

# SDG INDICATOR 10.7.2

## Number of countries with migration policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people

### 1. Migration is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development contains a number of targets related to international migration or migrants. SDG target 10.7, which calls on countries to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies, is the most explicit migration-related target of the 2030 Agenda.

Other migration-related targets in the 2030 Agenda include providing scholarships for study abroad (target 4.b), respecting the labour rights of migrant workers (target 8.8), reducing the costs of transferring remittances (target 10.c), ending human trafficking (targets 5.2, 8.7 and 16.2), and disaggregating data by various characteristics, including migratory status (target 17.18).

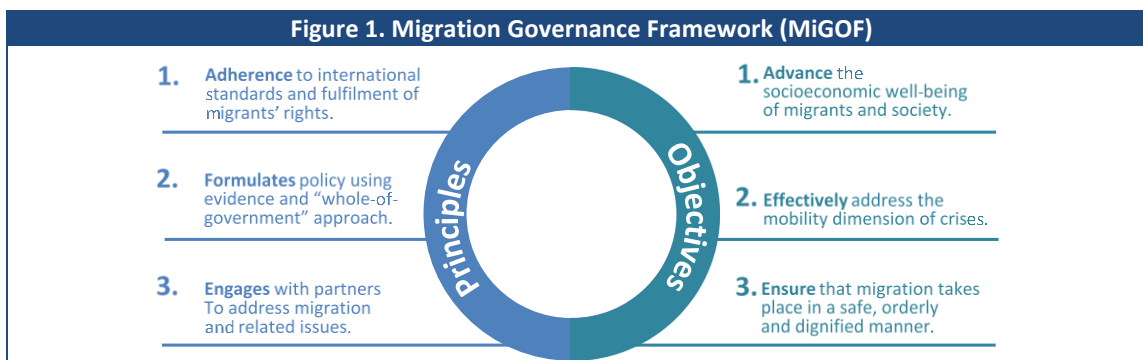
Meeting the targets related to migration can contribute positively to the achievement of other Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, including those related to poverty, health, education and gender equality.

### 2. The methodology for SDG indicator 10.7.2 was developed through an extensive process of consultations

In 2016, the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) tasked the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to develop a proposal that could be adopted as an internationally-agreed standard for the global monitoring of SDG target 10.7.<sup>1</sup>

The methodology for SDG indicator 10.7.2 was developed over the period of two years through an extensive process of consultations with countries. The process was also informed by the then ongoing negotiations of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, as well as other initiatives including IOM's Migration Governance Indicators (MGI).

Indicator 10.7.2 on the number of countries with migration policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, is comprised of six policy domains in line with the three principles and three objectives identified in IOM's Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF) (figure 1).



Source: International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2015).

For each domain, one proxy measure was identified, consisting of one question, informed by five sub-categories. The sub-categories aim to capture key aspects of migration policies at the national level, while allowing the indicator to detect variations across countries and over time (UN DESA and IOM, 2019a). Indicator 10.7.2 is obtained by computing the unweighted average of the coded values of the 30 sub-categories under the six policy domains.

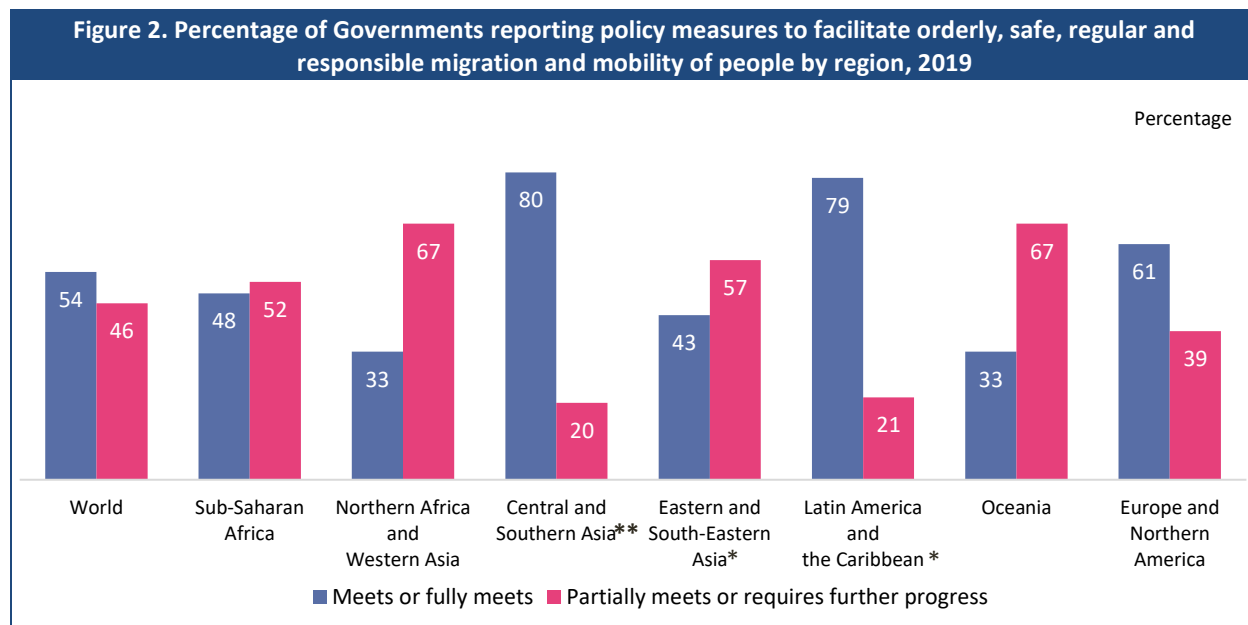
### 3. Data source for SDG indicator 10.7.2.

Data for SDG indicator 10.7.2 were collected through the international migration module of the United Nations Twelfth Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development (the "Inquiry") (UN DESA, 2018).<sup>2</sup> IOM and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) assisted in gathering responses to the migration module of the Twelfth Inquiry from relevant line ministries or government departments. As of September 2019, data on SDG indicator 10.7.2 were available for 111 countries, equivalent to 56 per cent of all countries globally.<sup>2</sup> Coverage of the indicator by region<sup>3</sup> is uneven.<sup>4</sup>

The co-custodians took a number of steps to ensure the comparability and completeness of country responses.<sup>5</sup> In spite of these efforts, Member States may have somewhat different interpretations of some of the topics covered in the Inquiry.<sup>6</sup> Because no additional consultation with countries on the reported national data was carried out, the data presented reflect the answers to the Inquiry given by the responding government entities.

### 4. More than half of all Governments report having a wide range of policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people

Globally, 54 per cent of Governments that replied to the migration module of the Twelfth Inquiry meet or fully meet the criteria for SDG indicator 10.7.2. In other words, they report having policy measures to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people for 80 per cent or more of the 30 sub-categories under the six domains of the indicator (figure 2).



Note: Based on 111 countries with available data (as of 1 September 2019). Countries that meet or fully meet the criteria for indicator 10.7.2 are those that reported having migration policy measures for 80 per cent or more of the 30 sub-categories. Countries that partially meet the criteria or require further progress are those that reported having migration policy measures for less than 80 per cent of the 30 sub-categories. \* Data are available for less than 50 per cent of countries and for less than 50 per cent of the total population. \*\* Data are available for less than 50 per cent of countries and for less than 50 per cent of the total population.  
Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (UN DESA) and International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2019b).

In terms of regions, Central and Southern Asia<sup>7</sup> (80 per cent) and Latin America and the Caribbean<sup>8</sup> (79 per cent) have the highest shares of Governments that meet or fully meet the criteria for SDG indicator 10.7.2. Both of these regions, however, have country coverage of less than 50 per cent. Europe and Northern America (61 per cent) has the third largest share of Governments meeting or fully meeting the criteria.

In other regions, more than half of the Governments only partially meet the criteria or require further progress, meaning that they report having policy measures for less than 80 per cent of the 30 sub-categories of indicator 10.7.2. Oceania as well as Northern Africa and Western Asia are the two regions with the highest proportion of countries (67 per cent each) partially meeting the criteria or requiring further progress, followed by Eastern and South-Eastern Asia<sup>8</sup> (57 per cent) and sub-Saharan Africa (52 per cent).

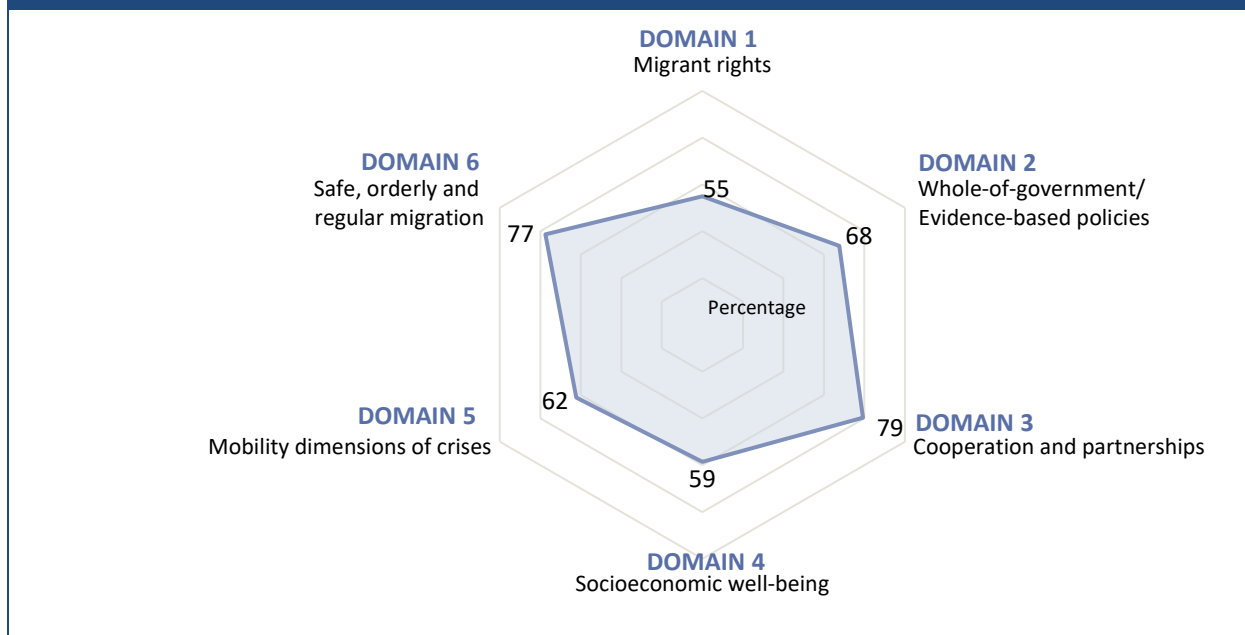
## 5. Country reporting of policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration is uneven across the six domains

Globally, more than three-quarters of Governments that replied to the migration module of the Twelfth Inquiry meet or fully meet the criteria for domain 3 “Cooperation and partnerships” (79 per cent) or domain 6 “Safe, orderly and regular migration” (77 per cent) (figure 3).

Further, more than two-thirds (68 per cent) of Governments meet or fully meet the criteria for domain 2 “Whole-of-government or evidence-based policies”, while 62 per cent meet or fully meet the criteria for domain 5 “Mobility dimensions of crises”.

Globally, domain 1 “Migrant rights” and domain 4 “Socioeconomic well-being” have the lowest proportions of Governments reporting a wide range of policy measures: 55 per cent and 59 per cent, respectively.

**Figure 3 Percentage of Governments reporting policy measures to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people by domain, 2019**



Notes: Based on 111 countries with available data (as of 1 September 2019). Data refer to countries that meet or fully meet the criteria for indicator 10.7.2 (reported having migration policy measures for 80 per cent or more of the five sub-categories in each domain). Of the countries that provided data, 20 per cent or more have item non-response for domain 4 of SDG indicator 10.7.2 of 10 per cent or more.

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (UN DESA) and International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2019b).

## 6. The reporting of policy measures to protect migrant rights varies widely

Among countries that responded to the migration module of the Twelfth Inquiry, migrants' access to basic and essential services, welfare benefits and rights varies widely (figure 4). Globally, 95 per cent of Governments report having policies to provide non-nationals equal access to essential or emergency health care. Eighty-six per cent of Governments report providing such services to all non-nationals, regardless of their immigration status, while 8 per cent indicate that they provide them only to those with legal immigration status.

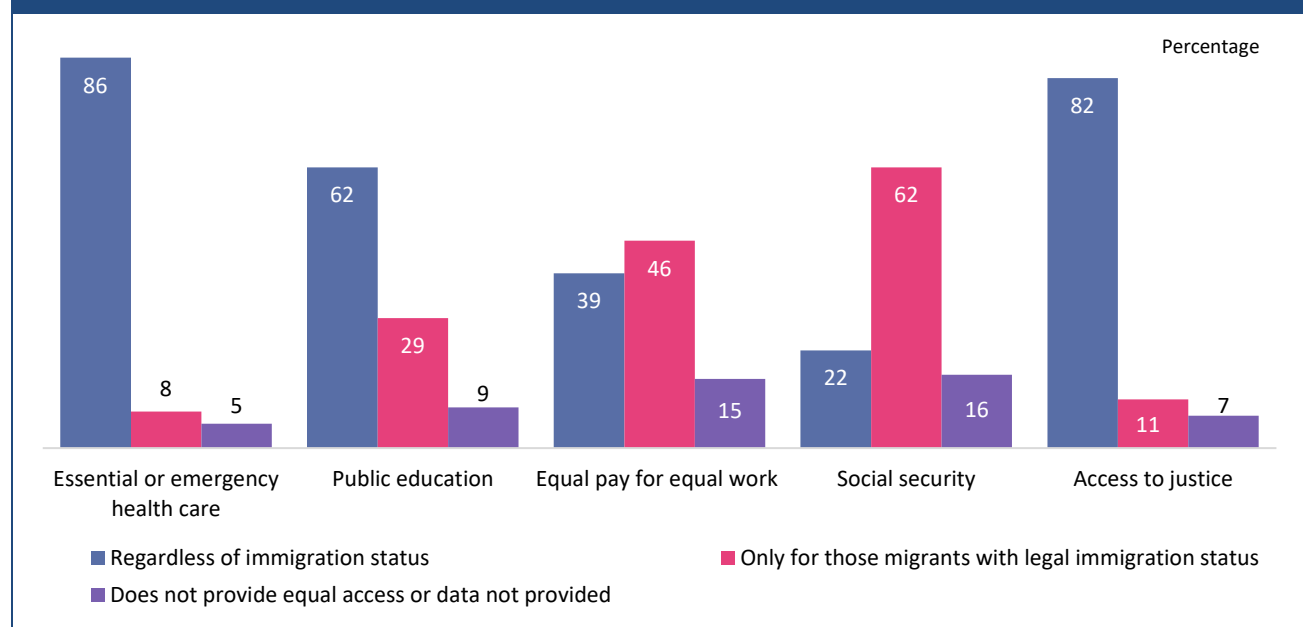
Ninety-three per cent of Governments report having policies to ensure equal access to justice. Of these, 82 per cent of Governments provide equal access to justice to non-nationals regardless of immigration status, while 11 per cent provide it only for those with legal immigration status. Equal access to public education, including public primary schools and secondary schools, is reported by 91 per cent of

Governments, including 62 per cent that provide the same level of access to public education for all migrants and 29 per cent that provide access only to non-nationals with legal immigration status.

Policies to promote equal work for equal pay or to provide social security for migrants on par with nationals are somewhat less prevalent. Eighty-five per cent of Governments indicate that they have policy measures to ensure equal payment of salary and benefits to all people in the same work place doing similar work, including 39 per cent that do so regardless of legal immigration status. Similarly, 84 per cent of Governments report measures to provide non-nationals equal access to social security programmes, including contributory and non-contributory pension benefits and basic social assistance.<sup>9</sup>

Twenty-two per cent of Governments report providing access to social security for non-nationals regardless of their immigration status, while 62 per cent indicate providing such benefits only to those with legal immigration status.

**Figure 4 Percentage of Governments that report providing non-nationals equal access to services, welfare benefits and rights, by legal immigration status, 2019**



Note: Based on 111 countries with available data (as of 1 September 2019). Percentages do not necessarily add to 100 because of rounding.  
Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (UN DESA) and International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2019b).

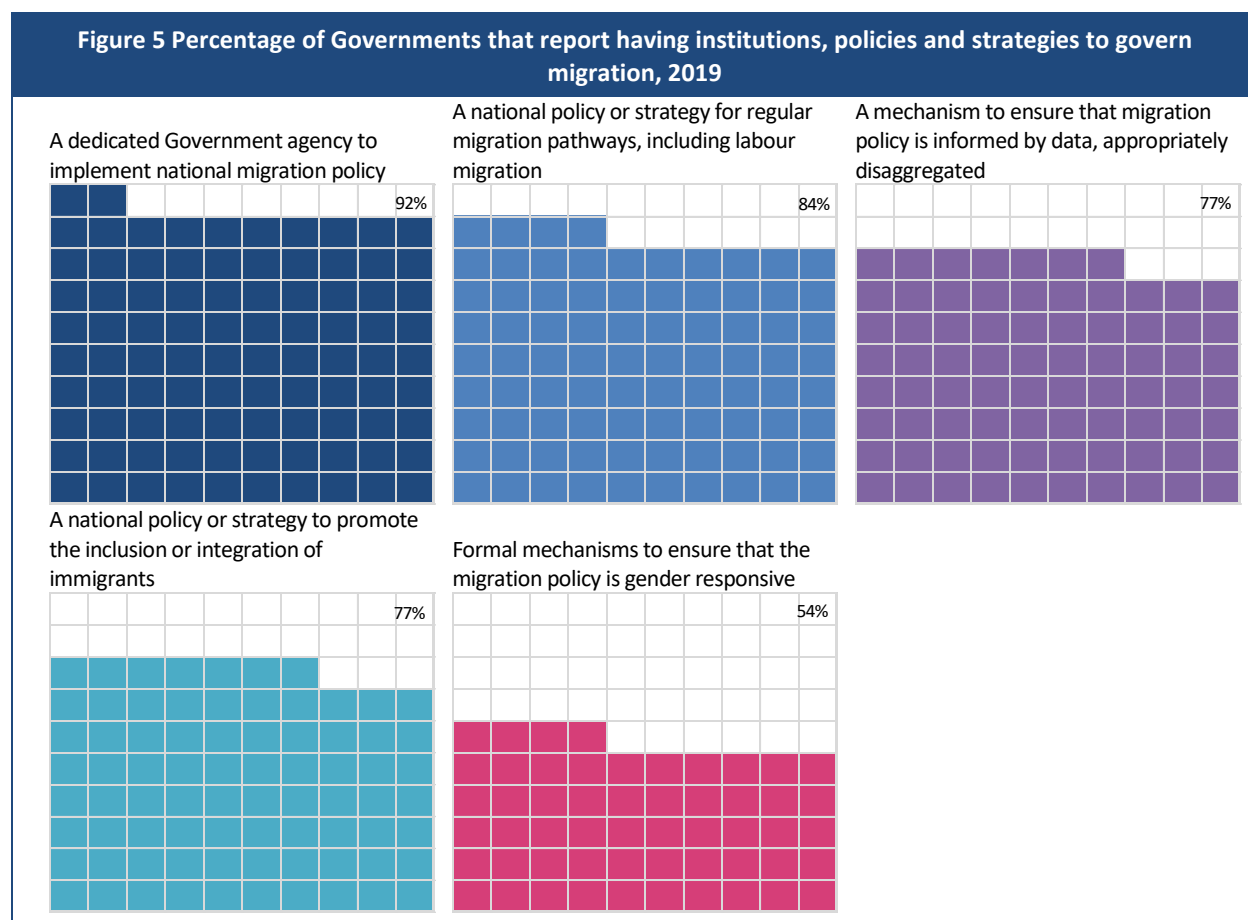
## 7. Whole-of-government or evidence-based policies are not reported uniformly

Among the institutions, policies and strategies to govern migration, having a dedicated Government agency to implement national migration policy is the most commonly reported (92 per cent), followed by having a national policy or strategy for regular migration pathways (84 per cent).

Seventy-seven per cent of Governments indicate that they have a mechanism to ensure that migration policy is informed by data, appropriately disaggregated, while 77 per cent report having a national policy or strategy to promote the inclusion or integration of immigrants. Formal mechanisms to ensure that migration policy is gender responsive (54 per cent) are the least prevalent (figure 5).

## 8. Most Governments report having measures to promote cooperation and partnerships on migration

In terms of the specific policy measures to foster cooperation among countries and encourage stakeholder inclusion and participation, 91 per cent of Governments indicate that they have an inter-ministerial coordination mechanism on migration, while 90 per cent have bilateral agreements on migration with other countries. Eighty-four per cent of Governments report having agreements for cooperation with other countries on return and readmission, and 77 per cent have entered into regional agreements to promote mobility. Formal mechanisms to engage civil society and the private sector in the formulation and implementation of migration policies are reported by 74 per cent of Governments with available data.



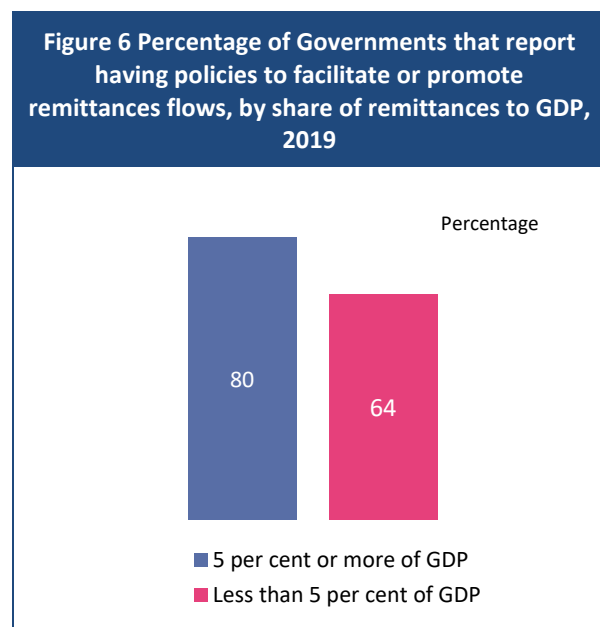
Note: Based on 111 countries with available data (as of 1 September 2019).

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (UN DESA) and International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2019b).

## 9. Further steps are needed to promote the socio-economic well-being of migrants

Measures to promote the socioeconomic well-being of migrants are essential for maximising the positive development impact of migration. Yet available data show gaps in the use of such measures. Globally, 81 per cent of Governments that responded to the migration module of the Twelfth Inquiry report having policy measures to facilitate the recognition of skills and qualifications acquired abroad and 78 per cent report having measures to promote fair and ethical recruitment of migrant workers.

Sixty-seven per cent of Governments responded that they have specific policy measures to facilitate or promote the flow of remittances. Among countries for which remittances represent 5 per cent or more of GDP, 80 per cent of Governments reported having policies to facilitate or promote remittance flows, compared with 64 per cent when remittances correspond to less than 5 per cent of GDP (figure 6).



Note: Based on 105 countries with available data on both policies to facilitate or promote remittances flows and on remittances as a share of GDP (as of 1 September 2019). Data on remittances as a share of GDP refer to 2018.  
Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (UN DESA) and International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2019b) and World Bank (2019).

Measures to align labour migration policies with actual and projected labour market needs are reported by 66 per cent of Governments, while 60 per cent indicate that they have measures to facilitate the portability of social security benefits.

## 10. Most Governments have policy measures to address the mobility dimensions of crises

Measures to respond to flows of refugees and other persons forcibly displaced across international borders are widespread. Globally, 84 per cent of Governments that responded to the migration module of the Twelfth Inquiry report having a system for receiving, processing and identifying those forced to flee across international borders; 84 per cent report granting permission for temporary stay or temporary protection for those forcibly displaced across international borders and those unable to return to their home country; and 75 per cent report using contingency planning for displaced populations in terms of basic needs, such as food, sanitation, education and medical care.

In addition, 68 per cent of Governments indicate that they have specific measures to provide assistance to citizens residing abroad in countries in crisis or post-crisis situations, while 56 per cent have a national disaster risk reduction strategy with specific provisions for addressing the displacement impacts of disasters.

## 11. Promoting safe, orderly and regular migration is a priority for most Governments.

Globally, 91 per cent of Governments that replied to the migration module of the Twelfth Inquiry report having strategies to address trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling, 84 per cent report having provisions for unaccompanied minors or separated children, while 80 per cent report having migration information and awareness-raising campaigns. Three fourths of all Governments report having pre-arrival authorization controls (76 per cent) or a system to monitor visa overstays (75 per cent).

## Notes:

<sup>1</sup> UN DESA and IOM serve as co-custodians of SDG indicator 10.7.2. For an overview of the process leading to the development of the indicator methodology, see UN DESA and IOM (2019a).

<sup>2</sup> The United Nations Twelfth Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development (the "Inquiry") was sent to 197 countries, including all 193 Member States, two Observer States (the Holy See and the State of Palestine) and two non-member States (Cook Islands and Niue) of the United Nations. Information for the measurement of SDG indicator 10.7.2 was gathered through the Twelfth Inquiry module on international migration (module III). For more information, see UN DESA (2018).

<sup>3</sup> Countries are grouped into seven Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) regions as defined by the United Nations Statistics Division and used for The Sustainable Development Goals Report. The seven SDG regions are: sub-Saharan Africa, Northern Africa and Western Asia, Central and Southern Asia, Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Oceania, and Europe and Northern America.

<sup>4</sup> In terms of country coverage, for four regions (Europe and Northern America, Northern Africa and Western Asia, Oceania and sub-Saharan Africa) data are available for 50 per cent or more of countries. In terms of the population coverage, five regions (Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, Europe and Northern America, Latin America and the Caribbean, Oceania and sub-Saharan Africa) meet the 50 per cent criterion. For Central and Southern Asia, both country coverage and population coverage are below 50 per cent. To be classified as tier I by the IAEG-SDGs, the data have to be regularly produced by countries for at least 50 per cent of countries and 50 per cent of the population in every region where the indicator is relevant. For more information on the IAEG-SDGs tier classification for global SDG indicators see: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/tier-classification/>

<sup>5</sup> For example, the migration module of the Twelfth Inquiry included extensive guidance, definitions and instructions for completing the questionnaire. In addition, UN DESA, IOM and OECD responded to country queries and provided clarifications when needed. Basic consistency checks were carried out on country responses, with inconsistencies flagged for resolution by national counterparts.

<sup>6</sup> Country responses, for example, may differ in their interpretation of concepts related to social security, with some answers focusing on access to pensions and others on a range of social protection mechanisms and benefits.

<sup>7</sup> Data are available for less than 50 per cent of countries and for less than 50 per cent of the population.

<sup>8</sup> Data are available for less than 50 per cent of countries.

<sup>9</sup> These programmes include, among others, unemployment insurance, health insurance, workers' compensation, sickness benefits and basic social assistance.

## Sources:

International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2015). Migration Governance Framework: The essential elements for facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people through planned and well-managed migration policies, available at: [https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/about-iom/migof\\_brochure\\_a4\\_en.pdf](https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/about-iom/migof_brochure_a4_en.pdf)

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Prepared by the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

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