The growth in the absolute number of migrants over the past 50 years and the diversification of migrants’ origins, socioeconomic backgrounds and reasons for migrating have led to more social, cultural, ethnic and religious diversity in receiving societies. This poses questions on how to fully leverage migrants’ existing assets and resources, and calls for innovative approaches to capture their broader settlement perspectives and integration experiences in their communities. However, there remains limited data and empirical tools to measure integration, hampering the progress of developing sound policies and interventions to address these issues. Considering this background, the IOM - UN Migration Agency offers new prospects on how to examine integration outcomes through an innovative approach to generate robust data and facilitate the successful inclusion of migrants in their new communities.

IOM, in partnership with the Immigration Policy Lab at ETH Zurich, have developed a multi-dimensional approach to measure integration outcomes of migrants and accompanying materials. Central to this approach is the “IPL Migrant Integration Index”, a survey-based tool, which has been piloted in Brazil, Dominican Republic, and Peru. The main goal of this initiative is to contribute to a more robust and comparative evidence base for policy development and regional programme innovation to support migrant integration.

Objectives

- Adopt a broad vision of integration by understanding and capturing the multidimensional integration outcomes and experience of migrants.
- Help inform and tailor future programming, better target future beneficiaries, and influence broader migration policy considerations.
- Adapt and standardize the toolkit for replicability and scalability of its application in other contexts.

6 Dimensions of Migrant Integration

- Psychological
- Economic
- Political
- Social
- Linguistic
- Navigational

The index is based on a multidimensional understanding of integration, looking at the psychological, navigational, economic, social, linguistic, and political knowledge and capacities of migrants to establish themselves in their new communities. Within the framework of the project, a set of methodological tools have been developed, over 10,000 surveys have been conducted, and a wide range of stakeholders has been engaged to develop their capacities and forge partnerships.

Application of the Multidimensional Integration Measurement Toolkit

Note: For further guidance on the application of the toolkit, refer to the ‘Practical Guide’ located on page 3.

Local Consultations, Mapping and Survey Adaptation

- Launch and stakeholder consultations
- Review of existing literature and tools
- Local adaptation of the IPL Integration Index
- Development of methodology and practical guidance materials
- Translation and coding of surveys

Pilot testing and Revision

- Conduct of two-step pilot testing activities
- Incorporation and analysis of feedback from respondents and enumerators
- Iterative process of question writing and empirical testing data collection
- Finalization of questionnaires and scoring rule

Design of Study and Project-linked Evaluation

- Conduct of population-based surveys in Brazil and the Dominican Republic
- Roll out of a causal impact evaluation in Peru
- Data analysis and interpretation
- Development of country reports and extraction of programmatic and policy recommendations

Validation and Capacity Building Initiatives

- Conduct of validation workshops with government and other relevant partners
- Technical assistance to stakeholders for application and replication of the survey

This project is implemented within the framework of the IOM Joint Global Initiative on Diversity, Inclusion and Social Cohesion (DISC) with funding from the IOM Development Fund (IDF).

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Accompanying Tools

Besides the IPL Integration Index, the Multidimensional Integration Measurement Toolkit comprises other accompanying materials.

The Research Paper “Multidimensional Measure of Immigrant Integration” and accompanying Appendix present the conceptual foundations and process of constructing the IPL Integration Index.

The Check-list to Identify Projects for Evaluation provides guidance to identify projects or interventions whose design is suitable for an assessment.

The Scoring System allows for the integration score to be calculated based on the score of each question, computed from 1 to 5 points. This document was developed for IOM Brazil and would need to be adapted to fit the local context.

The Survey Modes present an overview of the different modes of survey data collection.

The survey is available in multiple languages: English, Spanish, Portuguese and French.

The Planning Checklist offers considerations on what needs to be thought out before the index is applied.

The Study Guide provides specific instructions on methodological procedures associated with using the IPL Integration Index questionnaire. The guide has been developed to help ensure methodological consistency.

The Enumerators Guide provides guidance on how the interviews should be conducted in case they are not self-administered.

The Form for Pilot Findings and Feedback presents reflections on what to consider after conducting a pilot test as well as best practices.

The Structure and Application of the Index presents the different dimensions of integration and an overview of the questions.

Coded surveys for IPL-12 (R, Stata) and IPL-24 (R, Stata).

For more information visit: https://www.iom.int/migrant-integration-index
Publications

IOM Brazil Study Report

The data presented in this study brief is a snapshot of the most relevant research findings of the one-off population-based survey conducted in Brazil with Venezuelan and Haitian nationals, totaling a sample size of 901 respondents. IOM Brazil applied the IPL Integration Index with beneficiaries of its Cash-Based Intervention (CBI) programming, which provided support for the most vulnerable migrants and refugees in Brazil during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The data analysis, interpretation, and reporting were carried out by academic partners at IPL.

IOM Dominican Republic Study Report

The data presented in this study report is a detailed summary of the most relevant findings of the study conducted by IOM Dominican Republic that applied the index with beneficiaries of the cash-based interventions (CBI) program, who were assisted in the framework of projects such as ‘Inclusive Cities, Communities of Solidarity’ and the regional program Venezuela’s Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) during the years 2020 - 2021. The survey data captures the experience of Venezuelan migrants using multidimensional integration indicators.

IOM Peru Study Report

The data presented in these initial findings are a snapshot of the most relevant research findings of Interview 1, which usually took place a week before beneficiaries received the CBI and measures the pre-treatment outcomes for each individual beneficiary. This was a component of a wider research methodology which employed a casual impact evaluation. Interview data from the accompanying interview phases will be analyzed and reported on in future publications. This robust data analysis exercise aims to contribute to the development of evidence-based policymaking to improve integration outcomes of migrants.

Practical Guide on the Multidimensional Integration Measurement Toolkit for IOM and Partners

This practical guide contributes to strengthening the capacities of practitioners by providing detailed and in-depth guidance for the use of the Multidimensional Integration Measurement Toolkit. The guide seeks to present the tool’s key features, offering concrete guidance and recommendations that build upon the lessons learned during the piloting of the tool in the Latin America and Caribbean region. It provides basic operational considerations that can allow for its replicability in different measurement approaches and programmatic contexts.