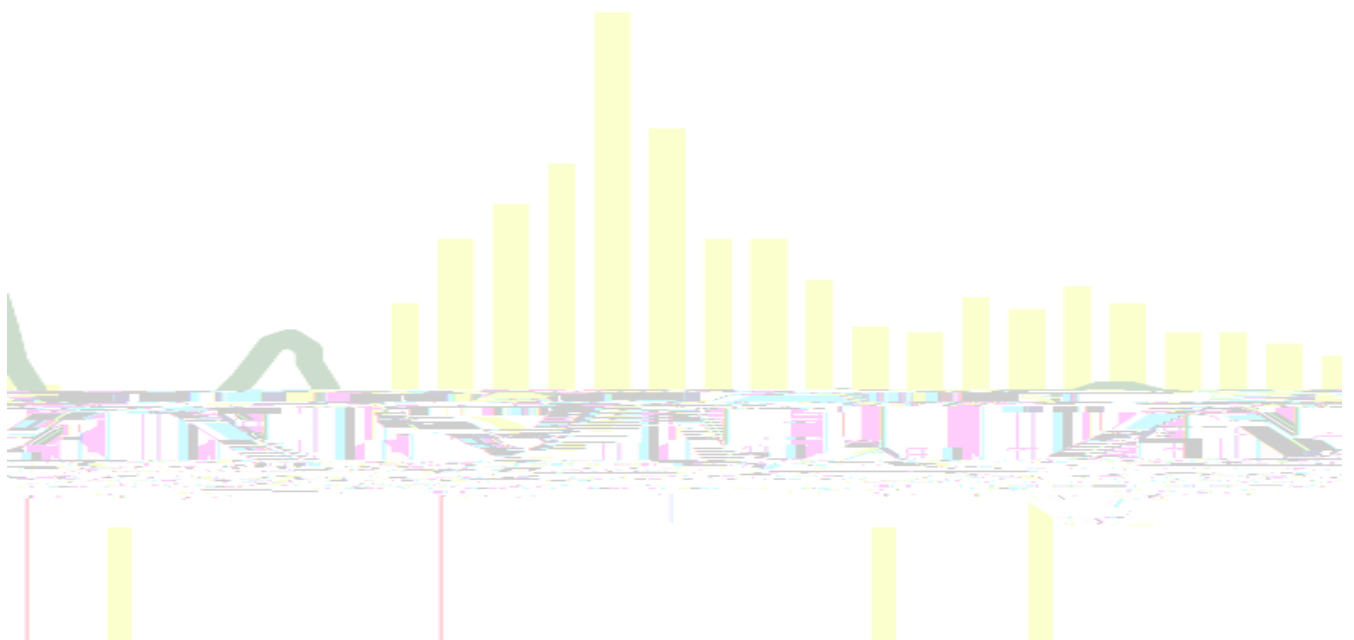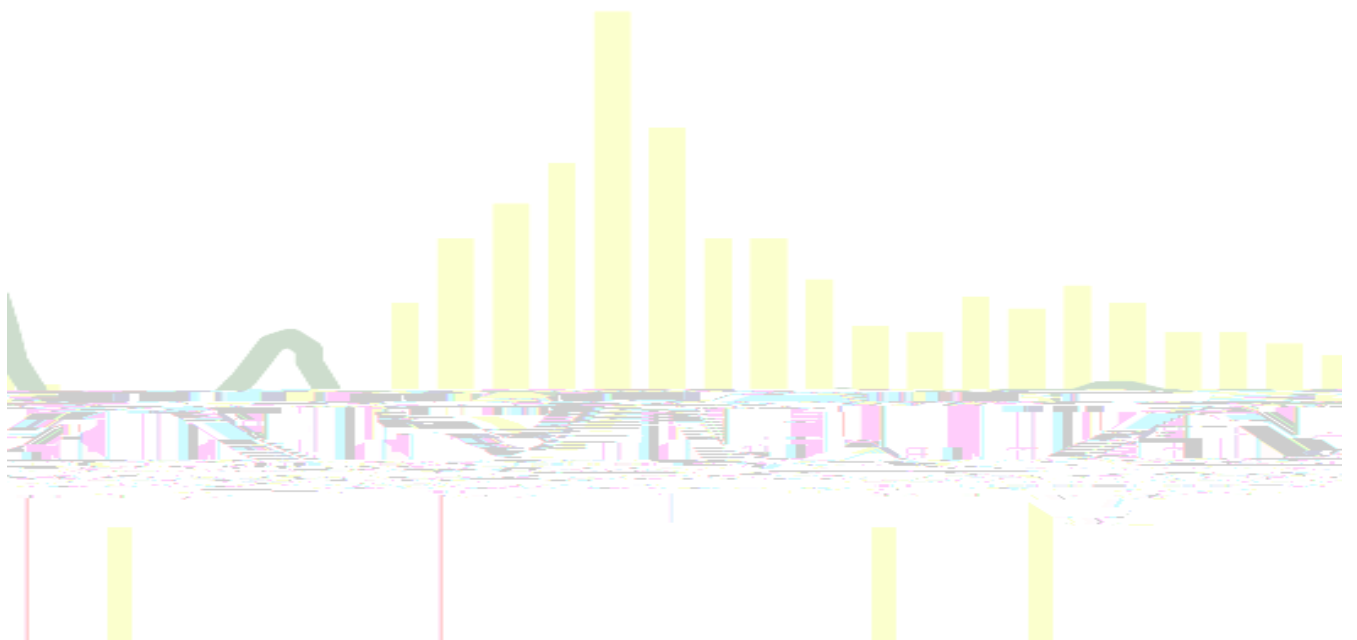# Development, validation and testing of a methodology for SDG indicator 10.7.2 on migration policies

Technical Paper

Development, validation and testing of a methodology for SDG indicator 10.7.2 on migration policies

Notes

The designations employed in this report and the material presented in it do not imply the expression of any opinions whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

The term "country" as used in this paper also refers, as appropriate, to territories or areas.

This publication has been issued without formal editing.

Suggested citation:

United Nations, Department of Economics and Social Affairs, Population Division and International Organization for Migration. (2019). Development, validation and testing of a methodology for SDG indicator 10.7.2 on migration policies. Technical Paper, available at: https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/index.asp

ABSTRACT

The paper presents an overview of the development of a methodology for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 10.7.2 on the number of countries with migration policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people. The methodology builds on the Migration Governance Framework, a tool developed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and uses an existing global data source, the United Nations Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development, administered by the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA). In developing the new indicator, IOM and UN DESA adopted an inclusive approach to validate and test the proposed methodology. To this end, they organized a series of consultations with a range of stakeholders, including representatives from government entities responsible for migration policies, and tested the methodology through a pilot study with a regionally representative group of countries. The proposal was modified based on feedback received from experts and policy makers. The result is a robust indicator reflecting relevant and timely information on national migration policies. The indicator can help to identify both progress made and policy gaps in the effort to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people.

This page is intentionally left blank

DEVELOPMENT, VALIDATION AND TESTING
OF A METHODOLOGY FOR
SDG INDICATOR 10.7.2 ON MIGRATION POLICIES

1. INTRODUCTION

This paper presents the methodology developed and employed to conceptualize and measure Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 10.7.2 on the number of countries with migration policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people. The paper begins by providing some general background and then discusses the scope and conceptual framework adopted. This is followed by sections describing the data source, the components of the indicator and the methods used to calculate it. Finally, it describes the process followed to validate and test the methodology, including the piloting of the data collection instrument, as well as the steps taken for the indicator to be recognized as having an agreed methodology and standards by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs).[1]

2. BACKGROUND

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in 2015, includes several specific targets on migration that go beyond the migration-related objectives and actions set forth in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.[2] At least eight[3] of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda relate directly to international migration or migrants (see annex table 1).[4] The most explicit among them is target 10.7, which calls on countries to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible

Recognizing these limitations, the co-custodians decided to develop a simple indicator based on an existing data source that could produce meaningful, actionable and timely information on key trends and gaps in policies "to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people". The consensus was that the indicator should aim to describe the state of national migration policies and how such policies change over time. The information collected would help identify both progress made and policy gaps and contribute to the identification of countries requiring technical support and capacity building, where appropriate.

The realization of these limitations led to an amendment of the indicator's wording. Specifically, the original formulation of the indicator was modified to remove references to the "implementation of well-managed migration policies", as this language invokes concepts perceived as too difficult to conceptualize and measure in the context of the SDG indicator framework.[11]

4. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The first challenge in developing a methodology for the indicator was to identify an appropriate conceptual framework. After reviewing existing options, the co-custodians agreed to use IOM's Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF). The MiGOF, which had been welcomed by 157 countries during the 106th session of the IOM Council in 2015,[12] was selected because it provided an operational definition for key dimensions of migration governance.

Aware that migration governance is complex and context-specific, the MiGOF offers an "aspirational" framework that allows states to determine the elements needed to govern migration in their own circumstances. The MiGOF is organized around three principles and three objectives. The principles are: (a) adherence to international standards and fulfilment of migrants' rights; (b) evidence and "whole-of-government" approach for policy formulation; and (c) engaging with partners to address migration related issues. The principles represent the "means" through which states can ensure that the requirements for good migration governance are in place.

on international migration. Module III included the questions and sub-categories of the six migration domains mentioned above.

During the second half of 2018, the Inquiry was sent to the permanent missions of countries to the United Nations in New York, which redirected the thematic modules to relevant line ministries or government departments.[14] As part of the collaboration on SDG indicator 10.7.2, IOM assisted in gathering country responses to module III by following up through its respective country or regional counterparts. OECD, as partner agency for this indicator, supported these efforts for its member countries. These efforts were intended to increase the response rate. The co-custodians also made efforts to improve the completeness of the data. In cases of high item non-response (no answer provided for five per cent or more of the 30 sub-categories of the indicator), the co-custodians or partner agency reached out to relevant government entities, encouraging them to provide more complete information. High item non-response can affect the value of the indicator (see section 7 below).

In addition to efforts to increase the response rate and completeness of the data, the co-custodians also took steps to improve the quality of country responses to the Inquiry (for example, by including extensive guidance, definitions and instructions in the questionnaire). In addition, UN DESA, IOM and OECD responded to country queries and provided clarifications when needed. Country responses underwent basic consistency checking, with any inconsistencies flagged for resolution by national counterparts. In spite of these efforts, Member States may have somewhat differing interpretations of the concepts and definitions in the Inquiry. Country responses, for example, may differ in their interpretation of concepts related to social security, with some answers focusing on access to pensions and others on a range of social protection mechanisms and benefits. Further, because no additional consultation with countries on the national data was carried out, the answers to the Inquiry have not been validated externally, reflecting

For ease of interpretation and to summarize the results, the resulting country-level averages (for the overall indicator and by domain) are categorized as follows: values of less than 40 are coded as "Requires further progress"; values of 40 to less than 80 are coded as "Partially meets"; values of 80 to less than 100 are coded as "Meets"; and values of 100 are coded as "Fully meets".

Regional and global values of SDG indicator 10.7.2 refer to percentages of countries that "Require further progress", "Partially meet", and "Meet or fully meet" target 10.7 as conceptualised and measured by indicator 10.7.2, among those that responded to the Inquiry module on international migration. Such data can be presented for the overall indicator and by domain.

8. VALIDATION OF THE METHODOLOGY

To apply for reclassification of indicator 10.7.2 by the IAEG-SDGs, the co-custodians were required to document, among others, the involvement of governments and national statistical systems in the development of the indicator methodology, and the regional representativeness of the results of pilot studies.

As part of the development and validation of the methodology, the co-custodians organized several consultations to present and discuss the work on indicator 10.7.2. These included:

questi

10. RECLASSIFICATION OF INDICATOR 10.7.2

In November 2018, the proposed methodology for SDG indicator 10.7.2 was presented for reclassification at the Eighth meeting of the IAEG-SDGs in Stockholm, Sweden. The members of the

R

ANNEX TABLES

Table A1.

Table A3. Questions and sub-categories for six domains of SDG indicator 10.7.2

	Question	Sub-categories
Domain 1	Does the Government provide non-nationals equal access to the following services, welfare benefits and rights?	a. Essential and/or emergency health care b. Public education c. Equal pay for equal work d. Social security e. Access to justice
Domain 2	Does the Government have any of the following institutions, policies or strategies to govern immigration or emigration?	

Table A4. Consultations on the methodology of SDG indicator 10.7.2
IOM International Dialogue on Migration - New York, United States of