



Global Compact for Migration Objective 8

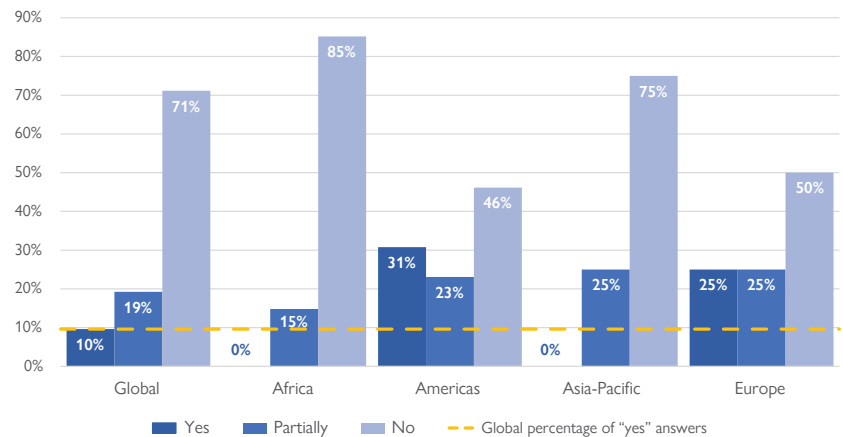
Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants¹

“ It is concerning that the loss of migrant lives received relatively limited attention in the regional reviews. Indeed, since the adoption of the Compact, the commitment to saving lives and establishing coordinated international efforts on missing migrants has yet to be translated into meaningful action.² ”

Objective 8 takeaways

- Most MGI countries lack systems to trace and identify missing migrants within their national territory.
- Systems to trace and identify missing migrants are found only in countries that have a dedicated agency for border control.
- Systems to trace and identify missing migrants are found only in countries where family reunification is possible for all migrants.
- Systems to trace and identify missing migrants are found only in countries that have a formal strategy to combat human trafficking.

Figure 1. Does the country have systems in place to trace and identify missing migrants within the national territory?

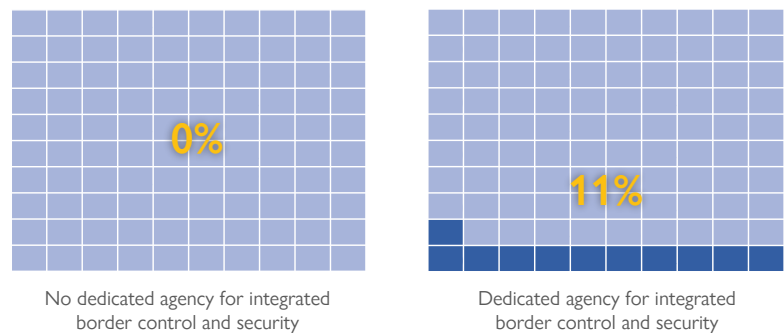


Note: Based on data from 52 MGI countries.

Figure 1 shows that 71 per cent of MGI countries lack systems to trace and identify missing migrants within their national territory. These systems, which may include formal cooperation agreements with other countries, are in place only in a few countries from the Americas (31%) and Europe (25%).

None of the countries that lack a dedicated agency for integrated border control and security have systems to trace and identify missing migrants. These systems are found only in a few countries (11%), all of which have such a dedicated agency (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Percentage of countries with systems to identify missing migrants, by type of agency for border control and security



Note: Based on data from 52 MGI countries. A total of 44 countries have a dedicated agency for integrated border control and security, while 8 countries lack such an agency.

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.

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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Systems to trace and identify missing migrants are found only in countries where family reunification is possible for all migrants in all visa or residency categories. In approximately one fourth of the countries where family reunification is not possible or restricted to migrants in some types of visa or residency categories, the identification of missing migrants is limited to just a few ad hoc measures (see percentages of “partially” answers in Figure 3).

Figure 4 shows that systems to trace and identify missing migrants are in place only in a few countries (12%) that have a formal strategy to combat human trafficking. No country with a limited anti-trafficking strategy or with no strategy at all has a system in place.

Figure 3. Percentage of countries with systems to identify missing migrants, by the possibility of family reunification for migrants

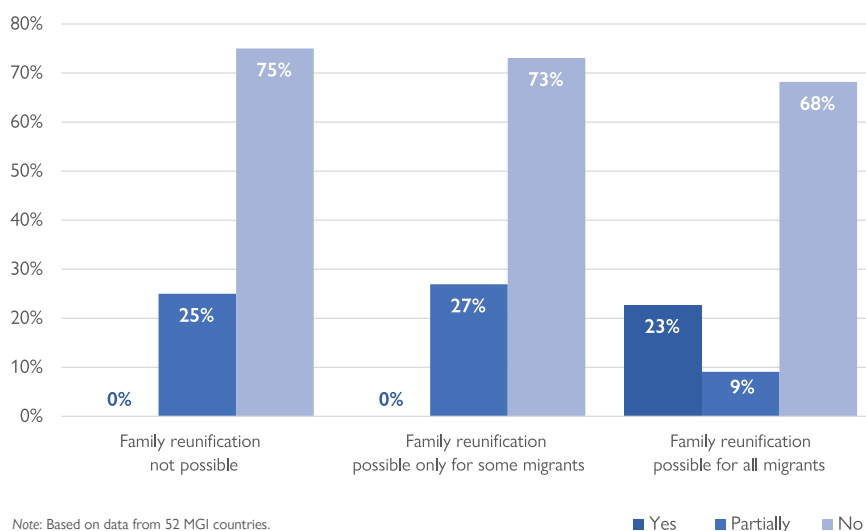
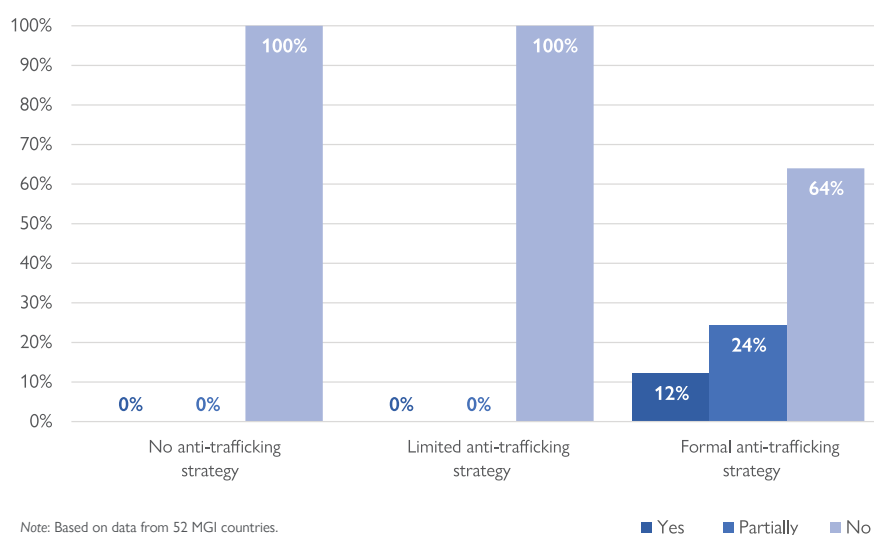


Figure 4. Percentage of countries with systems to identify missing migrants, by type of strategy against human trafficking



MGI data insight

None of the 22 least developed countries (LDCs) with MGI data on missing migrants have systems in place to trace and identify missing migrants within their national territory, in contrast with 17 per cent of other MGI countries.

Source: Own calculations based on UNSD, n.d.

Selected example from MGI data: Ukraine

In 2018, Ukraine passed Law No. 2505-VIII on the legal status of missing persons,* which provides a legal framework for searching and identifying missing persons, including migrants and stateless persons. The Law also regulates and guides the establishment and activities of the Commission on the Issues of Persons Gone Missing under Special Circumstances (active since 2019), with the purpose of coordinating the work of the authorities responsible for the search of the missing.

* Supreme Council (Parliament), Law of Ukraine on the Legal Status of Missing Persons (2018). Available at <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl-nat.nsf/implementingLaws.xsp?documentId=C28B7264FBD90CA5C125861F00359FB6&action=OpenDocument>.