” of possible thematic areas which might be included in a migration country report depending on the needs and priorities of the country concerned. In addition to thematic “core modules” and “non-core”/country-specific modules, the new template provides a set of indicators to be used when analysing the respective thematic issue, indications of where data can be found for each of the suggested indicators, and clear definitions of the main concepts used in the template as a reference when collecting and analysing the data. This new template also includes additional aspects not consistently covered in previous MP exercises (e.g. internal migration, environmental migration and migration health).

Drawing upon lessons learned from past experiences, *Migration Profiles: Making the Most of the Process* will promote discussion on the approaches to MPs, encourage a common understanding of the MP concept, highlight good practices and common challenges, and provide urgently needed guidance on how to develop MPs, which can feed into more evidence-based migration and development policies.

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**IOM research highlights**

**World Migration Report (WMR)**

*World Migration Report 2011: Communicating Effectively about Migration* focuses on public perceptions of migrants and migration. It considers how public perceptions and attitudes shape public opinion and, in turn, influence policies, as well as the role the media play in both influencing and communicating these opinions. Stressing the fundamental importance of how migrants are perceived in their home and host societies, *World Migration Report 2011* highlights the need to shift the migration discourse towards a more balanced and depoliticized debate. It also offers examples of good practice and ways in which to promote a positive image of migrants, requiring strong political will as part of comprehensive long-term migration strategies.

The report also includes a review of migration trends and major policy issues in 2010/2011. In celebration of IOM’s sixtieth anniversary, a special section of the report is dedicated to a historical look at the work of the Organization, in terms of its policy and its operations since the end of the Cold War. A 10-year statistical overview of IOM’s programmes completes the picture.

The report is available for download at: [http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=37&products_id=752&zenid=23544897330fa4578a043f8aadb49c9d](http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=37&products_id=752&zenid=23544897330fa4578a043f8aadb49c9d)

**Migration Profiles**

*Guide to Enhancing Migration Data in West and Central Africa* This guide aims to improve the quality of the Migration Profile statistical report and to promote the sustainability of the whole Migration Profile process, which is key to transforming Migration Profiles into an effective information tool for policymaking. It is designed to assist countries in West and Central Africa in implementing United Nations recommendations for the 2010 round of population censuses and also considers the possible future use of administrative data sources.

Part I presents the basic concepts and definitions related to the measurement of international migration; Part II discusses the different types of data sources used in measuring international migration stocks and flows in West and Central Africa; and Part III provides a set of recommendations aimed at improving the current data collection process, with a view to generating reliable and comparable data that can be used to support effective policy development.

For more information, please also see: [http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=1&products_id=748](http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=1&products_id=748)
Further research reports:

*Migration, Employment and Labour Market Integration Policies in the European Union* is a two-volume study published by the IOM Independent Network of Labour Migration and Integration Experts (LINET). This study is based on a 10-year detailed analysis of migration trends in EU Member States, plus Croatia, Norway, and Turkey. *Part I: Migration and the Labour Markets in the European Union (2000–2009)* mainly focuses on the labour market impacts of migration, the labour market outcomes for migrants and national migrant integration policies, while *Part II: Labour Market Integration Policies in the European Union (2000–2009)* focuses on the enforcement of national labour market integration policies in the region. This study considers primarily third-country nationals and compares their outcomes with those of native workers and EU citizens who moved for employment within the framework of intra-EU mobility.

This publication can be downloaded from: [http://www.labourmigration.eu](http://www.labourmigration.eu)

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The Other Migrants Preparing for Change: Environmental Changes and Migration in the Republic of Mauritius* is a study conducted by IOM in the Republic of Mauritius in 2010 from the viewpoint of human mobility related to environmental change. This report points out the vulnerability of households affected by environmental change and discusses how to overcome this issue. It concludes by offering recommendations to improve knowledge, mainstream environmental change into national migration-related policies and frameworks, and encourage regional cooperation, among others.

This publication can be downloaded from: [http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=41_7&products_id=695](http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=41_7&products_id=695)

*Enhancing Migration Data Collection, Processing and Sharing in the Republic of Armenia* assesses the possibility of producing reliable and comprehensive statistics for the Government of Armenia, so that it can use this data to formulate effective policies for migration management. The key finding of the assessment is that most migration-related data is already collected in the Republic of Armenia, and this data is consolidated in an electronic database. The current report points out concrete measures which can be implemented in the short-term to support current efforts to enhance migration data and statistics.

Forthcoming studies:

**Crisis in the MENA region**

*Migration Implications of the Libyan Crisis* will focus on the Arab Spring movements in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya, discussing the wider repercussions of these movements on migration. Set in this broader context, Libya will be of particular concern, as it had a large number of third-country nationals living within its borders, with many fleeing and requiring evacuation, return and reintegration assistance as the violence escalated through to the present time. The international community’s role in responding to such events will be examined and future policy challenges considered.

**Reflection on Migration and Development**

A Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) publication entitled *Reflections on Migration and Development*, published by Springer Publishing Company, will come out in early 2012 with contributions from IOM and the Government of Mexico. This publication will highlight current migration issues related to migration and development with chapters addressing particular themes authored by experts in their respective areas. These include: irregular migration; reducing migration costs and maximizing human development; social protection for temporary migrant workers; migration, gender and family; and climate change, migration and development. A symposium jointly held by the GFMD and the Swiss Chair of the GFMD on 23–24 August 2011 allowed the authors to present the key outcomes of their chapters for comment and feedback prior to finalization and publication in 2012.

Research cooperation

**Global Migration Group (GMG)**

A practitioner’s symposium of the GMG was held on 17–18 May 2011 with the overarching theme “Migration and Youth: Harnessing Opportunities for Development” and hosted by UNICEF. One of the symposium’s round-table discussions chaired by IOM focused on designing medium- and long-term research agendas focused on young migrants affected by environmental change. This round table acknowledged the lack of research on environmental migration and in particular the impact on the youth.


**Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)**

In December 2010, Switzerland took over GFMD chairmanship from the Government of Mexico. Under the 2011 flagship theme “Taking Action on Migration and Development – Coherence, Capacity and Cooperation”, 14 thematic meetings were organized globally throughout 2011. The GFMD 2011 Concluding Debate took place on 1 December 2011, and over 700 representatives from 162 United Nations Member States, 37 GFMD observers, and various civil society groups participated. In 2012, the Government of Mauritius will chair the GFMD.

For more information on GFMD, please visit: [http://www.gfmd.org](http://www.gfmd.org)
The Sixteenth International Metropolis Conference: Migration Futures: Perspectives on Global Changes was held on 12–16 September in Ponta Delgada, Azores Islands. As the first Metropolis Conference held in a sending country, it was able to focus on issues that are unique to sending countries. One of the most recent research endeavours of the Centre was a study conducted in Goyang City, which surveyed residents’ attitudes towards migrants. This publication also made policy recommendations for city officials on how to attract more international migration to the city.

IOM-MRTC also publishes news on migration from around the world, informing readers about important developments in the field. IOM-MRTC is currently conducting a research project which aims to support the Government of Korea in its preparations for its Second Five-year National Basic Plan on Immigration Policy. This research will examine the process of creating similar plans in other countries.

For more information on IOM-MRTC, please visit: www.iom-mrtc.org

Central European Forum for Migration and Population Research (CEFMR)

CEFMR recently completed the project Demographic and Migratory Flows Affecting European Regions and Cities (DEMIFER), funded by the European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion (ESPON). DEMIFER examined the impact of demographic trends and migration flows on the size and structure of the population and labour force of European regions and cities, as well as the implications for economic and social cohesion and competitiveness. A book summarizing the project’s results will be published by Ashgate Publishing next year.

Other projects implemented by CEFMR include a study funded by the Foundation for Migration, Population and Environment (BMU) on Migration and Futures of Ethnic Groups in the Russian Federation, which focused on predicting the future size and distribution of Russia’s ethnic groups. Another project, Territorial Scenarios and Visions for Europe – ET2050, funded by ESPON, focuses on a coherent vision for the sustainable development of regions in Europe. CEFMR will be conducting regional population simulations for areas of the European Union (EU) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) as part of the project.

For more information on the CEFMR, please refer to: http://www.cefmr.pan.pl/

Recent research events

The Regional Conference on Policy Responses to Climate-Induced Migration in Asia and the Pacific was held on 15–16 September in Manila, hosted by the Asian Development Bank and IOM. A special workshop for researchers was also held before the conference on 14 September. The regional conference promoted greater awareness of the complex phenomenon of migration with regard to environmental degradation and climate change in the region, and highlighted possible policy responses that could be developed and implemented.

For more information, please visit the Conference website: http://beta.adb.org/news/events/regional-conference-policy-responses-climate-induced-migration-asia-and-pacific

Durban: Climate Change Negotiations and Migration

IOM contributed to the 2011 Conference of the Parties (COP17) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Durban, South Africa. The Director General and the IOM delegation emphasized the challenges and solutions related to human mobility in the context of climate change impacts. IOM contributed to two inter-agency papers “Implementing the Cancun Adaptation Framework: Vulnerability, changing populations and human mobility” and the “Social Dimensions of Climate Change”, as well as to the UNEP led Report on “Livelihood Security: Climate Change, Migration and Conflict in the Sahel”.

All are available on line: www.iom.int/climateandmigration

This newsletter was produced by the Migration Research Division (MRD), based at IOM Headquarters in Geneva. MRD implements its own research projects and supports IOM field offices in developing and conducting policy-oriented and operational research in order to guide and inform migration policy and practice. The division is also responsible for developing and coordinating the organization’s overall research and publishing policy and for managing the specialized migration library.

For further information on MRD please consult: http://www.iom.int/jahia/jahia/policy-research/migration-research/lang/en

For information on IOM publications, please refer to the online bookstore: http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/index.php?main_page=index&language=en