



Global Compact for Migration Objective 5

Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration¹

“ Attention must be paid to tackling the adverse drivers of migration, reducing risks during migration, and leveraging the contributions of migrants and migration to implement the 2030 Agenda during the current decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.² ”

Objective 5 takeaways

- In most countries, family reunification is possible only for some categories of foreign residents.
- A programme for managing labour immigration is in place only in countries that have a dedicated agency responsible for the enactment and practical implementation of the immigration policy.
- Countries that have a national migration strategy defined in a programmatic document or manifesto are more likely to have formal bilateral labour agreements (BLAs).

In 41 per cent of MGI countries, family reunification is possible for all migrants, while for 53 per cent of them, only some foreign residents are allowed family reunification. Moreover, only 18 per cent of the countries have a programme for managing labour immigration. Close to one third (32%) of them have different types of visas to attract specific labour skills, and 85 per cent have formal BLAs in place (Figure 1). Figure 2 shows the regional distribution of “yes” answers to these questions.

Figure 1. MGI questions on regular pathways: global distribution of answers (yes/partially/no)

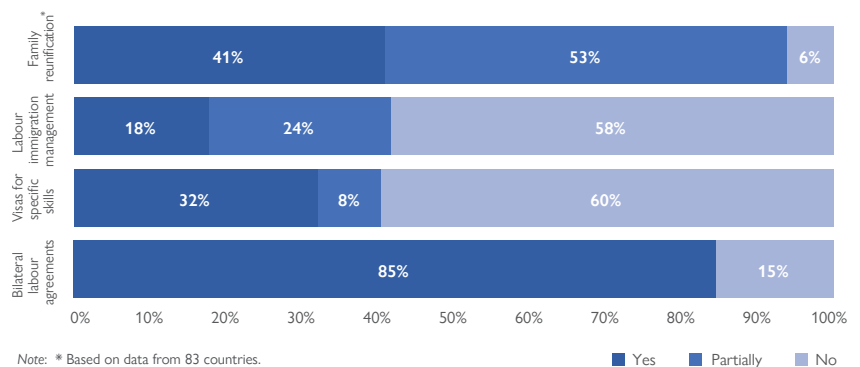
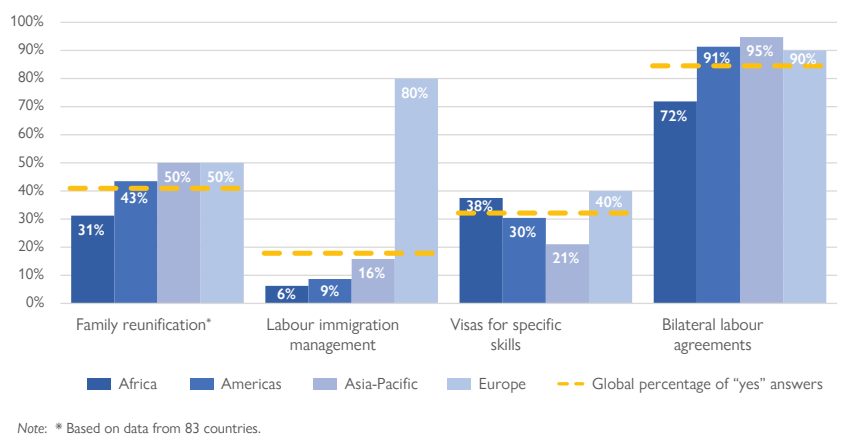


Figure 2. MGI questions on regular pathways: regional distribution of “yes” answers



¹ This bulletin is part of the publication *MGI Data Bulletins on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*, which offers insights from MGI data for each of the 23 Global Compact for Migration objectives. Unless otherwise specified, data is based on 84 MGI countries. As with the other objectives, MGI data do not cover all aspects of this objective, so for instance, other pathways linked to migrants in situations of vulnerability are not assessed. For a broader overview of Objective 5, see: Daria Mikhacheva, *Baseline Mapping of the Implementation of Commitments Related to Addressing Human Mobility Challenges in the Context of Disasters, Climate Change and Environmental Degradation Under the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)* (Geneva, 2022).

² United Nations General Assembly, *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*. Report of the Secretary-General (A/76/642). Available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/global-compact-safe-orderly-and-regular-migration-report-secretary-general-a76642>.

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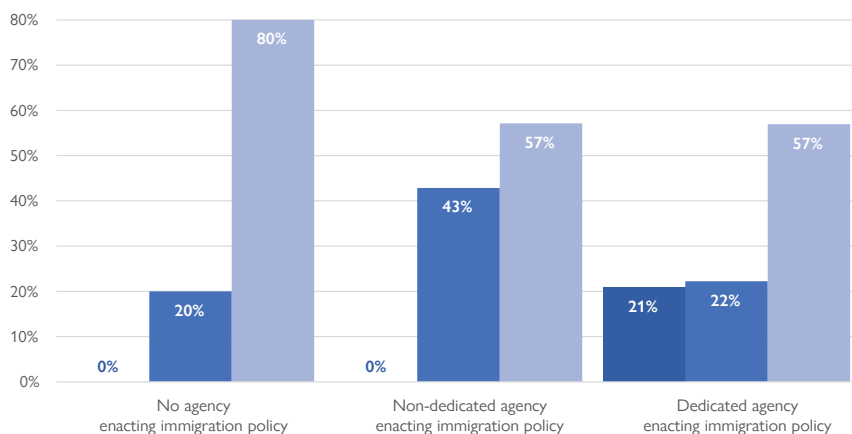


5 REGULAR PATHWAYS

A programme for managing labour immigration, including adjusting visa awards based on labour market demand, can be found only in countries that have a dedicated agency responsible for the enactment and practical implementation of the immigration policy (Figure 3).

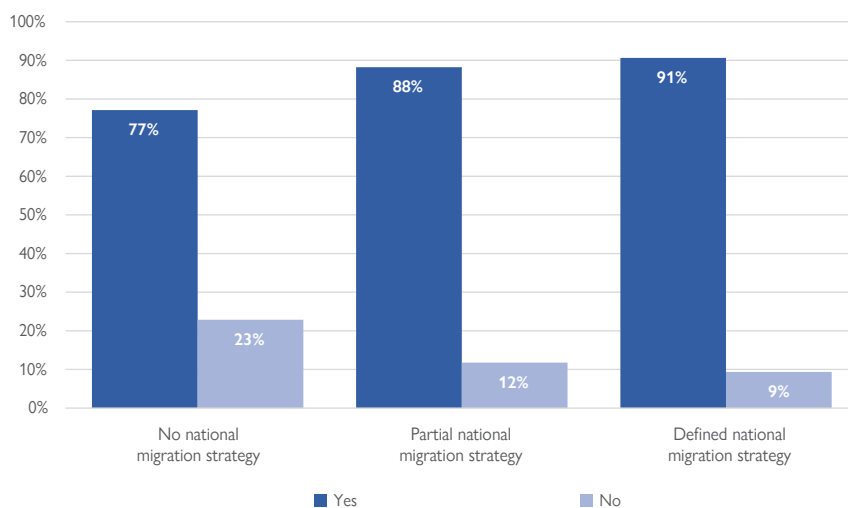
Figure 4 shows that 91 per cent of the countries that have a national migration strategy defined in a programmatic document or manifesto have formal BLAs with other countries. This is the case for 88 per cent of countries that have a strategy that is not defined in a programmatic document or lacks an implementation plan, and for 77 per cent of countries with no strategy at all.

Figure 3. Percentage of countries with a programme to manage labour immigration, by type of agency enacting the immigration policy



Note: Countries grouped under the "non-dedicated agency" category are those in which the immigration policy is enacted by an entity with a different primary mandate.

Figure 4. Percentage of countries with formal bilateral labour agreements, by existence of a migration strategy



MGI data insight

Almost half (46%) of the countries that formally engage the private sector in agenda-setting and implementation of migration-related issues have different types of visas to attract specific labour skills. This is the case only for 19 per cent of MGI countries lacking such type of private-sector engagement.

Source: Own calculations based on MGI data.

Selected example from MGI data: Canada

In Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) works with provincial governments, the private sector and civil society to estimate local labour demand. IRCC plans and prioritizes immigration programmes with feedback from other federal and provincial government entities. The Government has several programmes designed to attract migrants with specific skills. For example, three federal immigration programmes target highly skilled migrants: the Federal Skilled Worker Program, the Federal Skilled Trades Program and the Canadian Experience Class. The programmes are managed through an electronic selection system of IRCC, known as Express Entry. The candidates are assigned points and ranked according to their abilities, and those with the highest ranking are invited to apply for permanent residence.*

* More information is available at www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/express-entry/eligibility.html.