

## A. ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN THE MID-POINT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA AND THE SDGS, AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Human mobility in all its dimensions is essential to the delivery of the 2030 Agenda. Data and evidence continue to demonstrate the socio-economic opportunities that human mobility brings when well governed.

At the same time, mobility patterns are increasingly complex – driven and impacted by major global transformations. Migration will continue to generate its own fast-evolving challenges and opportunities in the years to come, well beyond the reach of the 2030 Agenda:



**Changing demographics** within a population of over 8 billion people<sup>1</sup> are coupled with increasing human mobility. The great majority of people do not migrate across borders; much larger numbers migrate within countries<sup>2</sup>. More than half of the world's population now lives in urban areas<sup>3</sup>, where the majority of migrants and displaced people also choose to go. Local governance will be core to success or failure in establishing inclusive social cohesion across our societies.



**Digitalization** brings opportunities. It has the potential to boost inclusive and sustainable growth by spurring innovation, generating efficiencies, and improving services, and digitalization is an important tool in helping countries recover from the COVID-19 pandemic<sup>4</sup>. But it also fosters more inequalities through the digital divide. Evidence suggests that mobile populations have less access to technologies, information, educational and employment opportunities, with implications on human mobility dynamics.



**The world is growing less equal.** The pandemic recovery is uneven. Most developing countries have seen a slower recovery in the job market, and growth is projected at 4.4 per cent in 2023 in the least developed countries (LDCs), significantly below the 7 per cent growth target<sup>5</sup>. At the same time, the LDCs face a huge responsibility for inclusion and service delivery towards displaced persons (LDCs host half of the global caseload of IDPs). Human mobility dynamics are the byproduct of individual, family, and community decisions. These are influenced by existing governance structure, the availability of basic services, existence of lack of regular migration channels, access to food, employment status, injustice or the perception of inequalities.



**Mistrust, exclusion from decision-making and hyper individualism** combined with the after-effects of a global pandemic have weakened social cohesion. Attitudes towards mobile populations become more polarized in moments of economic uncertainty. Incidents of xenophobia and discrimination against migrants have increased worldwide<sup>6</sup>. Governments feel pressure to limit human mobility, despite recognition during the pandemic that migration is both necessary and valuable.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/dayof8billion>

<sup>2</sup> <https://publications.iom.int/books/world-migration-report-2020-chapter-2>

<sup>3</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.URB.TOTL.IN.ZS>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.oecd.org/g20/topics/digitalisation-and-innovation/>

<sup>5</sup> [https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/extended-report/Extended-Report\\_Goal-9.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/extended-report/Extended-Report_Goal-9.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/Harnessing-Twitter\\_1.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/Harnessing-Twitter_1.pdf)



The world is experiencing the highest number of violent **conflicts** since the end of World War II. Conflict, violence, and disasters are the main drivers of internal displacement and the number of people living in displacement reached nearly 60 million people in 2022, marking a new historic record<sup>7</sup>. More stalled and recurrent conflicts are occurring more frequently<sup>8</sup>, reversing progress toward the SDGs, and these effects are long lasting: countries emerging from civil war need 14 years to recover economically and 25 years to rebuild systems and institutions, on average<sup>9</sup>.



**Climate change** and environmental degradation will contribute to large-scale population movements, mostly internal, as the lives, livelihoods, habitat, physical and mental health, and the enjoyment of human rights of affected populations, become adversely impacted, and the World Bank has predicted that up to 216 million people across six regions could move within their countries by 2050. In turn, human mobility can impact the environment, ecosystems, and the availability of natural resources. However, managed well, it can also be part of the solution as a form of adaptation to environmental stressors.



The international community will be called upon to respond to increasing needs, with less financial support, as long-standing and protracted crises are crowded out by new situations of acute humanitarian concern, exacerbated by continued food insecurity. At a time when the costs of climate change – and the potential costs of adaptation – are rising, **funding is being squeezed** in all directions, and, increasingly, aid conditionality related to migration management is introduced.



This collectively feeds into broader **challenges within the multilateral system** itself and a tendency towards nationalism and protectionism, with countries pulling back from international cooperation and basing actions around a zero-sum policy.

At the mid-way point of the 2030 Agenda, these challenges **risk leaving one in every eight people in the world behind** – including hundreds of millions of international migrants, internal migrants, and displaced persons.

Migrants and displaced persons are, first and foremost, people. Speaking of migrants and displaced persons means referring to people who have been a cornerstone of development, innovation and progress since the dawn of time. At the same time, these are the very people who too often suffer, are left stranded and excluded, exposed to abuse, exploitation and discrimination solely on the basis of their movements. People move for many reasons, and in many ways. Regardless of what compels people to move, their rights and human dignity must be respected, and their contributions acknowledged.

Inclusion of mobile populations, and integration of human mobility considerations across sustainable development efforts, is part of the solution, not the problem. Human mobility has transversal linkages across the SDGs, but also across the Humanitarian, Development, and Peace dimensions. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)<sup>3</sup>, for example, is anchored in the SDGs, and allows us to articulate the human mobility and sustainable development nexus in all migration contexts.

No country can address the challenges and opportunities of this global phenomenon on its own. The GCM offers a 360-degree vision of international migration and recognizes that a comprehensive approach is needed to optimize the overall benefits of migration, while addressing risks and challenges for individuals and communities in countries of origin, transit and destination. Following the Progress

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2022/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/un75/new-era-conflict-and-violence>

<sup>9</sup> <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1080/15423166.2016.1150690>

Declaration<sup>10</sup> of the first ever International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), Member States called on the international community to further strengthen the linkages between the GCM with the SDGs, including by deepening ties between the respective review forums including through inviting the United Nations Network on Migration (UNNM) Coordinator to report on the linkages between the implementation of the Global Compact and the 2030 Agenda at High-Level Political Forums.

Since 2020, IOM has invested through its programming across the globe 11.5 billion USD in support of safe, orderly and regular migration and the achievement of the SDGs. This investment has spanned across all the 17 SDGs and advanced **124 individual SDG targets**<sup>11</sup>. But despite these achievements and progress, much remains to be done. Comprehensively understanding the varied contexts under which human mobility takes and will take place; leveraging the potential of migrants and migration to accelerate progress towards the SDGs; and measuring progress in the implementation of key SDG targets associated with migration is and will remain at the heart of what IOM does. IOM will carry this through in its support to Governments, local and sub-national authorities, civil society organizations and migrants and displaced populations.

In its 2021<sup>12</sup> and 2022<sup>13</sup> submissions to the HLPF, IOM highlighted the important role that well-governed migration can play to mitigate the negative impacts of COVID-19, stimulate strong socio-economic recovery and build more inclusive societies that protect human rights and are better prepared to address future crises. As we near the mid-term implementation mark of the SDGs, this message remains as relevant as before. In those submissions, IOM proposed a series of actions that can accelerate sustainable development and advance COVID-19 recovery. These actions, underpinned by IOM's Institutional Strategy on Migration and Sustainable Development<sup>14</sup>, apply an integrated approach to migration, recovery and sustainable development, and build on the opportunities the GCM objectives can bring for the achievement of the SDGs individually and as a whole.

The following sections of this submission present IOM's assessment of the human mobility-related progress, experience, lessons learned and challenges of the implementation of the SDGs under review this year at the HLPF. Each section considers individual SDG's linkages with other SDGs and broader migration governance opportunities and presents key examples of policy, operational practices and actions to accelerate progress towards the SDGs under review and towards the 2030 Agenda as a whole. It concludes with key messages for inclusion in the Political Declaration of the September 2023 SDG Summit.

## B. HOW MIGRATION CAN CONTRIBUTE TO ACHIEVE THE SDGS UNDER REVIEW

### SDG 6 – CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Change in water availability and prolonged water insecurity have long been a factor in the decision to move. Historically, communities around the world adjusted to seasonal water supplies by migrating temporarily. Water deficits have been linked to 10 per cent of the rise in global migration between 1970 and 2000<sup>15</sup>. Today, climate change and drought increasingly force nomadic pastoralists to alter their routes to travel further and for longer periods, also increasing the risk of conflict over water. Water stress was also identified as one of the key driving factors of migration in East and

<sup>10</sup> [https://migrationnetwork.un.org/system/files/resources\\_files/Final-%20IMRF%20Progress%20Declaration-%20English.pdf](https://migrationnetwork.un.org/system/files/resources_files/Final-%20IMRF%20Progress%20Declaration-%20English.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> Note: the IOM programming consist in all the projects implemented by IOM across the globe. Projects are recorded on the internal system "PRIMA". On PRIMA, each of any project outcome must be tagged for its contribution to specific SDG(s) and target(s). This then enables IOM through a macro-analysis of the tagging, to map the contributions of its programme across the SDGs' and their targets.

<sup>12</sup> [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/273032021\\_IOM\\_Submission\\_to\\_the\\_HLPF.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/273032021_IOM_Submission_to_the_HLPF.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/29642IOM\\_Submission\\_to\\_the\\_HLPF\\_2022\\_FINAL.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/29642IOM_Submission_to_the_HLPF_2022_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> <https://publications.iom.int/books/iom-institutional-strategy-migration-and-sustainable-development>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2021/08/23/going-with-the-flow-water-s-role-in-global-migration>

Western Asia<sup>16</sup>. Severe water scarcity leads to migration and displacement: for instance, in Ethiopia, as of September 2022, drought was the primary cause of displacement for 516,269 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) across 302 sites mainly in Somali, Oromia and Afar regions<sup>17</sup> and 315,281 individuals were displaced by drought across 217 settlements in the Gedo region of Somalia<sup>18</sup>. At the same time, mobile populations are far less likely to have basic water and sanitation services than the rest of the population: 66 per cent of IDPs in camps assessed in Yemen<sup>19</sup> and 49 per cent of IDPs in camps assessed in Sudan<sup>20</sup> recently indicated that access to water is a main priority. In turn, human mobility can increase pressure on water resources, most notably in cities in developing countries, as the vast mobile populations end up in urban areas where cities are not prepared for a sustainable expansion of existing water and sanitation services or infrastructure.

➤➤➤ Access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) is a human right<sup>21</sup>. WASH interventions cannot leave anyone behind. States have an obligation to work towards achieving universal access to water and sanitation for all, without any discrimination, while prioritizing those most in need. This means ensuring equitable access to services and responding to the water, sanitation and hygiene needs of mobile populations – especially irregular migrants who are harder to reach or remain invisible in WASH responses (relates to SDGs 1, 3, 11). Safe, inclusive and sustainable access to services, including water and sanitation, is a key factor in motivating forcibly displaced persons to return to their place of origin, when they wish to do so, and is an integral part of early recovery and to build pathways for durable solutions. There is a need to empower local governments and include migrants and displaced persons alongside host communities in decision making on the governance of water-related issues and as they relate to climate action (relates to SDGs 11, 13, 16). Cross-border communities' livelihoods depend on transboundary resources management. And well-managed human mobility can play an important role in addressing water-related issues. Water cooperation and diplomacy is essential to protect mobile populations' human rights, including the extension of social and economic rights across borders (relates to SDGs 16, 17). Through their remittances and investments, migrants can support water infrastructure and sustainable agricultural practices, as well as innovation for water-use efficiency solutions and water resources management. They can effectively support COVID-19 recovery efforts through action such as greening the economy, improving water management and related climate action (relates to SDG 8, 9, 10, 13). WASH interventions can build synergies between acute and complex emergencies, humanitarian crises and long-term development responses, whilst empowering localized resilience-building approaches that work with and enhance the capacities, processes and practices that already exist within communities (SDG 11, 16).

#### ***In practice:***

*IOM provides technical policy support on human mobility-related issues in water governance and directly implements WASH programmes in diverse contexts spanning humanitarian, development and peace dimensions. IOM provides tangible Water and Sanitation services from delivering basic needs to supporting additional aspects such as governance, institutional capacity building, environmental protection, job creation and conflict resolution. IOM emphasizes the critical importance of WASH actors partnering with environment, climate change and disaster risk reduction sectors to ensure water resource management and infrastructure is able to adapt to the risk of environmental hazards and increased water demand from migration movements, whilst simultaneously mitigating any further risks imposed on the environment.*

*For instance, in **Bangladesh**, groundwater is the predominant drinking water source for Rohingya refugees and the host population in the Cox's Bazar district. IOM, with funding from the Government of Japan and in partnership with the Department of Geology of Dhaka University and Groundwater Relief, carried out a hydrogeological assessment of the main aquifers supporting water supply to the Mega Camp within Cox's Bazar District. Extensive fieldwork, remapping of the geology and data analysis has enabled a new conceptualization of the hydrogeology of the area and supported the development of a groundwater model. A guideline for water*

<sup>16</sup> [https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1411/files/documents/policy\\_brief\\_series\\_vol4\\_issue2.pdf](https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1411/files/documents/policy_brief_series_vol4_issue2.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/ethiopia-national-displacement-report-14-august-september-2022?close=true>

<sup>18</sup> <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/somalia-emergency-trend-tracking-round-47-gedo-region-jan-21-jan-25-2023?close=true>

<sup>19</sup> <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/yemen-annual-rapid-displacement-tracking-report-2022?close=true>

<sup>20</sup> <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/integrated-location-assessment-brief-camp-or-camp-settings?close=true>

<sup>21</sup> [https://www.ohchr.org/en/water-and-sanitation/about-water-and-sanitation#:~:text=On%2028%20July%202010%2C%20the,RES%2F64%2F292\).](https://www.ohchr.org/en/water-and-sanitation/about-water-and-sanitation#:~:text=On%2028%20July%202010%2C%20the,RES%2F64%2F292).)

abstraction has been developed for the sustainable use of underground resources. Additionally, **Yemen** was considered as a water-scarce country, and after seven years of conflict, the situation worsened. The destruction of water systems, fuel shortages and lack of maintenance has affected 40 per cent of the country's hydraulic assets. IOM carried out the construction and rehabilitation of groundwater extraction systems that have benefited more than 350,000 people affected by the conflict. Most of these projects have included implementing pumping systems empowered by solar energy to provide reliable and affordable access to clean water for communities affected by the ongoing humanitarian crisis. In **Iraq**, through the Community Revitalization Programme, IOM repaired the filtration system, sedimentation tanks, provided a new disinfection system and supplied new pumps to provide clean water in communities that faced severe potable water issues. The project not only provided clean water to approximately 24,000 people in the communities, but supported long-term development by providing a sustainable solution for water supply, as well as building resilience and supporting peace through government ownership of the infrastructure. Overall, the population's satisfaction with the government's ability to provide them with the human right to water has improved.

In **Ethiopia**, interventions focused on ensuring safe, equitable, sustainable access to WASH services for IDPs and host communities. Under the "Provision of Life-saving Emergency Assistance for Displaced Persons" project, a gravity piped water supply network was constructed to source water from natural springs, thus removing the need for fossil fuels. Particular emphasis was given to environmental aspects of the water supply system, with an Environmental Impact Assessment conducted prior to the development of the spring and network which identified existing and future climate hazards that could impact the sustainability of the project. The system was designed with local knowledge, utilizing the traditional technique for developing natural springs in Ethiopia. IOM ensured that the integrated approach to water supply met the needs of both the returnee and host communities, and contributed to social cohesion by supporting the livelihoods of both returnee and host communities.

## SDG 7 – AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Affordable and clean energy is deeply relevant to the capacity and motivation of people to move. Human mobility is a response to assorted “drivers” – or factors that come into play in the migration decision-making process and that have an impact on displacement dynamics. Drivers are the byproduct of individual, family and community decisions that may be influenced by existing governance structures, the availability of basic services and utilities or the perception of opportunities as well as

by global undercurrents that shape our world, such as deepening inequalities and the climate crisis. Lack of access to affordable and clean energy can be a driver to move.

➤➤➤ There are various ways and actions through which “green migration governance” and persons on the move can contribute to accelerate progress towards SDG 7 and various other related SDGs. IOM defines “green migration governance” as migration policy and practice that is implemented in line with environmental standards and aims to deploy innovative, green initiatives when managing human mobility<sup>22</sup>. Environmentally sustainable practices can be deployed both in the humanitarian and development settings during different migration phases in order to ensure that migration governance does not put natural resources at risk nor increases the burden on the already-changing climate. Managing local energy, clean fuel and technology as well as ensuring broader development planning is designed in tandem with migration policy helps to ensure equitable access to services like energy (relates to SDGs 1, 2) so that migrants and displaced populations are not left behind and fulfil their development potential. Migrants also drive innovation and are often powering the green energy transition as migrant workers. Empowered diaspora groups, migrants and displaced persons, returning migrants and others can foster the transfer of skills, know-how, technology and investments (relates to SDGs 10, 17) that can boost local, sustainable development practices around energy consumption, clean energy development and renewable energy production. Good governance of human mobility can effectively connect COVID-19 recovery efforts with greening the economy, energy and climate action (relates to SDGs 8, 9, 10, 13).

<sup>22</sup> [https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1411/files/documents/migration\\_in\\_the\\_2030\\_agenda.pdf](https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1411/files/documents/migration_in_the_2030_agenda.pdf)



#### **In practice:**

IOM has implemented several projects that directly contribute towards making clean and affordable energy accessible to migrants and displaced persons. IOM's **Global Solar Lantern Initiative** has helped more than 57,000 families across Africa, Latin America and Asia. In **Bangladesh**, IOM, in partnership with UNHCR, WFP and FAO, has been investing in greener cooking kits in refugee camps in the frame of the "Safe Access to Fuel and Energy" project – the first large-scale humanitarian project involving Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), reforestation and livelihoods. While LPG is not considered as "green" in the strictest sense since it is a fossil fuel, it produces less carbon dioxide during cooking when compared to traditional fuels and can have a significant impact on deforestation in locations where wood and charcoal is the primary cooking fuel. IOM also leads the Innovation-Norway funded "E-waste" Project on greening humanitarian response through the repair, recovery and recycling of solar products in displacement settings. Implemented in **Uganda**, the project is showing promising results for energy accessibility, improvements in livelihoods and environmental impact. In **Mozambique**, IOM partners with NORCAP to develop a sustainable marketplace for green energy in displacement settings. To ensure inclusive participation and innovation, the project involves communities and the private sector in the design process, in order to source a sustainable solution tailored to the needs of those internally displaced by Cyclones Idai and Kenneth who have resettled in Sofala Province. The project also aims to create new green jobs for displaced persons to fully participate in the growth of the marketplace.

The Green Finance Facility (GFF) in **North Macedonia** is an initiative being implemented by IOM and other partners to improve air quality and combat climate change. Funded through the Joint SDG Fund, this programme aims to set up a new financial vehicle, which provides access to affordable green financing for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), individuals and households for investments in renewable energy (RE) and energy efficiency (EE) solutions. It is expected to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution and strengthen the local ecosystem for RE & EE innovation and green finance. To reduce and eliminate biases against women and address gender inequality and gender-based vulnerability, the project includes activities which increase women's representation and awareness, while ensuring that any awareness and/or training programmes are gender-sensitive and inclusive.

## **SDG 9 – INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**



Migration, industry, private sector development and trade are inextricably linked. Migrants are strongly concentrated in a number of sectors, especially in low-skilled services but also in information technology and manufacturing<sup>23</sup>. When enabling conditions are in place, private sector development and trade are vital for inclusive and sustainable economic growth. Well-managed migration has a role in this dynamic and can be leveraged for sustainable development. Migrants can be

facilitators of trade and investment by connecting countries of origin, transit and destination through trade routes and business linkages. This can improve and broaden market access, increase demand, strengthen value chains and lower expenses. Migrants are also agents for private sector development at all stages of migration, from pre-departure to return. Despite earning less than men - women migrant workers contribute to about half of global remittances<sup>24</sup>, sustaining economies of many countries around the world. Migrants contribute knowledge and skills transfer, innovation and entrepreneurship. A recent study has shown that every additional 1 per cent of immigration has the potential to boost GDP growth by 2 per cent in destination countries. This is in addition to supporting economies and boosting GDP of countries of origin through remittances and other mechanisms<sup>25</sup>. The digital revolution brings immense potential to support and accelerate sustainable development, but people on the move – especially those with an irregular status – are more likely to experience financial, legal and practical barriers to accessing industry, innovation and infrastructure.

➤➤➤ Policies and programmes focused on empowering migrants and displaced persons, and on increasing well-governed migration, can accelerate progress on SDG 9 and various related SDGs. Migrants' contributions to their countries of origin in the form of remittances, is well known. Taken

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/26a5b23b-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/26a5b23b-en>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017/7/women-migrant-workers-and-remittances#view>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/Issues/2020/04/14/weo-april-2020>

together, migrants' remittances and investments are a financing for development opportunity that proved resilient in the face of economic and social shocks like the COVID-19 pandemic<sup>26</sup>. They exceed 1 trillion USD per annum, which is greater and more stable than both foreign direct investment (FDI) and official development assistance (ODA). Leveraging migrants' human capital in this way helps facilitate the technology transfer necessary for countries to establish a foothold in new productive industries and value chains of the future such as green technologies, but remittance transfer costs remain excessively high: the average costs of sending remittances to low and middle income countries (LMICs) remained high at 6 per cent, and the African remittance market remains the most expensive, with an average cost (to and within Africa) at a staggering 7.83 per cent<sup>27</sup>; well above the target of 3 per cent of the SDG Target 10.c.1<sup>28</sup>. Global action is needed to reduce these costs. If the cost of sending remittances could be reduced by 5 percentage points relative to the value sent, remittance recipients in developing countries would receive over \$16 billion dollars more each year than they do now. This added income could then provide remittance recipients more opportunity for consumption, savings, and investment in local economies<sup>29</sup> (relates to SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 10, 17). Beyond remittances, it is critical to empower diaspora groups, migrants and displaced persons, increase financial literacy and access to innovative financial products, to effectively connect COVID-19 recovery efforts with greening the economy (relates to SDGs 7, 8, 13). At the same time, migrants that are employed in resource-dependent sectors (industry, agriculture, construction, waste management) should also be provided with up-/re-skilling opportunities and social protection as required. Countries that mainstream migration into economic policymaking increase their chances of making this happen. There is a need to close the digital divide, leveraging digitalization to enhance migrants' well-being and facilitate their contributions to sustainable development (relates to SDGs 4, 8, 10).

#### ***In practice:***

*In 2022, under the **Mainstreaming Migration into International Development and Cooperation (MMICD)**<sup>30</sup> project, implemented with the European Commission's Directorate General for International Partnership (DG INTPA), IOM and UNCTAD co-developed a Toolkit to Integrate Migration into Private Sector Development and Trade<sup>31</sup> with concise, operational and user-friendly information and tools to understand how migration can be reflected in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development cooperation interventions that have a private sector development and trade focus. In April 2022, IOM co-hosted the **Global Diaspora Summit**<sup>32</sup> in partnership with the Government of Ireland, diaspora organizations and other relevant actors to develop a collaborative vision, through meaningful and structured dialogue, towards actively engaging with transnational communities as agents and accelerators of sustainable development. This included creating the conditions to leveraging diaspora's economic capital for investment, including enterprise development, in their countries of origin which, taken together with their human and social capital including skills, is necessary to seed the green industries of the future.*

*IOM is supporting innovation by empowering mobile populations. The **Diversity, Inclusion and Social Cohesion (DISC) Initiative's Digest on Digitalization**<sup>33</sup> provides guidance for policymakers and practitioners to develop digital services and platforms in the areas of migrant training and integration, such as digital pre-departure or cultural orientation, distance skills development and language learning, virtual counseling, digital job fairs and digital campaigns to promote socio-economic inclusion and cohesion. The Resilience Innovation Facility, also known as Fab-lab<sup>34</sup> (Fabrication Lab), was established by IOM and partners as a creative space for young innovators in Gaziantep, one of the biggest refugee-hosting provinces in **Türkiye**. Young people learn, invent and create with their peers. Housed on the Gaziantep University campus, the space operates on an open-door policy and provides free access to digital fabrication tools, equipment and technology, as well as mentorship and educational courses that teach innovation, design-thinking, problem-solving and change-making. In **Latin***

<sup>26</sup> [https://www.knomad.org/sites/default/files/publication-doc/migration\\_and\\_development\\_brief\\_37\\_nov\\_2022.pdf](https://www.knomad.org/sites/default/files/publication-doc/migration_and_development_brief_37_nov_2022.pdf)

<sup>27</sup> [https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/publication/mobilemerit-africa-report\\_en](https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/publication/mobilemerit-africa-report_en)

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.migrationdataportal.org/themes/remittances#:~:text=In%202022%2C%20the%20top%20five,recipient%20of%20remittances%20since%202008>

<sup>29</sup> <https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/about-remittance-prices-worldwide>

<sup>30</sup> <https://eea.iom.int/mainstreaming-migration-international-cooperation-and-development-mmicd>

<sup>31</sup> <https://publications.iom.int/books/integrating-migration-private-sector-development-and-trade-interventions-toolkit>

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.iom.int/global-diaspora-summit-2022>

<sup>33</sup> [https://migrationnetwork.un.org/sites/g/files/tmzbd1416/files/resources\\_files/disc\\_digest\\_4th\\_edition\\_digitalization\\_and\\_migrant\\_inclusion\\_final.pdf](https://migrationnetwork.un.org/sites/g/files/tmzbd1416/files/resources_files/disc_digest_4th_edition_digitalization_and_migrant_inclusion_final.pdf)

<sup>34</sup> <https://theresiliencecollective.org/index.php/fab-lab-gaziantep/>

**America**<sup>35</sup> the “Hola America” programme<sup>[66]</sup> enables civil society and private sector partners to showcase their novel approaches and receive seed funding to further develop their business plans for enhanced social impact, systems change and sustainability. The joint IOM-UNDP Global Programme on Making Migration Work for Sustainable Development (M4SD<sup>[67]</sup>) with support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) contributes to locally-led solutions whereby migrants and community members are empowered as entrepreneurs, while equally increasing financial literacy and inclusion. For instance, in **Nepal**<sup>[68]</sup>, **Morocco**, **Ecuador**, **Senegal and beyond**, immigrants, returning migrants, family members and other community entrepreneurs receive small seed funding, entrepreneurship training, financial inclusion and literacy training and more to grow their businesses. The programme also supports municipalities to develop inclusive local infrastructure through the establishment and improvement of community and training spaces in **Ecuador**, **Morocco**, **Senegal and Serbia**.

## SDG 11 – SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Migration today is already deeply urban – nearly 1 in 5 migrants were estimated to live in cities in 2018; and will increasingly be so. Over half of the world’s population lives in cities, and almost all population growth in the foreseeable future is expected to occur in urban areas. Approximately half of this urban growth is expected to occur through migration<sup>36</sup>. Migrants are less likely than non-migrants to have access to adequate housing and are more likely to live in slums. In European countries, 44 per cent of migrants from non-European Union countries reported living in overcrowded households, compared to 18 per cent of citizens<sup>37</sup>. Displacement is increasingly an urban reality: around the world, most internally displaced people find refuge not inside displacement camps, but in communities and often in cities<sup>38</sup>. Cities are at the frontline for integrating and facilitating the social and economic inclusion of migrants and displaced persons, as they are responsible for developing and implementing urban programmes and services. At the same time, cities are also highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change because of their population density and interdependent infrastructure systems, which are under pressure as their population grows. The movement of people from rural to urban areas, between urban settlements of different sizes and from one country to another will continue to affect urban settlement patterns, as well as the distribution of people within urban areas and the sense of inclusion, belonging and well-being of all people in any community.

➤➤➤ SDG 11 calls to “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”, a goal dependent on the prosperity of the people, migrants and displaced persons who comprise them. This goal has complex ramifications with various other SDGs. Migrants and displaced persons should not be left behind in cities and local governance. While there has been progress and several landmark initiatives, there is an urgent need to continue to empower local governments and include migrants and displaced persons in local decision-making. Equally, we must connect local migration governance frameworks to national ones, as they remain often disconnected (relates to SDGs 10, 17). To reduce mortality related to disasters, there is a need for integrated urban planning strategies that consider sustainable mobility, health, economic development, affordable housing and connectivity and that are geared towards ensuring equitable access to services and reducing inequalities (relates to SDGs 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 13). Renewed efforts are needed to combat xenophobia and harness the positive role of diversity for inclusive recovery, in line with the New Urban Agenda, the global framework for sustainable management of cities which commits to combatting discrimination against all migrants and recognizes their significant cultural, social and economic contributions to urban areas (relates to SDGs 1, 8, 10, 16). Understanding urban displacement better is key to designing more effective measures to prevent future displacement, and more sustainable solutions including local inclusion in urban communities. It is important to ensure that data collection for SDG 11 is disaggregated by migratory status, since good urban decision-making rests on an understanding of the challenges and contributions of all residents. For example, internal and international migrants and displaced persons

<sup>35</sup> [https://innovamigracion.iom.int/Hola\\_America](https://innovamigracion.iom.int/Hola_America)

<sup>36</sup> [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/wmr\\_2018\\_en\\_chapter10.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/wmr_2018_en_chapter10.pdf)

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.migrationdataportal.org/sdgs?node=11>

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.internal-displacement.org/research-areas/urban-displacement>



are often disproportionately affected by challenges in access to health, services, livelihoods, transport and spatial and zoning changes, and also make up a key percentage of people living in informal housing (related to SDG 17).

**In practice:**

IOM and partners work to increase evidence-based urban management and sustainable development. In the Middle East and North Africa region, and under the broader UNDRR's Programme on Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) and UN-Habitat's Sustainable Urban Resilience for the next Generation (SURGe) Initiative, IOM developed an **Urban Diagnostic Tool (UDT)** which will allow migrants, host societies and local governments to enhance urban resilience by strengthening migrants' social cohesion in spatial, institutional, economic, climate and resilience city systems. The **Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)** has been implemented in urban areas to better understand the number, location, needs and vulnerabilities of migrants and displaced populations to support evidence-based response and programming. For instance, through the Migrant Presence Monitoring exercise in **Beirut, Lebanon**, DTM gathers and analyses data to disseminate critical multi-layered information on the presence and mobility of migrants<sup>39</sup>. In **Mongolia**, DTM conducted a study<sup>40</sup> that explores eight primary themes across the city of **Ulaanbaatar** and different districts within the city: namely, population baseline figures, arrivals and departures, employment, financial situation, challenges and security, services and infrastructure, parks and green areas and children and education. In **Haiti**, IOM launched an early warning system to gather data on displacement, humanitarian shocks and basic protection indicators in the **Metropolitan Zone of Port-au-Prince** on an ongoing basis. In **Latin America**, IOM, in partnership with the Immigration Policy Lab at ETH Zurich and within the framework of DISC Initiative, has developed and piloted a common and multidimensional approach to measure the local integration outcomes of migrants.

IOM supports local governments to integrate mobile populations into local policy and development planning and support the roll out of these local policies and plans that are inclusive of migrants and displaced persons. For example in **Nepal**, IOM has been supporting the central government which recognizes the importance of empowering local governments to lead the response and service provision to returning migrants. The government's approach is to empower all 753 municipalities to mainstream and establish government responsibilities and holistic services to support returning migrants. IOM supports whole-of-community city-led initiatives that find solutions for all migrants regardless of status and leverage their contributions for greater community development. For example, the **M4SD Programme** empowered over 13 cities and regions across 11 countries<sup>41</sup> to integrate migration into urban and local development plans and to roll out these policies for community members and migrants alike – for poverty reduction and socio-economic transformation through entrepreneurship, skills and employability, equal access to health services and more. For example, in **Morocco** in the regional of **Oriental**, the Programme supports inclusive access to healthcare and an innovative psychosocial support approach for migrants and community members and is being showcased for potential scaling in other regions. In a side event held during the World Urban Forum (WUF), IOM, UN Habitat, the EU and local government representatives from **Nepal and Madagascar** jointly untangled the ways that migration flows are impacting cities, and the role municipalities can play in integration and social cohesion.

## SDG 17 – PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



The 2030 Agenda calls for strengthened means of implementation, and a revitalized global partnership for sustainable development both as an underlying principle and specifically through Goal 17. This call is echoed in the GCM's Objective 23, which calls to "strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration" and through the GCM's "whole-of-society" guiding principle, which underscores that migration is a multidimensional reality that cannot be addressed by one government policy sector alone, and promotes broad multi-stakeholder partnerships to address migration in all its dimensions by including migrants, diasporas, local communities, civil society, academia, the private sector, parliamentarians, trade unions, National Human Rights

<sup>39</sup> <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/lebanon-baseline-assessment-round-1?close=true> and <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/lebanon-baseline-assessment-round-2?close=true>

<sup>40</sup> <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/mongolia-rapid-assessment-population-migration-and-needs-across-ulaanbaatar-city-1-july-0>

<sup>41</sup> Local projects can be explored by clicking on a country listed here: <https://migration4development.org/en/about/our-programmes>

Institutions, the media and other relevant stakeholders in migration governance. Long-term engagement of the diaspora, for example, can boost remittance levels. Productively investing remittances for sustainable development support the global community to meet Goal 17's targets on mobilizing additional funds and macroeconomic stability. Similarly, Goal 17 calls for improving migration data and increasing the disaggregation of data by migratory status, among others. GCM Objective 1 also calls to "collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies" and in the IMRF Progress Declaration, Member States requested that a limited set of indicators, drawing on the global indicator framework for the SDGs and targets of the 2030 Agenda, be proposed to assist Member States in conducting inclusive reviews of progress related to the implementation of the GCM. These indicators can serve as a comprehensive strategy for improving disaggregated migration data at the local, national, regional and global levels and support reporting on the implementation of the SDGs. Strengthened migration data can also support better programming and policies to help reduce vulnerabilities, protect and empower migrants, displaced persons and communities impacted by human mobility.

➤➤➤ Governments and other stakeholders – including international development actors and donors – can take multiple actions related to human mobility that can advance and accelerate sustainable and equal partnerships for the overall achievement of the SDGs. A whole-of-government approach is needed to ensure horizontal and vertical policy coherence across all sectors and levels of government. In addition to developing migration specific policies or GCM implementation plans aligned with national development priorities, integrating human mobility considerations into national and local development and sectoral policies can reduce inequalities and provide a level playing field for migrants, displaced persons and affected communities to be part of the solution as an integral part of society. International development actors and donors should further invest in south-south cooperation (SSC) and triangular cooperation (TC) for safe, orderly and regular migration. Migration is already essentially a south-south reality, so sharing good practices and improving competencies between those on the front lines is crucial. By mainstreaming migration and displacement into international cooperation tools and practice, the international community can collectively guarantee and protect human rights of migrants, including the protection of social and economic rights, extending social protection and the portability of entitlements that ultimately strengthen the resilience of societies as a whole (relates to SDGs 1, 8, 10, 16). Building on technological and digital advances, we should seize the opportunity to leverage digitalization to enhance mobile populations' well-being and facilitate their contributions to sustainable development (relates to SDGs 8, 9). Strong partnerships are needed to boost capacities to address gaps in the quantity, accuracy, timeliness, comparability and accessibility of migration data and to strengthen data, research and analysis on the linkages between migration, internal displacement, COVID-19 and sustainable development. This is central to the capacity of the UN and Member States to enact better programming and policies that leverage the potential of migration for sustainable development, but also to enable Member States to strengthen the linkages between the GCM, the 2030 Agenda and their respective review forums, as foreseen in the IMRF Progress Declaration.

***In practice:***

*With respect to data specifically, in **Gabon**, IOM is supporting the government to launch its own National Migration Observatory and building capacities on migration data collection. IOM has a partnership with the **Brazilian** Institute of Statistics and Geography to ensure migration mainstreaming in data collection and analysis of the Brazilian Demographic Census 2022; and in **Uruguay**, IOM supported the inclusion a specific section related to mobility in the 2023 national census conducted by the National Institute of Statistics. At the global level, through its **DTM**, IOM partners with a range of institutions and organizations to disseminate, analyze and encourage the use of available migration and displacement data across different spheres of expertise. IOM is also part of the **Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS)**, and various other data platforms such as the inter-agency **Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement Task Force**. IOM has been a leader in setting sector-wide standards for the ethical and responsible use of humanitarian data and advancing data science methods through its co-leadership of the **Data Science and Ethics Group**.*

IOM has further advanced partnerships in various areas of migration governance, and with a broad range of partners, including the private sector and diaspora groups. Key examples of public-private partnerships are engagements under IOM's **IRIS Programme**<sup>42</sup> through an advisory committee made of the Association of Labour Providers (UK), IKEA, the Institute for Human Rights and Business, the Migrant Forum in Asia, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, the Philippine Overseas Labor Office, the Responsible Business Alliance, Service Alberta, Social Accountability Accreditation Services (SAAS), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers. Since 2020, **iDiaspora** - a global engagement and knowledge exchange hub for diaspora communities - has been recognized as an SDG Good Practice<sup>43</sup>. IOM co-leads the **Mayors Mechanism** with two partners, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the Mayors Migration Council (MMC) to create opportunities for local and regional governments to take part in global migration governance and engage in peer-to-peer learning and exchange. It is a prime model of a partnership and collaboration space, forging links between States, cities and local/regional governments as well as civil society, the private sector, the UN system and other international and regional organizations.

IOM worked to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development. As an illustration, the M4SD<sup>44</sup> programme has supported partners to ensure migrants and displaced populations are considered in all policies at the national and local levels. For instance, in **Serbia**, assistance has been provided to revise the National Strategy on Youth so that youth mobility considerations are included, as well as Local Action Plans for a) Migration, b) Employment and c) Youth in three municipalities, where mobility issues play an important role. Since the beginning of this approach over a decade ago, 191 migration sensitive laws, policies, strategies and action plans have been developed or amended to guide local and national governments to have stronger, more joined up approaches to leveraging migration for local development. Through the <sup>45</sup>**[OBJ]** project, a comprehensive package of resources was developed in partnership with 11 UN agencies and these resources include training modules and toolkits exploring the links between migration, forced displacement and nine priority development sectors.

The **United Nations Network on Migration (UNNM)** is the vehicle of the UN system to help implement the GCM, bringing together Member States and stakeholders. It is an innovative practice for enhancing partnerships for the achievement of all the goals. The Network has helped to bring the GCM closer to the SDG framework, including through the establishment of over 80 country and regional Networks in UNCTs, the implementation of 15 joint UN programmes funded by the Migration MPTF and the training to UN Country Teams<sup>46</sup> in UN Sustainable Development Cooperation. IOM's co-leadership and efforts in at least 8 other Network workstreams also contributes as innovative practices in enhancing partnerships to achieve the SDGs. For instance, IOM co-led the development of the **Global Guidance on Bilateral Labour Migration Agreements (BLMAs)**<sup>49</sup>, with the purpose to assist countries of origin and destination to design, negotiate, implement, monitor and evaluate rights-based and gender-responsive BLMAs, based on a cooperative and multi-stakeholder approach.

<sup>42</sup> <https://iris.iom.int/>

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.idiaspora.org/en>

<sup>44</sup> <https://migration4development.org/en/about/our-programmes>

<sup>45</sup> <https://eea.iom.int/mainstreaming-migration-international-cooperation-and-development-mmcd>

<sup>46</sup> <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/training-and-guidance-network/un-system>

**EXAMPLE OF ACTION TAKEN TO RECOVER FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC THAT ALSO ACCELERATE PROGRESS TOWARDS MULTIPLE SDG TARGETS, BUILDING ON INTERLINKAGES AND TRANSFORMATIVE PATHWAYS FOR ACHIEVING SDGS**

As of 30 June 2022, of the 180 countries from which IOM offices provided data, 162 (90%) reported that migrants in regular situations have access to COVID-19 vaccines in practice and 102 (57%) reported that migrants in irregular situations have access. The main limiting factors for the inclusion of migrants in practice is a lack of targeted deployment strategies and efficient provision of operational support, especially at subnational level. IOM has taken specific actions to support Member States and stakeholders to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic while accelerating progress towards multiple SDG targets. Some of these actions focused on migrant inclusion in COVID-19 vaccination campaigns<sup>47</sup>. Continuous advocacy, support and engagement at policy and operational levels has remained crucial to advocate for equitable distribution of vaccines across the general population and special/priority populations, irrespective of their legal status or country of origin.

In line with the global World Health Organization (WHO)-IOM Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), including during the COVID-19 response, IOM has continued to work closely with WHO on promoting the health of migrants and refugees on several issues including cross-border health, digitalization of vaccine certificates to ensure continuity of care and climate change and health. IOM has also closely engaged with WHO on several activities, including the training guidance on global competency standards to ensure quality health services for refugees and migrants, recent editions of the WHO Global School on Refugee and Migrant Health, the UNNM Working Group on Access to Services and the 2022 World Report on the Health of Refugees and Migrants. IOM has also been partnering closely with UNHCR, often in collaboration with WHO, on migration and refugee health issues.

The Migration Health and Development Research Initiative (MHADRI) is a platform which allows active researchers, from any discipline and organizational background – including early career researchers, graduate students and NGO-based researchers – currently working on researching any aspect(s) of the relationship between migration and health, to advance evidence-informed global migration health policies and practices. It is a global network of practitioners, policymakers and researchers across disciplines and organizational backgrounds that work on advancing migration health research for evidence-informed migration health policies and practices at national/regional levels. The network focuses on addressing the gap in migration health research data especially from low to middle-income countries, and for capacity building, advocacy and dialogue across research and policy communities. A key focus is on Supporting Early Career Scholars. MHADRI members have established sub-regional collaborative research projects and global repositories to guide the field.

In the run-up to the 2023 UN High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage (UHC), IOM has been closely engaging with the UHC2030 Partnership to mobilise high-level engagement and action-oriented commitments. IOM represents the UHC2030 UN Constituency Group in the UHC2030 Steering Committee meetings. In 2022, IOM contributed to drafting and review for the UHC 2030 Action Agenda and the State of UHC Commitment Review Project's Key Findings.

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<sup>47</sup> <https://www.iom.int/ensuring-migrants-equitable-access-covid-19-vaccines>

### **C. KEY MESSAGES FOR INCLUSION IN THE POLITICAL DECLARATION OF THE 2023 SDG SUMMIT**

As this review of the SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11, and 17 has evidenced, human mobility is more than ever a multi-faceted reality that can and does contribute to achieving the SDGs as a whole.

Human mobility is driven and impacted by major global transformations as outlined above, which are already present and will continue to generate their own, evolving set of challenges and opportunities in the years to come, well beyond the 2030 Agenda.

At the mid-way point of the 2030 Agenda, these challenges risk leaving hundreds of millions of international migrants, internal migrants and displaced persons behind. That is one in every eight people in the world.

No country can address the challenges and opportunities of mobility, a global phenomenon, on its own. Inclusion of mobile populations, and the integration of human mobility considerations across sustainable development efforts, is part of the solution, and requires leveraging the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Secretary General's Action Agenda for Internally Displaced Persons.

To meet that ambition, we must step up our efforts so we truly work towards leaving no one behind.

The 2023 SDG Summit Declaration provides a critical opportunity to reignite global commitment to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs between now and 2030.

IOM encourages States to:

- Affirm that speaking of migrants and displaced persons means speaking about the people who have been a cornerstone of development, innovation and progress since the dawn of time. At the same time, these are the very people who too often have suffered, been stranded and excluded and exposed to abuse, exploitation and discrimination solely on the basis of their movements.
- Recognize and advance the role of human mobility as an opportunity for the future and comprehensive strategy that can help reduce inequalities, adapt to the climate crisis; and that is an integral component of the renewed social contract needed to secure our future. Everyone matters and makes a difference in our achievement of global prosperity, including people on the move.
- Reiterate that global development will not be achieved without safe, orderly and regular human mobility. Multilateralism and whole-of-society partnerships have the power to maximize the potential of human mobility. The GCM is central in our efforts to harness human mobility for inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and well-managed human mobility can accelerate the attainment of the SDGs in what remains of the Decade of Action.
- Acknowledge that major global transformations such as digitalization, the climate crisis and urbanization impact and are impacted by human mobility in increasingly complex and intertwined ways. More transformational change is needed to strengthen the positive impact of human mobility, building on the progress since 2015 and the landmark IMRF Progress Declaration.