

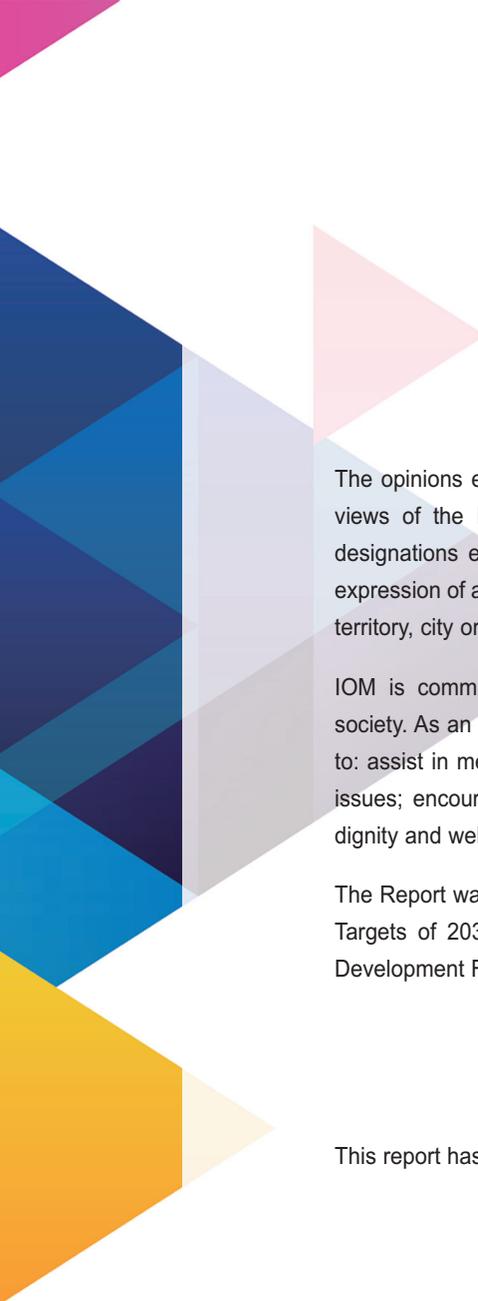
MIGRATION DATA IN THE CONTEXT OF THE 2030 AGENDA:

measuring migration and
development in Armenia



Migration data in the context of the 2030 Agenda

measuring migration and
development in Armenia



The opinions expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) or the IOM Member States. The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries.

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an international organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

The Report was prepared within the framework of the “Monitoring Progress in Achieving Migration Targets of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Armenia” Project funded by the IOM Development Fund.

This report has been published without formal editing by IOM.

Publisher: International Organization for Migration, Mission in Armenia
14 Petros Adamyan street, UN House, Yerevan 0010, Armenia
Tel.: +374 10 58592
Fax: +374 10 543365
Email: IOMArmenia@iom.int
Website: www.iom.int/countries/Armenia

Author: Elisa Mosler Vidal
Layout and Cover Page: Aram Urutyan

© 2019 International Organization for Migration (IOM)

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Table of contents

LIST OF FIGURES, TABLES AND BOXES	ii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	iii
FOREWORD	v
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	vii
INTRODUCTION	1
MIGRATION AND THE SDGS	3
PRIORITIZATION OF SDG TARGETS	8
DATA MAPPING FINDINGS	14
SDG INDICATORS	28
MIGRATION DATA RECOMMENDATIONS	38
CONCLUSION	56
ANNEXES	57
REFERENCES	63

List of Figures, Tables and Boxes

Figure 1.	Migration and the SDGs	3
Figure 2.	Migration – SDG Nationalization Approach in Armenia	6
Table 1.	Synthesis Overview	39
Table 2.	UNDAF Armenia Results Matrix, Outcome 4	58
Table 3.	Interview Template Sample	60
Table 4.	Data Mapping Gap Analysis Overview	61
Box 1.	Direct References to Migration in the SDGs	4
Box 2.	The Migration Governance Indicators	5
Box 3.	Migration Section in the 2014 ILCS	19
Box 4.	Select research on migration and development in Armenia	27
Box 5.	Good practice in Malaysia	42
Box 6.	Ghana 2012/203 Living Standards Survey	42
Box 7.	Suggested ILCS Question changes on education	43
Box 8.	Recommendations on ILCS migration duration question	46
Box 9.	Recommendation on ILCS reason question	47
Box 10.	Using household surveys to collect labour migration data in the Republic of Moldova	49
Box 11.	Recommendation on ILCS remittance question	53
Box 12.	Specialized data collection on diasporas, remittances and financial engagement	53
Box 13.	UNDAF Migration Outcome 4	57
Box 14.	Selected Questions from Education Module in 2014 ILCS	62

List of Abbreviations

AGBU	Armenian General Benevolent Union
BMIS	Border Management Information System
CBA	Central Bank of Armenia
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
EU	European Union
IAEG-SDG	Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators
ILCS	Integrated Living Conditions Survey
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MESCS	Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport
MLSA	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
Armstat	Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia
MS (MTAI RA)	Migration Service (of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia)
SEA (MLSA RA)	State Employment Agency of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SME DNC	Small and Medium Entrepreneurship Development National Center of Armenia
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Plan

Foreword

On 1 January 2016, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development — adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at an historic UN Summit — officially came into force. Over the next fifteen years, with these new Goals that universally apply to all, countries will mobilize efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind. Achievement of the SDGs by states will depend on how effectively sustainable and inclusive development strategies are implemented at the national level.

The Republic of Armenia confirmed its adherence to the 2030 Development Agenda and in the light of political transformation in the country, the SDGs implementation is considered to be an important instrument for internal reforms, as well as solid ground for cooperation and partnership between the government, the UN, international partners, private sector, civil society and diaspora organizations.

In the meantime, the Government of Armenia recognizes the importance of reliable and comprehensive data for the implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda.

Armenia's Migration policy underlines the development potential of migration for socioeconomic development in the country and its transformation into a knowledge and innovation-based economy. Therefore, relevant migration data is considered to be a critical ingredient for evidence-based policymaking.

We are hopeful that **“Migration Data in the Context of the 2030 Agenda: Measuring Migration and Development in Armenia”** Report and its recommendations prepared with the support from the IOM Development Fund will help to improve migration data collection and management and will contribute to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Armenia.



Mr Eduard AGHAJANYAN

Chief of Staff

Office of Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia

Executive Summary

Background

The process of nationalizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the field of Migration and Development was kick-started in Armenia through IOM's "Monitoring Progress in Achieving Migration Targets of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Armenia" project. Taking advantage of the inclusion of international migration as a topic in the mainstream global development agenda under the SDGs, the project developed the Armenian government's capacity to identify and monitor the migration related SDG targets most relevant to national context.

Armenia has a mixed set of migration and development challenges and opportunities. Among other features, the country has historically high rates of seasonal labour migration and a sizable diaspora around the world, while more recently it has seen rising numbers of labour migrants and Syrian-Armenian refugees arrive in the country. This means that many of the SDG targets relating to migration are highly relevant to the country, and these often involve very different policy areas. This also created an opportunity for this project to meaningfully engage a number of diverse migration stakeholders in the country, from the national statistical offices to several line ministries and civil society actors.

Methodology

Firstly, migration-related SDG targets were prioritized in a multi-stakeholder process. Here stakeholders identified the five most relevant migration-related SDG targets for Armenia, modifying these where relevant. Concurrently, a comprehensive data mapping exercise took place that assessed existing Armenian migration data across topics. Following this, an indicator framework was developed to monitor progress against the five selected SDG targets that was based on the data mapping. Further, tailored recommendations were developed to improve migration data collection and management in Armenia.

Summary of outputs

The table below details the prioritized SDG targets and national indicators for these. The national indicators include both internationally established SDG indicators and some proxy indicators. Proxy indicators were developed where it was not possible to use international SDG indicators due to data availability, or where there was a particular aspect of the target that was not monitored by the international indicator. Note some of the targets were also modified slightly to better fit national context; these are detailed in the document.

Global Target	National indicator
<p>4.b. By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries.</p>	<p>Number of scholarships awarded to Armenian nationals for enrolment in higher education abroad, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, including for exchange.</p>
<p>8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.</p>	<p>Level of national compliance of labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation.</p>
<p>10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.</p>	<p>% of returned migrants who undertook paid work during the last 7 days.</p> <p>Proportion of individual asylum applications granted.</p>
<p>17.16 Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries.</p>	<p>Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Proportion of SDG indicators produced at the national level with migration disaggregation.</p>

The indicators are reported publicly on Armenia's [SDG reporting platform](#), alongside other non-migration related SDG targets. This is managed by Armstat and updated annually.

The data gaps found in the data mapping exercise, and corresponding migration data recommendations, are in the table below. The recommendations were designed as in-depth, actionable steps for Armenia to improve its migration data that were based on identified gaps in data collection systems and processes. In this way, relevant actors can improve capacity on migration data through steps that reflect international guidance, and yet are tailor-made.

Topic	Relevant Data Gaps	Recommendations
Migration and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incomplete data capture on migrants' activity after education • No overview of education migration statistics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve post-completion follow up by relevant education bodies • Compile and publish government and non-government statistics on education migration • Amend ILCS question on educational attainment for lowest skilled
Labour migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incomplete labour migration statistics, especially on migrants in Armenia • Incomplete seasonal migration data capture • Incomplete data collection on migrant labour rights and recruitment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When work permit scheme is enacted, ensure automated links with the Population Register • Amend ILCS question on duration of migration
Migration governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General lack of comprehensiveness and accuracy in migration statistics • Incomplete data collection on exits • Incomplete data collection on return migration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend ILCS question on reason for migration • Improve registration rate of migrants on Population Register • Link BMIS and Population Register • Add periodic ILCS Labour Migration module • Enhance cooperation with relevant destination countries on migration data

Diaspora and partnerships for development

- Incomplete data collection on skills and knowledge and relevant matching mechanisms
- Remittance utilization data not available
- Remittance cost data not shown as average percentage of total remitted
- No regular data collection on diaspora investment

- Expand employer surveys to more sectors
- Conduct skills survey or mapping exercise for Armenian diaspora
- Adapt data published on remittance costs
- Adapt remittances question in ILCS to collect transfer size data
- Introduce regular specialized survey on remittances
- Integrate diaspora investment questions into skills surveys and/or remittance surveys

Migration data

- Data gaps as above, which hinder development of evidence-based effective and inclusive migration policies
- No compliance reporting in place on migration statistics procedures
- Residence status and other migration variables related to victims of human trafficking not reported

- Introduce Armstat Migration Statistics Compliance Document
- Include data on residence status and other migration variables in end reporting on human trafficking

Conclusion

As a result of the project, Armenia reports its progress against key migration-related SDG targets on a public platform. Moreover, the project kick-started a lengthy and inclusive migration data capacity-building process in the country that was framed around the SDGs. The development of the indicators took as its basis national data capacities and built as far as possible on existing data. This helped keep the burden of monitoring low and helped ensure indicator reporting could be sustainable. Moreover, both the indicator framework and recommendations were created in close collaboration with stakeholders across government. In these ways, the indicators represent valuable and country-owned reporting across migration topics relevant to the 2030 Agenda.

The project was one of the first to create proxy indicators to measure migration-related SDG targets.¹ Moreover, the project had a number of good practices that could be replicated in other migration data capacity-building initiatives elsewhere. For example, the project was highly consultative and involved over 100 stakeholders through interviews and workshops, including many non-governmental stakeholders. Further, by reporting the indicators on the national SDG reporting platform, the project was successful in integrating migration data initiatives into broader development data initiatives. In this way, migration data was mainstreamed into wider SDG efforts in the country.

1. There are now other examples of this, detailed in IOM's *Migration and the 2030 Agenda: A Guide for Practitioners*.

Introduction

This report is part of IOM's "Monitoring Progress in Achieving Migration Targets of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Armenia" project. The purpose of the project was to:

- Identify SDG targets that reflect migration and development priorities in Armenia;
- Undertake a comprehensive mapping exercise of Armenia's migration data sources and processes;
- Propose recommendations to improve migration data in Armenia;
- Develop and operationalize indicators to monitor the chosen SDG targets.

"Monitoring Progress in Achieving Migration Targets of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Armenia" aims overall to strengthen the capacities of Armenia to enhance migration data collection, processing and sharing, with a view to sustainably monitor Armenia's progress in migration and development in the context of 2030 Agenda.

The project is carried out in close coordination with the RA Statistical Committee (Armstat), as well as input from RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure and its Migration Service other relevant bodies of the Armenian Government and civil society.

Methodology

This project involved an SDG target **prioritization** process, a **data mapping** exercise, and a process to **develop and validate an indicator framework and tailored migration data recommendations**. The methodology of this project followed that detailed in IOM's *Migration and the 2030 Agenda: A Guide for Practitioners* (IOM, 2018).

Prioritization. The objective of this step was to establish SDG priorities for Armenia in the context of migration and development. Stakeholders identified the five most relevant migration-related SDG targets for Armenia, modifying these where relevant. Migration-related SDG targets were prioritized in a multi-stakeholder process, including in a brainstorming workshop involving over 60 participants, followed by a validation workshop.

Data Mapping. The objective of this step was to identify what migration data was available in Armenia, and to track the collection and management of this data. This involved conducting a migration data needs assessment of the SDG targets, and designing a data mapping template based on this. Following this, this involved a comprehensive data mapping exercise that assessed existing Armenian migration data across topics. This involved conducting interviews (19 interviews were carried out in Yerevan), designing and administering follow-on questionnaires and conducting two validation workshops.

Developing indicator framework. Following this, an indicator framework was developed to monitor progress against the five selected SDG targets. This was based on the outputs of the data mapping exercise, and the indicators built on national data availability to develop indicators that were relevant to the national context and as coherent as possible with international migration data guidance and the global SDG indicator framework. The indicators were developed in close discussion with the national statistical agency and were validated in a workshop.

Developing migration data recommendations. The objectives of this step were to synthesize the results from the data mapping exercise and offer tailored recommendations to improve migration data collection and management in Armenia. Activities included analysing interview and workshop outputs, completing a gap analysis of migration data, and discussing and validating recommendations in a workshop.

There were some limitations to the project. While many stakeholders were interviewed or consulted otherwise for this study, it was not possible to interview every stakeholder in Armenia relevant to migration and development activities or data. For example, the National Security Service of the Republic of Armenia, which manages border data, was not interviewed. This means that some migration data sources may be missing from this study.

Migration and the SDGs

The UN General Assembly adopted the SDGs in September 2015 – a set of 17 Goals and accompanying 169 targets designed to guide development initiatives until 2030. The goals were formulated through a participatory and multi-stakeholder process and aim to be a comprehensive set of targets that tackle the root causes of poverty and inequality. For the first time, migration has been recognized as a key development topic in the mainstream global development agenda, as the SDG goals and targets make a number of references to migration – see Figure 1.

Figure 1 Migration and the SDGs



The central reference to migration is made in target 10.7 to “facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies”. The target recognizes the role of migration in reducing inequality and appears under Goal 10 to reduce inequality within and among countries (see Box 2 for a summary of IOM efforts to measure this target). There are numerous other migration references in the SDGs, as the Goals treat migration as the multi-dimensional development topic it is and identify its links to human development and economic growth. Other targets call for access of migrants to learning opportunities, eradicating forced labour and human trafficking,² promoting the rights of migrant workers and reducing the cost of remittances. Further, the SDGs address a number of emerg-

2. The terms “human trafficking” and “trafficking in persons” will be used interchangeably in this report and will be defined as follows: “The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation” (Art. 3(a), UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000). Trafficking in persons can take place within the borders of one State or may have a transnational character.

ing issues in migration and development that speak to current trends. For example, they address the increasing feminization of migration by calling for greater protection of female migrant workers and addressing environmental degradation by pledging to reduce climate change induced migration. For a list of direct migration references in the SDGs see Box 1.³

Box 1.

Direct References to Migration in the SDGs

Target 4B: By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of **scholarships** available to developing countries in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries.

Target 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including **trafficking** and sexual and other types of exploitation.

Target 8.7: Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate **forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking** and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.

Target 8.8: Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including **migrant workers, in particular women migrants**, and those in precarious employment.

Target 10.7: **Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.**

Target 10C: By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent **the transaction costs of migrant remittances** and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent.

Target 16.2: End abuse, exploitation, **trafficking** and all forms of violence and torture against children.

Target 17.16: Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries.

Target 17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public — private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.

Target 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.

There are also other indirect entry points for the migration agenda in the SDGs.

3. See IOM's *Migration and the 2030 Agenda: A Guide for Practitioners*, 2018.

The inclusion of migration in the SDGs is an important precedent that presents an opportunity to further the migration and development agenda and generate positive outcomes for countries and migrants themselves. As governments, civil society, academia and the public increasingly recognize the contributions of migration to growth and development, they also recognize the growing need for comprehensive policy solutions to realize these. The SDGs are intended to be universal in nature, meaning both developing and developed countries have a responsibility to further goals. In the context of migration, this means there is a role for a range of countries, including those that are predominantly origin, transit and destination countries for migrants, in strengthening migration and development linkages through better migration management.

The inclusion of migration in the SDGs also presents a valuable opportunity to strengthen national migration data collection and build capacity to do so on a global scale. Migration data is challenging to capture and manage; thus most countries have significant gaps in migration data, making it difficult to develop effective and informed policy. The migration SDG targets have the potential to significantly improve global migration data and statistics, enabling evidence-based change across a range of topics. For the first time, addressing key areas of migration and development will be a priority for many countries. As governments do this they will need to monitor and report data in these topics, either by improving existing methodologies or conceptualizing these for the first time. This is therefore a chance to improve the quality, quantity, accuracy and comparability of migration data around the world, and strengthen the role of national statistical offices and other migration stakeholders in countries in doing this.

Box 2. The Migration Governance Indicators

The SDGs present a key opportunity for IOM to assist countries around the world in achieving the 2030 Agenda's objectives with regards to migration. IOM is engaging in SDG implementation, follow-up and review at the local, national, regional and global levels.

One significant part of IOM's efforts at the national level is its **Migration Governance Indicators (MGI)**. Developed with the Economist Intelligence Unit, the MGI is **a tool for countries to help assess their migration governance in relation to Target 10.7**, to track progress on adoption of "well-managed migration policies". The MGI uses over 90 questions to measure government policy across domains and functions as a policy-benchmarking framework to help governments evaluate their migration policy and set policy priorities. See the Global Migration Data Portal for snapshots of countries' results.⁴

SDG Nationalization

The SDGs are global goals, but to be successful they need to be implemented effectively at the national and local levels. Therefore, a process must take place to translate the 2030 Agenda from global-level goals into national-level actions.

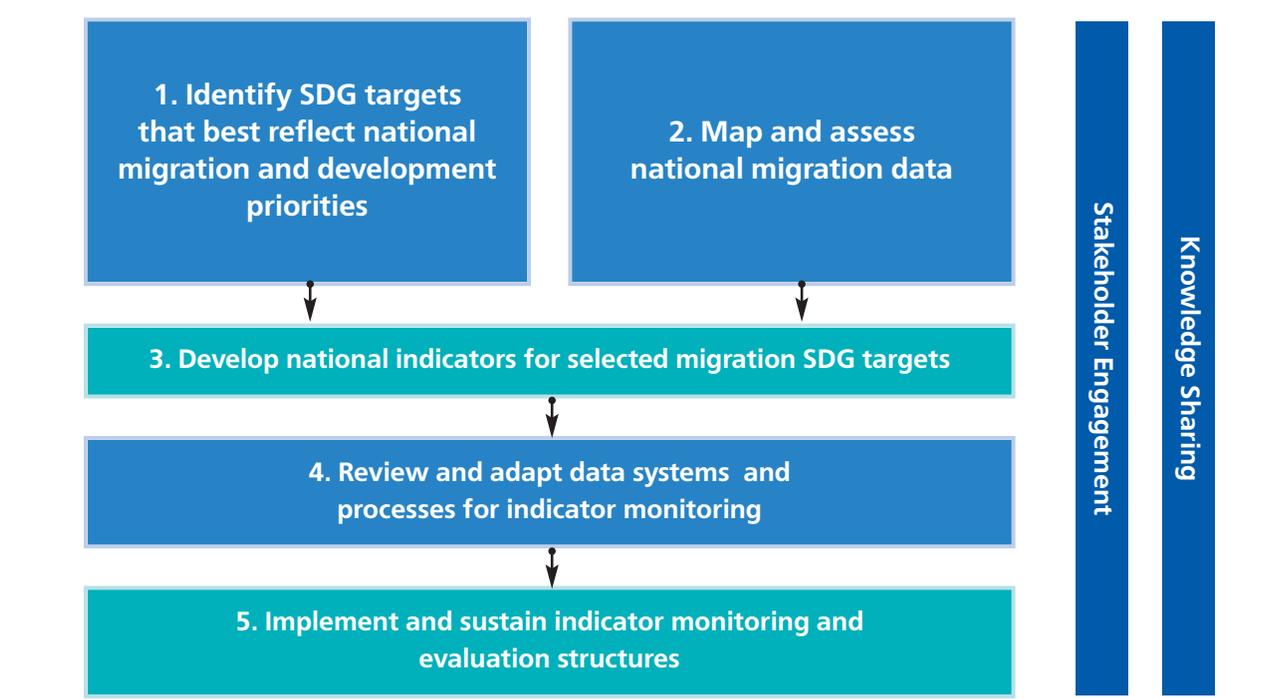
There is no single approach to national-level SDG implementation. Activities towards this suggested by IOM can be classified under Kick-off, Prioritization, Implementation, and Monitoring and Reporting stages (IOM, 2018). This project will focus on two of these stages: **prioritization, and monitoring and reporting**.

Prioritization of the SDGs involves the selection of the most important SDG targets, which is key to improving interventions' focus, and especially significant for countries with resource constraints. Doing this involves taking stock of existing national development programmes and progress in relevant areas, and starting inclusive dialogue to discuss the interests of national stakeholders in the context of the SDGs.

4. See www.migrationdataportal.org/snapshots/mgi.

SDG follow-up and review will take place over a 15-year period at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) meetings held every four years. To ensure some level of international comparability and an ability to monitor SDG progress at a global level, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG) developed a list of over 230 indicators to monitor target progress. The indicators, however, are not all appropriate for national level monitoring. For example, some are specifically global-level and do not allow for self-reporting at the country level. Further, many of the global indicators that relate to migration have relatively under-developed methodologies. Many of these are classified as Tier III indicators, meaning they do not have internationally established methodologies or standards, and/or relevant data are not regularly produced by countries (IOM, 2018). Governments wishing to monitor certain migration-relevant SDG targets can first consider whether they can report on the global indicators using available data. If global indicators cannot be reported, or in addition to reporting these, governments may develop proxy indicators to monitor targets separately at the national level (IOM, 2018).

Figure 2. Migration — SDG Nationalization Approach in Armenia



In the context of Armenia and migration, this entails launching a process with the following steps:

1. **SDG target prioritization.** This involves prioritizing SDG migration targets according to Armenian objectives. This includes identifying priorities within each target (some targets are multidimensional) and reviewing their linkages with national and local goals. Further, this involves modifying the chosen targets to fit Armenian context, where appropriate.
2. **Migration Data Mapping.** This involves mapping existing Armenian migration data at local and national levels to SDG monitoring information needs and conducting a gap analysis.
3. **Indicator Development.** This involves developing indicators that measure Armenian progress towards the prioritized SDG targets. These indicators will reflect national priorities while being aligned with global guidance on migration and the SDGs. Indicator formulation will consider Armenia's data management capacities, including resource and technology considerations. This step involves working closely with the Armstat.

4. **Indicator Monitoring.** This involves ensuring necessary migration data is captured and monitored for the chosen indicators through appropriate mediums. This may involve setting up new data collection processes or linking data between government levels and agencies.
5. **Nationally owned Review.** Once these data systems and processes are in place, reporting of the indicators will begin and progress towards meeting chosen SDG targets can be assessed using nationally owned processes.

Stakeholder Engagement. Advancing and implementing the 2030 Agenda is a complex exercise that will require broad partnerships and inclusive dialogue. Therefore, the project coordinates multi-stakeholder engagement throughout, including engagement of civil society, the private sector, academia and the public. These partners are mobilized to gain different perspectives on migration priorities and solutions, and ultimately help build a comprehensive and sustainable SDG migration framework for Armenia. The project includes extensive consultation with different migration stakeholders and has engaged almost 100 people in the prioritization and data mapping stages.

Knowledge sharing. As SDG nationalization is an emerging area of activity and key insights are generated particularly from thematic processes such as this one in migration, it is important to share experiences. Therefore, a strong knowledge-sharing component is key throughout the project. Project activities, developments and lessons learned need to be shared nationally and internationally, through IOM and other channels.

This project takes place as the Government of Armenia implements a wider process on national SDG implementation for all, including non-migration-related, Goals. This process is led by the National Council on Sustainable Development, chaired by the Prime Minister, and implemented with the United Nations Country Team Armenia. This process includes prioritization, where after a series of Rapid Integrated Policy Assessments are conducted to assess the relevance of the 2030 Agenda to Armenia's development context, a series of national consultations and workshops will take place to prioritize each SDG. Next, a process of integration will take place where chosen goals and targets are mainstreamed into national development planning, before being localized into regional development plans. Finally, the UN Country Team will work with several government stakeholders to develop monitoring and reporting systems at the national level for the SDGs.

It should be noted that this project is concerned with prioritizing and monitoring progress towards the migration-related SDGs that are most important to Armenia. However, the development and implementation of programmes to achieve these targets are outside the scope of this project. While the development of data mechanisms to measure SDGs is a crucial step towards better migration management, the Government of Armenia and other stakeholders can simultaneously continue to develop and implement measures to achieve the identified migration priorities independently.

Prioritization of SDG targets

Multi-stakeholder discussions took place to prioritize migration-related SDG targets. Once this was done, further workshops took place to modify selected targets, tailoring these to the Armenian context better, and endorse these.

Over 60 participants were gathered for an initial workshop to discuss which migration-related SDG targets should be prioritized for Armenia and which dimensions of these targets are the most significant.⁵ In order to elicit meaningful prioritization discussion and valuable results, the following principles were used to guide participants through the exercise:

- **Applicability.** Identifying SDG targets that are of particular relevance to Armenia's country context taking into account its migration and development situation and identifying sub-areas within targets of particular interest.
- **Impact.** Recognizing where progress in a particular area holds a significant and necessary challenge for Armenia, and where national attention would have a large impact.
- **Future Consideration.** Taking a forward-thinking perspective to consider and address Armenia's possible migration needs and scenarios over the next 15 years, to reflect the 2030 Agenda timeframe.
- **Constraint Recognition.** Identifying and addressing any relevant constraints to migration topics that could affect intervention success, to realistically consider Armenia's abilities to meet targets.
- **Priority Linkages.** Linking identified SDG targets with relevant national, local or UN plans, ensuring objectives in these are considered.

In accordance with the final principle, care was taken to link the exercise to relevant UN planning, through the UN-Armenia Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). Armenia was among first 50 countries to hold national consultations on the post-2015 development agenda, therefore the UN Post-2015 Armenian Task Force held a series of multi-stakeholder meetings to discuss development priorities.⁶ After several rounds of consultations involving government, UN and civil society partners, seven "outcomes" were identified as priorities for Armenia for 2016 — 2020. These outcomes, jointly created by the Government of Armenia and the UN, present key development commitments and details on their delivery, including implementation arrangements, partnerships, resource mobilization, monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

UNDAF partners recognized migration is a key phenomenon affecting nearly half of Armenian households and designated one outcome on migration, calling for comprehensive and effective migration management. Migration discussion during the consultations centred around its drivers, effects on society and linkages to economic growth and inequality. In particular, participants identified the need to reconcile the positive economic opportunities of migration with negative social side-effects, the importance of migrant health and the underlying need to address domestic unemployment. As a result, the UNDAF's strategies to help achieve the outcome reflect these discussions and cover a wide range of migration issues to (See Annex 3). Care was taken to build on these efforts and relate SDG prioritization to these objectives where relevant.

5. As seen above, there are SDG targets that directly and indirectly reference migration. During the exercise discussion of targets that directly reference migration was prioritized, because they were identified as more relevant to Armenia. Nevertheless, participants were free to discuss all SDG targets.

6. See UNDAF document www.un.am/up/library/UNDAF_Armenia%202016-2020_eng.pdf and for further background on Armenian progress towards MDGs see MDGS: National Progress Report Armenia 2015 www.un.am/up/library/MDG%20NPR_15_eng.pdf.

A validation workshop was held in July 2017 in Yerevan to discuss the targets further. It became clear that while many of the targets were applicable to Armenia, some of them in their global formulation were not precise enough about national priorities. For example, some alluded to relevant broader themes, such as migration and education, however, did not reflect national priorities within these (see Target 4.b). During discussions, sub-themes under each target were identified that were priorities for Armenia. It was decided to adapt some of the prioritized targets, integrating these sub-themes to make these more relevant to the Armenian context. Below is a list of the prioritized targets in their global formulation, followed by their proposed national formulations.

It is important to note the identified list of SDG priorities is not exhaustive and that all aspects of SDG implementation should maintain a flexible approach. Five SDG targets could be prioritized in this exercise; taking into account project and time constraints, focusing on five targets enabled the relevant thematic areas to be examined in depth appropriately. The below SDG targets were identified as current priorities for Armenia, however new priorities may emerge for Armenia in the next 15 years. Thus, if a particular migration and development issue is not recognized below, this may still become relevant in the near future and it may still be an area the Government of Armenia may wish to address at a later date.

Prioritization Results

Participants identified the following five SDG targets as the most important for Armenia in the context of migration and development.



Migration and Education

Global target 4.b. By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries.

National target. By 2030 substantially expand the number of participants in educational exchange intergovernmental programmes and increase the number of scholarships abroad.

Special priorities:

- Expanding scholarships for Armenians abroad
- Improving retention and use of national human capital
- Skills matching to better link education for migrants abroad and returnees

This priority was chosen because of Armenia's overall need to better address the linkages between education and migration in Armenia. The priorities in this category, therefore, are around skills matching and maximization of human capital, as well as expanding scholarships. There is a continued need to expand educational opportunities for Armenians in different countries and across disciplines. A linked issue identified was the difficulty of retaining national human capital. Armenia currently loses a high proportion of its qualified youth, as unemployment pushes young people to travel abroad to study or work. One recurring issue identified around student mobility was that many young people travel abroad to study and do not return to Armenia. Therefore, while overseas educational programs must be strengthened and expanded, policymakers should also address how to encourage participants to return to Armenia on completion.

Many migrants work abroad in employment for which they are overqualified and on return to Armenia experience the same scenario. Therefore, a key priority here also is to put the human capital of migrants and returnees to good use. This could be done through improved skills matching programmes that link individuals' qualifications to employment. For returnees, reintegration efforts should focus on labour market outcomes and assistance as they seek domestic employment. For those engaged in low-skilled employment, programmes may focus on upskilling and skills provision, either before migrants leave, during residence abroad or on return.

Providing education for migrants in Armenia is also important, in particular through skills acquisition programmes for refugees. This Target is linked to Target 8.8 on labour migration.

Labour Migration

Global target 8.8. Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.

National target. Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.

Special priorities:

- **Improving labour migration management overall**
- **Addressing the needs of different migrant profiles, by gender, age, occupation**

This target concerns the management of labour migration in and out of Armenia, including by protecting the rights of Armenian labour migrants abroad. There is currently no adequate labour migration framework in place in Armenia, and existing policies and systems in place are weak. There is an immediate need to improve basic information systems around labour migration, to generate accurate data on how many migrants depart and return in each labour sector and provide details on their demographic and socioeconomic characteristics. Labour migration challenges evolve over time and an effective framework needs to detect changing patterns and be adaptable. Further, the social and financial needs of labour migrants' families in Armenia should be better addressed, particularly those of women and children left behind. Armenia needs a labour migration framework that can identify and address the changing needs of different migrant profiles. To do this, there needs to be a special focus on collecting data on variables for migrants such as gender, age and occupation, as well as seeking more information on qualitative variables such as reason and objectives around migration.

Aside from the need to build a stronger national labour migration framework, a few key policy priority areas were identified. These included building effective circular migration programmes at different skill levels and improving social and labour reintegration of returnees. Further, there is a continued need to protect migrants' rights and decrease their vulnerability throughout the migration lifecycle. This could be done with improved pre-departure training on rights for migrants, as well as by strengthening social protection for migrants by facilitating health insurance or other provisions to migrants. Finally, though it is important to take a migrant-centric perspective on labour migration management that upholds the rights of migrants, the effects of long-term migration on the Armenian economy should also be considered and this should inform policy to an extent.

Migration Management

Global target 10.7. Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

National target. Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies and laws, focusing on strengthening management of labour outmigration, return, and national asylum processes, as well as improving capacity to strengthen national migration governance in the future.

Special priorities:

- **Overall improving migration management**
- **Focus on better managing labour migration, return and reintegration, and asylum processes.**

There is an overall need to better regulate all types of migration in Armenia. The government should play a more active role in managing all three stages of the migration lifecycle, assisting and monitoring Armenian labour, family and other types of migrants before they depart, while they are abroad and after they return. They should also address the needs of migrants in Armenia, including strengthening asylum processes and centres to receive asylum seekers, and meeting integration needs for all. Return was a recurring theme throughout discussions on all SDG targets. It was emphasized that reintegration of returnees was an especially important aspect of better migration management in Armenia, particularly around labour market integration and improving training for these, and was currently under-regulated. This is in line with points 6 and 8 of UNDAF's Outcome 4. Currently there is not enough transparency around many migration processes in Armenia. To help this, the government must make sure the roles of all stakeholders involved in migration policies and programmes are clearly defined, and all migration management efforts are underpinned by principles and mechanisms of transparency and accountability.

Diaspora Engagement

Global target 17.16. Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries.

National target. Actively participate in global partnership for sustainable development, including by mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources through multi-sectoral cooperation to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Special priorities:

- **Engaging a range of actors to help Armenia's sustainable development**
- **Engaging the Armenian diaspora to support national development, by improving knowledge and skills transfer and financial flows**

Enhancing the global partnership for the sustainable development of Armenia, through engaging a broad range of actors, was emphasized as a priority. In particular, Armenia has a large and diverse diaspora population – including Armenians residing abroad for the long and short term – that can be engaged effectively and creatively for development purposes. One of the most significant resources of Armenian diaspora communities is their accumulated human capital, which could contribute to furthering knowledge and skills of Armenians in diverse areas, possibly helping alleviate some skills mismatching issues. Therefore, it is important to work towards a

global knowledge exchange network where diaspora engagement includes efforts to facilitate transfer of human capital, for example through skills recognition schemes with different countries or temporary return of targeted diaspora members.

Financially engaging the diaspora, including labour migrants, is also significant, and the need to prioritize effective and efficient remittance transfers to Armenia from abroad was also highlighted. In particular, efforts need to continue to keep Armenian remittance transfer costs low; lowering all transfer costs to under 5 per cent as called for in Target 10C could incur savings for Armenians abroad. In parallel to this, financial literacy for migrant households should be strengthened to most adequately reap the benefits of financial transfers from Armenians abroad and help realize their development potential. Further, diaspora and labour migrant investment into Armenia should be encouraged.

Migration Data

Global target 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.

National target: Strengthen capacities, including through development assistance, to increase significantly the quality, timely and reliable data circle, disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location, and by other national context specific characteristics.

Special priorities:

- **Improving data for all the above migration issue areas, so the Government can create more effective and inclusive migration policies**

Data is a significant constraint in many migration issue areas. Improving overall migration data was ranked of very high importance in almost all prioritization discussions, as currently Armenia's ability to tackle its key migration challenges – such as returnee integration – is limited due to a lack of information. Better migration data is central to all identified migration priority areas, as it is a prerequisite for adequate policy formulation. Therefore, there is a need to improve migration data specifically to use it to inform policy. This will include better data collection as well as improving mechanisms surrounding this, for example improving coordination and exchange of government agency data with the Armstat. Finally, prioritization underlined how important it is to take an inclusive approach in migration data, to make sure that all possible groups are properly identified in data capture and subsequently included in policy formulation. As a result, there is an overall need to collect more information on variables such as migrants' gender, age, occupation, employment status, income and more, to remain inclusive.

- Other priorities mentioned during discussions included **improving healthcare services access** for migrants (Target 3.8) and **integrating refugees** (Target 10.7; others). Gender issues and **discrimination against women** also need to be addressed better (Target 5.2) and **climate change migration** is a possible emerging area of focus for Armenia. Remittances costs are fairly low in Armenia, so this area was not identified as a key priority (Target 10C).
- **Linkages between targets.** There are deep linkages between migration SDG targets that mean that tackling one can in turn help address others. For example, labour migration is linked to trafficking; if the former were better managed, this may help decrease the prevalence of the latter.

Data Mapping Findings

The data mapping exercise assessed statistical and administrative migration data sources in Armenia. It assessed these by examining data capturing and storing, data processing, data sharing with government agencies and/or international organizations, and data dissemination and publishing. It assessed these data mechanisms against international migration data standards, including SDG-specific guidance from the IAEG.

Care was taken to collect information on disaggregation in migration data capture. For key migration areas such as duration, reason, frequency, origin and destination of migration, it is valuable to include variables that reveal sociodemographic and economic characteristics of migrants. Reporting disaggregated statistics was limited in many countries during the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) process and a lesson learned for the SDG process is to create a greater focus on disaggregation in monitoring data to better serve certain vulnerable groups. Therefore, during the data mapping exercise information was collected on whether age, sex, occupation, employment status and other details were collected by various actors as part of data capture, and how far these were included in data processing, sharing and dissemination. In the area of data processing, sharing and dissemination, all relevant factors were assessed, such as the efficiency, reliability, formality and regularity of processes.

The data mapping findings are organized by issues under migration SDG targets. Migration and Education relates to Target 4B, Gender and Migration to 5.2, Trafficking to 8.7, Labour Migration to 8.8, Migration Management to 10.7, Remittances to 10C, Children to 8.7 and 16.2, Diaspora Engagement to 17.16 and Migration Data and Statistics to 17.18. Several of the MGI's identified migration governance domains, such as "migrant rights" and "safe and orderly migration", were used to structure the Migration Management section.

Education and Migration

Data Gaps:

- **Incomplete data capture on migrants' activity after education.** It is difficult to track activities of education migrants abroad after they complete programmes.
- **No overview on all education migrants (procedural).** There is no compilation of statistics on all Armenian education migrants on government and non-governmental programmes.
- **Incomplete data capture on non-tertiary migrant education.** Primary and secondary education enrolment in Armenia is often not recorded or disaggregated by migratory status.

Education for Armenian migrants

There is no systematic data collection in place on information on all Armenians travelling abroad for education purposes, only scattered data on Armenians studying abroad on governmental and other selected programmes. The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport collects comprehensive information on Armenian students studying under intergovernmental agreements abroad. These include tertiary education and summer courses through bilateral government agreements and other regional education programmes. As of November 2016, 280 Armenians were on official educational programmes abroad. Data are collected for students on scholarships programmes in China, Bulgaria, Georgia, Jordan, Romania, Germany and Czechia, and through the German DAAD programme and EU Erasmus scheme. Currently records are kept by the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport separately and there is no collation within the Ministry of data from

different programmes. The Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) also collects data on Armenians taking part in their scholarship programmes. These reach similar totals of beneficiaries; as of November 2016, 308 students were taking part in AGBU programmes abroad. One data gap identified by stakeholders is tracking student activities after programme completion. Many students stay abroad after they finish their studies, and it is difficult to record and monitor their activities once their official educational reporting has come to an end. It is also difficult to track online qualifications and any web-based education of Armenian migrants.

Education for migrants in Armenia

Currently the Armstat collects totals of foreign nationals in Armenia who are on visas using education as their grounds for entry; this covers those aged 16 or over who are in Armenia to pursue an education programme. The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport has a good picture of foreign nationals studying in Armenia at the tertiary level; migrants entering tertiary education are allocated university places through a quota system in public and private universities, the Ministry collects data on these students.⁷ It is more difficult to calculate totals of foreign nationals studying in Armenia at primary and secondary levels. Primary state education is free and universally accessible, and many migrant (including refugee) children are enrolled in schools. Currently however, records on primary and secondary school enrolment and other data are not always disaggregated by migratory status in schools and where they are, it can be difficult to compile these records from schools across regions at the national level.

In addition to this, there are several snapshots of migrant education data available from other bodies. The Ministry of Diaspora collected some education-related data on a number of its Syrian-Armenian beneficiaries, many of whom they granted educational access and funding to, and/or assisted through qualification recognition schemes. Since 2014 the AGBU helps place Syrian-Armenians in Armenian universities (assisting approximately 400-500 students a year). The KASA Foundation (partnered with UNHCR) also provides vocational training, skills coaching and other education programmes to refugees and asylum seekers in Armenia. Each of these organizations collect data on their beneficiaries. As with data on education of Armenian migrants, the concern in this area is the difficulty of gaining a holistic picture of the education of all migrants in Armenia. Compiling all available information may not capture data on all migrants studying in Armenia. Further, not all students would be included as those from Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries do not require a visa.

Gender and Migration

Data Gaps:

- **Incomplete disaggregation. Relevant bodies dealing with rights abuses do not record information by gender and/or migratory status.**

7. A previous IOM study on Migration Management in Armenia (2008:32) called for better regulation of education migrants. It is likely there is some level of misuse, partly as education stay permits can be granted through private agencies and do not require a personal visit, and there has been evidence of individuals under student permits in Armenia travelling onto Europe. This issue was not further explored in this study.

Gender and Migration

Human trafficking data collected by Police are disaggregated by gender, so it is possible to separate reports and statistics on female and male victims. Further, if any abuse or violence took place against an individual during trafficking this is recorded by Police and included in reporting.

It is difficult to identify vulnerabilities or issues of women migrants who are not linked to human trafficking. For example, it is difficult to access data on gender-based violence (GBV) outside of trafficking cases. This is because most bodies who collect information on GBV or related gender abuse issues do not record victims' migratory status. By law Police treatment is equal irrespective of status, meaning migrant women have the same rights as Armenian nationals. This has also meant that agencies are not obliged to record victims' citizenship, country of birth or other migration variables. For example, the Criminal Investigation department of the Police, which address gender-related cases including domestic abuse and GBV, do not collect data on nationality of victims. The Health and Labour Inspectorate does not record gender, citizenship, nationality or residence status of those filing complaints. Therefore, it is hard to get an idea of any abuse or rights violations against women who are not linked to human trafficking. See the human trafficking section below for further details on what data are available.

Human Trafficking and Exploitation

Data Gaps:

- **End reporting on human trafficking does not disaggregate data by migratory status of trafficking victims.**

Most human trafficking data are collected by Police in their Department of Organized Crime, which has been leading much counter-trafficking work in Armenia. In 2016, 12 criminal cases were filed with the department, of which 2 were reclassified during preliminary investigation. Out of the remaining 10 cases, three related to the exploitation of female prostitution, 1 to labour exploitation and attempt for sexual exploitation. The Police are notified of a case as individuals come forward directly or through their help hotlines or are referred from international organizations or NGOs. Some trafficking cases are also identified through the Police's operative work. Data collected on each trafficking victim include age, gender, nationality and education level. Data are differentiated between international and domestic cases, so it is possible to identify cases of domestic human trafficking such as forced begging. Data are also collected on victims' compensation and assistance claims and honouring of these, and on human trafficking perpetrators, including totals arrested, charged or prosecuted, and on human trafficking investigations and their completion.

Police share human trafficking data with a range of government partners, including the MFA. The MFA's Inter-Agency Group on human trafficking regularly publishes statistics on human trafficking, including for purposes of the U.S. for the Trafficking In Persons (TIP) Report. The police also submit biannual human trafficking reports to the Council on Combatting Human Trafficking and Exploitation Issues.

It is not easily possible to disaggregate victims by their citizenship or country of birth from end reporting. Though these details are recorded by Police and it is noted if victim is a foreign national, this is lost as a separate variable in further reporting to the MFA and other agencies.

Only procedural issues in human trafficking data were identified and Armenia should continue to work towards strengthening its adherence to global reporting standards and international body recommendations on human trafficking. Numbers of human trafficking cases remain low; it is possible that if there were more, data would be more difficult to monitor.

In the area of forced labour, little regular data are collected separately to human trafficking.⁸ The Health and Labour Inspectorate does not currently collect any data on this; since a 2015 mandate change the government lacks a labour inspection mechanism that would help oversee forced labour issues. Incidents of forced labour where they happen in conjunction with trafficking are recorded in trafficking cases. To strengthen data collection around forced labour, a first step would be to re-instate the Inspectorate's former mandate to perform site inspections.

Children and Migration

Data Gaps:

- **Relevant bodies do not record child abuse by citizenship, nationality or residence status.**

Child Trafficking

Child trafficking⁹ data are collected by the Police in the same way as for all human trafficking cases. Data are currently disaggregated by age and in some cases trafficking reports separate minor and non-minor victims.¹⁰ Further, if any abuse or violence took place against a child during trafficking, this is recorded by Police and included in reporting (as for women). See the trafficking section above for further details on what data are available.

Child Abuse and Exploitation

It is difficult to collect data on child abuse or rights issues relating to migration that is outside of human trafficking. Most bodies that collect information on children's rights issues such as child sexual exploitation, neglect and violence do not record information by children's citizenship, nationality, residence status or other migration variables. The Police's Criminal investigation department handles child abuse cases but does not record information on status, nationality, ethnicity, or any other migration variable. Without this differentiation, it is impossible to see if and how any child abuse cases involved child migrants. Armenia's Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) includes some data collection on child protection issues, but these data are not disaggregated by any migration variable.¹¹ Other data collection on children's issues, such as UNICEF's TransmonEE database, also does not include migration variables. The Ministry of Labour and Social Issues also collects some information on child abuse.

Data on child labour are collected separately. The Criminal Investigation department of the Police handles some child labour cases and collects data on these. There are approximately 1-2 cases per year. Prior to 2015 the State Health Inspectorate monitored labour rights issues that included child labour cases. In 2015 they handled four cases of minors in labour; two were in hazardous work and two had worked overtime. The Inspectorate no longer directly addresses labour violations, however it has a duty to respond to individual labour complaints and refer these to relevant bodies (see labour migration section for more). It is not clear whether any complaints on child labour received since 2015.

Armenia has GSP (Generalised System of Preferences) status with a number of countries, giving it preferential tariff rates to trade. In order to keep its status, Armenia must comply with several human rights conventions,

8. The OSCE published a report on this in 2015 (only in Armenian), available here: www.osce.org/yerevan/212561.

9. Child trafficking is taken to mean human trafficking of an individual under eighteen years of age, as per the Palermo Protocol.

10. Individuals under 18 are considered to be minors.

11. See Armenia Demographic and Health Survey 2015-2016: Key Indicators www.dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/PR79/PR79.pdf.

some including child labour provisions. Armenia has annual compliance reporting obligations on these, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The 2014 — 2015 GSP+ scorecard for Armenia showed no references to child labour or trafficking, though identified alleviating child poverty as a priority.¹²

Labour Migration

Data Gaps:

- **Incomplete labour migration statistics, especially on migrants in Armenia.** Data on stocks and flows of labour migrants in and out of Armenia are incomplete.
- **Incomplete seasonal migration data capture.** Currently there is no effective mechanism in place to measure seasonal quarterly migration.
- **Incomplete data collection on migrant labour rights and recruitment.** There is currently no effective mechanism to monitor labour migrants' rights abroad or in Armenia, or labour migrants' recruitment methods and their costs.

Labour Migration Statistics

Statistical data sources on migration stocks and flows include those managed by the Armstat, the Integrated Living Conditions Survey (ILCS) and Population Census and administrative data sources including the Police's Population Register and the National Security Service's Border Management Information System (BMIS). For more detail on each source see section 10.7.¹³

The annual ILCS collects information on labour migration in its migration module. It asks respondents whether anyone in their household has migrated or returned from migration, the reason for migration (including employment as an answer), destination and duration of migration, economic activity abroad, and whether remittances were received or not – see Box 3. When answering what economic activity was undertaken, respondents choose from a detailed index list of 99 types of economic activities. Overall, the ILCS has significant value in providing basic information on labour migrant stocks and to an extent trends, because of its regularity and fairly large sample size. It is especially useful to gain such specific information on sectors labour migrants worked in abroad.

12. See EC 2016 Report on the Generalised Scheme of Preferences during the period 2014 — 2015 www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/european_commission._2016._report_on_the_generalised_scheme_of_preferences_during_the_period_2014-2015.pdf. Armenia's Social Snapshot and Poverty provides comprehensive data on children's issues, including compliance to the CRC, but does not touch on any children and migration issues. See Social Snapshot and Poverty in Armenia, 2016 www.armstat.am/en/?nid=80&id=1819.

13. Note the Labour Force Survey (LFS) also collects some information on labour migration, though this data source was not analysed in depth as part of this exercise.

Box 3.

Migration Section in the 2014 ILCS

MIGRATION

To the interviewer: this table is filled out for all members of h/h aged 15>=years old

Table 1

HH member's aged 15>= years old ID numbers	Since January 1, 2011, has [NAME] migrated to another Marz or another country within 3 and more month?	Which Marz or country did [NAME] most recently migrate to or from which did return? [for marzes Indicate Urban or Rural in column 3]		In what year and month did [NAME] most recently migrate or return from migration?		What is the main reason for [NAME]'s most recent migration or returning from migration?	During your most recent migration did you work as employed or self-employed?	What is your main economic activity, i.e. the activity in which you spent the most time or received max wage/income during your most recent migration?	Did [NAME] send remittances in cash or/and in kind during the last 12 months?
		urban - 1	rural -2	month	year				
	1. Yes, migrated and hasn't returned 2. Yes, migrated and returned 3. No → Section C 4. First time come to that region	1. Yerevan 2. Aragatsotn 3. Ararat 4. Armavir 5. Gegharkunik 6. Lori 7. Kotayk 8. Shirak 9. Sjunik 10. Vayots dzor 11. Tavush 12. Russia 13. Other CIS* 14. Europe* 15. USA or Canada 16. Other (specify) 17. Karabah 18. Other				1. To work / To look for work 2. Family reasons 3. Inhabitation 4. Visit friends/ relatives 5. Tourism 6. Study /Training 7. Busyness 8. Finishing of work 9. Realisation of aim 10. Treatment 11. Army 12. Political reasons 13. Other(specify)	1. yes 2. no → 9	<i>For interviewer</i> Record the code according to the list of economic activities provided in Annex 2 (page 44)	1. yes, only to family 2. yes, only to friend /relative 3. Yes, to family, friend /relative 4. no
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Source: ILCS 2014.

The Census asks respondents for information on those absent, asking the duration of absence, reason and country of presence, where they can indicate employment. This is useful but cannot be considered a reliable and accurate measure of labour migration stocks, particularly given its low regularity at every ten years.

The Police's Population Register collects data on Armenian citizens and foreign nationals. For foreign nationals in Armenia, the information collected includes the reason for their residence in Armenia, which includes employment as an option. Armenians moving abroad must also cite a reason for this and can choose employment. This data capture is not systematic; many do not register updates with the Register and only a small proportion of labour migrants are included. Even if Armenian and foreign nationals updated their address changes more regularly, there are some limitations in the existing mechanisms. There is currently no way to measure seasonal labour migration. In the Register, any migration under 180 days is not recorded. Thus, even if compliance to registration changes were higher, there would be no way to measure short-term seasonal migration occurring within a quarter. Further, there is no further detail collected on specific labour sectors or occupation, making it impossible to gain a clear picture of incoming and outgoing labour by area.

The Migration Service (MS) holds a database on asylum seekers (see section 10.7 for more) which collects data on reason for first residence permit (options include employment, family reunification, education, military service), so the database can give a view of how many were permitted to stay for employment. However, this mechanism records only employment activities of accepted asylum seekers and therefore covers only a small portion of overall foreign nationals working in Armenia. It also requires that respondents answer truthfully and/or are not working if not authorized to.

There are some other fragmented and discrete data sources on labour migration. The State Employment Agency (SEA) holds records of its beneficiaries through its employment centres and Migrant Resource Centres (MRCs), including data on labour migrants' employment status, sector and destination. However, as this records only details on individuals who have come forward, this cannot be considered comprehensive. The AGBU holds some data on the working Armenian diaspora, including a database of 14,000 young professionals abroad, and the Ministry of Diaspora held some similar data on Armenian professionals abroad. However, although these data are valuable, they are not systematically collected for every diaspora individual. Finally, several international organizations and NGOs collect data on asylum seekers, displaced people and/or refugee arrivals and their labour market activities. For example, the German development agency (GIZ) holds a database of labour market integration of Syrian-Armenian refugees in Armenia. The Ministry of Diaspora also regularly registered Syrian-Armenians living in Armenia according to their profession and from 2012 — 2016 has provided employment-related support to over 3,500 Syrian-Armenians. The Ministry tracked data on Syrian-Armenians who successfully find employment through them (through joint government efforts, approximated at 2,500 at the end of 2016). SMEDNC manages a database of Syrian-Armenian beneficiaries who benefited from SMEDNC training and entrepreneurship programmes. However, these sources capture only a small part of the overall picture and are not comprehensive data sources for the country's labour migration.

Overall the lack of an effective labour migration framework means that only a proportion of labour migrants in Armenia are captured by existing data mechanisms, offering a fragmented picture. Further, there is not sufficient information on foreign nationals, including their economic activities, duration of stay, income and more.

Migrant Labour Rights

Data on migrant labour rights, both in Armenia and abroad, are scarce. The SEA's MRCs collect some data on migrant labour rights, for those who report labour (or other) violations. The MRCs refer these right issues to internal programmes or other agencies and continue to track cases. These data represent a small proportion of migrants' labour right violations overall, as it covers only those who approach the centres. It is likely that capture of issues through these official channels is relatively low.

Data on labour rights for migrants in Armenia are also scarce. Until 2015, the State Health Inspectorate played a significant role in this. With a mandate to monitor and enforce labour rights, the Inspectorate conducted regular and ad hoc labour inspections through visits to workplaces and addressed violations including non-payment of wages and overtime work. Since a mandate change in January 2015 however, the Inspectorate can no longer conduct ad hoc site visits and inspections have been suspended. The Inspectorate requires a complaint (from the media, police or another government agency) to visit a workplace and further their role has been limited to referring complaints further (to the judiciary system) if violations are found. The Inspectorate does record all complaints received and referred on, but these records do not note the migratory status of complainants or victims. Therefore, not only has the mandate change curtailed the Inspectorate's ability to monitor labour rights of certain sectors, even in cases found, it is impossible to identify issues that are relevant to migration. The Inspectorate stated it received few complaints from migrants usually; while this does reflect that overall labour migration is still fairly low, it could also point to patchy detection.

Recruitment

There is no systematic information collected on labour migrants' recruitment method. MRCs record information on those migrants registered with them, though this is a small snapshot of all migration. Neither MRCs nor employment centres currently ask returnees beneficiaries how they were recruited and migrated previously. Other information on recruitment, including its cost and migrants' earning abroad (used to calculate total cost), are also not regularly collected. For information on migration management and remittances see sections 10.7 and 10C.

Gender

Aside from gender disaggregation of existing labour migration data from the Register, BMIS and ILCS data, there is little information around female migrant workers migrating in and out of Armenia. Further, there are little data on traditionally feminized labour markets such as domestic work. Due to the informality of the domestic sector, oversight of this is commonly low. Labour migration from Armenia to date has been largely male dominated. The SEA reported that very few females seek help from their MRCs and employment centres, and for most agencies, gender in the context of migration is not a particular concern. However, this could change if structural unemployment patterns in Armenia and neighbouring countries change, as well as through changing social norms. Therefore, this area should not be ignored. See also gender and migration section.

Safe and Orderly Migration

Data Gaps:

- **General lack of comprehensiveness and accuracy in migration statistics.** There is no one way to accurately track stocks and flows of migrants in Armenia; statistical and administrative data processes are imperfect.
- **Incomplete data collection on exits from Armenia.** It is difficult to track departures from Armenia and monitor those who over-stay their visas and residence permits.
- **Incomplete data collection on return.** There is no systematic data collection that takes place to record the activities of return migrants

Migrant Rights

There is no systematic or regular data collection on migrants' rights, for both migrants in and from Armenia. This is the case both for their rights as migrants and their rights outside of them being migrants, through appropriately disaggregated data collection. This data gap is linked partly to the wider gap on labour migration data in Armenia. In the context of rights especially, it is significant to be able to access information on migrants while they are abroad, though as examined above this is very hard to do for labour migrants and further no regular data collection takes place on returnees about their time abroad. See also section on labour migration.

For those registered with MRCs or employment centres, the SEA has information on the social security benefits that beneficiaries are eligible for and collect, including healthcare. These records include some migrants and returnees. Armenian consulates abroad are by law mandated to protect its citizens and record details and refer rights cases as required when individuals come forward.¹⁴ However, it is not clear how this data is shared. In both of these cases, these are discrete pieces of data that do not provide a holistic picture of the situation of migrant rights.

In relation to the rights of migrants in Armenia, there are programmes and mechanisms in place to address these, but little data on these. The Office of the Human Rights Defender responds to all rights complaints received, regardless of migratory status. When recording complaints, data on nationality, citizenship, residence status or any other migration variable is collected only if directly relevant to case and individuals are not obliged to share this information. The Office received 13, 11, 28 and 32 complaints from refugees in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively.

There are some data available on refugee rights and their access to social security. However, this is also not done systematically but instead by bodies such as the Ministry of Diaspora was and NGOs on their beneficiaries only. For example, Mission Armenia and Red Cross Armenia's beneficiary databases collect data on whether

14. See IOM, 2012 p.51: "Cases of confiscated passports are referred to law-enforcement agencies on behalf of migrant workers. Regarding employment-related matters, diplomatic and consular posts also submit appeals to government agencies but generally encourage Armenian nationals to pursue court cases on their own."

individuals used their health, education, or other assistance programmes. Further, social workers visit registered asylum seekers and refugee families and report back to Mission Armenia. These data, however, even if compiled, do not offer a holistic picture of refugee or asylum seekers' rights in Armenia.

Safe and Orderly Migration

The Census is able to calculate population and migration statistics, as it includes a question to verify whether there are internally and/or externally absent household members, reason and duration of absence and location of absentee. The Census asks questions including place of birth, country of citizenship (including dual citizenship), place of permanent residence, place and reason of temporary absence, arrival to the current place of residence, previous place of residence, reason for changing residence, whether they received money from abroad during the last year.¹⁵ The Armstat uses the Census to calculate population statistics.

The ILCS asks respondents for their place of birth, any absent household members, the duration and reason for their absence, if the person worked or not, the main type of economic activity abroad and if and to whom the remittances were sent (see section on labour migration). The ILCS does not collect information on migrants who were abroad for less than 3 months.

One key administrative data source on migrants is the Police's Population Register. The Register collects information on Armenian citizens, foreign nationals, stateless people and refugees. Administered by the local passport and visa police departments, this involves administrative registration of births and deaths and persons arriving to, departing from and moving within the country (recorded through address changes of current place of residence for Armenian citizens and foreign nationals). Data is collected on individuals' gender, age and passport details. Births and deaths are automatically digitized and entered into the database, while address change updates are voluntary. For those migrating and registering their address in a consulate abroad, there is a new electronic consular form system forthcoming to automatically input data into the Register. The Police also collect data on foreign nationals, which is entered in the Register. Data collected includes gender, age, passport, nationality, reason for migration, city and country of habitual residence, type and validity of residence permit, refugee or stateless status. Register data is shared quarterly with the Armstat on total address changes, showing movement of Armenian citizens and totals of foreign nationals. The Register is used to calculate annual and quarterly population estimates and migration statistics every year, by measuring totals arriving and leaving Armenia.

The Register can only produce data on those registered. There is a high rate of non-registration for residence changes as citizens do not provide updates. Registration of Armenians abroad, return migrants and internal migrants is particularly low, meaning only a proportion of total migrants will be represented. This too means that population counts are usually over-estimated. There is a small fine if individuals are found to have broken the administrative violation code by not updating their address, however in practice this is not an effective mechanism. Further, as mentioned, the Register does not collect data on labour sector, duration of stay, or other key information on migrants. Another issue is the difficulty in collecting data on exits from Armenia. Currently there is no way to capture exits in the Register. This is an issue for calculating accurate migration statistics as it easily over-counts foreign nationals residing in Armenia who have in fact left and it cannot accurately track Armenian nationals leaving. Further, it means it is very hard to control foreign nationals who over-stay their residence permits or visas and there is no way to record an individual's change in status inside the country; authorities are only alerted when an individual leaves Armenia. The only way to track this is in cases where the Police are notified of an over-stayer. Finally, it is also not possible to track foreign nationals in Armenia who enter under a visa-free regime; these are not registered in the Register and can stay in Armenia under 180 days per year without being considered inhabitants. They are only registered in Armenia if they seek a passport or a residence permit.

15. See the 2011 Census questions www.armstat.am/file/doc/99486563.pdf.

The MS collects data on asylum seekers in Armenia. Information by sex, age group and country of citizenship on persons needing international protection in Armenia is recorded. Information is also recorded on: number of applications for asylum and number of persons seeking asylum; number of suspended or dismissed applications by asylum seekers; number of persons whose applications have been suspended or dismissed; number of rejected applications for asylum and number of rejected persons seeking asylum by the Migration Service and judiciary bodies; number of persons that were recognized as refugees or who are no longer considered as refugees based on decisions made by the Migration Service and judiciary bodies; number of asylum seeking unaccompanied minors; number of persons whose applications for asylum were rejected based on final decisions made by the Migration Service and judiciary bodies; number of persons recognized as refugees or no longer considered as refugees based on final decisions made by the Migration Service and judiciary bodies, and number of persons recognized as temporarily protected or not considered as temporarily protected based on final decisions made by the Migration Service and judiciary bodies. The database does in theory include information on unaccompanied minors and individuals who need temporary protection, however there have been no such cases as of May 2019. Semi-annual and annual summary reports on the above-mentioned data are submitted to Armstat. These data are also shared with the Police and published publicly on a quarterly basis.

The National Security Service manages the Border Management Information System (BMIS) which captures information on Armenian border crossings, providing data on entry and exits. BMIS is used primarily for law enforcement and produces timely data on citizenship, date of entry and departure, date of birth, type and validity of the visa, residence status and address of individuals. The Armstat and other agencies are BMIS system users; the Armstat uses BMIS to calculate the total entries and exits from Armenia by country every year, for example. Note that BMIS records have no personal identifiers, meaning numbers of entries and exits are based on number of border crossing events rather than actual number of persons crossing the border. This limits the use of BMIS as an accurate data source on migrant flows.¹⁶ Further, it does not collect information on reason for migration.¹⁷ The BMIS is not currently used to report or disseminate national migration statistics.

The Population Register, BMIS, ILCS and Census data are all valuable data collection mechanisms but do not give a comprehensive or necessarily accurate picture of migration in Armenia. Different databases show different figures on basic population and migration statistics; for example, the Register's total individuals registered to vote gave a much higher total than the Census' population count. Further, it is currently impossible to compare datasets – efforts began to link the Register to BMIS, but these are still ongoing.

Irregular Migration

As of 2015, irregular migration was criminalized in Armenia, through its criminal code's Article 329, covering illegal entry, residence and exit. The Police Department on Organized Crime handles irregular migration, falsification of documents, fraud and illegal border crossings. In the year 2015 – 2016 they reported 13 cases of irregular border activity. The department is commonly notified of a case through another police unit, through their operative work, or a foreign consulate detecting fraud. There is no electronic database for irregular migration and the department provides summary reports of activities internally. Though data on irregular migration is currently not properly computerized, processed or shared by Police, the National Security Service does hold more data of irregular migration which is kept in a database and linked to BMIS.¹⁸

Given that many irregular migrants do not come into contact with many typical government data collection mechanisms – for example by not being willing to be included in the Census, and avoiding welfare – it is difficult to collect information on irregular migration. No agencies regularly conduct estimates of irregular migration in or out of Armenia. Ways to measure irregular migration can include administrative registrations from regularization programmes, or for migrant workers specifically through labour / employment ministries.¹⁹ However, Armenia

16. Note the National Security Service was not interviewed during this data mapping exercise and this information is taken from secondary sources, including IOM, 2010:35.

17. Eurostat 2015:21.

18. IOM, 2010:42.

19. Global Migration Group *Migration and Development Data Handbook* p.21.

does not have large-scale regular regularization programmes, and given resource constraints and general lack of labour migration framework, the latter is not realistic. Police and security records continue to be the best available data source, although they only provide a snapshot of total irregular migrants, likely a very small portion of the total irregular population. Additionally, this captures data on the size but not characteristics of irregular migrants in Armenia, such as their living conditions or work status, which may be of interest.

Return

Return migrants are tracked by the Register only as long as they update their address on returning to Armenia (and if they had previously updated their address when they left Armenia). For those registered, data exist on their age, gender, and all other variables collected by the Register detailed above. The ILCS can also be used for some information here, as this can monitor which respondents have returned to Armenia and for what reason.

The SEA collects some data on returnees through their MRCs and employment centres. In employment centres returnees are categorized as a vulnerable group along with new graduates, those recently graduated from military training and disabled people as eligible for special assistance, and returnees are included in their beneficiary database and have data collected on age, gender, nationality, contact details, relevant employment/other issue, and registration in government programmes. Returnees are not asked for proof of their work or employment contract while they were abroad; this could be a sensitive issue and many would not comply (often because they did not have a contract). The Ministry of Economy also addresses integration of return migrants through their SME DNCs and collects data on return migrants that approach them, including on their employment status.

Data on returnees are not comprehensive. Data on their movements in and out of Armenia are subject to general issues mentioned above, and data on specific challenges facing returnees is not systematic, and tends to be collected only where they approach a government agency or organization.

Remittances

Data Gaps:

- **No regular reporting on household usage or impact of remittances.** Though there are several ad hoc specialized studies on the usage and/or impact of remittances at the household and community levels, currently data collection on this issue is not regular.
- **Data on remittance costs from Armenia not easily globally comparable.** Currently this is published as individual and not average costs, and total fees rather than as proportion of total amount remitted.
- **Size of remittances per individuals and households not available.** Currently the CBA does not collect data on the sizes or average size of remittances sent to individuals and households; only total flows.

Most data on remittance flows are managed by the Central Bank of Armenia (CBA). The CBA receives data on flows transferred through the Armenian commercial banking system on a monthly basis. This includes individual transfers through commercial banks, which includes all types of transfers (including through mobile technologies owned by banks, for example MobiDram). These are published online.²⁰ The CBA uses figures on monthly commercial transfers, as well as figures on monthly non-commercial transfers (which are not published, and before being used are subject to statistical processing), to compile Balance of Payment statistics. These

20. Under 'Transfers of individuals sent to and received from abroad through commercial banks of RA' in www.cba.am/en/sitepages/statexternalsector.aspx.

data are used by a number of government agencies, including the MS.²¹ The CBA does not collect any data on costs of remittances sent from abroad.²² Data on the costs of sending remittances from Armenia is published online; this is shown as fees for each individual provider, rather than as average fees, and fees as a percentage of money remitted.²³ The CBA does not collect or publish information on the average size of remittance transfers to individuals or households, which can be useful to learn about remittance sending behaviour and trends. The CBA does not collect any regular information on diaspora investment.

Other bodies collect some data on remittances. The ILCS asks respondents whether they receive remittance transfers, and who they were sent to, specifying either immediate family, friends and/or relatives. The Census also asks respondents whether and how often they receive remittance transfers. It is difficult to collect information on the size of remittances that individual households receive, as this can be sensitive information for respondents. Various stakeholders agreed that respondents would not want to answer questions on size of flows received, partly for tax reasons. However, information on usage rather than size could be more accessible, and individuals are usually open to answering to questions on this. Although there are several quality studies on this in Armenia (for example, see USAID, 2008), currently no regular data collection takes place on the usage of remittances at the household level. Further, a key information gap on remittances is its impact on household savings. Regarding the macrolevel impact of remittances on Armenia, the Ministry of Economy conducts quarterly studies using CBA information. They study the impact of remittances and migration on macroeconomic indicators, including final consumption expenditure.

Diaspora Engagement

Data Gaps:

- **Incomplete data collection on skills and knowledge and relevant matching mechanisms.** Currently no regular or systematic method to capture information on diaspora members' education, skills, knowledge, or professions, or mechanism to conduct skills and job matching for different migrant groups.
- **No regular data collection on diaspora investment.** Currently no regular or systematic data collection on diaspora investment to Armenia, including diaspora investment funds, transnational loans or diaspora bonds.
- **Remittance data gaps as above.**

Skills and Knowledge

A key component of effective diaspora engagement is through human capital, as countries can track data related to migrant employment and education through labour market supply and demand, and skills and qualification recognition and matching. Regular collection of such data could be improved. There are some data collected on educational attainment, skills and professions of diaspora members by the Ministry of Diaspora and the AGBU. However, this is not systematic and does not comprehensively collect information on specialized skills or knowledge individuals hold. See also Education and Migration section.

The Republican Union of Employers of Armenia conducts labour market needs assessments semi-annually that signal skills shortages in Armenia to diaspora members abroad, or other potential migrants to Armenia. Since 2012, the Union has carried out a sample survey with 100–300 participating enterprises in selected sectors.

21. See the MS' reports on remittances here www.smsmta.am/?menu_id=60.

22. Data on costs of sending money to Armenia from different countries (Russian Federation and the United States) can be found in the World Bank's Remittance Prices Worldwide database (www.remittanceprices.worldbank.org/en) and www.sendmoneyarmenia.am.

23. Data on costs of sending money from Armenia can be found on www.abcfinance.am/finhelper/index.php?type=remittances.

In 2016 these included mining, tourism, diamond, jewellery, I.T, textile, preserved foods, alcohol, flight, engineering, and pharmaceutical sectors. The survey asks employers about their human capital needs, including education levels and skills in demand. The Union assesses labour market needs by sector and conducts labour market forecasts, which it publishes and shares with government. Further, the Union is setting up a new additional survey for employers that will include some labour migration questions, including how many of their staff have left to migrate for labour and whether they plan to hire labour migrants in the next 12 months.

The SEA conducts a monthly labour market analysis assessing basic information of unemployed Armenians who applied for their support and available information on sector-specific employer demand. The Ministry of Economy also conducts some studies on the impact of migration on labour markets. However, this information only covers certain sectors and employers and is a useful snapshot, rather than comprehensive view, of labour markets and migration. The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport is currently working towards more comprehensive data gathering in this area, by creating a national register to act as a database of national educational programmes, training, qualification recognition processes, including information on certain technical specializations and any educational programmes organized specifically for migrants. Once operational, this register could be useful to better match national education and labour supply and demand.

Existing studies are geared towards skills matching to fit the needs of Armenian industries, and there is no regular data or data sharing to better match Armenian migrants with skills or labour needed abroad.

Diaspora Financial Engagement

Although there has been significant diaspora investment into Armenia over the last few decades, there is currently no single national-level framework in place to facilitate this. As a result, data on the topic is fragmented and limited to diverse sector-specific projects,²⁴ making it difficult to gain an overview of the financial engagement of the Armenian diaspora. See also Remittances section.

Migration Data and Statistics

Data Gaps:

- **As above under thematic areas.**
- **Compliance reporting.** No mechanism in place to show adherence of migration data programming, reporting or sharing to legislation and agreements.

The Armstat's activities are governed by the State Council on Statistics of RA, which programmes the agency's statistical research, analysis, reporting and publishing. The Armstat's programmes are set by law every three years, approved by the National Assembly as the Programme of State Statistical Work.²⁵ Following this, an annual programme is approved by the Council on Statistics as the State Statistical Work Programme. This is publically available.²⁶ Approval of all the Armstat's demographic and migration-related work is included under this process. The Armstat's agreed regular responsibilities are to publically report a monthly report on demography and population, and an annual demographic handbook. These and all other Armstat publications follow their Calendar of Statistical Indicators and Calendar of Statistical Publications, both of which are publicly available.

Further, the Armstat has several data sharing agreements in place with relevant government agencies on migration. This includes an agreement with the MS so they regularly send data on asylum seekers, and with the Ministry

24. GIZ, 2011:7.

25. See the Armstat's Three-year Programme of State Statistical Work for 2016 – 2018 www.armstat.am/file/doc/99498783.pdf.

26. See past State Statistical Work Programs www.armstat.am/en/?nid=191&year=2019.

of Justice so they regularly share data on vital statistics. Aside from the annual agreement between the Armstat and the Council, none of these programmes, reporting or data sharing agreements are published publicly or involve a compliance or completion document (either by the Armstat or the other party). Successful completion of activities and reporting is taken as compliance.

Otherwise, data gaps in migration data and statistics are identified as above under each section.

Finally, Box 4 illustrates a number of ad hoc quality research publications relating to migration and development in Armenia.

Box 4.

Selected research on migration and development in Armenia

There have been many quality ad hoc surveys and studies carried out in Armenia on migration and development topics. Below is a non exhaustive list of these.

Labour Migration:

- IOM, 2012. *Labour Migration in Armenia: Existing trends and policy options*. Report on Needs Assessment of Labour Migration Management in Armenia.
- Armstat, 2007. *Labour Migration in Armenia: The Results of a Pilot Sample Survey*.
- IOM, SEA, 2018. The IOM conducted community mapping survey with SEA on labour migration patterns, the results of which are reflected on www.imigrant.am portal.

General Migration:

- OECD, 2017. *Interrelations between Public Policies, Migration and Development in Armenia*.
- IOM, 2014. *Report on Household Survey on Migration in Armenia*.
- IOM, 2013. *Baseline Research on Irregular Migration in the Republic of Armenia*.
- UNFPA, 2008. *Report on Sample Survey on External and Internal Migration in RA* (includes information on migrant labour rights).
- UNDP, 2009. *Migration and Human Development: Opportunities and Challenges*. National Human Development Report, Armenia.

There are a number of specialized studies on children's rights in Armenia by several international organizations and NGOs, including Save the Children and UNICEF, many of which touch on migration issues such as refugee children. These are valuable snapshots of the issues facing child migrants in Armenia but they tend to provide data on beneficiaries and use qualitative data, so are not appropriate for higher level systematic reporting.²⁷

27. See Save the Children, 2015. *Child Rights Situation Analysis: Armenia*. www.armenia.savethechildren.net/sites/armenia.savethechildren.net/files/library/book-eng.pdf and UNICEF 2016 "Assessment of the situation of asylum seeking, refugee, and displaced children in Armenia" www.un.am/up/library/Situation_of_%20Refugee_Children_%20Armenia_2016_eng.pdf.

SDG Indicators

This section details the indicators that were developed for the five prioritized SDG targets, and their accompanying metadata.

An indicator framework was developed, comprising of nine indicators to measure the five chosen targets. These targets were designed based on the outputs of the data mapping exercise, and in this way built on existing data capture and processes. These also align as far as possible with global indicators as suggested by UN and other agencies; where data was available to measure the global indicators that were relevant, these indicators were operationalized. However, the data mapping showed that not all the global indicators could be reported on using existing data in Armenia and further, that some were not applicable to national context. All other relevant migration data guidance was followed in developing the below indicators, for example using various UN definitions as defined in the metadata below.

The following principles helped guide the development of the indicators (taken from IOM, 2018).

- ◆ Indicators should reflect local or national priorities and measure aspects of the target that are relevant to context.
- ◆ Indicators should be constructed from reliable and well-established data sources.
- ◆ It should be possible to collect the data for the indicator on a regular basis over time.
- ◆ Indicators should build as far as possible on existing data capture and processes, to keep the additional burden low and to help ensure the sustainability of measurement. Use the data mapping to help ensure this.
- ◆ Indicators should be straightforward to interpret and easy to communicate to the public and civil society.
- ◆ Preference should be given to outcome indicators, rather than process or input indicators. Indicators should measure outcomes as much as possible; for example, rather than 'number of returnee training programmes available', use 'proportion of returnees graduating from training programmes who are employed within a year'.
- ◆ Indicators should be as consistent as possible with relevant international standards and guidance. While the indicators themselves will be different than SDG global indicators, they should still follow internationally set terminology and definitions where possible, for example, those included in the UN Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration.

The below indicators are reported on publicly on Armenia's national SDG reporting platform, managed by Armstat. This can be found here: www.armstat.am/en/?nid=655. This shows data from 2015 onwards if it is available and is updated annually by Armstat. On the platform, the indicators are reported alongside indicators on a range of other SDG targets.

Target 4b

Indicator

Number of scholarships awarded to Armenian nationals for enrolment in higher education abroad, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, including for exchange.

Definitions

Scholarships: Financial aid awards for individual students. Financial aid awards include bilateral grants to students registered for systematic instruction in private or public institutions of higher education to follow full-time studies or training courses abroad²⁸, including educational exchanges.

Goal and target addressed

4b.

Unit of measurement

Total number of scholarships awarded.

Relevant international standards (if any)

Further information on defining scholarships under Target 4b:
www.unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002455/245570e.pdf.

Global indicator: 4.b.1 Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships by sector and type of study.

Data source (s)

Records from the MESCS on Armenian students studying under intergovernmental agreements abroad.

Records from the AGBU on Armenian students studying under AGBU-funded agreements abroad.

Methodology

The MoES and the AGBU will each consolidate all of their records on scholarships awarded into a single spreadsheet or document. This information should be disaggregated as the per specifications below.

Each body will send this information to Armstat, annually. Armstat will compile the separate accounts to produce total annual records.

Periodicity of measurement

Annual.

Disaggregation

- Country of study
- Gender of scholar
- Level of award (Diploma; Bachelor's Degree; Master's degree/postgraduate diploma; PhD, post-doctoral research; Other)
- Subject of programme
- Donor body

28 OECD

Lead actor involved / other actor

Statistical Committee of Armenia (Armstat), RA Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport (MESCS), Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU).

Baseline, if available

As of November 2016: approximately 588 (280 from MESCS and 308 from AGBU programmes).

Target 8.8**Indicator**

Level of national compliance of labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation.

Definitions

Freedom of association represents the right of workers and employers to form and join organizations of their own choosing, an integral part of a free and open society. In many cases, these organizations have played a significant role in their countries' democratic transformation.

Collective bargaining refers to all negotiations which take place between an employer, a group of employers or one or more employers' organizations, on the one hand, and one or more workers' organizations, on the other, for: (a) determining working conditions and terms of employment; and/or (b) regulating relations between employers and workers; and/or (c) regulating relations between employers or their organizations and a workers' organizations or workers' organizations.

Goal and target addressed

8.8.

Unit of measurement

Score from 1–10.

Relevant international standards (if any)

Global indicator: 8.8.2 Level of national compliance of labor rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status.

ILO guidance: The indicator is defined according to ILO Conventions 87 on Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize and 98 on Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining and related ILO jurisprudence. This indicator is based on coding the findings of selected sources and compiling this information in a readily accessible and concise manner. It builds on five basic elements: the premises of definitional validity, reproducibility and transparency; the 108 evaluation criteria used to code violations in law and practice (each with their own specific detailed definitions); the textual sources selected for coding; the general and source-specific coding rules; and the rules to convert the coded information into normalized indicators. Further background on methodology: www.labour-rights-indicators.la.psu.edu/docs/Method_paper.pdf.

Data source (s)

Labour Rights Indicators, from the Global Labour University and the Center for Global Workers' Rights at Penn State University / ILO.

Methodology

Armstat will check the score for Armenia online every year, from the Labour Rights Indicators website. To be found here: www.labour-rights-indicators.la.psu.edu/country/051.

Armstat will report this score directly, disaggregated as specified below.

Periodicity of measurement

Annual.

Disaggregation

- Type of violation (in law; in practice)
- Category of violation (Fundamental civil liberties; Right of workers to establish and join organizations; Other union activities; Right to collective bargaining; Right to strike)

Lead actor involved / other actor

Armstat.

Baseline, if available

As of September 2017: 1.09.

Comments

The Labour Rights Indicator depends on the quality of domestic reporting mechanisms on this. It is only based on known rights violations, while there may be more that are unaccounted for. This is a limitation of this indicator. However, given limited domestic data on rights violations and that migration is an important part of many of the relevant labour instruments, this will be a valuable tool to track overall progress on labour migration until 2030.

Target 10.7**Indicator**

% of returned migrants who undertook paid work during the last 7 days.

Definitions

Participating in paid work as defined by specification in the ILCS as below.

Goal and target addressed

10.7; also 8.8.

Unit of measurement

% of total returned migrants.

Relevant international standards (if any)**Data source (s)**

Integrated Living Conditions Survey (ILCS).

Methodology

Armstat will take a count of those who respond to the question in Section B: 'Since January 1, 20xx, has [NAME] migrated to another Marz or another country within 3 and more months?' with

- '2. Yes, migrated and returned after absence less than 3 months'; and

- '3. Yes, migrated and returned after 3 – 12 months absence'.

Of those who responded yes to 2. or 3. above, Armstat will collate their answer to the question in Section D: 'Did you have any paid work or profitable job (own business) during the last 7 days, even if you worked only for one hour (include the work in a farm, family enterprise)?'

Armstat will report the % of those who responded 'Yes' to the above question in Section D, as a percentage of those who are returned migrants as per the question in Section B.

In addition to this, Armstat will detail the disaggregation points below during reporting.

Periodicity of measurement

Annual.

Disaggregation

For all, disaggregate by:

- Gender
- Which Marz or country they returned from
- Reason for return

For those who respond 'Yes' to Section D question, disaggregate by answers to:

- 'The main type of economic activity in your workplace or business'
- 'What is your employment status?'
- 'At your work/ activity you work: 1. Full time 2. Part time 3. Overtime'

For those who respond 'No' to Section D question, disaggregate by answers to:

- 'Please, record the reason why you didn't work during the last 7 days'

Data points for all of the above are included in the ILCS.

Lead actor involved / other actor

Armstat.

Baseline, if available

N/A.

Comments

Given that all of the above disaggregation points are already collected by the ILCS, this indicator is an opportunity to go beyond the percentage figure, allowing stakeholders to learn more about employment issues facing returned migrants.

Note that this will include those returning from both internal and international migration.

For reference: ILCS Questionnaire 2015: www.armstat.am/file/doc/99501303.pdf

Indicator**Proportion of individual asylum applications granted.****Definitions**

This indicator is already collected by MS as the 'Common Recognition Index'. This is defined as: the proportion of number of people granted refugee status to number of people on which decision was made.

Granted can include the granting of any type of protection status. This can include any grants of refugee status, subsidiary protection status, or another authorization to stay for humanitarian reasons.

Goal and target addressed

10.7.

Unit of measurement

%

Relevant international standards (if any)

Not in the context of the SDGs. For general good practice on asylum statistics see EuroStat reporting: www.c.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/pdfscache/13562.pdf

Data source (s)

MS statistics; asylum seekers registration electronic database.

Methodology

MS to capture and collate this data as it already does.

MS to share with Armstat quarterly (currently data sharing takes place every 6 months only), ensuring disaggregation as specified below.

Armstat will publish this statistic.

Periodicity of measurement

Quarterly.

Disaggregation

Country of citizenship
Age group (0–13; 14–17; 18–34; 35–64; 65+)
Country of previous residence
Gender

All are already collected by MS and published here: www.smsmta.am/?menu_id=144

Lead actor involved / other actor

Armstat, MS.

Baseline, if available

2017: 0.64.

Comments

Indicator limitations: This data does not include unaccompanied minors. Further, many Syrian refugees in Armenia are often not included in these data because they may be granted citizenship if they have Armenian heritage and/or are granted special residency status as opposed to international protection.

Indicator**Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted.****Definitions**

Remittances can be defined as personal transfers, which include all current transfers in cash or in kind between resident and non-resident individuals, independent of the source of income of the sender and the relationship between the households (regardless of whether they are related or unrelated individuals).²⁹

29. www.datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/114950-how-do-you-define-remittances.

Goal and target addressed

10.7; 10c.

Unit of measurement

%.

Relevant international standards (if any)

Indicator 10.c.1: Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted. Metadata available here: www.unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/metadata-compilation/Metadata-Goal-10.pdf.

Data is collected quarterly in 365 migration corridors and compiled in World Bank remittance price database: www.remittanceprices.worldbank.org/en. However, this does not include Armenia as a remittance *sending country*. See this for best practice.

Data source (s)

ABC Finance (CBA) records.

Methodology

Information on the cost of remittances from Armenia to countries abroad using a range of Money Transfer Systems (MTS) is collected and published online. This is visible as fees for each MTS for a given amount of money, for selected countries:

www.abcfinance.am/finhelper/index.php?type=remittances.

To meet international best practice, it is advisable for ABC Finance/CBA to adapt this data to show:

- 1) *average costs of MTS for sending money to each available country,*
- 2) *as % of the total amount remitted, and*
- 3) *for two given amounts of money. Suggested to be 10,000 AMD and 25,000 AMD.*

If this adapted data is possible to produce, the methodology for this indicator would be for ABC Finance to send the above modified statistic to Armstat quarterly, and for Armstat to report this.

Periodicity of measurement

Quarterly.

Disaggregation

Country receiving transfer.

Lead actor involved / other actor

Armstat, ABC Finance (CBA).

Baseline, if available

N/A.

Target 17.16**Indicator**

Number of development initiatives where Armenian nationals abroad are included as active partners.

Definitions

Initiatives: Any development initiative in Armenia that involves a partnership between a development actor (such as international organizations, governments, civil society, donors and others), and Armenian nationals abroad (either via a diaspora/migrant organization or individually).

These may include initiatives supporting the transfer of professional skills or knowledge to relevant professionals in Armenia. It could also include initiatives encouraging investment or other forms of financial capital from Armenian nationals abroad back to the country, including projects seeking to leverage the development impact of remittances.

Goal and target addressed

17.16.

Unit of measurement

Total count.

Relevant international standards (if any)

Global indicator: 17.16.1 Number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

Data source (s)

Records from various actors; see below.

Methodology

Agencies listed below and any additional development actors identified prior to the process will compile information on all relevant initiatives they lead on. This will follow the disaggregation specified below.

This information will be sent to ArmStat, who will consolidate this into one spreadsheet or document and report the total number and additional details.

Periodicity of measurement

Annual.

Disaggregation

- Type of project (e.g. skills or knowledge transfer; diaspora investment)
- If applicable: country where Armenian national contributes from/country where project started

Lead actor involved / other actor

ArmStat, and other actors to be confirmed from: MS, state body responsible for diaspora affairs, Armenian Development Agency (ADA), AGBU, major national universities, IOM; any other additional major development actors.

Baseline, if available

N/A.

Comments

It will not be possible to record every relevant development initiative with this indicator. This is because some initiatives may be undertaken by smaller organizations unbeknownst to this process, and data will not be collected from these.

Note that where Armenian nationals abroad support national development in some way but do so privately or directly to a community, school, hospital or any other body, it will not be possible to track this with this indicator. Nevertheless, given that this target is intended to measure multi-stakeholder partnerships and ultimately how far these are institutionalized, this is not a major limitation.

Target 17.18**Indicator**

Proportion of SDG indicators produced at the national level with migration disaggregation.

Definitions

SDG indicators: Indicators chosen and reported annually by Armenia at the national level, as done so by the SDG Council or other relevant body leading this process.

Migration disaggregation: Disaggregation of data by migratory status and any other migrant-related variable. Migratory status to be captured preferably by:

- Nativity (native born, foreign born); and
- Citizenship status (citizen, foreign citizen, stateless).

Additional migrant-related variables may include, for example, legal status (regular, irregular)³⁰.

Goal and target addressed

17.18.

Unit of measurement

Proportion of SDG indicators that are disaggregated by migration to the total number of SDG indicators.

Relevant international standards (if any)

Global indicator: 17.18.1 Proportion of sustainable development indicators produced at the national level with full disaggregation when relevant to the target, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

Data source (s)

National-level SDG reporting data (as established by the SDG Council or other relevant body).

Methodology

Once national SDG indicators are established and reported (as led by the SDG Council), Armstat will count how many of these could be disaggregated by migration variables. This is necessary because some indicators may not be applicable – for example, 'Total annual government expenditure for infrastructure'. Relevant indicators from this project will be included in this count.

Following this, Armstat will count how many of these indicators are disaggregated by migration variables. Armstat will do this either by receiving a list from SDG Council with indicator metadata, or by lifting this information from any SDG database or reporting platform that is established. Armstat will then measure these as a proportion of all indicators that could be disaggregated by migratory status.

Armstat will verify this information directly with the relevant focal point for the indicators (i.e. a representative from the SDG Council).

Once this has been verified, Armstat can report this proportion figure.

30. www.unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2017/new-york--egm-migration-data/EGM%20Recommendations_FINAL.pdf.

Periodicity of measurement

TBC.

Disaggregation

N/A.

Lead actor involved / other actor

Armstat, SDG Council.

Baseline, if available

N/A. The SDG indicators are not yet established and reported.

Comments

This is dependent on the reporting cycle of the national level SDG Council (or other relevant body). The desired periodicity of measurement for this is annual, however this will depend on how often the SDG indicators are reported nationally.

Armstat, IOM and other actors should simultaneously advocate for migration variables to be included in national level SDG reporting and assist efforts toward this end. Further, it should be emphasised that migration variables can be included incrementally throughout the years until 2030 and need not be included from the first reporting cycle.

Migration Data Recommendations

This section focuses on the five prioritized SDG targets, offering recommendations to improve data collection and usage based on key data gaps in these areas. Recommendations vary in level and detail; some solutions include policy suggestions and others offer procedural and technical advice. This is because existing data quality levels are uneven across migration and development areas, and some require significant expansion of primary data capture, while others need only fine-tuning of existing processes.

Emphasis has been given to solutions that use existing data procedures, to avoid increasing the reporting burden on the Armstat and other agencies, and to minimize resources needed. Migration data in Armenia is decentralized and many different government agencies collect valuable data, therefore some solutions call for inter-agency data exchange and improved coordination of reporting, to make full use of existing data channels. This focus on using existing mechanisms as far as possible and minimizing extra resources mean some recommendations were constrained; some SDG stakeholders have called for the Goals to innovate data collection by using new data sources and technologies,³¹ however this was not possible here.

Recommendations cover both statistical and administrative data sources. Efforts were made to prioritize solutions using statistical rather than administrative data sources, because these tend to require fewer resources to update. Statistical data, particularly the ILCS, have established and regular dissemination processes to a large sample size, and can be readily analysed. Meanwhile, administrative data processes are more fragmented and may need significant extra resources to extend reach or update processing. However, there are some limitations to statistical data sources in this context. The ILCS already covers a wide range of topics, and currently the Armstat cannot easily expand its migration module past one page. ILCS suggestions below have been made keeping this constraint in mind. Without the single page constraint, the ILCS could be used to collect more migration and development data. Further, as the Census' use for SDG target review is limited as, running every ten years, it is not timely enough. The 2030 Agenda does not set an official frequency for national SDG target reviews; however, progress should ideally be nationally reviewed regularly before 2030. Further, progress should be internationally reported as part of regional and/or voluntary national reviews in four-year cycles at the high-level political forum meeting under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.³²

There are a number of administrative data sources that are relevant to certain SDG migration topics, including those prioritized by Armenia, and which have the potential to generate relevant statistics for SDG review. For example, the prioritization of tackling return called specifically for more data to be generated on socioeconomic characteristics of returnees and challenges they face. Given that government agencies such as the SEA play a key role reintegrating returnees through their MRCs, this agency is well positioned to collect data on returnees via MRC records. Therefore, taking into account the above limitations on statistical data and some agencies' reach in relevant migration topics, some administrative data recommendations are offered too.

Many recommendations are more directly linked, as some proposed solutions solve data issues in more than one issue area. Labour migration, for example, is a cross-cutting theme in many of the recommendations under different issue areas. Therefore, the recommendations below should not be considered in isolation. Further, effective monitoring and evaluation for all the migration issues prioritized will require a combination of different data sources. Many topics naturally cut across government agencies' and other actors' activities, meaning successful tracking of these will require cross-sectoral solutions. There is also a need to combine both quantitative and qualitative migration data to develop a more holistic view of particular issues.

31. UN, 2016, SDG Report p.50.

32. United Nations General Assembly, 2016:14.

Where relevant, care has been taken to align migration definitions, methodologies and procedures so they align with international ones. Many of the recommendations reflect international guidance on migration data, for example by calling to strengthen existing procedures for government migration data collection and usage and leverage existing statistical data instruments on migration, introduce ad hoc or periodic specialized surveys on a number of key migration topics, work towards the integration and automation of several migration databases, and increasing disaggregation of data by migratory status.

Table 1: Synthesis Overview

Target and Armenian Objectives	Relevant Data Gaps	Recommendations
4.b. Expand scholarships; Skills matching to better link education for migrants abroad and returnees; Improving retention and use of national human capital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incomplete data capture on migrants' activity after education • No overview of education migration statistics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve post-completion follow up by relevant education bodies • Compile and publish government and non-government statistics on education migration • Amend ILCS question on educational attainment for lowest skilled
8.8. Improving labour migration management overall; Addressing the needs of different migrant profiles, by gender, age, occupation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incomplete labour migration statistics, especially on migrants in Armenia • Incomplete seasonal migration data capture • Incomplete data collection on migrant labour rights and recruitment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure automated links of work permit issuance system with the Register • Amend ILCS question on duration of migration
10.7. Improving all migration management; Focus on better managing return migration and improving reintegration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General lack of comprehensiveness and accuracy in migration statistics • Incomplete data collection on exits • Incomplete data collection on return migration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend ILCS question on reason for migration • Improve Population Register registration rate • Link BMIS and Population Register • Add periodic ILCS Labour Migration module • Enhance cooperation with relevant destination countries on migration data

<p>17.16. Enhancing the global development partnership for Armenia; engaging the Armenian diaspora to support development, by improving knowledge and skills transfer and financial flows</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incomplete data collection on skills and knowledge and relevant matching mechanisms • Remittance utilization data not available • Remittance cost data not shown as average percentage of total remitted • No regular data collection on diaspora investment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand Republic of Union employer surveys to more sectors • Conduct skills survey or mapping exercise for Armenian diaspora • Adapt data published on remittance costs • Adapt remittances question in ILCS to collect transfer size data • Introduce regular specialized survey on remittances • Integrate diaspora investment questions into skills surveys and/or remittance surveys
<p>17.18. Improving data for all the above migration issue areas, so government can create more effective and inclusive migration policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data gaps as above, which hinder development of evidence-based effective and inclusive migration policies • No compliance reporting in place on migration statistics procedures • Migratory status of victims of trafficking recorded but not reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce recommendations as above • Introduce Armstat Migration Statistics Compliance Document • Include disaggregation by migratory status of trafficking victims in end reporting

Migration and Education: 4.b



- ▶ Compile and publish government and non-government statistics on education migration
- ▶ Improve post-completion follow up by relevant education bodies
- ▶ Amend ILCS question on educational attainment for lowest skilled

Educational Attainment

Various stakeholders identified that many Armenian young people study abroad and do not return, while relevant education bodies stated they found it hard to track this occurrence. Having more information on migrants' post-education completion activities would help reveal more about this phenomenon, helping policymakers design ways to tackle it and ultimately better engage this type of diaspora. Improved data on migrants' characteristics and activities would also allow for analysis on how ages, gender and education impact the decision to stay abroad or return to Armenia. Relevant bodies such as the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport and the AGBU should improve data collection here in the least intrusive and most time-efficient way possible for ex-students. The best way to do this would be through a survey circulated via email to ex-students, with short questions on employment status, occupation, and how the decision was made to either stay abroad or return to Armenia. The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport currently requires that existing student records are delivered in person; this would not be appropriate for post-completion data collection as it is too cumbersome. As far as possible, data should be collected online in this area, annually or biannually, and possibly incentivized for participants if reasonable.

To improve labour utilization of migrants and returnees – all identified as important during prioritization – information is needed on mismatches between the Armenian economy's skill needs and qualifications of available labour force, and between foreign economies and Armenian migrants. To address Armenia's priority of better linking skills to jobs, particularly for migrants and returnees, more data is needed on migrants' educational attainment. To do this adequately, industry, tertiary education institutions and relevant ministries of education and employment should play a role.

Available data on education migrants is not compiled as well as it could be; currently some bodies with considerable numbers of Armenian student beneficiaries abroad do not publish their data with the government and their students are thus not included in official statistics. The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport should compile annual statistics from the AGBU, relevant body, responsible for Diaspora affairs and any other major education stakeholder and add these to their own statistics on Armenians studying abroad. This would offer a fuller picture of the current situation and trends in Armenian education migration.

This would exclude migrants travelling to study outside of these official programmes, i.e. those who are self-financed, and would also exclude interns and trainees. Actors should work towards creating a more holistic picture of education migration overall that includes those using own resources and those pursuing other types of training, such as internships and traineeships. To collect better data on self-financed students, embassy data from abroad could be used. Networks of Armenian embassies and consulates abroad could collect data on Armenian migrants in each country, and send it to the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport annually (see Malaysian example in Box 5). Note this could require extra resources, and to be accurate would benefit from higher rates of Population Register registration of Armenians abroad.

Box 5: Good practice in Malaysia

The Malaysian Ministry of Education collects data on Malaysian students abroad – both government-sponsored and self-financed – through embassy data and education Ministry representatives³³.

The Education Malaysia Division in destination countries compiles information about Malaysian students enrolled in that particular country and reports to its Ministry of Education. In countries with no representatives from the Education Malaysia Division, **information on enrolment is collected from Malaysian embassies**, who in each country maintain their own database on Malaysian students to monitor their health and safety. The Ministry of Education compiles these two data sources and disseminates annual statistics on total Malaysians enrolled in education abroad.

The ILCS collects significant data that offers a good baseline on migrants’ skills, knowledge and education. It provides statistics on migrants’ employment status and their occupation (from a detailed job list of 99 economic activities), and their highest educational attainment. However, it does not collect data on particular skill area or subject of educational attainment³⁴. Doing this could provide much needed colour on Armenians’ skill composition in relation to their employment. It could generate information on how migrants’ work corresponds to their skillset, how many Armenians working abroad hold particular skills (suggesting where these could be over-supplied), and more³⁵. One way to help this is to update current educational attainment questions in the ILCS.

The Ghana Living Standards Survey³⁶ has an extensive educational attainment section and provides a good example of how to extract more information on skill composition – see Box 6.

Box 6: Ghana 2012/203 Living Standards Survey

14	15
Has (NAME) ever attended other short training courses lasting not more than 6 months?	What was the main subject of the most recent training?
Yes.....1	Clerical.....01
No.....2	Prof/Managerial.....02
(>> NEXT MEMBER)	Computer.....03
	Marketing.....04
	Teaching.....05
	Leadership.....06
	Medicine.....07
	Accountancy.....08
	Trade/Skill.....09
	Other (specify).....10

33. See Global Migration Group, 2006. Migration and Development Data Handbook (draft) p.43.

34. For those who do not attend school but who did attend an educational course in the previous 12 months, it asks whether the course was on foreign language, computer, accounting, craft, or other. However, the 12-month timeframe is limiting, as is the study area list.

35. See IOM. 2012:56 for information on how other countries do this.

36. See 2012/2013. Ghana Living Standards Survey www.statsghana.gov.gh/nada/index.php/catalog/72.

8	For how many months has (NAME) been attending/ attended a literacy course?	9	Is (NAME) an apprentice or has (NAME) ever been an apprentice?		10	How long was (is) the apprenticeship?		11	What is the main trade (NAME) is learning or learnt? (REFER TO SECTOR TRADE/SKILLS GLSS6 CODE BOOK)	
			Yes, currently ..1							
			Yes, in past.....2	YRS	MTHS	MAIN TRADE	CODE			
			No.....3 (>> 14)							
MONTHS										

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2013.

This is longer than the ILCS' education module and includes an extra section on apprenticeships and short courses. While it would not be possible to add additional questions to the ILCS, it could amend existing ones. See Box 7 for ILCS questions on educational attainment for those aged 14 and over who did not attend school, and suggested amendments. This could improve data on the skills of the lowest educated that could be analysed in conjunction with employment status and other characteristics, without adding questions to the ILCS. This would only include those who had attended courses or apprenticeships in the last 12 months, though to sidestep this the Armstat could change the question to if the individual has "ever" attended courses or apprenticeships (closer to the Ghanaian example). If the ILCS had scope to add material to the education section, it could also add an index of subjects, trades or skills participants have to specify from if their highest educational attainment is vocational or tertiary education.

Box 7: Suggested ILCS Question changes on education

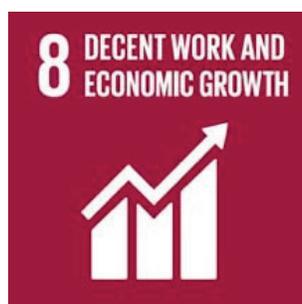
Current ILCS Questions:

- "Do (or did) you attend any courses during the last 12 months?
1. Yes; 2. No"
- "Subject of the courses?
1. Foreign Language; 2. Computer; 3. Accounting; 4. Craft;
5. Other (specify)" [2 answers are allowed]

Suggested ILCS Questions:

- "Do (or did) you attend any courses or complete any apprenticeships during the last 12 months?"
Yes; 2. No"
- "Theme of the courses or apprenticeship?"
Foreign Language; Computer; Accountancy; Craft; Clerical; Managerial; Marketing; Teaching;
Medical care; Other (specify)

Labour Migration: 8.8



- ▶ Ensure automated links of work permit issuance system with Population Register
- ▶ Amend ILCS question on duration of migration

General labour migration statistics: migration to Armenia

Armenia lacks basic comprehensive labour migration statistics and it is hard to track patterns and their changes over time. There is a general lack of infrastructure to collect, process and publish regular labour migration data, mostly due to the absence of an adequate policy framework and resources. As a result, labour migration data sources are fragmented and there is limited data comparability between these. Statistical data including the ILCS and Census still provide the best estimates of stocks, while administrative data sources do not provide necessarily relevant information. Armenia lacks systematic and reliable collection of basic variables on labour migrants such as gender, age, occupation, educational attainment, economic activity, reasons for migration and employment status.³⁷ It also lacks regular data collection on more detailed variables to help gain understand trends and socioeconomic situations for migrant workers, including recruitment mechanisms, ethnicity/language, civil status, and more.³⁸

Data on migrants in Armenia is especially patchy. Through the Census, ILCS and Register there is a basic picture of migrant stocks in Armenia, however there is little additional information. The ILCS collects data on employment of migrants but not duration of stay; the Census collects data on employment of migrants but only every ten years; the Register provides information on whether migrants work (not specifying occupation) but reliability of this is low; BMIS collects data on entries at borders but not on reason for entry³⁸. Agencies must focus on improving data collection in this area as recent arrivals to Armenia are growing and their labour market integration has recently become a significant policy area.

Since January 2019 foreign nationals, working in Armenia, need to have work permit, the issuance of which is not connected to residence permit. The system of work permits that are linked to residence permits will be an important step towards improving labour migration data. It is crucial that work permit registration is adequately and if possible, automatically, linked to the Population Register. If BMIS and the Register are linked, work permits could be linked to border crossing information, meaning it would be possible to track over-stayers and more tightly link their movements in and out of the country to their work permit⁴⁰. The linking of these data sources should be managed by all relevant parties. If possible, work permits should only be available for individuals to receive from outside of Armenia, to better link to entry and exit data. Further, these should also be fully linked to Armenian social security and/or tax information systems. Work permits present a significant step forward in the labour migration framework of Armenia, so care needs to be taken to ensure they help generate the most valuable migration data.

37. As per the 19th ILO, Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization, available here www.ilo.org/global/statistics-and-databases/meetings-and-events/international-conference-of-labour-statisticians/20/WCMS_646788/lang--en/index.htm.

38. For a comprehensive list of labour migration variables see Global Migration Group, 2016. Migration and Development Data Handbook.

39. IOM, 2012:11.

40. See IOM, 2011:38 for an additional recommendation to link BMIS and Police data to better track over-stayers.

Recruitment and Migrant Labour Rights

Given that strengthening labour migration data was prioritized by Armenian stakeholders, data gaps around recruitment and labour rights data need to be addressed. Further, one of the Inter-agency and Expert Group's on SDG Indicators proposed indicators for Target 8.8 includes measuring migrants' recruitment cost.

Currently data on migrants' recruitment methods is not regularly collected. Due to the absence of a labour migration framework, much of labour migration recruitment is unregulated. This means the potential of regular channels to generate data, such as MRCs or consulates abroad, is curtailed. Further, because the use of recruitment centres to organize employment abroad is relatively low in Armenia, it is not possible to draw on records of recruitment agencies for information. Whether a labour migrant has found work abroad through a private recruitment agency, personal social network, public employment service or another means is significant to understanding labour migrant profiles and key to creating programmes that could help target skills matching migration programmes, reduce the cost of migration, and protect migrants' rights.

A key challenge in the area of migrant labour rights is accessing information on migrants from overseas. If operating on a poorly regulated labour migration model as Armenia is, it is even harder for a country to do so. A labour attaché programme was considered by Armenia but shelved for financial reasons. Introducing this and reinstating the Labour Inspectorate's site inspection role are recommended to improve data on migrant labour rights. Until a stronger labour migration framework is created that would support data collection, it is recommended to add a periodic labour migration questionnaire similar to the Republic of Moldova's – see Box 10.

Seasonal Migration

Short-term seasonal migrants, absent from their place of residence for a period of time shorter than three months – are common in Armenia. Note the UN does not classify those travelling abroad for under three months as migrants⁴¹, however this category is considered here in order to take stock of sub-quarterly Armenian migration – an identified data gap. It is generally difficult to measure short-term migration, as much of seasonal migrants' time abroad is not tied to a visa or permit, and is often irregular. Further, these do not typically change their address or country of residence in administrative records. This is the case in Armenia, as the Register has current low registration rates in any case, and it is unrealistic to expect citizens who already tend to not register to do so for periods under three months.

Therefore, it is recommended to use the ILCS to gain further data on this, rather than the Register. Using the ILCS would enable seasonal migrant counts to be linked to other useful socioeconomic information. Because "tourism" is an available answer for reason for migration, it also means it would be possible to divide individuals who have travelled abroad for under three months between tourists and seasonal migrants. See Box 8 for the current and recommended ILCS question on this.

41. See IOM, 2010:23.

Box 8

Recommendations on ILCS migration duration question

Current ILCS Question as of 2014

Since January 1, 2011, has [NAME] migrated to another Marz or another country within 3 and more months?

1. Yes, migrated and hasn't returned
2. Yes, migrated and returned
3. No → Section C
4. First time come to that location

Recommended ILCS Question

Since January 1, 2011, has [NAME] migrated to another Marz or another country?

1. Yes, migrated and hasn't returned
 2. Yes, migrated and returned within three months
 3. Yes, migrated and returned over three months
 4. No → Section C 4. First time come to that region
-

Safe and Orderly Migration: 10.7



- ▶ Amend ILCS question on reason for migration
- ▶ Improve Population Register registration rate
- ▶ Link BMIS and Population Register
- ▶ Add periodic ILCS Labour Migration module
- ▶ Enhance cooperation with relevant destination countries on migration data

Numerous publications explore general migration data in Armenia and provide in-depth assessments and comprehensive solutions.⁴² As this exercise focused on migration and development data in the context of the SDGs, only key migration management data gaps are discussed here; namely reason for migration, exit flows and return.

Reason

Adequately collecting reason for migration, or purpose of stay or return, is an essential criterion for good basic migration statistics. The relevant question currently asked in the ILCS could be improved to be made clearer – see Box 9 below. This question would benefit from clarification that would make classification and analysis of migrants' reasons for travel easier, including especially for returnees.

Box 9: Recommendation on ILCS reason question

Current ILCS question:

What is the main reason for [NAME]'s most recent migration or returning from migration?

1. To work / To look for work
2. Family reasons
3. Inhabitation
4. Visit friends/ relatives
5. Tourism
6. Study / Training
7. Business
8. Finishing of work
9. Realization of aim
10. Treatment
11. Army
12. Political reasons
13. Other(specify)

42. Eurostat, 2015:28.

Recommended ILCS question:

What is the main reason for [NAME]'s most recent migration or returning from migration?

1. To work / To look for work
2. To join family
4. Visit friends/ relatives
5. Tourism
6. Study / Training
7. Business
8. Finishing of work
9. Finishing of study / training programme
10. Seeking / finishing medical treatment
11. Army
12. Political reasons
13. Other (specify)

The changes specify that “treatment” refers to “medical treatment”. It is not clear what “inhabitation” or “realization of aim” is meant in this case. It is suggested to delete inhabitation. Realization of aim, provided as an answer for returnees, does not provide a clear reason for return. A realization of an individual’s aim could be employment, education, family or health related; all criteria that are given separate categories in the answers otherwise. Having just one “realization of aim” category for returnees therefore is too broad. It is suggested to instead add a “finishing study / training programme” and amend the “medical treatment” answer to further clarify. This is also complementary to the migration and education recommendations above, as it may generate more information on returning Armenian education migrants.

Exit

Currently the lack of reliable data on exits from Armenia presents a major data gap, as collecting this is key to effective migration management. Further, this is an area where a lack of data may directly impact the regularity of Armenia’s migration; as it is difficult to track visa and residence permit over-stayers, it is harder to manage irregular migration.

The potential of the Register to collect better data on exits should be improved, by incentivizing rate and timeliness of registration. Individuals receive a progressive fee to register their new-borns; a similar scheme to incentivize address change registration could be considered. The Police is in the process of introducing e-forms for citizens’ registrations in Armenian consulates abroad, which will automate updates into the Register. This is a welcome development in computerization and simplification of these procedures and may increase registration.

Linking the Register to BMIS would be another key step towards improving data on migrant flows, specifically on exits. Linking these would add personal identifiers to Register data, meaning it would generate better data on exits and entries as it could exclude multiple entries and exits of the same person every year. This could make the Register a much more accurate source for flows.⁴³ Efforts to link these are ongoing. Finally, attempts have started to produce biometric passports, though these are not yet fully functional. This development could also help capture more accurate exit data and other flow information, as it could improve the efficiency and computerization of border data by BMIS.

43. Eurostat, 2015:28.

Return Migration

Data on return are incomplete. Recommendations as above on improving Register registration and linking the Register and BMIS would be helpful. Additionally, the ILCS provides some useful data by offering an overview of trends between labour sectors and return.

However, data on specific issues facing returnees is not systematically collected. This is of particular interest, as prioritization discussions emphasized understanding the challenges of return, particularly around work status and general well-being. Data on returnees' education and skills would be of particular interest, given that skills matching is a major priority. This could mean collecting data on returnees' skills and qualifications – attained in Armenia and any in their destination country – whether they are officially certified for these, and how these match up to current labour outcomes.

Box 10:

Using household surveys to collect labour migration data in Republic of Moldova

The project Effective Governance of Labour Migration and its Skill Dimensions funded by the European Commission, has helped Republic of Moldova with labour migration statistics, in cooperation with the ILO. Republic of Moldova uses the LFS to collect data on labour migration. This includes valuable **data collection on potential, absent and returned migrants through a periodic “Labour Force Migration” module**. This is collected through an add-on questionnaire administered as part of the LFS for persons, for persons absent in the household at the moment of the interview, whose reason of absence is “staying abroad” or “work or looking for a job”; persons who are in the household at the moment of the interview and who have been abroad during the last 24 months prior to the interview, working or looking for a job; and persons who intend to migrate. This has been executed so far in 2008 and 2012.⁴⁴ The questions cover characteristics including:

- **Education:** Education and training during current/last trip, kind of education / training, field of study, equivalency of studies sought/received;
- **Employment and labour rights:** Duration of job search abroad, occupation, industry, usual working hours per week, existence of employment contract, social protection (including health insurance, medical and annual leave, pension contributions, injury compensation), skill level of employment and match with migrant's own qualifications;
- **Earnings and remittances:** Volume of monthly remittances, their main using, including investment in education and training, average monthly earnings;
- **Regularity:** Legal status in destination country.⁴⁵

Given that education and migration, return, recruitment and migrant labour rights data are all scarce in Armenia and cannot be easily collected using existing mechanisms, it is worth considering specialized ad hoc data collection on these. Box 10 details a periodic Labour Migration module used in Republic of Moldova through its Labour Force Survey to do this. In Armenia, a similar module would be useful. This could be dispensed as a separate module with the ILCS, collected approximately every three years. This would ensure Armenia could take part in four-year HLPF reporting cycles, and generate a considerable body of data and good idea of progress by 2030. Although introducing this would entail additional resources, its utility across a number of Armenia's prioritized SDG targets make it worth considering.

44. More information on the project, which was also carried out in Ukraine, can be found here www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---europe/---ro-geneva/---sro-budapest/documents/publication/wcms_247459.pdf.

45. See Economic Commission for Europe 2012, Producing migration data using household surveys www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/ge.10/2012/WP_10_MOL_01.pdf.

Finally, a key general recommendation is to strengthen cooperation with relevant destination countries on migration data. Several key areas of migration and development, such as migrant labour rights or diaspora issues, are very difficult to monitor once a migrant leaves their origin country. Without collaboration with any range of actors operating in the destination country – including their own migration, labour and other relevant government agencies, as well as stakeholders such as employers' unions – information on the wellbeing and activities of migrants can be very limited. Some steps are being taken at the international level to make more migration data available between countries (see UN DESA's Global Migration Database and IOM's Global Migration Data Portal), however in order for data collaboration to take place on specific migration issues that are relevant to countries, this needs to be done bilaterally. Therefore, the Armstat and/or other agencies should explore data sharing and other collaboration methods with counterparts in key destination countries, such as the Russian Federation and the U.S. Data cooperation can take many forms and can include statistical data exchange, such as on remittance flows, as well as administrative data sharing, such as on rights violations or criminal proceedings. This recommendation is strongly reciprocal; Armenian agencies should also indicate willingness to cooperate on migration data processes with countries who have significant migrant populations in Armenia.

Diaspora Engagement: 17.16



- ▶ Expand Republic of Union employer surveys to more sectors
- ▶ Conduct skills survey or mapping exercise for Armenian diaspora, including financial engagement
- ▶ Adapt Armenian remittance cost data to meet global standards
- ▶ Adapt remittances question in ILCS to gather transfer size data
- ▶ Introduce regular specialized survey on remittances
- ▶ Integrate diaspora investment questions into skills surveys and/or remittance surveys

There is a need to collect data regularly and systematically on aspects of diaspora engagement that pertain to relevant human capital and financial flows into Armenia. In order to be able to leverage the human capital of the diaspora, there is a need to improve data collection around tracking the education, skills and knowledge of Armenians abroad. As regards to the financial engagement of the Armenian diaspora, current data collection could improve by strengthening information collection on household remittances and improved metrics on diaspora investment.

Human Capital: Knowledge and Skills Transfer

Armenia has a very large and highly skilled diaspora, whose technical expertise could be useful for development purposes. Reliable data on knowledge and skills of diaspora members, however, are scarce, and it is currently difficult to form an accurate vision of the different professions, knowledge, skills and qualifications they hold. This means that in turn, it is difficult to engage diaspora communities in a targeted way and create effective temporary return schemes or other programmes to facilitate transfer of knowledge and skills.

Existing data in this area includes employers' surveys through the Republican Union of Employers. These are only carried out in certain sectors and subject to the perspective of employers, which may not accurately reflect whole industry needs. Nevertheless, these provide very valuable information on labour and skills demands, indicating where migrant or returnee labour could be needed. The Union should expand its surveys to employers in other sectors, including catering and domestic work,⁴⁶ to generate more information on skills and qualifications needed. Expanding a survey to the domestic sector would be especially significant as it would complement Target 8.8 on female migrant workers, and potentially encourage Armenia to collect more data on the gender and migration nexus. Finally, the MLSA could consider centrally managing employer surveys or other labour market surveys in the future.⁴⁷

Further, the Agency, responsible for Diaspora affairs, or another relevant government body, should consider conducting a comprehensive skills survey or diaspora mapping exercise for the whole of, or relevant parts of, Armenian diaspora communities. These diaspora mapping exercises could focus alternately on specific geographic areas where the diaspora resides, and/or on specific sectors, such as health or finance, where Armenia may wish to prioritize skills transfer and formation. Information should be collected on a range of educational, professional and socioeconomic variables of diaspora members, with a focus on their existing

46. IOM, 2012:15.

47. IOM, 2011:7.

specialized knowledge, skills and training. Further, information should be collected on the length of time spent abroad and acquisition of alternative or dual nationality. Conducting such an exercise would be the first step towards better assessing the potential skill and/or knowledge-based contributions of the Armenian diaspora towards national development.

If there were resources available, Armenia could consider additional data processes in this area. For skills matching for migrants, this could include in-depth government-issued skills surveys or analysis on which countries have favourable qualification recognition outcomes with Armenian certifications. For skills matching for migrants in Armenia, this could include regulating published information on vacancies or introducing occupational shortage lists.⁴⁸ The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport's forthcoming database of national education programmes, including those targeting migrants, could be useful in this area. Overall, government agencies and other actors should prioritize expanding and strengthening data collection on skills, knowledge and other aspects of different migrant groups that could help create an effective knowledge economy to serve national development. See also Education and Migration.

Financial Engagement

Given that strengthened diaspora engagement – including through financial channels – was identified as a priority area, the following recommendations relate to dimensions of remittances and other forms of financial engagement that can help the government better track and analyse the developmental impact of the diaspora and labour migrants.

The relevant Target on remittances (10C) calls for monitoring the cost of remittances. This is monitored as a percentage of the total amount remitted, and data given for 200 and 500 USD. Information on the cost of remittances from Armenia to countries abroad using a range of providers is collected and published online.⁴ However, it does not calculate the average costs of the different providers, and it provides cost as a total fee for a specified amount of money, rather than as a percentage of this. In order to meet monitoring requirements for 10C and best practice on this, it is recommended for this data to be adapted to provide *average total costs as a percentage of the amount remitted*, for 200 and 500 USD. Further, this information should be published publicly on a monthly or quarterly basis.

Further, it would be useful to gain further information on the average size of individual or household remittance transfers. Current regular data collection through the ILCS includes whether remittances are received and to who, but not the amount of money received, regularity or utilization of this. Such data could provide useful information trends of remittances at the household level, allowing further study into their development effects. The ILCS is already over-burdened and it is not possible to easily expand the migration section. Nevertheless, it would be possible to extract more information on the size of remittances received by adapting existing questions. It is recommended to replace the current question on identity of recipient with one on size of money transfer – see Box 11.⁵⁰

48. See Global Migration Group, Migration and Development Data Handbook (draft) for examples of good practice.

49. ABC Finance www.abcfinance.am/finhelper/index.php?type=remittances.

50. See IOM, 2010.

Box 11: Recommendation on ILCS remittance question**Current ILCS Question:**

Did [NAME] send remittances in cash or/and in kind during the last 12 months?

1. Yes, only to family
2. Yes, only to friend/relative
3. Yes, to family, friend/relative
4. No

Proposed ILCS Question:

Did [NAME] send remittances to the immediate family, in cash or in kind, at any point during the last 12 months?

1. Yes, up to 500 USD
2. Yes, from 500–1,000 USD
3. Yes, from 1,000–5,000 USD
4. Yes, more than 5,000 USD
5. No

Further, it would be useful to gather further information on the regularity and utilization of remittances by adding a question to the ILCS if possible. Though the use of the ILCS for remittance data collection is preferred due to its large sample size and regularity, if there were the resources to do so a regular specialized remittance survey is recommended. This could be conducted by Armstat, CBA or other actors to collect more detailed data on household dynamics around remittances – see Box 12.

Box 12: Specialized data collection on diasporas, remittances and financial engagement**Specialized Remittance Household Surveys**

In 2008 the CBA, in collaboration with USAID, conducted an ad hoc household survey to collect comprehensive information on remittance receipts in Armenia. The survey collected data on topics including but not limited to: amount received annually, senders' education level, reason for migration, destination and time spent abroad, remittance transfer method, decision around transfer method, and use of remittances. For example, the survey collected detailed information on household utilization of remittances by allowing respondents to indicate where they used their remittance receipts from the following list:

1. Current expenses
2. Expenses on primary education
3. Expenses on other education
4. Acquisition of real estate and land
5. Acquisition of agricultural machinery and goods
6. Repairs expenses
7. Entrepreneurship
8. Savings
9. Acquisition of HH appliances
10. Other ⁵¹

51. See USAID, 2008.

By collecting data on so many aspects of remittance transfers at the household level as well as key disaggregation variables for participants, the survey allowed for valuable analysis of the sending and use of Armenian remittances. For example, it calculated households' income dependence from remittances and offered a gendered analysis of remittance utilization. Given Armenia's high remittance receipt rates, it is recommended to conduct this specialized survey, or a similar version drawing from it, on a regular basis. This will extract data on key aspects of remittances, such as its household utilization, and help generate valuable insights on how to maximize the development potential of diaspora members' financial transfers.

As regards to other data on the diaspora's financial engagement with Armenia, more regular and systematic data collection on various aspects of this is needed. In order to improve information on this, government agencies and other actors could explore expanded data collection on diaspora and migrants' investment, transnational loans and any initiatives linked specifically to remittances such as community-level investment projects and diaspora bonds.

It should be noted that progress in diaspora investment data is linked to the improved knowledge and skills mapping and remittance practices recommended above. Firstly, in order to mobilize diaspora members and migrants to invest or otherwise financially engage in Armenia, ideally these first need to be effectively targeted according to their skill level or other selected variables. Solutions for improved data in diaspora financial engagement can be to a certain extent directly tied to those for knowledge and skills mapping. For example, skills mapping surveys could ask participants about any financial commitments or projects they have in Armenia, allowing for sector-specific views of their financial engagement. Secondly, much diaspora financial investment and wealth-creation occurs through remittances. Therefore, improved data collection on remittance utilization would effectively capture more information on diaspora and labour migrant financial engagement at the household and community-level. By collecting data on savings and entrepreneurship, for example, the CBA survey cited above does this.

To collect more comprehensive data collection in this area at the national level, the Armstat, CBA, agency, responsible for Diaspora affairs and/or other actors could introduce specialized surveys on diaspora investment. In 2011, GIZ conducted a comprehensive study on diaspora and investment into Armenia, measuring diaspora led FDI and number of businesses set up by diaspora;⁵² some elements of this study could be conducted on a regular basis to track progress.

52. See GIZ, 2011.

Data and Statistics: 17.18



- ▶ Introduce recommendations as above
- ▶ Introduce Armstat Migration Statistics Compliance Document
- ▶ Include data on migration variables in end trafficking reporting

By carrying out the above recommendations, the Armstat would make considerable progress towards meeting Target 17.18, as data would be improved across a range of migration and development areas. Some areas would see a strengthening of existing processes, while others would enjoy significant statistical attention for the first time.

The Armstat currently operates using numerous inter-agency data exchange agreements and procedures, though it does not have a mechanism to signify compliance to these. It would be helpful to centrally track all of these arrangements between government agencies and the Armstat. The Armstat could list all migration data and statistics agreements and their terms, making explicit any attached data protection agreements. Next, it could check off its and relevant agencies' compliance to each agreement at the end of every year. This compliance document could be made public through the Armstat website annually. Further, it could be included in the Armstat's State Statistical Work Programmes, and if possible, regulated also through an accompanying law. This is a way to centralize and codify all the Armstat's various agreements relating to migration.

Finally, prioritization discussions stressed the importance of inclusivity and improved data disaggregation, so that aggregated statistics do not hide particular inequalities. One area where this is particularly relevant is human trafficking. Police records collect information on the nationality and residence status of trafficking victims, however this generally not reflected in end reporting. Therefore, it can be difficult to pick further into the migration characteristics of victims without using Police records. End reporting by the MFA and other bodies should as far as possible include data on residence status, nationality and any other migration variables available, and Police should take care to include it in data shared with them through separate disaggregation.

The Armstat and other stakeholders should keep the importance of disaggregation in mind in all future migration data collection and reporting plans. This means not only striving for migration data itself to be disaggregated by appropriate variables, but also taking steps so that data in other policy areas is, where appropriate, disaggregated by residence or migration status. Doing both of these will ensure a range of vulnerabilities relating to migration will be detected by different national data mechanisms.

Conclusion

As a result of the project, Armenia reports its progress against key migration-related SDG targets on a public platform. The project kick-started a lengthy migration data capacity-building process in the country that was framed around the SDGs, showing the momentum the 2030 Agenda has given migration data capacity-building initiatives around the world.

The project was innovative in using both established SDG indicators and new proxy indicators to measure migration-related SDG targets. At the start of the project this had not seemingly been done elsewhere but is now more common. Moreover, the project had a number of good practices that could be replicated in other migration data capacity-building efforts elsewhere.

The project was highly consultative and involved over 100 stakeholders through interviews and workshops. Crucially, many non-governmental stakeholders were included in every stage of the process, including the prioritization and data mapping, and significantly shaped the project outputs.

The development of the indicators took as its basis national data capacities and built as far as possible on existing data from the national statistical office and other agencies. This helped keep the burden low on Armenian migration data producers, and in this way helped ensure the indicator reporting process could be sustainable. Moreover, both the indicator framework and the data recommendations were discussed at length and validated with stakeholders across government. In this way, while some of the indicators are not necessarily comparable with those of other countries, they generate meaningful Armenian reporting on migration topics and can help strengthen accountability for government in achieving migration objectives under the 2030 Agenda (IOM, 2018).

Finally, by reporting the indicators on the national SDG reporting platform, the project was successful in integrating migration data initiatives into broader development data initiatives. In this way, migration data was mainstreamed into wider SDG efforts in the country.

Annexes

Annex 1: UNDAF Migration Results Matrix

Box 13: **UNDAF Migration Outcome 4**

Outcome 4. By 2020, migration, border, and asylum management systems are strengthened to promote and protect the rights of migrants and displaced people, especially women and girls.

1. Technical advice to harmonize national legislation governing the treatment of migrants and refugees with international, European and regional standards.
2. Prepare work/action plans serving the implementation of the revised legislation.
3. Continued support and coordination to implement the EU-Armenia Mobility Partnership Declaration.
4. Continued support to implement and monitor the EU-Armenia Readmission Agreement (including monitoring of implementation).
5. Expansion of the system of the migrant resource and referral centres.
6. Community economic development projects in out-migration areas of the country and to assist in the integration of refugees, other displaced persons and migrants as well as in the reintegration of returnees.
7. Improved mechanisms to identify the most vulnerable migrant and displaced populations.
8. Establishment of well-coordinated referral mechanisms to secure effective services to returning migrants, asylum seekers and refugees.
9. Support to develop and implement a National Integration Strategy.
10. Strengthen the capacities of law-enforcement bodies and the judiciary to effectively prosecute labor trafficking in Armenia.
11. Assist in development and adoption of a Counter-trafficking Assessment Tool for use by the government and non-government stakeholders in Armenia.⁵³

Source: UNDAF 2015.

53. See the annexes to the report for design results matrix for UNDAF Outcome 4.

UNDAF Armenia Results Matrix, Outcome 4

Table 2

UNDAF Armenia Results Matrix 2016 – 2020

Outcomes	Indicators, Baselines, Targets	Means of Verification
Outcome 4. By 2020, migration, border, and asylum management systems are strengthened to promote and protect the rights of migrants and displaced people, especially women and girls.	4.1 No. of legislative amendments serving improved migration and asylum laws that are in line with international and regional standards BASELINE: 0 TARGET: 4	- Official Guide on legislation - SMS reports - IOM and UNHCR reports - EU reports
	4.2 Availability of quality mechanisms to secure effective referral to available services BASELINE: N TARGET: Y	- GoA reports - EU MS reports on implementation of readmission agreement/implementation of voluntary return - Feedback from returning migrants and asylum seekers
	4.3 Availability of an integration strategy and action plan BASELINE: N TARGET: Y	- GoA reports - UNHCR reports
	4.4 No. of displaced persons receiving refugee status, other forms of residence status and/or get naturalised (to be gender and age disaggregated) BASELINE: 0 TARGET: 10,000	- SMS statistical reports - Police statistical reports - IOM and UNHCR reports
	4.5 Presence of an integrated and modernized border management system at 3 Border Crossing Points, in line with international IBM standards* BASELINE: N TARGET: Y <small>* Standards relate to: Veterinary-Phytosanitary and Sanitary-Quarantine control equipment and IT Infrastructure</small>	- GoA reports - Programme reports
	4.6 Comprehensive and streamlined Counter-trafficking Assessment Tool is available for the government and non-government stakeholders in Armenia BASELINE: N TARGET: Y	- GoA reports - IOM reports

Assumptions and Risks	Contributing UN Agencies and Partners	Indicative Resources 2016–2020 (USD)
<p>Assumptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Modernization of government system at all levels is high on government's agenda - Adequate budget allocation for border management and asylum services' - Receptive approach towards displaced persons is maintained <p>Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Changes in the political and socio-economic situation - Conflict in the wider region resulting in displacement - Insufficient level of donor coordination 	<p>UN Agencies contributing to Output: UNHCR, IOM, UNDP</p> <p>Key government partners: RA National Assembly, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice, Diaspora, Health, Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations, Labor and Social Affairs and Diaspora</p> <p>Other partners: State Employment Agency, National Statistical Service, State Migration Service, RA Police, the National Security Service, Office of the Prosecutor General, Justice Academy, School of Advocates, Chamber of Advocates, trade unions, Union of Entrepreneurs, Regional and Local Authorities, NGOs and think tanks.</p>	<p>Regular Resources: \$ 600,000</p> <p>Other Resources: \$ 100,000</p> <p>Resources to be mobilized: \$ 17,000,000</p> <p>Total: \$ 17,700,000</p>

Source: UNDAF 2015.

Annex 2: Data Mapping Interview Template

Table 3: **Interview Template Sample**

Target	By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent.				
Data area	Data needed	Capture of this data	Plans to capture	Possible solutions if not collected	Other data collected in this area
Remittances	Remittance fees To Armenia From Armenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How captured/collected • In what form (paper/electronic) • Where (database/registry) • How often • How it is processed (specialized department?) • How is it used internally • Shared with (agencies / IOs and how: paper/electronic. Could be shared w Armstat if not already? 	<i>Y/N with details.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to collect • In what form • Where (database/registry) • How often • How to process • How long to set up • How could share 	
	Total money remitted To Armenia From Armenia				
Impact	Impact of remittances: E.g. Proportion of remittances used for consumption, investment, other				
	Information on diaspora investment: E.g. Value and by sector, value of diaspora bond schemes				
What are key challenges or barriers to successfully collecting data in this area?					
How could data collection be improved in this area?					
Notes:					

Annex 3: Gap Analysis

Table 4: Data Mapping Gap Analysis Overview

Area	Gap Analysis
Migration and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggregation on education migrants (procedural) • Post-completion follow-up • Non-tertiary migrant education
Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant rights bodies do not record information by gender and migratory status
Trafficking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationality of human trafficking victims not included as separate variable in final reporting
Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant bodies do not record child abuse information by residence status or other migration variables
Labour Migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incomplete labour migration statistics • Incomplete seasonal migration data capture • Incomplete data collection on migrant labour rights • Incomplete data collection on recruitment
Migration Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General lack of comprehensiveness and accuracy in statistics • Incomplete data on exits from Armenia • Incomplete data on return migration
Remittances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No regular reporting on usage, impact of remittances at household level • Individual size of remittances not public/shared by the Central Bank • Remittance cost data not shown as average percentage of total remitted
Diaspora Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incomplete skills, knowledge and relevant job matching data • No regular or systematic data collected on diaspora investment • See also Remittances
Migration Data and Statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data gaps as above, hindering evidence-based migration policy • No compliance reporting

Annex 4: Selected Armenian data collection samples

Box 14:

Selected Questions from Education Module in 2014 ILCS

VISIT 3

SECTION E.
EDUCATION

For members 6 years old

Table 2

N	Your highest educational attainment	How many years did it take you to reach this level	Did you attend an educational institution last academic year?	What kind of educational institution did you attend last academic year?	Which level of education did you attend last academic year?	Do you attend any educational institution?	What is the main reason for non-attendance?	What kind of educational institution do you attend?	Which level of education do you have at present? (if you are on summer holidays, fill in the next grade you are going to attend)
	<i>levels</i> 0. illiterate 1. primary (1-4 forms) 2. general (5-9 forms) 3. high (10-12 forms) 4. preliminary vocational 5. vocational (college) 6. higher 7. post-graduate	years 0 0-4 0-5 0-3 0-2 0-5 0-7 0-4	1. YES 2. NO⇒7	1. state educational institution, free of charge 2. state institution with paid education 3. private	1. primary (1-4) 2. general (5-9) 3. high (10-12) 4. preliminary vocational 5. vocational (college) 6. higher educational institute/post-graduate	1. yes ⇒ 9 2. no The answer should be "yes" if you do not attend the institution because of vacation, holidays or other reasons, but intend to continue the study.	1. illness 2. has to work 3. transportation difficulties 4. expensive 5. school is closed but for the other reason than holidays 6. low quality of education 7. do not want to study 8. do not attend the institution temporarily, but will continue 9. family reasons 10. finished main school (9 forms) 11. finished secondary school (12 forms) 12. completed education (college, higher education institution) 13. other if column 4=1 ⇒ 35 if column 4=2 ⇒ the next table	1. state educational institution, free of charge 2. state institution with paid education 3. private	1. primary (1-4) 2. general (5-9) 3. high (10-12) 4. preliminary vocational 5. vocational (college) 6. higher educational institute/post-graduate
1	2.	3.	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

VISIT 3

SECTION E.
EDUCATION

For members who do not attend school (14 years old and over)

Table 3

HH member's ID numbers	Do (or did) you attend any courses during the last 12 months?	If yes, then mention the duration of the course	If yes, who pays for the courses?	Purpose of the courses	Subject of the courses?	Place of the courses?	How much did you spend in average month (during the last 12month) ? in drams	
	1. yes 2.no ⇒ next section	1. up to 2 weeks 2. up to 1 month 3. 1 month 4. more than 1 month	1. myself 2. state/community 3. employer 4. sponsor 5. international organization 6. other	1. education 2. raising the qualification 3. requalification	1. foreign language 2. computer 3. accounting 4. craft 5. other (specify) (2 answers are allowed)	1. public institution 2. private institution 3. international organization 4. private people 5. other		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Source: ILCS 2014.

References

- Economic Commission for Europe, 2012. *Producing migration data using household surveys, Note by the National Bureau of Statistics, Republic of Moldova*
www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/ge.10/2012/WP_10_MOL_01.pdf.
- Eurostat, 2015. *Report on Sector Review on Migration Statistics in the Republic of Armenia*
www.ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/52535/52745/SR_ARMENIA_Migration.pdf/073a68da-5136-47db-aa62-3c3111827bb7.
- GIZ, 2011. German Development Agency (GIZ), 2011.
Baseline study: current situation of the diaspora connected FDIs in Armenia
www.ev.am/sites/default/files/FDI-GIZ-2011_Baseline_study_25-09-12_Final.pdf.
- Global Migration Group, 2016. *Migration and Development Data Handbook [Draft]*
www.iomgmdac.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Final-Handbook-with-cover-DRAFT-9-03-2016_4.pdf.
- IOM, 2010. *Migration Management and Human Rights*
www.publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/migration_management_eng.pdf.
- IOM, 2010. *Enhancing Migration Data Collection, Processing and Sharing in the Republic of Armenia. Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis Report*
- IOM, 2011. *Progress Review of Migration Management in the Republic of Armenia*
www.publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/progress_review_english.pdf.
- IOM, 2011. *Assessment of Labour Market Potential in Armenia*
www.publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/labour_market_potential_english.pdf.
- IOM, 2012. *Labour Migration in Armenia: Existing trends and policy options. Report on Needs Assessment of Labour Migration Management in Armenia*
www.publications.iom.int/books/labour-migration-armenia-existing-trends-and-policy-options-report-needs-assessment-labour.
- IOM, 2013. *Baseline Research on Irregular Migration in the Republic of Armenia*
www.www.un.am/up/library/Baseline_Research_Irregular_Migration_eng.pdf.
- IOM, 2014. *Report on Household Survey on Migration in Armenia*
www.publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/household_survey_eng.pdf.
- IOM, 2018. *Migration and the 2030 Agenda: A Guide for Practitioners*
www.migrationdataportal.org/tool/migration-and-2030-agenda-guide-practitioners.
- IOM, Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), 2016. *Measuring well-governed migration: The 2016 Migration Governance Index*
www.publications.iom.int/books/measuring-well-governed-migration-2016-migration-governance-index.
- National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia, 2007. *Labour Migration in Armenia: the Results of a Pilot Sample Survey*. Yerevan.
- National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia, 2014. *The Armenian Integrated Living Conditions Survey* www.armstat.am/file/doc/99495353.pdf.

- National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia, 2016. *Social Snapshot and Poverty in Armenia* www.armstat.am/en/?nid=80&id=1819.
- UNDP, 2009. *Migration and Human Development: Opportunities and Challenges. National Human Development Report, Armenia*.
- UN Habitat, 2016. *Roadmap for Localizing the SDGS: Implementation and Monitoring at Subnational Level* www.media.wix.com/ugd/bfe783_49c2d8178d214bde9ec14154dd70e921.pdf.
- United Nations, 2013. *Post-2015 Development Agenda: National Consultations Republic of Armenia* www.un.am/up/file/Armenia%20Post%202015%20National%20Consultation%20-%20English.pdf.
- United Nations, 2015. *Millennium Development Goals: National Progress Report. Armenia 2015* www.un.am/up/library/MDG%20NPR_15_eng.pdf.
- United Nations, 2016. *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2016* www.unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2016/The%20Sustainable%20Development%20Goals%20Report%202016.pdf.
- United Nations, 2016. *Compilation of Metadata for the Proposed Global Indicators for the Review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* www.unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/metadata-compilation.
- United Nations Economic and Social Council, 2016. *Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators* www.unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/47th-session/documents/2016-2-IAEG-SDGs-Rev1-E.pdf.
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), 2016. *Looking Back, Leaping Forward Moving from MDGs to SDGs in Europe and Central Asia* www.undg.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/MDG_SDG_Transition-Report_2016.pdf.
- UNFPA, 2008. *Report on Sample Survey on External and Internal Migration in the Republic of Armenia. Yerevan* www.armstat.am/file/article/rep_migr_08e.pdf.
- United Nations General Assembly, 2016. *Critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level Report of the Secretary-General* www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/684&Lang=E.
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID), 2008. *Remittance Transfers to Armenia: Preliminary Survey Data Analysis* www.hsdl.org/?view&did=231733.



International Organization for Migration

Migration data in the context of the 2030 Agenda:
Measuring Migration and Development in Armenia