Characteristics of the process for gathering and using administrative records on migration in Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean

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Preface

Currently there are more than 258 million international migrants in the world, a number that will continue to increase. Migration flows in the subregion comprising Mexico and Central America have grown in intensity and complexity in the last two decades. In turn, the Caribbean is experiencing a change in its migratory dynamics, both in the quantity and in the profile of the migrants who are migrating and immigrating to the region. This human mobility represents immense opportunities for the host communities, the communities of origin and the States.

In order to be able to face these changes in the international movements of the population, it is necessary to have adequate, agile and timely information that facilitates the analysis and understanding of the stages of the migration process and its actors.

Since 2012, the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals established goals pertaining to the improvement of data production capacity and its availability. Similarly, the Global Compact for Migration, a product of the process begun in 2016 with the New York Declaration and adopted in December 2018 by the vast majority of the countries that make up the United Nations, highlights in its first commitment the importance to provide and use accurate data to develop evidence-based migration policies.

Evidence-based migration policies are a fundamental component of good migration governance. However, several recent studies and assessments review the multiple challenges to ensure the availability of up-to-date data and information and to understand the reality of migrations in the region.

Responding to this need, the International Organization for Migration developed the project under which this study is framed, which is financed through the IOM Development Fund. This project precisely seeks to promote colaboration among countries and contribute to the strengthening of their institutional capacities. The product of this colaboration will be the creation of a Regional System of migratory statistics that provides the necessary information for the elaboration of national policies based on evidence.

In this line, this research aims to publicize good practices and accumulated experience of different countries in the region in addition to the recognition of existing needs in this area. This will allow to channel the efforts in a more precise manner and at the same time strengthen the existing assets in the region.

Intraregional cooperation is vital in this process, since it will allow for the incorporation of common methodologies to measure international migration and its characteristics, strengthening the countries' capacities to comply with the SDGs related to the issue of migration and the commitments set forth in the Global Compact for a safe, orderly and responsible migration. We hope that this study and the project in which it is framed will be an effective contribution to the achievement of these goals.

Marcelo Pisani, Regional Director.

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Credits and acknowledgements

The organizations listed below participated by providing primary information by way of the electronic Survey.

Country	Institution
Belice	Department of Immigration and Nationality Services
Costa Rica	General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners (DGME) National Statistics and Census Institute (INEC) Central American Population Center (University of Costa Rica)
El Salvador	General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners (DGME) General Directorate of Statistics and Censuses
Guatemala	Guatemalan Migration Institute
Guyana	Department of Citizenship and Immigration Guyana Bureau of Statistics
Honduras	National Migration Institute National Statistics Institute
Jamaica	Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN)
Mexico	Migration Policy Unit (Department of the Interior) National Migration Institute
Nicaragua	General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners (DGME)
Panama	National Migration Service
St. Lucia	Department of Immigration (Ministry of the Interior and National Security)
Surinam	Department of Statistics (Ministry of the Economy and Planning) General Statistics Office Foreign Service Department

Acronyms

CARICOM	Caribbean Community and Common Market
DIS	Danish Immigration Service
EBP	Evidence-Based Policies
FIIAPP	International and Ibero-American Foundation for Public Policy and Administration
GMD	General Migration Directorate / National Migration Institute
GMG	Global Migration Group
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IOM TCC	IOM Technical Cooperation Centre for Europe and Central Asia
KNOMAD	Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development
CELADE	Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre
OAS	Organization of American States
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SICREMI	Continuous Reporting System on International Migration in the Americas
SIEMCA	Statistical Information System on Migrations in Central America
SIEMMES	Statistical Information System on Mesoamerican Migration
SIMMEL	Electronic Migration Movement System
SOPEMI	Continuous Reporting System on Migration
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund

Executive summary

Public and private actors increasingly agree that evidence-based migration policies are a fundamental component of good migration governance. To that end, the existence of solid, efficient migration information systems constitutes an essential element for fulfilling Goals 10.7 and 17.18 of the 2030 Agenda. Despite the progress made in this area during the last twenty years, significant challenges still remain to ensure the availability of up-to-date and real-time data and information on migrations, as well as limitations on coordination between countries (and within each country) to facilitate the exchange of data and information.

This Report has been produced within the framework of the Regional Project to Strengthen the Production and Analysis of Regional Migration Data in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean, financed by the IOM Development Fund. This Report presents a baseline on the characteristics of the migration information production systems in each region (Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean) that highlights the region's good practices and determines in detail which areas require support to maximize their potential.

Chapter 1 analyses the importance of evidence and information management in designing, implementing and evaluating public policies on migration. Chapter 2 highlights the main challenges found in the region regarding data collection and analysis. Chapter 3 describes the principal migration trends in Central America and Mexico, as well as the topics analysed according to the scope and methodology of this study, with emphasis on the countries participating in the Project (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama). Chapter 4 serves the same function for the Caribbean countries participating in the Project (Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia and Suriname). Chapters 3 and 4 confirm that the countries of Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean are progressing (with different degrees of capacity) in developing institutional capacities for gathering, processing, disseminating and using administrative records on migration. It is clear, however, that many of these countries still need to build a series of capacities to fully exploit the information they generate. This is why Chapter 5 addresses the potential use of administrative records to measure progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Chapter 6 concludes that the process of gathering migration data shows various levels of progress among the region's countries due to factors of an institutional, economic, political and social nature. Some of the countries covered by this study have high-quality administrative record information systems. The findings of previous studies are confirmed, however, in the sense that the current migration information systems seem to be designed to improve and/or keep accounts for the migration control services, but not for statistical purposes, as their principal function is administrative. This explains, to a certain extent, the limited articulation with statistics and census institutes in most countries and, consequently, the limited use of the generated data and information for developing evidence-based migration policies.

Introduction

Addressing the phenomenon of migration as an increasingly intense and profound process, along with regional integration and development processes, will require ever greater coordination and consensus among the countries involved.[1] To that end, the generation, systematization and access to migration-related information and data is fundamental, in order to orient States' efforts to formulate migration policies supported by evidence.

Evidence-based migration policies are a fundamental component of good migration governance. Information and data, on one hand and policies based upon same, are essential elements for fulfilling Goals 10.7 and 17.18 of the 2030 Agenda. Various recent studies and evaluations, however, warn of multiple challenges to ensure the availability of up-to-date and real-time data and information regarding migrations. In addition, limitations still persist on coordination between countries (and in some cases within countries) to facilitate the exchange of data and information.

The challenges that persist in this area have been discussed in different international forums. At the September 2016 United Nations General Assembly in New York, Heads of State and Government met to discuss issues related to migration and refugees. At that time, 193 countries adopted the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants, acknowledging the need to comprehensively address human mobility and strengthen cooperation at the global level by creating mechanisms that protect migrant populations. Annex II to the New York Declaration initiated an inter-governmental consultation and negotiation process aimed at adopting a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

In this scenario, the Regional Project to Strengthen Production and Analysis of Regional Migration Data in Central America and the Caribbean seeks to contribute to building capacities for the generation, systematization and access to information and data regarding migration in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean. To achieve this objective, the Project carries out various activities aimed at building capacities at the General Migration Directorates (GMDs) of twelve participating countries: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, St. Lucia and Suriname. The importance of this initiative lies in the fact that it recognizes the context and capacities of each country for gathering, processing, disseminating and using migration-related data, it values the good practices applied to facilitate the flow of information through different phases and promotes horizontal cooperation and joint efforts among various institutions.

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[1] Goal 10.7 is to "Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies." Goal 17.18 states that "By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts." Visit http://www.undp.org/content/undp/es/home/sustainable-development-goals.html for more information on the Sustainable Development Goals (available 05 December 2018).

As part of the Project's activities, a characterization was carried out of the processes for collecting and using administrative records regarding migrations and the potential use to follow up on the Sustainable Development Goals (especially Goals 10.7 and 17.18). Along those lines, this Report presents an analysis of the information gathered during the field phase (obtained through Survey distributed to organizations from the twelve countries and from other secondary information sources consulted), in order to establish a baseline regarding the characteristics of the migration information production systems in each region (Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean) that highlights the region's good practices and determines in detail which areas require support to maximize their potential.

1. Methodological aspects

This section presents the methodology used to collect primary and secondary information on the processes involving administrative records on migration in Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean. The objective of this study is to establish a baseline regarding the characteristics of the migration information production systems (specifically administrative records) related to Sustainable Development Goals 10.7 and 17.18 in the twelve countries participating in the Project. This effort also seeks to identify the good practices observed in said countries regarding their migration information production systems.

What are migration-related administrative records?

Administrative records regarding migration refer to a data-compiling system that records facts/events (e.g. transfers) involving each individual in a community. These types of records serve an administrative purpose and are of an ongoing nature. They record selected characteristics (demographic, migratory, socioeconomic, among others) for an entire population or a portion thereof (United Nations, 1998). With respect to measuring international migration, this type of data source tends to include: records of international entries and exits of persons; population records; foreigner registries; migrant worker authorizations; asylum seeker registries (or asylum application registries); residency, work, study and exit permits; establishment permits granted; consular registries of nationals abroad; visas granted; and passports issued.

Various research techniques were used to gather primary and secondary information to build the baseline. The starting point consisted of an extensive review of documentation related to the central theme of this study. This was followed by a Survey distributed by email in the form of a Questionnaire consisting of 41 questions grouped around five main topics.[2] The Survey was sent to focal points in each country (representatives of the General Migration Directorate or equivalent in each country) and other relevant actors in the area of gathering, disseminating and using migration administrative records.[3] Responses

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[2] Annex III includes the Questionnaire used for the Survey. The topics were: i) organizational profile; ii) types of data gathered; iii) quality of the information gathered; iv) dissemination of the information gathered; and v) use of the information gathered.

[3] It is important to emphasize that this study does not address the issue of other traditional sources of migration-related data, such as surveys and censuses, but rather focuses only on the topic of administrative records.

[4] A review and validation exercise was carried out in Panama during the Workshop on Regional Capacity Building for Migration Information Production and Analysis (20-21 September 2018).

were received from twenty organizations from the twelve countries participating in the Project. The Questionnaire used for the Survey was reviewed and validated by country representatives prior to being distributed.[4]

In addition, on-site visits were carried out in three Caribbean countries (Jamaica, Guyana and St. Lucia), for purposes of complementing and exploring further the information received by way of the Survey. During said visits, focal groups and semi-structured interviews were held with representatives from public and private entities involved in gathering, processing and using migration-related data.

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Evidence-based migration policies

1. Introduction

This chapter analyses the importance of evidence and information management in designing, implementing and evaluating public policies on migration.[5] In essence, the focus of evidence-based policies (EBPs) 'helps people make informed decisions regarding policies, programs and projects, by placing the best evidence possible from research at the centre of policy formulation and implementation' (Davies, cited in Sutcliffe and Court, 2006; p. 1).

The EBP focus asserts that, with access to relevant data and information, public policy formulation and implementation is based upon a more rational, rigorous and systematic process. From that perspective, evidence helps reduce uncertainty in the decision-making process. An EBP should be formulated, implemented and targeted based upon evidence generated by research and systematic data-gathering processes.

Effects of the Lack of Evidence on Migration Policies

The Global Migration Group (GMG) points out that the lack of evidence concerning the impacts of migration on development has impeded efforts (especially in developing countries) to integrate migration into development plans and strategies and to follow up on the contribution of migration towards implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and other development goals agreed upon at the international level.

Global Migration Group
Handbook for Improving the Production and Use of Migration Data for Development (2017)

Interest in having migration policies be based on evidence has been expressed in various international forums. The High-level dialogue on international migration and development in 2013 emphasized the need for reliable statistical data on international migration, including when possible on the contributions of migrants to development in both origin and destination countries." (GMG, 2017; p. 8). The Declaration also indicates that migration data "could facilitate the design of evidence-based

policies and decision-making in all relevant aspects of sustainable development." More recently, in 2015 the countries adopted the 2030 **Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals**, which for the first time included the issues of migration and human mobility. Specifically, Goal 17.18 highlights the value of data:

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[5] The use of evidence as input for public policy design first arose in the early 1990s in Great Britain. The term 'formulation of evidence-based policies' (EBPs) referred to governments guided by a modernizing mandate, committed to substituting policies driven by ideological reasons for rational decision-making based in information and objective knowledge (Sutcliffe and Court, 2006).

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least-developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

The 2030 Agenda is an opportunity to strengthen migration governance, strengthening its link to a vision of sustainable development and bringing to light the positive role played by migrants in this process. It also represents an opportunity to address the structural causes of forced displacement by creating more favorable conditions in countries of origin. Furthermore, IOM has pointed out that implementation of the 2030 Agenda should help generate lessons that guarantee that the Global Compact for Migration is in line with the needs to: protect migrant rights; facilitate safe, regular and orderly migration; and reduce the extent and impact of forced migration.[6] To achieve this, the need to move towards the design and implementation of evidence-based migration policies is fundamental.

What constitutes an evidence-based migration policy?

Evidence-based policies on migration and development derive from the collection and reporting of accurate, up-to-date and relevant data on international migration and the contributions of migrants and migration to the global labour force and to origin and destination countries' sustainable, inclusive and equitable development. Moreover, the regular collection of quality data on the magnitude of and reasons leading to labour migration.

Global Migration Group (GMG)
Handbook for Improving the Production and Use of Migration Data for Development (2017)

2. International recommendations for gathering and using migration data

Interest in having access to migration-related data is not recent. In fact, the discussion regarding the need to coordinate international migration statistics dates from the late 19th Century. During the Congress of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) held in Vienna in 1891, meetings were held to determine a uniform definition of 'international migrant.' At the ISI meeting in Budapest in 1901, the need was pointed out to distinguish between permanent and temporary emigration for statistical purposes.[7]

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[6] More information available at: http://rosanjose.iom.int/site/es/blog/los-ods-una-oportunidad-para-fortalecer-la-gobernanza-de-las-migraciones.

[7] The ISI adopted additional resolutions on internationally comparable migration statistics at its meetings in Rome (1926), Warsaw (1929) and Madrid (1931) (Percy and Gnanasekaran, 1987; p. 969).

The establishment of the International Organization for Migration brought about a new period of progress in the generation and harmonization of migration statistics. The different agencies of the United Nations System have explicitly stated the need to improve statistics, since international migration patterns affect each country's demographic, social, environmental, political and economic conditions. With an estimated 258 million people currently residing outside of their country of birth, the interest in improving migration governance is increasing (IOM and McKinsey & Company, 2018). Population movements pose political challenges of a multi-dimensional nature, from labour-market participation to border management and require coordination among different actors, including governments, civil society organizations and the private sector. In the face of these growing challenges, data are critical to allow better migration governance and promote economic, humanitarian and social development and political benefits (IOM and McKinsey & Company, 2018; p. 24).

This interest in reliable and comparable statistics on migration at the international level has resulted in a series of recent guides, standards and models regarding generation, gathering and analysis of migration data. Some of the most relevant contributions in this area are described below. The importance of these guides is that they offer a reference framework for managing information on migration that can be considered by governments, civil society organizations, international bodies and other actors interested in the subject, knowing that their recommendations represent best practices at the international level in managing migration information.
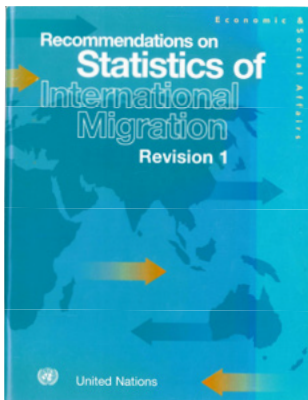
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Statistics Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) (1998) *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration*, Revision 1. New York: United Nations.

This document analyses a series of directives issued in two previous documents: *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration (1980)* and *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (1980)*. It issues directives for compiling statistics on international migration in order to standardize the measurement and quantification of migrant stocks and migration flows through a definition of international migrations and a detailed taxonomy of international entries and exits of persons.

Statistics Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) (2007) *Measuring International Migration: Concepts and Methods.* Meeting of the UN Expert Group on Measuring International Migration.

This report synthesizes the principal findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Expert Group. The main objectives of the meeting were to: (i) evaluate the policy requirements for international migration statistics and the challenges facing national statistical systems; (ii) review national practices for compiling migration statistics; (iii) identify difficulties related to the recommended concepts and definitions; and (iv) develop a plan to improve international migration statistics.

Sharing Data: Where To Start

An Emerging Approach To Migration Data Management

Written and edited by
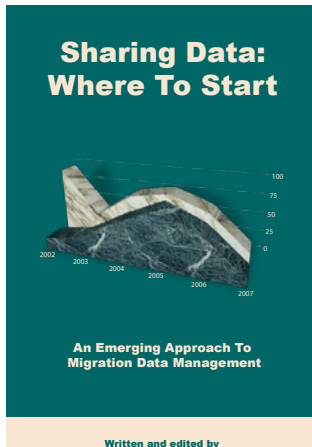
IOM Technical Cooperation Centre for Europe and Central Asia (IOM TCC) and the Danish Immigration Service (DIS) (2007). *Sharing Data: Where to Start – An Emerging Approach to Migration Data Management.*

This document conceptualizes a new focus for managing migration information based on the flexibility and style of other regional mechanisms on managing migration and asylum data. Instead of introducing new formats, indicators and methodologies, this new focus is based on existing data already available and agreed upon (and in some cases, available to the public) within each participating State. This focus seeks to build on existing national infrastructures by considering the experiences and lessons learned of other countries and other data management models.

Fortalecimiento del diálogo y de la cooperación entre la Unión Europea y América Latina y el Caribe para el establecimiento de modelos de gestión sobre migración y políticas de desarrollo

EVALUACION RÁPIDA DE LAS ESTRUCTURAS DE RECOLECCIÓN DE DATOS EN EL ÁREA DE LAS MIGRACIONES EN AMÉRICA LATINA Y LOS PAÍSES DEL CARIBE

Este proyecto está financiado por la Unión Europea

Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)

International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2012) *Rapid Assessment of the existing data collection structures in the field of migration in Latin America and some countries of the Caribb*ean. Project for Strengthening Dialogue and Cooperation between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean for Establishing Migration Management Models and Development Policies.

This report presents a diagnosis of the status quo regarding the production of migration data in the region comprised of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as in each of the four subregions: 1. MercoSur, Chile and Bolivarian Republic of Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; 2. Andean; 3. Central America, Mexico, Panama and Belize; 4. Caribbean (English-speaking and non-English-speaking countries). The report describes

the political and legal framework within which international migration statistics are generated, as well as the entities in charge of producing them, their main organizational and data production modalities and the criteria applied and disseminated to evaluate the quality of the statistical information produced (IOM, 2012; Page 17). For each subregion, the report analyses highly relevant topics such as: the regional context; the migration political and legal framework of the national contexts in each subregion; the public entities in charge of managing migration data and the sources for data generated by them in each country; the sources for available information on migrations and methodological-conceptual aspects; information sharing between the governmental entities responsible for producing international migration information; the results of the national production of international migration statistics; and an evaluation of the quality of the available migration information.

Of particular interest for this study are the sections on the subregion of Central America, Mexico, Belize and Panama (II.4.2, II.4.6 and II.4.7) and the subregion of English-speaking Caribbean countries and Suriname (II.5.2.2).

Statistical Commission
Forty-eighth session
7-10 March 2017
Item 4(a) of the provisional agenda
Demographic Statistics

Background document
Available in English only

Handbook on Measuring International Migration through Population Censuses[1]

Prepared by the Secretariat

(1 March 2017)

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[1] This document is being reproduced without formal editing.
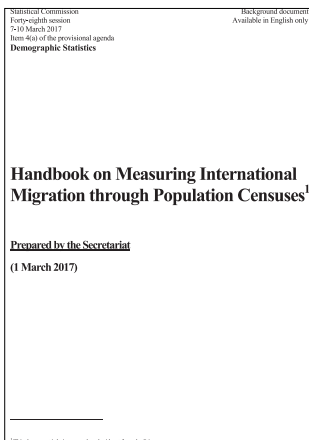
Statistics Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2017). *Handbook on Measuring International Migration through Population Censuses*.

This publication seeks to help countries by providing a practical reference guide on compiling and producing international migration statistics based on the 1998 recommendations. The Handbook focuses on the use of population and housing censuses as a source of information, while acknowledging that international migration statistics can also be generated based on other sources such as population records, administrative sources and surveys.
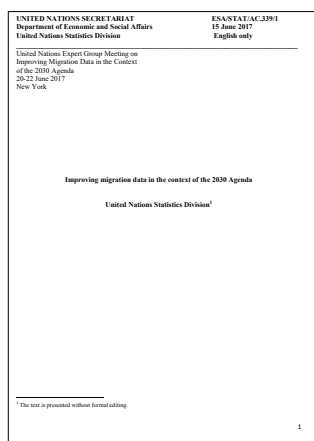
United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Improving Migration Data in the Context of the 2030 Agenda (2017) *Improving Migration Data in the Context of the 2030 Agenda.*

This document asserts that the new global development framework and growing attention to migration as a worldwide problem pose important challenges to national statistics offices and the international statistics community regarding the task of satisfying the enormous demands of migration and migration-related statistics. In this context, there is an urgent need to implement existing migration statistics standards, refine new concepts related to migration, exploit traditional data sources and explore innovative means of compiling data in order to produce the information needed to monitor the SDGs.
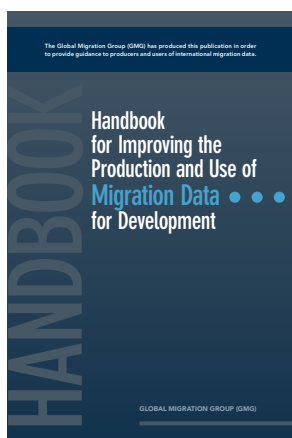
HANDBOOK

The Global Migration Group (GMG) has produced this publication in order to provide guidance to producers and users of international migration data.

Handbook for Improving the Production and Use of Migration Data for Development

GLOBAL MIGRATION GROUP (GMG)

Global Migration Group (GMG) (2017). *Handbook for Improving the Production and Use of Migration Data for Development.*

This document was produced within the framework of the World Bank initiative *Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD).* The objective of the Handbook is to help Member States in the compiling, tabulation, analysis, dissemination and use of migration data, thus contributing to monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is hoped that the Handbook will facilitate the integration of migration into national development planning and strategies. It provides practical orientation to policy makers and other actors interested in measuring migration and its impact on development and presents good practices and lessons learned from recent initiatives undertaken by GMG members.

3. Principal sources of information on migration[8]

There exist various types of sources for data on international migration. Generally speaking, the following three types are recognized: i) population censuses; ii) household or income surveys; and iii) administrative records.[9] The following text describes the characteristics and importance of each one of these sources, as well as their scope, limitations and examples of where to access them.

Table 1: Main sources of information about migration
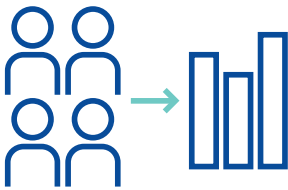
POPULATION CENSUSES

The overall process of gathering, compiling, evaluating, analysing and publishing or disseminating in any format the demographic, economic and social data (or information) that pertains to a given moment regarding the entire population of a country or a specific portion thereof. (*Source:* https://ccp.ucr.ac.cr/bvp/texto/13/censos.htm)

Scope

A population census is an important source of data regarding the stock of international migrants. A census captures information on their place of residence on a specific date, generally from one to five years prior to the general population count. This allows the possibility of determining the number of international migrants who arrived during the respective period and the number who remained in the country through the census date.

Advantages

Universal and simultaneous nature and national coverage.

Limitations

The main limitations are: five-year or ten-year periodicity; and the inability to record populations with a high degree of mobility or irregular status.

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[8] A detailed analysis of the various sources of information on migration and their advantages and limitations is found in the document Rapid Assessment of the existing data collection structures in the field of migration in Latin America and some countries of the Caribbean (IOM) (2012; P. 33–40).
[9] This study focuses on the latter source.
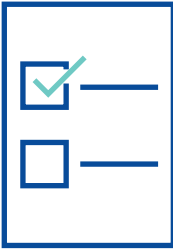
SURVEYS

Research procedure used to compile data using a previously designed questionnaire, without modifying the setting or phenomenon on which information is obtained, whether for delivery in the form of a brochure, graph, or table.

Scope

Household, income, or workforce surveys are information-gathering instruments designed to be applied to a representative sample of the population.

Advantages

Allows in-depth knowledge to be obtained regarding the characteristics of the stock of international migrants, particularly during periods between censuses or else for specific migration populations.

Limitations

Due to the very nature of the source (sample population), they entail a partial data source, since their scope tends to focus on metropolitan or urban areas. In addition, surveys generally contain only certain questions related to migration, thus omitting many dimensions of the migration phenomenon. In some countries, surveys are being carried out that focus exclusively on the issue of migration, as is the case with Costa Rica. (For additional information, see: www.researchgate.net/project/Primera-Encuesta-Nacional-de-Inmigracion-y-Emigracion-internacional-de-Costa-Rica-ENIE-2016.)
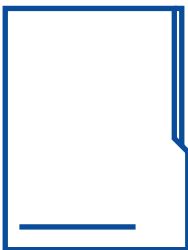
ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS

Administrative records on international migration can be classified in three categories: (a) administrative records; (b) information collected at border stations; and (c) other administrative sources. Administrative records include population records, registration of foreigners and other special types of records regarding groups of persons, such as asylum seekers.

Scope

Information gathering at borders consists of collecting information at a country's ports of entry and exit, such as seaports, airports and other points where people formally enter or exit national territory. Other administrative sources consist of statistics derived from: the issuance of residency permits; the issuance of work permits; and official authorizations granted to nationals who leave to work abroad.

Advantages

The statistics derived from the compilation of administrative records reflect real movements with a high degree of accuracy in terms of time, transport mode and port of entry or exit.

Limitations

Their limitations include the fact that sometimes they reflect facts but not the quantity of persons involved, since a single act (e.g. a work permit) can be related to the international migration of more than one person. In addition, their comparability may be limited, since the definitions observed in each country may vary, which affects the compilation and comparison of statistics at the international level.

Source: Table prepared based on: GMG (2017); and IOM (2013b).

3.1 Innovative sources for migration data

Innovative sources of migration data are becoming increasingly available due to the use of big data. Mobile phones and online tools and platforms such as social networks or online payments are being used by public and private entities to study migration. According to the IOM (2012), digital services, sensors and meters (such as satellite images) have potential as innovative big data sources for migration-related data.

Although there does not exist a consensus definition of big data, it can be understood to mean the set of anonymous data created and stored inadvertently, generally in private company databases. These data are generated when a person makes a call from a mobile device, sends a text message, performs an Internet search, or updates his/her social networks. The characteristics of big data are generally known as the three Vs (IOM, 2012). The first is the volume of available data, which is of unprecedented size due to the widespread use of mobile devices, web-based tools and social networks the world over. The second characteristic is the velocity at which such data are generated, basically in real time. Variety or complexity is the third characteristic, since big data is comprised of both structured data (e.g. online payment records) and unstructured data (e.g. multimedia content).

For purposes of studying migration, these innovative sources can potentially provide migration statistics in various areas, as described below:

• Forced displacement due to environmental disasters, conflicts and post-conflict situations.

• Remittances or mobile money transfer patterns.

• Estimation and prediction of migration trends (flows and rates), particularly internal migration patterns, which tend to be more difficult to monitor through traditional data sources.

• Trafficking in persons (such as information obtained from telephone calls or text messages). Email messages exchanged with victims can be used to understand trafficking trends, as well as to provide specific and timely assistance to victims.

The challenges faced with this type of innovative sources include coverage or access (as not all migrants use mobile devices or use them in secure settings), the issue of accessing potentially private information and the ethical conditions to prevent improper use of same, such as the sale of data or cyber-security violations.

4. Information sources on migration in Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean

The table below lists some of the organizations that offer access to data compiled from censuses, surveys and administrative records.

Table 2: Information sources on migration in Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean

Country	Institution	Website
Belize	Department of Immigration and Nationality Services	http://ins.gov.bz/
Costa Rica	General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners	www.migracion.go.cr/
	National Statistics and Census Institute (INEC)	www.inec.go.cr/
	Central American Population Centre (UCR)	https://ccp.ucr.ac.cr/
El Salvador	General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners (DGME)	www.migracion.gob.sv/
	General Directorate of Statistics and Censuses	www.digestyc.gob.sv/
Guatemala	Guatemalan Migration Institute	http://igm.gob.gt/
	National Statistical Institute (INE)	www.ine.gob.gt/index.php/estadisticas
Guyana	Department of Citizenship and Immigration	https://motp.gov.gy/
	Guyana Bureau of Statistics	www.statisticsguyana.gov.gy/
Honduras	National Migration Institute	http://inm.gob.hn/
	National Statistics Institute	www.ine.gob.hn/
Jamaica	Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ	www.pioj.gov.jm/
	Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN)	http://statinja.gov.jm/
Mexico	Migration Policy Unit (UPM)	www.politicamigratoria.gob.mx/es_mx/SEGOB/Estadistica
	National Migration Institute	www.gob.mx/inm
Nicaragua	General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners (DGME)	www.migob.gob.ni/migracion/
Panama	National Migration Service	www.migracion.gob.pa/

Country	Institution	Website
St. Lucia	Department of Immigration (Ministry of the Interior and National Security)	http://homeaffairs.govt.lc/
	Central Statistics Office	www.stats.gov.lc/
Suriname	General Statistics Office	www.statistics-suriname.org/

Regional Platforms	
IOM Regional Office for North America, Central America and the Caribbean	http://rosanjose.iom.int/site/es/reports
Continuous Reporting System on International Migration in the Americas (SICREMI)	www.migracionoea.org/index.php/es/sicremi-es.html
Migration Observatory	http://observatoriodemigraciones.org/
Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE), Population Division of the U.N. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)	www.cepal.org/celade/celade50/

International Platforms	
Global Migration Data Analysis Centre	https://gmdac.iom.int/global-migration-data-portal
Global Migration Group	www.globalmigrationgroup.org/

5. Entities that produce information on migration

The production of information on international migration tends to come from shared efforts between various governmental (and, to a lesser extent, private) entities, although it is generally carried out independently and in a somewhat disarticulated manner. Although the distribution of responsibilities and competencies varies from one country to another according to the institutional framework regarding migration, the entities that usually participate in the production of information on international migration are listed below.

Table 3: Entities that produce information on migration

Source	Responsibility in managing migration information
General Migration Directorates (GMDs)	• Generally in charge of gathering and disseminating information organized based on administrative records. • Tend to exercise control over the entry, stay, and exit of persons in their respective national territory, as well as records related to residency permits and asylum petitions.
National Statistical Institutes and Offices	• Governmental entities in charge of compiling data obtained from censuses and surveys. • Generally prepare statistics regarding the stock of migrants. In a very few cases they refer to data obtained from administrative records, more related to the measurement of migration flows.
Labour Ministry or Department	• Tends to be in charge of recording information regarding work permits for foreigners and other types of permits or documents related to nationals.
Foreign Affairs Ministry or Department	• In charge of issuing the visas required to enter the country for citizens of countries not exempted from said requirement, and in some cases, compiling information regarding nationals abroad, since they are the bodies accredited to protect and assist their citizens in other countries.
Security or Justice Ministry	• Tends to keep registries of foreigners and nationals in detention centres, as well as statistics disaggregated by nationality of the perpetrator.
Health, Education, and Housing Ministry	• Tends to keep records and prepare statistics that allow measurement of migrant population's access to public services.
Tourism Ministry	• Processes and prepares statistics based on surveys and records of foreigner entries and exits, as well as migration flows in some countries
Central Bank	• Manages information on remittance flows and other socioeconomic variables of migrant populations. Manages and compiles information used to prepare balances of payments, which include data related to remittance flows.
National Police and Migration Police	• Handle information on the participation of migrants in criminal activities and migrants who are victims of crimes.

Source: Prepared based on GMG (2017) and IOM (2012).

The level of coordination between these institutions within each country varies. Previous studies on the management of data and information on migration suggest that there exists little interrelation between the national entities in charge of producing information on international migration. The work of each national entity is usually carried out independently and with little articulation. The fact that exchange and/or integration

mechanisms do not exist leads to duplication of efforts and generation of data that are not comparable (IOM, 2012).

As the following chapters will point out, the evidence gathered during the course of this study confirms that there is still room for improving the level of articulation between the national entities responsible for generating and managing migration information. In various countries of the region, the articulation level continues to be limited, although others are applying a series of good practices that allow them to move towards overcoming this type of challenge.

6. Information production and management systems at the regional level

In many cases, the organizations and institutions that produce and disseminate information on migrations at the national level share the data they generate with information management platforms or systems at the regional or subregional level. The desire to have this type of platform in Latin America and the Caribbean is not recent. Various information systems were put into operation in the 1970s (IOM, 2013c). One of the first was the Investigation of International Migration in Latin America (IMILA) Project created for Latin America and the Caribbean by the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) [Population Division of the (ECLAC)]. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), for example, has the Continuous Reporting System on Migration (SOPEMI) created in 1973.

The 1980s saw the appearance of qualitative information systems, meaning databases that include definitions and concepts, legislation, documents and other elements, such as the Latin American Centre for Migration Information (CIMAL) and the International Migration Law Database, both created within the IOM (IOM, 2013c). The 1990s brought the Information System on International Migration in the Andean Community Countries (SIMICA) (between 1996 and 1998) and the Statistical Information System on Migrations in Central America (SIEMCA), which in 2005 was transformed into the Statistical Information System on Mesoamerican Migration (SIEMMES) and is currently being taken up again by this Project.

More recently, around 2009 the Continuous Reporting System on International Migration in the Americas (SICREMI) was launched within the framework of the Organization of American States (OAS). The general objective of SICREMI is to contribute to the development and implementation of public policies on migration in order to promote orderly, fair and controlled migration processes, by building institutional capacities in OAS Member Countries to create timely and reliable information (IOM, 2012). SICREMI obtains information from various sources such as censuses, surveys and administrative records, among others. The System processes and disseminates information on the magnitude, trends and characteristics of international migration in the region. SICREMI is based on the SOPEMI model. The information it compiles comes from various national sources and the System organizes it in a homogenous and standardized format (IOM, 2012).

CHAPTER 2

Main challenges

The study made it possible to identify a series of challenges derived from the collection, processing, use and dissemination of information on migrations in Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. Although these challenges are manifested in different degrees in each country, it is possible to identify the following challenges at a general level:

FINDING

Although countries collect administrative records on migration, in most cases these records are not processed and translated into relevant information for the analysis, design and evaluation of public policies on migration.

IDENTIFIED CHALLENGES

- The collection of administrative records is done in a disjointed manner among different public entities.

- There are not always data exchange mechanisms.

- The data collected is not usually translated into information relevant to decision-making.

- Usually few information products are generated with the data collected.

IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Train personnel at points of entry (air, sea and land transportation) to improve the collection of administrative records.

Establish coordination mechanisms between the entities responsible for collecting records (national migration directorates, for example) and the entities responsible for data analysis and processing (statistical institutes, planning ministries and research centres, for example).

Diversify the information products on migration (infographics, newsletters, web pages, press releases, statistical reports, among others).

Apply updated international standards regarding the collection and management of migration information.

FINDING

Although most countries have sufficient technology to collect administrative records on migration, there are still some cases in which the technology is outdated, the existing computer systems in different institutions are not compatible (interoperability) or the staff is not well trained.

IDENTIFIED CHALLENGES

• In some countries, the collection of administrative records is still done on paper forms or with insecure databases.

• The computer programs used by the entities responsible for collecting records are not always compatible with the systems of other entities (for example, security ministries, police, planning ministry, among others)

• The data collected is not always stored by procedures and on secure platforms.

• In some cases, the personnel responsible for collecting migration records do not have the capabilities to generate graphics, infographics and other information analysis tools.

IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Provide the entities responsible for the collection of administrative records of the equipment and technological systems necessary to fulfill their function in safe and adequate conditions.

Update the processing and storage of data, using modern computer systems and avoiding the registration in paper format.

Train the personnel responsible for data collection in the use of computer tools for statistical analysis and information management.

Establish the necessary institutional arrangements for an adequate exchange of information among all public and private entities interested in information on migration.

FINDING

It is necessary to overcome the conception of international migration as a security problem, conceiving it as a development process of greater economic, social and cultural integration, which can occur in safe, dignified and orderly conditions.

IDENTIFIED CHALLENGES

• Despite advances in the conception of migration as a development process, in some countries the collection of administrative records continues to be carried out predominantly from a safety and control approach.

• This approach means that there are few opportunities for participation by non-traditional actors in migration information management, such as ministries of planning, economy, tourism, foreign trade or statistical institutes, among others.

• The conception of migration as a development process requires the collection, processing and analysis of a wide variety of data, for which it is necessary to know the international standards on statistical information on migration.

IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Promote the conception of migration as a development process, from which countries of reception, transit and origin can benefit.

Facilitate the participation of non-traditional actors in the working groups on migration, such as business chambers, local and national media, transnational private companies, among others.

Expand the range of variables and indicators included in the migration information registers.

Facilitate the analysis of information from broad development perspectives, beyond the security approach, including economic, social, environmental and geographical dimensions.

FINDING

In some countries, the capacity for articulation between public and private actors interested in the management of migration information has improved. However, it is still necessary to encourage the participation of non-traditional actors through a broader dissemination of relevant information for decision-making.

IDENTIFIED CHALLENGES

- The entities responsible for the collection and management of migration information usually store the information they collect and share it with few public and private actors.

- Access to information on migration is usually limited to public actors linked to security and control of the territory.

- Few private actors participate in the management and dissemination of information on migration, limiting the possibilities of designing migration policies based on evidence.

IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Establish coordination mechanisms between public and private actors interested in information management on migration.

Motivate the participation of private actors, such as business chambers, research centres, professional associations, media and others in the management and dissemination of information on migration.

Include new actors from different productive sectors (agriculture, industry, commerce, services, among others) in dialogue mechanisms with private sector actors in order to know their information needs.

CHAPTER 3
Central America and Mexico

1.Introduction

According to the 2018 World Migration Report (IOM, 2018), northbound migration is the dominant trend in Central America and Mexico, although significant intraregional trends also exist. This chapter briefly describes the principal migration trends in this subregion, with emphasis on the countries participating in the Project for Strengthening Production and Analysis of Regional Migration Data in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama.

Although trends can be noted at the subregional level, it is clear that each country presents unique migration dynamics due to historical, geographical, environmental, economic, political and social factors. The following table synthesizes the migration profile of each country and its relationship with certain development indicators.

Costa Rica

Total Population: 4,905,770
Surface Area (km2): 51,060
Per-Capita GNP (USD at current prices): 11,630
Life Expectancy at Birth (years): 79.83
Human Development Index: 0.794
Social Progress Index: 80.99

Characterized by being primarily a destination country. Since the mid-20th Century, the migration flow has been marked by two characteristics: the reception of migrants from Central America and the emigration of Costa Ricans to developed countries (mainly the United States, Europe and Canada). According to official data, emigrants represent 5 per cent of the national population, while immigrants are approaching 10 per cent of the country's inhabitants (DGME, 2017; p. 11). Recent migration movements suggest that Costa Rica is also a transit country for populations coming from various Latin American and African countries towards the United States. In recent decades the numbers of migrants from Latin American countries suffering from internal conflicts have increased (such as those from Colombia, Bolivarian Republic of Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Countries from the North of Central America -El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala). The numbers of retirees from the United States and Europe have also grown (DGME, 2017).

El Salvador

Total Population: 6,377,850
Surface Area (km2): 20,720
Per-Capita GNP (USD at current prices): 3,889
Life Expectancy at Birth (years): 73.51

El Salvador has recorded migration flows that can be divided into four phases. The first covers the period between 1920 and 1969, when thousands of rural inhabitants left the country due to the lack of access to land and employment opportunities. The second phase (1970–1979) was characterized by increased migration to the United States, once again due to the scarcity of land and employment, as well as the violence caused by armed conflict. In the third phase (1980-1991), the migration flow was favored by legislative reform in the United States that allowed irregular migrants to normalize their status and legally reunify their families. The fourth phase commenced in 1992 with the signing of the Peace Accords. During this phase, El Salvador

Country	Migration and Development

Human Development Index: 0.674
Social Progress Index: 64.97'

faced en economic recession (1996), an agricultural profitability crisis, the destruction caused by Hurricane Mitch (1998) and earthquakes (2001), all of which influenced migration flows. In addition to economic factors, natural disasters have recently been added to the desire for family reunification. It is estimated that one-third of the Salvadoran population lives outside the country, with 93.5 per cent of the emigrants residing in the United States. From an economic point of view, this migration has also brought improved living conditions for thousands of families due to family and social remittances that represent a significant contribution to the national economy (20 per cent of GNP) (CONMIGRANTES, 2017)..

Guatemala

Total Population: 16,913,500
Surface Area (km2): 107,160
Per-Capita GNP (USD at current prices): 4,471
Life Expectancy at Birth (years): 73.41
Human Development Index: 0.650
Social Progress Index: 60.41

Guatemala is the most populous country in Central America with over sixteen million inhabitants, with high fertility and population growth rates. Guatemalans have a history of emigration, principally to the United States, Mexico and Canada. It is estimated that 1,637,119 (11 per cent of the population) Guatemalans reside outside of their country in search of better opportunities. Guatemala serves as a port for one of the largest migration corridors in the world (IOM Mission in Guatemala, 2013; p. 21). Hundreds of migrants leave the country every day in search of opportunities in multiple destinations. At the same time, many are forcibly returned from the United States and Mexico. Due to its geographical position and economic characteristics, Guatemala is a transit and destination country for migrants. Remittances are a pillar of the Guatemalan economy and benefit close to two million people (IOM, 2013d).

Honduras

Total Population: 9,265,070
Surface Area (km2): 111,890
Per-Capita GNP (USD at current prices): 2,480
Life Expectancy at Birth (years): 73.58
Human Development Index: 0.617
Social Progress Index: 58.06

Honduras is the second most populous country in Central America with more than nine million inhabitants, the low levels of per-capital income, unemployment, under-employment and informal employment are the principal causes of Honduran emigration. The World Bank points out that in 2015 almost 62 per cent of Hondurans were living below the poverty line. The country's net migration rate has been negative since 1967, meaning that Honduran emigrants systematically outnumber the immigrants that arrive. This migration dynamic is due to various factors. During the 1970s it was characterized by migration to other Central American countries, with the 1980s seeing increased emigration to the United States as the preferred destination, with this trend being consolidated during the past two decades. This growth in international migration

Country	Migration and Development

has its roots in different events: the country's precarious economic situation; Hurricane Mitch in 1998; the economic crisis of 2008 and the political crisis in 2009; and the high rates of crime and violence, among others. Although certain internal rural-to-urban migration exists, Hondurans usually relocate abroad. About 89 per cent of Honduran emigrants reside in the United States, with approximately two-thirds of them sending remittances to their families (Ham and Martínez 2014).

Mexico

Total Population: 129,163,280
Surface Area (km2): 1,943,950
Per-Capita GNP (USD at current prices): 8,902
Life Expectancy at Birth (years): 77.12
Human Development Index: 0.774
Social Progress Index: 70.42

The United States is the principal destination of Mexican emigration, with nine out of ten Mexican migrants residing in the United States Other destinations far behind are Canada (0.8 per cent), Spain (0.4 per cent), Germany (0.1 per cent) and Guatemala (0.1 per cent) [Migration Studies Centre of the Migration Policy Unit (UPM), 2018; p. 15]. More than a million persons born in other countries reside in Mexico, with 73.5 per cent of them from the United States, which could be explained due to proximity and the traditional migration to that country. To a lesser extent, Guatemala (4.5 per cent) and Spain (2.3 per cent) are among the other countries of origin of the foreign nationals residing in Mexico (UPM, 2018). The current pattern of Mexico-United States migration is different than that seen in the 1970s. Significant changes are occurring with respect to the magnitude, intensity and modalities and the migrants' sociodemographic profile. The new migration pattern is the result of various changes that have taken place in both countries, such as the restructuring of the United States economy, the demographic increase of the working-age Mexican population, the inability of the domestic labour market to absorb this excess labour supply, the recurring crises that have buffeted the Mexican economy in recent decades and the implementation of ever-stricter migration policies by the United States (*Sources:* UPM, 2018 and www.conapo.gob.mx).

Nicaragua

Total Population: 6,217,580
Surface Area (km2): 120,340

Nicaragua is primarily a country of origin (emigration) for migrant populations and to a lesser extent a destination country (immigration). Given its geographical position, it is characterized as a transit country for extraregional migrant populations. Two currents prevail in Nicaraguan migration: south-north migration and south-south migration. Internal conditions in Nicaragua and the rest of the region caused forced displacements during the 1980s, mainly towards North America (the United States and Canada) and Costa Rica. Due

Country	Migration and Development

Per-Capita GNP (USD at current prices): 2,221
Life Expectancy at Birth (years):75.40
Human Development Index: 0.658
Social Progress Index: 62.87

to a series of political and economic reforms implemented during the 1990s, the early years of the 21st Century saw an increase in Nicaraguan emigration for economic reasons. The economic and developmental level differences with respect to the neighbouring countries have served to attract Nicaraguan workers to Costa Rica, El Salvador and Panama (IOM Mission in Nicaragua, 2013).
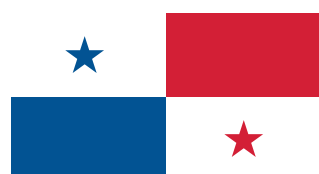
Panamá

Total Population: 4,098,590
Surface Area (km2): 74,340
Per-Capita GNP (USD at current prices): 15,087
Life Expectancy at Birth (years): 78.00
Human Development Index: 0.789
Social Progress Index: 72.16

Panama has historically been a country of destination, transit and origin for migrants. Its strategic location and certain ambitious projects carried out by the Panamanian government have made the country an attractive destination for many migrants. As of 2015 Panama's population was 3.9 million, including 184,710 migrants (4.7 per cent of the country's inhabitants). During that same year, 3.5 per cent of Panamanians were residing abroad (142,678 emigrants). Since 2010-2013, permanent immigration to Panama has increased more than 60 per cent. The percentage of the foreign-born population has increased steadily in recent decades, from 2.5 per cent in 1990 to 4.1 per cent in 2013. In contrast, the emigration of Panamanians has decreased steadily, with the annual rate dropping by more than one-fifth between 2009 and 2012. The United States, Spain, Chile and Mexico are the principal destinations for Panamanians, with the United States receiving more than 60 per cent of the emigrants. Panama received 827 asylum applications in 2013, mostly from Colombian, Cuban and Ghanaian nationals, while the average number of applicants between 2006 and 2010 was 388. The country sheltered 2,665 refugees in 2013, mostly from Colombia and then from Cuba, El Salvador and Nicaragua. Also in 2013, Panama received USD794 million in remittances, representing about 3 per cent of the GNP. This figure represented a 9.2 per cent increase compared with 2012. (*Sources*: http://libguides. ilo.org/migracionlaboralALCpaises/Panama www.oas.org/docs/ publications/sicremi-2015-spanish.pdf)

Sources of development indicators:
1: World Bank indicators (https://datos.bancomundial.org).
2: U.N. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC): Based on official
data from each country (www.cepal.org/es/areas-de-trabajo/desarrollo-economico).
3: United Nations Development Program: Human Development Reports – Global Human Development
Indicators (http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries).
4: Social Progress Index (www.socialprogress.org/).

2. Migration situation in Central America and Mexico

Mesoamerica is a subregion of Latin America that includes Mexico and Central America. During the past two decades this subregion has seen significant changes in international migration, both in terms of intensity and complexity (CELADE, 2017; p. 29). The factors that drive migration in this area are diverse, but it is clear that socioeconomic conditions and generalized violence contribute to northbound migration, especially for large numbers of women and children.

The United States received 250 per cent more asylum applications in 2015 from nationals of the Countries of the North of Central America (El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala) than in 2013. The number of unaccompanied minors emigrating from Central America has also increased substantially. In addition, the number of asylum applications submitted in Mexico has increased significantly in recent years, from 3,400 in 2015 to nearly 8,800 in 2016, an increase of 158 per cent.

The most prominent intraregional migration corridors involve Nicaraguans, Panamanians and other Central Americans who emigrate to Costa Rica for a temporary or permanent work permit and Central Americans (mostly from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador) who emigrate to Belize due to instability and lack of employment opportunities (IOM, 2018). Along these lines, CELADE and ECLAC point out the following trends in migration flows (CELADE, 2017):

a. With the exception of Costa Rica and Panama, all of the region's countries showed negative net migration flows, especially the Countries of the North of Central America and Mexico, where emigration is much higher than immigration.

b. The United States is by far the main recipient country for emigrants from Mexico and Central America. In 2015, 97 per cent of Mexican migrants (12.1 million) and 78 per cent of Central American migrants (3.13 million) were residing in the United States.

c. Two intraregional flows stand out: first, the number of Nicaraguans who emigrate to Costa Rica; and second, the number of Guatemalans who emigrate to Mexico.

Table 4: Basic data on International Migration in Central America and Mexico

Country	Stock of immigrants (2017)	Stock of immigrants (%)	Women immigrants (%)	Emigrants in principal countries	Principal countries of origin	Remittances (%GNP)
	414.200	8.4	52	143.500	Nicaragua, Colombia and El Salvador	1
	42.300	0.7	52.4	1.6 mil	Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua	20.4
	81.500	0.5	42.9	1.1 mil	El Salvador, Mexico and United States	11.2
	38.700	0.4	47.5	722.400	El Salvador, Nicaragua and United States	18.8
	1.2 mil	0.9	49.3	13 mil	United States and Guatemala	2.7
	41.200	0.7	48.5%	658.200	Honduras, Costa Rica and United States	10.1
	190.700	4.7	48.7	149.200	Colombia, China and United States	0.9

Source: Global Migration Data Portal (https://migrationdataportal.org) (01 December 2018)

International migration from Mexico and Central America to the United States has also gone through different phases during the past two decades. CELADE and ECLAC indicate that the global economic crisis that began in 2007 was an influential factor in the migration flows from Mexico and Central America (CELADE, 2017). Although both flows had grown steadily until January 2007 (in the case of the Countries of the North of Central America) and until November 2008 in the case of Mexico, both flows decelerated at the beginning of the financial crisis and subsequently began to diminish. The number of nationals from the Countries of the North of Central America residing in the United States fell almost 6 per cent between January 2007 and April 2009. In 2010 migration towards the United States began to increase once again and as of June 2017 the resident population from these countries in the United States had grown more than 35 per cent in cumulative form.

In the case of the Mexican population residing in the United States, the economic crisis caused a migration stagnation that lasted almost seven years until early 2014 (CELADE, 2017; p. 21). Still, Mexico continues to be a prominent country of origin, with thousands of emigrants travelling primarily to the United States every year. Mexico is also a very important transit country for migrants travelling north to the United States southern border. The 2018 IOM World Migration Report (IOM, 2018) indicates that, due to better economic conditions in recent years,

higher education levels at home and stricter migration policies in the United States, Mexico is an ever more important destination country for international migrants. The number of foreign-born residents in Mexico increased from 970,000 in 2010 to almost 1,200,000 in 2015. Most of them were Americans, but an ever-greater percentage are migrants from other Latin American and Caribbean countries. The United States is by far the most popular destination for Central American migrants, with 78 per cent living in the United States in 2015, while 15 per cent resided in other countries in the region and in Mexico.

With respect to irregular migration in the region, the flows of migrants are becoming more diverse. Migrants from Mexico represent the great majority of irregular migrants detained while attempting to cross into the United States. In 2014, however and again in 2016, the quantity of nationals from the Countries of the North of Central America (Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador) detained along the United States-Mexico border outnumbers the number of Mexican detainees.

The flows of irregular migrants through Central America and Mexico have also diversified considerably to include a large number of migrants from the Caribbean, as well as a growing number of Asians and Africans. More than 55,000 Latin Americans were detained along the United States-Mexico border in 2015. According to the 2018 IOM World Migration Report (IOM, 2018), more than 6,000 'inadmissible' Haitian migrants arrived at ports of entry in the Southeast United States in 2015, while almost 8,000 African and Asian immigrants arrived at Mexican migration control posts in the first semester of 2016, representing a significant increase over previous years.

To address these new migration flows, the transit and destination countries have strengthened border protection measures. In response to the increase in irregular migration flows, particularly of Cubans and Haitians, Nicaragua closed its southern border in November 2015, while Costa Rica closed its border to Cubans in December 2015 and then to all irregular migrants in August 2016 (IOM, 2018). In addition, Mexico implemented its Southern Border Plan in 2014 to reduce irregular migration flows from Central America. Between 2013 and 2015, the number of apprehensions by Mexican authorities increased from 86,000 to 198,000. According to the 2018 World Migration Report, migrant smuggling is also one of the principal characteristics of migration in the region, as people try to elude border controls in Central America and Mexico. Along the United States-Mexico border, smuggling networks are an industry controlled by international criminal organizations.

3. Production and use of administrative records on migration in Central America and Mexico

3.1 Introduction

This section presents the study's results based on the electronic Survey and other secondary sources consulted. First, the text summarizes the most important findings of previous studies regarding the gathering, processing and use of administrative records related to migration. This is followed by an analysis of the Survey results, including practical recommendations that the countries may consider to improve the management of migration data and information.

This section does not attempt to assess the current situation with respect to each country's capacity to produce and use migration data. The objective is to describe the principal characteristics of the systems for producing and using administrative records, in order to serve as a baseline for the next phases of the Project for Strengthening Production and Analysis of Regional Migration Data in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean and other horizontal cooperation initiatives in the near future.

3.2 Previous balance

Regarding the status of the systems for producing and managing migration-related information in Central America and Mexico, although significant progress has been made in recent years, this study has confirmed that challenges identified in previous studies still persist. According to the IOM (2012; P. 198), some of these challenges are as follows:

- The information on international migration in the Central American subregion is heterogeneous, due to the diversity of sources and the differing time periods to which the data refer.

- Population censuses continue to be the oldest source used to measure international migration. Censuses do not specify, however, migratory typology nor modality. Household surveys in the Central American Subregion are designed to measure the stock of migrants and remittance volumes and thus the information gathered is limited. In addition, they are more focused on urban areas and thus these surveys cannot describe the migratory phenomenon in all its magnitude.

- The General Migration Directorates record the entry and exit of national and foreigners at overland stations, seaports and airports, but that only represents part of the movements that occur across borders. These institutions do not record the movements through uncontrolled border crossing points used by irregular migrants.

- Administrative records related to the data gathered at migration control posts have not been fully exploited for purposes of measuring international migration, mainly because these recording systems are designed to fulfill migration controls related to national security, rather than for statistical purposes.

- In the countries of the region, administrative records systems have been designed to provide migration services rather than to serve statistical purposes. The variables are comparable because, within the framework of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM), the variables contained in the Entry/Exit Card (TIE) have been established by consensus. The computer systems themselves, however, cannot be

compared because they are designed for different platforms. The only countries with similar, comparable systems are Mexico and Guatemala.

As will be seen below, the Survey results suggest that many of these challenges persist, although progress has been made (even including good practices) in the area of managing migration data and information.

3.3 Installed capacity for migration data management

In Central America and Mexico, various organizations participate in gathering, processing, disseminating and using administrative records related to migration.[10] Said organizations include the General Migration Directorates (GMDs),[11] statistical and census offices or institutes, ministries or departments of the interior, research centres and police agencies, among others. Eleven organizations from seven Central American countries and Mexico completed the Survey for this study, as indicated below:

7 Migratrion Directorates   **3 Statistical Institutions**   **1 Research Center**

Of these organizations, 64 per cent directly gather administrative records on migration. All of the GMDs that responded to the Survey compile administrative records on migration, as does one of the statistical institutes.

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[10]For purposes of this study, it is important to remember that the Central American Region is comprised of the following countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

[11]Depending on the specific country, these entities are called National Migration Institutes. This study uses the acronym GMD to refer generically to these entities.

Figure 1: Percentage of organizations that collect administrative data in Central America and Mexico

● Gather administrative records

● Do not gather administrative records
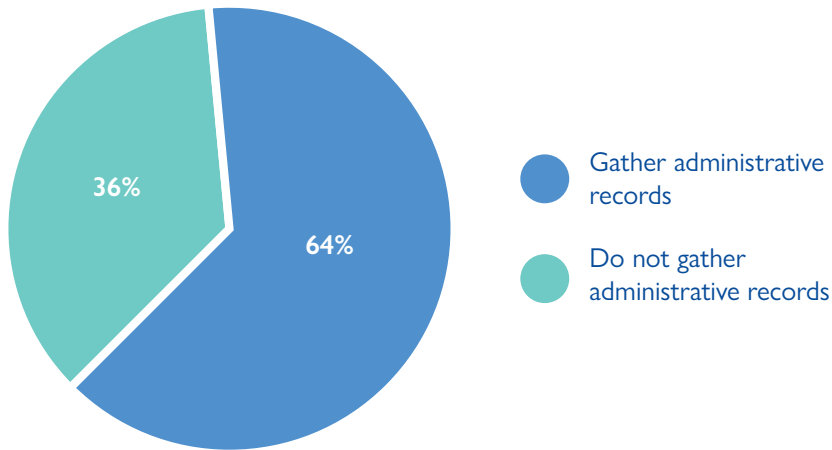
Source: Online Survey for the Regional Project to Strengthen the Production and Analysis of Information on Migrations in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean

GOOD PRACTICE!

Some countries have joint working commissions in which various organizations periodically meet and coordinate their work process related to migration. One example is the **Migration Policy Advisory Council of the Mexican Secretariat of Interior**, created in 2012. The purpose of the Council is to stimulate inter-institutional dialogue to promote actions and programs that address the different dimensions of international migration in Mexico. Its attributes include issuing opinions concerning the formulation and instrumentation of migration policies, analysing migration-related programs, projects and actions and proposing specific initiatives for promoting, protecting and defending the rights of migrants, among others.

More information: www.politicamigratoria.gob.mx/es_mx/SEGOB/Consjo_Consultivo

The capacity of these organizations for managing migration data differs regarding both the availability of human resources and the availability of technological resources for gathering and processing administrative records on migration. The following table summarizes these capacities based on the responses received from the GMDs to the Survey carried out for this study.[12]:

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[12] The responses of other organizations (such as statistical and census institutes) were excluded.

Table 5: GMD capacities in Central America and Mexico

Resource	Situation of the GDMs				
	Sufficient, trained personnel	**Sufficient personnel, but not fully trained**	**Insufficient personnel, but well trained**	**Insufficient, untrained personnel**	**Don't know / No answer**
	9%	27%	46%	9%	9%
	Have techno-logical resources for gathering administrative records.	**Do not have sufficient technological resources, but are developing a proposal.**	**Do not have sufficient technological resources, but proposal is about to be approved.**	**Do not have technological resources.**	**Don't know / No answer**
	27%	9%	9%	37%	18%
	Have technological resources for processing administrative records.	**Do not have sufficient technological resources, but are developing a proposal.**	**Do not have sufficient technological resources, but proposal is about to be approved.**	**Do not have technological resources.**	**Don't know / No answer**
	36%	9%	9%	37%	9%

Source: Online Survey for the Regional Project to Strengthen the Production and Analysis of Information on Migrations in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean.

The differing capacities (both in human and technological resources) are due to different factors. These include the availability of financial resources, the maturity of the migration-related institutional framework, the country's migration profile and the capacity for joint work among several institutions within each country, among others. This installed capacity directly affects the possibility to gather administrative records on migration and, above all, translate same into relevant information for decision-making purposes.

In this sense, the organizations were asked if they generate statistics derived or synthesized from their administrative records. At least 71 per cent of the GMDs generate statistics, while the remaining 29 per cent do not. They were also asked if they use administrative records gathered by other organizations. As

shown in the figure below, the results show that there still exists ample opportunity for the GMDs to coordinate the exchange of migration-related administrative records with other public and private organizations, as only 33 per cent affirm that they use records gathered by other entities

Figure 2: Production of statistics by the GMDs in Central America and Mexico
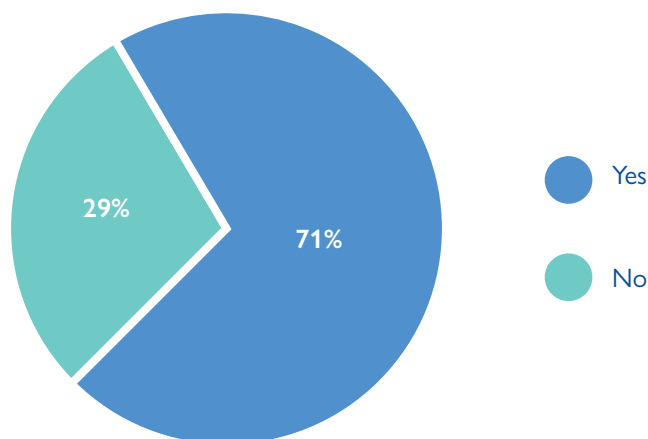
29%

71%

● Yes

● No

Source: Online survey for the Regional project to strengthen the production and analysis of information on migrations in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean.

This same behavior is seen when the organizations are asked if they generate statistics from data compiled by other organizations. 71 per cent of the GMDs do not generate statistics from data compiled by other entities, while the remaining 29 per cent do. Regarding this topic, the GMDs that receive records from other entities indicate that same tend to come from:

Although it seems natural that information should flow between GMDs and these institutions, there are other institutions with which a stronger exchange of information could exist, such as universities or academic research centres, police agencies and health, education, planning and justice ministries, among others.

• Ministry of Security[13]

• Labour Ministry

• Ministry of Foreign Affairs

• Secretariat of the Interior

• National Statistical and Census Institutes

[13] In some countries Ministries are knows as Departments or Secretariat.

Recommendations

a) **Strengthen the institutional framework that addresses migration.** Good migration governance is crucial to monitor progress towards Goal 10.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals and all of the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration (GMDAC, 2017).

b) **Establish inter-institutional commissions for joint work on migration-related issues.** In the countries that do not have this type of commission, an institutional framework should be set up to favor the establishment of such groups. In the countries where same already exist, it is recommended to strengthen their capacity to exchange information, harmonize concepts and methodologies and assign importance to their decisions for purposes of formulating, implementing and evaluating migration policies.

c) **Improve the country's capacities to generate and effectively use information on migration.** In order to contribute to designing public policies on international, regional, subregional and national migration, it is necessary to generate pertinent, up-to-date, comparable, reliable and timely information regarding migration flow dynamics and the components thereof (IOM, 2017).

d) **Encourage joint efforts among the organizations responsible for generating migration data within each country.** The advantage of having various sources of migration data lies in the fact that the combined and integrated use of same provides a comprehensive and up-do-date perspective on the international migration phenomenon. The compilation of data on border crossings, residency visas granted, refugee/asylum applications, the labour market and the stock of **immigrants** recorded by censuses and/or analysed in depth through household surveys and even information related to remittance flows, should allow (when brought together) governmental bodies to produce information regarding international migration for each country that is comparable to that produced by other countries in the Latin America and Caribbean Region (IOM, 2012).

3.4 Types of data collected

In Central America and Mexico a wide variety of administrative records on migration are collected. The organizations that responded to this study's Survey identified the data indicated below as those they tend to gather or use in the form of administrative records.

Table 6: Types of data collected by the GMDs in Central America and Mexico

Biographical Data	Data Regarding Migratory Status and/or Citizenship
Person's current address	Citizenship or nationality
Civil status	Data from passport or other travel document
Date of birth or age	Decisions on acquisition of nationality
Names of parents	Decisions on renunciation of nationality
Country of birth or origin	Duration of validity of entry permit
Sex	Identification of undocumented foreigners
Social and Economic Data	Death or disappearance of foreigners
	Permits for employers to hire foreigners
	Student visas for foreigners
	Exit permits for minors
Employment or occupation	Work permits for foreigners
Education level or profession	Registry of nationals employed abroad
Remittances	Registry of foreigners in detention centers
Data on migratory movements	Registry of foreigners with permanent or temporary residency
	Registry of foreigners with temporary stay permits
	Registry of diaspora communities
	Registry of nationals studying abroad
Cases of denied entry	Registry of nationals readmitted at border stations
Detention of undocumented foreigners and other migrants with irregular status	Registry of refugee and asylum applications
Date of entry into country	Work visas
Date of exit from country	Visas issued in the country
Nationals deported	Visas issued abroad
Nationals readmitted	Visas issued in the country to foreigners
Nationals repatriated	
Nationals returned	
Orders for forced or involuntary return to the country of origin	
Country of previous residence	
Reason or purpose for trip	
Readmission along the border zone	

*Source:* Online survey for the Regional project to strengthen the production and analysis of information on migrations in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean. Note: Annex IV details which types of data are compiled by each country and which variables are used to disaggregate the information generated.

Besides the administrative records generated by the GMDs and other public and private institutions, censuses and household, income and labour market surveys are increasingly found to include sections with questions related to migratory topics. The Survey asked each country if migration-related questions are being included in this type of information sources:

Are questions regarding migration included in national censuses or household/income surveys?

Yes 82%   No 9%   Don't know / No answer 9%

GOOD PRACTICE!

In Costa Rica, the National Statistics and Census Institute (INEC) includes a section with questions regarding international migration (country of birth, region where the person resided two years ago) among the variables covered in the National Household Survey (ENAHO) (starting in 2010) (or the Multi-Purpose Household Survey prior to 2010). In addition, the INEC website offers figures based on the 2000 and 2011 Population Censuses.

More information: www.inec.go.cr/poblacion/migracion

The information generated from administrative records and other sources such as censuses and surveys tends to be disaggregated by different variables. According to the Survey carried out for this study, the variables indicated below are the ones most commonly used by the GMDs in Central America and Mexico to disaggregate the information.

Figure 3: Variables used to disaggregate data in Central America and Mexico

- Age
- Migratory Status
- Income
- Nationality
- Education Level
- Country of Birth
- Country of Origin
- Periodicity or Time Range
- Sex
- Border Station Type (overland, airport, seaport)
- Location of Border Station
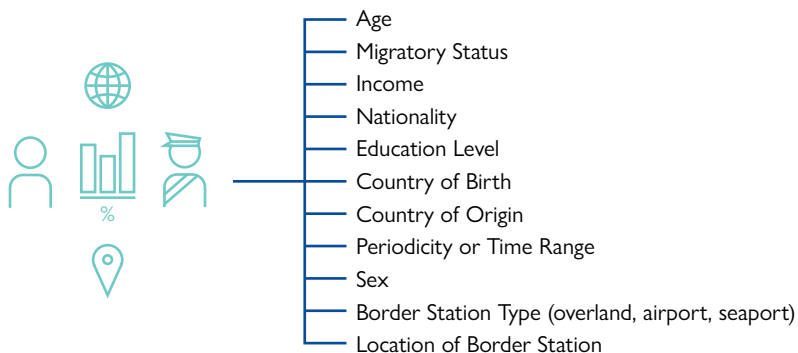
Regarding the procedure for creating migration-related administrative records, most Central American countries and Mexico combine paper records with electronic formats (71 per cent of the GMDs).

Instruments used for gathering administrative records include: notebooks or minutes books; cards; forms; Excel worksheets; reports; and electronic databases.

Figure 4: Use of instruments to record administrative data in Central America and Mexico
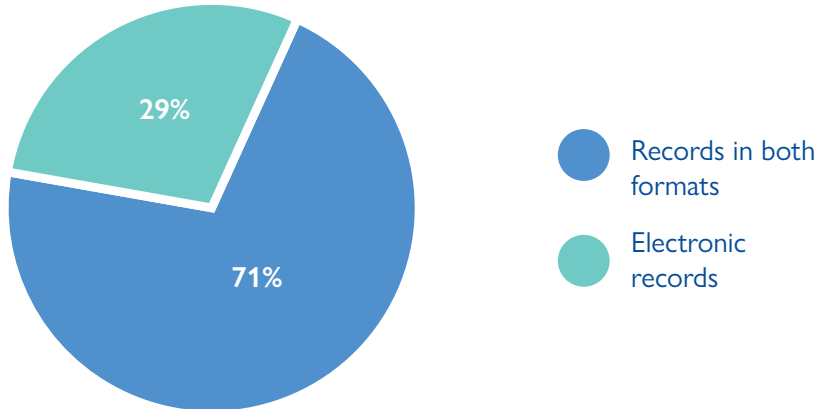
29%

71%

Records in both formats

Electronic records

Source: Online Survey for the Regional Project to Strengthen the Production and Analysis of Information on Migrations in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean

Among the computerized systems used to manage administrative records, the General Migration Directorates report the Comprehensive Migratory Operations System (SIM or SIOM), the Electronic Migration Movement System (SIMMEL), the Electronic Migratory Procedures System (SETRAM), the SINEX and the NIS-FRONT PASS. An important aspect to review is the degree of inter-operability of these systems with the computer systems of other institutions, in order to facilitate information flows, as well as the dissemination of administrative records on migration. In addition, some countries point out the need to modify their current systems to allow combinations of variables and reports with indicators that are disaggregated in greater detail.

The organizations were asked if their computer system used for entering administrative records on migration presents limitations. The limitations described below were reported by the GMDs.

• Disperse records. No comprehensive database exists.

• The system used by the entity responsible for gathering administrative records needs verification mechanisms to reduce data-capture errors by data entry personnel.

• Limited storage capacity on servers to save images.

• The company that maintains the system is based outside the country, meaning that requests for modifications/improvements take months to be addressed.

Recommendations

a) **Know and apply the most recent internationally recognized definitions and methodologies related to migration.** Determining the size of the migrant population depends on various concepts, definitions and criteria that are often difficult for countries to measure. Adhesion to internationally recognized definitions, however, will improve comparability of international data. A change in a person's usual place of residence and stay duration are critical components for defining a migration flow, especially for measuring migration. Finally, the purpose of the stay is an essential variable for comprehending international migration (GMG, 2017). Along these lines, it is recommendable that GMDs and other actors at the national level be familiar with and use the guides and standards published by international bodies to help countries improve the quality of their migration-related administrative records, as well as to guarantee the rigor and comparability of the statistical data generated from same.

b) **Improve coordination among the different entities responsible for the various sources of information on migration (surveys, censuses and administrative records).** The data provided by statistical and administrative sources adequately record international movements by regular migrants, but undocumented migrants can be partially or completely excluded from data compilation processes. In contrast with statistical sources, administrative sources are designed to compile information and generate data for administrative functions and frequently are not designed to support research or statistical analysis. As with statistical sources, the users of administrative data sources must consider the purpose and quality of the compilation processes before using the data. To gather data on migrant workers with irregular status, qualitative (ethnographic) surveys and techniques can provide useful information on a population that is difficult to access or highly mobile. These methods could also be used to study returned migrants and how they reintegrated into internal labour markets.

c) **Participate actively in an international dialogue and exchange of knowledge regarding the use of big data for studying migrations.** Public and private actors should actively work to establish joint effort frameworks and appropriate practices to systematize the use of innovative sources for migration statistics. This is a crucial aspect in view of the inclusion of objectives and indicators in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the need to monitor progress made towards fulfilling the objectives related to migration (GMG, 2017)

3.5 Information security and quality

The capacity of the General Migration Directorates (GMDs) in Central America and Mexico to gather, process and use administrative records on migration is variable. The procedures for storing and processing data affect the quality of the information generated. Besides the human and technological resources needed to enter migration-related administrative records, countries must have databases to store said records. All the GMDs reported having electronic databases, with one country indicating that they also keep a hard-copy database.

The GMDs were asked if their databases are stored on a server and if they observe security, back-up and recovery policies. The current conditions along those lines are indicated below.

86%
The database is stored on a server, and security, back-up, and recovery policies are observed.

14%
The database is stored on a server, and security, back-up, and recovery policies are being developed.

Of the seven GMDs that responded to the Survey, six update their database records on a daily basis, while one does so monthly. Now, to what extent does the availability of data based on administrative records allow the GMDs to prepare statistics on migration? The answer varies among the subregion's countries. Most of them prepare statistics when so requested by another public or private entity. Five of the seven GMDs prepare statistics on a monthly basis, four also do so annually and two report also doing so for purposes of designing legislation or public policies.

In order for databases to function correctly and allow the preparation of reliable statistics, measures need to be adopted to improve the management of data based on administrative records. In this sense, the GMDs report having adopted measures during the last five years to improve the inter-operability of systems, modify database and operating system architecture, implement procedural improvements, simplify procedural modifications and allow certain procedures to be completed online. In addition, some of the subregion's countries have adopted measures to improve the statistics prepared based on migration-related administrative records, such as: diagnosis of detected errors, which are corrected procedurally when processing databases for statistical purposes; monthly database reviews and consultations with data-generating areas to identify correct information; standardization of criteria; and training of data-entry personnel.

There currently exist various guides and standards published by international bodies to help countries improve the quality of their administrative records on migration, as well as the rigor and comparability of the statistical data generated from same. Only three of the seven countries from this subregion have used this type of guides, with the ones most commonly used shown below.
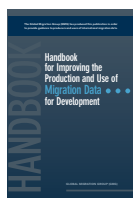
Handbook for Improving the Production and Use of Migration Data for Development. Global Migration Group (GMG) (2017).

Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration (Revision 1) Statistics Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) (1998)

Checklist for the Quality Evaluation of Administrative Data Sources. Statistics, the Netherlands (2009)

Handbook on Measuring International Migration through Population Censuses. UN DESA (2017).

Conference of European Statisticians: Recommendations for the 2020 Census of Population and Housing. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) (2015).
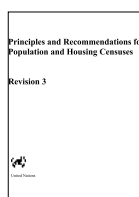
Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (Revision 3). United Nations (2017)

Despite the existence of these guides and the measures adopted by countries recently, challenges still exist that can affect the quality of the information generated from administrative records on migration. The GMDs that responded to the Survey identified the following as the principal challenges:

- Limited interaction between the various sources of information.

- Inter-operability of computer systems.

- Transition to new records systems.

- Inclusion and modification of migration variables.

- Diversity of data-gathering procedures between seaports, airports and overland stations.

- Usage capacity of programs like Excel, Access and others.

- Unification of operating platforms.

- Software and trained personnel for information processing and analysis..

GOOD PRACTICE!

The General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners of El Salvador has a Migration Management and Monitoring Analysis Unit. It has also developed a Comprehensive Migratory Management System that allows the following actions: i) maintain a link to verify alerts, arrest warrants, InterPol and PNC restrictions, etc.; ii) make real-time online consultations with the Transportation Vice-Ministry to obtain information on stolen vehicles; iii) provide assistance to Consulates and border stations; iv) respond to investigations in real time; v) share information with various institutions in real time; vi) access migration alerts and restrictions in real time; vii) connect with Guatemala's Paso Agil system to exchange biographical data for migratory control processes; and viii) share biometric data with Honduras through Paso Agil.

Recommendations

a) **Evaluate the country's existing procedures to ensure the quality of the statistical information on migration.** The generation of statistical information is governed by an international quality reference framework on the production of statistical data. This comes from international recommendations issued by the United Nations to define the quality of statistics. Statistically comparable data should be provided in the form of indicators related to the coverage, relevance, thoroughness, accuracy, comparability, coherence, timeliness, punctuality and accessibility of data and dissemination of metadata (IOM, 2012).

b) **Provide the GMDs with the human and technological resources they need to carry out their work effectively.** GMDs should have administrative independence to determine the most efficient use of their resources so that they may have the necessary installed capacity to gather, process, use and disseminate migration data.

c) **Strengthen the relationship between the GMDs and statistical and census institutes.** For this it is fundamental to improve the organizational structure of the statistical institutes, since some of them cite the lack of economic and human resources to maintain their survey programs. The limited articulation between statistical production and public policies is another weakness, as policies are not linked to statistical production programs and thus in some cases the statistical information does not respond to them (IOM, 2012).

3.6 Information dissemination

The preceding sections have shown that the General Migration Directorates (GMD) in Central America and Mexico process administrative records on migration with varying levels of capacity. Now, to what extent do these and other public and private organizations disseminate the information generated? How do the statistical data translate into relevant information for decision-making? According to the Survey carried out for this study, all the GMDs disseminate the information they gather. To that end, they use a wide range of communication instruments, with the main ones being shown below in order of use.

Table 7: Instruments for the dissemination of statistical data in Central America and Mexico

Not Used	Used Infrequently	Used Regularly	Used Frequently
Social networks. Press conferences.	Official reports and research. Infographs. Annual statistical reports.	Newsletters and other periodical reports. Notes in response to specific requests.	Official Website

The organizations were asked if they share migration-related administrative records with other public entities, such as Ministries, Congress or Parliament, governmental agencies and local governments, among others. 82 per cent of the organizations that responded to the Survey indicated that they share administrative records with other public entities, while 18 per cent do not. The frequency with which they share this information varies from one country to another, with the most cited being shown below in order of importance.

Table 8: Frequency of data distribution in Central America and Mexico

1. When requested by a public or private entity

2. Monthly

3. Annually

4. When requested for academic research

5. To influence the design of public policies

6. Weekly

7. Quarterly

8. Biannually

9. Daily
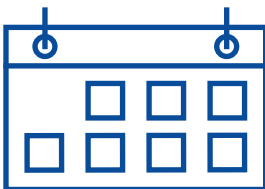
The organizations were asked if they share information gathered from migration-related administrative records with entities responsible for justice, security, or law enforcement in their country. Most of the GMDs (72 per cent) do share this information with said entities, as shown in the figure below.

Figure 5: Percentage of organizations that share data with justice or security entities in Central America and Mexico
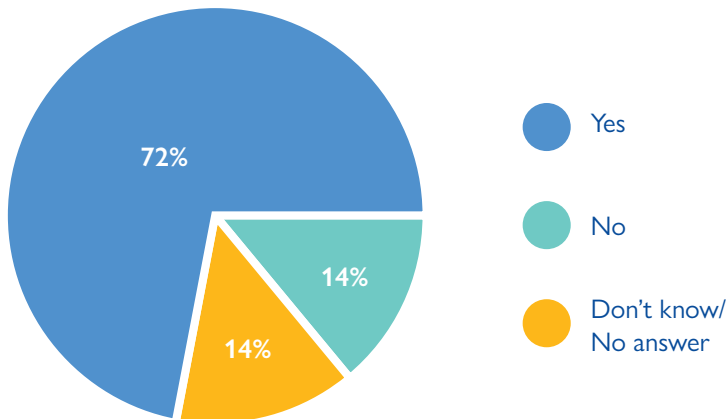
Source: Online Survey for the Regional Project to Strengthen the Production and Analysis of Information on Migrations in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean.

On the other hand, 83 per cent of the GMDs that responded to the Survey report that they do not receive the migration-related administrative records gathered by other entities, while 17 per cent do. This suggests the need to strengthen the exchange of information between GMDs and the public and private entities responsible for generating information on migration at both the national and international levels.

Beyond the issue of security, the GMDs should promote comprehension of the phenomenon of migration from a broad development perspective. In this sense, the countries were asked if they have an inter-institutional committee or commission that encourages cooperation in the gathering, exchange, improvement and use of migration records. Only three of the subregion's countries have this type of institutional mechanism for dialogue and joint efforts related to migration. Another three countries reported a lack of such mechanisms, while another country did not respond to the question. Regarding this topic, the table below describes the cases of the three countries that reported having this type of inter-institutional coordination mechanism. The existence of these commissions should be considered a good practice in the area of migration governance, but also with respect to the specific topic of the generation and use of information on migration.

National Migration Council. Body pertaining to the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners. According to the General Migration and Foreigners Act, the Council is required to advise the Executive Branch and recommend national migration policies and coordinate the public actions related to migration carried out by each of the institutions represented on the Council.

National Council for the Protection and Development of Migrants and their Families (CONMIGRANTES). Its functions include proposing, formulating, channeling and verifying compliance with the comprehensive policy for protecting those policies related to the links between migration and development. In charge of inter-institutional and inter-sectoral coordination between the State and Salvadoran migrants.

Migration Policy Advisory Council of the Secretariat of the Interior. Its purpose is to stimulate inter-institutional dialogue to promote actions and programs that address the different dimensions of international migration in Mexico. Its attributes include issuing opinions concerning the formulation and instrumentation of migration policies, analysing migration-related programs, projects and actions and proposing specific initiatives for promoting, protecting and defending the rights of migrants..

The users of migration information vary from one country to another. The organizations that responded to the Survey indicated that main users are those shown below (in order of importance).

Table 9: Main users of statistical information in Central America and Mexico

- Other public entities.

- Regional and multilateral bodies.

- Units or departments of the same institution.

- Universities and research centres.

- Non-governmental organizations.

- Users of migration services.

- Private companies.

To encourage greater use of the information and to have new actors (e.g. private businesses) value the usefulness of migration data, the countries identified the following challenges:

- Updating the internationally used measurement of migration currents.

- Acquisition of software for creating statistical reports.

- Broadening of data-compilation networks.

- Training of border station personnel in the complete recording of the data required on migrants.

- Specialized training for information analysts.

- Training on the processing and analysis of migration information.

- Raising awareness among recorders of the importance of records and information management and use.

- The institution's greatest challenge is obtaining economic resources to be able to carry out more specific studies on migration.

- Aspects related to technology and human and material resources need to be strengthened.

- Strengthening of computer-based tools.

- Methodologies for gathering, systematizing and analysing administrative records on migration.

GOOD PRACTICE!

The **National Migration Institute of Honduras** (INM) maintains a broad network for inter-institutional cooperation that enables the exchange of information among different national and international entities. Among other actions, this joint effort allows: searches for foreigners of interest to national security; channeling of migrants with irregular status into control centres; intelligence activities with InterPol and the DEA; detection, custody, deportation and expulsion of foreign nationals; efficient service to nationals and foreigners who enter and exit the country; issuance of birth certificates; secure home delivery of ID cards; and services for irregular migrants. All of this is made possible due to the adoption of recent measures such as: strengthening of the Statistical Unit; creation of a statistical database; consolidation of the various INM databases; and implementation of the Business Intelligence System.

More information: http://inm.gob.hn

Recommendations

a) **Raise awareness among public and private actors regarding the importance of migration-related information.** Good migration governance must be supported by evidence-based policies. To that end, it is fundamental that public and private actors understand the importance of having access to timely, reliable and accurate information on the magnitude, dynamics and characteristics of international migration in their country.

b) **Facilitate the participation of new users of migration information.** Promote the participation of non-traditional private actors (such as businesses, chambers of commerce and research centres, among others) in the dissemination and use of information on migration for decision-making purposes.

c) **Increase the coverage and quality of the data compiled for more proper use in designing public policies on migration.** Although progress has been made in recent years in improving management of international entry and exit controls, there still is room for improving the treatment and evaluation of the coverage and quality of administrative records, particularly those related to international entries and exits of persons, in order to obtain up-to-date information on migration flow trends (IOM, 2013c).

● ● ●
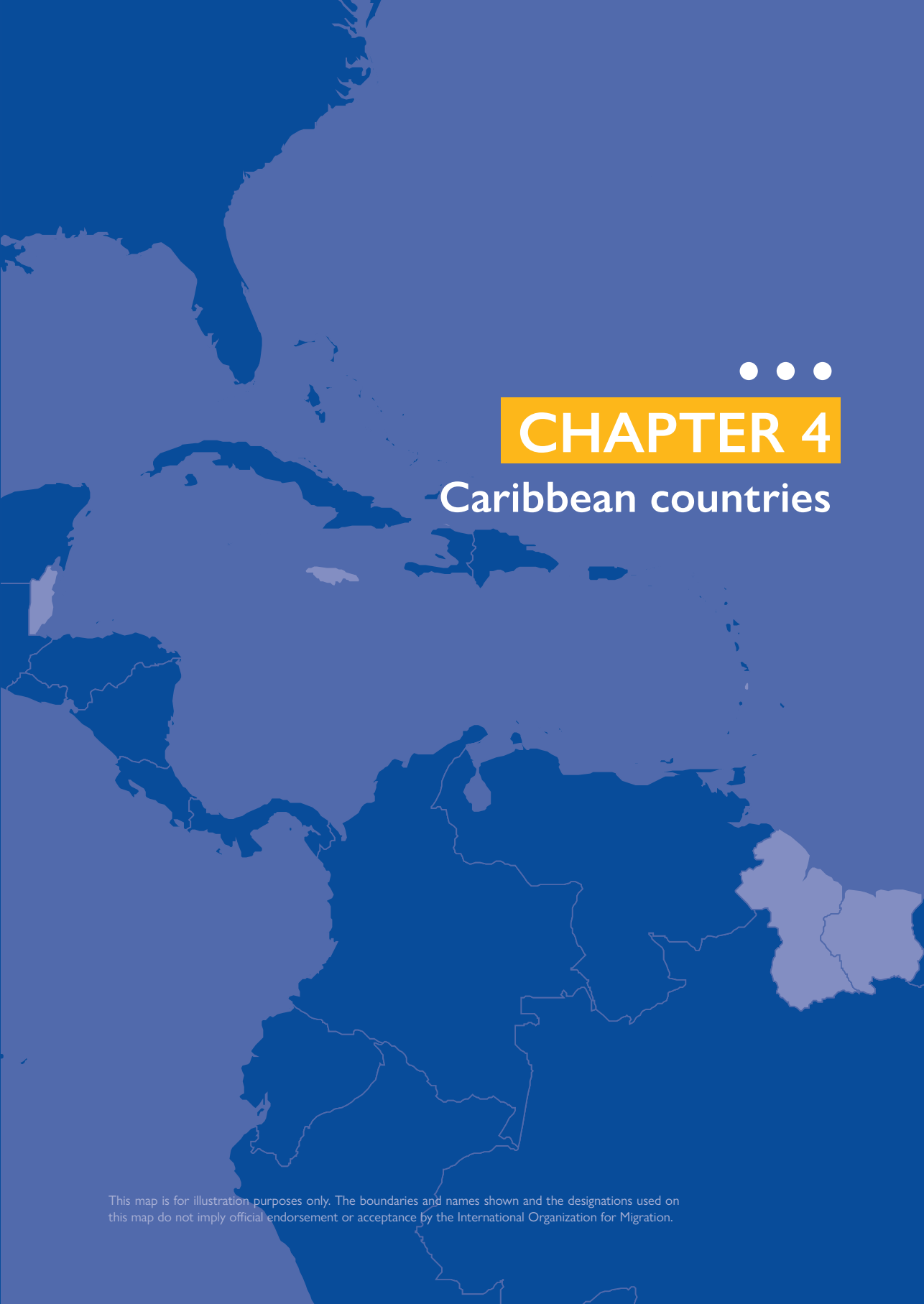
CHAPTER 4
Caribbean countries

This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

1.Introduction

The migration situation in the Caribbean shares some general trends with Central America and Mexico. Northbound emigration is the predominant characteristic (IOM, 2018), although differences exist within each country and there are some intraregional trends driven by economic integration. This chapter briefly describes the principal migration trends in this subregion, with emphasis on the countries participating in the Regional Project to Strengthen the Production and Analysis of Information on Migrations in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean, to wit: Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia and Suriname.

Although studies and reports on migration in this subregion point out a series of trends at the subregional level, each country presents unique migration dynamics due to historical, geographical, environmental, economic, political and social factors. The following table synthesizes the migration profile of each country and its relationship with certain development indicators.

Country	Migration and Development
Belize Surface Area (km2): 22,810 Per-Capita GNP (USD at current prices): 4,905 Life Expectancy at Birth (years): 70.3 Human Development Index: 0.708 Social Progress Index: (n.d.)	Belize serves as home, transit point and final destination for significant flows of migrants who come from different regions around the world. This country has the highest percentage of immigrants with respect to its total population, as about 15 per cent of the population was born abroad. Belize has a long tradition of receiving migrants, principally from Africa, Mexico, India, Europe and Central America. Historically, this former British colony identified more with the Caribbean than with Central America, due to its large population of English-speaking and Creole-speaking Afro-Latinos. More recently, due to the economic and political situation in the neighboring countries, the demographic profile of the immigrant population has varied over the past twenty years. Many of these migrants are in the 25-44 age range, the most productive phase of their life. In fact, more than half of Belize's workforce is comprised of Central American migrants. According to UN estimates for 2015, 60,000 Belizeans resided abroad, most of them in the United States. Of the 52,200 foreigners living in Belize at the time, most were Guatemalans, Salvadorans, Hondurans and, to a lesser degree, Mexicans. In relative terms, emigration and immigration represent 16.7 per cent and 14.5 per cent of the population of Belize, respectively.

Country	Migration and Development

Guyana

Total Population: 780,000
Surface Area (km2): 196,850
Per-Capita GNP (USD at current prices): 4,725
Life Expectancy at Birth (years): 66.65
Human Development Index: 0.654
Social Progress Index: 61.96

Guyana was originally comprised of three Latin American Dutch colonies. After they were given over to the British in 1814, the three colonies merged into British Guyana. After independence in 1966, a socialist government was established. Guyana has seen several peaceful transitions of power by way of free and fair elections and is the seat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Abolition of slavery led to the settling of urban areas by former slaves and the importing of hired servants from India to work the sugar plantations. The resulting ethnic division has persisted and led to political conflicts. The elections held in May 2015 saw the first change in governing parties. Guyana is the only English-speaking country in South America and shares cultural and historical ties with the Anglophone Caribbean. Poverty level reduction has stagnated since the late 1990s, with around one-third of the country's population living below the poverty line. Guyana's emigration rate is one of the highest in the world (more than 55 per cent of its citizens reside abroad and remittances account for one of the highest percentages of GNP among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Although remittances are a vital source of income for a majority of citizens, the emigration of skilled workers has deprived Guyana of professionals in the healthcare sector and other key sectors. More than 80 per cent of Guyanese citizens with higher education have emigrated. (*Source:* www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/print_gy.html)

Jamaica

Total Population: 2,890,000
Surface Area (km2): 11,000
Per-Capita GNP USD at current prices): 5,109
Life Expectancy at Birth (years): 75.97
Human Development Index: 0.732
Social Progress Index: (n.d.)

Jamaica is the third largest island in the Caribbean and the largest English-speaking island. According to the Migration Profile of Jamaica (IOM, 2018), Jamaica's population in 2016 was 2,730,900, which reflects an increase of only 48,800 during the preceding ten years. Current migration occurs within the country's demographic, socioeconomic and developmental context, while at the same time reflecting the migration trends of the past 150 years, consolidating a vision that values international migration as a life means strategy and a way to attain personal goals. Immigrants in Jamaica are classified in four categories: 1) voluntarily repatriated nationals; 2) forcibly returned nationals; 3) Commonwealth citizens; and 4) other foreigners. According to the 2011 Population and Housing Census, there were 23,477 foreign-born persons living in Jamaica, representing 0.87 per cent of the total population, thus the proportion of foreign-born persons as a part of the general population is small. An analysis of their countries of birth in 2013 showed that most of those who arrived prior to 1980

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came from Europe, followed by CARICOM countries. There was a significant variation in the source of immigrants after 2001, with the greatest increase being persons from North America, as well as a significant increase from Asian countries. The total flow of migrants grew from 56,508 between 2007 and 2011 to 68,201 between 2012 and 2016. This reflects a considerable increase in the number of persons who arrive in Jamaica for employment and/or residential purposes (about 11,700 during the past five years). The proportion of each group of immigrants who arrived during the decade shows predominantly foreigners (41 per cent of the total), followed by Commonwealth citizens (31 per cent). Thus, most immigrants during the decade (72 per cent) were not Jamaicans, having arrived as labour immigrants with work permits or CSME skills certifications (in the case of CARICOM nationals).

Saint Luca

Total Population: 180,000
Surface Area (km2): 610
Per-Capita GNP (USD at current prices): 9.574
Life Expectancy at Birth (years): 75.50
Human Development Index: 0.747
Social Progress Index: (n.d.)

This island country, with its beautiful natural port at Castries, was disputed between England and France throughout the 17th Century and early 18th Century, changing hands fourteen times until it was finally ceded to the United Kingdom in 1814. Even after the abolition of slavery on its plantations in 1834, Saint Lucia continued to be an agricultural island devoted to producing tropical crops. The country gained independence in 1979. The island nation has attracted foreign investors and businesses, especially in the banking and tourism industries. Tourism is the principal source of employment and income for St. Lucia, representing 65 per cent of GNP and the main source of foreign currency. St. Lucia is vulnerable to a variety of external forces, including changes that affect tourism, natural disasters and dependence on foreign oil. St. Lucia has experienced sluggish growth since the global economic crisis of 2008, due primarily to a slowdown in tourism. Department of Immigration data is obtained by the border control system when passengers arrive, including information on deportees, immigrants and nationals who return to the country. Part of this information is obtained automatically by the system, while the remainder is compiled manually by data entry clerks and immigration officers (IOM, 2012). The compiled data is generally reliable, but previous studies have pointed out that problems and delays in data processing are caused by the fact that the information on paper is not entered immediately. As for the quality of the information the institution compiles, the administrative records are kept as general data, rarely being converted into statistical units or data that can be shared or

Country	Migration and Development

analysed. St. Lucia is the seat of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). The country has a Regional Integration and Diaspora Unit (RIDU), assigned to the Office of the Prime Minister, which maintains ties and a database with diaspora associations in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada and the French Territories. *(Source: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/st.html)*

Suriname

Total Population: 560,000
Surface Area (km2): 156,000
Per-Capita GNP (USD at current prices): 5.900
Life Expectancy at Birth (years): 71.41
Human Development Index: 0.720
Social Progress Index: 67.01

Between the 17th and the 19th Centuries, mostly European colonists and Brazilian Jews migrated to Suriname. In addition, around 450,000 Africans were forcibly brought to Suriname as slaves. In the early 20th Century, 500 Jews fleeing from Nazi persecution and a smaller group of Lebanese took up residence in Suriname. The socioeconomic situation and political uncertainty surrounding independence in 1975 and the period of political instability between 1980 and 1992 diminished migratory flows. After 1992, the number of migrants arriving in Suriname increased. Currently there are 35,040 foreigners registered as residents, mostly Guyanese, Dutch (including those of Surinamese origin), Brazilians and Chinese. Emigration became significant in the 18th Century when the wealthier colonists sent their children to study in the Netherlands. Education continued to be the primary reason for migration throughout the 19th Century and the first half of the 20th Century, mainly for Creoles from wealthy families. During the 1950s and 1960s, youth from lower-income families also went abroad to study. During said period, high unemployment in Suriname became a secondary driver of migration. During the 1970s and early 1980s, the number of Surinamese migrating to the Netherlands increased significantly (more than 100,000 persons, most for political reasons. 347,631 persons of Surinamese origin (first- or second-generation) reside formally in the Netherlands (IOM, 2014).

Sources of development indicators:
1: World Bank indicators (https://datos.bancomundial.org).
2: United Nations Development Program: Human Development Reports –
Global Human Development Indicators (http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries).
3: Social Progress Index (www.socialprogress.org/).

2. Migration situation in the Caribbean countries

The most important intraregional corridor in the Caribbean is between Haiti and the Dominican Republic (IOM, 2018). The appearance and diversification of new migration flows in the region has caused several transit and destination countries to increase border control and protection measures. One particular aspect of the Caribbean Subregion during the first decades of the 21st Century has been the efforts to strengthen the economic, commercial and financial agreements in effect in the area. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) was established. Then some of the same countries formed the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), while others are members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) (IOM, 2012).

Participation in regional integration mechanisms has important implications regarding migration. All of the CARICOM Member States observe the provisions of the subregional agreements concerning labour mobility. At the national level, migratory legislation in various Caribbean countries has been revised and updated since the beginning of the 21st Century, due in part to the new characteristics of the migratory phenomenon.

In the case of the Caribbean Subregion, international migration plays a variable role in each country, depending on the size and population of each territory. The Caribbean stands out due to two significant decisions related to migration. First of all, the CARICOM allows free movement of its citizens among the Caribbean Community countries and secondly, it has an inter-governmental forum on migration, which could be an effective mechanism for migration governance. In 2015, 77.5 per cent of the emigrants from the Caribbean resided in the United States and Canada. The flows of migrants from Haiti to South America (mainly Brazil and Chile) have also increased notably (CELADE, 2017; p. 22).

According to more recent United Nations estimates, in 2015 there were a total of 7,773,471 Caribbean natives residing in a country other than their country of birth. In contrast, 1,367,407 international migrants were residing in Caribbean countries and dependencies (UN DESA, in Mejía, 2017; p. 3). As a result, immigration there qualifies as below average, with 3.2 per cent of the inhabitants having been born outside their country or dependency of residence. Emigration can be considered high in relative terms when considering UN DESA data, which indicate that almost 16 per cent of the persons born in this subregion have emigrated (Mejía, 2017; p. 3).

This was verified during the on-site visits to Jamaica, Guyana and St. Lucia carried out as part of this study. In some cases, the government officials interviewed affirmed that immigration is beginning to be seen as a topic of interest on the political agenda, whereas all matters related to the diaspora have tended to be addressed by high-level government units, at times directly by the Office of the Prime Minister. It can be expected that the issue of international migration will gain greater attention on the political agenda in coming years, as the Caribbean countries are rapidly becoming transit countries for migrants headed to the United States or other countries in the region. A case in point is the increasing flow from Haiti towards South America, primarily Brazil and Chile. Although official figures do not exist regarding Bolivarian Republic of Venezuelan migration to the Caribbean due to that country's situation, the issue is attracting ever more public opinion.

As indicated previously, the principal destinations for Caribbean migrants are the United States and Canada, which as of 2015 had received 77,5 per cent of the emigrant population. With respect to immigrants, 51 per cent are from the same subregion (intraregional migration), followed by North America with 19 per cent, Europe with 14 per cent and South America with 7 per cent; the rest of the world accounted for 9 per cent of the total. The immigrant population is 51.3 per cent male, although the proportion of males is much higher in the 25–39 age range. Regarding the emigrants residing in the United States, the data indicates a higher education level among those from English-speaking countries, which could explain (along with the language) the higher income and lower poverty rates among said population (Mejía, 2017; Page 3).

In the area of migration governance, the Caribbean Migration Consultations (CMC) have been coordinated by the IOM, with support from UNHCR (Mejía, 2017; P.10). Other projects undertaken by inter-governmental agencies to improve migration governance include the Caribbean Information Platform for Migration Governance (CIPMG), an initiative supported by the IOM that promotes the dissemination and exchange of information aimed at improving migration governance in the Caribbean. The subregion also benefits partially from labour migration projects carried out by the International Labour Organization (ILO) by way of its Regional Office for Central America, Haiti, Panama and the Dominican Republic. Finally, the presence of the ECLAC Regional Headquarters constitutes a valuable resource.

Then there are subregional bodies that promote integration and exchange actions among the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean, such as: the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), headquartered in Barbados; the East Caribbean Central Bank, based in San Cristobal; and even the International Labour Organization for the Caribbean (ILO Caribbean) and the ECLAC, both with regional offices in Trinidad and Tobago (IOM, 2012; P. 234).

An economic topic of great importance are the remittances received in the Caribbean, measured as a proportion of GNP. Between 2011 and 2016, total remittances tended to increase annually. During the first quarter of 2011, the average cost of sending remittances to the subregion was 7.3 per cent (using a remittance of USD 200 as a reference), while that cost was 7.8 per cent in the first quarter of 2017. These figures are higher than those for Central America (4.7 per cent) and South America (6.0 per cent) (Mejía, 2017; P. 14). According to World Bank data, remittances from abroad represented 4.9 per cent of GNP for Belize, 7.5 per cent for Guyana, 17.1 per cent for Jamaica and 1.9 per cent for Saint Lucia. Suriname reports the lowest level of significance (0 per cent of GNP).

Table 10: Basic data on international migration in Caribbean countries

Country	Stock of immigrants (2017)	Stock of immigrants (%)	Women immigrants (%)	Emigrants in principal countries	Principal countries of origin	Remittances Recieved (%of GNP)
	60.000	16	49.7	63.200	Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras	4.9
	15.500	2	46.5	488.300	Suriname, Brazil, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	7.5
	23.300	0.8	49.2	1.1 millones	United States., United Kingdom, Trinidad and Tobago	17.1
	12.900	7.2	49.5	54.800	Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, Guyana	1.9
	47.700	8.5	45.4	275.700	Guyana, Brazil, China	0

Source: Migration Data Portal (https://migrationdataportal.org; 01 December 2018.

3. Characteristics of the process for collecting and using administrative records on migration in the Caribbean countries

3.1 Introduction

This section presents the results of the study's electronic Survey, on-site visits to Jamaica, Guyana and St. Lucia and other secondary sources consulted. First, the text summarizes the most important findings of previous studies regarding the gathering, processing and use of administrative records related to migration. This is followed by an analysis of the Survey results, including practical recommendations that the countries may consider to improve the management of migration data and information.

This section does not attempt to assess the current situation with respect to each country's capacity to produce and use migration data. The objective is to describe

the principal characteristics of the systems for producing and using administrative records, in order to serve as a baseline for the next phases of the Project for Strengthening Production and Analysis of Regional Migration Data in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean and other horizontal cooperation initiatives in the near future.

3.2 Previous balance

Regarding administrative records on migration, border statistics (records of international entries and exits of persons) in the Caribbean are obtained from the Entry/Exit Cards administered and compiled at the airports and seaports. According to the interviews conducted for this study, the different ports of entry do not always use the same Entry/Exit

Card format nor the same computer systems for recording the data. Sometimes the problem is that the system is not functional at a given port and thus the data is not compiled. Besides the basic personal information for arriving passengers, the Card also contains data regarding age, sex, occupation, purpose of the visit, nationality, country of origin and stay duration. The Card's section corresponding to entry is collected by immigration officers at the airports and seaports upon passenger arrival. The exit section of the card is kept by the passenger, who surrenders same upon leaving the country (IOM, 2012; p. 250).

Labour migration data is obtained from a compilation of the labour programmes agreed upon among the Caribbean countries. One example of this type of programme is the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP) organized by the Canadian government, with the participants including Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Granada, Jamaica, San Cristobal and Nieves, St. Lucia, San Vicente and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago. Another example is the Temporary Agricultural Workers Program (H2-A) run by the United States Labour Department, with the participants including Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica, San Cristobal and Nieves, St. Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago (IOM, 2012; p. 240).

According to the *Rapid Assessment of the existing data collection structures in the field of migration in Latin America and some countries of the Caribbean* (IOM, 2012; p. 256), some of the principal challenges related to gathering, processing and using migration information in the Caribbean are as follows

• Regarding the exchange of information between the national entities responsible for producing international migration information in the Caribbean, generally there does not exist an integration or exchange mechanism to organize such efforts.

• In only three cases (Barbados, Guyana and St. Lucia), the national statistical office has access to entry and exit records, compiling and disseminating the information gathered by the Department of Immigration.

• The statistical offices handle entry/exit records for purposes of relating same to the data resulting from national population and housing censuses.

• Regarding labour migration data, these are compiled, analysed and disseminated through a joint effort between the Department of Immigration and the Department of Labour (in the case of Jamaica) and the Ministry of National Security Affairs and the Department of Labour (in the case of Trinidad and Tobago).

• In the countries that have data regarding CARICOM skills certifications, this information is shared among various ministries.

• The national results corresponding to data sources, such as entry/exit records or work or residency permits gathered by the Immigration and/or Customs Departments or the Labour Departments of the respective countries, are mainly accessible due to the compilation efforts of CARICOM.

• One of the principal challenges found when attempting to compile and compare international migration statistics in the Caribbean consists of the different definitions and migrant categories observed.

• Administrative records tend to be kept as general data and are rarely converted into statistical units or data that could be shared and analysed. Furthermore, such

records are not examined based on a consistent analytical methodology and are not updated in a timely manner.

3.3 Installed capacity for migration data management

As is the case with Central America and Mexico, in the Caribbean countries covered by this study, various organizations are involved in the gathering, processing, dissemination and use of administrative records on migration.[14] These organizations include the General Migration Directorates (GMDs),[15] police agencies, statistics and census offices or institutes, ministries or departments of the interior and tourism authorities. Nine such organizations from five Caribbean countries completed the Survey carried out as part of this study, with the distribution shown below.

3 Migration Directorates

3 Statistical Institutes

3 Ministries or Departments of the Interior

Of the organizations that responded to the Survey, 67 per cent directly gather migration-related administrative records.

Figure 6: Percentage of organizations that collect administrative data in the Caribbean
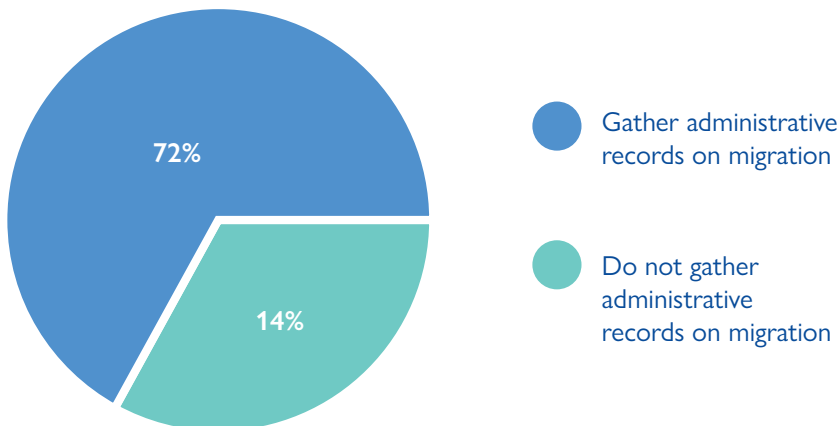
72%

14%

Gather administrative records on migration

Do not gather administrative records on migration

Source: Online Survey for the Regional Project to Strengthen the Production and Analysis of Information on Migrations in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean.

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[14] *This study covers the following Caribbean countries: Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia and Suriname.*
[15] *Depending on the specific country, these entities are called National Migration Institutes. This study uses the acronym GMD to refer generically to these entities.*

Other organizations that participate in the gathering and use of administrative records on migration in this subregion are:

- Institutions responsible for processing passports and citizenship.

- Civil registry institutions.

- Ministry of Justice.

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Labour Ministry

- Ministry of tourism.

- Police agencies.

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In Jamaica, different public entities related to the collection, processing and dissemination of migration data comprise the Data, Research and Information Systems Sub-Committee, one of four that make up the National Work Group on Immigration and Development (NWGIMD), a multi-sectoral body responsible for coordinating and overseeing implementation of the National Policy on International Migration and Development. The Sub-Committee has representatives from the Planning Institute of Jamaica, the Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA), the National Police, the Customs Department and the Jamaican Statistical Institute.

More information: www.mainstreamingmigration.org/country-overview/jamaica

The organizations in charge of international migration were asked about their capacity for managing administrative records, with respect to both the availability of human resources and the availability of technological resources for gathering and processing said records. The following table summarizes these capacities based on the responses received from the GMDs and other entities responsible for international migration.

Table 11: Capacities of the organizations responsible for international migration in the Caribbean

Resource	Status of the Entities Responsible for International Migration				
	Sufficient, Trained Personnel	**Sufficient Personnel, but not Fully Trained**	**Insufficient Personnel, but Well Trained**	**Insufficient, Untrained Personnel**	**Don't Know / No Answer**
	-	50%	-	17%	33%
	Have technological resources for gathering administrative records.	**Do not have sufficient technological resources, but are developing a proposal.**	**Do not have sufficient technological resources, but proposal is about to be approved.**	**Do not have technological resources.**	**Don't Know / No Answer**
	17%	33%	-	50%	-
	Have technological resources for gathering administrative records.	**Do not have sufficient technological resources, but are developing a proposal.**	**Do not have sufficient technological resources, but proposal is about to be approved.**	**Do not have technological resources.**	**Don't Know / No Answer**
	17%	-	-	83%	-

Source: Online Survey for the Regional Project to Strengthen the Production and Analysis of Information on Migrations in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean.

The Survey results confirm the need to train the existing GMD personnel and to significantly improve the level of technological resources for gathering and processing migration-related administrative records. As this capacity increases in the GMDs, the other entities that participate in the processing, dissemination and use of administrative records on migration will see their work facilitated. In other words, installed capacity at the GMDs directly affects the possibility of translating the data gathered based on migration-related administrative records into information that is relevant for decision-making purposes.

In this sense, the organizations were asked if they generate statistics derived or synthesized from their administrative records. 67 per cent

of the GMDs generate statistics, while the other 33 per cent do not. In the Caribbean countries visited during this study, it was confirmed that the generation of statistics is left to the statistics and census institutes or other entities such as national tourism agencies. The GMDs were also asked if they use administrative records gathered by other organizations. As shown in the figure below, the results show that there still exists ample opportunity for the GMDs in these countries to coordinate the exchange of migration-related administrative records with other public and private organizations, as the majority of the GMDs affirm that they do not use records gathered by other entities.

Figure 7: Production of statistics by the GMDs and other organizations in the Caribbean
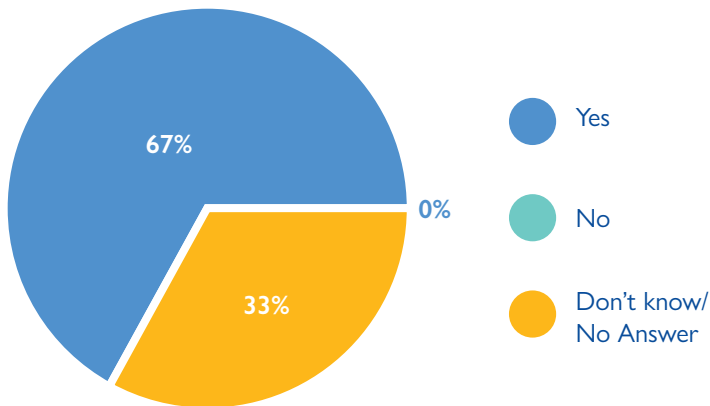
Source: Online Survey for the Regional Project to Strengthen the Production and Analysis of Information on Migrations in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean.

A similar situation is seen when the organizations are asked if they generate statistics from data complied by other organizations. 83 per cent of the GMDs do not generate statistics from data compiled by other entities, while the remaining 17 per cent do. Regarding this topic, the GMDs that receive records from other entities indicate that same tend to come from (in order of priority)

- Ministry of Security
- Labour Ministry
- National Police

- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- National Statistical and Census Institutes
- United States Consulate
- Canadian High Commission
- United Kingdom High Commission
- Ministry of Home Affairs; Civil Registry Office (CRO)

Recommendations

a) **Strengthen the existing national systems for compiling statistical data on migration.** Support the coordination of activities between statistical and census institutes, GMDs, other governmental entities and academia.

b) **Improve computing equipment and related infrastructure.** Ensure that the GMDs and other institutions responsible for managing migration information have proper and sufficient high-technology data processing hardware (such as laptop computers, intelligent telephones and tablets, among others) and implement efficient human resources with adequate training (e.g. in statistics, demographics and social matters).

c) **Strengthen the coverage of GMDs at the national level.** As the national structure formally responsible for gathering data, the GMDs should have the necessary capacity to fulfill the task of compiling migration data at the national level, without differences in procedures or capacities between the various border posts (seaports, airports and overland stations).

3.4 Types of data collected

The Caribbean countries covered by this study create various administrative records on migration. The organizations that responded to the Survey identified the data indicated below as those they tend to gather or use in the form of administrative records.

Table 12: Types of data collected in the Caribbean

Biographical Data	Data Regarding Migratory Status and/or Citizenship
Person's current address	Citizenship or nationality
Civil status	Data from passport or other travel document
Date of birth or age	Decisions on acquisition of nationality
Names of parents	Duration of validity of entry permit
Country of birth or origin	Identification of undocumented foreigners
Sex	Permits for employers to hire foreigners
Social and Economic Data	Exit permits for minors
	Work permits for foreigners
	Registry of nationals employed abroad
Employment or occupation	Registry of foreigners with permanent or temporary residency
Education level or profession	Registry of foreigners with temporary stay permits
Remittances	Registry of diaspora communities
Data on Migratory Movements	Registry of nationals studying abroad
	Registry of nationals readmitted at border stations
	Registry of refugee and asylum applications
Cases of denied entry	Work visas
Detention of undocumented foreigners and other migrants with irregular status	Visas issued in the country
Date of entry into country	Visas issued abroad
Date of exit from country	Visas issued in the country to foreigners
Nationals deported	
Nationals readmitted	
Nationals repatriated	
Nationals returned	
Orders for forced or involuntary return to the country of origin	
Country of previous residence	
Reason or purpose for trip	

Source: Online Survey for the Regional Project to Strengthen the Production and Analysis of Information on Migrations in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean.

Process for gathering and using administrative records

The organizations did not report administrative records related to: readmission along border zones; registry of foreigners in detention centres; student visas for foreigners; or the death or disappearance of foreigners. This creates the opportunity to coordinate with the applicable authorities joint effort procedures to record these types of data in the future.

Besides the administrative records generated by the GMDs and other public and private institutions, censuses and household, income and labour market surveys are increasingly found to include sections with questions related to migratory topics. This process seems to be taking place gradually in the Caribbean countries. The Survey asked the organizations in said countries as follows:

Are questions regarding migration included in national censuses or household/income surveys?

Yes 67%

Did not answer the question 33%

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The joint effort between the Guyana Bureau of Statistics and the Department of Immigration in processing data based on the Entry/Exit Cards is complemented by the sections of questions on migration included in the national census and household surveys. The Bureau's Department of Demographics and Social and Vital Statistics has seven staff members permanently assigned to process migration data obtained from administrative records, censuses and surveys.

Source: Interview with representative from the Guyana Bureau of Statistics.
More information: www.statisticsguyana.gov.gy/demo.html

The information generated from administrative records and other sources such as censuses and surveys is disaggregated by different variables. According to the Survey carried out for this study, the variables indicated below are the ones most commonly used by the GMDs in the Caribbean to disaggregate the information.

Figure 8: Variables used to disaggregate data in the Caribbean

- Sex
- Nationality
- Country of Birth
- Age
- Periodicity or Time Range
- Migratory Status
- Location of Border Station
- Education Level
- Country of Origin
- Border Station Type
- Income
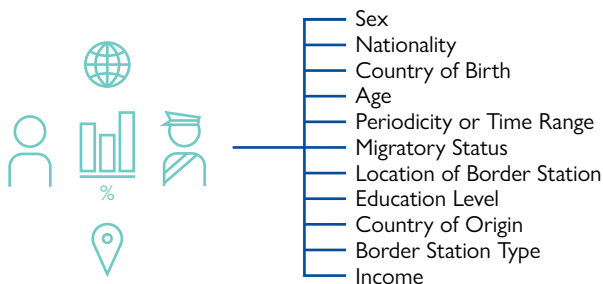
Regarding the procedure for creating migration-related administrative records, the Caribbean countries combine paper records with electronic formats. Instruments used for gathering administrative records include: forms (Entry/Exit Cards); Excel worksheets; computing systems; and cards. 25 per cent of the GMDs that responded to the Survey report using electronic records, while 50 per cent use both formats, as shown in the figure below.

Figure 9: Use of instruments to register administrative data in the Caribbean
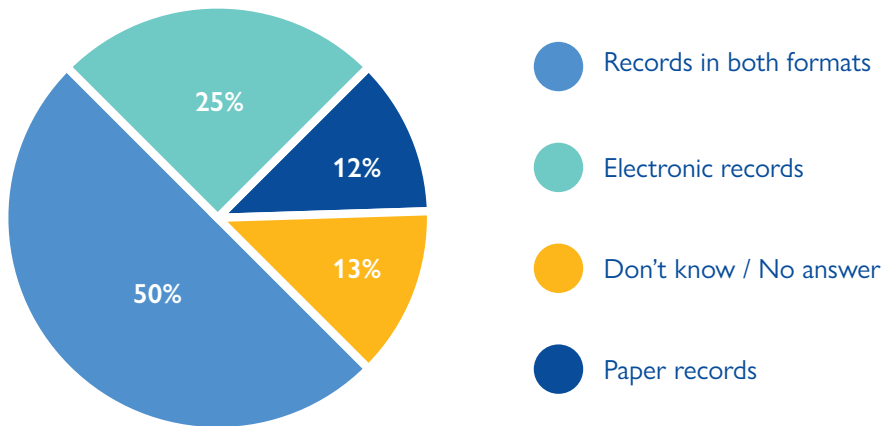
- Records in both formats
- Electronic records
- Don't know / No answer
- Paper records

Source: Online Survey for the Regional Project to Strengthen the Production and Analysis of Information on Migrations in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean.

Among the computerized systems used to manage administrative records, the GMDs report the Canadian Bank Note and the DEOAS. As in the case of Central America, the Caribbean countries point out the need to improve the degree of inter-operability between these systems and the computing systems used by other institutions in order to facilitate the flow of information and the dissemination of administrative records on migration.

The organizations were asked if their computer system used for entering administrative records on migration presents limitations. The limitations described below were reported by the GMDs:

- There are times when the airport system is operating properly, but the system at the cruise ship ports is not functioning. This can affect the accuracy of the entry and exit data.

- The computing system currently being used does not have the capacity to disaggregate migration data with the degree of detail desired.

- The hardware is obsolete and the software versions are not always the most current.

Recommendations

a) **Harmonize definitions of concepts and methodologies.** Encourage a common working framework so that GMD personnel and those from other institutions responsible for data gathering and processing share the same demographic, statistical and administrative definitions, in order to improve the comparability of the data between different countries and sources.

b) **Improve coordination among diverse sources of migration data.** Improve the structure of census data by, for example, introducing the variables needed for inter-census analysis (such as place of residence at the time of the previous census, etc.) and internal migration, particularly with respect to rural exodus. In addition, include sections focused on migration topics, with variables such as whether a person is a refugee and his/her reasons for returning, among others. Encourage the participation of GMD representatives in the technical committees that implement and follow up on surveys and censuses.

c) **Strengthen the link between the gather of data and the monitoring of migration and development indicators.** To that end, migration-specific surveys could be carried out periodically to better understand internal migration dynamics and the diaspora (disaggregated by sex, age, exit zone, host country, socio-professional category, education level and field, annual remittances, areas of investment, integration indicators, etc.) and provide decision-makers with data essential for the formulation of long-term policies.

3.5. Information security and quality

The capacity of the General Migration Directorates (GMDs) in the Caribbean countries to gather, process and use administrative records on migration varies due to several factors. One factor is the ability to store and process data securely and efficiently to guarantee the quality of the information generated. Besides the human and technological resources needed to enter migration-related administrative records, countries must have databases to store said records. 40 per cent of the GMDs reported not having databases, while the other 60 per cent reported having automated databases.

The GMDs were asked if their databases are stored on a server and if they observe security, back-up and recovery policies. The current conditions along those lines in the Caribbean countries covered by this study are indicated below.

43%		14%	43%
The database is stored on a server, and security, back-up, and recovery policies are observed.		The database is not stored on a server.	Did not answer the question.

Of the six GMDs from Caribbean countries that responded to the Survey, two update their database records on a daily basis, while one does so monthly (three did not answer the question). Now, to what extent does the availability of data based on administrative records allow the GMDs to prepare statistics on migration? The answer varies among the Caribbean countries. Most of them prepare statistics when so requested by another public or private entity. Four of the six GMDs that responded to the Survey prepare statistics on a monthly basis, two of the six also do so annually and two report also doing so for purposes of designing legislation or public policies.

Another topic surveyed among the GMDs has to do with the measures that should be adopted to improve the management of data based on administrative records. Such measures seek to ensure that the databases function correctly and allow the preparation of reliable statistics. In this sense, most of the GMDs from the Caribbean countries report not having adopted measures during the last five years to improve data management. Only one of the six GMDs that responded to the Survey indicated that it was working with the national statistics office to improve data handling.

The GMDs were also asked if they had adopted measures during the last five years to improve the statistics prepared based on migration-related administrative records. None of the GMDs reported having adopted such measures, which suggests the need to work with these entities to review the procedures

they use for data gathering, processing and dissemination. To that end, there exist various guides and stan-dards published by international bodies to help countries improve the quality of their administrative records on migration, as well as the rigor and comparability of the statistical data generated from same.

Along these lines, only one organization from one of the five Caribbean countries covered by this study reported having used this type of guides [the Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration (Revision 1), published by the Statistics Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) in 1998]. This reality contrasts with the situation in Central America and Mexico, where the GMDs reported having used various international guides and standards.

The preceding allows the assumption that challenges still exist in the Caribbean that can affect the quality of the information generated from administrative records on migration. The GMDs that responded to the question related to challenges to statistical data gathering, processing and dissemination identified the following as the principal challenges:

- Limited capacities of the GMDs.

- Uncoordinated efforts among the different public entities responsible for migration.

- Limited knowledge regarding data storage and processing.

- Diversity of data-gathering procedures

among seaports, airports and overland border posts.

• Need for software and trained personnel for information processing and analysis.

• Incomplete or illegible forms that affect information capture.

• Inadequate or limited computing equipment.

• Limited data analysis capacity.

• Limited information storage capacity.

• Lack of information on relevant topics.

• Inability to obtain appropriate data gathering, processing and analysis software.

GOOD PRACTICE!

One important example of the effect of regional organization efforts with respect to migration information systems is the case of Guyana, where the **Management Information System for Tourism** (MIST) was implemented in 2008 (replacing the previous Tourism Information System) to capture data and manage the entry of tourists into the country. According to representatives from the Guyana Tourism Authority interviewed for this study, MIST has been updated with an improved version. The system was originally developed through the Caribbean Tourism Organization and records all non-personal information from the Entry/Exit Card during the days following the traveller's arrival. This system is now being used in Guyana and thus the arrival data for all foreign passengers can be analysed according to nationality, age, commercial area, transport mode, trip purpose, occupation and other relevant categories (IOM, 2012; p. 251). Officials from the Saint Lucia Tourist Board report that they use the same system. This may mean that all CTO Member States are also using it.

Process for gathering and using administrative records

Recommendations

a) **Develop secure databases.** Assist the data-gathering entities that still do not have databases to establish same and encourage adoption of the mechanisms needed for inter-connection so that the databases may be accessible and useful to users.

b) **Organize a permanent data-gathering system.** Ensure that all overland border stations, airports and seaports have the necessary capacity to gather data effectively. Increase the number of border control posts to guarantee nationwide coverage and strengthen cross-border coordination.

c) **Strengthen intraregional cooperation related to the exchange of migration information.** Develop regional standards for migration statistics gathering and analysis, information exchange and good practices. Improve national systems for exchanging emigrant data with host countries through the establishment of agreements and/or associations.

3.6 Information Dissemination

As in Central America and Mexico, the General Migration Directorates (GMD) in the Caribbean gather and process administrative records on migration with varying levels of capacity. Now, to what extent do these and other public and private organizations disseminate the information generated?

How do the statistical data translate into relevant information for decision-making? According to the Survey carried out for this study, only one of the organizations reports not disseminating the information it gathers, while the other five GMDs do so. To that end, they use a wide range of communication instruments, with the main ones being shown below in order of use.

Table 13: Instruments used for the dissemination of statistical data in the Caribbean

Not Used	Used Infrequently	Used Regurlarly	Used Frequently
Infographs Social networks	Newsletters Annual statistical	Official website Annual reports	Notes in response to specific requests Official reports and research

The organizations were asked if they share migration-related administrative records with other public entities, such as Ministries, Congress or Parliament, governmental agencies and local governments, among others. 67 per cent of the organizations that responded to the Survey indicated that they share administrative records with other public entities, while 16 per cent do not and 17 per cent did not answer the question. The frequency with which they share this information varies from one country to another, with the most cited being shown below in order of importance.

Table 14: Frequency of data distribution in the Caribbean
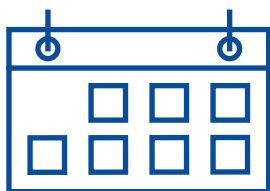
1. When requested by a public or private entity.

2. Annually.

3. When requested for academic research.

4. To influence the design of public policies or legislation.

5. Quarterly.

In the Caribbean countries covered by this study, the issue of international migration is significantly related to national security. In this sense, the organizations were asked if they share information gathered from migration-related administrative records with entities responsible for justice, security, or law enforcement in their country. Most of the GMDs (67 per cent) do share this information with said entities, as shown in the figure below.

Figure 10: Percentage of organizations that share data with justice and security entities in the Caribbean
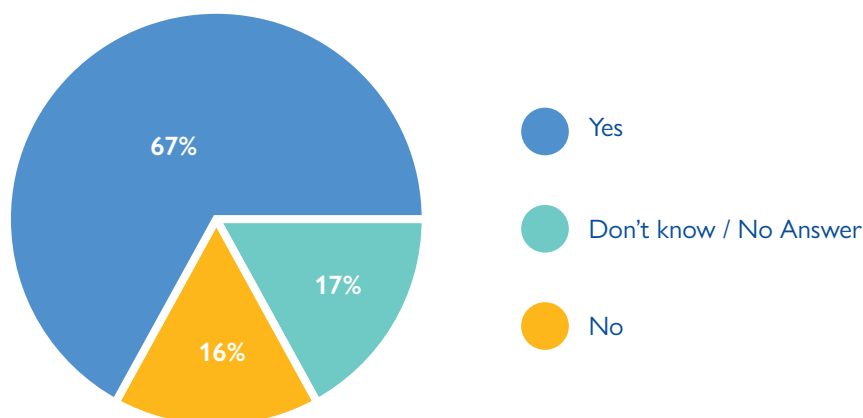
67%

17%

16%

Yes

Don't know / No Answer

No

Source: Online Survey for the Regional Project to Strengthen the Production and Analysis of Information on Migrations in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean.

83 per cent of the GMDs that responded to the Survey report that they do not receive the migration-related administrative records gathered by other entities, while 17 per cent do. This situation is very similar to that reported in Central America. This suggests the need to strengthen the exchange of information between GMDs and other national and international public entities.

Some Caribbean countries are making progress in acknowledging the phenomenon of international migration as a multi-dimensional one that goes beyond aspects related to national security. This acknowledgement, however, still is not formally expressed in their institutional frameworks. The exception to this trend is Jamaica's Group on International Migration and Development (NWGIMD). The countries were asked if they have an inter-institutional committee or commission that encourages cooperation in the gathering, exchange, improvement and use of migration records. Only one of the five countries

has this type of institutional mechanism for dialogue and joint efforts related to migration.

Finally, the Caribbean organizations were asked about the principal users of the information they generate. Although the answers vary from one country to another, the organizations that responded to the Survey indicated that that main users are those shown below (in order of importance).

Table 15: Main users of statistical data in the Caribbean

- 1. Other public entities.
- 2. Units or departments within the institution.
- 3. Regional and multi-lateral organizations.
- 4. Universities and research centres.

To encourage greater use of the information and to have new actors (e.g. private businesses) value the usefulness of migration data, the countries identified the following challenges:

1. Create an electronic infrastructure to facilitate online applications that allow easy access to data within each GMD and for the partners involved in the national development planning process.

2. Design a system compatible with existing databases.

3. Train personnel so they are aware of the value of the information being processed, so that they may assist in the preliminary analysis of same as frontline users.

4. Create more electronic databases to capture more information for purposes of internal planning verification and auditing.

5. Build national capacities for designing and producing a systematic body of migration statistics based on administrative data, using all the national sources available.

6. Raise awareness among all stakeholders regarding the importance of migration data and its compilation, so that all may help facilitate the process.

7. Improve GMD access to best practices they can adopt same with respect to data compilation, processing and dissemination.

8. Improve software for better data manipulation.

9. Acquire data-entry hardware and software for remote areas.

10. Acquire data-dissemination hardware and software in order to research and disaggregate data in a more timely and accurate manner.

11. Improve the capacity for working with other governmental entities so that the information needed may be correctly compiled and stored.

12. Reduce the existing data gaps.

13. Train personnel in the gathering, management, analysis and dissemination of data according to international directives and best practices, in order to help standardize processes and the migration statistics produced.

Recommendations

a) **Maintain the momentum of the migration-related topics on the national development agenda.** To that end, it is necessary to have a technical exchange platform by organizing periodic meetings of all entities involved in the gathering, processing, dissemination and use of migration data, including topics related to the economic importance of migration to development.

b) **Plan thematic workshops to disseminate information relevant to migration.** Share with various public stakeholders the results of research, institutional reports and other products of data gathering and processing. Hold consultation workshops among producers and users of migration data to improve colaboration and establish proper conditions for accessing and using same.

c) **Promote the dissemination and use of recent publications related to migration.** When bibliographical references are available, it is important to distribute them among the greatest number of public and private actors possible, through publication on accessible websites and production of policy summaries (one- or two-page illustrated flyers that highlight specific aspects) to be widely disseminated among local communications media (newspapers, radio stations, etc.).

d) **Ensure that data-producing organizations have the necessary financial resources and input for data processing, analysis and dissemination.** Guarantee resources to maintain a user-friendly website (for example, secure databases and technical capacity).

CHAPTER 5

Potential use of administrative records to measure progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Chapters 3 and 4 confirm that the Central American countries, Mexico and the Caribbean are making progress (with differing degrees of capacity) in developing institutional capacities for gathering, processing, disseminating and using migration-related administrative records. Although this progress is important, it is clear that many of these countries still need to build a series of capacities to fully exploit the information they generate. In 2013 the IOM published the report Migration and the United Nations Agenda for Development after 2015, in preparation for the second round of the United National High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, sponsored by the UN General Assembly. The contributions included in said report describe the different manners in which migration can contribute to development and discuss how migration can be more effectively included on the United Nations development agenda after 2015.

The inclusion of migration on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has important implications for the compiling of migration data. The improvement of migration statistics, which used to focus exclusively on statistical aspects, has now become a priority for responsible politicians and planners at the national, regional and global levels. The SDGs include an objective specifically focused on migration (10.7) that calls on countries to 'facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.' Besides this specific objective, there are other objectives related to migration, including Objective 3c (retention of healthcare workers in developing countries), Objective 4b (awarding of scholarships for study abroad), Objectives 5.2, 8.7 and 16.2 (combating trafficking in persons), Objective 8.8 (observance of labour standards for migrant workers), Objective 10c (reduction of the cost of sending remittances) and Objective 17.18 (disaggregation of data by migratory status) (GMG, 2017). '

A third group of objectives, although they don't specifically refer to migration, are those that have an impact on migration or on migrants themselves, not only for the objective of disaggregating data by migratory status. Examples include objectives related to poverty reduction, education, health and peaceful societies. The commitment of the 2030 Agenda that "no one will be left behind" has implications for migration data collection and use: responsible politicians and statistical information producers can no longer use only average indicators. The intent of the 2030 Agenda is that, by disaggregating data by migratory status, policymakers, civil society and the general public may monitor the progress made towards achieving the SDGs and the goals for migrants and non-migrants, which will allow the relative success of national development programs to be evaluated (GMG, 2017).

The report Improving Migration Data in the Context of the 2030 Agenda was published in 2017 by the United Nations Expert Group on Improving Migration Data in the Context of the 2030 Agenda. This document affirms that the new global development framework and the growing attention to migration as a global problem pose significant challenges for national statistics offices and the international statistical community in order to satisfy the enormous demands of migration and the statistics related thereto. In this context, there is an urgent need to implement existing statistical standards, refine the new concepts related to migration, exploit traditional data sources and explore innovative means for compiling data in order to produce the data needed to monitor the SDGs. To that end, the Statistics Division of the United Nations, in colaboration with the Population Division and the International Organization for Migration, organized the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Improving Migration Data in the Context of the 2030 Agenda. The Meeting discussed how 'migratory status' can be

defined in the context of the disaggregation of SDG data, identified the SDG indicators directly related to international migration and those to be disaggregated by migratory status and evaluated the data requisites for said indicators, besides identifying shortfalls in methodologies and proposing strategies for overcoming such gaps, including the use of innovative methodologies and non-traditional data sources.

1. Self-evaluation exercise: examples of potential use of administrative records for monitoring progress towards the SDGs

To exemplify the potential use of administrative records for SDG monitoring and follow-up, the tables below list a series of administrative records gathered by two of the countries participating in the Regional Project to Strengthen the Production and Analysis of Information on Migrations in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean, to wit: Costa Rica and Jamaica. These countries were selected because they represent different capacity levels that exist in Central America and the Caribbean for collecting, processing, disseminating and using migration data.

The first column includes the topics suggested in the Manual for Improving the Production and Use of Migration Data for Development of the Global Migration Group (GMG, 2017). The second column (Recommended Indicator) includes the indicator(s) recommended by the GMG for proper analysis of the respective suggested topic. The third column indicates the specific record generated by the country's entity responsible for migration control. The fourth column indicates which 2030 Agenda specific goal may potentially be monitored with that indicator(s). The shaded cells indicate information gaps based on the information identified to date. The fact that a cell is shaded does not imply that the indicator does not exist or is not generated by

another producer of migration information. These tables focus only on the administrative records generated by regular migration and managed by the country's entity responsible for migration control.

It is proposed that these tables be used as a self-evaluation exercise by each country in order to verify which indicators and data exist in the country that can generate information to complete the shaded cells, or even which other indicators may complement those suggested topics if such indicators currently exist.

COSTA RICA

Topic	Recommended indicator	DGME Costa Rica[16]	Related SDG goal
Labour-Related Reasons for Migrating	Age	Entries and exits disaggregated by sex, nationality, age and migratory category.	10.7 17.18
	Sex	Entries and exits disaggregated by sex, nationality, age and migratory category.	10.7 17.18
	Occupation	Current Occupation - Entry/Exit Card (TIE)	8.8
	Education Level		
	Economic Activity		
	Labour Status		
	Working Conditions (formal *or informal; schedule; salary)*		
	Reasons for Migrating	Reason for Trip (personal inter-view) - Entry/Exit Card (TIE)	10.7

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[16] DGME: General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners.

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Topic	Recommended indicator	DGME Costa Rica[16]	Related SDG goal
Education-Related Reasons for Migrating	Sex	Entries and exits disaggregated by sex, nationality, age and migratory category.	10.7 17.18
	Migratory Status	General Registry of foreigners authorized to stay in the country.	10.7 17.18
	Nationality	Entry/Exit of Costa Ricans and Foreigners by Border Post and Nationality (name, first surname, travel document number, date of birth, nationality and sex)	10.7
	Ethnic Origin		
	Socioeconomic Conditions		
	Number of Scholarships, Subsidies, or Loans Assigned		
	Destination Country	Destination Country - Entry/Exit Card (TIE)	10.7
	Country of Origin	Country of Birth - Entry/Exit Card	10.7
	Type of Study Program		

Topic	Recommended indicator	DGME Costa Rica[16]	Related SDG goal
Humane Reasons for Migrating (Refugees, Asylum Seekers and State-less Persons)	Date of Birth	Entries and exits disaggregated by sex, nationality, age and migratory category.	10.7 17.18
	Arrival Date	Arrival Date - Entry/Exit Card (TIE)	10.7
	Departure Date	Departure Date - Entry/Exit Card (TIE)	10.7
	Migratory Status	Registry of Restricted and Refugee Visas	10.7
		Stay Applications by Migratory Category and Sub-Category	10.7
	Individual Record		
	Current Location		
	Education Level		
	Identity Document	Travel Document - Entry/Exit Card (TIE)	10.7
	Photograph	Travel Document - Entry/Exit Card (TIE)	10.7
	Name	Entry/Exit of Costa Ricans and Foreigners by Border Post and Nationality (name, first surname, travel document number, date of birth, nationality and sex)	10.7 17.18
	Sex	Entries and exits disaggregated by sex, nationality, age and migratory category.	10.7 17.18
	Age	Entries and exits disaggregated by sex, nationality, age and migratory category.	10.7 17.18
	Civil Status		
	Protection Needs		

Topic	Recommended indicator	DGME Costa Rica[16]	Related SDG goal
	Occupation	Current Occupation - Entry/Exit Card (TIE)	8.8
	Family Size and Composition		
	Place of Origin	Country of Birth - Entry/Exit Card (TIE)	10.7
Remittances	Aggregate Remittance Flow		
	Magnitude of Remittance Flows		
	by Migration Corridor		
	Cost to Send		
	Amount Sent by Price		
Labour Market	Number of Migrant Workers		
	Labour Migration Composition		
	Country of Origin	Country of Birth - Entry/Exit Card (TIE)	10.7
	Destination Country	Entries and exits disaggregated by sex, nationality, age and migratory category.	10.7
	Transit Country	Entry/Exit of Costa Ricans and Foreigners by Border Post and Nationality (name, first surname, travel document number, date of birth, nationality and sex)	10.7 17.18
	Transit Country		
	Arrival Date	Arrival Date - Entry/Exit Card	10.7
	Departure Date	Departure Date - Entry/Exit Card	10.7

Topic	Recommended indicator	DGME Costa Rica[16]	Related SDG goal
	Migrants Who Return to Country of Origin	Entry/Exit of Costa Ricans and Foreigners by Border Post and Nationality (name, first surname, travel document number, date of birth, nationality and sex)	10.7 17.18
	Number of Migrants in Transit		
	Migrant Workers as Percentage		
	of National Workforce		
	Migrant Workers in Workforce by Reason for Leaving: Emigration; Retirement; Death		
	Labour Status of Returning or Transitting Migrants	Current Occupation - Entry/Exit Card (TIE)	8.8
	Proportion of Migrant Workers by Economic Activity		
	Proportion of Migrant Workers in Informal Sector		
	Type and Duration of Migrant Worker Contracts		
	Labour Market Structure by Economic Activity		
	Mechanisms for Creating and Elimination Employment Positions		

Topic	Recommended indicator	DGME Costa Rica[16]	Related SDG goal
	Training and Skills Development Programs		
	Education Level		
	Contribution of Migration to Economic Development		
	Contribution of Migration to National Tax System		
	Percentage of Migrants		
	Covered by Social Security		
Migration, Commerce and Development	Nostalgic Commerce		
	Tourism Services	Reason for Trip (personal interview) - Entry/Exit Card (TIE)	10.7
	Commercial Flow of Products from Country of Origin		
	Number of Agreements for Mutual Recognition of Qualifications and/or Experience		
	Number of Agreements to Facilitate Visa Issuance	Stay Applications by Migratory Category and Sub-Category	10.7
	Number of Agreements to Expedite Recruiting Processes		

Topic	Recommended indicator	DGME Costa Rica[16]	Related SDG goal
Intellectual Property and Mobility of Specialized Workers	Name	Entry/Exit of Costa Ricans and Foreigners by Border Post and Nationality (name, first surname, travel document number, date of birth, nationality and sex)	10.7 17.18
	Arrival Date	Arrival Date - Entry/Exit Card	10.7
	Departure Date	Departure Date - Entry/Exit Card	10.7
	Occupation	Current Occupation - Entry/Exit Card (TIE)	8.8
	Country of Origin	Country of Birth - Entry/Exit Card	10.7
Health	Country of Origin	Country of Birth - Entry/Exit Card	10.7
	Duration of Residency		
	Arrival Date	Arrival Date - Entry/Exit Card	10.7
	Departure Date	Departure Date - Entry/Exit Card	10.7 17.18
	Migratory Status	Stay Applications by Migratory Category and Sub-Category	10.7 17.18
	Nationality	Entry/Exit of Costa Ricans and Foreigners by Border Post and Nationality (name, first surname, travel document number, date of birth, nationality and sex)	
	Ethnic Origin		8.8
	Access to Health Services		
	Illnesses		
	Health Conditions		

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Topic	Recommended indicator	DGME Costa Rica[16]	Related SDG goal
Education	Migratory Status	Stay Applications by Migratory Category and Sub-Category	10.7
	Sex	Entries and exits disaggregated by sex, nationality, age and migratory category.	10.7 17.18
	Age	Entries and exits disaggregated by sex, nationality, age and migratory category.	10.7 17.18
	Education Level of Parents		
	Occupation	Current Occupation - Entry/Exit Card (TIE)	8.8
	Ethnic Origin		
	Type of Family		
	Religion		
	Linguistic Identity		
	Student Socioeconomic Status		
	Current Location		
	Enrollment by Education Level		
	Exclusion Index		
	(Drop-Out Rate)		
	Years of Schooling		
	Educational Results by Education Level		
	Discriminatory Attitudes		
	Number of Racist and Bullying Incidents		
	Number of Scholarships and Loans		

Process for gathering and using administrative records

Topic	Recommended indicator	DGME Costa Rica[16]	Related SDG goal
Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Management	Relative Emigration Percentage from Areas Affected by Disasters (including permanent, temporary, partial, internal and international migrations)		
	Demographic Trends of PersonsWho Reside in High-Risk Zones		
	Effects of Incentives or Enforced Actions for Planned Relocation out of High-Risk Zones		
	Percentage of Households at Risk of Resource Scarcity		
	Resource Flows from Migrants (Financial, Human, Remittances) Channeled for Reconstruction		
	Percentage of Spontaneous or Sustainable Returns of Displaced Persons		
Migrant Human Rights	Laws that Establish Equal Rights to Education Regardless of Migratory or Residency Status		

Topic	Recommended indicator	DGME Costa Rica[16]	Related SDG goal
	Proportion of Migrants Enrolled in Educational Centres, Disaggregated by Migratory or Residency Status, Sex, Nationality, Nationality of Parents, Place of Residence, Duration of Residency and Socioeconomic Status		
	Percentage of Migrant Children and Adolescents Who Attend and Conclude Mandatory Education, Disaggregated by Migratory or Residency Status, Age, Sex, Ethnic Origin, Nationality, Nationality of Parents, Place of Residence and Duration of Residency		
	Legal Recognition of Migrant Rights to Healthcare, Including Scope, Based on Types of Healthcare Services, Migratory or Residency Status and Place of Residence		

Topic	Recommended indicator	DGME Costa Rica[16]	Related SDG goal
	Mortality Rate, Life Expectancy and Prevalence of Illnesses, Disaggregated by Migratory or Residency Status, Age, Sex, Ethnic Origin, Nationality, Nationality of Parents, Place of Residence, Duration of Residency and Specific Illness		
Women	Sex (data disaggregated by sex)	Entries and exits disaggregated by sex, nationality, age and migratory category.	10.7 17.18
	Labour Sector	Current Occupation - Entry/Exit Card (TIE)	8.8
	Migratory Status	Stay Applications by Migratory Category and Sub-Category	10.7
	Destination Country	Entries and exits disaggregated by sex, nationality, age and migratory category.	10.7 17.18
	Country of Origin	Country of Birth - Entry/Exit Card (TIE)	10.7
	Participation of Women Migrants in National Workforce		
	Women Migrants in Formal Sector of the Economy		
	Women Migrants in Informal Sector of the Economy		
	Salary of Domestic Workers		

Process for gathering and using administrative records

Topic	Recommended indicator	DGME Costa Rica[16]	Related SDG goal
	Salary in Entertainment Services Sector		
	Weekly Work Hours		
	Access to Healthcare Services		
	Access to Social Security		
	Domestic Violence Rate		
	Age	Entries and exits disaggregated by sex, nationality, age and migratory category.	10.7
	Access to Justice		
	Acts of Violence for Cultural Reasons		
	Proportion of Women in Total Population		
	Number of Recruited Women Migrants in the Workforce	Stay Applications by Migratory Category and Sub-Category	10.7
	Undocumented Women Migrants		
	Female Employment Rate		
	Education Level		
	Women Migrant Workers by Season	Stay Applications by Migratory Category and Sub-Category	10.7
	Access to Pension		
	Access to Unemployment Insurance		
Underage Female Migrants	Number of Underage Female Migrants	Entries and exits disaggregated by sex, nationality, age and migratory category.	10.7 17.18

Topic	Recommended indicator	DGME Costa Rica[16]	Related SDG goal
	Migratory Status	Stay Applications by Migratory Category and Sub-Category	10.7
	Country of Origin	Country of Birth - Entry/Exit Card	10.7
	Reasons for Migrating	Reason for Trip (personal interview) - Entry/Exit Card (TIE)	10.7 17.18
	Duration of Residency		
	Arrival Date	Arrival Date - Entry/ Exit Card	10.7
Trafficking in Persons	Number of Cases of Trafficking in Persons		

JAMAICA

Topic	Recommended indicator	PICA - Jamaica[17]	Related SDG goal
Labour-Related Reasons for Migrating	Age	Date of Birth	10.7 17.18
	Sex	Sex	10.7 17.18
	Occupation	Occupation	8.8
	Education Level		
	Economic Activity		
	Labour Status	Work Permit	8.8
	Working Conditions (formal or informal; schedule; salary)		
	Reasons for Migrating	Reason for Stay (diplomatic, work permit, unconditional arrival, visitor, student, permanent resident, other)	10.7

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[17] PICA: Passport, Immigration & Citizenship Agency.

Topic	Recommended indicator	PICA - Jamaica[17]	Related SDG goal
Education-Related Reasons for Migrating	Sex	Sex	10.7 17.18
	Migratory Status	Visa Number, Type and Expiration Date	10.7 17.18
	Nationality	Nationality	10.7 17.18
	Ethnic Origin		
	Socioeconomic Conditions		
	Number of Scholarships, Subsidies, or Loans Assigned		
	Destination Country		
	Country of Origin	Address Abroad	10.7
	Type of Study Program		
Humane Reasons for Migrating (Refugees, Asylum Seekers and State-less Persons)	Date of Birth	Date of Birth	10.7 17.18
	Arrival Date	Arrival Date	10.7
	Departure Date	Departure Date	10.7
	Migratory Status	Visa Number, Type and Expiration Date	10.7 17.18
	Individual Record		
	Current Location	Address, Phone Number and Email Address in Jamaica	10.7
	Education Level		
	Identity Document	Passport Number and Type	10.7
	Photograph	Passport Number and Type	10.7
	Name	First and Middle Names	10.7 17.18
	Sex	Sex	10.7 17.18

Topic	Recommended indicator	PICA - Jamaica[17]	Related SDG goal
	Age	Date of Birth	10.7 17.18
	Civil Status	Civil Status	10.7
	Protection Needs		
	Occupation	Occupation	8.8
	Family Size and Composition		
	Place of Origin	Address Abroad	10.7
Remittances	Aggregate Remittance Flow		
	Magnitude of Remittance Flows by Migratory Corridor		
	Cost to Send		
	Amount Sent by Price		
Labour Market	Number of Migrant Workers	Work Permit	8.8
	Labour Migration Composition	Work Permit	8.8
	Country of Origin	Address Abroad	10.7
	Destination Country		
	Transit Country		
	Transit Country		
	Arrival Date	Arrival Date	10.7
	Departure Date	Departure Date	10.7
	Migrants Who Return to Country of Origin	Address Abroad	10.7 17.18
	Number of Migrants in Transit		
	Migrant Workers as Percentage		
	of National Workforce	Work Permit	8.8

Process for gathering and using administrative records

Topic	Recommended indicator	PICA - Jamaica[17]	Related SDG goal
	Migrant Workers in Workforce by Reason for Leaving: Emigration; Retirement; Death		
	Labour Status of Returning or Transitting Migrants	Work Permit	8.8
	Proportion of Migrant Workers by Economic Activity		
	Proportion of Migrant Workers in Informal Sector		
	Type and Duration of Migrant Worker Contracts		
	Labour Market Structure by Economic Activity		
	Mechanisms for Creating and Elimination Employment Positions		
	Training and Skills Development Programs		
	Education Level		
	Contribution of Migration to Economic Development		
	Contribution of Migration to National Tax System		
	Percentage of Migrants		
	Covered by Social Security		

Topic	Recommended indicator	PICA - Jamaica[17]	Related SDG goal
Migration, Commerce and Development	Nostalgic Commerce		
	Tourism Services	Reason for Stay (diplomatic, work permit, unconditional arrival, visitor, student, permanent resident, other)	10.7 17.18
	Commercial Flow of Products from Country of Origin		
	Number of Agreements for Mutual Recognition of Qualifications and/ or Experience		
	Number of Agreements to Facilitate Visa Issuance		
	Number of Agreements to Expedite Recruiting Processes		
Intellectual Property and Mobility of Specialized Workers	Name	First and Second Names	10.7 17.18
	Arrival Date	Arrival Date	10.7
	Departure Date	Departure Date	10.7
	Occupation	Occupation	8.8
	Country of Origin	Address Abroad	10.7
Health	Country of Origin	Address Abroad	10.7
	Duration of Residency		
	Arrival Date	Arrival Date	10.7
	Departure Date	Departure Date	10.7
	Migratory Status	Visa Number, Type and Expiration Date	10.7 17.18
	Nationality	Nationality	10.7 17.18
	Ethnic Origin		

Topic	Recommended indicator	PICA - Jamaica[17]	Related SDG goal
	Access to Health Services		
	Illnesses		
	Health Conditions		
Education	Migratory Status	Visa Number, Type and Expiration Date	10.7 17.18
	Sex	Sex	10.7 17.18
	Age	Date of Birth	10.7 17.18
	Education Level of Parents		
	Occupation	Occupation	8.8
	Ethnic Origin		
	Type of Family		
	Religion		
	Linguistic Identity		
	Student Socioeconomic Status		
	Current Location	Address, Phone Number and Email Address in Jamaica	10.7
	Enrollment by Education Level		
	Exclusion Index (Drop-Out Rate)		
	Years of Schooling		
	Educational Results by Education Level		
	Discriminatory Attitudes		
	Number of Racist and Bullying Incidents		
	Number of Scholarships and Loans		

Process for gathering and using administrative records

Topic	Recommended indicator	PICA - Jamaica[17]	Related SDG goal
Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Management	Relative Emigration Percentage from Areas Affected by Disasters (including permanent, temporary, partial, internal and international migrations)		
	Demographic Trends of Persons Who Reside in High-Risk Zones		
	Effects of Incentives or Enforced Actions for Planned Relocation out of High-Risk Zones		
	Percentage of Households at Risk of Resource Scarcity		
	Resource Flows from Migrants (Financial, Human, Remittances) Channeled for Reconstruction		
	Percentage of Spontaneous or Sustainable Returns of Displaced Persons		
Migrant Human Rights	Laws that Establish Equal Rights to Education Regardless of Migratory or Residency Status		

Topic	Recommended indicator	PICA - Jamaica[17]	Related SDG goal
	Proportion of Migrants Enrolled in Educational Centres, Disaggregated by Migratory or Residency Status, Sex, Nationality, Nationality of Parents, Place of Residence, Duration of Residency and Socioeconomic Status		
	Percentage of Migrant Children and Adolescents Who Attend and Conclude Mandatory Education, Disaggregated by Migratory or Residency Status, Age, Sex, Ethnic Origin, Nationality, Nationality of Parents, Place of Residence and Duration of Residency		
	Legal Recognition of Migrant Rights to Healthcare, Including Scope, Based on Types of Healthcare Services, Migratory or Residency Status and Place of Residence		

Topic	Recommended indicator	PICA - Jamaica[17]	Related SDG goal
	Mortality Rate, Life Expectancy and Prevalence of Illnesses, Disaggregated by Migratory or Residency Status, Age, Sex, Ethnic Origin, Nationality, Nationality of Parents, Place of Residence, Duration of Residency and Specific Illness		
Women	Sex (data disaggregated by sex)	Sex	10.7 17.18
	Labour Sector	Work Permit	8.8
	Migratory Status	Visa Number, Type and Expiration Date	10.7 17.18
	Destination Country		
	Country of Origin		
	Participation of Women Migrants in National Workforce		
	Women Migrants in Formal Sector		
	of the Economy		
	Women Migrants in Informal		
	Sector of the Economy		
	Salary of Domestic Workers		
	Salary in Entertainment Services Sector		
	Weekly Work Hours		
	Access to Healthcare Services		
	Access to Social Security		

Topic	Recommended indicator	PICA - Jamaica[17]	Related SDG goal
	Domestic Violence Rate		
	Age	Date of Birth	10.7
	17.18		
	Access to Justice		
	Acts of Violence for Cultural Reasons		
	Proportion of Women in Total Population		
	Number of Recruited Women Migrants in the Workforce		
	Undocumented Women Migrants		
	Female Employment Rate		
	Education Level		
	Women Migrant Workers by Season		
	Access to Pension		
	Access to Unemployment Insurance		
Underage Female Migrants	Number of Underage Female Migrants		
	Migratory Status	Visa Number, Type and Expiration Date	10.7 17.18
	Country of Origin		
	Reasons for Migrating	Reason for Stay (diplomatic, work permit, unconditional arrival, visi-tor, student, permanent resident, other)	110.7 17.18
	Duration of Residency		

Topic	Recommended indicator	PICA - Jamaica[17]	Related SDG goal
	Arrival Date	Arrival Date	10.7
Trafficking in Persons	Number of Cases of Trafficking in Persons		

CHAPTER 6
## Conclusions and Recommendations

- This study has characterized the processes for gathering and using administrative records on migration in twelve countries of Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean and has explained their potential use for following-up on the Sustainable Development Goals. This Report has presented an analysis of the information gathered during the field phase (from the Survey distributed among organizations from the twelve countries and other secondary information sources consulted), in order to establish a baseline of the characteristics of the migration information production systems in each region (Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean). In addition, good practices have been identified, as well as those areas that require support to maximize their potential.

- It has been concluded that the process of gathering migration data shows varying levels of progress among the regions' countries, due to factors of an institutional, economic, political and social nature. Some of the countries from these regions have high-quality administrative record information systems with solid security standards. Regarding data dissemination, there are websites that present information in a fairly complete, clear and precise manner. The findings of previous studies (particularly IOM, 2012) are confirmed, however, in the sense that the current migration information systems seem to be designed to improve and/or keep accounts for the migration control services, but not for statistical purposes, as their principal function is administrative. This explains, to a certain extent, the limited articulation with statistics and census institutes in most countries covered by this study and, consequently, the limited use of the generated data and information for developing evidence-based migration policies.

- To summarize, although various studies focused on the generation and processing of migration-related administrative records acknowledge the progress attained by countries in that respect, an analysis of the information obtained from the electronic Survey and on-site visits confirms several aspects that justify horizontal cooperation actions within the framework of the Regional Project to Strengthen the Production and Analysis of Information on Migrations in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean. These aspects are described below.

- It is crucial to update the previous studies regarding migration information systems in Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean. The Rapid Assessment of the existing data collection structures in the field of migration in Latin America and some countries of the Caribbean (IOM, 2012) is probably the most complete study on this topic, but it is based on information produced seven years ago, some of which may have varied since then. An articulated effort needs to be carried out between the countries and inter-national cooperation agencies to contribute to updating said information and offer a more current panorama regarding the processes for generating administrative records on migration.

- Concern for data comparability and methodological compatibility. Despite the fact that international standards regarding migration information have been developed in recent decades, the level of their adoption is generally limited and varies widely from one country to another. This limits the compatibility of information-gathering systems and thus the possibility of comparing data from multiple countries. A more detailed study of the Central American and Caribbean countries and Mexico could provide recent and relevant information regarding

the extent to which said standards have been adopted and, above all, the reasons why each country has or has not adopted them. Such information could be fundamental for a medium- and long-term horizontal cooperation process.

a. Usefulness of the information. Although existing studies allow characterization of the migration information systems with a significant degree of detail, they tend to omit the variable of usage, meaning who uses the information generated from migration-related administrative records and how frequently and for what purpose. The field phase of such a study could discover to what extent and how migration information is used and how it contributes (effectively) to monitoring the goals and objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The analysis of records identified in four countries covered by this study (Belize, Costa Rica, Jamaica and Mexico) based on the Handbook for Improving the Production and Use of Migration Data for Development (GMG, 2017) reveals significant information gaps that could hamper such monitoring efforts.

b. Access to the information. The cases studied reveal differences with respect to access to this information. In some countries, administrative migration data are available in real time through computing systems connected to the databases of various entities, while in other countries the information is generated with scanty security standards and the subsequent access to same is limited. An on-site investigation could identify good practices in this area and develop an ideal framework for access to migration information that allows governmental and non-governmental actors to contribute to designing evidence-based public policies on migration.

c. Quality of the information available. Although the entities responsible for migration control in each country have developed information-gathering and management capacities and specific international standards exist in that respect, the level of information quality varies widely. Not all of the countries compile information based on the same methodologies or definitions, nor with the same level of detail or disaggregation. This limits possibilities for adding data and performing comparative studies and limits the ability of actors at the national level to participate in the design and implementation of evidence-based migration policies.

d. Information transfer and exchange. Besides the quality of the migration-related administrative data generated, the case studies analysed in this document confirm the diversity of experiences regarding the transfer and exchange of information among entities within each country. An up-to-date study on this topic could identify the factors that limit information-sharing capacities, as well as the possibilities that would be available to countries that improve their procedures for transferring and exchanging migration data.

e. Address migration from a developmental perspective. Some of the countries covered by this study have inter-institutional commissions that facilitate joint efforts related to migration. In addition to promoting the flow of information and the exchange of good practices, these commissions should serve as promoters at the national, regional and international levels of a new way of addressing the phenomenon of migration, one that goes beyond a national security focus and understands migration as a multi-dimensional phenomenon with implications for each society in various areas of development.

ANNEXES

Annex I

Other international guidelines and standards

- In 2006 the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) produced for the first time its statistical harmonization on long-term immigration flows in the report OECD Outlook on International Migration (OECD, 2006). The OECD's harmonized statistics refer to the permanent immigration of foreigners, meaning entries of a permanent nature by the popula-tion of persons with permanent residency permits that can be renewed more or less indefinitely. As such, they exclude temporary workers, foreign students, apprentices, exchange visitors, etc. The statistics also include changes in status, meaning situations where a foreign national enters a country temporarily (e.g. as a tourist or student) but subsequently applies for residency that may become permanent.

- In 2009 the Guide for Compiling International Migration Statistics in the Euro-Mediterranean Region was published as part of the MEDSTAT II Project, a regional cooperation program on statistics financed by the European Union in the Euro-Mediterranean Region. Between 2006 and 2009, the MEDSTAT Program focused on strengthening the production, exchange, compara-bility, dissemination and final use of statistics. The project's activities for the migration sector were principally aimed at building Member Country capacities for long-term production of statistics on international migration flows and stocks using administrative data and statistical operations.

- In 2011 the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) published Statistics on International Migration. This guide was prepared under United Nations oversight within the framework of the project Strengthening National Capacities to Deal with International Migration: Maximizing Development Benefits and Minimizing Negative Impacts. This guide is aimed at professionals in the area of migration statistics and focuses on the specific context of the migration processes in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

- 2011 saw the launching of the Continuous Reporting System on International Migration in the Americas (SICREMI), an initiative of the Organization of American States (OAS) designed to contribute to promoting and developing public policies that lead to better migration management by facilitating dialogue, cooperation, institutional capacity-building and access to information. The System produces biannual reports based on data gathered from various sources (censuses, surveys, administrative records, etc.) to process and disseminate information regarding the magni-tude, trends and characteristics of international migration in the countries covered by the reports. These biannual reports are based on the methodological model of the Permanent Immigration Observatory (SOPEMI) of the OECD.

- In 2013 the IOM published the report Information Systems on International Migrations in the Countries of South America within the framework of the project Building Governmental Capacities for the Humane Development of Migrations, financed by the IOM Development Fund. The objective of the report was to analyse international migration information and the related information systems in use in South America, as well as systems that contribute to the study of international migrations. The report offers a diagnosis and analysis of migration information and information systems in twelve South American countries: Argentina, Bolivia,

Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

• At a national level, a valuable example is the Guide for the Use of Migration Data en Burkina Faso, published in 2017 by the European Union, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and the International and Ibero-American Foundation for Public Policy and Administration (FIIAPP), within the framework of the Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development (also known as the Rabat Process). The purpose of the Guide is to support the formulation of policies and planning efforts in Burkina Faso. The document identifies the producers and users of migration data and their activities, provides a directory of the data compiled and pending compilation, includes a list of available tools and resources, highlights good data practices and proposes a matrix of recurring problems and palliative solutions. These guidelines are designed as practical tools to answer three key questions: What is the status of the data in a given country? How can these data be used in daily life? How can data use at the national level be improved in the future? The four countries that participated in preparing the Guide were Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali and Senegal.

Annex II

Other sources of information on migration status in Centra America, Mexico and the Caribbean:

1. The Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE), Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC, 2017). Preliminary Report of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting of International Migration Experts on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Santiago, 30-31 August 2017. Available at: http://rosanjose.iom.int/site/en/preliminary-report-latin-american-and-caribbean-regional-preparatory-meeting-international-migration

2. Central American Social Development Observatory (CECADES, 2016). Geographic Expansion of International Migration in Central America and the Dominican Republic, 1990-2015. Social Policy Notes, December 2016, No. 2. Available at: www.sisca.int/centro-de-documentacion/5-ocades/1-publicaciones/serie-de-notas-de-politica-social/178-la-expansion-geografica-de-la-migracion-internacional-en-centroamerica-y-republica-dominicana-1990-2015

3. International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2017). The World Migration Report 2018. Geneva: IOM. Available at: www.iom.int/wmr/world-migration-report-2018 (available 06 December 2018).

4. International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2018). Global Migration Indicators 2018 – Insights from the Global Migration Data Portal: www.migrationdataportal.org. Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC), Berlin.

Annex III

Survey on the collection and use of administrative records on migration[18]

Regional Office for Central America, North America and the Caribbean

REGIONAL PROJECT ON STRENGTHENING THE PRODUCTION AND ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION ON MIGRATION IN MESOAMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Presentation

The regional project on Strengthening the Production and Analysis of Regional Information on Migration in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean aims to contribute to the strengthening of collection, analysis and access to information and data related to migration in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean. To achieve this objective, the project will develop various activities aimed at strengthening capacities in the General Directorates and Migration Institutes of the participating countries, seven from Mesoamerica and five from the Caribbean.[19] One of the activities to be carried out is a characterization of the systems that produce information on migration and their potential use in monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (especially targets 10.7 and 17.18). Within the framework of this activity, your organization is invited to complete the following questionnaire. The information you provide will be of great value to this project.

Instructions

The questionnaire seeks to collect information on the collection and use of administrative records on migration in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean. Please send it duly completed no later than **31 October, 2018**. Please direct any questions related to this questionnaire to: Fabio Jiménez, email: jjimenezc@iom.int.

The questionnaire includes 41 questions (mostly closed-ended). In the case of closed-ended questions, please select the option that best reflects your answer. If none of these options reflects your answer, please choose other and specific your response. If not applicable, please select (NA). Some of the closed-ended questions provide the possibility of selecting multiple responses. In the case of open-ended questions, please provide your response in the terms you consider relevant. The estimated time for completing the survey is 25 minutes. Your responses are anonymously provided and all information collected through this survey will be treated confidential

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[18] Administrative records refer to the record of facts and events experienced by each of the individuals that are part of a community (e.g. change in the country of residence). These types of records pursue an administrative purpose and are of a continuous nature. They include selected characteristics - demographic, migratory, socioeconomic, among others - of the whole or part of the population. According to the Global Migration Group, the administrative records used in the study of international migration can be grouped into three main categories: (a) administrative records, (b) collection of information at the border and (c) other administrative sources. Unlike statistical sources such as censuses and surveys, administrative sources are designed to collect information and generate data for administrative functions.

[19] The participant countries are: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Lucia and Suriname.

Informed consent

By completing this questionnaire, I authorize the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and any authorized person or entity acting on behalf of IOM to use the information collected in the framework of the Regional Project on Strengthening the Production and Analysis of Information on Migration in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean. In the case that I cannot complete this questionnaire electronically, I understand that a consultant hired by IOM can interview me, record the interview and use my testimony to produce a report. I understand that my testimony will provide data that will be used in an aggregate manner, without reference to me in person, my country or my institution. This report will be available to the organization that I represent.

I understand that the research team will ensure that: (a) My name will not be mentioned during the interview nor will it be included in any report and my geographic information will be protected. (b) The recording of the audio will be maintained for internal use by the IOM only. (c) I may be provided with a copy of the recording of my interview after producing the report. (d) IOM will use the recording of my interview only for producing the report as requested. By completing the survey, I certify that I understand the content of this authorization.

START OF THE QUESTIONAIRE

REMEMBER: In the case of closed questions, select the alternative that best reflects your answer. If none of these alternatives reflects your response, you can specify another, or check Do not apply (NA). Some of the closed questions provide the possibility of selecting multiple response options. In the case of open questions, develop your answer in the terms that you consider relevant

Section 1: Profile of the organization

1. Please select the country in which your organization operates:

☐ Belize

☐ Costa Rica

☐ El Salvador

☐ Guatemala

☐ Guyana

☐ Honduras

☐ Jamaica

☐ Nicaragua

☐ Mexico   ☐ Saint Lucia

☐ Panama   ☐ Suriname

2. **Which of the following best describes your organization?**

    ☐ Migration service, institute, or agency

    ☐ Statistics and censuses institute or department

    ☐ Ministry or government department

    ☐ Other. Specify: _____

3. **Which of the following positions best describes your role within your organization?**

    ☐ Administrative Officer

    ☐ Advisor or Assistant

    ☐ Coordinator

    ☐ Deputy Director

    ☐ Director or CEO

    ☐ Head of the Department

    ☐ Police or Military Officer

    ☐ Technical Officer

    ☐ Data management technician or assistant

    ☐ Other. Specify: _____

4. **Does your organization have enough and trained personnel for the collection and processing of administrative records on migration?**

    ☐ Yes, the organization has enough and trained staff

    ☐ The organization does not have enough staff, but the staff is trained

    ☐ The organization has enough staff but not fully trained

    ☐ No, the organization does not have enough and trained staff

    ☐ NA

5. **Does your organization have enough technological resources for the collection of administrative records on migration?**

☐ Yes, the organization with enough technological resources

☐ The organization does not have enough technological resources, but a proposal to have such resources is about to be approved

☐ The organization does not have enough technological resources, but a proposal is being developed to have enough resources

☐ No, the Unit does not have enough technological resources

☐ NA

6. **Does your organization have enough technological resources to process administrative records on migration?**

☐ Yes, the organization has enough technological resources

☐ The organization does not have enough technological resources, but a proposal to have such resources is about to be approved

☐ The organization does not have enough technological resources, but a proposal is being developed to have enough resources

☐ No, the organization does not have enough technological resources

☐ NA

7. **Please indicate if with respect to the last year, the financial resources allocated for the collection and analysis of administrative records on migration are:**

☐ Permanent with tendency to stability

☐ Permanent with a tendency to increase

☐ Permanent with a tendency to reduce

☐ Temporary

☐ NA

Section 2: Types of data collected

8. **Does your organization collect administrative records on migration?**

☐ Yes

☐ No (PLEASE GO TO QUESTION 10)

9. **Does your organization generate derived or summary statistics from the administrative records it collects?**

    □ Yes

    □ No   □ NA

10. **Does your organization use administrative records collected by other organizations?**

    □ Yes

    □ No

    □ NA

11. **Does your organization generate statistics from the data of other organizations?**

    □ Yes

    □ No (PLEASE GO TO QUESTION 13)

    □ NA

12. **What are the other organizations from which you receive information to generate migration statistics? Please check all the options that apply:**

    □ Ministry, secretariat or security department

    □ Ministry, secretariat or health department

    □ Ministry, secretariat or department of education

    □ Ministry, secretariat or planning department

    □ Ministry, secretariat or department of justice

    □ Ministry, secretariat or department of work

    □ Ministry, secretariat or department of foreign affairs

    □ National Statistics and Census Institutes

    □ Universities or academic research centres

    □ National Police

    □ International organizations (e.g.: UNHCR, IOM, UNFPA, ILO) Specify:

       _____

    □ Other. Please specify: _____

    □ NA

13. Below, we list various data that can be collected through administrative records. Please mark all the options that you consider pertinent and indicate with an "x" if your organization collects that data (it is the primary source), or if you receive it from another organization (secondary source):

Data	Collect (primary source)	Receive (secondary source)
☐ Remittances		
☐ Citizenship or Nationality		
☐ Person's current address		
☐ Employment or occupation		
☐ Marital status		
☐ Date of birth or age		
☐ Educational level or profession		
☐ Name of the parents		
☐ Country of birth or origin		
☐ Country of previous residence		
☐ Sex		
☐ Denial of entry cases		
☐ Passport information		
☐ Decisions on the acquisition of citizenship		
☐ Decisions on the citizenship complaint		
☐ Identification of undocumented foreigners		

Data	Collect (primary source)	Receive (secondary source)
□ Detention of undocumented foreigners and other migrants on irregular condition		
□ Duration of validity of the entry permit to the country		
□ Issuance of forced return orders to the country of origin		
□ Date of entry into the country		
□ Date of departure from the country		
□ Death or disappearance of foreigners		
□ National deportees		
□ Nationals readmitted		
□ Permits to foreigners for education		
□ Permits to employers to hire foreigners		
□ Work permits for foreigners		
□ Work visas		
□ Reason or purpose of the trip		
□ Readmission in the border region		
□ Nationals employment registration abroad		

Data	Collect (primary source)	Receive (secondary source)
□ Registration of foreigners for temporary residence		
□ Registration of foreigners for permanent residence		
□ Registration of foreigners for temporary stay		
□ Registration of foreigners in detention centres		
□ Diaspora registration		
□ Registration of foreign education of nationals		
□ Registration of nationals readmitted at the border		
□ Visas issued within the country		
□ Visas issued abroad		
□ Visas granted to foreigners issued in the country		
□ Registration of refugee or asylum applications		
□ Permits for minors to leave		
□ Repatriated nationals		
□ National returnees		
□ Other Specify:		

14. Are questions on migration included in national censuses or household or income surveys?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ NA

15. Which variable (s) does your organization use to disaggregate the migratory administrative records? Please check all the options that apply:

☐ Age

☐ Migratory status

☐ Income level

☐ Nationality

☐ Educational level

☐ Country of birth

☐ Country of origin

☐ Periodicity or time ranges in which statistical information is presented (e.g.: per month, per year, per five-year period, per decade, etc.)

☐ Location of the border control post

☐ Type of border post (land, sea or air)

☐ Sex

☐ Other. Specify: _____

Section 3: Quality of the information collected

Please answer questions 16–19 only if you answered YES to question 8, that is, if your organization collects administrative records on migration. Otherwise, please go to question 20.

16. Which of the following computer systems does your organization use for the registry of migratory administrative records? Please check all the options that apply:

□ Canadian Bank Note

□ PIRS / MIDAS

□ BCMS system

□ Integral System of Migratory Operation (SIM or SIOM)

□ Electronic Migratory Movement System (SIMMEL)

□ Electronic Migration Procedures System (SETRAM)

□ Other Specify:

□ NA

17. Indicate what format your organization uses for the registration of administrative data on migration:

□ Paper registration

□ Electronic record

□ Both formats, paper and electronic based

18. Indicate what type of instruments your organization uses to collect administrative records on migration. Please check all the options that apply:

□ Notebooks or minute books

□ Chips

□ Forms

□ Excel templates

□ Reports or reports

□ Computer system

□ Cards

□ NA

19. In your experience, does the computer system used by your organization present any limitation for the registration and use of administrative data on migration? If yes, please explain what kind of limitations:

_____
_____
_____
_____

20. Does your organization have a database in which to store administrative records on migration?

  □ Yes, it is an automated database

  □ Yes, it is a paper database

  □ We do not have a database (PLEASE GO TO QUESTION 23)

  □ NA

21. The database is stored on a server and has security, safeguard and recovery policies:

  □ Yes, the database is stored on a server and there are security, safeguard and recovery policies

  □ The database is stored on a server and security policies, backup and recovery of the database are being developed

  □ The database is not stored on a server, but work is being done to do so.

  □ No, the database is not stored on a server.

22. How often are the records of the data base updated?

  □ Daily

  □ Weekly

  □ Monthly

  □ Quarterly

  □ Semiannually

  □ Annually

  □ Another frequency. Specify: _____

  □ NA

23. **How often does your organization prepare statistics based on administrative records on migration? Please check all the options that apply:**

   □ When requested by any public or private entity

   □ When seeking to influence the design of legislation or public policies

   □ Daily

   □ Weekly

   □ Monthly

   □ Quarterly

   □ Semiannually

   □ Annually

   □ Another frequency. Specify:

   □ NA

24. **Has your organization adopted any recent measures to improve administrative migration records? (for example procedural improvements, technological improvements, simplification of procedures, etc.)**

   □ Yes. Please specify which measures: _____

   □ No

   □ NA

25. **Has your organization adopted any recent measures to improve the statistics produced based on these records?**

   □ Yes. Please specify which measures.

   □ No

   □ NA

26. **Has your organization considered any international guidelines for the collection, analysis and use of administrative records in migration matters?**

   □ Yes

   □ No (PLEASE GO TO THE QUESTION 28)

27. Please indicate which of the following international guidelines you use. Please indicate all that apply:

□ Handbook for the improvement of the production and use of migratory data for development, Global Migration Group, 2017.

□ Recommendations on International Migration Statistics, Revision 1, Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, 1998.

□ Checklist for the Quality evaluation of Administrative Data Sources, Statistics Netherlands, 2009.

□ Manual on the measurement of international migration through population censuses, Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, 2017.

□ Another guide. Please specify: _____

□ NA

28. Does your organization currently face any challenge or challenges that affect the collection, storage, processing and / or use of migratory administrative records in your country? If yes, mention a maximum of three challenges:

Collection	Storage and Processing	Use

PLEASE REFER TO THE FOLLOWING DEFINITION OF A GOOD PRACTICE IN ANSWERING THE QUESTION 29:

"A good practice is an experience or intervention that has been implemented with positive results, being effective and useful in a specific context, contributing to the attention, regulation, improvement or solution of problems and / or difficulties that can serve as a model for other organizations"

29. Do you know any good practice of your organization in any of the following phases? Please include all that you consider relevant:

Information Management Phase	Good Practice
Collection of administrative records on migration	
Storage of administrative records on migration	
Processing of administrative records on migration	
Use or dissemination of administrative records on migration	

Section 4: Dissemination of collected information

30. Does your organization disseminate migratory statistics?

☐ Yes

☐ No (PLEASE GO TO THE QUESTION 32)

31. Through what instruments does your organization disseminate migration data and statistics? Please check all that apply:

☐ The official website

☐ Bulletins and other periodic reports

☐ Official reports and investigations

☐ When specific requests are answered

☐ Infographics

☐ By another mean. Please specify: _____

☐ NA

32. Does your organization share the administrative records on migration it generates with other public entities (ministries, Congress or Parliament, government agencies, local governments)?

☐ Yes

☐ No   ☐ NA

33. **How often does your organization share the administrative records on migration collected with other public or private entities? Please check all that apply.**

    □ When requested by any public or private entity

    □ When an academic investigation is carried out

    □ When trying to influence the design of legislation or public policies

    □ Weekly

    □ Monthly

    □ Quarterly

    □ Semi-annually

    □ Annually

    □ Another frequency. Please specify: _____

    □ NA

34. **Does your organization share the information collected based on administrative records on migration with entities responsible for justice, security or law enforcement in your country?**

    □ Yes

    □ No

    □ NA

35. **Does your organization receive administrative records on migration compiled by other international agencies or entities?**

    □ Yes

    □ No (PLEASE GO TO QUESTION 37)

36. From which organizations at the international level does your organization receive administrative records on migration? Please check all that apply:

☐ Academic institutions

☐ Non-governmental organizations

☐ Government institutions from other countries

☐ Regional organizations (e.g.: OCAM, OECS, SICA, CARICOM). Indicate:_____

☐ Multilateral organizations (for example OAS, UN). Indicate:_____

☐ International organizations such as IOM, ILO, UNESCO, UNDP, ECLAC). Indicate:_____

☐ NA

Section 5: Harnessing the information collected

37. Does your country have an inter-institutional committee or commission with the objective of cooperating in the collection, exchange and use of migratory administrative records?

☐ Yes

☐ No (PLEASE GO TO THE QUESTION 39)

38. If yes, indicate the name of that entity and its functions.

_____
_____
_____
_____

39. When your organization disseminates statistical data on migration, what means do you use to disseminate this information? Please check all that apply:

☐ Reports posted on the organization's website

☐ Official bulletins of the organization

☐ Tabulated information or other products on the organization's website

☐ Social networks

☐ Research reports

☐ Press releases

☐ Other. Please specify: ☐ NA

40. **Based on your experience, who are the main users of the information generated from administrative records on migration? Please check all that apply.**

   ☐ Private companies

   ☐ Regional and multilateral organizations

   ☐ Non-governmental organizations

   ☐ Other public entities

   ☐ Units or departments of our same institution

   ☐ Universities and research centres

   ☐ Users of migratory services

   ☐ All the previous ones

   ☐ NA

41. **Do you think it is necessary to strengthen some capacities in your organization to enhance the use of administrative records on migration? If yes, what would those capabilities be?**

_____
_____
_____
_____

THANK YOU!

END OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE

Annex IV
Types of data collected in each country

The following table shows the answers received to Item 13 of the online Survey for the Regional Project to Strengthen the Production and Analysis of Information on Migrations in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean. The item requested the following: Below, we list various data that can be collected through administrative records. Please mark all the options that you consider pertinent and indicate with an "x" if your organization collects that data (it is the primary source), or if you receive it from another organization (secondary source). The ligh blue-shaded cells in the table indicate data that the country's organization gathers or receives. The yellow-shaded cells indicate data that the organization does not gather.

(Yellow-shaded cells = "does not gather" are marked ▨; blue-shaded cells are left blank = "gathers or receives")

Type of Data	BEL	CRI	ELS	GUA	GUY	HON	JAM	NIC	MEX	PAN	SLU	SUR
Cases of denied entry					▨		▨					▨
Data from passport or other travel document							▨					
Decisions on acquisition of nationality		▨				▨				▨	▨	▨
Decisions on renunciation of nationality		▨		▨		▨		▨			▨	
Detention of undocumented foreigners and other migrants with irregular status					▨							
Person's current address						▨	▨			▨	▨	
Duration of validity of entry permit					▨		▨				▨	
Employment or occupation										▨		
Civil status					▨						▨	
Date of entry												▨
Date of birth or age											▨	
Exit date												▨

Type of Data	BEL	CRI	ELS	GUA	GUY	HON	JAM	NIC	MEX	PAN	SLU	SUR
Identification of undocumented foreigners		X			X						X	X
Death or disappearance of foreigners			X			X	X				X	
Nationals deported		X	X		X							
Nationals readmitted		X		X	X	X	X				X	X
Nationals repatriated					X						X	
Nationals returned		X			X			X				
Education level or profession											X	X
Names of parents					X		X				X	X
Orders for forced or involuntary return to the country of origin		X			X						X	X
Country of birth or origin											X	X
Country of previous residence		X		X	X			X			X	X
Permits for employers to hire foreigners		X		X	X			X		X	X	X
Student visas for foreigners				X			X				X	X
Exit permits for minors					X	X					X	X
Work permits for foreigners				X	X							X
Reason or purpose for trip											X	X
Readmission along the border zone		X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
Registry of nationals employed abroad		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X

Type of Data	BEL	CRI	ELS	GUA	GUY	HON	JAM	NIC	MEX	PAN	SLU	SUR
Registry of foreigners in detention centres			■		■	■					■	■
Registry of foreigners with permanent or temporary residency					■							■
Registry of foreigners with temporary stay permits					■							■
Registry of diaspora communities	■			■				■			■	
Registry of nationals studying abroad	■							■				
Registry of nationals readmitted at border stations		■		■	■	■			■			
Registry of refugee and asylum applications								■		■		
Remittances		■	■		■		■		■		■	
Sex											■	
Citizenship or nationality												
Work permits				■	■	■		■				■
Visas issued in the country		■		■							■	
Visas issued abroad				■	■			■				
Visas issued in the country to foreigners				■	■	■					■	

The following table shows the answers received to Question 15 of the online Survey for the Regional Project to Strengthen the Production and Analysis of Information on Migrations in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean. The question asked: *Which variable (s) does your organization use to disaggregate the migratory administrative records?* The light blue-shaded cells in the table indicate data that the country's organization gathers or receives. The yellow-shaded cells indicate data that the organization does not gather.

Legend: ✓ = gathers/receives (light blue), ✗ = does not gather (yellow), blank = no response (white)

Disaggregation Variable	BEL	CRI	ELS	GUA	GUY	HON	JAM	NIC	MEX	PAN	SLU	SUR
Age	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✗
Migratory Status	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗		✓
Income	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓		✗
Nationality	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Education Level	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓		✗
Country of Birth	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Country of Departure	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✗
Frequency or time range in which the statistical information is presented	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓		✗
Location of Border Station	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓		✗
Type of Border Station (overland, seaport, airport)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓		✗
Sex	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Destination and Purpose of Trip	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		✗		✗
Mode of Transport	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		✗

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