



WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH: DELIVERING POLICY COHERENCE

The GCM makes a central reference to policy coherence in its outline of the Compact's 10 cross-cutting, interdependent guiding principles:

“The Global Compact considers that migration is a multidimensional reality that cannot be addressed by one government policy sector alone. To develop and implement effective migration policies and practices, a whole-of-government approach is needed to ensure horizontal and vertical policy coherence across all sectors and levels of government (GCM, para. 15 (i)).”

The GCM itself also promotes policy coherence in important ways, such as through **its grounding in international law** and coordination with other important frameworks, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Global Compact on Refugees, the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

THE IMPORTANCE OF A WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH

Policy coherence helps governments ensure consistency across national and regional policy and programmatic frameworks, as well as their adherence to international law. Policy coherence means “developing mutually reinforcing

policies across all relevant sectors and government departments so that policies work together to effectively achieve national development goals, minimizing the negative impacts that policies in one area can have on policies in another area”.¹

Policy coherence is important for migration governance. Migration is an intrinsically cross-border and cross-sectoral phenomenon that affects and is affected by all areas and levels of governance. Policies directly or indirectly related to migration therefore need to be considered in relation to other sectoral or thematic policies in a range of areas, such as development, human rights, climate change, water security, labour, agriculture, trade, housing, health, education and skills development, non-discrimination, social protection, social cohesion, law enforcement, justice and asylum.

By working across all relevant sectors, and the governmental ministries, departments and entities associated with them, States can promote **horizontal coherence**, while also helping ensure that migrants have access to services in sectors like health, education and justice. This also helps ensure that asylum policies remain true to their aims outlined in legal and institutional frameworks and that they converge with migration policies when required. Furthermore, by working with all levels of government – local, national, regional and global – governments can promote **vertical coherence**. Coherence with local authorities is particularly crucial when it comes to migration, as municipalities are often the primary actors in delivering services to migrants, fulfilling their needs and ensuring their human and labour rights.

1. United Nations Development of Economic and Social Affairs, “Areas of Work: Policy Coherence” at www.un.org/development/desa/cdpmo.

Failure to consider the relationships among migration policies and other sectoral policies can result in confusion and inconsistencies in the implementation of these policies and even in breaches of international law. It may limit the effectiveness of the policy or even ultimately result in a detrimental effect on migrants.

In contrast, proactive efforts to promote policy coherence can maximize synergies between policy efforts, enhance trust and collaboration between policymakers and increase political buy-in around the importance of good migration governance.

WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH IN PRACTICE



Identify or establish mechanisms and institutional set-ups for robust collaboration across all migration-related sectors of government, as well as with all levels of government (local, national, regional and global) around migration governance.



Build strong monitoring and evaluation frameworks, improve migration data and increase migration data capacity so that policy impacts (and policy trade-offs) can be measured with greater accuracy.



Map your country's international commitments, including international human rights law and international labour standards, to ensure that policies, legislation and programmes are aligned with these commitments.



Integrate migration into diverse policy areas (for example, health, education), also known as mainstreaming migration, so that policies in different sectors are inclusive of and responsive to migrants' needs and rights and so the development potential of migration is maximized.

RESOURCES FOR A

WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH

The following resources support the integration of migration into policy planning:

- *Guidelines on Mainstreaming Migration into Local Development Planning* (JMDI, 2017) available at www.migration4development.org.
- *Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning: A Handbook for Policymakers and Practitioners* (IOM/GMG, 2010) available at <https://publications.iom.int>.
- *Interrelations between Public Policies, Migration and Development* (OECD, 2017) available at www.oecd.org.
- *Guidelines on Mainstreaming Migration into International Cooperation and Development* (MMICD) (IOM/European Commission's DG DEVCO, forthcoming) will be available at <https://eea.iom.int/mmicd>.
- *Measuring Policy Coherence for Migration and Development: A New Set of Tested Tools* (OECD/UNDP, 2020) available at www.knomad.org.

The following programmes focus specifically on integrating migration:

■ **Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI):**

Launched in 2008, JMDI was funded by the European Commission and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and implemented by United Nations Development Programme Brussels in collaboration with various United Nations agencies. JMDI provided guidance and training on integrating migration into policy planning at the local level and helped scale up selected locally-led migration and development initiatives by providing financial assistance, technical assistance and capacity building to local actors. More information about this project available at <http://migration4development.org>.

■ **Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies:**

This pilot project was co-launched by United Nations Development Programme, International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. This project was launched in 2011 and the first two phases were completed in 2018. A third phase from 2019 to 2023 is underway in 11 countries under the title “Global IOM-UNDP Joint Programme on Making Migration Work for Sustainable Development (Phase III)”. More information about the first two phases of this project available at www.iom.int/mainstreaming-migration-national-development-strategies, and information on the third phase available at <https://migration4development.org/en/about/our-programmes>.

■ **Mainstreaming Migration into International Cooperation and Development (MMICD):**

This project is funded by the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development and implemented by IOM. The project was launched in 2017 and is ongoing. More information about this project available at <https://eea.iom.int/mmicd>.