

Use of the Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF)

Guidance note

This guidance note provides information on why and how to use the MGI results to formulate a baseline for the UNSDCF, which is one way to include migration in this framework. For more general guidance, readers should refer to the forthcoming guidance note on integrating migration into UNSDCFs.

Why to include migration in the UNSDCF:

The new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (also known as “Cooperation Frameworks” or CFs) are the most important planning and implementation instrument for UN development activities within countries. The UNSDCFs will drive the UN’s strategic planning, funding, implementation and monitoring, learning, reporting and evaluation activities at the country level, all of which are undertaken with the host government and partners. Given the centrality of UNSDCFs to national development activities, it will be critical to ensure that migration and development issues are adequately reflected in the core UNSDCF components and the accompanying Common Country Analysis (CCA) processes.

Including migration in UNSDCFs is also instrumental in helping governments meet their commitments under relevant global agreements. The links between migration and development for example, were reflected in the 2030 Agenda, which highlights the positive contribution of migrants to inclusive growth and sustainable development, and commits states to cooperate internationally to ensure safe, orderly, and regular migration. The Global Compact on Migration, which was adopted in 2018 and is firmly rooted in the SDGs, further outlines principles and objectives to help achieve more safe, orderly and regular migration globally.¹

Why to use the MGI

As data is the foundation of the UNSDCF, the MGI can partially offset a common lack of national data on migration. It offers information on the migration governance structures present within a country — the areas that are well-developed and the ones with potential for further development. Thus, it can be used to establish a baseline to track progress towards the implementation of well-managed migration policies, as mentioned in SDG target 10.7.

Furthermore, the MGI assessment is fully aligned with several changes that are reflected in the new UNSDCF approach:

- **From assistance to cooperation:** By its very nature, the MGI is a cooperative tool that relies on the ownership of the government, who is involved in every step of the process. The relationships established throughout the MGI exercise can be a steppingstone for greater cooperation between

¹Forthcoming “Guidelines on Integrating Migration into Common Country Analyses (CCAs) and Cooperation Frameworks (CFs)” training (*working title*).

the government, IOM and other UNCT members, being based on mutually identified opportunities, challenges and priorities.

- **From a standard model to a tailored response:** Moving forward, UNSDCF will provide a tailored development response, based on national priorities and actual needs, rather than automatically projecting available UN resources and activities from previous cycles. Because it is drafted in coordination with the government and thus reflects the local specificities (challenges and priorities) of a given country, the MGI assessment therefore responds to the need for activities that are tailored to the national context.
- **From an initial analysis to regular assessments:** CCAs will no longer be considered a one-time event. Rather, the UNCT will update the CCA at regular intervals to ensure that the UNSDCF addresses the country's evolving situation. Because the MGI assessment is conducted through a standard set of indicators, progress can be monitored through follow-up assessments, thereby creating value for this ongoing CAA process (for more information refer to the [guidance note on MGI follow-up assessments](#)).
- **Use of SDG-aligned indicators:** For consistency, UNSDCF should include SDG-aligned indicators. In this regard, the MGI can be an ideal way to track progress towards well-managed migration policy because it is in line with SDG global indicator 10.7.2 on the “number of countries with migration policies that facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people”². Indeed, the methodology for measuring 10.7.2 was developed by IOM and UNDESA (custodian-agencies) based on the Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF) and include some of the questions of the MGI. This methodology was endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 2017.

Finally, by providing a basis on which to include migration in the UNSDCF, the MGI can also create opportunities for projects that partner with other UN agencies as well as for funding, as the activities of all UNCT agencies will have to be aligned with this action plan for the next CF cycle.

How to use the MGI for different stages of the UNSDCF program cycle

Analysis

As a first step, IOM should encourage the inclusion of MGI assessment results in the **Common Country Analysis (CCA)**, the UN's independent and impartial analysis of a country's situation. The CCA itself is a basis on which to define the forms of UN assistance to be outlined in the UNSDCF. IOM can either suggest that only specific gaps are mentioned, or it can suggest that the CCA depict a more general picture of the strengths and weaknesses of the national migration policy as presented in the Migration Governance Profile. This should complement other forms of data collection and analysis that IOM may have carried out in the country.

Design

As a second step, and wherever possible, IOM should suggest including an indicator on migration governance or other relevant migration topics in the **Cooperation Framework (CF)**'s results matrix as

² Indicator 10.7.2 is part of the [Global Indicator Framework for the Sustainable Development Goals](#) adopted by the General Assembly in 2017.

shown in the example below.³ This may require significant consultation within the UNCT, as future UNSDCF's are likely to be based on a limited number of strategic development priorities. It is neither possible nor desirable for the UNSDCF to identify or address everything that needs to change within a country.

Results	Indicator, Baseline, Target	Means of verification	Assumptions and risks
<p>Outcome 1: By 2024, populations that are socially or economically marginalized have their rights better protected and measures are in place to make sure that they contribute to the society to their full potential; thereby reducing inequalities in the country (SDG 10)</p>			
<p>Output 1: well-managed migration policies that can lead to safer, more orderly, more regular, and more responsible migration (SDG 10.7)</p>	<p>Indicator: number of new or updated migration related policies that can facilitate, orderly, regular and responsible migration based on the MGI.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 - MGI assessment or follow-up assessment.</p> <p>Target: <i>[Number of policies to be realistically defined based on the gaps identified in the assessment, the government's priorities and the capacity of both the UNCT and the government]</i></p>	<p>MGI follow-up assessment.</p>	<p>Assumption: Continued national government commitment</p>

³ Please note that the outcome and output are only given as examples. The indicator proposed could be included under different outcomes/outputs. For more information on this, refer to the guidance note on including migration in UNSDCF's.

Implementation

If migration is incorporated in the CF, the MGI results will help identify development gaps and build activities to respond to them. This should be done in partnership with other stakeholders, building on the areas in which IOM shares expertise with others (e.g. counter human trafficking with UNODC). Those activities should be included in the **UN Joint Work Plans** and would help tap into pooled funding for joint programmes, such as the SDG joint fund.

Monitoring and evaluation

Finally, in order to track progress on the indicator included in the CF, MGI follow-up assessments should be conducted at both the midpoint review and the final review. Concretely, follow-up assessments consist of checking whether the MGI matrix and the Migration Governance Profile reflect the current reality of migration governance in the country and updating responses, and corresponding justifications and references, when this is not the case.

In addition to helping track progress on the CF's priorities and related indicators, the follow-up assessments can also feed into the regular updates made to the CCA and thus help revise the CF's priorities.