

# African regional review of implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Rabat, 31 August and 1 September 2021

## Background note

### Thematic round table 4: Improving value- and evidence-based policy making and public debate, and enhancing cooperation on migration

Objective 1: Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies.	Objective 3: Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration.
Objective 17: Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration.	Objective 23: Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration.

#### I. What are the opportunities and key challenges that will be considered by the thematic round table?

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration encourages the use of data and statistics on migration to inform policy-making and facilitate implementation of programmes, projects and activities affecting migrants. It also lays emphasis on the dissemination of accurate information to counter discrimination and promote open discussions on migration. In the African context, where there is a proliferation of inaccurate information on social media and negative stereotypes of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, there is an acute need for programmes and initiatives that use accurate and reliable data and information on migration to help combat discrimination and xenophobia. Existing, pan-African, subregional and national statistics will need further strengthening in order to keep abreast of the increasing numbers of migrants on the continent as Africans take advantage of free movement protocols.

Academic institutions, public and private research institutions and individual subject matter experts should also be enlisted to deepen understanding of migration at each stage of the migration process, from pre-departure to return and reintegration. Improved data, including data disaggregated by age, sex, ethnicity and disability, and deeper data analysis will not only facilitate the achievement of Global Compact objective 1, but will also inform cross-cutting themes and shed more light on issues such as remittance flows, remittance costs, the economic contribution of remittances, the portability of entitlements and earned benefits, smuggling and trafficking in persons, and migrants' long-term return and reintegration needs. Better data will also help in highlighting emerging issues, including the nexus between migration and international public health emergencies, such as the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19)



pandemic, and the role of new technologies and innovations in reducing the costs associated with remittances.

Challenges impeding the formulation of effective policies on migration include the inability of many national statistical offices in African countries to collect and process data on migration on a regular basis. Efforts are also needed to strengthen the data analysis and reporting capacity of the statistics offices of the continent's regional economic communities.

Diaspora involvement in development initiatives is now acknowledged as one of the pillars of a whole-of-society approach to Global Compact implementation. In some countries, the proportion of gross domestic product (GDP) generated by migrant remittances has surpassed the proportion generated by foreign direct investment and has become emblematic of the role that members of diaspora communities can play in the economic development of their countries of origin. A number of innovative platforms have facilitated mobile money transfers to and within Africa and reduced remittance costs. The use of emerging technologies, not only for remittances but also in other economic sectors, offers numerous opportunities for African diaspora communities and young people to contribute to the continent's development.

## **II. What steps must be taken to facilitate the achievement of the overall objective of thematic round table 4 in Africa?**

- Establish harmonized baselines and standards for migration information, data and statistics systems at continental, subregional and national levels for regional economic communities and national statistical offices;
- Identify information needs and priorities at all stages of migration. Stakeholders should, inter alia, identify information needs and collect data and information on return and reintegration and on protection needs of African migrants in African and other destination countries, including those in emergency situations. More accurate data on population groups in situations of heightened vulnerability, including unaccompanied children, missing persons and victims of smuggling and trafficking in persons is also needed;
- Take steps to eliminate discrimination and xenophobia against migrants within the context of pan-African initiatives and frameworks on the free movement of people and trade liberalization, and within the context of regional integration initiatives launched by regional economic communities;
- Launch national and regional initiatives to promote the externalization of labour to give young people and poorly-skilled individuals employment opportunities across borders, while also seeking to retain those with critical skills, including health-care professionals;
- Launch data collecting and monitoring initiatives to inform policies on the protection of African migrants against racism, abuse and exploitation within the context of international cooperation agreements on migration, including the Global Compact itself, and labour and human rights instruments;
- Broaden the scope of research on the contribution of migrants to development to include remittance flows, the transfer of innovative technologies and ideas, and community-level development contributions, while also taking action to reduce the cost of money transfers to and within Africa;

- Launch continental, subregional, national and local-level initiatives, including social dialogue and media campaigns involving diaspora media outlets and migrants themselves, to counter negative stereotypes and perceptions of migrants.

### III. Guiding questions

- What are the immediate information and data needs on all the stages of migration including the pre-departure, migration journey, return, resettlement, reintegration and remigration stages, in different countries, subregions and sectors?
- How can we strengthen the formulation of evidence-based policies and programmes to combat discrimination against migrants?
- In the light of emerging challenges, including those stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, what are the major issues facing African countries on which insufficient data is available, such as remittance flows, smuggling and trafficking in persons, pension portability and migrants' access to health and social assistance programmes?
- How could data be used more effectively to enhance the protections offered to migrants within Africa and in other global regions?
- How far has the region progressed in terms of disaggregating Sustainable Development Goal indicator data by migration status? What needs to be done to address data gaps?
- What are the biggest challenges undermining the continent's migration data collection systems?
- How can stakeholders make effective use of high quality and reliable data to inform planning programmes and initiatives on migration in Africa?
- How can we bolster the capacity of governments, academic institutions and civil society stakeholders to counter entrenched stereotypes and prejudice against migrants?
- How can we use data to highlight migrants' contributions to the development of their countries of origin and their destination countries?

### IV. Additional resources

Key resources related to this thematic area include:

- International Organization for Migration, Africa migration data network. See: [www.gmdac.iom.int/AfricaMigrationDataNetwork](http://www.gmdac.iom.int/AfricaMigrationDataNetwork).
- International Organization for Migration, Displacement Tracking Matrix. Available at: [www.dtm.iom.int/](http://www.dtm.iom.int/).
- African Union Commission and International Organization for Migration, *Africa Migration Report: Challenging the Narrative* (2020). Available at: [www.au.int/sites/default/files/documents/39408-doc-africa-migration-report.pdf](http://www.au.int/sites/default/files/documents/39408-doc-africa-migration-report.pdf).
- World Bank, Identification for Development (ID4D) initiative. See: [www.id4d.worldbank.org/](http://www.id4d.worldbank.org/).

- North Africa Mixed Migration Task Force, Mixed Migration Hub. See: [www.mixedmigrationhub.org/](http://www.mixedmigrationhub.org/).
- International Organization for Migration, *IOM Continental Strategy for Africa 2020–2024* (2020). Available at: [www.publications.iom.int/books/iom-continental-strategy-africa-2020-2024](http://www.publications.iom.int/books/iom-continental-strategy-africa-2020-2024).
- International Organization for Migration Global Migration Data Analysis Centre, Migration Data Portal. Available at: [www.migrationdataportal.org/about](http://www.migrationdataportal.org/about).
- International Organization for Migration, *World Migration Report 2020* (2021). Available at: [www.worldmigrationreport.iom.in/](http://www.worldmigrationreport.iom.in/).
- International Organization for Migration Missing Migrants Project (Africa portal). Available at: [www.missingmigrants.iom.int/region/Africa](http://www.missingmigrants.iom.int/region/Africa).
- International Organization for Migration, COVID-19 Mobility Impacts: Human Mobility Impacts Due to COVID-19. Available at: [www.migration.iom.int/](http://www.migration.iom.int/).
- United Nations Expert Group Meeting on International Migration Statistics: Concepts, Definitions, Data and Indicators. See: [www.unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/migration-expert-group/meetings/](http://www.unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/migration-expert-group/meetings/).
- Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division, Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at: [www.unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/](http://www.unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/).
- United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics, “Suggested questions on international migration (based on country practices): Guidance note”. Available at: [www.unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/migration-expert-group/methodology/Suggested\\_questions\\_on\\_international\\_migration\\_rev\\_MD\\_HC-clean.pdf](http://www.unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/migration-expert-group/methodology/Suggested_questions_on_international_migration_rev_MD_HC-clean.pdf).
- United Nations Population Fund, *Measuring disability, migration, and marriage registration – recommended questions for inclusion in censuses* (May 2019). Available at <https://www.unfpa.org/resources/measuring-disability-migration-and-marriage-registration-recommended-questions-inclusion>.
- Economic and Statistical Observatory for Sub-Saharan Africa. See: [www.afristat.org/](http://www.afristat.org/).
- Pan-African Institute for Statistics. See: [www.au.int/en/ea/statistics/statafric](http://www.au.int/en/ea/statistics/statafric).