IOM’s
Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC)
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GMDAC’s background

- Established in Berlin in 2015 at the invitation of the Government of Germany, GMDAC was set up as part of IOM’s wider response to calls for better international migration data and analysis.

- GMDAC is a global centre that is part of IOM’s Global Data Institute (GDI) in Headquarters in Geneva.

- GMDAC is one of the two core data structures in IOM united in the GDI, together with the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM).

- GMDAC supports IOM at global, regional and country and sub-national level to improve migration data, in areas relevant to each objective of IOM’s Migration Data Strategy.
Mission statement

GMDAC works to improve migration data to inform timely and evidence-based policies, programming & communications towards safe and orderly migration for the benefit of all.
GMDAC objectives and areas of work
GMDAC objectives

3 objectives and 2 cross-cutting themes

1. Championing migration data for global frameworks

   A. Strengthening the global evidence base on migration
      • Increase availability and access to migration data
      • Identify and help address data gaps

   B. Developing the capacities of states and other key stakeholders
      • Support states and others to identify migration data needs
      • Deliver comprehensive capacity development support at national, regional and global levels

   C. Supporting evidence-based programs, policies and communications
      • Pioneer knowledge management of migration data and analysis for practitioners
      • Strengthen feedback loops between data and programming

2. Encouraging data innovation

…that support IOM’s Migration Data Strategy
Objective A: Strengthening the global evidence on migration
Selected activities

- **Migration Governance Indicators** measuring “well-managed migration policy” (SDG Indicator 10.7.2)
- **Missing Migrants Project**, hosting dataset of more than 50,000 migrant deaths (SDG Indicator 10.7.3)
- Ongoing work focusing on forecasting & assessing future migration scenarios
- Work to disseminate timely policy-relevant migration data, such as weekly reports on migrants & COVID-19 with DTM
In focus: Missing Migrants Project

• Open-access global database documenting deaths & disappearances during migration

• Extensive data analysis and thematic awareness-raising in briefings and longer reports

• Data & publications can be downloaded from our website: missingmigrants.iom.int
Defining ‘missing migrant’ in MMP

What is included in MMP?

• **Deaths** at the external borders of states, or in the process of migration towards an international destination

• **Disappearances** during migration in which a person is presumed dead

**Rationale:** approach identifies risks linked to irregular migration journeys

What is excluded from MMP?

• Deaths in immigration **detention** facilities and reception centres

• Deaths related to an individual’s irregular status while **residing** in a foreign country (e.g. resulting from labour exploitation)

• Deaths related to **internal** displacement
MMP data 2014-2022

Source: IOM’s Missing Migrants Project 26 Aug, 2022
Missing Migrants Project
Impacts on families

• Families are left with **trauma** and **ambiguous loss** in the many unresolved cases
• **Debt** caused by loss of breadwinner, cost of search/ransom

• No robust **policy framework** to
  • prevent migrant deaths
  • identify missing migrants
  • provide support to bereaved families

Read at missingmigrants.iom.int/publications.
Data gaps and challenges

- **Invisibility**: lack of options for safe and legal mobility increases the likelihood that migrants take dangerous, remote routes with the aim of avoiding detection.

- **Under-reporting of deaths and disappearances**: migrants or their families may be afraid of reporting deaths or disappearances due to fear of legal consequences.

- **Remains not recovered and not identified**: bodies lost on remote routes means that identification nearly impossible.

- **Limited data from official sources**: lack of centralization & disaggregation by migratory status.
In focus: Global Migration Data Portal

- Launched in December 2017
- Unique one-stop-shop of global migration data and information with comprehensive 360° views
  - Available in 4 languages: EN, SP, FR, DE
- 80+ international migration data indicators, and nearly 40 national indicators
- 38 thematic pages | 14 regional overviews | spotlight pages (AFG, UKR and upcoming food security)
- In 2021: 1.1 million unique users | 2.2 million unique page visits
In focus: Global Migration Data Portal

**Upcoming aspirations**

- Migration data **training modules and tutorials**
- Strengthening **partnerships**
  - e.g. Global Migration Data Network (GMDN); UN Data Strategy Group; other international migration data providers
- Leveraging more **technologies** (Application Programming Interface (API), widgets)
- Dynamic **engagement** with users and more **systematic feedback**
- Strengthening migration data in the context of the **humanitarian-development-peace nexus**
Migration Governance Indicators
Data Analytics

Strategic Positioning
92 National Assessments (+ Follow-up in 18)
8 State assessments (in Mexico)
43 Local assessments

Opportunities
Global report
Regional reports (e.g. Africa with 33 countries and 12 cities)
Thematic policy briefs (Migration, Environment and Climate Change; SIDS)

https://www.migrationdataportal.org/overviews/mgi#0
Migration, Environment, Disaster and Climate Change

**Strategic Positioning**

- Co-chair of Data Knowledge Working Group (DKWG) of the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD)
- Data and Analytics focal point of the African Climate Mobility Initiative (ACMI)

**Opportunities**

- Pilot a set of metrics and indicators that integrate displacement dimensions within Disaster Risk Reduction
- Further regional migration, environment, disasters and climate change data assessments (Pacific, Africa)
Objective B: Developing the capacities of states and other key stakeholders
## Objective B
Developing the capacities of states and other key stakeholders

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<td>E.g. E-learning modules on migration data</td>
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<td>Continental learning initiatives</td>
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<td>Specialised regional-level tools</td>
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<td>E.g. Guidelines for the Harmonization of Migration Data Management in the ECOWAS Region</td>
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<td>Tailored national-level activities on migration data</td>
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<td>E.g. 35 training workshops for 60 countries since 2015</td>
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In focus: Continental-level initiatives

Africa Migration Data Network

- First-ever network on migration statistics on the African Continent, launched in April 2021
- Launched with the African Union, and technical support from Statistics Sweden and OECD
- Includes focal points from 53 AU Member States (NSOs and migration-relevant ministries), 8 RECs and 4 African Development Institutions

Objectives:
- Promote the exchange of good practices on migration data issues on the continent
- Facilitate coordination and collaboration in the implementation of migration-data-related initiatives
- Promote the sharing of migration data across Africa
- Contribute to the harmonization of migration concepts, definitions and data methods

Activities:
- African School on Migration Statistics (2 editions)
- Webinar series, events & publications
- Website
In focus: Regional-level activities

“FMM West Africa project seeks to support the development of standardized procedures to collect and process migration-relevant data … [which] will reinforce migration data collection and management capacities and stakeholder coordination in all Member States.”

GMDAC developed **Guidelines on migration data** to:

- Introduce shared concepts and definitions
- Identify data sources for key policy needs/population groups
- Help factor migration into the economic, social and development planning
- Work towards a regional system of data collection
In focus: National-level activities

GMDAC works closely with IOM country and regional offices, governments, and other UN agencies to **support Member States on migration data by designing tailor-made capacity building interventions.** These are aimed at meeting UN recommendations on migration statistics, whilst addressing immediate & longer term policy needs.

**Selected activities:**
- Data availability assessments
- National migration data strategies
- Data collection manuals
- Training materials
- Migration profiles
- Workshop facilitation

Delegate from Madagascar speaks during a workshop. Photo: IOM 2018
Objective C: Supporting evidence-based programmes, policies and communications
Objective C
Supporting evidence-based programmes, policies & communications

Selected activities:
• **Global Migration Data Portal** in 4 languages. Hosts 120+ indicators, 35+ thematic pages, 14 regional pages
• Spearheading the development of the Knowledge Platform and Connection Hub of the **UN Network on Migration** (UMNM)
• **Impact evaluations** of key IOM information campaigns
• 80+ **policy-focused reports** on trends in migration data with more than 800k downloads
• 500+ **media requests** for migration data answered since 2015
In focus: Data and Impact Analytics

• Assessment of IOM projects to generate data-driven evidence to inform programming
  • Were projects implemented as expected?
  • Pre and post comparisons of outcomes for program participants.
  • Improving data collection in the field: How can surveys be better implemented and how to deal with complicated sampling settings?

• Impact evaluation of awareness-raising campaigns using experimental or quasi-experimental methods
  • Are IOM interventions causally linked to intended outcomes?
  • Do potential migrants increase awareness of irregular migration risks? Do intentions to move irregularly are reduce exclusively due to the IOM programs?

• Future of international migration
  • Migration scenarios, expert judgement.
  • Exploring Google search data
Cross-cutting theme 1
Global frameworks

GMDAC champions the collection, analysis and use of migration data towards relevant international frameworks and processes, incl. the SDGs and GCM.

Selected activities

• “Leaving no migrant behind” project focusing on disaggregation of SDG data by migratory status
• Developing methodologies and collecting data on SDG 10.7 indicators, specializing in migration governance (MGI project) and migrant deaths (Missing Migrants Project)
• Capacity building for states on improving migration-relevant SDG data
• Specialized publications e.g. on lessons learned on SDG-migration data from across the UN
• UN Network on Migration WGs & Hub
In focus: UN Migration Network Hub

What is the "Hub"?

- The knowledge management and connection hub of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), part of the capacity-building mechanism called for in pgph. 43
- Launched in March 2021; Repository of Practices launched in 2022
- The objective of the Hub is to support GCM implementation, through enabling practitioners globally to access and share information, advice, and services.

Upcoming aspirations

- Ensure the Hub is mainstreamed across the work of the UN Network on Migration, and that it optimally benefits its target users, particularly at regional and country levels
In focus: UN Migration Network Hub

Repository of Practices

Learn from replicable practices shared by Hub users implementing the Global Compact for Migration at global, regional, national & local levels.

Available in English, French and Spanish.

1532 Resources
1501 Experts
148 Projects
9 Discussions
153 Events
185 Videos
202 Practices
GMDAC encourages innovation in migration data collection, analysis and use and promotes the responsible use of new data sources to understand migration-related patterns.

Selected activities:

- Big Data for Migration (BD4M) Alliance, in partnership with EC’s Joint Research Centre, encouraging migration data innovation. BD4M work notably includes the:
  - Data Innovation Directory (DID) highlighting the latest developments in migration data innovation
  - Social media survey on impact of Covid-19 on migrants
  - Advanced media monitoring tool using natural language processing and assisted machine learning for Missing Migrants Project
Thank you!