



Report of the Secretary-General on Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027)

Inputs from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) – 2025

Overview: Human mobility and poverty eradication

Migration is an age-old coping and adaptation strategy that has lifted millions out of poverty. Migration has been a driver of human development and brought benefits for migrants, their families, and countries and communities of origin and destination. International remittances to low- and middle-income countries – projected to have reached a record USD 685 billion in 2024 ([World Bank, 2024](#)) are a lifeline for millions of families and communities. Migrants from the poorest countries experienced a 15-fold increase in income, doubling of school enrollment rates, and 16-fold reduction in child mortality ([IOM, 2023](#)). Migrant entrepreneurship across OECD countries contributed to around 4 million jobs from 2011 to 2021, with each working-age immigrant generating an average of 0.2 additional jobs ([OECD, 2024](#)).

Yet migrants are more likely to be in poverty compared to non-migrants . In the EU, 45.5% of non-EU citizens faced the risk of poverty or social exclusion compared to 18.9% of nationals ([EURSTAT, 2023](#)). Only 27% of 109 countries surveyed provide regular migrants with the same access to social protection as nationals ([IOM, 2024](#)). In several countries, migrant workers earn 25% less than nationals ([ILO, 2024](#)). Factors such as age, ethnicity, gender and disability increase vulnerability to marginalization. Youth unemployment is a major driver of migration. The number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) has grown by 50% in the last five years ([IDMC, 2024](#)). The economic cost of internal displacement is estimated at USD 30 billion per year ([IDMC, 2021](#)).

The success of migration depends on available options. Regular migration pathways for migrants from developing countries have narrowed in recent years ([IOM, 2024](#)), leading many to resort to irregular migration, which exposes them to violence, exploitation and abuse. In 2024, at least 8,938 people died on migration routes worldwide, making it the deadliest year on record ([IOM, 2025](#)). As global migration trends increase ([UNDESA, 2025](#)), properly governed migration is essential to manage labor market imbalances, shifting demographics, and technological changes. It is crucial to preserve migration as a global strategic asset to accelerate actions for a world without poverty.



IOM's Work to Eradicate Poverty

IOM works across varied development, humanitarian, and peace contexts, to support the world's most vulnerable. IOM pursues three strategic objectives: 1) saving lives and protecting people on the move; 2) driving solutions to displacement; and 3) facilitating pathways for regular migration. Through its extensive global footprint, IOM implements programmes, projects, and interventions that contribute to the seven thematic policy areas under the UN System-wide Plan of Action for the Third UN Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (SWAP).

One notable regional programme is “Promoting intra-regional labour migration for local development in West African countries” – implemented in the **Gambia, Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, and Guinea**. This programme promotes safe, orderly and regular mobility, both within and across borders, balancing labour supply and demand to support youth employment and income generation. In Senegal, young entrepreneurs in the Saint Louis's region have benefited from incubation in entrepreneurship, basic training in accounting, basic digital skills, coaching, networking, business plan support, and financial intermediation. In **Mali**, a Working Group on Durable Solutions was established with the Government, supported by IOM, UNHCR, and UNDP. This Group coordinates initiatives on durable solutions for displaced persons and other populations affected by displacement, including resource mobilization from the Government and its partners. Since 2021, IOM has implemented the IOM Stability Index and Socio-Economic needs household survey in several regions, allowing the government and its partners to inform interventions in areas of prolonged displacement more effectively.

Recommendations for the Secretary-General's Report

This year's Secretary-General's report should:

- Reiterate the importance and transversality of human mobility as a core development consideration, and as an accelerator to eradicate extreme poverty; and reiterate that migrants are agents of change, driving innovation, entrepreneurship, and investments, that contribute to poverty reduction in origin, transit and destination countries.
- Underline that expanding safe, regular and orderly pathways for migration, underpinned by a better understanding of both the drivers and structural factors that continue to compel people to move, can help reduce irregular migration, accelerate inclusive growth, strengthen decent work, bridge labour gaps and foster sustainable development while adapting to the increasingly complex human mobility dynamics.
- Signal the centrality of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and the United Nations Secretary General Action Agenda on Internal Displacement as guiding frameworks for harnessing the potential of migration and achieving a future that leaves no one behind.
- Reiterate the urgent call to reach the furthest behind first in poverty reduction and eradication efforts, including migrants in vulnerable situations, IDPs, and communities adversely impacted by migration or displacement.