IOM MIGRATION DATA STRATEGY

IMPLEMENTATION HIGHLIGHTS 2020-2022
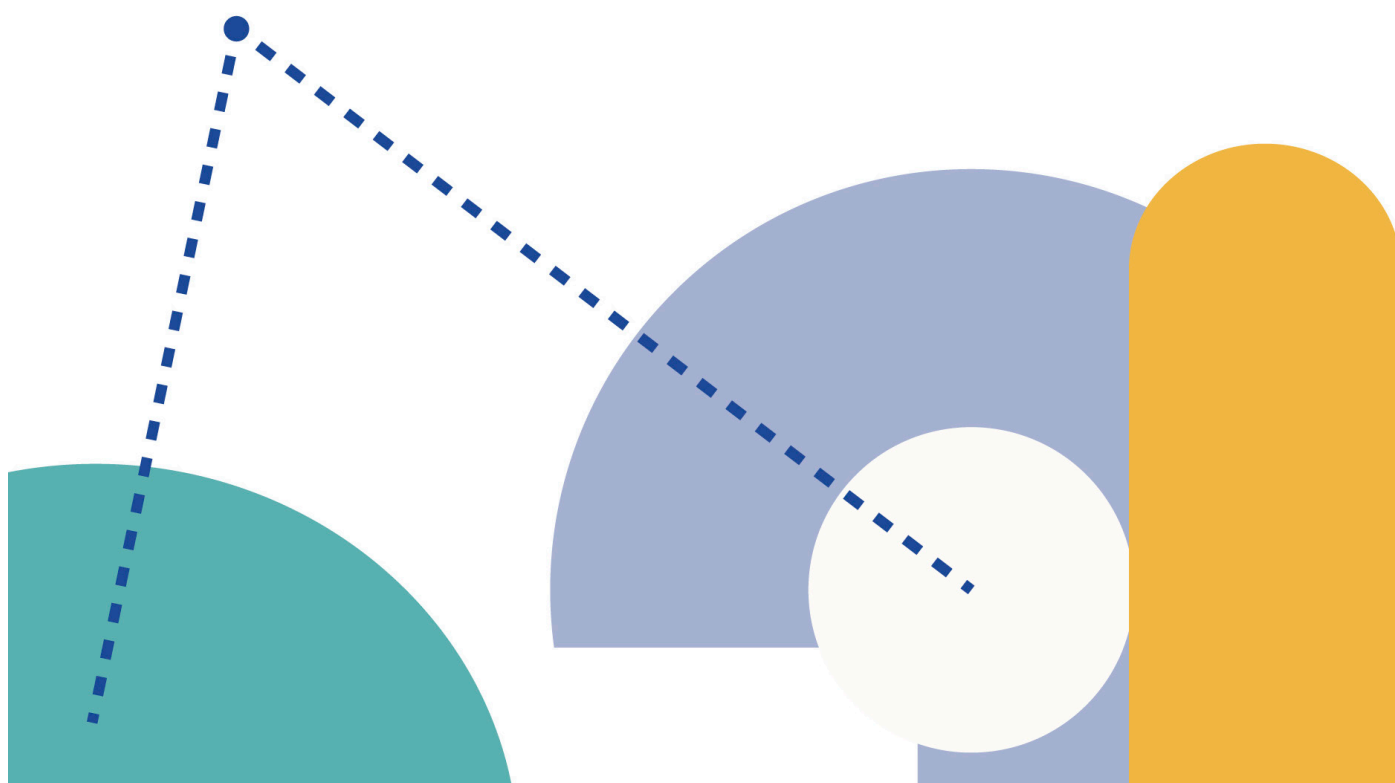

IOM
UN MIGRATION | **GLOBAL DATA INSTITUTE**

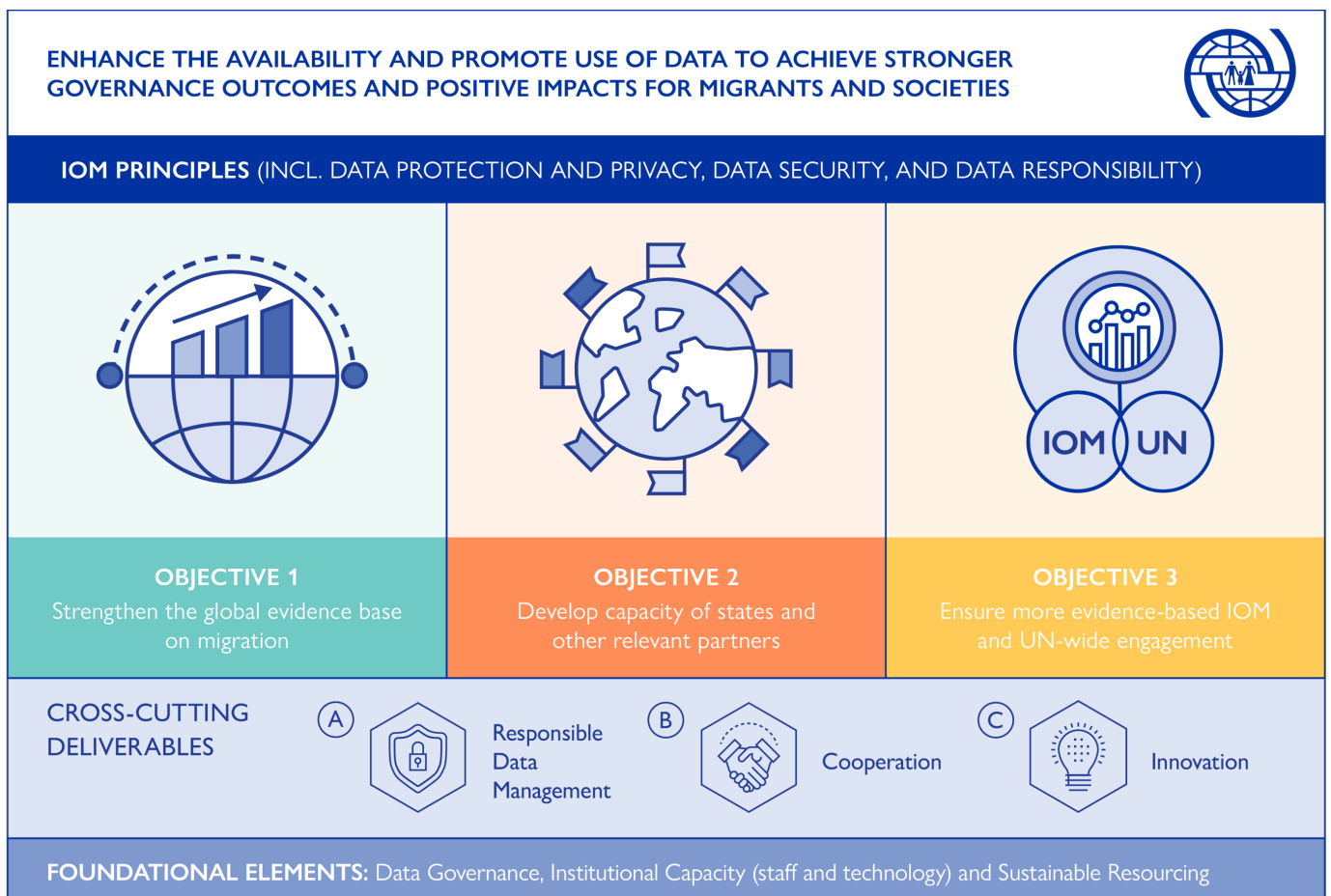# IOM MIGRATION DATA STRATEGY

Introduction

This report presents key highlights of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) towards implementing its Migration Data Strategy (MDS). The MDS, visualized below, has a five-year timeframe of 2020-2025. This document can be considered a high-level mid-term review of MDS implementation, based on a review of selected achievements over the period 2020-2022 conducted by IOM's Global Data Institute (GDI). This document can be considered a high-level review of key highlights of IOM's MDS implementation. It includes key information from IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) and the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) and not from IOM's regional and country offices or thematic divisions, who will be included in equivalent subsequent reviews.

ENHANCE THE AVAILABILITY AND PROMOTE USE OF DATA TO ACHIEVE STRONGER GOVERNANCE OUTCOMES AND POSITIVE IMPACTS FOR MIGRANTS AND SOCIETIES

IOM PRINCIPLES (INCL. DATA PROTECTION AND PRIVACY, DATA SECURITY, AND DATA RESPONSIBILITY)

OBJECTIVE 1	**OBJECTIVE 2**	**OBJECTIVE 3**
Strengthen the global evidence base on migration	Develop capacity of states and other relevant partners	Ensure more evidence-based IOM and UN-wide engagement

CROSS-CUTTING DELIVERABLES

(A) Responsible Data Management   (B) Cooperation   (C) Innovation

FOUNDATIONAL ELEMENTS: Data Governance, Institutional Capacity (staff and technology) and Sustainable Resourcing

Ways of Working

The establishment of the GDI in 2021 is a key first step towards IOM's implementation of the MDS. The GDI works to enhance the availability and use of data to achieve stronger governance outcomes and positive impacts for migrants and societies. While still in a set-up stage during 2022, the GDI's operations have been structured to ensure alignment with the MDS' core objectives and expected deliverables. The GDI aims to become the IOM and UN system's reference point on migration and human mobility data and statistics, supporting countries to produce high-quality data and policy evidence on all forms of human mobility along the humanitarian-development-peace continuum. It leverages several key strengths of IOM: its extensive global field footprint, its deep understanding of the movement of people globally, relationships of trust with Member States and direct engagement with a wide range of beneficiaries among migrants and communities, stakeholders within UN, broader international community, private sector, academia and civil society. Finally, IOM's position within the United Nations system, including as Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration, allows the GDI to build on system-wide data processes and take a lead role in knowledge management, in particular in the context of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) . The GDI is involved in collaboration across the UN system on migration and displacement data, in addition to supporting the implementation of the UN Data Strategy. For example, it works with others to address specific data gaps together through the International Data Alliance on Children on the Move with UNICEF, UNHCR, OECD and others, it helps convene experts on migration data through the International Forum on Migration Statistics (IFMS) with UN DESA and OECD, and engages continuously in relevant fora, for example through active participation in the UN Expert Group on Migration Statistics.

The GDI operates within the IOM Operational Pillar under the leadership of IOM's Deputy Director General for Operations, supporting data-relevant initiatives at global, regional, country level, and across all core migration governance and policy work across IOM thematic divisions. The GDI brings together two key areas of IOM's data work: the Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) and the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM).

OBJECTIVE 1: STRENGTHEN THE GLOBAL EVIDENCE BASE ON MIGRATION

Deliverable 1.1
Global availability, access to, analysis and responsible use of migration data enanced

✓ *Established the* **UN Migration Network Hub**

The Knowledge Platform (KP) and Connection Hub (CH), the so-called "Migration Network Hub", is a virtual meeting space where governments, stakeholders, partners and experts access, request and share migration-related information and services. This area of work is one of IOM's core responsibilities with respect to the work plan of the UN Network on Migration. It provides content on a variety of topics ordered by Global Compact for Migration (GCM) objectives and guiding principles, showcasing the UN Network on Migration's knowledge in one place. Since its launch in 2021, key functions such as the Repository of Practices, the Experts Database and the Discussion Spaces have been developed.

✓ *Strengthened the* **Global Migration Data Portal**

The Global Migration Data Portal is a key one-stop-shop to access information on migration data in four languages (English, French, Spanish and German). With nearly 2 million unique views and more than 1 million unique users in 2021, the Portal is an established source of migration data and analysis for policymakers and other actors. Since its inception, the Portal has grown exponentially; it now includes an interactive dashboard with 120+ international and national indicators from 25+ data providers, and 38 thematic and 14 regional data sections. New dedicated sections that collate data and media reports on topical issues, such as Ukraine, Afghanistan and COVID-19 were also created. Additionally, during 2020–2022, 35 new national migration governance profiles and 20 local Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) profiles were added to the Portal.

Deliverable 1.2
Key migration data gaps filled

✓ *Expanded efforts to address selected policy-related **data gaps***

IOM engaged in key existing and new strategic initiatives to address selected migration data gaps through data collection and analysis, often responding to fast-evolving policy issues.

- IOM strengthened its combined work related to migration data and gender. For example, GMDAC published a first-ever **guidance note on gender and migration data** to guide practitioners on the topic. DTM began a study on the **links between disaster displacement and gender**, examining the intersections between gender, climate, and migration in selected countries, and began analysis on how best to **inform gender sensitive responses with humanitarian data collection**.

- Throughout the pandemic IOM provided data, analysis and research to understand the **changing dynamics between COVID19, mobility and health**. In response to border closures and travel restrictions, DTM established the Mobility and Restrictions Mapping (MRM) and Points of Entry (PoE) database to monitor and map international travel restrictions and mobility. One of the largest and most comprehensive database on travel restrictions and mobility, this was used to understand how movement of people worldwide was affected by the pandemic. Key findings were presented in a report, the COVID-19 and the State of Global Mobility in 2020, produced with the Migration Policy Institute.

- IOM expanded data-related work around **environment and climate change**, for example by publishing several national and regional-level reports on migration, environment, climate change and disasters data in the Eastern Caribbean.

- **The Solutions and Mobility Index (SMI)** launched in 2022, supports identification of root causes and factors associated with fragility to develop evidence-based action nad inform the delivery of durable solutions to protracted displacement. This builds on DTM's methodologies to provide data on stability, peace, development, recovery and reintegration dynamics, and is currently implemented in several countries (including Iraq, Mozambique, Cameroon, Chad, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, and South Sudan).

- IOM worked to contextualize data on the mobility dimensions of the situations in **Afghanistan** and **Ukraine** as well as the implications across the region, particularly in countries of destination and those that host large diaspora populations. For example, IOM provides crucial displacement and migration data to inform a broad range of actors in and surrounding Ukraine, and conducts IDP baseline assessments to support targeting and provision of humanitarian assistance to affected populations. A survey deployed in March 2020 collected over 15,000 responses from Ukrainian refugees and Third Country Nationals, contributing to NGO, UN and national government humanitarian assistance operations and as the displacement situation changes, surveys on crossings back to Ukraine, local inclusion and integration in hosting countries, and impact on host communities have been deployed.

Deliverable 1.3

Data needed for the follow-up and review of relevant international frameworks made available

✓ *Consolidated GMDAC's role in* **measuring safe migration** *under Sustainable Development Goal Target 10.7*

GMDAC continued to host the strategically important and highly visible Missing Migrants Project, producing reports on risks migrants face on hazardous migration routes and drawing attention to the support needed for families of missing migrants. In 2020, the new indicator 10.7.3, based on data from the project, was officially added to the SDG monitoring framework. This places IOM in a central role globally to monitor safe migration in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and the GCM Objective 8.

✓ *Strengthened IOM's in* **measuring well-managed migration governance** *under Sustainable Development Goal Target 10.7*

IOM's Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) initiative, designed to assess migration governance in a standardised way across countries and cities, expanded geographically and thematically over this time. It now includes over 92 participating countries and 51 local authorities, with coverage to continue growing.

Demonstrating the sustainability of the project, several countries conducted follow-up assessments to track national progress over time. Further, IOM is co-custodian, with UN DESA, for SDG indicator 10.7.2, which seeks to monitor migration governance and is partially based on the MGI framework. Finally, to contribute to setting a baseline to assess global and regional progress on Global Compact objectives in the year of the first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), in 2022 the MGI published a report presenting global, regional, and thematic trends emerged from national-level MGI data in relation to each of the 23 GCM objectives..

OBJECTIVE 2: DEVELOP DATA CAPACITY OF STATES AND OTHER RELEVANT PARTNERS

Deliverable 2.1
Key migration data needs of states identified

✓ *Expanded activities on **Leave no One Behind (LNOB) and data disaggregation***

In the context of increasing attention on leaving no one behind, IOM expanded its work on data related to migrant sub-groups who may need extra policy attention, and to overall strengthen its portfolio on data inclusivity. For example, GMDAC published a guide for practitioners on data disaggregation and launched a project to help countries increase the visibility of migrants in SDG data and understand how migrants fare in relation to several development areas. Further, with partners DTM launched the DTM Field Companion for Disability Inclusion, to jointly identify and help address common Information needs for disability inclusion data.

Deliverable 2.2

Comprehensieve data capacity development programme designed

✓ *Deepened internal and external **capacity building on migration data** across Africa and beyond*

Through comprehensive data capacity development activities, GMDAC continued to strengthen its work in this area across Africa and other continents. This included the consolidation of GMDAC's strategic partnership with the African Union (AU), particularly its Institute for Statistics (StatAfric) and the Africa Migration Observatory (AMO), through staff secondments and the establishment of the Africa Migration Data Network (AMDN) in 2021. The AMDN is a joint initiative of StatAfric and IOM, with technical support from Statistics Sweden and the OECD, and includes focal points from national statistical offices and migration-relevant ministries across the 54 AU Member States, as well as representatives from each African Regional Economic Community (REC) and other development institutes. Through activities such as the regular organization of an African school of migration statistics (3 editions in 2020—2022), a monthly webinar series on a variety of migration topics, and the preparation of the first Africa Migration Data Profile (now being finalized), the AMDN seeks to encourage the sharing of good data practices among its members and improve coordination of migration data initiatives on the African continent. GMDAC also continued to provide dedicated support to IOM's national and regional offices on data capacity-building projects. Capacity development activities range from dissemination of guidance materials and regular training activities to secondments, short-term deployments, and direct support to operations and data management. Requests for this kind of internal support from IOM missions has been growing significantly over the past few years and are a testament to the increasing demand for GMDAC expertise on migration statistics to implement the MDS globally.

Deliverable 2.3

Comprehensieve and tailored capacity development support delivered

✓ *Provided **training and technical assistance** on data on human mobility in emergencies*

IOM worked with partners to operationalize the results of the Grand Bargain's Ensuring Data and Analysis are Useful and Usable for Response (EDAUUR) by jointly developing a toolkit to help guide relevant work of DTM and its partners in the field.

Responding to common challenges faced by practitioners, the jointly developed toolkit contains tools to facilitate field use, including methodology documents, guidance on effective use of DTM data in specific sectors, and much more. In 2021, there were 46 countries where local/national partners were involved in DTM data collection activities. During the same period, DTM provided 132 training sessions to local/national partners across 42 countries. Dedicated support has been provided to specific governments in improving their data management capacities, or example in Niger and Iraq.

OBJECTIVE 3: ENSURE MORE EVIDENCE-BASED IOM AND UN-WIDE ENGAGEMENT

Deliverable 3.1

IOM's migration data systems strengthened and consolidated

✓ *Developed key sub-strategies for IOM migration data*

Under the overall umbrella of the MDS, the **Internal Displacement Data Strategy (IDDS)** was developed and published in Sep 2021 to outline a strategic path forward in addressing the expanding demands on internal displacement data. The strategy reflects IOM's role in internal displacement contexts worldwide in providing crucial information on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). DTM continues its efforts at global, regional, and national level in line with priorities set across the four pillars of IDDS, namely Assistance and Protection Data, Safeguards and Standards, Data Coordination, and Use and Accountability.Subsequently, in partnership with the Migration Policy Institute (MPI), the review of Flow Monitoring exercise worldwide was conducted and completed. The report of this review includes recommendations of strategy points and priorities to support the development of IOM's **Flow Monitoring Data Strategy**.

Deliverable 3.2

Seamless linkages between data and IOM's work ensured

✓ *Provide high-quality, data-driven evidence to* **inform IOM programming**

GMDAC contributed to stronger evidence-based programming in IOM through the expansion of its impact evaluation and analytics work. For example, it generated insights to assess the impact of IOM programmes across a range of areas, including in social cohesion programmes, began to expand its predictive analytics capacities in areas such as climate-change-induced migration, and spearheaded migration forecasting and foresight exercises. GMDAC also offered technical support to IOM regional and country missions relating to data collection, analysis and visualization, strengthening internal IOM capacities in these areas.

Deliverable 3.3

Migration evidence base within IOM and the UN system strengthened and systematically applied

✓ *Actively engage in improving data to* **inform UN programming**

IOM, in particular DTM, is involved in several inter-agency groups working on improving data across the UN. For example, DTM co-leads the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS) and is involved in the Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF), Data Responsibility Working Group, (DRWG), - DSID group for the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, and Data and Knowledge Working Group (DKWG) in the context of the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD). Further, DTM is involved in the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, InfoRM (a multi-stakeholder forum for developing shared, quantitative analysis relevant to humanitarian crises and disasters), the Food Security Information Network (FSIN), and other similar networks and initiatives.

Cross-cutting deliverables

A: Robust data protection and privacy, as well as ethical and responsible approaches to data are upheld and promoted

✓ Improve **safeguards and standards** for IOM data collection, including DTM operations

IOM worked to improve its own data governance and specifically its data protection standards in its own operations. For example, DTM started to roll-out its own strengthened data standards, which specify the minimum requirements and recommended guidelines to support staff to successfully implement DTM programs across the Migration Data Management Life Cycle found in the [IOM Data Governance Policy (IN/253).](#)

B: Cooperation and dialogue on migration data strengthened

✓ Strengthen **migration data dialogue** with different stakeholders

Since 2020, spearheading new alliances with National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and others in the migration data community at different levels. For example, it launched the Global Migration Data Network and in collaboration with the African Union and Statistics Sweden, the African Migration Data Network (AMDN). Further, IOM strengthened its role as key convener and participant in international dialogue relating to migration data and global processes by engaging in several high-profile migration data processes, and organizing the 2020 International Forum on Migration Statistics (IFMS) in Cairo, and co-organizing subsequent editions with partners.

C: Data innovation promoted and facilitated

✓ Accelerated **migration data innovation** for policy

IOM continued to explore how to utilize non-traditional datasets to understand migration. Aiming to responsibly and ethically harness non-traditional data sources and innovative methodologies to this end, GMDAC expanded the Big Data for Migration Alliance (BD4M). This brings together stakeholders from different sectors, including from the private sector, in a large hybrid event organized in partnership with the African Union and the Robert Bosch Foundation in November 2021. GMDAC also co-produced several studies and reports with academic partners, for instance on public sentiment towards migration in the early stages of the COVID pandemic and-

a handbook on harnessing data innovation for migration policy, and continued to convene BD4M 'studios' and events to facilitate cross-sectoral dialogue on topics such as 'digital self-determination' in the context of migration, in partnership with the International Network on Digital Self-Determination.For example, IOM also partnered with Flowminder, to explore how Call Detail Records (CDR) and selected DTM data could be combined for infectious disease surveillance and control, releasing several publications on this with academic partners. IOM also expanded its partnerships and dialogue in this area. For example, in 2022 IOM become advisor to the European Space Agency regarding work on utilizing remote sensing for humanitarian purposes.

✓ *Deepened strategic work on **data innovation and ethics***

IOM, in particular through DTM, worked extensively to advance data responsibility and uphold data ethics across the humanitarian system. For example, IOM co-leads the Data Responsibility Working Group (DRWG) of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), which brings together diverse actors working in this space and coordinates, supports, and monitors collective action on data responsibility. Further, in 2020, IOM through its leadership with the Data Science and Ethics Group (DSEG), published its 'Framework for the ethical use of advanced data science methods in the Humanitarian Sector'; the interactive version of the framework was selected as a finalist at the 2021 AidEx Humanitarian Innovation of the Year Award.

Looking ahead

The GDI will move forward over the next months to consolidate, strengthen and expand data-related activities and partnerships across IOM, in line with the MDS. Meanwhile, it will focus on systematizing and strengthening its collaboration with external stakeholders, building internal capacity and launching several new flagship initiatives.
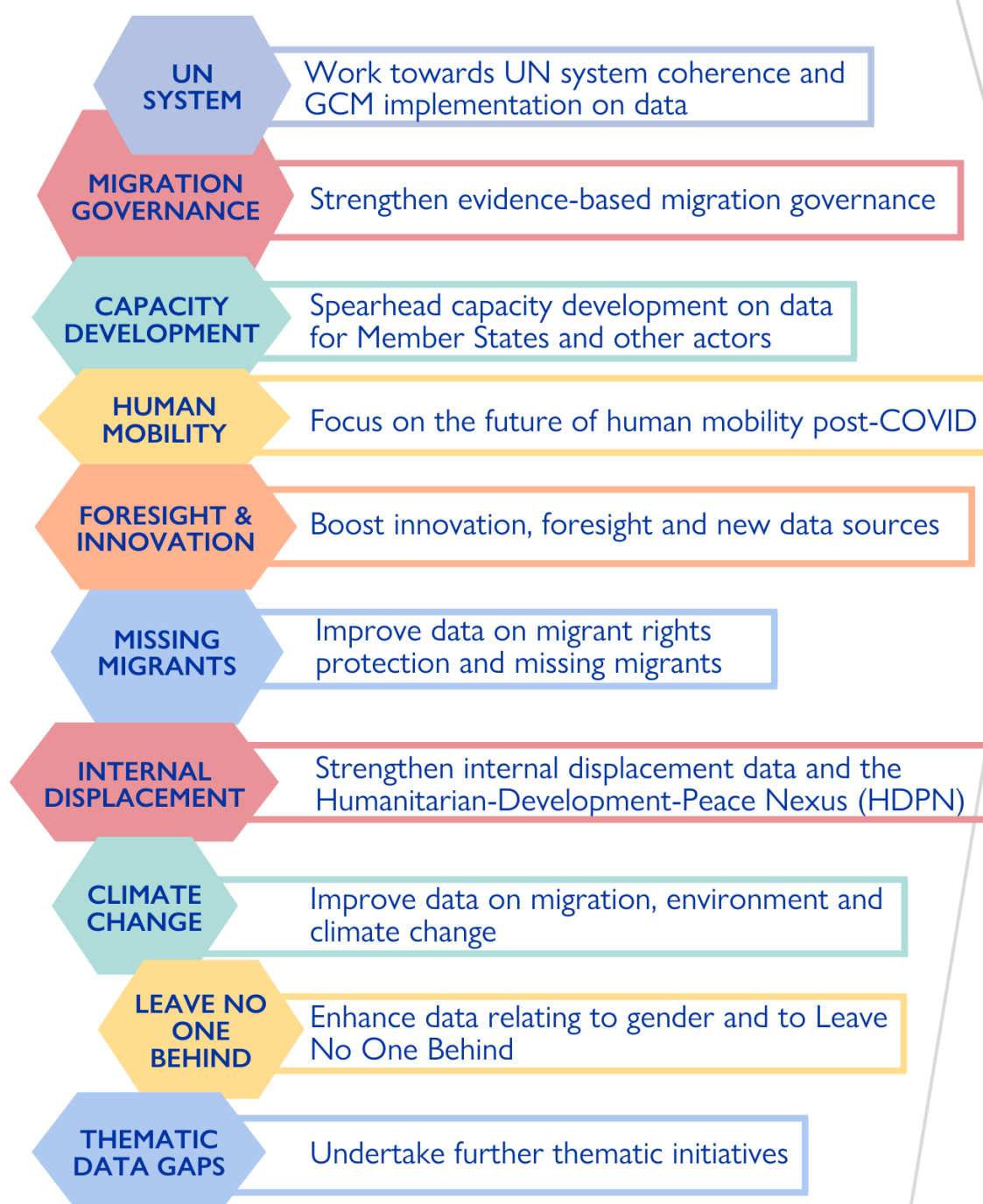
Transition towards programme-based and longer-term operations, rather than using short-term and project-based modalities, will be an important focus in the next phase of MDS implementation. Resource mobilization will become a particular priority, as there is a need for more predictable funding to support implementation of the MDS, and, overall, for IOM to bring coherence, continuity and a forward-looking approach to its migration data activities. Resources will be needed to strengthen IOM institutionally, reinforce essential functions related to migration data and undertake new strategic initiatives.

The implementation of the MDS needs to be underpinned by appropriate institutional and staff capacity. There is a need to standardise and support further development of IOM's migration data expertise across geographies and thematic divisions. In particular, it is critical to address existing capacity needs, including data analysis capacity as well as skills and expertise for data innovation.

The GDI is also seeking to develop and launch several new flagship initiatives to accelerate MDS implementation, over 2023-2025. These include but are not limited to efforts to: implement the GCM with a particular focus on Objective 1, understand the future of mobility post-COVID, focus increasingly on themes including climate and gender, and develop a comprehensive capacity development programme on migration statistics (see Annex 1 for a preliminary list of these).

Annexes

Annex 1

Preliminary list of flagship initiatives under the Global Data Institute (GDI)

UN SYSTEM — Work towards UN system coherence and GCM implementation on data

MIGRATION GOVERNANCE — Strengthen evidence-based migration governance

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT — Spearhead capacity development on data for Member States and other actors

HUMAN MOBILITY — Focus on the future of human mobility post-COVID

FORESIGHT & INNOVATION — Boost innovation, foresight and new data sources

MISSING MIGRANTS — Improve data on migrant rights protection and missing migrants

INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT — Strengthen internal displacement data and the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDPN)

CLIMATE CHANGE — Improve data on migration, environment and climate change

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND — Enhance data relating to gender and to Leave No One Behind

THEMATIC DATA GAPS — Undertake further thematic initiatives

Annex 2

Analysis of Member States' statements to the 2022 IMRF: References to GCM Objective 1
Migration Data

GCM Objective 1: Migration Data

Following the first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) held in May 2022, an analysis of statements by Member States (mainly delivered in the General Assembly, but also during the Policy Debate and the Roundtables) was conducted to identify countries prioritizing migration data.

Countries mention the need for disaggregated data and evidence-based policies, and for strengthening the production of research and reliable statistics, and describe their improvements in this area.

Statements

Out of 99 statements analysed, 35 of them mention data, spread across regions: 14 in Africa, 4 in the Americas, 10 in Asia, 6 in Europe, and 1 in Oceania. From the 35 countries mentioning data, 10 are Champion Countries.

Africa

Burkina Faso, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda.

Americas

Antigua and Barbuda, Guyana, Haiti, Paraguay.

Oceania

Tuvalu.

Asia

Cambodia, India, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates.

Europe

Belarus, Belgium, Finland, North Macedonia, The Russian Federation, United Kingdom.

Pledges

A side analysis was also conducted on the pledges by Member States (considering submissions received by 22 August 2022). Six countries have made pledges on improving their data on migration:

Asia
- Azerbaijan
- Cambodia
- Iraq

Africa
- Sierra Leone
- Uganda

Europe
- The Republic of Moldova

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