Measuring Irregular Migration
in light of Agenda 2030 and the Global Compact

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Expert workshop: *Measuring Irregular Migration: Innovative Data Practices*
IOM Data Analysis Centre
Berlin, 18—19 May 2017
Global Migration Data Analysis Centre

- Officially launched by DG Swing on 7 September, 2015
- Part of IOM’s response to growing calls for action to improve data on international migration globally
- Part of IOM’s HQ
- Based in Berlin at the invitation of the Government of Germany
- Current Staff of 14
Renewed interest in data on irregular migration

- Rising irregular migration to Europe

- Renewed calls for better data on migration in the New York Declaration 2016, including specific references to irregular migration

- Migration indicators in SDGs imply need to monitor whether migration is safe, orderly, regular and whether “migrants” are “left behind”
Data and the Global Compact on Migration

The New York Declaration states:

“We recognize the importance of improved data collection [...] Such data should include information on regular and irregular flows [...] human trafficking, and the needs of refugees and migrants”.
SDGs and Migration Indicators

Agenda 2030 includes targets to:

• Facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration/reduce trafficking.
• Maximize the contribution of migrants and migration to development.
• “Leave no one behind”, ensure that migrants are not the most vulnerable group in society → need to disaggregate data on work, income, education, health, by migratory status.
What aspects of irregular migration can and should be measured?

• SDGs do not specifically refer to irregular migrants (only trafficking), but do refer to all migrants.

• What should be measured?

  Stocks, flows, profits, organization, impacts, well-being, access to services?
Examples from IOM Migrant Smuggling Data and Research:

A global review of the emerging evidence base (2016)

Regional and national chapters including:

• An overview of smuggling in the region/country for 2010—2015
• A review of the data
• A review of the research
• Recommendations for building the evidence base
Migrant Smuggling Data and Research
Regions and countries covered

1. Overview
2. West and Central Africa
3. East Africa
4. North Africa
5. Europe
6. Turkey
7. Afghanistan
8. South Asia
9. Southeast Asia and Australia
10. Northeast Asia
11. Latin America
12. United States of America
• Collecting data on migrant deaths & disappearances worldwide since 2014
• **More than 20,000 fatalities** recorded between 1 Jan 2014 and 31 March 2017
• **At least 60,000 migrants** are estimated to have died during migration since 2000
• Preparing **third global report** on migrants’ **Fatal Journeys**
• **Expert meeting**, El Paso (US), 11—12 May
Niger: new report on IOM‘s migrant profiling exercise

• New report to be released in June based on analysis of data collected from over 6,000 migrants assisted by IOM Niger in 2016

• Data collected on:
  • Demographic and socio-economic profile
  • Vulnerabilities
  • The migratory journey, including use of smuggling services
  • Experience in the country of temporary residence
  • Motivations and future intentions

• Unique insight into migrants transiting through Niger
Global Scale of Irregular Migration

- No reliable global statistics on the number of migrants in an irregular situation
- Clandestine nature and lack of political will to collect and share data

- 50 million irregular migrants estimated globally a decade ago (UNDP, 2009)
  - The estimate is believed to have increased since (UNODC, 2011)
  - “Over 90% of all migrants that reach the EU have used smuggling services” (Rob Wainwright, Director of Europol, 2016)

- Assessing the scale of irregular migration, the well-being of irregular migrants, and their access to services poses major data challenges.
Migration Data Recommendations do not refer specifically to irregular migrants

Commission on International Migration Data 2009 recommended:

- Ensure that more censuses include basic questions on migration
- Use administrative data on international migrants more extensively
- Make better use of data in labour force surveys
- Integrate migration modules into existing household surveys
- Make publicly available micro-data from migration surveys and censuses
IOM Data Recommendations to GCM

• Enhance “data dialogue” between all stakeholders
• Develop global framework to monitor data progress
• Make better use of existing data – every country prepare a migration report?
• Exploit new data sources – such as Big Data
• Build national capacities – integrate migration into plans to build the evidence base, develop new methods of collecting data on irregular and regular migration
To Conclude

• There have been many calls to improve data on international migration over the years.

• While there has been some progress in collecting data on global migrant stocks, remittances and trafficking, there are many gaps in information about migration, especially irregular migration and migrants in a vulnerable situation.

• The GCM and Agenda 2030 provide an opportunity to enhance the evidence base on migration.