

Implementing a new policy and/or legislation

Governments may wish to implement a new policy and/or legislation as a way to address the migration-related Goals and targets they have prioritized. This can be an effective way to bring about a transformative change across one or multiple targets. For example, in Ecuador the government implemented a human mobility law in 2017. This piece of legislation makes a direct contribution to SDG target 10.7 (“Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies”). Other possible interventions under this category could include developing and implementing specific plans and policies at the national and/or local level that connect development agendas to migration. For example, in Jamaica a National Policy on Migration and Development was finalized in 2017 to provide a framework for integrating international migration into developing planning.

Mainstreaming migration into other policies, strategies and/or legislation

A policy coherence approach that considers how other policies in areas such as labour, housing, health or agriculture affect and are affected by migration can be applied by mainstreaming migration into other policies. For example, a government may integrate migration into its labour and education strategy and policies, factoring migration dynamics and migrants’ skills into labour market forecasts and planning of national demand and supply of skills.

Mainstreaming migration into development programming

There may be development programming that has not necessarily been designed with migration in mind, but where it could be beneficial to incorporate migration objectives. This could be relevant to development programming in any sector. The aim here would be to understand whether migration issues are relevant to that programme and how the programme could be adapted to address them. The scale of this type of intervention will vary. The migration-SDG exercise as a whole could already be considered part of this.

Designing and implementing migration programming

For some SDGs/targets designing and implementing migration programming will be appropriate. For example, if a government decides to take action on target 8.8 (“Protecting labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment”) they may decide that a specific programme that promotes ethical recruitment will contribute towards progress on this target.

Adopting rights-based approaches

Actors can use human rights-based approaches to address various SDG-migration linkages. For example, to further certain prioritized targets, governments may choose to strengthen migrant access to justice, improve access to basic services for urban internally displaced people, provide assistance in protracted refugee crises, uphold internationally-set labour rights, or address various issues around child migrants, using rights-based approaches.

Technical capacity building and knowledge sharing

These are necessary interventions to build an inclusive and proactive culture of continuous learning around migration and the SDGs. They should be continuous and take place at all levels of government. Specific capacity building activities might involve a workshop series on the SDG implementation process or specific training on migration and development. For example, the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization delivers training on mainstreaming migration into both national and local policy planning processes. Knowledge sharing activities might include peer-to-peer learning or online knowledge management platforms such as the Migration for Development portal (www.migration4development.org).