The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Implication for Migration Data

UN Statistics Division

UN Expert Group Meeting on Improving Migration Data in the context of the 2020 Agenda
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Outline

• Key feature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

• Development of SDG Monitoring Framework

• Reflection of Migration Issues in SDGs

• Statistical Challenges and Opportunities in Monitoring Progress towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda
2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

• Adopted by all Member States at the UN Summit for Sustainable Development in September 2015 (GA resolution 70/1)

• A new global development framework for 2015-2030, following the MDG era

• A roadmap that aims at tackling key systemic barriers to sustainable development

• Global in nature and universally applicable
2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- Has at its core the integration of the **economic**, **social**, and **environmental** dimensions of development.

- The principle of “*leaving no one behind*”
  - Inclusive development
  - Reduction of inequality

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17 Goals x 169 Targets
Global SDGs Indicators Framework

• **SDG Indicators** for “follow up and review” of the 2030 Agenda
  • identified by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (IAEG-SDGs)
  • Officially adopted as a resolution at ECOSOC on 7 July 2017

• 17 Goals, 169 Targets to be assessed by **244 Indicators** (232 *unique* indicators)

• The indicators are for global reviews. Regional and national applications are expected
Migration in the 2030 Agenda

- For the first time, international Migration was integrated into development goals and targets

- Addresses the need for orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration (target 10.7)

- Recognizes positive contribution of migrants for inclusive and sustainable development

- The principle of “leave no one behind” urges Governments to look into the plights of special population groups, such as migrants.
Migration in the 2030 Agenda

- 11 out of 17 Goals are relevant to migration
- 10+ Targets include reference to issues pertaining to migration
SDG Indicators for Global Monitoring

244 indicators*

24 indicators that require disaggregation by migration status

5 indicators concerning migrants

* include 9 duplicates and 3 triplicates
Challenges in Measurement and Monitoring
SDG monitoring presents enormous challenges for national statistical systems:

- to produce voluminous amount of data
- to refine some concepts statistically (ex. what are well-managed migration policies?)
- to disaggregate the data by “migratory status”
- to explore new sources of information
- to produce high-quality data, regularly
- to gather statistics from statistical offices of various relevant ministries and agencies
Challenges or Opportunities?

How do we fill the data gaps?

• More investments in methodological work
• Fuller utilization of existing data/information
• Urgent needs to enhance national statistical capacities especially in developing countries
• The experience of MDG monitoring shows that the efforts to monitor the global development agenda can empower national statistics capacities, contributing to the improved availability of internationally comparable statistics
Summary

- Concerns on the rights and plights of migrants “reflected” well in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- Unprecedented demands for data and statistics for effective SDG monitoring

- Need careful assessments of data requirements and data gaps

- Opportunity for national, regional, international statistical communities to work together to ensure high-quality, timely and reliable data are available

- Beginning of a long journey!
Thank you!
Challenges of Data Disaggregation

• Principle of “leave no one behind” demands data disaggregation:

“Sustainable Development Goal indicators should be disaggregated, where relevant, by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location, or other characteristics, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (GA resolution 68/261).”

• How to operationalize “migratory status”? 
Where Do We Obtain Data?

• Censuses, Surveys, Administrative Records
• Explore non-traditional sources or big data?

• Frequency of data obtainable differs among statistical sources
• Surveys: few countries conduct a migration survey, sample size constraints
• Administrative Records: no fully explored/utilized as statistical sources, coverage issue
Challenges to Regular Monitoring

• How to strike balance between global monitoring and national relevance. International migration is not relevant to all countries

• Migration-related SDG data need to be gathered from statistical offices of various relevant Ministries and Agencies

• For reporting, a coordination mechanism needs to be established
SDG Monitoring: Challenges or Opportunities?

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