



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

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

Input from the International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Overview: migration and poverty eradication

Migration can be a critical poverty-reduction tool for migrants and their families. It can create opportunities for higher and / or more diversified incomes,¹ and enable greater outcomes in health, education and employment. Not only does this mean that migration can address the financial dimensions of poverty, but also that it can contribute to positive outcomes against other multidimensional aspects. Moreover, migration is often a strategy for households to manage the risks of poverty and food insecurity, building resilience to fluctuations in agricultural production, income and employment.²

The benefits of migration can also accrue to countries of origin and destination. For the former, the remittances migrants send can produce positive impacts on household finances including improved savings, assets, investments, insurance and access to financial services. The aggregate effect of this on national economies can include increased economic activity and positive adjustments in national inequality distributions.³ In the latter, migration can support increased productivity and production, and create new demand for and supply of goods and services.⁴

However, migration does not always achieve its potential given several crucial barriers including high financial and social costs, conditions in host countries and barriers to mobility.⁵ Further, migrants can be put at risk, communities can come under strain and development gains can be jeopardized when migration policies or other relevant policies do not consider the needs of migrants or the effects of migration.⁶

To boost the positive effects of migration and empower all migrants to be agents for development, policies and programmes should focus on promoting safe migration and lowering its costs. Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, UN Member States have increased their efforts to ensure that migration is considered in sustainable development planning and implementation. The adoption of the Global Compact for safe,

¹ International Organization for Migration, 2018, 'Migration and the 2030 Agenda: A Guide for Practitioners', Geneva, available at: <https://publications.iom.int/books/migration-and-2030-agenda-guide-practitioners>.

² IOM, 2018.

³ Hagen-Zanker, J., E. Mosler Vidal and G. Sturge, 2017, 'Social protection, migration and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development', Overseas Development Institute, London.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ International Organization for Migration, 2019, 'IOM Institutional Strategy on Migration and Sustainable Development', Geneva, available online: <https://publications.iom.int/books/iom-institutional-strategy-migration-and-sustainable-development>

orderly and regular migration for example, was a critical step forward. However, much work remains to be done.⁷

In an analysis of migration governance arrangements in place across 49 countries between 2015 and 2019, IOM found that migration still tends to remain a specific policy silo and that governments have yet to establish or apply holistic approaches to migration governance and policies, thereby creating gaps in their policy frameworks and limiting their capacity to respond to changes in demographic and migration trends.⁸ Ensuring that migration is integrated coherently across all policy domains can represent a transformative pathway to accelerate action on sustainable development.

Additionally, poverty eradication efforts must ensure that migrants in situations of vulnerability are not left behind. For example, social protection coverage for migrants tends to be low: 22 per cent of migrants have no access to official coverage, and less than 1 per cent of migrants moving between low-income countries are entitled to this coverage.⁹ A lack of social protection tends to increase vulnerabilities, and can put migrants at higher risk of poverty and marginalization. Proactively expanding social protection for migrants is therefore integral to meeting global development targets.¹⁰

How IOM contributes

IOM is working closely with member states to support the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda, including through the monitoring of indicator 10.7.2 in partnership with UNDESA and OECD. It is stepping up efforts to ensure migration policies and programmes lead to transformative pathways for sustainable development, as well as to strengthen data and the overall evidence base on migration and sustainable development to support this. In particular, IOM's institutional strategy on Migration and Sustainable Development is a core part of the organization's efforts to support member states and the UN system in accelerating action to achieve the 2030 Agenda. The focus of the Strategy is to maximize the potential of migration to achieve sustainable development outcomes for migrants and societies alike, recognizing that migration, when it is well-managed, can be both a development strategy and a development outcome.

Recommendations for action

In light of the above analysis and the demands across the UN to scale up action and ambition during the Decade of Action on the SDGs, IOM suggests that this year's Secretary-General's report on **Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027)** should include at least one recommendation noting that:

- Migration contributes to positive development outcomes and to realizing the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially when it is properly managed. These

⁷ International Organization for Migration, 2020, IOM input to the HLPF 2020 – Accelerated Action and Transformative Pathways: Realizing the Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development, Geneva, available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=30022&nr=2520&menu=3170>.

⁸ International Organization for Migration, 2019, 'Migration Governance Indicators: A Global Perspective', Geneva.

⁹ ODI, 2017.

¹⁰ IOM, 2018.

contributions should be more widely recognized and strengthened in the context of implementing the 2030 Agenda.

- It is critical, in that context, to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.
- To develop and implement effective migration policies and practices, a whole-of-government approach is needed to ensure horizontal and vertical policy coherence across all sectors and levels of government.

For further information, please refer to IOM's input to the HLPF:

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/25932IOM_contribution_to_the_2020_HLPF.pdf