

Needs Assessment for the Knowledge Platform and Connection Hub



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This publication was made possible through unearmarked funding granted to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and internally allocated through the Migration Resource Allocation Committee (MIRAC).

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for the United Nations Network on Migration

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Acknowledgements

Support for the research and writing of this report was provided by the Secretariat of the United Nations Network on Migration, thanks to unearmarked funding granted to IOM, internally allocated through the Migration Allocation Resource Committee (MIRAC).

The authors also recognize the valuable comments and inputs from the United Nations Network on Migration Core Working Group 1.2 on the Knowledge Platform and Connection Hub, as well as from all those who participated in the interviews and surveys that informed this report.

Acronyms

BMZ	Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (German: Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung)
CRRF	Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework
CSO	civil society organization
GFMD	Global Forum for Migration and Development
IDP	internally displaced person
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LGBT	lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender
MPI	Migration Policy Institute
NGO	non-governmental organization
OAS	Organization of American States
PfP	Platform for Partnerships (of the GMFD)
UNHCR	(Office of the) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Executive Summary

At a time when there is more information at people's fingertips than ever, the task of identifying relevant, comprehensive and accurate data and analysis on migration has likewise become all the more difficult. Collecting and interpreting data is resource-intensive, and governments may not always be able to share it due to privacy concerns or political sensitivities. Information is scattered among dozens of different platforms and can go out of date quickly, especially during a fast-moving crisis. Compounding these challenges is the fact that migration has become a highly emotionally charged and polarized issue, and even the most basic data points are subject to competing interpretations. The proliferation of information on migration has muddied an already complex landscape, with thousands of competing (and sometimes contradictory) sources, with no neutral "arbiter" that can vet and collate this vast universe of knowledge. The result is a fragmented terrain that puts the onus on individual users to filter and vet the information they need.

In the face of these challenges, United Nations Member States seek a shared repository of knowledge to inform migration policy and practices, and to support the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. In response, the United Nations Network on Migration is developing a Knowledge Platform and Connection Hub to serve as a repository for migration information and data and facilitate access to these resources and further support. For these tools to be effective, they must be designed to address the needs of the migration policy community while addressing existing gaps and limitations.

On behalf of the United Nations Network on Migration, the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) conducted a needs assessment to inform the design of the KP and CH, with the goal of identifying gaps in existing evidence and limitations in government capacity to use information effectively for migration governance. Reflecting the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches taken by the Global Compact for Migration, MPI interviewed and surveyed policymakers and other stakeholders from around the world to ask how they currently absorb and use evidence. The resulting needs assessment reveals the form, content and character of knowledge and data gaps, looks at the broader role of information in the decision-making process and identifies tools and resources that could improve the quality of migration policymaking and governance.

The needs assessment found that information and data on migration is regularly and widely used across all levels of government, academia, civil society, business and the international community. Data plays a critical role in helping various actors better understand the context around migration issues, filling gaps in understanding and illuminating good practices. Current repositories have significant gaps and limitations, however. Government data and statistics are seen as the gold standard, but they are not always available, and usually only capture a snapshot at the national level. Also, analysis of regional or national trends is left to international actors (with United Nations agencies seen as the most trusted source), with data availability driven by the capacity and priorities of agencies that produce it. This results in a dearth of information and data on certain regions or topics and a proliferation of resources on others. Additionally, information is not always collected in a way that allows it to inform policy decisions. For instance, many sources do not disaggregate by gender, legal status or locality, and some groups, such as irregular migrants

and internally displaced persons, tend to fly under the radar of data collection instruments. Other gaps are perceived in areas where there is no research consensus or where the issue is in flux, such as the relationship between climate change and migration.

Even when and where data is available, technical barriers may prevent actors from accessing and using it. These roadblocks include lack of standardized definitions that make it difficult to compare data sets; incomplete or missing data that can paint a misleading picture; an overwhelming amount of unfiltered data; duplicative data platforms; and language barriers to information access. Finally, ease of use of data platforms is more than a cosmetic detail, as information that cannot be quickly absorbed and easily understood will be passed over.

Reporting on policy developments poses its own difficulties. It is difficult to find independent assessments of “what works” in migration policy rather than merely highlighting good practices. In addition, what exists on paper may differ greatly from the reality of how policies and projects are implemented on the ground. These challenges extend to how countries can best report on their implementation of the Global Compact for Migration. Many of the Global Compact’s objectives are not easily quantifiable, making it difficult to evaluate progress in any systematic way. Furthermore, some data integral to evaluating progress, such as gender-disaggregated outcomes, are not collected due to lack of both capacity and prioritization. Deciding in the early stages what data and information is relevant can significantly impact policy outcomes.

Stakeholders have high expectations of the new KP and CH, hoping that it will consolidate the large volume of information already out there and “connect the dots” between existing databases, help fill existing information gaps by linking to raw data and featuring visual representations of key trends, and create a repository of existing practices as regards migration policies and initiatives. To succeed, the KP and CH should be easy to use, transparent about data and its sources, and have the ability to correct mistakes. This, however, is not an easy task. The challenges of effectively consolidating information include concerns about data privacy, the competing needs of different audiences, the risk of duplicating and overlapping with existing platforms, and the difficulty of vetting and interpreting information and assessing its accuracy. Finally, if the platform is not rigorously maintained and updated, stakeholders will lose confidence.

In an environment of limited resources, the United Nations Network on Migration will have to make some hard choices on how to best address (and improve upon) the current gaps and limitations in migration knowledge and information-sharing. The Knowledge Platform should consider these three models.

- (1) **Comprehensive approach.** This model would focus on aggregating large pools of information in real time, creating a one-stop-shop for open-source data on migration. This would allow stakeholders to utilize and manipulate data in different ways, rather than relying on interpretations provided in existing analyses. As this model would act more like an algorithmic aggregator than a curated human-driven platform, it would require regular (perhaps daily) updates and transparent disclosure of data sources, as well as any incomplete or unobtainable data, to ensure it remains the primary hub for migration information.
- (2) **Targeted approach.** This human-driven approach would focus on curating the most important information and providing interpretation and analysis of a narrower scope of key issues and trends. It would cater to users who agree to sacrifice some degree of data comprehensiveness so that data

could be put into context and presented in an accessible format. This approach would require the trust and buy-in of stakeholders to build an authoritative “uber platform” of information, ideally vetted and filtered by an impartial advisory board according to an agreed-upon set of priorities.

- (3) **Capacity-building approach.** This model would focus on investing resources where there is the greatest need to ensure that major information gaps are filled. Resources would, therefore, be directed towards building the data collection and analysis capacities of countries who need it most. Although its execution would be challenging, this model could, over the long term, lead to the increased standardization and comparability of data and the improvement of data collection practices globally.

The Connection Hub might consider incorporating three key elements. First, it could serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas and monitoring progress in the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration. Second, it could function as a repository of project and partner documents, with a clear vetting system to ensure that what is on paper matches the reality on the ground. Finally, it could be a way to connect countries with specific projects and potential partners, ensuring good practices are applied in real life.

1

Introduction: Why Data and Information Matter to Migration Governance

The adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (Global Compact for Migration) in December 2018 created an important opportunity to move international cooperation on migration issues forward. An overarching framework for international migration could, among other things, contribute to better planning for migration and displacement situations and potential crises before they arise; facilitate collaboration to address large-scale challenges that are beyond the capacity of any one government to address alone; and identify areas for collective action that extend beyond the normal, short-term political cycle. One key ingredient to achieving these goals is trustworthy evidence and data on which to base migration decision-making, research and service provision.

Knowledge and data¹ serve various purposes at different points along the migration arc and for different stakeholders. For example, information on the composition and characteristics of immigrant groups is needed in the design and delivery of services; information on evolving routes and patterns of mixed flows of asylum seekers and migrants is needed to manage borders, build functioning asylum systems and ensure the protection of vulnerable groups; knowledge of host country conditions informs the adjudication of refugee claims; and evidence on long-term socioeconomic outcomes of migrants is an important ingredient in designing integration systems that work. Recognizing this, Objective 1 of the Global Compact for Migration urges States to “collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as basis for evidence-based policies.”² Support for this principle was one of the consistent areas of widespread consensus in an otherwise contentious set of negotiations. However, there is less clarity on the mechanics of how this should be done: who should be collecting and interpreting data, what standards and metrics should be used, and how data should be consolidated and shared are still open questions.

Two additional factors complicate this task. First, migration has become a highly emotionally charged and polarizing issue, creating visible fault lines through societies that complicate what should otherwise be neutral policy discussions. Second, the way our societies absorb information has itself changed. With the proliferation of new technologies and media, and an environment of questioning experts and elites, facts themselves are under attack.³ People today have more information at their fingertips than ever before, but information can be questioned, cherry-picked

1 For the purposes of this report, we define “knowledge” as the theoretical or practical understanding of a subject as a result of experience or study. “Data” is defined as information, especially facts or numbers, collected to be examined and considered and used to help decision-making.

2 United Nations, General Assembly resolution 73/195 on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, adopted on 19 December 2018 (A/RES/73/195). Available at www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_73_195.pdf.

3 Natalia Banulescu-Bogdan, *When Facts Don't Matter: How to Communicate More Effectively about Immigration's Costs and Benefits* (Washington, D.C., Migration Policy Institute, 2018). Available at www.migrationpolicy.org/research/when-facts-dont-matter-immigration.

and distorted over the waves of social media, including by political opponents. Even information delivered by established and neutral actors may be subject to increased scrutiny and mistrust. In addition, it has become nearly impossible to be aware of all sources that exist and how to access them.

While many stakeholders recognize the deep need for more evidence on migration to educate policymakers, service providers, employers and the broader public (see Figure 1), there is no consensus as to who should be coordinating this effort. There is no single trusted “arbiter” of information; instead, a panoply of actors provides competing and sometimes contradictory data, often with self-serving aims, placing the onus on knowledge consumers to vet and filter the large volume of available information. As United Nations Member States seek a shared repository of knowledge to inform migration policy and practices, as well as support the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration, questions of how to ensure that information is both accessible and credible are paramount. How do we develop the tools to assess, compare and vet new information in an environment of inherent mistrust and skepticism towards facts writ large? How can knowledge be better consolidated in one place?

The Knowledge Platform and Connection Hub (KP and CH) being launched at the request of United Nations Member States (through the Capacity-Building Mechanism called for in the Global Compact for Migration) seek to advance these goals by serving as a “repository of existing evidence, practices and initiatives” and by “facilitating the accessibility of knowledge and sharing of solutions.”⁴ It seeks to consolidate the existing evidence base and “ensure that relevant knowledge, experience and expertise can be drawn from to help develop tailor-made solutions in response to Member States’ requests.”⁵ The KP and CH would also provide a mechanism through which to pursue the goal of the Global Compact for Migration to “provide all our citizens with access to objective, evidence-based, clear information about the benefits and challenges of migration, with a view to dispelling misleading narratives.”⁶

The Migration Policy Institute (MPI) conducted a needs assessment on behalf of the United Nations Network on Migration to inform this effort, with the goal of identifying gaps in existing evidence and limitations in government capacity to use information effectively for migration governance. MPI interviewed policymakers and other stakeholders from around the world – reflecting the Global Compact for Migration’s “whole of society” approach – to ask how they currently absorb and use evidence. Our analysis sheds light on the form, content and character of knowledge and data gaps, looking at the broader role of information in the decision-making process and identifying tools and resources that could improve the quality of migration policymaking and governance.

MPI conducted in-depth interviews (both in person and over telephone) with 31 individuals drawn from government (our principal targets, given their role as the main implementers of the Global Compact for Migration), civil society organizations (CSOs) and international organizations. In consultation with the United Nations Network on Migration and IOM, we identified and reached out to five to seven potential interviewees from each of the seven major world regions to ensure

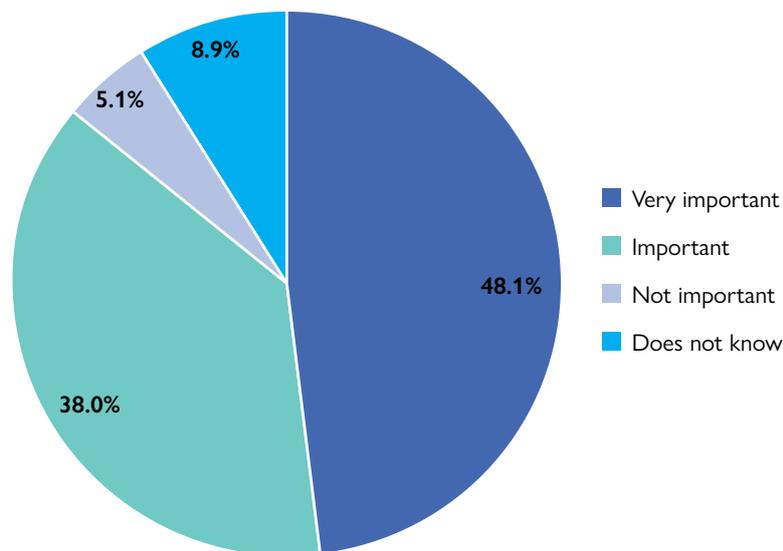
4 United Nations, General Assembly resolution 73/195 on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

5 United Nations Network on Migration, “United Nations Network on Migration Workplan”, About Us section. Available at <http://migrationnetwork.un.org/about/united-nations-network-migration-workplan>.

6 United Nations, General Assembly resolution 73/195 on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

geographic balance (total number of interviewees: N=46). Because migration is a cross-cutting topic, we reached out to officials in all parts of government, including ministries of interior, foreign affairs and development, and national statistical offices.⁷ Following the 46 interview requests sent out in November and December 2019, we were able to complete 31 interviews within the timeframe of this assessment. We spoke with stakeholders from Europe (n=8), Africa (n=7), Central and South America (n=4), North America (n=8), Oceania (n=2), Asia (n=1) and the Middle East (n=1).⁸ We also developed an online survey, which was then widely disseminated by the United Nations Network on Migration to reach more government and non-government voices. We received a total of 123 responses.⁹ This sample is not representative of the broad range of migration actors around the world, but the results are presented as indicative of trends among these stakeholders. This report distills what we learned from them.

Figure 1. Importance of online sources of migration data and information for decision-making



Note: This figure presents the distribution of responses to the survey question, “When you gather migration data and information via online platforms and portals, how important is this evidence to the decision-making process (e.g. in the case of a new project, policy or awareness-building initiative) at your organization or department? (Total responses: n=79; percentages are rounded to one decimal place and do not total 100.)

7 We relied on MPI, IOM, the United Nations Network on Migration Secretariat and other United Nations agencies that are members of Core Working Group 1.2 on Establishing a Global Knowledge Platform and Connection Hub networks to make first contact with each government. While we chose a diverse mix of ministries and departments for these initial contacts, we also followed the recommendations of the officials themselves as to who the best interlocutor would be and were often referred to colleagues in other agencies or departments.

8 During the course of this project, MPI interviewed representatives from 15 governments (Australia, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Germany, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda and Zambia), with some of these interviews involving multiple officials from different agencies of their respective governments (e.g. we spoke with 6 Canadian officials in a focus-group format); 4 representatives from international organizations (IOM, the African Union, UN-Women and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)); 5 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from four different regions; and 2 actors who were involved in the drafting and negotiations of the Global Compact for Migration.

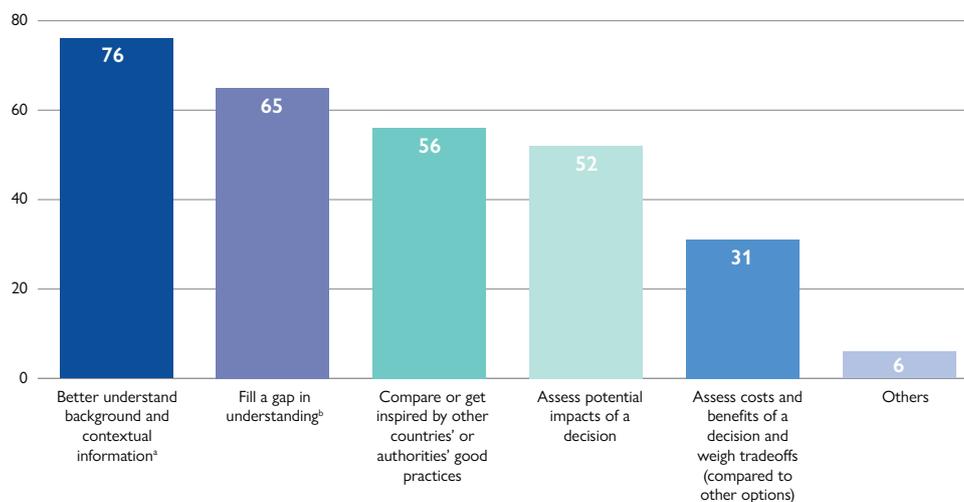
9 These responses correspond to 70 complete surveys and 53 partial surveys. Of the 123 participants, 53 represent national governments, 1 represents a subnational government, 20 represent international organizations, 29 represent NGOs and 4 represent a trade union. Government representatives come from various ministries, such as the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security and the Ministry of Health of Malta; the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment of New Zealand; the Ministry of Labor of Togo; and the Ministry of Justice of Sweden.

2

How Stakeholders Find Information and Data on Migration

All individuals (across all sectors) consulted for this assessment agree that they rely on migration information in their everyday work. The majority of these survey respondents report that they look for migration information at least once a week.¹⁰ Respondents primarily look for data and information in order to inform the design of a policy, project, campaign, legislation,¹¹ or a public outreach programme,¹² the improvement of existing initiatives,¹³ and the monitoring or evaluation of a previous action.¹⁴ Figure 2 shows how this information is used: of the 91 migration actors interviewed, 76 rely on it to better understand the context of an issue, 65 to fill a data gap, and 56 to learn about good practices.

Figure 2. How respondents use migration data and information



Notes: a For example, to gain insight into the dynamics underpinning a specific social phenomenon, including more theoretical reflections.

b For example, how many people would be affected by a specific policy change.

This figure presents the distribution of responses to the multiple-choice survey question, "How do you use the migration data and information that you find?" (Total respondents: n=91; respondents could give multiple responses to the question.)

10 Out of 91 respondents to the multiple-choice question, "In your position, how regularly do you look for additional migration data and information?", 40 choose the response, "several times a week", while 22 answer "once a week", with only 3 respondents saying that they look for migration data "less than once a month".

11 Out of 89 respondents to the multiple-choice questions, "Why do you typically seek data and information on migration? How often do you do so?", 83 choose the response, "to inform the design of a new policy, project, legislation or campaign". Of these respondents, 37 say they do so "often" and 26 answer they do so "very often".

12 Out of 89 respondents to the multiple-choice questions, "Why do you typically seek out data and information about migration? How often so?", 81 choose the response, "for public outreach". Of these respondents, 32 say they do so "often" and 18 answer they do so "very often".

13 Out of 89 respondents to the multiple-choice question, "Why do you typically seek out data and information about migration?" How often so?", 87 choose the response, "to improve an existing policy, project, legislation or campaign". Of these respondents, 39 say they do so "often" and 25 answer they do so "very often".

14 Out of 89 respondents to the multiple-choice question, "Why do you typically seek out data and information about migration? How often so?", 77 choose the response, "to monitor or evaluate an initiative". Of these respondents, 32 say they do so "often" and 17 answer they do so "very often".

2.1. What are the most trusted sources of information, and how is information used in policymaking?

The specific type of migration-related information that an individual (whether a member or officer of government, a CSO or an international organization) is searching for determines what sources he or she consults. Respondents describe three principal avenues through which they obtain data and information on migration. They are discussed below in the order in which they are typically consulted.

2.1.1. Internal government data and statistics¹⁵

Government sources are usually the first stop for information.¹⁶ Key government sources include administrative data collected by government agencies (such as visa application information and security and health assessments) and databases compiled by a national statistical office (or another central agency that plays this coordination role) from its own survey-based tools, such as population censuses, or obtained from other government bodies. Some departments or ministries have teams that produce regular fact sheets or reports on recent migration developments, such as weekly data on arrivals of asylum seekers.¹⁷ Where these sources exist, they are seen as the most reliable. However, they are typically limited in scope¹⁸ and restricted to available national-level data. These databases also require significant resources to develop and maintain. In addition, many low- and middle-income countries lack robust statistical services and thus need to triangulate whatever data they have with data from other sources to improve its reliability.

Data collection is not a job for national statistical offices alone. It requires collaboration among a broad range of actors to be successful, including through information-sharing among all parts of government that come in contact with or provide services to migrants – from health to education and border management. Relying solely on data captured by a single agency or ministry will likely provide only one piece of a larger puzzle that needs to be put into context. Data collected at border crossings, for example, provides an incomplete picture of how many migrants are in the country if borders are porous and allow for irregular entry. Cross-checking this information against public health, education or social security records can provide a fuller picture.¹⁹ Despite improvements in recent years, with many countries setting up national coordination mechanisms on migration,²⁰ collaboration across government sometimes remains limited or occurs on an ad hoc basis. Information-sharing, in particular, is still a problem for countries that experience rapid influxes of mixed flows and thus need to gather and process large amounts of data on tight timelines. It also requires the cooperation of municipal governments, as some data are collected

15 These refer to information generated by government migration agencies and national statistical agencies. Statistical agencies sometimes amalgamate data from different departments that deal with different aspects of migration (e.g. Ministry of Labour and Ministry of the Interior in Spain).

16 Based on the in-depth qualitative interviews, as well as the results of the survey. “Country-based socioeconomic and administrative statistics” ranks among the top three sources of information for 52 of the 77 government respondents to the multiple-choice question, “When you look for migration data or analysis, which sources do you consult first?” (three answers are allowed). “Internal data sets (e.g. data produced by your own department or statistical office)” is chosen as a response by 43 respondents.

17 For instance, the interviewed official from Germany’s Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) notes that he receives weekly reports containing migrant arrival numbers and other data on recent developments in the field of migration produced by either the BMZ or the German foreign ministry.

18 In terms of scope, one criticism from CSOs is that governments make unilateral decisions on what information to collect, and thus the resulting information may not reflect the true needs or priorities of the research community or migrant service providers. For example, government data may fail to capture things such as rights violations or may not be disaggregated by legal status or gender.

19 It has been observed in several countries, for example, that hundreds of thousands more migrants are registered in the social security system (which does not require proof of legal status) than are counted at official border crossings.

20 For example, the Niger’s Interministerial Committee on Migration.

only at the local level. This can be challenging when local actors do not have the capacity to collect this information in real time and are not accustomed (or required) to share it with the Central Government.

2.1.2. Bilateral and multilateral information-sharing²¹

Many of the respondents say that they seek information from partner countries' national statistical agencies or government ministries (for example, a German Government official reported checking the website of the Italian Ministry of the Interior for daily updates on recent maritime arrivals). Countries that have a shared interest in developing a joint approach to a migration issue can set up either a formal and long-term or an ad hoc information-sharing mechanism. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international organizations can sometimes get access to this internal (and sometimes confidential) data if government officials involve them in the drafting or implementation of the mechanism. Some government representatives among the respondents say that they have trouble accessing data from neighbouring countries, particularly when the data is sensitive and thought to potentially invoke diverging political responses. This has been the case, for instance, with data on secondary movements from one country to the next in Europe, which are a highly political issue between countries in the Schengen Area. One government official of a Central American country likewise reports barriers to accessing official data from neighbouring countries regarding inflows of Nicaraguan and Venezuelan migrants and asylum seekers, which would have been critical to their crisis response.

Governments and other actors also rely on regional reports for information, for instance, from the European Union on how migration flows shift. Some stakeholders say they receive information through **bilateral or multilateral channels**, such as meetings with ministers or forums such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).²² Some of these forums are intercontinental: for instance, African and European Union countries meet every few months under the Khartoum and Rabat processes to exchange best practices and track progress on the Joint Valletta Action Plan.²³ Some government official respondents also note **consulting with like-minded countries** through their participation at the Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC)²⁴ and the Five Country Conference (FCC),²⁵ which were organized to open up avenues for exchanging ideas and good practices.

Finally, many respondents report relying on **personal networks** to obtain the information they need (whether in the form of a data set or a piece of analysis), particularly after their query progresses past the preliminary information-gathering stage. Some prefer to contact and engage trusted interlocutors by phone, particularly when they need a specific piece of information that is difficult to find online – for example, policy developments in other countries. These networks include contacts in other departments or in their embassies or field offices abroad, counterparts

21 Information obtained through bilateral relationships with governments, most often informally but also through formal information-sharing mechanisms or requests for information.

22 See: GFMD, "About" section (n.d.a). Available at www.gfmd.org.

23 See: European Union, "Valletta Summit Action Plan", presented at the Valletta Summit on Migration, 11–12 November 2015, Valletta. Available at www.consilium.europa.eu/media/21839/action_plan_en.pdf.

24 See: IOM, Inter-Governmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees section (2020a). Available at www.iom.int/igc.

25 See: United States Department of Homeland Security, "Private impact assessment for the Five Country Joint Enrollment and Information-Sharing Project", report (Washington, D.C., 2009). Available at www.dhs.gov/publication/five-country-joint-enrollment-and-information-sharing-project-fcc.

in other governments, or in international organizations and NGOs, or on-the-ground partners in target countries.²⁶ As one CSO respondent said: “Most of the information I trust, I receive informally.” A development agency official noted that it is necessary to interact with authorities on the ground to better understand what the needs are. Another official agreed, saying that fact sheets are useful for a “first look”, to inform ministers or programming at a very early stage, “but as soon as we need to dig deeper, we collect information on our own.” However, the risk of relying on personal networks is that these sources of information may not be sustainable over the long term; channels may close when trusted interlocutors change jobs or leave government service. These relationships thus need to be constantly nurtured and, occasionally, rebuilt.

2.1.3. International organizations, including United Nations agencies

Large international organizations, including United Nations agencies, are the most trusted external sources of data, particularly for broad international migration trends and data on flows and displacement.²⁷ Respondents also rely on specialized research organizations, NGOs and experts for additional analysis and context.

The sources specifically cited by our interviewees included IOM, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the World Bank, and, by migration actors working in the European context, Frontex, Eurostat and the European Commission, which issues the Integrated Situational Awareness and Analysis (ISAA) reports. Large organizations such as these have been praised for being trustworthy and for distilling key data and trends in easy-to-use formats. Government officials from low-income countries sometimes rely on these reports to fill gaps in their own data collection; one such respondent, from an African country, commends IOM’s efforts to create a database on his co-nationals abroad as critical to their efforts to inform policymaking. A Central American government representative also describes working in partnership with IOM to analyse data on mixed flows and refugees, particularly in the context of large outflows from Nicaragua.

For deeper analysis, some respondents (usually from high-income countries) also cite well-established international research organizations such as MPI, the Mixed Migration Centre (MMC), the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), the Centre for Global Development (CGD) and the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE).²⁸ Some officials and researchers note that specialized NGOs working on the ground are also helpful, particularly when they release reports based on their experience in the field.²⁹ However, many respondents express concerns about the reliability and impartiality of smaller NGOs and research institutes. This is especially true in the case of institutions that are known for their advocacy agenda or lesser known organizations that

26 As one European government official explains: “What I do in cases where I find there is an information gap is that I turn to our own government officials and our networks across Europe to provide me with that information. For example, there was recent, new legislation in France on asylum that I needed to know something about, so rather than going online, I just called our representative there and said what I needed. So, for me, it’s mainly personal connections.”

27 Based on the in-depth interviews conducted by MPI and the results of the survey. Out of 77 respondents to the multiple-choice question, “When you look for migration data or analysis, which sources do you consult first?” (three answers are allowed), 85 include “publications by international organizations” in their three top choices (with 53 having it as their first choice).

28 Based on in-depth interviews conducted by MPI and the results of the survey. Out of 77 respondents to the question “When you look for migration data or analysis, which sources do you consult first?” (three answers are allowed), 58 include “publications by think tanks or research institutes” in their three top choices.

29 Out of 77 respondents to the multiple-choice question, “When you look for migration data or analysis, which sources do you consult first?” (three answers are allowed), 45 include “publications by non-governmental organizations and other civil society organizations” in their three top choices (with only 14 having it as their first choice).

could be relying on flawed research approaches. To avoid running these risks, most government representatives say they prefer to rely on official sources, especially if the data is intended to inform policy papers and briefings with high-level officials.³⁰

Another avenue for obtaining information is to engage directly with **external experts**, including academics and respected researchers.³¹ Government representatives from both high- and middle-income countries, for example, describe how they regularly invite national and international experts to deliver in-person briefings to officials in multiple departments and sometimes even conduct seminars. However, these endeavours are resource-intensive and their feasibility depends on personal relationships between these experts and researchers and policymakers. Other countries have explored multiple formats for engaging with external experts and curating information from external sources. The Costa Rican Government has explored creating a “migration observatory” at the University of Costa Rica to help analyse data – in recognition of the need to interpret trends and keep all information in one place – but this has not materialized. Some European countries, such as the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, have actually set up councils or committees made up of researchers that help inform the design and impact evaluation of migration policies.³² In 2018, academics from universities around the world called for the creation of an international consultative committee to monitor migration.³³

2.2. What formats are preferred?

Beyond the difficulty of identifying and accessing data and information, there is also the challenge of navigating the wealth of existing information that has been published or made available online. Whether information is presented in a user-friendly and easily digestible format is more than a cosmetic detail; it has, in fact, become a key determinant of whether information actually reaches and is used by those who need it.

The vast majority of interviewees express a preference for **succinct documents**, with analysis in an accessible format (e.g. an executive summary that presents key points accompanied by data and graphics, rather than a long report).³⁴ As one policymaker notes, most political decisions have to be made quickly, as policy cycles are “shorter than we would like,” and reliable analyses (for instance, on hot-button topics like climate change and migration) save time. However, it is critical that these analyses come from established and trusted sources.

Respondents also assert that **visual elements** (such as infographics and tables, or visual representations of phenomena like shifting migratory routes) are critical to making information

30 Some government officials note an apparent hierarchy of the reliability of sources; for instance, data or information from IOM or the OECD cited in staff's reports to senior management is more likely to be accepted as “evidence” than data from academics or NGOs.

31 Based on the in-depth interviews conducted by MPI and the results of the survey. Out of 77 respondents to the multiple-choice question, “When you look for migration data or analysis, which sources do you consult first?” (three choices are allowed), 41 include “migration experts” among their answers.

32 Namely, the Dutch Advisory Committee on Migration Affairs and the UK Migration Advisory Committee.

33 Groupe International d'Experts sur les Migrations et l'Asile (GIEMA) (International Experts Panel on Asylum and Migration (IEPAM)), “Repenser les politiques migratoires : pour un « GIEC » des migrations et de l'asile” (Rethinking migration policies: an IPCC for migration and asylum). SciencesPo, 10 December 2018. Available at www.sciencespo.fr/fr/actualites/actualite/C3%A9s/pour-un-%C2%AB-giec-%C2%BB-des-migrations-et-de-l%E2%80%99asile/3893.

34 Based on the in-depth interviews conducted by MPI and results of the survey. Out of 86 respondents to the multiple-choice question, “In general, when you look for migration data or information, what type of format do you favour?” (three answers are allowed), 76 interviewees include “policy briefs with examples of policy innovations or practices or initiatives that have worked in other countries” and 68 include “short analytical reports” among their top three choices (36 and 37, respectively, say it is their first choice).

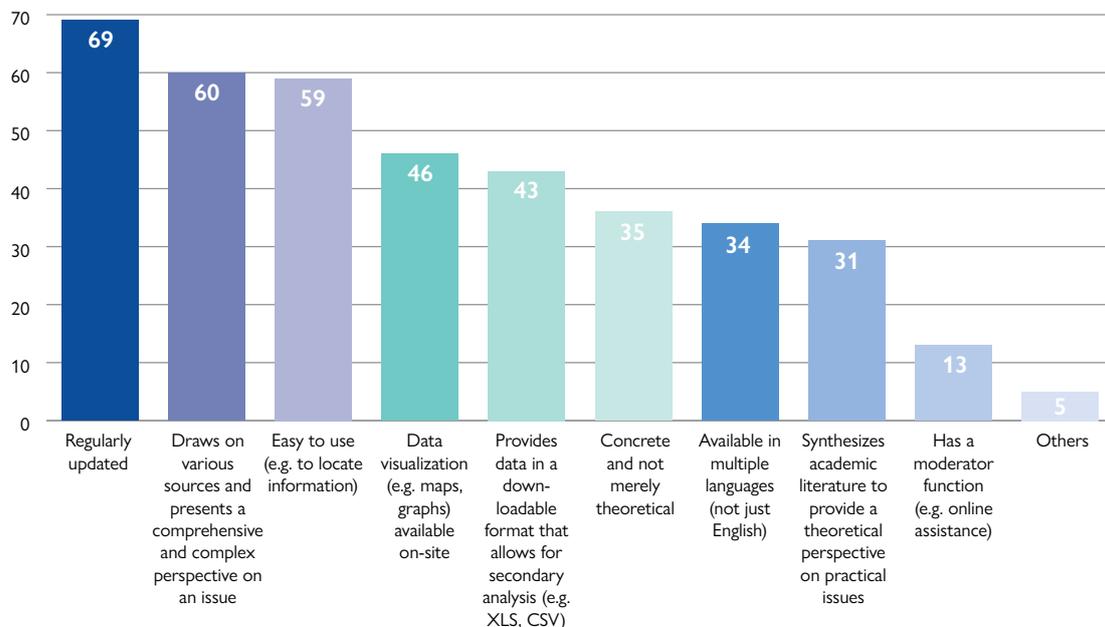
accessible and quick to absorb. As one government official of a European country explains: “Most people are visual; they prefer to see information at a glance.” This is particularly the case for policymakers who have many demands on their time and are thus unable to digest lengthy reports. For this reason, several government officials say they primarily seek out charts, figures and statistics.

Data and fact sheets are also sometimes seen as more trustworthy and less susceptible to distortion. In this vein, some government official interviewees prefer to access raw data – where “it is clear what the information actually depicts and says, and where it came from” – and have their own teams conduct the analysis themselves.³⁵ However, the ability to do this depends on capacity. Other stakeholders are looking for clear and succinct syntheses and interpretation of existing data to “close the circle” between statistics and trends. Finding the right balance between quantitative information and an analysis of its implications is particularly important if the user is a generalist rather than a data specialist.

2.3. What are the most important characteristics of online information sources?

A consensus emerges in our sample around the most important criteria for migration knowledge and information: **up-to-date, accurate and easy to use**. Figure 3 summarizes what survey respondents assess as the most useful features of a migration platform or data hub. Out of 85 respondents, 69 say they prefer for the platform to “be regularly updated,” 60 answer that it is important that it “draws on various sources,” and 59 say it should be “easy to use.”

Figure 3. Most useful features of migration platforms and data hubs



Note: This figure presents the distribution of responses to the survey question, “In your opinion, what makes a migration platform or data hub the most useful?” (Total respondents: n=85; respondents could give multiple responses to the question.)

³⁵ As one government official states: “It would be a journey before we trust ready-made analysis.” Out of 85 respondents to the multiple-choice question, “In your opinion, what makes a migration platform or data hub the most reliable?”, 31 answer that it “contains raw data for users to interpret as they see fit”.

The migration actors in our sample emphasized the critical importance of **information being kept up-to-date**. Many officials complain that when looking up information from other countries' statistical agencies, migration data is sometimes more than five years old and even the references to migration policies are out-of-date.³⁶ International organizations like IOM and UNHCR have greater capacity to gather and analyse data regularly but still face limitations on how often they can update information.³⁷ This can become a pressing issue in times of crisis, when government actors need the most recent data to make informed decisions. One respondent representing a European government notes that in the wake of the 2015–2016 migration crisis, they often looked for daily updates on arrivals from across the Mediterranean and even IOM's fortnightly updating of the Migration Data Portal was not enough. In addition, international organizations tend to focus on countries with active or visible crises, which means that IOM country reports or migration profiles for countries that fall outside of global focus areas are sometimes out-of-date.

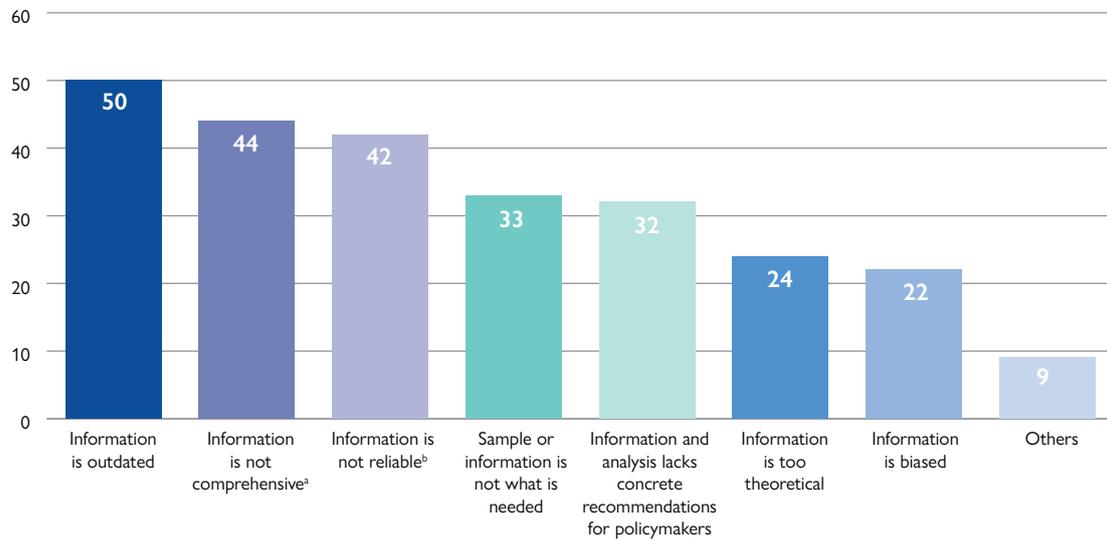
The second most frequently cited priority is **full transparency about the source and origin** of the data that respondents receive – including how, when and by whom it was collected – before it can be considered trustworthy. As illustrated in Figure 5, 42 out of 85 survey respondents complain about migration information being unreliable. Even when relying on data from a reputable source, migration actors say it is critical for them to understand who is collecting it and how, particularly if the government body or relevant entity is perceived to have limited capacity to take on the task. One interviewee suggests that there should be a better practice of publishing metadata: it could appear, for instance, as a running commentary alongside available statistics on how they were gathered and what definitions were used, so that the user can get a sense of whether the source is trustworthy and reliable. Several officials also describe cross-checking data to see if multiple sources (United Nations organizations, NGOs and embassy contacts, among others) corroborate the same piece of information. In this sense, reliability emerges as even more important than timeliness – as information that is updated every day but not vetted (for instance, information published in a social media feed) would rarely be used for official purposes.

Finally, respondents say they need platforms and portals that are **easy to use** and note that existing ones do not always fully answer their questions. As illustrated in Figure 4, 44 out of 85 respondents complain that the information is “**not comprehensive**” and 33 say that the sample or information does “not match” what they needed.

36 Several respondents who represent governments or international organizations note that they struggle to find the latest policy documents for some countries where they have projects or intend to launch new initiatives.

37 According to the IOM Migration Data Portal, some data is published “as new tools and data become available,” which can be several times a month. On the other hand, thematic pages and blogs are updated every one to three months. (IOM, Migration Data Portal, FAQs section (2020b). Available at <https://migrationdataportal.org/faqs>.)

Figure 4. Perceived content limitations of migration platforms and portals



Notes: a For example, it does not cover the researcher's entire field of interest or has a limited geographic scope.

b For example, the date was not collected rigorously or there are flaws in the methodology.

This figure presents the distribution of responses to the survey question, "In your opinion, what are the main limitations of these migration platforms/portals in terms of content?" (Total respondents: n=85; respondents could give multiple responses to the question.)

3

Gaps and Limitations in Current Migration Data and Analysis

Lingering information and data gaps make it difficult for governments, civil society and businesses to anticipate and adequately plan for the global movement of people. Existing repositories of global data are often issue- or region-specific (and certain regions and issues suffer from poor or infrequent data collection), and stakeholders who might benefit from these data may have trouble identifying, accessing or interpreting them. In addition, it is difficult to find independent research that offers robust assessments of “what works” in migration policy rather than merely highlighting good practices.

Our assessment finds that there are specific areas of concern regarding data and analysis on migration. These include a **dearth of data** for certain regions or topics – for which information is not collected or updated regularly, and on which there are fewer actors working – and, on the other end, a **proliferation of data**, with multiple actors working in the same space, sometimes producing duplicative or even contradictory reports that can overwhelm stakeholders and make it difficult for them to know which information to trust.

3.1. Thematic challenges: Topics and regions for which it is challenging to find reliable information

One gap is the **lack of data on regional and global trends**. While many governments in Europe and North America are still focused on spontaneous flows and arrivals of asylum seekers in their countries, they have less information on how routes in and through these regions are shifting as a whole. Even for a government (usually those in the global North) for which it is relatively straightforward to obtain data reflecting one point in time, including those from its immediate neighbourhood through networks (i.e. combination of data collection by their own country and engaging with partner countries), capturing the full picture of what is happening in their region, let alone globally, has proven to be challenging. This is also the case for countries in Central America and sub-Saharan Africa, where data on the patterns of movement and outcomes of intraregional migrants tend to be scarce. Several of the respondents from these regions note that migration data in free movement areas like the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is limited because migrant entries are not systematically recorded, if at all.

A related challenge is the lack of up-to-date information and data from countries with lesser capacity to collect data or report on policy developments, or those with **informal systems** that do not lend themselves well to standard reporting. These countries may not have adequate instruments or capacity to collect data in a way that would allow it to be used as an international reference point. Multiple interviewees mention Western Africa as a specific area of concern and one of the regions with the least developed data collection. For instance, one respondent

representing a CSO notes that as they were starting a project on internal migration in Mauritania, the most recent information on migration she could find on the website of their national statistical agency, the Office National de la Statistique, was from 2013. Officials from countries at the centre of migration and forced displacement flows concurred that government data quickly go out of date but should ideally be updated monthly (or even more frequently in a crisis situation).

Other gaps exist, unsurprisingly, around **information that is not straightforward to collect**. These include information that does not appear in a census or population survey (such as the number, characteristics and patterns of movements of undocumented migrants and internally displaced persons (IDPs)). Many respondents, including officials and NGOs from countries in Central America, Africa and Europe, note that they struggle to find solid data on the volume, location and profile of undocumented migrants. Information about IDPs can also be sensitive and data about this type of flows is not recorded as systematically as that for other movements. Migration actors, particularly from countries of origin, note that data about diasporas is missing and several African government officials share that they would like to improve their level of knowledge about these communities. Some stakeholders, including in Africa, also report that they lack data about returns and reintegration, particularly on the number of voluntary and forced returns and the situation of returnees after their return. Finally, several stakeholders note that gender-disaggregated data is often not available. Failure to design data collection systems that capture information on vulnerable subgroups (e.g. socially isolated women) – in other words, looking at migrant populations only in the aggregate – undermines the potential to develop proactive and targeted solutions for these populations.

Another information gap exists in areas where there is **no research consensus**, or where **the issue is in flux**. For instance, the nexus between climate change and migration is increasingly at the top of many countries' agendas, but the focus tends to be on predicting and quantifying future migration flows (especially from low-income countries). However, since climate change is only one factor among many other interlinked drivers, attempting to quantify its effects in different regions is a complex undertaking riddled with uncertainty. Attempts by different actors (including media) to estimate climate-induced migration have often produced contradictory results. Respondents, especially those from Europe, also express a growing interest in foresight and scenario-building in the field of migration.³⁸ As noted by one government official, governments are good at examining what is happening in real time, but not at putting this into context to see emerging trends and how things have changed over time and, crucially, what these mean for future trends.

Finally, databases sometimes fail to capture **the reality of how policies and projects are implemented on the ground**. Some countries – particularly low-income countries – may have very comprehensive policies on paper that are not fully implemented or, conversely, have no formal policy but have good practices – albeit informal ones – that work. Sometimes, metrics have been defined in an attempt to measure progress in one area, but they are often insufficient. For instance, one may try to get a picture of how many migrant children attend school, but school registration data does not necessarily mean these children are actually attending classes. These types of nuances are very difficult to capture in a database and governments will likely continue to rely on their personal networks to obtain this information.

38 See, for instance: Council of the European Union, "Evidence-based and forward-looking migration policies", presidency discussion paper (1 October 2019). Available at <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-12608-2019-INIT/en/pdf>.

3.2. Analytical challenges: Issues related to the presentation and interpretation of data

Technical barriers may hamper how migration actors access and use migration data, even when it is available. The main challenges result from the lack of standardized definitions and data collection practices, variability in the data proficiency and skills of users, language barriers and the spread of information across several platforms.

(a) Lack of common definitions makes it difficult to compare data and statistics across countries.

Several respondents note that it can be difficult to compare data across countries because of the lack of standard terminology and definitions. Even the words “immigrant” and “refugee” have different legal definitions in different countries and for different organizations. Regions such as “Western Africa” and the “Balkans” may be defined differently in different parts of the world. Policy actions may also be defined differently, for instance, as regards what constitutes an apprehension at a border or the use of public services for public charge rules. This is a problem even in regions like the European Union, where significant efforts have been deployed among Member States to standardize definitions and harmonize data collection processes.³⁹ One advantage of United Nations sources is that different agencies use similar terminology. Other sources would only be comparable if accompanied by a data dictionary or glossary that clearly defines terminology used by those countries and organizations. As one respondent notes, because each country has its own concepts and definitions, you would need a “Rosetta stone” to explain how these translate into different contexts.

(b) Data can be incomplete.

Beyond the problem of standardization, another challenge is that data and information published by governments, international organizations and NGOs may be incomplete (see Figure 4). A serious concern mentioned by both government officials and researchers is that because of the lack of transparency around data collection, it may not be clear that data is not comprehensive (“We don’t know what we don’t know”). End users may therefore be unaware that they are receiving partial information, either because some of it has been redacted due to security or data privacy concerns, or because some information is simply not collected (due to capacity issues or policy decisions not to collect data on, for example, race or gender, including LGBT status). Inaccuracies in self-reporting may also skew data; for example, survey-based data might be off if migrants are hesitant to disclose their legal status. These vulnerabilities all point to the importance of being transparent about how data is collected (disclosing any caveats that may influence its interpretation) and what it can be used for.

(c) The amount of available information can be overwhelming.

The proliferation of information – particularly on hot-button topics – also makes it hard to assess what is most reliable. For example, many sources publish information on certain aspects of climate change and displacement, but different actors often work on different regions and different aspects of the issue. In addition, some analyses are contradictory,

³⁹ See, for instance: Cédric Mathiot, Jacques Pezet and Fabien Leboucq, “Demandes d’asile : Eurostat épingle la France pour avoir tronqué des statistiques” (Asylum requests: Eurostat pins France for truncating statistics), *Libération*, 20 January 2020. Available at www.liberation.fr/checknews/2020/01/20/demandes-d-asile-eurostat-epingle-la-france-pour-avoir-tronque-des-statistiques_1773956.

creating a fragmented landscape of information. With so much unfiltered information, it is difficult to know which sources are the most authoritative. Interviewees noted that this situation is only likely to get worse, particularly with the upcoming follow-up meetings to the Global Compact for Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees. (Some respondents note that the amount of information uploaded to the Global Refugee Forum webpage in December 2019 was overwhelming.)

(d) Information is spread across too many different platforms.

There has also been a proliferation of platforms, with multiple agencies attempting to launch “one-stop shops” for migration data and analysis, which, in effect, compete with each other and impede the goal of consolidation.⁴⁰ From the Migration Data Portal of IOM’s Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) and the Platform for Partnerships of the GFMD, to the newly launched Knowledge Hub on Migration and Sustainable Development⁴¹ and the European Commission’s Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography,⁴² various platforms are beginning to build a critical mass of data. There is no single entity that covers everything, and there is little to no coordination among organizations curating similar content.⁴³ Even smaller NGOs and think tanks have launched data and knowledge portals in recent months (for example, MPI’s new Latin America and the Caribbean Data Portal).⁴⁴ Given this fragmented landscape, one respondent described as “utopian” the idea of having all migration data in one place. In the absence of a central repository of information, officials describe having to “jump around” between different sources to piece together the information they need, going from various United Nations websites (that are not linked together), to journals, NGOs and government sources. As illustrated in Figure 5, 43 out of 85 respondents assess as “difficult” the task of locating the information they need and 34 report that there are too many platforms with similar content. The result is that information-gathering happens in an **ad hoc rather than systematic manner**.

40 Out of 85 respondents to the multiple-choice question, “What is your general take on migration data platforms and portals?”, 38 interviewees comment that only a few of the existing platforms are useful for gathering information and 24 note that there are too many of these portals. At the same time, 25 respondents welcome this diversity, which suggests that the number is not necessarily problematic if stakeholders know how to use the various portals.

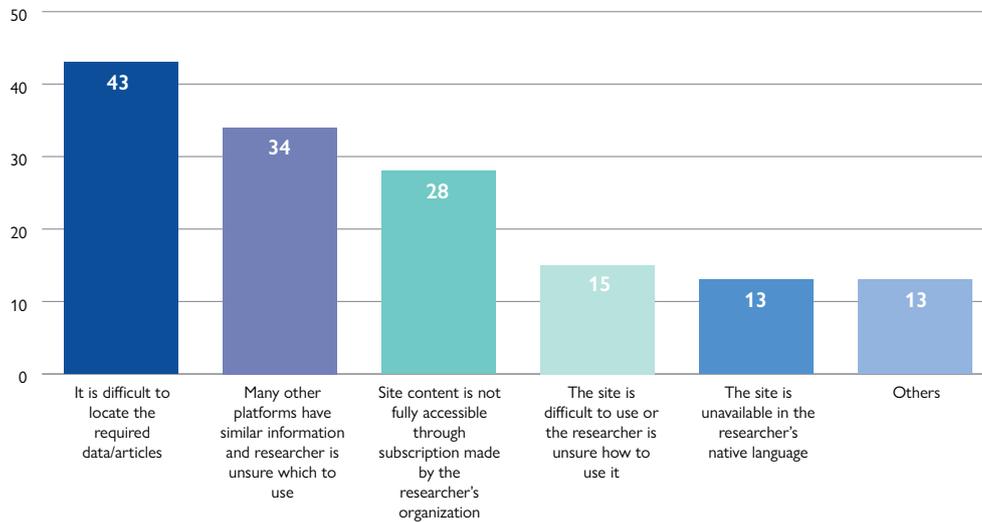
41 The Knowledge Hub on Migration and Sustainable Development was launched in January 2020 at the GFMD in Quito. The portal is available at www.migration-learn.org.

42 The Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography is available at https://ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/migration-demography_en.

43 MPI interviews with IOM and UNITAR, for example, show that even United Nations agencies active within the newly created United Nations Network on Migration have imperfect coordination on these issues. The Knowledge Hub on Migration and Sustainable Development, for example, has certain content that is duplicative of what the KP and CH seek to achieve, even though its core aim (i.e. to fill a gap by consolidating content related to training and capacity-building) is distinct. However, because the Knowledge Hub was developed through a separate channel (it was commissioned from UNITAR by the Government of Ecuador rather than coming under the mandate of the United Nations Network on Migration), the two efforts developed in parallel rather than building on each other.

44 The Migration Portal is available at www.migrationportal.org.

Figure 5. Perceived limitations of migration platforms and portals in terms of accessibility and ease of use



Note: This figure presents the distribution of responses to the survey question, "In your opinion, what are the main limitations of these migration platforms/portals in terms of content?" (Total respondents: n=85; respondents could give multiple responses to the question.)

(e) Language barriers make some information inaccessible.

Most information in migration platforms and portals is available in English. However, even when stakeholders are proficient in English, not having information in their native language creates a barrier to accessing information easily and quickly. One European government official notes that decision-makers in his government usually have over 60 policy briefs on their desks on a given day, so "it's easier and a little bit faster" when these documents are available in their native language. Several respondents point out that there is not enough translation into French, which particularly affects Western African stakeholders. Even when information is translated, there may be a delay. Hence, officials know that if they need the most recent, up-to-date information, they need to consult English-language sources. One suggestion is to have an application built into portals to make it possible to translate information into different languages (the website of the Global Forum for Refugees, for instance, had live translations from English into other languages as the event was happening).

4

Measuring Progress towards Implementation of the Global Compact for Migration

Some respondents note that it would be helpful to have country-specific information on how the Global Compact for Migration is being implemented, who the main players are, and how the networks are evolving. However, if the Connection Hub takes on this role, it is unclear how it will distinguish itself from the effort that the GFMD has launched to solicit information on such implementation. At any rate, implementation of the Global Compact for Migration seems to still be in its early stages. Governments do not yet know what indicators could be used to measure progress, or what the global benchmarks are (i.e. the processes for measuring progress towards, for example, the Sustainable Development Goals). One official points out that other international goals (e.g. reducing carbon emissions and improving health) are more easily quantifiable. It is less clear how to establish benchmarks for progress on undertakings related to making migration more safe, orderly and regular (for instance, how does one “score” progress towards opening up more legal pathways?). Officials feel that there no established method for assessing whether a country is moving towards these goals. Also, given the politically sensitive nature of negotiations relating to the Global Compact for Migration, some governments may hesitate to put activities under its banner – even if they are fulfilling its objectives. In addition, some government officials from the developing world articulate that their countries have their respective national action plans but lack funding and capacity to go further without IOM assistance.

While the conversation on implementation shines a spotlight on how countries are developing new plans or measuring progress, there is also a larger story about how **the problem starts at the data collection phase**. Some data critical to understanding whether the Global Compact for Migration objectives are being met is simply not being collected (due to lack of both capacity and prioritization). Some researchers criticize governments for being deliberately opaque about certain data – for example, rights violations or gender-based violence (which may not be in a government’s interest to collect or disseminate). However, if States do not collect data on violence against women (as well as map the policies in place to address it and monitor whether these approaches are effective), it would be impossible to assess progress towards putting in place gender-responsive migration policies (one of the compact’s objectives). Decisions made at an early stage about what data and information is relevant, in other words, can have significant repercussions in terms of policy outcomes.

5

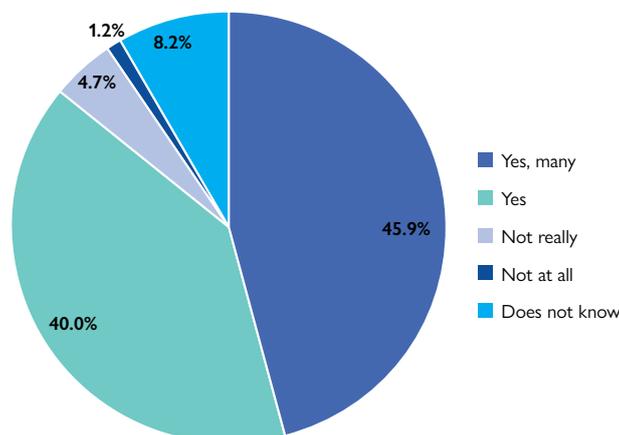
Ideas for the Future

At a time when there is more information than ever at people's fingertips, the task of identifying relevant, comprehensive and accurate data and analysis on migration has likewise become all the more difficult. Sources have proliferated and information is scattered among various different databases, portals and platforms. Countries rely on international sources to make sense of a phenomenon that, by definition, transcends borders. However, definitions and standards are not comparable across countries, and the trust that exists within personal networks is difficult to replicate on a global scale.

With the proliferation of information has come greater fragmentation and uncertainty. Against this landscape, there are high expectations among interviewees that the new KP and CH (Figure 6) would achieve three things: (a) consolidate the large volume of information already out there and “connect the dots” between existing databases and other sources of information, particularly between United Nations agencies; (b) help fill in existing information gaps by linking to raw data and featuring visual representations of key trends; and (c) create a repository of best practices in migration policies and initiatives, particularly those that support the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration's 23 objectives.

The biggest risks foreseen, however, are that: (a) the new data portals will simply add to (and further crowd out) the sea of existing databases rather than take a meaningful step towards consolidation; and (b) a significant amount of resources will be needed to ensure the portals remain rigorously up-to-date and able to vet the information they post; if information is not updated regularly and the methodology is not transparent, stakeholders will lose confidence quickly.

Figure 6. Perceived accessibility and usage limitations of migration platforms and portals



Note: This figure presents the distribution of responses to the survey question, “Do you see benefits of having a new Knowledge Platform?” (Total respondents: n=85).

Several respondents note that what the Knowledge Platform could do best is **provide an overview of global trends on migration** and make it possible for different stakeholders to see how everything fits together in a broader context (i.e. in some ways, it would be an enhanced and expanded version of the IOM Migration Data Portal). As one respondent says, the Knowledge Platform should focus on “lifting its gaze towards the big picture.” More detailed and nuanced information will always come from national sources and specialized agencies within each country; the Knowledge Platform should not compete with them, but instead provide a more global outlook to help countries identify and set priorities and understand how they compare with what other States are doing. One government official describes his agency as having discrete pockets of information on specific regions of the world and the movements that are happening in these places; however, this information is not “joined up” and placed within the context of other migration trends (e.g. legal flows) and other world regions.

Several respondents advocate **creating a “one-stop shop”** that keeps all relevant migration knowledge in the same place. This new portal would also “connect the dots” between existing databases. Stakeholders (including large, well-resourced governments, small NGOs and everyone in between) are currently trying to do this themselves,⁴⁵ but the task quickly becomes overwhelming. It would be helpful to group existing information thematically in one place and “connect some of the dots.” The current proliferation of platforms means that there is significant duplication, as well as gaps and a real tradeoff between creative energy and sustainability. There is risk of creating “digital litter” when a platform tied to a specific funding cycle or initiative is abandoned at the end of the project life cycle, only for out-of-date information to live on in perpetuity.⁴⁶ In order for a “platform of platforms” to emerge, it would have to be managed by one organization willing to invest significant resources to keep it updated and must be able to attract a critical number of users. At any rate, most organizations are more interested in creating something entirely new than in investing in infrastructure that already exists. However, if multiple platforms sprout and then die out as enthusiasm wanes (as occurred in the wake of the 2015–2016 migration crisis), there is a risk of not just inconvenience, but actual harm.

5.1. The upcoming Knowledge Platform and Connection Hub: Key features and challenges

Interviewees emphasize that any new platform should include the following characteristics.

(a) **Easy-to-use and intuitive interface**

Respondents plead for the format to be more user-friendly than current United Nations websites so that “you don’t need “GPS” [global positioning system] to navigate it.” Some of them call for simple, intuitive headings and multiple search options and tags, so that users “don’t have to dig to find things.” A critical feature is, thus, being able to filter information and conduct searches in multiple ways (e.g. by country or by topic). In summary, the new platform should **ensure that data and information is easily searchable, sortable and shareable.**

45 For example, Canadian officials report that they have created their own spreadsheet to collect reliable data on climate change and human mobility – but also that it quickly became unwieldy.

46 Meghan Benton, “Digital litter: the downside of using technology to help refugees,” *Migration Information Source*, 20 June 2019. Available at www.migrationpolicy.org/article/digital-litter-downside-using-technology-help-refugees.

(b) Visual representation of data

Stakeholders seeking information do not want to get “lost in a block of text.” Most seek more visual representations of data – for example, maps that users can hover over to learn more about the characteristics of different migrant populations or what policies are in place in different countries.

(c) Regularly updated information

As one respondent notes: “It makes no sense to make another platform if the data will not be updated or harmonized.” In an ideal world, this would mean that the portal needs to go beyond simply gathering information that already exists, and also invest in more frequent and systematic data collection (including by funding capacity-building or operational support in countries that may not have the resources to undertake this themselves). Realistically, this calls for making hard choices on what to prioritize, as the new platform will not be able to plug all data gaps.

(d) Data and source transparency

The success of the Knowledge Platform is all about trust: the more confidence users have in the information that goes in, the better are the chances of them using it as a primary source of information. This depends on setting out very clear definitions of what the knowledge products show and where the underlying information and data come from. This means including granular metadata on how data and information are collected and what assumptions the analysis is based on. Even when well-known international organizations report data gathered in the field, end users need to be able to draw their own conclusions about how reliable or representative the analysis is. For example, if an organization is reporting a shift in irregular migrant flows, end users need to know whether the data reported is based on observations of N=100 or N=1,000 people, or if these observations were made over a single day or across multiple weeks, among others. Multiple sources for each piece of information would also enhance its credibility.

(e) Ability to correct

Some respondents emphasize the need for an editable database that could be constantly updated and corrected – almost like Wikipedia, which users can both put into and take from. Government officials, in particular, cite examples where they had to correct published statistics about their own countries, or where they noticed duplicates in data (for instance, irregular border crossings or deaths at sea). The errors were corrected by contacting the publishing organization directly. The ideal platform would be updatable “by the minute,” with users vetting and corroborating data in real time.

Based on the interviews, we can also identify several challenges to building the KP and CH.

(a) Data privacy concerns

Any platform that attempts to gather all available information in one place will run into privacy concerns. Not all migration data can be shared – particularly, data collected by governments and/or relating to national security. The Mexican Government, for example, has a joint database with the Organization of American States (OAS) of crimes against migrants, but this is not publicly available. Some data will always need to be private.

(b) Audience concerns

The needs of different stakeholders vary widely. Data specialists capable of manipulating raw statistics may be in search of more comprehensive data sets, whereas generalists who need ready-made analysis may seek more curated information in an accessible, user-friendly format. Different types of investments are needed for each of these categories of users, and it is unlikely that both can be done well at once – or at all.

(c) Distortion of data in an era of fake news

Governments need to make strategic choices about how they release sensitive migration data, such as the volume of crime in immigrant neighbourhoods. In addition, they must decide what data should be broken down by immigration status, as releasing these details could potentially be used by opportunistic politicians to foment fear.

(d) Risk of duplication

One of the biggest risks with any new platform is that it will simply overlap with or duplicate what already exists. This is not only a waste of the time and investment that goes into it, but also further clutters the field and makes it even harder for stakeholders to find reliable information.

(e) Difficulty of vetting and interpreting information and assessing its accuracy

Bringing together ever more information on a controversial topic without having any real mechanisms in place to assess the quality of this information or the reliability of its sources creates a big challenge. One big question is whether organizations in charge of managing future meta-platforms have the capacity to vet data – let alone knowledge – on a global scale, and how they would mediate conflicts in the case of competing data or analyses (e.g. if two United Nations agencies were to have different figures or positions on an issue). Particularly with sensitive topics, what is considered a “good practice” may differ dramatically depending on who is telling the story. Even “cut-and-dry” migration statistics need to be contextualized and interpreted by experts to tell an accurate story.⁴⁷

Finally, one of the biggest challenges is that a project’s success hinges on how ambitious it is and how wide its reach is; generally, the more ambitious the task, the greater the risk of falling short. The ability of any one platform to become the “go-to” portal that supersedes all others hinges on its breadth and consistency – that is, its ability to maintain reliable, high-quality data on most topics and world regions. The moment data goes out of date, people will lose faith in it. Such an endeavour thus requires significant resources to manage and sustain over time. Some respondents express doubt this could be coordinated at a global level, arguing that it would be more realistic to execute at the national or regional level: “The further away you go, the less tangible it becomes.” However, the question then becomes that of how this effort can be distinguished from regional efforts – for example, IOM Costa Rica’s regional mobility platform for Central America and MPI’s Latin American portal.

⁴⁷ In Mexico, for example, sociologists and anthropologists join demographers to understand subtleties in data, such as whether unaccompanied minors are actually part of family units, or whether people are entering Mexico solely with an eye to travelling farther north – practically all things that cannot be detected through numeric data alone.

6

Recommendations

In an environment of limited resources, the United Nations Network on Migration will have to make some hard choices on how best to target their resources to address current gaps and limitations in (and improve upon) migration knowledge and information-sharing. Our research has revealed clear discrepancies in what different actors need and big questions about who or what to prioritize, as the KP and CH will not be able to do everything or please everyone. Based on needs identified through the interviews and the survey, the authors of this assessment believe that there are three principal models for how to prioritize resources and fill knowledge gaps that the new Knowledge Platform might consider.

6.1. Comprehensive approach: Focus on aggregating large pools of information in real time

This model would provide real-time access to raw data and information; in this model, the Knowledge Platform would act more like an algorithmic aggregator than a curated, human-driven platform. This might be accomplished by simply linking with national statistical agencies, the United Nations and other international organizations, and other existing data portals. It could even include something like an RSS feed that automatically pulls data from other sources. This comprehensive approach, however, would come at the expense of a user-driven, curated approach. In addition, the Knowledge Platform would also need to be updated regularly to maintain its position as the “go-to” place for migration information – for example, by committing to weekly or monthly scans to ensure there are no broken links or outdated information.

Greater access to data would fill a distinct need expressed by many stakeholders. Government officials note that it would be useful to have **open-source data that can be manipulated in different ways**, so that data is not limited to how it is used in one report. This would allow users to download and analyse what they need and have a “dialogue with the data”. One complaint is that even when thematic reports (e.g. on climate change-related displacement) are published, the raw data underpinning the analysis not always easily accessible. Governments have also said they face political barriers to accessing data from other governments, even neighbouring ones, particularly during a crisis.

Ideally, this could be accompanied by a **data handbook** that delineates and, ideally, assesses the reliability of all available primary sources. Respondents note that they may currently not even know where there is raw data available and where there is none. Databases should also state **caveats** – for example, transparent disclosure of where information is incomplete or could not be obtained, so that users can evaluate the credibility of what they are reading.

6.2. Targeted approach: Focus on curating and analysing the most important information

In this model, key information is curated and presented in an accessible format – that is, overlaid with an interpretation and analysis of key issues and trends. This would come at the expense of the comprehensive scope described in the previous section, as the additional resources required to vet and filter information means the platform would have to set certain parameters on the scope based on agreed-upon priorities. This “curated and slick” prototype would rely on in-house capacity (augmented by consultants) to curate information and provide a more dynamic and visual user experience and authoritative yet concise analysis. This serves a different audience than the previous option; rather than people who want full data sets, a platform that follows this model caters to time-pressed public officials and other stakeholders who need data to be interpreted or put in context, as well as being presented in an accessible format. A platform implemented following this model would also endeavour to create a baseline of common metrics that everyone uses; a “universal language” so that users can compare “like with like” and find a common understanding of success, particularly in light of the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration.

Building an authoritative repository of information – particularly, one that includes “policy primers” that offer a background on key topics – is complicated by the lack of trust in evidence and lack of consensus as to who should be entrusted to tell sensitive stories in a non-ideological yet authoritative manner. Even collating information on different practices around the world requires both sufficient resources and sound judgment. Going one step further and drawing on existing research to assess policy impacts or outcomes – and doing so in an unbiased manner – thus requires unique expertise. Even highly trusted and specialized United Nations agencies might be seen as promoting their own perspectives or mandates rather than offering impartial analyses or vetting. One potential workaround is to build an advisory board of independent, credible experts on different aspects of migration (selected based on transparent criteria) who can vet and create content as needed.

Other agencies and organizations also need to be persuaded to contribute to this effort rather than compete with it by operating parallel platforms and portals. This buy-in will be key to the success of this model. The hook is that a trusted “uber platform” where the most relevant content can be showcased would offer much greater visibility than individual agencies are able to get on their own.

6.2.1. Capacity-building approach: Investing resources where there is the greatest need

This model would invest in filling the biggest information gaps, which could mean working to actually build capacity for countries that need it most. Instead of running the risk of duplicating or competing with other platforms, this model would more directly attempt to plug identified knowledge gaps. However, this means directly prioritizing among a host of competing needs that can vary significantly by country and region. It also entails certain ethical questions – for example, whether money is better spent by allocating equal resources to each region, or whether more investment is needed for under-resourced countries.

The emphasis on capacity-building creates an opportunity to re-think data collection from the ground up. This would ultimately improve international standardization and comparability – for instance, if the platform creates data templates for countries to fill so that inputs are standardized.

This model would also improve data collection practices around the world and the sharing of any existing templates and best practices that are not yet widely used, about matters such as how to incorporate a gender-sensitive approach to data collection.

The Connection Hub might consider adopting the following three key elements.

(a) A forum for the exchange of ideas and monitoring progress in the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration

Perhaps modelling after Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) platform of UNHCR,⁴⁸ the hub could create an environment where the exchange of information and ideas can be facilitated and enabled. Respondents from some countries report using the GFMD Platform for Partnerships (PfP), albeit infrequently and at an early stage in programming; one caveat is that this platform has limited content and is not regularly updated. One challenge of creating a new platform is to ensure that there is enough buy-in where a portal like this would actually be used; currently, some States are wary of efforts to collect “good practices”, as this is sometimes seen as “naming and shaming” States with less resources and capacity. Also, it would have to go above and beyond what the PfP has been able to do. Any new database should also be able to filter data by country or region, Global Compact for Migration objective and various other dimensions and variables (e.g. gender, vulnerability and trafficking).

(b) A repository of project and partner documents

Some government officials note that it is hard to know what exists on the ground through publicly available information, and thus it might be useful to have a “one-stop-shop” that collects all policy documents (as well as supporting material in other media, such as audio and video) in one place. Donor governments, for instance, are often unaware which governments or agencies are active in a region they are investing in. A centralized database of partners and projects active in specific countries around the world would be useful in helping avoid duplication, particularly of larger-scale initiatives in progress at the national level, or implementing projects that are counterproductive to each other, and instead potentially help create synergies among different actors (assuming they are not in competition). However, databases of projects and practices can be challenging to assemble because **what exists on paper may not equate to what is happening on the ground**. A vetting system would need to be developed, for example, by outlining a set of guiding principles that an initiative must demonstrate that it abides by before going on a website. Drawing on other media (even social media) to corroborate stories told by official policy documents can also address this challenge.

(c) A connection hub or “Help” button to connect countries with specific projects and partners

Another idea, albeit a resource-intensive one, is to add a human dimension to the database by matching users with projects or partners that can help with a specific initiative or challenge. Rather than merely featuring a static list of best practices that go unused, a more dynamic interface could ensure that promising ideas are applied in real life.

⁴⁸ For more information about the CRRF platform, visit www.unhcr.org/comprehensive-refugee-response-framework-crrf.html.

Annex

Questionnaire: Needs Assessment Survey

Name:	
Country:	
City:	
Institution:	<input type="checkbox"/> National government <input type="checkbox"/> Subnational government <input type="checkbox"/> International organization <input type="checkbox"/> Non-governmental organization <input type="checkbox"/> Private sector <input type="checkbox"/> Trade union <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Name of organization/ department/ministry:	
Title:	
Telephone number:	
Email:	
Other contact details:	
Comments:	

I. Finding and using migration data and information

Why do you typically seek data and information about migration? (Multiple choice: Tick as relevant and select the appropriate frequency.)

<input type="checkbox"/> 1. To inform the design of a new policy, project, legislation or campaign (e.g. new migration policy or project for migrant entrepreneurs in a city)	<input type="checkbox"/> Very often <input type="checkbox"/> Often <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely <input type="checkbox"/> Very rarely <input type="checkbox"/> Never
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. To improve existing policies, projects, legislation or campaigns (e.g. to make them more effective or adapt them to new trends/realities)	<input type="checkbox"/> Very often <input type="checkbox"/> Often <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely <input type="checkbox"/> Very rarely <input type="checkbox"/> Never

<input type="checkbox"/> 3. For public outreach (e.g. the head of the department, the mayor or the minister needs a specific piece of information for a speech or newsletter for his/her constituency)	<input type="checkbox"/> Very often <input type="checkbox"/> Often <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely <input type="checkbox"/> Very rarely <input type="checkbox"/> Never
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. To monitor or evaluate the implementation of a normative framework, policy initiative or campaign (e.g. annual review of a policy, quarterly report for a project)	<input type="checkbox"/> Very often <input type="checkbox"/> Often <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely <input type="checkbox"/> Very rarely <input type="checkbox"/> Never
<input type="checkbox"/> 5. Other(s) (specify):	<input type="checkbox"/> Very often <input type="checkbox"/> Often <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely <input type="checkbox"/> Very rarely <input type="checkbox"/> Never

6. When you look for migration data or analysis, which sources do you consult first? (Rank your top three choices.)
- Publications by international organizations (e.g. United Nations organizations and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD))
 - Academic articles
 - Publications by think tanks or research institutes
 - Publications by non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations
 - Internal data sets (e.g. data produced by your own department or statistical office)
 - Country-based socioeconomic and administrative statistics, such as administrative data, statistical surveys and censuses (e.g. country-based labour force and household surveys and censuses, country-based population registries and administrative records)
 - Data sets of international or regional statistical bodies (e.g. data compiled by the United Nations Population Division or Eurostat)
 - Migration experts
 - Other(s) (specify): _____
7. In general, when you look for migration data or information, what formats do you favour? (Rank your top three choices.)
- Policy briefs with examples of policy innovations or practices and initiatives that have worked in other countries
 - Surveys or polling analyses
 - Short analytical reports
 - Evaluations/analyses of initiatives, best practices and policies
 - Case studies (e.g. real-life stories that can be used in a speech)
 - Academic articles or research
 - In-person briefings by migration experts
 - Other(s) (specify): _____

8. In your position, how regularly do you look for additional migration data and information? (Pick one option only)
- Several times a week
 - Once a week
 - A few times a month
 - Less than once a month
9. How do you use the migration data and information you find? (Multiple choice)
- To fill a gap in understanding (e.g. how many people would be affected by a specific policy change)
 - To better understand background and contextual information (e.g. gain insight into the dynamics underpinning a specific social phenomenon, including more theoretical reflections)
 - To assess the costs and benefits of a decision and weigh trade-offs (compared to other options)
 - To assess the potential impacts of a decision
 - To compare or be inspired by possible good practices by learning about what other countries/authorities/bodies do
 - Other(s) (specify): _____

II. Needs for the Connection Hub and Knowledge Platform

10. In your opinion, what makes a migration platform or data hub the most useful? (Multiple choice)
- Draws on various sources and presents a comprehensive and complex perspective on an issue
 - Is regularly updated
 - Is very concrete and not merely theoretical
 - Synthesizes academic literature to provide a theoretical perspective on practical issues
 - Is easy to use (e.g. to locate the information needed)
 - Has a moderator function (e.g. online assistance to help users)
 - Is available in multiple languages (i.e. not just English)
 - Provides data in a downloadable format that allows for secondary data analysis (e.g. XLS or CSV)
 - Has data visualization available on-site (e.g. maps and graphs)
 - Other(s) (specify): _____
11. In your opinion, what makes a migration platform or data hub the most reliable? (Multiple choice)
- Draws on data sources that are from an official body (e.g. local or national government body)
 - Is regularly updated and indicates when most recently updated
 - Contains raw data for users to interpret as they see fit
 - Draws from multiple sources to present a comprehensive and complex perspective on an issue
 - Other(s) (specify): _____
12. In your opinion, what are the main limitations of these migration platforms/portals in terms of content? (Multiple choice)
- Information is outdated.
 - Information is not comprehensive (e.g. it does not cover the whole field you are working on, or it covers a limited geography).
 - The sample or information does not match what I/we need.
 - Information is too theoretical.
 - Information and analysis lack concrete recommendations for policymakers.
 - Information is not reliable (e.g. there are flaws in the methodology).
 - Information is biased.
 - Other(s) (specify): _____

13. In your opinion, what are the main limitations of these migration platforms/portals in terms of accessibility/usage? (Multiple choice)
- There are many platforms with similar information and I am not sure which one to use.
 - The content is not fully available through the subscriptions made available by my organization.
 - It is difficult to locate the data/articles I am looking for.
 - It is difficult to use or I am not sure how to use it.
 - It is not available in my native language (specify): _____
 - Other(s) (specify): _____
14. What is your general take on migration data platforms and portals? (Multiple choice)
- This diversity of platforms and portals is very useful for gathering data and information.
 - Only a few of them are useful for gathering data and information.
 - There are too many of them and it is confusing.
 - They are easy to use.
 - They are difficult to use.
 - They do not provide information and data in open access.
 - Other(s) (specify): _____
15. Do you see benefits of having a new Knowledge Platform? (One choice only)
- Yes, many.
 - Yes.
 - Not really.
 - Not at all.
 - I don't know.
16. Add a brief comment to explain.

III. Current gaps in data and analysis on migration

17. Among the following, what are the three main topics on which you often struggle to find reliable data using existing platforms and portals? (Choose three options.)
- Quantitative data (e.g. on the number of migrants in a country, disaggregated by sex, age or migration status; on the number of irregular border-crossings into a country; on the number of migrants who have died or gone missing attempting to cross international borders; on the number of migrants returned from a country (voluntarily and involuntarily); trends over time)
Specify: _____
 - Legal analysis (e.g. of the compliance of labour migration, family reunification or return measures with existing normative obligations)
Specify: _____
 - Social analysis (e.g. of the effects of labour migration policies on workers; of the effects of family reunification policies on migrant families; of the social dynamics associated with smuggling and trafficking)
Specify: _____

- Economic analysis (e.g. of the effects of labour migrants on the national job market; of the effects of development aid in countries of origin)
Specify: _____
- Historical analysis (e.g. of the history of migration in a country; of the history of a specific migrant population)
Specify: _____
- Geographic analysis (e.g. of migration routes; of the effects of new transportation infrastructure on migration routes)
Specify: _____
- Other(s)
Specify: _____

IV. Impact of migration data and information on the decision-making process

18. When you gather migration data and information via online platforms and portals, how important is this evidence to the decision-making process in your organization/department? (e.g. in the case of a new project, policy or awareness-building initiative)? (Pick one option only)
- Very important
 - Important
 - Not important
 - Not important at all
 - I don't know
19. In your experience, what source of evidence, data or analysis has proved the most important to the decision-making process in your organization/department (e.g. in the case of a new project, policy, awareness-building initiative)? (Multiple choice)
- Talking to colleagues within my department
 - Talking to experts within my government/organization
 - Talking to migration experts outside my government/organization
 - Consulting online information (e.g. portals or platforms about migration)
 - Reviewing internal information (e.g. collected by internal statistical department)
 - Reading the press
 - Other(s) (specify): _____

V. Information sharing and coordination through hubs that can connect actors

20. How do you typically share information (e.g. best practices, relevant data) internally (with other departments within your government/organization)? (Multiple choice)
- Online platforms or portals
 - For instance (specify): _____
 - Bilateral meetings
 - Conferences or workshops
 - Newsletters
 - Other(s) (specify): _____
21. Which of the following are challenges/gaps in sharing information internally and with external partners? (Multiple choice)
- Lack of capacity (e.g. in terms of resources and time)
 - Lack of tools to do so (e.g. no common online platform)

- Lack of opportunities to do so (e.g. through panels, conferences, calls and meetings)
 - Difficulty with identifying the counterpart at the right level
 - Other(s) (specify): _____
22. Between 0 (very low) and 5 (very high), how could a Connection Hub (online platform that would connect the stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration) best help to address these challenges? (One choice)
- Filling gaps in migration data or analysis: 0 1 2 3 4 5
 - Sharing best practices and lessons learned on how to implement the Global Compact for Migration: 0 1 2 3 4 5
 - Identification of implementing partners for the Global Compact for Migration, within and outside the United Nations system: 0 1 2 3 4 5
 - Identification of funding mechanisms to implement the Global Compact for Migration: 0 1 2 3 4 5

VI. Conclusions

23. To conclude, what recommendations can you share for the new platform to be established by the United Nations Network on Migration (i.e. the Connection Hub and Global Knowledge Platform)?

24. Which of the following are you and your colleagues aware of and/or use? (Tick as relevant.)

Platforms/Portals/Websites		
Tick the appropriate box to indicate whether you have heard of or used the portal, webpage or website.	Name of portal/webpage/website	Organization/Department
[_] Heard of it but have not used it [_] Used it	International Migrant Stock	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)
[_] Heard of it but have not used it [_] Used it	Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX)	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
[_] Heard of it but have not used it [_] Used it	UNHCR Population Statistics (covering populations of concern)	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
[_] Heard of it but have not used it [_] Used it	Child Migration and Child Displacement data sets	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
[_] Heard of it but have not used it [_] Used it	dataUNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
[_] Heard of it but have not used it [_] Used it	UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
[_] Heard of it but have not used it [_] Used it	UNHCR Population Statistics	UNHCR
[_] Heard of it but have not used it [_] Used it	Global Internal Displacement Database	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)

[_] Heard of it but have not used it [_] Used it	Missing Migrants Project: Tracking Deaths along Migratory Routes	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
[_] Heard of it but have not used it [_] Used it	Counter-Trafficking Data Collaborative (data hub on human trafficking)	
[_] Heard of it but have not used it [_] Used it	Global Migration Data Portal	
[_] Heard of it but have not used it [_] Used it	Displacement Data Portal	
[_] Heard of it but have not used it [_] Used it	Flow Monitoring Registry	
[_] Heard of it	Regional Knowledge Hub on Migration	
[_] Heard of it but have not used it [_] Used it	Environmental Migration Portal	
[_] Heard of it but have not used it [_] Used it	Regional Migration Data: MENA Mixed Migration Overview	
[_] Heard of it but have not used it [_] Used it	Plataforma Regional de Información sobre Migración (PRIMI)	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
[_] Heard of it but have not used it [_] Used it	Indicators of Immigrant Integration (database)	
[_] Heard of it but have not used it [_] Used it	Database on immigrants in OECD countries (DIOC)	
[_] Heard of it but have not used it [_] Used it	OECD International Migration Database	Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography (KCMD)
[_] Heard of it but have not used it [_] Used it	The Blue Hub (also known as “KCMD Data Catalogue” and “Dynamic Data Hub”)	
[_] Heard of it but have not used it [_] Used it	Eurostat Data	European Commission
[_] Heard of it but have not used it [_] Used it	International Migration in Latin America (IMILA)	Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean
[_] Heard of it but have not used it [_] Used it	Footprints Database	Mixed Migration Hub (MHub)
[_] Heard of it but have not used it [_] Used it	Legislative/Legal Databases (EPLex, IRLex, NATLEX, NORMLEX, LEGOSH)	International Labour Organization (ILO)
[_] Heard of it but have not used it [_] Used it	ILOSTAT	
[_] Heard of it but have not used it [_] Used it	GFMD Platform for Partnerships (PFP)	Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)
[_] Heard of it but have not used it [_] Used it	Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD)	World Bank
[_] Heard of it but have not used it [_] Used it	MPI Data Hub	Migration Policy Institute (MPI)
[_] Heard of it but have not used it [_] Used it	Mixed Migration Centre	Mixed Migration Centre
[_] Heard of it but have not used it [_] Used it	Legislationline (Migration)	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

<input type="checkbox"/> Heard of it but have not used it <input type="checkbox"/> Used it	Africa Caribbean Pacific (ACP) Observatory on Migration	International Organization for Migration (IOM) + 15 partners
<input type="checkbox"/> Heard of it but have not used it <input type="checkbox"/> Used it	Caribbean Migration Consultations Platform	Caribbean countries, in coordination with IOM and UNHCR
<input type="checkbox"/> Heard of it but have not used it <input type="checkbox"/> Used it	Determinants of International Migration (DEMIG) Policy	International Migration Institute (IMI), University of Amsterdam
<input type="checkbox"/> Heard of it but have not used it <input type="checkbox"/> Used it	M4D Net	The United Nations Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI), led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in collaboration with IOM, the International Trade Centre (ITC)–ILO, UNHCR, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and UN-Women
<input type="checkbox"/> Heard of it but have not used it <input type="checkbox"/> Used it	OECD Migration	OECD
<input type="checkbox"/> Heard of it but have not used it <input type="checkbox"/> Used it	MILEX (Database of Migration Legislation in the Americas)	Organization of American States (OAS)
<input type="checkbox"/> Heard of it but have not used it <input type="checkbox"/> Used it	SICREMI (Continuous Reporting System on International Migration in the Americas)	OAS, in collaboration with OECD
<input type="checkbox"/> Heard of it but have not used it <input type="checkbox"/> Used it	European Website on Integration	European Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Heard of it but have not used it <input type="checkbox"/> Used it	Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography (KCMD) Knowledge Portal	Led by the European Commission and its partners
<input type="checkbox"/> Heard of it but have not used it <input type="checkbox"/> Used it	EMN Publications	European Migration Network (EMN)
<input type="checkbox"/> Heard of it but have not used it <input type="checkbox"/> Used it	Migration Research Hub	Consortium of 16 partners (project leader: Erasmus University Rotterdam)
<input type="checkbox"/> Heard of it but have not used it <input type="checkbox"/> Used it	Southern African Migration Programme (SAMP)	Southern African Migration Programme (SAMP)
<input type="checkbox"/> Heard of it but have not used it <input type="checkbox"/> Used it	Smuggling of Migrants Knowledge Portal (SHERLOC)	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC)
<input type="checkbox"/> Heard of it but have not used it <input type="checkbox"/> Used it	Compendium of Labour Market Policies	ILO
<input type="checkbox"/> Heard of it but have not used it <input type="checkbox"/> Used it	TEMPER (Temporary versus Permanent Migration) Project	Consortium of universities and ITC–ILO
<input type="checkbox"/> Heard of it but have not used it <input type="checkbox"/> Used it	Other(s): <i>[Option to add a short comment]</i>	Other(s): <i>[Option to add a short comment]</i>



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