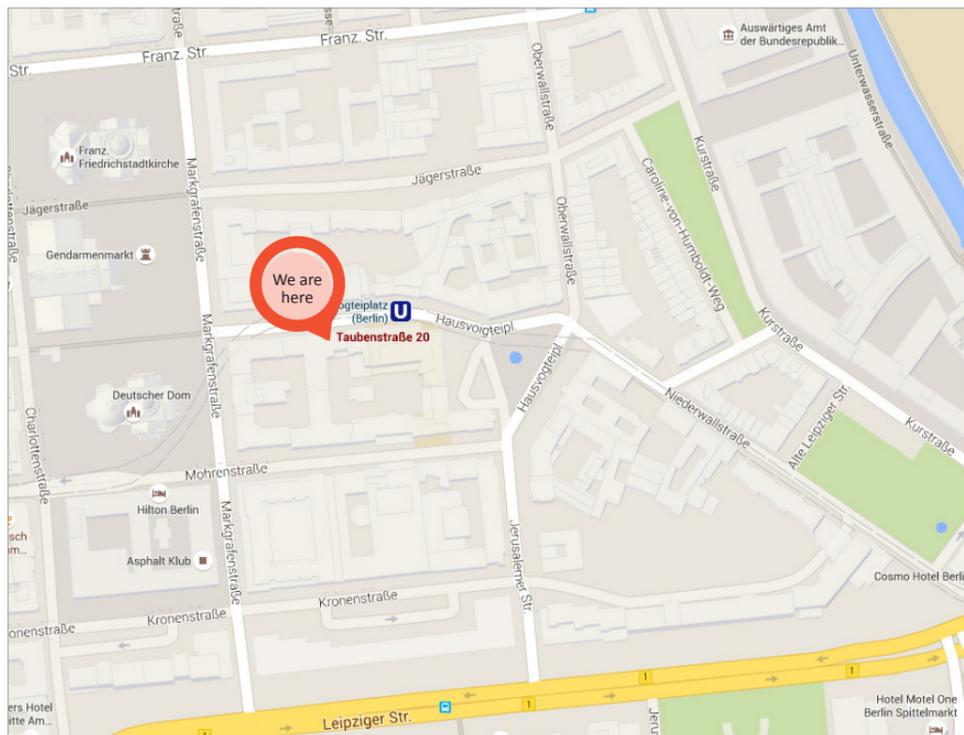


“ One area in which we can strive to do better is that of recording accurate statistics on our activities and accomplishments. IOM Missions’ achievements around the globe continue to record impressive statistics... and we must use this data more often and more effectively.

William Lacy Swing
IOM Director General



Introduction

“Data are the lifeblood of decision-making and the raw material for accountability”

- (UN Data Revolution Group, 2014¹.)

Without good data it is hard to develop effective migration policies. Decision-makers need many different types of data on migration. They need to know how many people are moving or likely to move. They need to know what types of migrants are entering or leaving their countries. They need to know what skills migrants bring, and answer many questions about the effects of migration. For example, how well are migrants faring? Are migrants being left behind as a country makes progress towards to development? How are migrants contributing to development?

Answering these sorts of questions is not easy because many countries lack good migration data. Despite many international recommendations calling for better migration data, it is widely recognized that data on migration are often incomplete, too old, or simply not comparable. Due to a lack of capacities, in some countries population groups, such as migrants, are not fully counted and important aspects about their lives are not recorded. Even where migration data does exist, it often tends to be scattered between countries, and between different agencies and ministries within countries.

¹ “A World That Counts”, report to the UN Secretary-General by the Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development. November 2014.

For more information:

Dr Frank Laczko
Head of the Global Migration Data Analysis Centre
flaczko@iom.int

International Organization for Migration
Taubenstr. 20-22, D- 10117 Berlin, Germany
Tel.: +49 30 278 778 11
Fax: +49 30 278 778 99
iom-germany@iom.int
www.iom.int



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Organisation internationale pour les migrations (OIM)
Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)

Collecting data is important, but if the data are not presented in ways that can be understood by most people, problems can arise. Poor presentation of migration data can contribute to misperceptions about migration, and can distort public debate. At the same time, there has been an explosion in the volume and speed with which data are produced, and many new sources of data on migration such as “Big Data” are emerging. The extent to which these new forms of data could provide a better understanding of migration trends has not been fully explored.

IOM itself is also producing much more data than ever before as its operations continue to grow. IOM collects a broad range of data including statistics on trafficking, displacement, resettlement and return movements. Further analysis of these data can provide important insights into emerging global migration trends and the needs of migrants.

In response to growing calls for better data on migration, and better use and presentation of migration data, IOM has decided to create a Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC). The new centre will be officially launched on 7 September 2015. The Government of Germany has kindly offered to host the GMDAC in Berlin. The new centre will be part of the Department of International Cooperation and Partnerships at IOM Headquarters, and its activities will be global in scope.

Description of the new GMDAC Berlin

STRATEGIC GOALS

The overall objectives of the new centre are:

- 1 To provide authoritative and timely **analysis** of data on global migration issues and become a global hub for data on migration;
- 2 To contribute to the **monitoring** of migration-related targets within the Sustainable Development Goals framework, and conduct **new research** on emerging global migration trends;
- 3 To enhance IOM efforts to build the **data capacities** of its Member States and Observers.

EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES



1 Data analysis of global migration trends

- **Global Migration Monitor**, in partnership with the Economist Intelligence Unit, this project will gather in one place the most comprehensive and authoritative data on the movement of people globally.
- The **Global Migration Data Hub**, a global migration database with migration time series figures organized by country, year and indicators.



2 New research on emerging global issues, including the monitoring of migration policies and migrant well-being

- Global Report on Migrant Fatalities and Missing Migrants.
- International Migration Policy Index – pilot project in 15 countries, to assess extent to which migration policies are safe, orderly and well managed.
- Data and Research on Human Smuggling: A Global Report. Expert meeting to be hosted by the Government of Turkey.
- International Data Report on Migration and Adaptation to Climate Change.



3 IOM data – Annual statistical overview of IOM activities

- Annual statistical overview of IOM activities to be presented at the IOM Council each year.
- Establish an IOM Headquarters interdepartmental data working group to share information and develop further an IOM data strategy.



4 Data Capacity-building – training and guidance materials

- Migration and Development Data Handbook, edited by IOM and UN DESA, with contributions from the GMG and funded by the KNOMAD project.
- Data guidelines, capacity-building tools, such as the Guide to Migration Profiles.
- Assistance to IOM missions to conduct migration data training in East Africa, Nigeria, Namibia, Togo, Portugal and other locations.



5 Policy Engagement and Partnerships

- Represent IOM in the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDG indicators and the GMG data group.
- The centre’s programme of work will be conducted in partnership with a range of different actors, the GMG Data Group, co-chaired by IOM and UN DESA, the World Bank’s KNOMAD data group, also co-chaired by IOM, representatives of the private sector, Economist Intelligence Unit and Gallup, NGOs and academic institutions based in Germany and beyond.