

Interregional workshop on
**Collecting and using migration-related data for development:
Cooperation and exchange in the European-African corridor**

Organized by:
Population Division and Statistics Division
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Rome, Italy
30 November – 2 December 2016

OBJECTIVES

Introduction

The Population Division and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA), in collaboration with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and members of the Global Migration Group (GMG), are organizing an interregional workshop for African and European countries to strengthen the collection and use of international migration data for development. The workshop will bring together experts from national statistical offices in charge of producing official statistics on international migration as well as experts from relevant ministries or agencies in charge of compiling and analysing migration data from administrative sources.

Background

In the Declaration of the *High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development* (A/RES/68/4), adopted in October 2013, the General Assembly emphasized the need for reliable migration data, including on the contributions of migration to development, in both countries of origin and countries of destination, in order to facilitate the design of evidence-based policy and decision making in all relevant aspects of sustainable development.¹

The *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (A/RES/70/1) mainstreamed migration in the United Nations development agenda and highlighted the contribution of migrants and migration to development. The sustainable development goals (SDGs) contain several targets that are directly related to migration.² The *Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development* (A/RES/69/313) includes concrete policies to enhance the contribution of remittances and migration to development.³

In March 2016, the *Statistical Commission*, the apex body of the global statistical community, approved a global indicator framework to monitor the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In line with the guiding principle of the 2030 Agenda – leaving no one behind -, it is encouraged that data be disaggregated by, inter alia, sex, age, and migratory status.

In September 2016, the General Assembly adopted the *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants* (A/RES/71/1) which contains bold commitments for enhanced international cooperation to protect and assist refugees and migrants in large movements, to strengthen the

¹ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N13/439/69/PDF/N1343969.pdf?OpenElement>

² <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld/>

³ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/frameworks/addisababaactionagenda/>

benefits of migration to development, to address migration challenges, and to promote safe, orderly and regular migration. The Declaration recognises the importance of improving data collection, particularly by national authorities.⁴

While migration between Africa and Europe has received significant attention in recent years, countries continue to face significant challenges in collecting basic data on the size and composition of migrant populations, on the volume and direction of migration flows, and on the contribution of migrants and migration to development.

Objectives

The workshop seeks to strengthen the capacity of government officials to identify and produce migration-related data from all relevant sources and to use migration-related data to inform national migration policies and development planning. The workshop will highlight existing United Nations standards and guidelines for collecting international migration statistics. Participants will discuss the role of migration-related data in policy formulation, in particular within the context of the follow-up and implementation of the migration-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. The workshop will promote good practices, including by disaggregating data by sex, age and migratory status.

Data exchange among countries is a prerequisite for assessing migration patterns and impacts. Therefore, the workshop aims to promote bilateral and multilateral cooperation and exchange of migration-related data between African and European countries.

The workshop will also provide an opportunity to discuss the progress made and challenges encountered in following up and implementing the recommendations from a regional workshop, held in Dakar, Senegal, in September 2015.

Outcomes and follow-up

The workshop is expected to (a) increase the knowledge of participants on UN standards for collecting migration-related data, (b) enhance the cooperation and exchange of migration between countries in Africa and Europe, and (c) strengthen the use of migration-related data for policy purposes.

Format and location

The workshop will include plenary presentations and break-out groups. It will be held at the premises of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Rome, Italy.

*Population Division and Statistics Division
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
28 October 2016*

⁴ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N16/291/97/PDF/N1629197.pdf?OpenElement>