FACTORING MIGRATION INTO THE DEVELOPMENT DATA REVOLUTION

Frank Laczko
Head of the IOM Data Analysis Centre, Berlin, and Co-Chair GMG Data and Research Working Group.

IOM International Dialogue on Migration, February 29th, New York.
INTERNATIONAL CALLS FOR BETTER MIGRATION DATA

• The Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development:

  Emphasized “the need for reliable statistical data on international migration, ...and noted “migration data could facilitate the design of evidence-based policy and decision-making in all relevant aspects of sustainable development”.

• No agreement on a global action plan. How to make progress? What should be the priorities?
PAUCITY OF MIGRATION DATA LONG RECOGNIZED

• The 2009 “Migrants Count” report highlighted a lack of detailed, comparable, disaggregated data on migrant stocks and flows.
• Censuses main source of migration data but sometimes infrequent.
• Data not timely or fully analysed.
• UN 2013 – “number of countries that could provide statistics on international migration flows remains extremely low”.
GLOBAL MIGRATION POLICY DATA

• Many attempts to create migration policy indexes at national or regional level.
• But usually limited to one point in time, and one dimension of migration policy, and not global.
• Most countries do not prepare an annual migration policy report, which could form the basis of a global report.
SINCE 2009 NEW CONTEXT

• New data sources - growing recognition of the importance of “Big Data”.
• Calls for a “development data revolution”.
• Migration now included in several parts of the SDG framework.

• “Ultimately, the better the data available in the development field, the higher the quality of people’s lives in poor countries”. (Bill Gates, 2013).

• Whole groups of people are not being counted
• Growing inequalities in access to data
• Existing data remain unused
• Volume of data increasing exponentially

- Role to promote better analysis and communication of migration data to promote a more informed policy discussion.

- Promote sharing and analysis of IOM data, and assist States to develop their capacities to collect and analyse migration data.
DATA BRIEFS

Migration of children to Europe

In this data brief, IOM and UNICEF examine recent trends in the migration of children to Europe.

Since the beginning of this year, more than one in five of the 670,000 refugees and migrants who have crossed the Mediterranean Sea to Europe is a child. Children are among the most at risk of refugees and migrants. For some children, the difficulties begin with problems before crossings and rough seas. All are at risk of being exposed to dangers, injury, violence, exploitation and trafficking – violations of their rights and threats to their lives and wellbeing – while some tragically never arrive at their destination. Children represent more than 30 per cent of all recorded deaths in the Mediterranean year. Another serious concern is the growing number of children who travel without a parent or guardian and claim asylum in Europe without accompanied children.

**Child asylum seekers to the EU by country of destination**

**January – September 2015**

- **Sweden**: 27,975
- **Germany**: 82,520
- **France**: 7,225
- **Belgium**: 7,630
- **Austria**: 15,310
- **Hungary**: 45,625
- **All EU**: 214,355

**Arriving in Greece by sea**

- **729,000**
- **26% are children**

**Sources:**
- Eurostat
- UNICEF
- IOM

1. Figures do not include children who have been recorded more than once or who have never been recorded.
2. **A** child is defined as a child under 18 years of age.
3. **A** child is defined as a child under 18 years of age.
How many migrants does IOM assist?

Nearly 20 million migrants were assisted by IOM in 2014

What types of migrants does IOM assist?

IOM helps many different types of migrants

19.6 million were IDPs and other migrants assisted in emergencies

300,000+ migration health assessments in 2014

Nearly 20 million migrants assisted in 2014

Refugees re-settled: 121,000
Voluntary returnees: 43,700
Migrants trained: 38,400
Refugees repatriated: 13,800
Trafficked persons assisted: 6,200

How does IOM provide this assistance?

Through a large footprint of worldwide offices

400+ offices, highly field based
Located in close proximity to where the assistance is needed
One of the lowest overhead costs among international organizations
SAFE MIGRATION – no agreement on definitions, data or indicators.

New project funded by UK DFID will explore in a series of studies, workshops, and papers different aspects of “safe migration” in countries of destination, transit and return.
IOM, working with ECOWAS countries to enhance data collection and analysis to promote development and the free movement of persons within West Africa.

EU funded project, 24m euro, partners ILO and ICMPD.

15 National Migration Profiles and Consultations.
GMG/KNOMAD MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT DATA HANDBOOK

1. Provide practical guidance to policymakers and practitioners on the measurement of international migration and its impact on development.

2. Bring together in one place the collective experience of 15 GMG agencies.

3. Highlight and share information on innovative migration data practices and lessons learned.
HANDBOOK STRUCTURE

• 16 chapters using common template
• Key policy issues – introduction to theme.
• Data needed to analyse the topic
• Existing standards and sources for data collection
• Examples of good practice
• Recommendations to address data gaps
BENEFITS OF USING THE HANDBOOK

• Summarizes existing standards and definitions for the collection of migration data.
• Provides an international overview of the main sources of migration data and inventory of existing data.
• Provides examples of good practice for the collection of migration data and their use in policy-making.
• Assesses the progress that has been made in implementing global standards and guidelines.
• Summarizes key recommendations that countries should follow when collecting migration data.
WAY FORWARD: NEXT STEPS

• How to ensure that the handbook is widely read and used?
• Data training courses?
• Development of training modules
• Create database of tools/links to data guides and practices.
• Pilot projects to test handbook and assess data capacities?
CONCLUDING REMARKS

• The 2030 Agenda has placed statistics development at the centre of the global development agenda.

• Essential that migration data are mainstreamed into national development data plans, and capacity-building needs systematically assessed.

• The inclusion of migration in the SDG framework offers an opportunity to significantly enhance the collection, analysis and communication of data on migration.