The International Organization for Migration’s Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) was established in Berlin in September 2015, at the invitation of the Government of Germany. It was set up to improve the collection, analysis and use of migration data to inform policies and programmes.

IOM’s GMDAC has established partnerships with a multiplicity of agencies and organizations including: European Commission’s KCMD, UN DESA, World Bank, UNICEF, McKinsey & Company, Economist Intelligence Unit, OECD.

This brochure provides an overview of the achievements over the past four years and our ongoing work.
OUR AIMS

SUPPORT
IOM Member States’ capacities to collect, analyse and use migration data

PROMOTE
evidence-based policies by compiling, sharing and analyzing IOM and other sources of data

STRENGTHEN
the role of data and evidence in global migration processes (e.g. Global Compact for Migration, Sustainable Development Goals).
GMDAC 4th ANNIVERSARY - aims and achievements

ACHIEVEMENTS IN FIGURES

- 80+ PUBLICATIONS
- 700k+ DOWNLOADS
- 35 INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS
- 14 IMPLEMENTED PROJECTS
- 35 CAPACITY BUILDING TRAININGS
- 3 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES
Launched in 2017, the Migration Data Portal was developed in partnership with several UN agencies to provide a unique access point to international migration statistics globally. The site is designed to help policy makers, statisticians, journalists and the general public navigate the increasingly complex landscape of international migration data and mentioned as a data repository in the Global Compact for Migration. Its interactive world map features 77 indicators from 23 data providers, 34 thematic pages, an SDG section on targets and indicators relevant to migration, country profiles based on the Migration Governance Indicators, 29 blogs, 25 videos, 35 infographics and two new regional pages. In August 2019, GMDAC also launched a Spanish version of the Portal. It reaches about 40,000 users per month.
CONTRIBUTING TO EVIDENCE-BASED IOM PROGRAMMES AND EVALUATIONS

As part of the Central Mediterranean Route project, the programme covers 10 countries in West and Central Africa and North Africa. Impact evaluation of information campaigns on the risks of irregular migration and evidence for designing effective information campaigns for potential migrants is lacking across the board. Despite the increasing number of campaigns implemented in West and North Africa, insights into the impact of existing campaigns – as well as guidance on how to design and effectively implement campaigns in different settings – are hard to come by. GMDAC released IOM’s first randomized controlled trial – the most rigorous and scientific way of evaluating the effect of a program or policy. The report ‘Migrants as Messengers – The Impact of Peer-to-Peer Communication on Potential Migrants in Senegal’ focuses on the effects of IOM’s awareness raising campaign ‘Migrants as Messengers’ on potential migrants in West Africa. Impact evaluations are one example of GMDAC’s efforts to support IOM missions worldwide in improving evidence-based programming and policy design and achieving Objective 3 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, which calls for more “evidence-based information campaigns”.

DEVELOPING KEY NEW GLOBAL MIGRATION INDICATORS

In an effort to operationalize the Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF, 2015), IOM’s Multilateral Processes Division and GMDAC worked with the Economist Intelligence Unit to develop the standard set of approximately 90 indicators to assist countries in assessing their migration policies and advance the conversation on what well-governed migration might look like in practice. The MGI assessment has been conducted in 50 countries.

A forthcoming global report will present MGI data collected in 49 countries between 2015 and 2019, according to the six policy domains of IOM’s MiGOF. The Local MGI, adapted from the National MGI in 2018, is based on a set of 87 indicators helping local authorities take stock of local migration strategies or initiatives in place. The Local MGI was rolled-out in Accra (Ghana), Montréal (Canada) and São Paulo (Brazil).
The International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), are organizing the second International Forum on Migration Statistics (IFMS), in Cairo, Egypt, on 20–21 January 2020. The Forum will be hosted by the Egyptian Government, current African Union (AU) Chair. The IFMS is a unique global platform devoted to improving data on migration in all its dimensions and offers space for dialogue for a broad range of actors, from national and regional authorities, NGOs, international agencies and the private sector. The first meeting of the IFMS took place in Paris, France, in 2018, and included 240 speakers and over 350 participants from 90 countries. The second IFMS aims to mobilise expertise from a wide range of disciplines – such as statistics, economics, demography, sociology, geospatial science, and information technology – to improve the collection and analysis of migration data worldwide. It will explore innovative ways to measure population mobility and to generate timely statistics, by bringing together a broad range of participants to share and to discuss new data initiatives and examples of success in the field of migration data.
In partnership with the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI), GMDAC is leading a work package on “migration scenarios” in the context of the EU-funded, Horizon2020 Project “CROSS-MIGRATION – Current European and Cross-National Comparative Research and Research Actions on Migration.” The objective of the work package is to provide a tool to inform future policy decisions on migration. This objective will be achieved by developing possible scenarios of future migration to and within Europe and assessing their probability of becoming real. The project is currently producing two reports and an interactive online tool to visualize the scenarios developed. The first report is a literature review on foresight studies, projections, and scenarios of migration flows. Building on the results of the literature review, the second report defines the probable migration scenarios and their probability of becoming real based on expert opinions. Each scenario will identify distinct trends for different types of migration: humanitarian, labor, family, among others.

As part of the research project “Environmental degradation, climate change and migration: Global review of research and forecasts”, IOM’s GMDAC and German think tank Adelphi are producing three papers that aim at informing German policymakers in their policy and international development cooperation-related efforts in this field: a literature review, an impact paper and a response paper. These papers focus on the interrelation between environmental degradation, climate change and migration from a policy perspective and they will also draw conclusions on the implications for German adaptation policy. The project benefitted from contributions from German experts during a workshop in Berlin in March 2019, and from experts during an international conference that took place in Bonn in June 2019. This project is financed by the German Federal Minister for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), managed by the German Environment Agency (UBA) and implemented by Adelphi and GMDAC.

The Big Data For Migration Alliance (BD4M), launched by the European Commission’s KCMD and IOM’s GMDAC in 2018 is working on a number of initiatives to raise awareness about the potential of using “Big Data” to understand migration trends. The BD4M is working with the GovLab at New York University Tandon School of Engineering within the framework of The 100 Questions Initiative to identify 10 key questions related to migration that could be answered by data. The initiative seeks to create and source a curated community of “bilinguals” - practitioners across disciplines from all over the world who possess both domain knowledge and data science expertise and establish new data collaboratives - partnerships among public and private stakeholders seeking to unlock the public interest value of data - to broaden access to data that can address the global migration challenge. In addition, a mapping of existing big data and migration initiatives at the national and international levels is taking place within the framework of the BD4M with a view to create a regularly-updated repository on data innovation projects in the field of migration and mobility, to be hosted in a specific section of the Migration Data Portal.
IOM jointly developed with UN DESA the methodology for measuring SDG indicator 10.7.2 on the number of countries with migration policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people. This methodology is also closely linked with the methodology of the Migration Governance Indicators (MGI). New data on SDG indicator 10.7.2 was collected in 2018-2019, as part of the existing UN Inquiry Among Governments on Population and Development, which needs to be analysed and could result in a comparative report.

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THE TEAM

23 TEAM MEMBERS

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