



## SUMMARY NOTE: INTEGRATING MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT INTO UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORKS

### Introduction

Countries in the Global South host 42 per cent of all international migrants and 86 per cent of the world's refugees, including those in situations of protracted displacement. They are also the most affected by immigration and internal migration, along with emigration and remittances. Therefore, their institutions face significant policy and services-related challenges. They require adaptive and improved capacities to respond that must consider the needs and potentials of migrants and displaced persons. This also reflects the many links between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals related to migration and displacement (see Box 2).

To support UNCTs in the Global South, the Global Migration Group (GMG)—an inter-agency group of 18 international organizations that promotes a coherent, comprehensive and better coordinated approach to international migration—conducted an extensive consultative process involving all GMG agencies and working groups, the UN Development Operations Coordination Office, and civil society organizations. The outcome of this process is a comprehensive Guidance Note on Integrating Migration and Displacement into UNDAFs that introduces UNCTs and government partners to the various programmatic links between sustainable development, migration and displacement. It draws on lessons learned from previous UNDAFs and government activities, as well as the UNDP-IOM global joint programme to mainstream migration into national development strategies. This brief highlights the key aspects of the Guidance Note – an overview of existing UNDAFs; a look at the processes and frameworks involved in integrating migration and displacement issues into UNDAFs; and an outline of the relevant thematic areas, including strategic options for each.

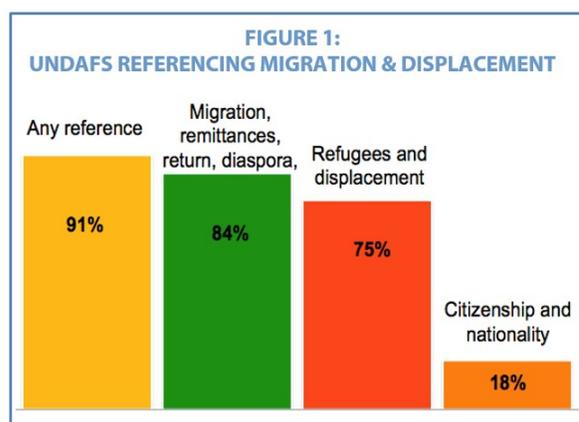
### Existing UNDAFs

A content analysis of existing UNDAFs revealed that 91 per cent of all 119 current UNDAFs contain some reference to migration and displacement (See Figure 1);

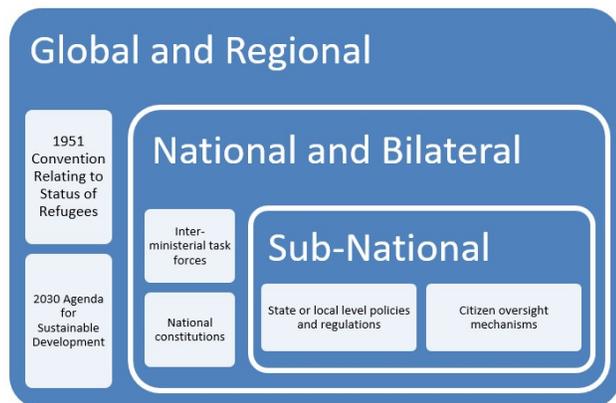
### BOX 1: UNDAFs

**United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs):** the strategic programme frameworks that describe the collective response of the UN system to national development priorities. They are nationally-owned frameworks that are fully inclusive of all stakeholders and UN system actors, and align with national development priorities and strategies.

84 per cent of all frameworks refer directly to migration, migrants and related terms, while three-quarters mention refugees and displacement. While some UNDAFs refer to migrants, as well as refugees and IDPs, only in passing or as an example of vulnerable populations; other frameworks prioritize migration and integrate related issues into several programming areas. Countries where the inflow of recorded remittances corresponds to a higher share of their GDP are more likely to mention remittances and migration in their UNDAF; countries that host a significant number of refugees or where a significant share of the populations resides as refugees abroad are considerably more likely to include migration and refugee issues into their UNDAFs (see Figure 1).



**FIGURE 2:**  
**SELECTED NORMS, STANDARDS, ACTORS, INSTITUTIONS**



### Processes and Frameworks

Applicable legal and policy frameworks and bilateral cooperation agreements directly affect how migration and displacement should be conceptualized within UNDAFs. The legal and institutional review should describe national governing rules of group behaviour and interaction within the political, economic and social spheres of life. It should look at the structure of power relations and the interests of the various stakeholders. Legal, policy and institutional frameworks include norms, standards, actors and institutions at global, regional, national, bilateral and sub-national levels (see Figure 2).

In the UNDAF process, migration and displacement issues can be integrated and considered at all stages including (1) country analysis, (2) road map, (3) strategic planning, and (4) monitoring and evaluation. There are



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key questions to ask at the outset of the country analysis; guidelines for the internal organization of UNCTs; and specific challenges regarding stakeholder participation. A range of information and data sources can be consulted to investigate the feasibility of key planning options, for example population census, labour force surveys, or national bank data.

### Economic Development and Human Mobility

Migration and economic development are linked in multiple ways and a wide range of migration-related aspects can be considered in Economic Development Strategies, including in sectoral and geographical planning instruments with regard to trade, micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSME), employment creation, industry, agribusiness, and others. Strategic options include:

- facilitate migration as an economic strategy for individuals and households;
- support the development effect of contributions of emigrants to their countries of origin;
- increase the economic potential and effects of immigrants, refugees, and IDPs in countries of destination; and
- address economic drivers of emigration.

### Social Development and Human Mobility

Migration-related aspects can be considered in the social development fields of education, health care, social benefits, and pensions. Supporting aspirations for inclusive growth for social development, while keeping in mind migration realities, requires dedicated policy attention to respect for, protection and fulfillment of the human rights of all migrants whether they be in transit or at their destination and destination. It also necessitates consideration of the impacts of migration and the remittances it generates on the human rights and human development of migrants' families and communities in both countries of origin and destination.

Migrant workers are facing different obstacles in accessing education and training, health care and social security benefits (e.g. minimum residence period, minimum employment period, migration-specific conditions) in the destination country, and often when they return to their countries of origin. Strategic options for responding to these difficulties, and contributing to filling the gap of social development for migrant workers and their families, include:

- ensuring that social protection policies in countries of origin and destination play a critical role in

- realizing the human right to social security for all through the bilateral social security agreements, national legislation, and other specific mechanisms;
- supporting the effect of contributions of migrants in countries of origin on social development;
- improving social development outcomes for immigrants, refugees, IDPs, returnees, as well as those left behind in countries of origin;
- addressing the effects and drivers of emigration that are connected to social development dimensions, as well as specific emigration patterns of medical and education professionals.



### *Rural Development and Human Mobility*

While the global debate concentrates on understanding and regulating international migratory flows, there are large numbers of migrants moving internally within countries, mainly from rural to urban areas but increasingly between different rural locations, typically influenced by the agricultural calendar. These internal, seasonal migrations are generally undertaken by the rural poor. It is important that UNDAFs adequately account for rural migration, so as to ensure the inclusion of the poorest and vulnerable groups of the population in migration policies and programmes. Strategic options include:

- facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people from rural areas within and across countries;
- address the root causes of distress-related rural out-migration, particularly of youth, by promoting viable livelihood options in rural areas;
- support the developmental effects of migration for agriculture and rural areas, harnessing the contributions of migrants in their communities of origin.

### **BOX 2: LINKING MOBILITY TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Sustainable development is closely linked to migration and displacement, in that it is often the absence of sustainable development (i.e. poverty, lack of productive employment, health care, education, justice and conflict) that provides strong incentives for people to leave their communities of origin or residence in search of better livelihood opportunities, a higher quality of life and human security. These drivers may also cause further displacement of refugees and asylum-seekers after they have reached their first safe haven, exposing them to risks related to smuggling and trafficking.

Migrants, refugees, and displaced persons are often vulnerable populations whose specific needs need to be considered in order to “leave no one behind”, which is a key principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This includes targets relevant for migrant workers such as to achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.

The global push towards sustainable development has been outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs include several targets relevant to migration and displacement:

- Scholarships that can affect student mobility (target 4.b).
- Trafficking in persons, especially of women, girls and children (targets 5.2, 8.7, 16.2).
- Protect migrant workers’ labour rights, promote safe and secure working environments (target 8.8).
- Implement planned and well-managed migration policies (target 10.7).
- Reduce the transaction costs of migrant remittances (target 10.c).
- Build capacities to produce high quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by migratory status (target 17.18).

## ***Climate Change, the Environment and Human Mobility***

The impact of climate change on migration is multifaceted: rising sea levels may degrade living conditions in low-lying regions; droughts and desertification affect livelihoods; and resource scarcity and climate-induced factors are often responsible for tensions that lead to conflict. After extreme weather events and natural disasters, attention is often focused on the immediate recovery; however long-term resilience and disaster risk reduction measures are essential. Strategic options include:

- prevent and reduce internal and cross-border displacement in the context of climate change;
- human mobility as adaptation: facilitate voluntary migration and participatory and dignified planned relocation;
- other activities: harnessing diaspora contributions, environmental impact assessment and indicator development.

## ***Governance, Rule of Law, and Human Mobility***

Policies on governance, human rights, the rule of law, accountability and civic participation have significant impacts on migration and displacement, both in communities of origin and destination communities.

Strategic options and considerations in destination communities include:

- access to justice and rights of migrants, refugees, returnees and IDPs, including activities aimed at inhibiting human trafficking and smuggling;
- asylum systems and good governance for refugees;
- xenophobia and perception of immigrants, refugees, and IDPs;

## ***Peace, Security, and Human Mobility***

Generalized violence, war and armed conflicts are among the principal causes of displacements; however, in some regions, migration and urbanization underpin conflict and instability. Human mobility is intrinsically linked to in-country activities that promote enduring peace and inclusive security. Migration and displacement can be considered in peace and security strategies through several strategic options:

- assessing the role of refugees, migrants, diasporas and IDPs in conflict analysis and peacebuilding;
- providing humanitarian assistance and protection;
- providing resilience-based development solutions for communities hosting crisis migrants, refugees and IDPs;
- promoting resilience-based development for returnees and communities with inflows of returnees; and
- harnessing remittances and investments in times of crisis.



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