



## Global Compact for Migration Objective 9

### Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants<sup>1</sup>

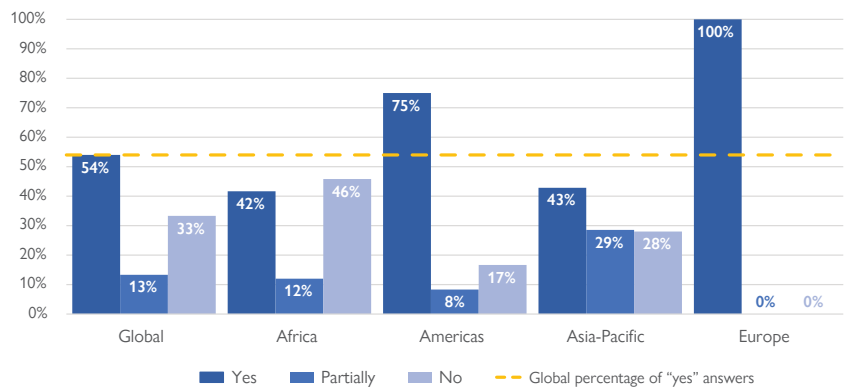
“Countering migrant smuggling requires concerted and coordinated action by and between [S]tates ... including migrant protection and assistance, addressing the causes of migrant smuggling, creating more regular channels for migration, enhancing States’ law enforcement capacities to detect and disrupt the activities of migrant smugglers, and increasing research and data collection.”<sup>2</sup>

#### Objective 9 takeaways

- Countries that have a national migration strategy defined in a programmatic document or manifesto are more likely to have agreements to counter the smuggling of migrants.
- Primarily destination countries are more likely to have cooperation agreements with other countries to prevent and counter the smuggling of migrants.
- Countries that have formal systems to trace and identify missing migrants are more likely to have agreements to counter the smuggling of migrants.

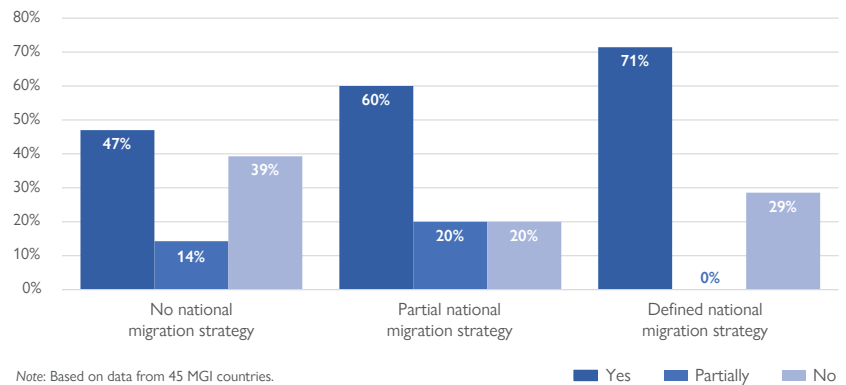
Formal cooperation agreements with other countries to prevent and counter the smuggling of migrants are found in 54 per cent of MGI countries, with wide regional variations (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Does the country have formal cooperation agreements/arrangements with other countries to prevent and counter the smuggling of migrants?



Note: Based on data from 45 MGI countries.

Figure 2. Percentage of countries with agreements to counter migrant smuggling, by existence of a migration strategy



Note: Based on data from 45 MGI countries.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> IOM, Countering migrant smuggling, Global Compact Thematic Paper: Countering Migrant Smuggling. Available at [www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1486/files/our\\_work/ODG/GCM/IOM-Thematic-Paper-Counter-Smuggling.pdf](http://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1486/files/our_work/ODG/GCM/IOM-Thematic-Paper-Counter-Smuggling.pdf).

# Global Compact for Migration Objective 9

## Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants



Figure 2 shows that 71 per cent of the countries that have a national migration strategy defined in a programmatic document or manifesto also have formal cooperation agreements with other countries to prevent and counter the smuggling of migrants. This is the case for 60 per cent of countries that have a strategy that is not defined in a programmatic document or lacks an implementation plan, and for 47 per cent of countries with no strategy at all.

Primarily migrant destination countries are more likely to have formal cooperation agreements to prevent and counter the smuggling of migrants than primarily origin countries<sup>3</sup> (Figure 3).

Figure 4 shows that formal cooperation agreements with other countries to prevent and counter the smuggling of migrants are more likely to be found in countries that have formal systems to trace and identify missing migrants.

Figure 3. Percentage of countries with agreements to counter migrant smuggling, by net migration rate

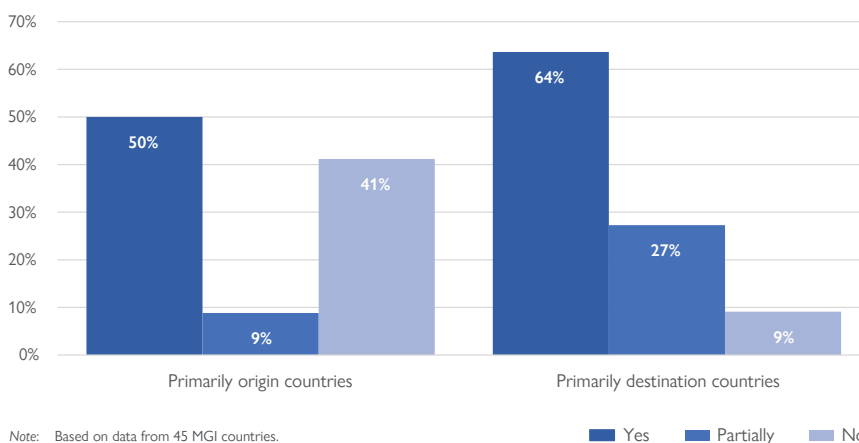
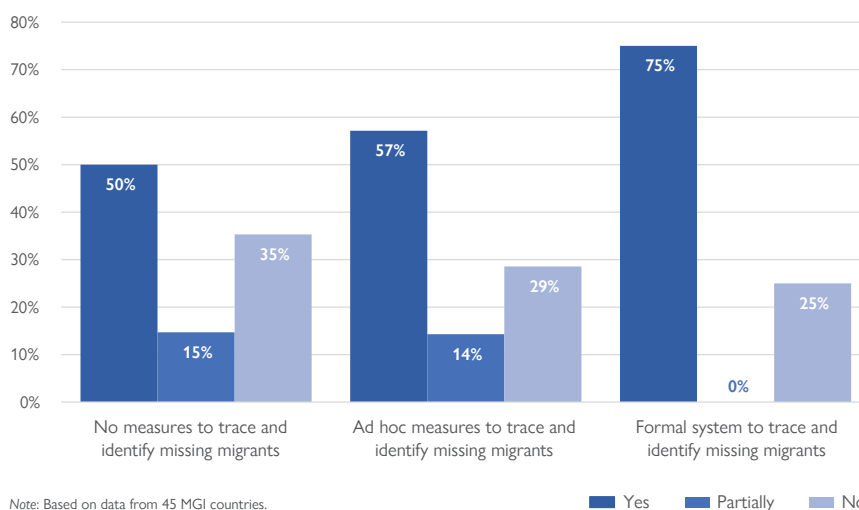


Figure 4. Percentage of countries with agreements to counter migrant smuggling, by type of measures to identify missing migrants



### MGI data insight

Over three quarters (77%) of the countries that ratified the International Labour Organization Domestic Workers Convention No. 189 (2011) have formal cooperation agreements with other countries to counter the smuggling of migrants, in contrast with 44 per cent of countries that did not ratify the convention.

Source: Own calculations based on: ILO, 2011.

## Selected example from MGI data: Ireland

In 2021, the Government of Ireland introduced the Criminal Justice (Smuggling of Persons) Act 2021,\* which intends to implement the following international legal instruments in the area of people smuggling: Council Directive 2002/90/EC of 28 November 2002 defining the facilitation of unauthorized entry, transit and residence; Council Framework Decision 2002/946/JHA of 28 November 2002 on the strengthening of the penal framework to prevent the facilitation of unauthorized entry, transit and residence; and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, adopted in November 2000.

\* Houses of the Oireachtas, Criminal Justice (Smuggling of Persons) Act 2021 (Act 42 of 2021). Available at [www.oireachtas.ie/en/bills/bill/2021/105/](http://www.oireachtas.ie/en/bills/bill/2021/105/).

<sup>3</sup> Net migration rate is calculated for the period 2015–2020 by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2019). Primarily origin countries are considered to have a negative net migration rate, while primary destination countries have a positive net migration rate.