

This step involves selecting Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets to address in a migration context, and can also involve adapting targets from their global formulations to better fit context.



Stakeholders should be engaged in this step through active consultation.



There is a very wide range of SDG targets related to migration, spanning many different topics across sectors. These cannot all be tackled at the same time and not all will be relevant. Each local area or country has a migration context that makes certain targets more important than others. The aim, therefore, is to prioritize SDG targets that relate to key relevant migration and development topics and objectives, to facilitate progress in the issues that matter most to a local area or country.

This step can be undertaken by organizing multi-stakeholder consultations. These will help identify and assess migration and development objectives in the context of the 2030 Agenda in order to prioritize and, in some cases, adapt SDG targets.

1 Prioritizing Sustainable Development Goals and targets

Implementing bodies should decide on a number of targets to address. A realistic number of targets should be selected, given the actors' capacity and resources and overall scope of SDG activity. Consultations can be held to:

- Assess the area or country's migration situation in the context of the 2030 Agenda
- Choose a selection of migration-related SDG targets to address.

Implementing bodies must consider how to structure consultations most efficiently. Implementing bodies can choose to organize one or several consultations, depending on the context and needs. For example, individual consultations may be held in different regions of a country. If several consultations are held, care must be taken to synthesize discussions and outputs inclusively.

To ensure the prioritization exercise is successful, it is crucial that the views of diverse stakeholder groups are included. This will help develop more

comprehensive and robust prioritization outcomes, as well as help build broad ownership of the SDG process as a whole. Consultations should be vertically and horizontally inclusive, involving different ministries and levels of government, and should take care to include those involved in existing local or national development plans. Representatives from the relevant statistical agency should be included so they can comment on the monitoring potential of certain topics. Sessions should also include non-State actors, including civil society organizations such as migrant groups. If it is not possible to involve all directly in consultation sessions, input from selected stakeholders may be sought through interviews or written statements.

Consultations should discuss migration and development objectives for the area or country, and prioritize targets based on these objectives.



CASE STUDY: ARMENIA

The Armenian Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia held a workshop in November 2016 to discuss which SDG targets should be prioritized. This was done through discussions with participants from government, civil society, academia and more. Stakeholders critically examined SDG targets in relation to migration and development issues in Armenia. A list of priority targets were identified.

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Prioritization Tools

A variety of tools are available to help in the prioritization process. Often individual tools do not provide comprehensive guidance, so it is best to use several tools together.

- **Tool: Prioritization Discussion Guide** can be used to help guide discussions during consultations.
- **Tool: Prioritization Principles** can be used to think strategically when choosing targets.
- **Comprehensive SDG Target and Migration Correlation** lists every Goal and selected targets and provides migration relevance. Actors may use this list to prioritize targets directly, and/or choose targets based on relevancy.
- **Section 1** of this guide provides direct and cross-cutting connections between the SDGs and targets and migration organized by theme.
- **Various United Nations tools**, including the International Organization for Migration (IOM) tools identified in this section, United Nations Development Programme's Rapid Integrated Assessment (UNDP, 2017, RIA p. 86) and SDG Accelerator and Bottleneck Assessment (ABA), all of which can help pinpoint migration and development areas for focus.



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION'S TOOLS

MiGOF: Implementing bodies can use IOM's Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF) to help assess what migration issues need to be prioritized (IOM, 2015). Because the MiGOF covers essential elements of migration management, governments can use it to identify and prioritize areas needing improvement. Implementing bodies may consult the MiGOF to help conceptualize priority areas, and/or if target 10.7 is prioritized, it can be used to discuss which elements of this target are most important locally or nationally.

MGI: If an assessment using IOM's Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) has been carried out, it can also be used as a diagnostic tool to help choose targets. Developed with the Economist Intelligence Unit, the MGI is a tool for countries to assess their migration governance in relation to target 10.7, to track progress on adoption of "well-managed migration policies" and advance conversations on migration governance. The MGI uses over 90 qualitative questions to measure government performance across six domains:

- Adherence to international standards and fulfillment of migrants' rights, a whole of government approach to migration policies
- Engagement with partners to address migration-related issues
- Advancement of the socioeconomic well-being of migrants and society
- Effective action on the mobility dimensions of crises
- Assurance that migration takes place in a safe, orderly and dignified manner

This tool functions as a policy-benchmarking framework to help governments evaluate their migration policy and set priorities. The framework is based on policy inputs, offering insights on policy levers that countries can use to strengthen migration governance (note that it is not intended to measure outcomes related to migration policies and institutions). The framework can assist countries to comprehensively evaluate their migration governance and identify areas that could potentially be improved. The MGI has been carried out in almost 40 countries and will extend to more.

Both the MiGOF and MGI are especially relevant for national-level implementing bodies. Where there is a recent migration profile on a country, this can also inform discussion on prioritizing targets. Sections of migration profiles that explore the impact of migration in the country across certain development areas, such as health and the environment, may be especially helpful when identifying priority areas.

MCOF: For implementing bodies concerned with migration crises, IOM's Migration Crisis Operational Framework (MCOF) may be of use.⁷ Migration crises in this context include any disaster or emergency situations, and may be sudden or slow in onset, can have natural or man-made causes, and can take place internally or across borders. This analytical and planning framework is used to support governments to better prepare for, respond to and recover from migration crises, and contributes to the MiGOF's objectives of good migration governance. Implementing bodies can use the MCOF to help them formulate interventions for target 10.7 and other SDG targets, if they are seeking to address the mobility dimensions of a crisis.

Goal or Thematic Perspective

Implementing bodies may wish to consider their priorities either from a Goal or thematic perspective. A Goal perspective entails selecting relevant Sustainable Development Goals and directly choosing targets from them, and a thematic perspective entails considering different migration topics first, and then finding relevant targets. If, for example, the scope of a standalone project is targeted on a specific area such as migrant children, this topic can be taken as a starting point and relevant targets found under various Goals (thematic perspective). If a wider mainstreaming programme is taking place on Goal 3 Good Health and Well-being, targets under this Goal could be identified such as target 3.8 on universal health coverage (Goal perspective). As seen in Section 1, it is important to be aware that Goals and targets often intersect. Actors can choose either approach or combine them, depending on their context and interests in migration and development, and so it is recommended that actors cross-check other Goals for relevant targets.

Coordination, Review and Approval

If this process is taking place independently of other SDG processes, implementing bodies should coordinate with these other processes to ensure coherence, both in the way targets are selected and which targets are ultimately chosen. The list of prioritized migration-related targets should be discussed with other implementing bodies to ensure coherence with their SDG objectives and focus areas. Care must be taken also to coordinate with any sector-specific SDG processes, for example within health or education ministries.

Whichever approach is taken, the final list of prioritized targets should be approved by all involved. Implementing bodies could synthesize consultation discussions or written responses to put together a list of proposed prioritized targets, and these could be circulated to all relevant stakeholders for final approval. Alternatively, a validation workshop could be held to do this. Following approval from all involved, a list of final prioritized targets and all outputs and discussions should be synthesized into a document and made publicly available.

2 Adapting SDG Targets

Implementing bodies may choose to adapt prioritized targets. This involves developing local or national formulations of the targets to make these more reflective of context. Note that this is not a mandatory step, as specific aims that implementing bodies have within targets can be reflected in the indicators (see Monitoring and Reporting section).

Adaption of the targets may be done under the following circumstances.

- A target reflects an important migration and development topic to an area or country, but its aim is not directly applicable. For example, countries may already have remittance transfer costs under 3 per cent, thereby meeting target 10.C, but still wish to focus on a different aspect of remittances, such as increasing their use for development. Therefore, the implementing body may choose and adapt target 10.C to reflect this aim.
- A target reflects a broad aim and government has a more specific aim. For example, implementing bodies may prioritize target 10.7 and adapt it to reflect aspects of migration governance of priority, such as strengthening asylum processes or improving integration. Implementing bodies may also prioritize targets 8.7 or 16.2 on trafficking and adapt them to highlight a relevant type of trafficking, such as labour trafficking in a particular industry.
- The implementing body wishes to add interim targets to make gradual progress in certain areas before 2030. This may be more suited to quantitative targets. For example, an implementing body prioritizes target 10.C and creates interim targets reflecting aims to reduce remittance costs to 9 per cent by 2020, 6 per cent by 2025 and 3 per cent by 2030.

Implementing bodies may choose to adapt only some of their prioritized targets and keep others as written. Where targets are adapted, they should reflect changes necessary while remaining as close as possible to the global formulation. Any adaption of targets should be undertaken under the same multi-stakeholder processes as prioritization, and final versions of the targets should undergo the same review and approval process.



Part one: Migration Context Discussion

To discuss which migration and development topics are most important to the local/national context. Discussion questions may include:

- What are key migration and development issues to tackle locally/nationally and why? How do these issues relate to migration and development issues at the local/national (or other) level?
- What are key challenges related to migration and development locally/nationally?
- What are key opportunities related to migration and development locally/nationally?
- What are possible emerging issues for migration and development in the time up to 2030 locally/nationally? What major issues could arise in the next five years? What about the five years after that? How do these issues relate to migration and development issues at the local/national (or other) level?

Part two: Prioritization Discussion

To discuss which agreed number of SDG targets to prioritize, based on the previous discussion. Consultation participants can discuss and choose targets from all possible ones. This approach could be taken if more than one session is planned, as it may be complex to undertake in one session. Given there is such a wide range of migration-related Goals and targets, to streamline the process participants could be given a shortlist of targets to discuss in sessions, pre-selected by the implementing body. Alternatively, implementing bodies could ask participants to provide written inputs on proposed targets before the sessions for discussion. This could be useful when engaging with civil society organizations. Each organization could be asked to submit one written input on which targets they think are most important.

Discussion questions for each target may include:

- Why should this be prioritized?
- How is this applicable to local/national migration and development issues?
- What migration and development sub-issues for local/national attention are under this?
- If target 10.7 is considered, which areas are the most important to address locally/nationally?
 - Institutional capacity
 - Migrant rights
 - Safe and orderly migration
 - Labour migration management
 - Regional and international cooperation and other partnerships
- How might migration and development issues relating to this target change before 2030 locally/nationally?
- What are the main challenges in addressing this locally/nationally?
- What extra resources are needed to address this locally/nationally?
- How does this target link to local/national/other relevant development plans?
- Are there any local or national migration and development issues that should be addressed, that are not reflected in the chosen targets? What could be ways to include them?





Applicability

Identifying SDG targets that are of particular relevance to a local or national context, taking into account its migration and development situation and objectives, and identifying sub-issues of particular interest within them.

Linkages

Explicitly linking targets to relevant local and national plans and strategies, ensuring objectives in these targets are considered, and mapping to them where possible. This also includes linking to relevant United Nations frameworks that are already aligned to national priorities, such as United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks. Linking the prioritization exercise to relevant development plans is key as it can help boost buy-in among stakeholders, help strengthen outcomes of local/national development objectives and overall help work towards policy coherence. Consideration could also be given to linking with relevant actions in the Global Compact for Migration that will be prioritized.

Impact

Recognizing where progress in a particular migration and development topic holds a significant and necessary challenge for the country at local or national levels, and where attention would have a large impact. It is necessary to consider the potential synergies and trade-offs between selected targets and other targets, whether they are linked to migration or not. As explored above, integrating migration into implementation of certain targets can yield positive knock-on effects in other areas; these effects and any potential trade-offs should be identified and considered.

Future Consideration

Taking a forward-thinking perspective to consider and address the area or country's possible migration and development needs and scenarios over the years until 2030. Doing this helps ensure that possible emerging objectives can be identified and prioritized.

Constraint Recognition

Identifying and considering any challenges or constraints that could affect intervention success, and to realistically consider the ability to meet targets.



Migration

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- 2015 Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF). IOM, Geneva.
- n.d. Migration Governance Indicators. IOM's Global Migration Analysis Centre. IOM, Geneva. Available from <http://gmdac.iom.int/migration-governance-indicators>.
- n.d. Migration & 2030 Agenda: Armenia Project Report. Internal document, IOM, Geneva.

International Organization for Migration and Global Forum on Migration Development (GFMD)

- n.d. Migration Profiles Repositories. Available from www.gfmd.org/pfp/policy-tools/migration-profiles/repository.

Global Migration Group (GMG)

- 2010 Situation analysis and assessment and How to identify strategic goals and priorities. In *Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning: A handbook for policy-makers and practitioners*. GMG, n.p.

General

Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

- 2017 *SDG Index and Dashboards 2017 Report*. SDSN, n.p. Available from www.sdgindex.org.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- 2016 Conducting a needs assessment to define priorities and localize the SDGs. In *Roadmap for Localizing the SDGs: Implementation and Monitoring at Subnational Level*. UNDP, New York.
- 2017 *Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) Tool to facilitate mainstreaming of SDGs into national and local plans*. UNDP, New York.
- 2017 *SDG Accelerator and Bottleneck Assessment*. UNDP, New York.
- 2017 Section B3: Adapting SDGs to National, Sub-national and Local Contexts. In *Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Reference Guide to UN Country Teams*. UNDG, New York.

