

Season's Greetings from GMDAC

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Message from the director

Welcome to the IOM GMDAC Newsletter. 2016 was the first full year of activity for IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre in Berlin. Sadly, it was a year in which the number of migrant deaths reached a new high. GMDAC reported on the rising death toll in its second global report on migrant fatalities – Fatal Journeys, Volume 2, published in May 2016. However, globally most migration occurs through legal channels and brings huge benefits for countries of origin and destination, as well as migrants themselves. These impacts are not always fully captured in public debates about migration, because data on migration remain very poor.

In December 2016, GMDAC organized a major international conference in Berlin, hosted by Germany's Federal Foreign Office, to highlight the need for better data on international migration. The conference identified five key areas where action is needed. First, there is a need to make better use of the data that are already collected, which are often scattered within and between countries. Second, we need to exploit the potential of non-traditional sources of data – such as Big Data. Third, we need to do a better job of communicating about migration data, as there are so many misconceptions about the facts of migration. Fourth, we need "data champions" to advocate for better data on migration. Fifth, it is essential to invest in capacity development and to ensure that migration is factored into efforts to achieve a "Development Data Revolution". In 2017 IOM GMDAC will aim to integrate these recommendations into its programme of work.

Frank Laczko, GMDAC Director

IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC), is developing a Global Migration Data Portal jointly with the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) as technical implementing partner.

The portal will bring together in one place key information about global migration-related trends, drawing on existing global, regional and national sources of data. It will feature a query database and regular trend analysis on a variety of topics. The project was officially announced on 12 July 2016 in Berlin and has so far, been supported by the Germany's Federal Foreign Ministry and the UK Department for International Development. The portal is housed at IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre in Berlin and will be instrumental in promoting the sharing of migration data at the global level.

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International Conference: 'Improving Data on International Migration' Towards Agenda 2030 and the Global Compact on Migration



Photo: IOM/ Sabine Schneider

OECD, IOM, and UN DESA agreed to enhance their cooperation and announced the organization of an international Forum on Migration Statistics, to be held in Paris in January 2018.

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On December 2-3, GMDAC hosted an international conference in Berlin to advance discussions on a common set of principles, approaches and priorities that countries can agree on to improve data on international migration.

Nearly 200 representatives from governments, the civil society, the private sector, academia and international organisations and entities including the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the World Bank, International Labour Organisation and the European Commission agreed on the importance of promoting "data dialogue" in light of the inclusion of migration in Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development.

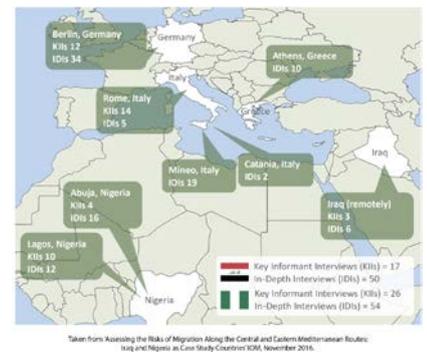
Projects

Safe Migration: New report launched "Assessing the Risks of Migration along the Central and Eastern Mediterranean Routes: Iraq and Nigeria as Case Study Countries"

The purpose of the study, "Assessing the Risks of Migration along the Central and Eastern Mediterranean Routes: Iraq and Nigeria as Case Study Countries" is to give breadth to the concept of "safe migration" – as included in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by analysing patterns of migration and return from two case study countries: Iraq and

Nigeria. IOM’s Global Migration Data Analysis Centre completed this research study for the UK Department for International Development as part of a wider project entitled “Mediterranean Migration Response, Reducing the Risks of Unsafe Migration: Linking Research, Data and Policy”.

The report is based on 147 in-depth qualitative interviews with migrants and key informants in Nigeria, Niger and Italy (for the Central Mediterranean route) and Iraq, Greece and Germany (for the Eastern Mediterranean route). It presents an update on the dynamics of migration through these two Mediterranean routes, looking specifically at routes and the risks that present on exit, during the journey, at destination and on return. It also provides a first insight into the experience of Iraqi asylum seekers in Germany, after the large increase in arrivals in 2015.



Migration Governance Index (MGI)

As part of IOM’s efforts to track progress on the migration-related targets of the SDGs – IOM and the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) have jointly developed a Migration Governance Index (MGI). Drawing on IOM’s Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF), the project involves the development of a policy-benchmarking framework to assess the extent to which national migration policies facilitate orderly, safe and well managed migration, as laid out in SDG Target 10.7.

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Table 6: Key findings

	Institutional capacity	Migrant rights	Safe and orderly migration	Labour migration management	Regional and international cooperation
Bahrain	Emerging	Emerging	Developed	Emerging	Developed
Bangladesh	Emerging	Emerging	Emerging	Developed	Mature
Canada	Mature	Developed	Developed	Developed	Mature
Costa Rica	Developed	Developed	Developed	Emerging	Mature
Germany	Mature	Developed	Mature	Developed	Mature
Ghana	Developed	Emerging	Mature	Nascent	Mature
Italy	Developed	Developed	Emerging	Developed	Mature
Mexico	Developed	Emerging	Emerging	Developed	Developed
Moldova	Developed	Developed	Mature	Developed	Mature
Morocco	Developed	Emerging	Emerging	Emerging	Developed
Philippines	Mature	Mature	Mature	Developed	Mature
South Africa	Mature	Developed	Developed	Developed	Mature
South Korea	Mature	Developed	Mature	Developed	Mature
Sweden	Developed	Mature	Developed	Developed	Mature
Turkey	Mature	Developed	Emerging	Developed	Developed



Migrant deaths around the world, 2016

Missing Migrants Project

The Missing Migrants Project (MMP) has tracked deaths and disappearances of migrants along migratory routes worldwide since 2013. Three years on MMP has developed into an important hub of information and advocacy that media, researchers, and the general public can gain an understanding of the risks of migration and related issues. Visit the [website](#)

MECLEP

The three-year, EU-funded project “Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Evidence for Policy” (MECLEP), which aims to contribute to the global knowledge base on the relationship between migration and environmental change, including climate change, is coming to an end.

Six national assessments looking at the nexus between migration and climate change in the six project countries (Dominican Republic, Haiti, Kenya, Mauritius, Papua New Guinea and Viet Nam) and two survey reports presenting the findings of the research studies have been published and can be accessed at the [Environmental Migration Portal](#). The remaining four survey reports and the final comparative report will be published in the next weeks.



The ongoing *Migration and Development Debate Series* is jointly organised with Germany's Federal Foreign Ministry, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and GMDAC

The following seminars took place:

- How to Build a Global Migration Governance for Sustainable Development? Implications of the UN Summit on Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants with *William Lacy Swing, DG IOM*
- The road toward 19 September: Preparing for the UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants with *Dr. Elisabeth G. Ferris, UN*
- Measuring Migration in the SDG Framework with *Keiko Osaki-Tomita, UN*
- Measuring Well-Governed Migration – The 2016 Migration Governance Index with *Leo Abruzzese, EIU*

Launch events across Europe for the study, *“Assessing the Risks of Migration along the Central and Eastern Mediterranean Routes”* were organized to share the findings from IOM studies on different aspects of Mediterranean migration to Europe with policy-makers, civil society and international organizations representatives based in Greece, the United Kingdom, and Germany

Convened by IOM and with the facilitated by The Economist Intelligence Unit, GMDAC organised an *International Migration Data Workshop* in Berlin. Key users and providers of migration data discussed ways forward and challenges in relation to the establishment of a Global Migration Data Portal

The experts workshop on *“Understanding and Measuring ‘Safe’ Migration”*, aimed to discuss concept and definitions of “safe migration”, analyse the situation of migrant groups at risk and to assess the availability and quality of migration statistics for measuring “unsafe” migration

The experts workshop on *“Migrant Fatalities, Identification and Data”* addressed the data, identification and policy challenges related to deaths during migration

Presentations

GMDAC's migration experts participated throughout the year in international conferences, seminars and workshops dealing with migration and data. Among the highlights:

GMDAC's Data and Research Officer Denis Kierans and Senior Adviser to GMDAC, Ann Singleton, participated in the ECOWAS regional workshop on migration data management in Lomé, Togo, on 15–18 March, organized by IOM in collaboration with ECOWAS and ILO. The [workshop](#), aimed at national government representatives, discussed best practices in migration data management and GMDAC's work on regional guidelines for the collection and analysis of migration data.

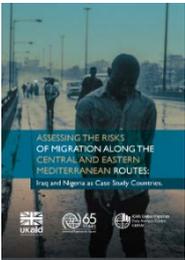
GMDAC's Research Officer Marzia Rango presented on migration, big data and public opinion on migration at the 68th edition of [Prix Italia](#), a European festival dedicated to the media organized yearly by the Italian national public broadcaster RAI. This year's edition was dedicated to migration and symbolically held on the Italian island of Lampedusa on 30 September–2 October.

GMDAC's Research and Policy Officer Susanne Melde participated at the International Migration Policy Seminar Series presenting on the issue of migration, displacement and planned relocation linked to the environment providing insights from 6 countries. Melde also spoke at the Hugo Conference - Environment, Migration, Politics in Liege.

GMDAC also represents IOM at meetings of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), which was established by the UN Statistical Commission to develop an indicator framework for the monitoring of the SDGs and their targets. GMDAC's Susanne Melde and Frank Laczko participated, respectively, in the third and fourth meeting of the IAEG-SDGs, in Mexico City (30 March–1 April) and Geneva (15–18 November).



The ongoing **GMDAC Data Briefing Series** aim to explain what lies behind the numbers and the data used in migration policy and public debates. The Briefings explain what “the numbers” indicate about movements of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, on a range of topics for policy across the globe.



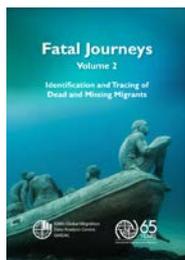
Assessing the Risks of Migration along the Central and Eastern Mediterranean Routes: Iraq and Nigeria as Case Study, looks at the risks, perspectives for return, and perceptions of regular and irregular migration.



Migrant Smuggling Data and Research: A global review of the emerging evidence base, provides a review of what is being collected and what can be done to build the evidence base on migrant smuggling globally.



Global Migration Trends Factsheet presents a snapshot of the major migration trends worldwide for the year 2015.



Fatal Journeys Volume 2: Identification and Tracing of Dead and Missing Migrants, represents IOM’s second global report on migrant fatalities.



Disasters, Environmental Changes and Migration: Outcomes from Vulnerable Settings in Haiti explores how different forms of human mobility can either contribute or hinder adaptation to the environmental and climate change. Available only in French.



Measuring well-governed migration: The 2016 Migration Governance Index aims to provide a consolidated framework for evaluating country-specific migration governance structures.

GMDAC Newsletter

The GMDAC Newsletter is sent out on a regular basis. If you do not want to receive it again, kindly write an e-mail to gmdac@iom.int

For more information please contact the GMDAC team [here](#)