

CALL FOR CONSULTANTS

COVID-19 impacts on migration and migrants from a gender perspective

- **Department:** Migration Research Division, Department of International Cooperation and Partnerships
- **Consultants' profile:** academic or applied researchers on gender with a strong publication record; expertise in migration research highly desirable
- **Deadline for proposals' submission:** Sunday 25 April before midnight CET by email to research@iom.int indicating "Call for consultants – COVID-19 impacts from a gender perspective" in the subject line.

The Migration Research Division of the International Organization for Migration is looking for academic and applied researchers on gender and migration who would be interested to contribute to a one-year research project funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada on "The impacts of COVID-19 on migration and migrants from a gender perspective". The objective of this research project is to explore and critically examine the short- and longer-term gender implications of COVID-19 impacts on migration and the well-being of migrants worldwide so as to inform policy and programmatic responses during and after the pandemic.

The project will start with a virtual inception workshop in June 2021 gathering leading academic and applied experts on the topic of gender and migration who will each author a thematic chapter for the research report, the main output of this project. The research report will be launched in March 2022 where some authors will present their chapters and engage in discussion with the audience (see table on time frame and deliverables below).

The research report will consist of around 10 thematic chapters, analysing the different potential gendered implications from the COVID-19 impacts on migration and migrants. These thematic chapters will be guided by **three main objectives**:

- 1) To highlight the **short- and long-term impacts** of COVID-19 on migration and migrants from a gender perspective and based on knowledge and emerging evidence;
- 2) To **highlight good/promising practices** that have been implemented in different settings (e.g. governments, IOs, CSOs, migrants themselves);
- 3) To **propose policy and programmatic innovations** that would improve outcomes (either to facilitate positive/constructive aspects or reduce negative aspects such as vulnerabilities, abuse, harm, etc).

Authors of thematic chapters will be guided by the following **cross-cutting considerations** when drafting their chapters:

- **A broad understanding of gender:** gender is not to be narrowly understood as referring to females/males, but more broadly to diverse gender identities.
- **Implications for migrants of different ages:** whenever relevant, authors should consider the differentiated impacts of COVID-19 due to migrants' age (children, youth, aged, etc).
- **Geographic representation:** chapters should not focus on one particular geographic area, but geographic representation should be ensured in each chapter, reflecting the perspective of countries of origin, transit and destination worldwide.
- **Accessibility of their chapter:** the research report will be addressed to a wide audience, including government officials, practitioners, researchers, students, media and the general public. Chapters should thus be clearly written and free of academic jargon to ensure their accessibility to the report's audience.

Topics that could be covered and analysed **from a gender perspective** in thematic chapters include, but are not limited to:

- **COVID-19 implications for migration**, such as for:
 - Migration decisions at the individual, household and community levels, including decisions to return to one's own country;
 - A comparative analysis of the COVID-19 impacts on particular corridors and/or populations in particular geographies;
 - Long-term implications for highly gendered migration corridors;
- **COVID-19 implications for certain groups of migrants**, such as for:
 - Stranded and other vulnerable migrants during the pandemic, including their resilience and coping mechanisms;
 - Displaced populations and their protection;

- Migrant workers, including in the gig and informal economy and in sectors most impacted by the pandemic or prone to exploitation; Cross-border workers, especially in the informal sector;
- International students and education;
- **COVID-19 secondary implications for migrants**, such as:
 - The support role of civil society, especially for stranded migrants;
 - Family separations and support to family members remaining in the country of origin, including through international remittances, as well as family reunification;
 - Sectors and communities reliant on migrant workers, such as health, social and domestic care, agriculture and tourism/hospitality;
- **COVID-19 implications for migrants’ protection and inclusion:**
 - Risks of gender-based violence, abuse, exploitation and trafficking along migration routes and in destination countries, including in displacement contexts;
 - Social, economic and political contributions to communities and households;
 - Access to healthcare, psychosocial support and vaccination in destination countries, including in displacement situations; and
 - Stigmatization and discrimination, both in transit and destination countries, as well as in case of return to the country of origin, and ensuing impacts on (re)integration.
- **Other COVID-19 implications** including for:
 - Challenges of data collection and gender disaggregation;
 - In terms of financial and digital literacy given the increased reliance on digital technology during the pandemic;

Time frame	Activities / Deliverables
June 2021 (TBC)	Participation in a virtual inception workshop to discuss the research report and its different thematic chapters, objectives, challenges and potential overlaps between chapters
October 2021 (TBC)	Submission of thematic chapter of a maximum of 4,000 words (bibliography and annexes excluded). All thematic chapters will be submitted to external and IOM experts for peer review.
December 2021 (TBC)	Submission of final version of the chapter integrating peer reviewers’ comments
March 2022 (TBC)	Potential participation in a public launch conference and/or in virtual launch webinars to be organized for different geographies and time zones

How to respond to the call

All academic and applied researchers are welcome to respond to the call provided they have expertise in research on gender attested by a publications record. Expertise in-migration research is highly desirable. The Migration Research Division also welcomes submissions by early career researchers.

Experts interested in contributing to this research project should email research@iom.int by Sunday 25 April before midnight CET indicating “Call for consultants – COVID-19 impacts from a gender perspective” in the subject line.

Documents to be submitted in the email should include:

- 1) **A detailed CV**, including a list of publications; and
- 2) **A proposal for a thematic chapter**, which has to include:
 - the chapter’s topic and/or working title. Consultants are free to draw from the illustrative list of topics provided above or suggest another one; and
 - an outline of the chapter of maximum 2 pages. The outline should:
 - Present the different sections of the proposed chapter with indications of the objectives and content of each section.
 - Suggestions of textboxes, figures and graphs are welcome as they improve the accessibility of the chapter to a large audience.
 - No particular format is imposed, outlines in bullet points are also welcome.

Selection of consultants will be made on the basis of expertise, the relevance and quality of the proposed thematic chapter, while taking due account of gender and geographic diversity. Upon selection, a consultancy contract will be signed with each consultant who will also be provided with detailed Terms of Reference, a guidance note for authors and the IOM House Style.

About IOM’s Migration Research Division

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) conducts and supports research designed to guide and inform migration policy and practice. The [Migration Research Division](#) is based at IOM Headquarters within the Department of International Cooperation and Partnerships, and has the institutional responsibility for supporting the conduct and management of applied research on salient migration topics.

Research is designed to enhance IOM's programme delivery and contribute to a broader understanding of migration patterns and processes, as well as the links between migration research and migration policy and practice. Research also feeds directly into IOM’s role as a publisher of applied research findings, including through IOM's flagship publication, the [World Migration Report](#), papers published in the [Migration Research Series](#), and IOM Migration Profiles.