IMPROVING DATA ON MIGRATION:
The SDGS and GCM

Frank Laczko,
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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
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.

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

Align with efforts to improve data on development indicators.

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

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<tr>
<th>Opportunities</th>
<th>Challenges</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Wide coverage, real-time data</td>
<td>- Privacy and ethical issues</td>
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<td>- Lower costs (?)</td>
<td>- Civil liberty/security concerns (surveillance?)</td>
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<td>- Potential to understand:</td>
<td>- Regulatory/legislative frameworks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drivers of migration</td>
<td>- Technical and analytical issues</td>
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<td>Migration potential/forecasting</td>
<td>- Data sharing: new infrastructure/security systems</td>
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<td>Attitudes towards migration</td>
<td>- Sample bias</td>
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<td>Migrants’ perceptions</td>
<td>- Widening of the “digital divide”</td>
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<td>Mobility patterns</td>
<td>- Mobility, not migration?</td>
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<td>Spending/remittances patterns</td>
<td>- Political/economic barriers</td>
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<td><strong>SDG monitoring</strong> (with other sources)**</td>
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**IOM’s Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC)**
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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