

IMPROVING DATA ON MIGRATION: The SDGS and GCM

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Outline

- Renewed calls for better data on migration in the NY Declaration.
- How to respond ? What priorities for action ?
- How to build on SDGs ?
- Presentation of IOM GCM position paper – 5 key recommendations

Important references to data in the NY Declaration

The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants calls upon States to ensure that migration data are:

*Disaggregated by **sex and age** and include information on **regular and irregular flows**,
the economic impacts of migration and refugee movements, human trafficking,
the needs of refugees, migrants and host communities.*

Reminder of Data Challenges

- 2009 - Lack of “detailed, comparable disaggregated data on migrant stocks and flows, is greatest obstacle to the formulation of evidence-based policies”, “Migrants Count”, CGD.
- 2017 Sutherland Report – “the global community is still struggling to establish the basic facts, such as who migrants are, where they are, where they come from, and where they have moved to”.
- Migration data not fully shared, analysed and disseminated.
- Censuses – less than half of countries do not collect data on when migrant arrived.

SDGs and Migration Indicators

- UN Stats – there are a total of 30 migration-relevant indicators, including **5 that directly concern migration**.
- Important global, universal agenda, **to improve data**.
- **Few** SDG migration indicators thus far ranked as Tier 1
 - an indicator is conceptually **clear**, there is an **established methodology**, and **data are regularly produced**.
- Migration indicators also **not well-defined** – Sutherland report eg. of “well-managed migration policies”.

5 IOM Recommendations:



1. Encourage countries to develop a national “Migration Data Plan”.



2. Invest in capacity-building



3. Facilitate data dialogue between States



4. Exploit further non-traditional data sources



5. Monitor data progress more systematically

1. National Migration Data Plans

- Make better use of existing data.
 - Migration is a cross-cutting issue. Much data may exist but is not fully shared within and between ministries/stakeholders.
- Hold national consultations to develop plans to identify gaps, needs, priorities.
 - May not be relevant or practical to gather data on all SDG migration indicators
- Consider producing national migration and development report.

2.a. Invest in Data Capacity-Building



Systematically assess needs.



Align with efforts to improve data on development indicators



Build capacity to analyse census and administrative data and conduct specialized surveys



Invest funds in a global programme to support data capacity-building, training, guidelines etc.

2.b. West Africa - Capacity-Building

- IOM GMDAC developed regional migration data guidelines for ECOWAS region
- Training workshop in Togo for ECOWAS, SDGs and migration.
- Enhance capacities of states to collect, analyze, manage and share migration data.
- Facilitate the production of reliable, consistent, and comparable statistical data.

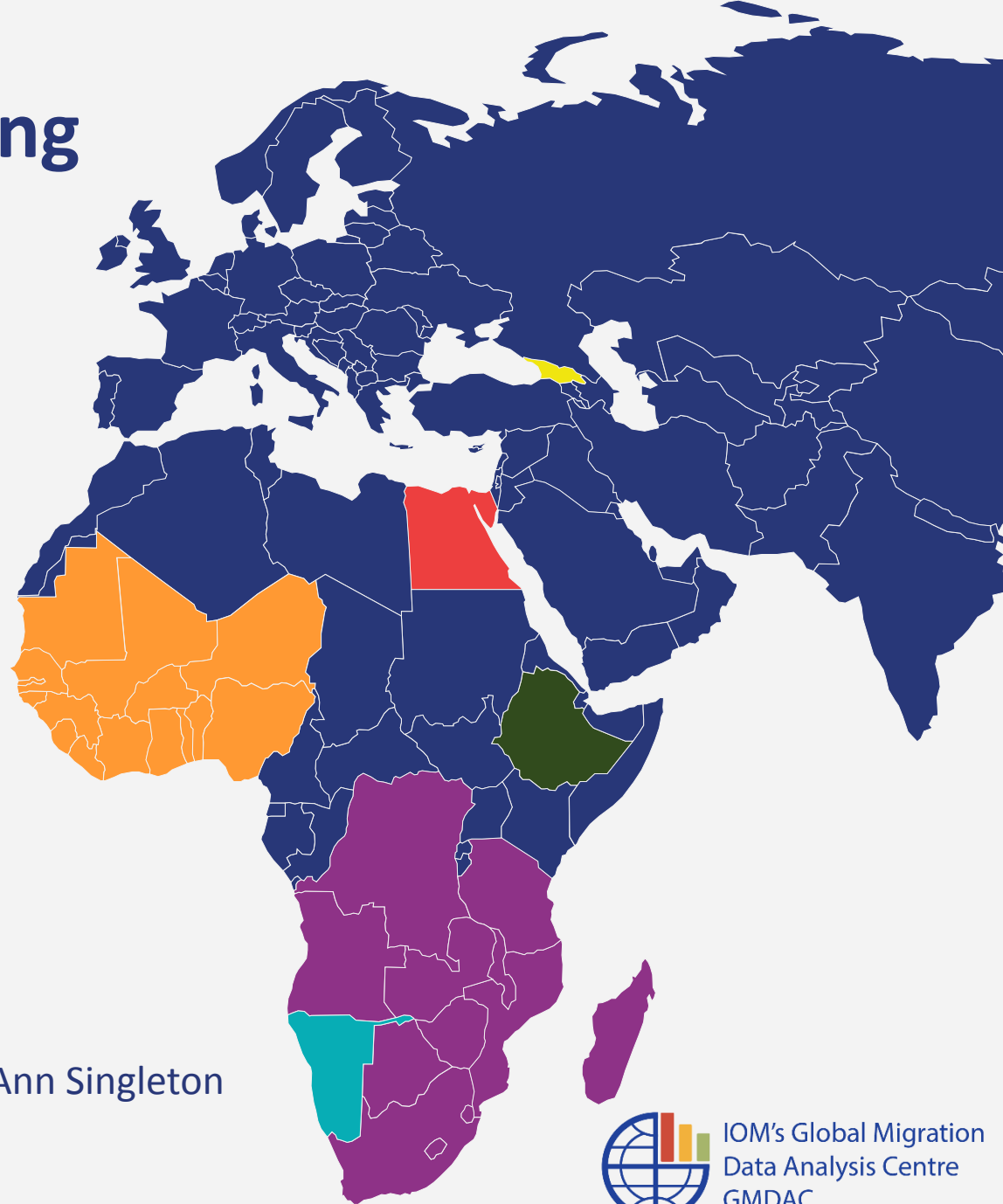
Currently implemented in:

- ECOWAS & Mauritania

GMDAC Video Series:

Migration data in West Africa: How to improve? with Ann Singleton

<https://vimeo.com/223255325>



3.a. Data Dialogue

Conference “Improving Data on International Migration: Towards Agenda 2030 and the Global Compact on Migration ”

Berlin, 2-3 December 2016

- Participants: leading international experts on **migration and development data**, together with representatives from governments, civil society and the private sector from around the world
- Focused on practical steps to **address data gaps, build data capacities and highlight innovative practices globally**
- And **how to strengthen the collection, sharing and analysis of data on international migration**
- **10 point action plan** discussed



3.b. Data Dialogue: International Forum on Migration Statistics, January 2018



Expected outcomes:

1. To bring together all producers, analysts and users of migration statistics in a community of interest **centered around migration measurement issues**
2. Mobilise expertise from a wide range of disciplines that can contribute to **improve global understanding of the migration phenomenon.**
3. A unique opportunity for policy-makers to get in direct contact with migration experts and to **use their research and findings to feed policy evaluations** and identify best policy options in a wide range of priority policy areas

4.b. Big data and migration

Opportunities

- Wide coverage, real-time data
- Lower costs (?)
- Potential to understand:
 - Drivers of migration
 - Migration potential/forecasting
 - Attitudes towards migration
 - Migrants' perceptions
 - Mobility patterns
 - Spending/remittances patterns
- **SDG monitoring** (with other sources)

Challenges

- Privacy and ethical issues
- Civil liberty/security concerns (surveillance?)
- Regulatory/legislative frameworks
- Technical and analytical issues
- Data sharing: new infrastructure/security systems
- Sample bias
- Widening of the “digital divide”
- Mobility, not migration?
- Political/economic barriers

5.a. Monitoring progress:

- Produce an annual report to monitor and share migration data innovations and progress
 - help to raise awareness of data challenges and achievements



5.b. SDGs' and the Global Migration Data Portal:

IOM Data Analysis Centre launching new global migration data portal.

- Facilitate sharing of innovative data practices
- Highlight and present data relevant to understanding SDG migration indicators
- Include data on effects on migrants, and those most likely to be in a vulnerable situation or „left behind“.
- Country profiles, capacity-building tools and guidelines

Concluding Remarks

- The GCM could complement the SDG framework by:
- Promoting more regular monitoring of migration indicators.
- Clarifying language to make it easier to measure progress.
- Encourage countries to develop migration data plans, in line with the overall global framework.
- Develop a dedicated capacity-building programme to support the monitoring of key indicators.

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