SDG INDICATOR 10.7.2

Number of countries with migration policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people

1. SDG indicator 10.7.2 is important for monitoring progress in meeting migration-related targets of the 2030 Agenda

SDG indicator 10.7.2, *Number of countries with migration policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people*, provides the evidence base, together with other indicators,[1] for monitoring progress in achieving SDG target 10.7.

SDG target 10.7, which 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, is the most explicit migration-related target of the 2030 Agenda.

The indicator was developed by the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) after consultations with Member States and other stakeholders.[2] The indicator, which is comprised of six policy domains in line with the principles and objectives identified in IOM's Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF), is obtained by computing the unweighted average of the coded values of the 30 items within the six policy domains.

2. Data on SDG indicator 10.7.2 are collected through the United Nations Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development

Data for the computation of SDG indicator 10.7.2 are collected through the international migration module of the United Nations Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development (the "Inquiry") (United Nations, 2019 and 2021).[3]

Data on SDG indicator 10.7.2 have been collected through two successive rounds of the Inquiry: the Twelfth Inquiry, conducted between September 2018 and October 2019, and the Thirteenth Inquiry, conducted between November 2020 and October of 2021.

For both rounds, the Inquiry was sent to 197 countries, including all 193 Member States, two Observer States (the Holy See and the State of Palestine) and two non-member States (Cook Islands and Niue) of the United Nations.

IOM and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) assisted the Population Division of UN DESA in gathering responses to the migration module of the Inquiry from relevant line ministries or government departments.
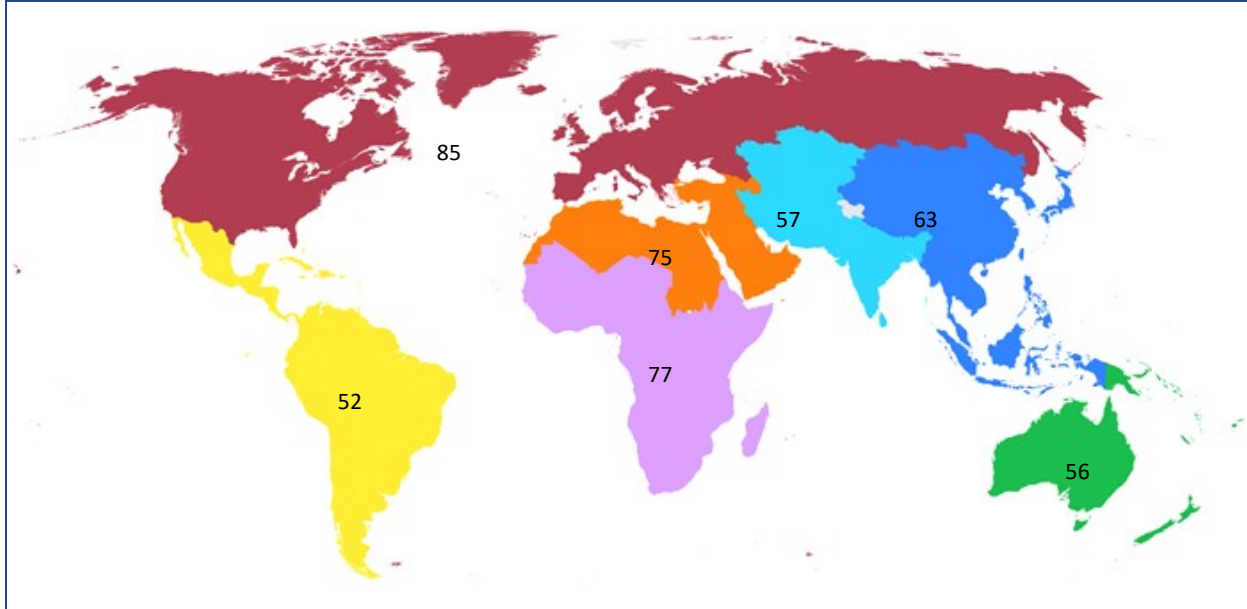
3. Seven in ten countries report data on SDG indicator 10.7.2

As of November 2021, data on SDG indicator 10.7.2 were available for 138 countries, equivalent to 70 per cent of all countries globally. Of these, 49 responded to the Twelfth Inquiry only, 27 to the Thirteenth Inquiry only and 62 to both the Twelfth Inquiry and the Thirteenth Inquiry.

The data in present analysis are based on the two rounds of the Inquiry combined. Where Governments replied to both rounds of the Inquiry, data from the Thirteenth Inquiry were used.

While the global coverage of the indicator improved thanks to the latest round of data collection, regional coverage[4] remains uneven (figure 1). For three regions (Europe and Northern America, Northern Africa and Western Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa) data were available for 70 per cent or more of countries. Although the coverage was lower for other regions, all regions had data for at least 50 per cent of countries.[5]

Figure 1. Country coverage for SDG indicator 10.7.2 by region, 2021 (percentage)

85

57   63

75

77

52

56

Source: United Nations (2019 and 2021)

4. Extra steps were taken to ensure consistency and comparability between successive rounds of the Inquiry

Data collected through the Inquiry reflect the answers given by the responding Government entities. As such, Member States may differ in the interpretation of some topics covered in the Inquiry.[6]

A number of steps were taken to increase the comparability and completeness of the responses. These included providing definitions and guidance on how to respond to the Inquiry. In addition, UN DESA, IOM and OECD responded to all queries received from countries and provided clarifications when needed.

To ensure consistency across the two rounds of the Inquiry, changes in the wording of the 30 items and six domains of the indicator were kept to a minimum. Further, where countries provided answers to both the Twelfth Inquiry and the Thirteenth Inquiry, checks on the reported data were performed, and any inconsistencies were flagged for resolution by national counterparts.

5. Governments report a wide range of policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people

Globally, 4 per cent of Governments that replied to the migration module of the Twelfth or the Thirteenth Inquiry fully met the criteria for SDG indicator 10.7.2 (figure 2). In other words, they reported having policy measures to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people for all 30 items under the six domains of the indicator.[7]

Nearly six out of ten Governments met the criteria for SDG indicator 10.7.2, while one out of three Governments reported having measures that partially met the criteria. Based on their responses to the Inquiry, 4 per cent of Governments required further progress in adopting planned and well-managed migration policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people.
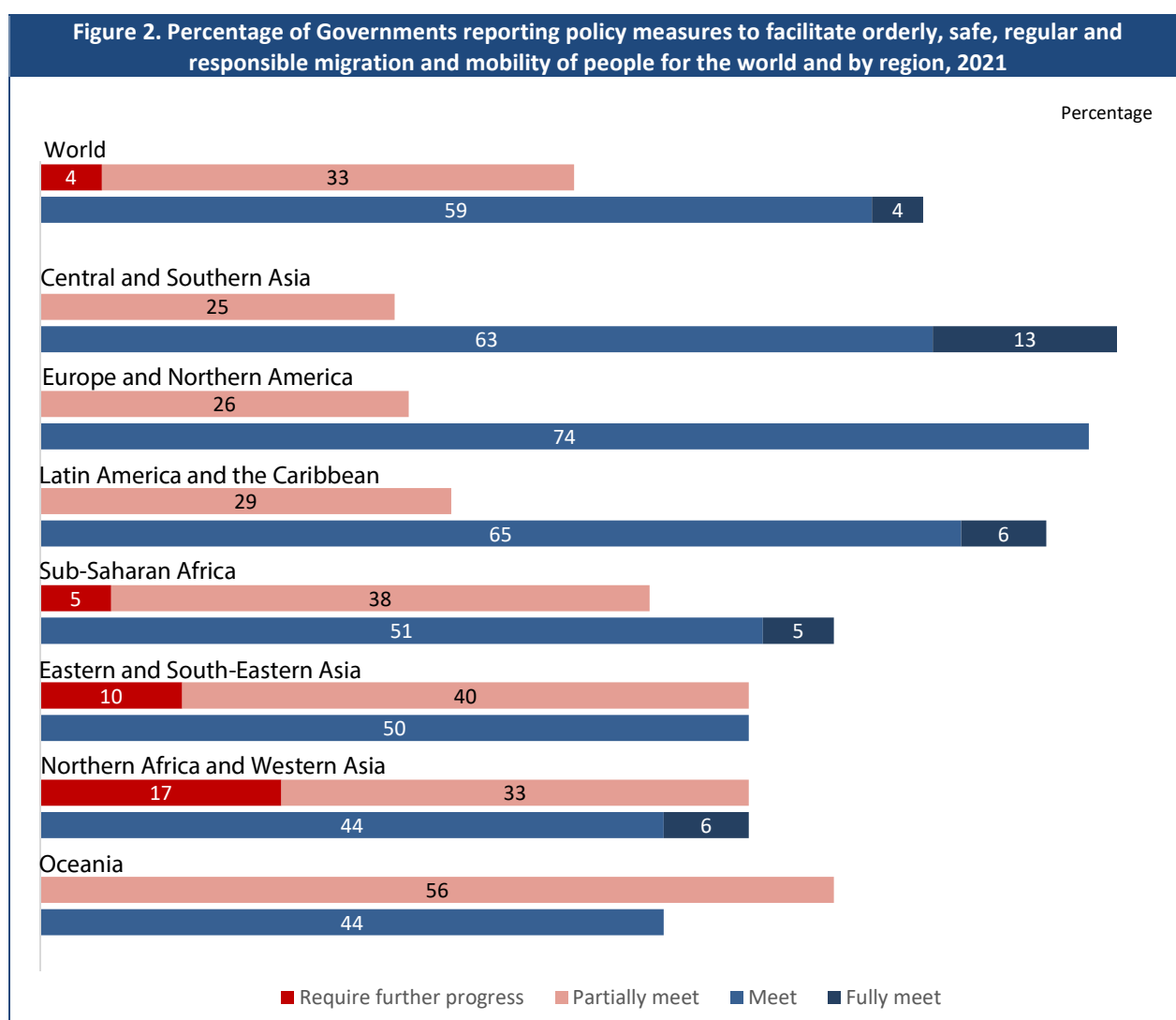
6. There are pronounced differences among regions in reporting policy measures for indicator 10.7.2

Among regions, the highest shares of Governments indicating that they had policies

that met or fully met the criteria for SDG indicator 10.7.2 were observed in Central and Southern Asia (75 per cent) and Europe and Northern America (74 percent), followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (71 per cent) (figure 2). However, the coverage of countries remained relatively low both for Central and Southern Asia and for Latin America and the Caribbean (57 per cent and 52 per cent, respectively).

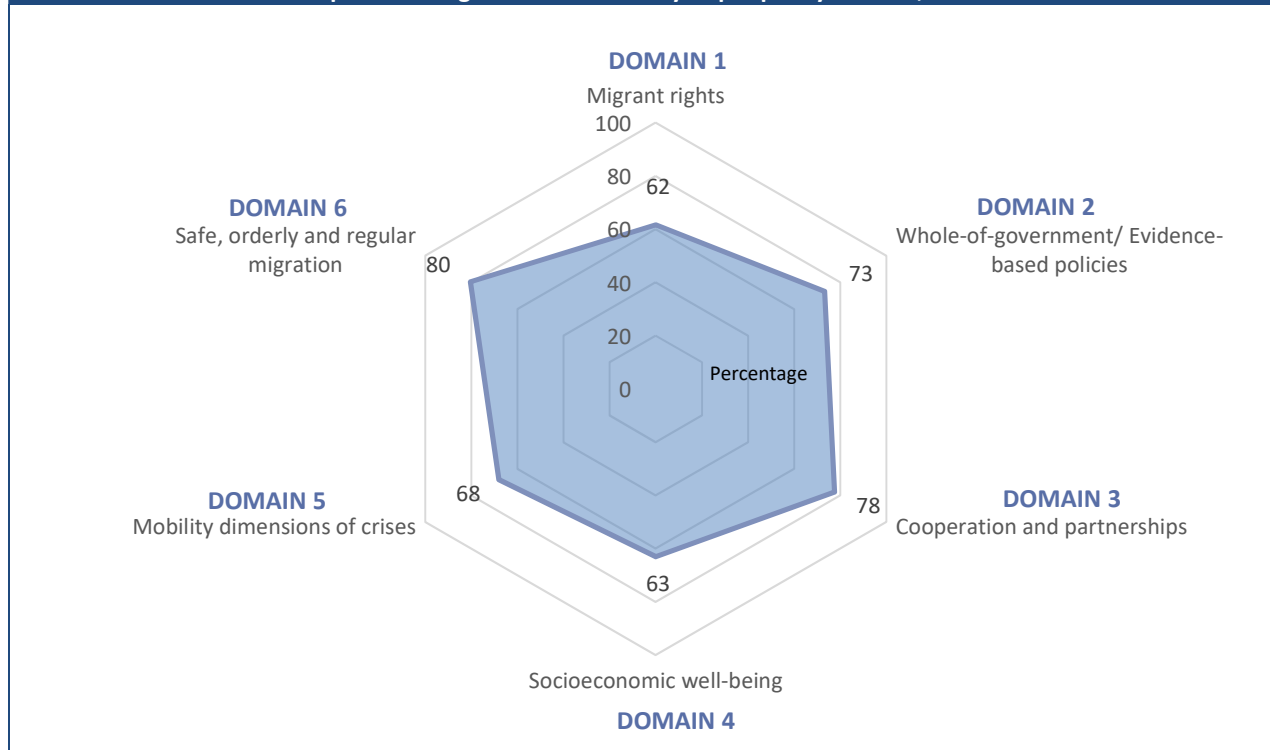In several regions, at least half of the Governments reported that they only partially met the criteria or required further progress, meaning that they had policy measures for less than 80 per cent of the 30 items of indicator 10.7.2. Oceania had the highest proportion of countries (56 per cent) partially meeting the criteria or requiring further progress, followed by Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, and Northern Africa and Western Asia (50 per cent each). For both Eastern and South-Eastern Asia and Oceania, however, country coverage was below 65 per cent.

Figure 2. Percentage of Governments reporting policy measures to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people for the world and by region, 2021

Percentage

World
- Require further progress: 4
- Partially meet: 33
- Meet: 59
- Fully meet: 4

Central and Southern Asia
- Partially meet: 25
- Meet: 63
- Fully meet: 13

Europe and Northern America
- Partially meet: 26
- Meet: 74

Latin America and the Caribbean
- Partially meet: 29
- Meet: 65
- Fully meet: 6

Sub-Saharan Africa
- Require further progress: 5
- Partially meet: 38
- Meet: 51
- Fully meet: 5

Eastern and South-Eastern Asia
- Require further progress: 10
- Partially meet: 40
- Meet: 50

Northern Africa and Western Asia
- Require further progress: 17
- Partially meet: 33
- Meet: 44
- Fully meet: 6

Oceania
- Partially meet: 56
- Meet: 44

■ Require further progress ■ Partially meet ■ Meet ■ Fully meet

Source: United Nations and IOM (2021)
Notes: Based on 138 countries with available data (as of 31 October 2021). Countries that fully meet the criteria for indicator 10.7.2 are those that reported having migration policy measures for all 30 items used to define the indicator. Countries that meet the criteria are those that reported having measures for 80 per cent to less than 100 per cent of the items. Countries that partially meet the criteria are those that reported having measures for 40 per cent to less than 80 per cent of the items, while countries that require further progress are those that reported having measures for less than 40 per cent of the items.

Figure 3. Percentage of Governments reporting policy measures to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people by domain, 2021

Source: United Nations and IOM (2021).

Notes: Based on 138 countries with available data (as of 31 October 2021). Data refer to countries that meet or fully meet the criteria for indicator 10.7.2 (reported having migration policy measures for 80 per cent or more of the five items in each domain)
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7. Countries report that measures to protect migrant rights and promote socioeconomic well-being lag behind other policy domains

More than three-quarters of Governments that replied to the migration module of the Twelfth or the Thirteenth Inquiry met or fully met the criteria for domain 6 "Safe, orderly and regular migration" (80 per cent) or domain 3 "Cooperation and partnerships" (78 per cent) (figure 3). Further, more than two-thirds of Governments reported meeting or fully meeting the criteria for domain 2 "Whole-of-government or evidence-based policies" (73 per cent) or domain 5 "Mobility dimensions of crises" (68 per cent).

Globally, domain 1 "Migrant rights" and domain 4 "Socioeconomic well-being" had the lowest shares of Governments reporting a wide range of policy measures: 62 per cent and 63 per cent, respectively.

8. Nearly all Governments report having policies to provide migrants equal access to essential or emergency health care

Among countries that responded to the migration module of the Twelfth or the Thirteenth Inquiry, data on policy measures to protect migrants' access to basic and essential services, welfare benefits and rights varied widely (figure 4).

Globally, 93 per cent of Governments reported having policies to provide non-nationals equal access to essential or emergency health care. Ninety per cent of Governments reported providing such services to all non-nationals, regardless of their immigration status, while 4 per cent indicated that they provided them only to those with a legal immigration status.

Ninety-four per cent of Governments reported having policies to ensure equal access to justice. Of these, 84 per cent of Governments reported providing equal access to justice to non-

nationals regardless of immigration status, while 10 per cent provided it only for those with legal immigration status. Equal access to public education, including public primary and secondary schools, was reported by 91 per cent of Governments, including 64 per cent that provided the same level of access to public education for all migrants and 28 per cent that provided access only for non-nationals with legal immigration status.

Policies to provide non-nationals equal access to social protection programmes, including contributory and non-contributory pension benefits, and basic social assistance on par with nationals were less prevalent (83 per cent of Governments).[8] Only 29 per cent of Governments reported providing equal access to social protection for non-nationals regardless of immigration status, while 54 per cent indicated providing such benefits only for those with legal immigration status.
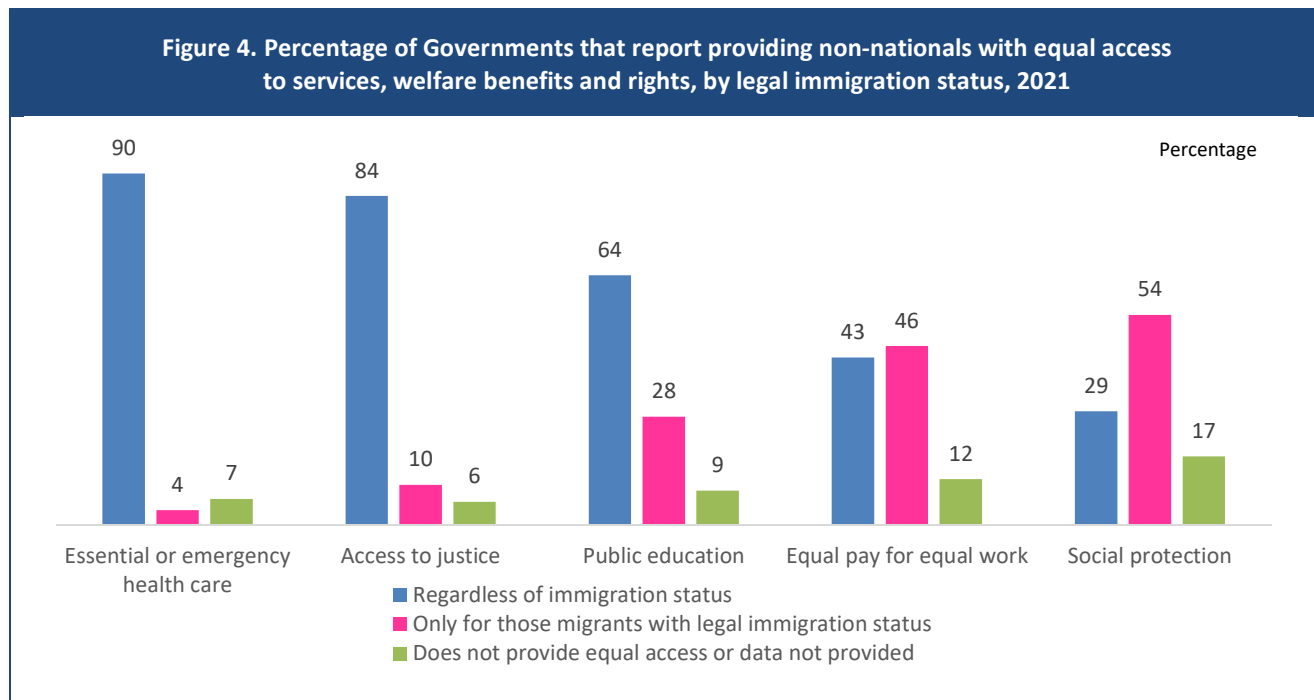
Eighty-eight per cent of Governments indicated that they had policy measures to ensure equal pay to all people in the same work place doing similar work, including 43 per cent that did so

regardless of legal immigration status. Another 46 per cent of Governments reported that they provided equal pay only to those with a legal immigration status.

9. Relatively few Governments report having formal mechanisms to ensure that migration policies are gender responsive
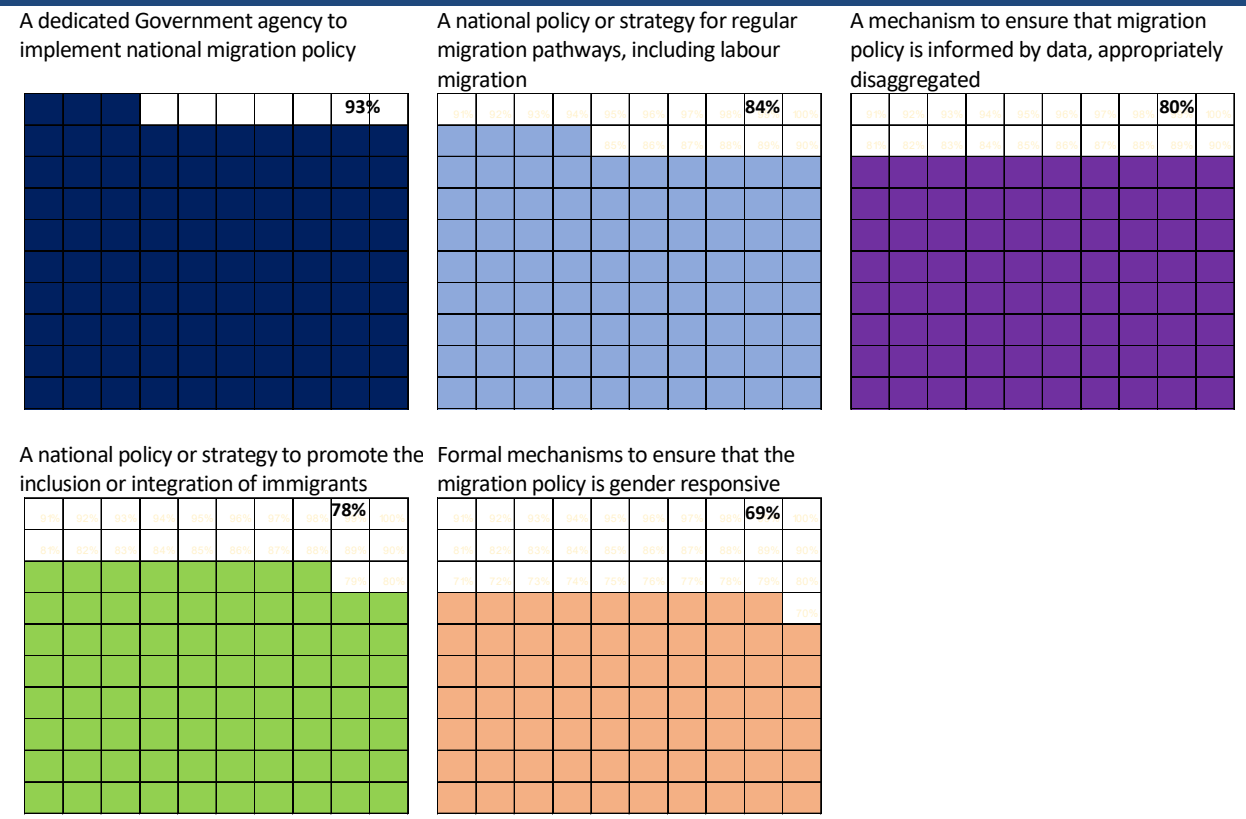
Among the institutions, policies and strategies to govern migration, having a dedicated Government agency to implement a national migration policy was the most commonly reported (93 per cent), followed by having a national policy or strategy for regular migration pathways (84 per cent).

Eighty per cent of Governments indicated that they had a mechanism to ensure that migration policy is informed by data, appropriately disaggregated, while 78 per cent reported having a national policy or strategy to promote the inclusion or integration of immigrants. Formal mechanisms to ensure that migration policies are gender responsive (69 per cent) were the least prevalent (figure 5).

Figure 4. **Percentage of Governments that report providing non-nationals with equal access to services, welfare benefits and rights, by legal immigration status, 2021**

Source: United Nations and IOM (2021).
Notes: Based on 138 countries with available data (as of 31 October 2021). Percentages do not necessarily add to 100 because of rounding.
Source: United Nations and IOM (2021).

Figure 5. Percentage of Governments that report having institutions, policies and strategies to govern migration, 2021

A dedicated Government agency to implement national migration policy

93%

A national policy or strategy for regular migration pathways, including labour migration

84%

A mechanism to ensure that migration policy is informed by data, appropriately disaggregated

80%

A national policy or strategy to promote the inclusion or integration of immigrants

78%

Formal mechanisms to ensure that the migration policy is gender responsive

69%

Note: Based on 138 countries with available data (as of 31 October 2021).

10. Most Governments report having measures to promote cooperation and partnerships on migration

In terms of specific policy measures to foster cooperation among countries and encourage stakeholder inclusion and participation, 92 per cent of Governments indicated that they had an interministerial coordination mechanism on migration, while 91 per cent had bilateral agreements on migration with other countries.

Eighty-four per cent of Governments reported having agreements for cooperation with other countries on return and readmission, and 76 per cent indicated that they had formal mechanisms to engage civil society and the private sector in the formulation and implementation of migration policies. Regional agreements to promote mobility were reported by 74 per cent of Governments.
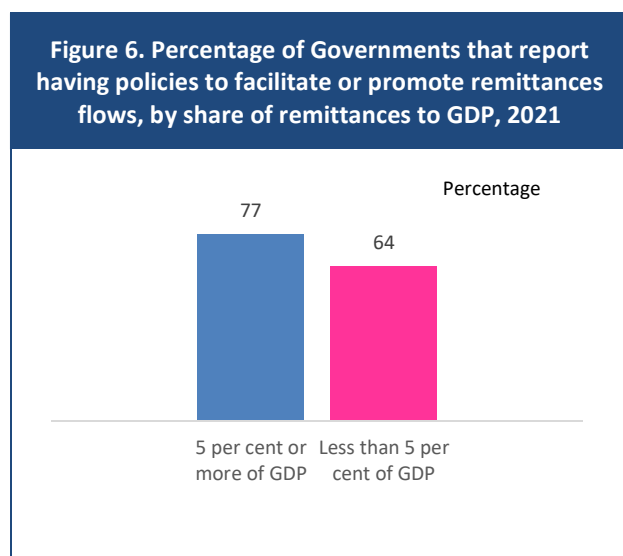
11. Governments need to take further steps to facilitate or promote the flow of remittances

Measures to promote the socioeconomic well-being of migrants are essential for maximizing the positive development impact of migration.

Yet available data show gaps in the use of such measures. Globally, 84 per cent of Governments that responded to the migration module of the Twelfth or the Thirteenth Inquiry reported having policy measures to facilitate the recognition of skills and qualifications acquired abroad, and 81 per cent reported having measures to promote fair and ethical recruitment of migrant workers.

Measures to align labour migration policies with actual and projected labour market needs were reported by 69 per cent of Governments, while 67 per cent indicated that they have measures to facilitate the portability of social security benefits.

Sixty-six per cent of Governments responded that they had specific policy measures to facilitate or promote the flow of remittances. Among countries for which remittances represent 5 per cent or more of GDP, 77 per cent of Governments reported having policies to facilitate or promote remittance flows, compared with 64 per cent for countries where remittances correspond to less than 5 per cent of GDP (figure 6).

Figure 6. Percentage of Governments that report having policies to facilitate or promote remittances flows, by share of remittances to GDP, 2021

Source: United Nations and IOM (2021) and World Bank (2021).
Notes: Based on 130 countries that responded to the Inquiry and with available data on remittances as a share of GDP (as of 31 October 2021). Data on remittances as a share of GDP refer to 2020.

12. The reporting of policy measures to respond to the mobility dimensions of crises remains uneven

Globally, 86 per cent of Governments that responded to the migration module of the Twelfth or the Thirteenth Inquiry reported granting permission for temporary stay or temporary protection to those forcibly displaced across international borders and those unable to return to their home country; 82 per cent reported having a system for receiving, processing and identifying those forced to flee across international borders; and 76 per cent reported using contingency planning for displaced populations to meet basic needs, such as food, sanitation, education and medical care.

In addition, 73 per cent of Governments indicated having specific measures to provide assistance to citizens residing abroad in countries in crisis or post-crisis situations, while 60 per cent had a national disaster risk reduction strategy with specific provisions for addressing the displacement impacts of disasters.

13. Most Governments identify promoting safe, orderly and regular migration as a priority

Globally, 91 per cent of Governments that replied to the migration module of the Twelfth or the Thirteenth Inquiry reported having formal strategies to address trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling. More than eight in ten countries reported having provisions for unaccompanied minors or separated children, or having migration information and awareness-raising campaigns (84 per cent each). More than three fourths of all Governments reported having a system to monitor visa overstays (80 per cent) or to administer pre-arrival authorization controls (78 per cent).

14. Next steps

By combining responses from the Twelfth and the Thirteenth Inquiry, regional and global coverage of SDG indicator 10.7.2 has increased significantly in terms of both number of countries and population. This represents an important milestone for ensuring that the indicator, alongside others, provides the evidence base for monitoring the steps taken by Member States to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people. Looking forward, data for SDG indicator 10.7.2 will be updated every four years using the Inquiry as the data collection instrument. UN DESA, IOM and OECD will continue working together closely to provide guidance to countries on how to respond to the Inquiry and to improve the consistency of Government responses so that the data can be used to monitor progress in achieving target 10.7.2.

Notes:

[1] Other indicators specified to monitor progress in achieving SDG target 10.7 are: Indicator 10.7.1. *Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of monthly income earned in country of destination*; Indicator 10.7.3. *Number of people who died or disappeared in the process of migration towards an international destination*; and Indicator 10.7.4. *Proportion of the population who are refugees, by country of origin*.

[2] UN DESA and IOM serve as co-custodians of SDG indicator 10.7.2, and OECD is a partner agency. For an overview of the process leading to the development of the indicator methodology, see UN DESA and IOM (2019a).

[3] Information for the measurement of SDG indicator 10.7.2 was gathered through the module on international migration of the Twelfth Inquiry and the Thirteenth Inquiry. For more information, see UN DESA (2019 and 2021).

[4] Countries are grouped into seven Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) regions as defined by the United Nations Statistics Division of UN DESA and used in *The Sustainable Development Goals Report*. The seven SDG regions are: Sub-Saharan Africa, Northern Africa and Western Asia, Central and Southern Asia, Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Oceania, and Europe and Northern America.

[5] All regions meet the criteria of having data coverage of at least 50 per cent coverage both in terms of both number of countries and share of the total population. For an indicator to be classified as tier I by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), the data have to be regularly produced by countries for at least 50 per cent of countries and 50 per cent of the total population in every region where the indicator is relevant. For more information on the IAEG-SDGs tier classification being used for global SDG indicators, see: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/tier-classification/.

[6] 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.

[7] 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 or 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.

[8] These programmes include contributory and non-contributory pension schemes (old age, survivor, disability), unemployment insurance, health insurance, workers' compensation, sickness benefits and basic social assistance.

Sources:

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