

Tackling the Socio-Economic Consequences of COVID-19 on Migrants and their Communities: Why Integration Matters

January 2022



United Nations
Network on Migration
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Tackling the Socio-Economic Consequences of COVID-19 on Migrants and their Communities:
Why Integration Matters was prepared by the UNDP Global Policy Network/Crisis Bureau and the ILO Labour Migration Branch. Lead author was Katrin Marchand, UNU-MERIT|Maastricht Graduate School of Governance.



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Acknowledgements

This UN Network on Migration Discussion Paper is the result of an active collaboration between the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the other members of the Network's Executive Committee (IOM, OHCHR, UNDESA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC and WHO), in partnership with the United Nations University – Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT).

The paper was mainly drafted by Katrin Marchand, UNU-MERIT | Maastricht Graduate School of Governance, under the guidance of David Khoudour and Luca Renda (UNDP), and Michelle Leighton and Paul Tacon (ILO). Adriana Marín Peroza and Nasrat Sayed (UNU-MERIT | Maastricht Graduate School of Governance) provided valuable research assistance.

The team is grateful for insightful comments by Patrick Marega-Castellan, Fabiola Mieres, Natalia Popova and Héloïse Ruaudel at the ILO, Caroline Lund, Henny Ngu and Johannes Tarvainen at UNDP, as well as Gabriele Aiello (UNODC), Samuel Boutruche (UNHCR), Cecilia Cantos (IOM), Carolina Hernández (OHCHR) and Rasika Jayasuriya (UNICEF).

The ILO and UNDP are particularly grateful to Jonathan Prentice, head of the UN Network on Migration Secretariat, and his team for the support in the elaboration of this publication.

Executive summary

The COVID-19 global health emergency and the responses to curb the spread of the virus, such as border closures, lockdowns, travel restrictions, temporary suspension of migration assistance and processes, have disproportionately affected international migrants, their households and communities of origin, transit and destination. The adverse socio-economic impacts of the pandemic have brought to light and exacerbated pre-existing vulnerabilities associated with migrants' protection and human rights as well as integration in destination countries, including health care, housing, water and sanitation, access to decent work and social protection, and returnees' reintegration in origin countries. At the same time, migrant workers have been at the forefront of the response in sectors such as health services and food delivery, highlighting the importance of labour migration in the global economy.

Many countries have recognized migrants' vulnerable situation as well as the benefits of migration, in line with the vision of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and the 2030 Agenda. In this context, stakeholders at local, national and international levels have introduced policies and/or programmes to overcome the pandemic's socio-economic effects on migrants. As countries look towards opening up, this paper provides an overview of these responses and also presents some previous initiatives that, if more widely adopted, could facilitate migrants' and communities' (re)integration and preparedness to prevent similar detrimental consequences in future crises.

Border and mobility restrictions left thousands of migrants stranded in countries of transit or destination, at sea and in border areas. In addition, return migration during and resulting from the pandemic reshaped previous mobility patterns while posing several challenges for returning migrants, their communities and for governments with limited capacity to provide the necessary

services for reintegration in origin countries, such as counselling, psychosocial support, food provision, onward transportation, accommodation, medical screenings and labour market access.

Before COVID-19, many migrants already faced limited access to health and other basic services, such as social protection, treatment and vaccination plans, education and training and adequate housing. These limitations were partially due to language barriers and a lack of culturally and linguistically accessible information, including preventive measures, recommended practices and service options, which also compromised governments' public health policies for controlling the virus outbreak.

The pandemic resulted in a global socio-economic crisis, severely affecting migrants and their communities' jobs and livelihoods. Migrants' economic fragility, due to unemployment, underemployment and informal employment, has caused income loss and disrupted the flow of remittances worldwide, directly affecting households' welfare and development outlook in origin countries. COVID-19 has also exposed migrant workers (especially those working in the informal sector) to exploitative work practices, inadequate provision of personal protective equipment and abuses from employers. Cases may not be reported due to fear of arrest, detention or deportation.

The pandemic has intensified inequalities in terms of gender and social protection gaps. Migrant workers have faced increasing unemployment levels and precarious working conditions, especially in female-dominated sectors, such as childcare, domestic work, retail and service sectors. This has raised awareness on the need to develop effective gender-responsive social protection systems. In addition, an increase in unpaid family work (caregiving, household responsibilities) and gender-based violence (GBV) from intimate partners or family

members during lockdowns have been noted, as well as overloaded health care systems, medical supply shortages and a lack of life-saving facilities for women's and girls' well-being, undermining their psychological, sexual and reproductive health.

Several national and local governments, employers' and workers' organizations, national human rights institutions, international organizations, NGOs and civil society organizations (CSOs) have developed migrant-inclusive responses to the pandemic. These include the recognition of migrants' skills and knowledge to facilitate access to employment in varied sectors, such as health care (in Argentina, Chile, Peru and Spain) and agriculture (in France and Germany). Efforts have also been made to ensure the protection of migrants' human rights and access to decent work through renewal or extension of work visas (for instance in Bahrain, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, South Africa, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates), residence permits (Italy), government funding or support programmes (in Brazil, Chile, Ireland, New Zealand and Tunisia) and COVID-19 related treatment (in most EU Member States, Republic of Korea, Thailand). Countries such as Colombia (for Venezuelans), the Philippines (for overseas Filipino workers) and Bangladesh (for return migrants) have included migrants in livelihood support and social protection schemes to address their vulnerabilities in the COVID-19 response.

Legal reforms and programmatic approaches based on the 2030 Agenda and the GCM can help kick-start socio-economic recovery while building resilience to future crises by opening safe, regular migration routes. Enabling migrants to enjoy their human and labour rights and addressing the factors that make them more vulnerable to the impact of the pandemic is a way to enhance migrants' contribution to sustainable development in countries of origin, transit and destination.

The pandemic has highlighted the need for accurate data collection and disaggregation on migration in line with the first GCM objective ("Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies"). This is needed for the monitoring of movements and development of targeted policies/programmes to address mi-

grants' needs, including the IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre, the Migration Network Hub, the International Data Alliance for Children on the Move, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime's UN Observatory on the Smuggling of Migrants.

Many countries have improved access to the development and recognition of skills and qualifications to strengthen migrants' employability and create conditions for development in both countries of origin and destination, in line with GCM objective 19 ("Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries"). Some initiatives include Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programmes such as language courses (Germany), fieldwork vocational training (Canada, Finland, Germany, Sweden), programmes targeting returning migrants' reintegration and contribution to the local community (the Philippines, Republic of Korea) and recognition of prior learning (RPL) projects (ILO in Cambodia). Other initiatives include the implementation of national policies to ensure skills training and decent work in countries of origin or destination (Bangladesh, Colombia, Mexico, Sri Lanka), regional vocational and qualifications mechanisms (ASEAN, Caribbean, Europe, Pacific) or international documents (GCM, Global Skills Partnership on Migration).

Supporting and promoting entrepreneurship, business development and financial inclusion of migrants is also crucial to enhance economic growth and welfare in origin and destination countries. In this context, stakeholders have implemented different promising initiatives to support migrant entrepreneurs and services, to encourage entrepreneurship and facilitate economic reintegration among returnees. Encouraging rights-based technological and digital innovations is essential to ease migrants' socio-economic integration in host countries. International organizations (for instance, ILO, IOM and UNDP), in addition to public and private sectors in some countries, have introduced initiatives to support migrants with regard to digital work. Expanding migrants' and their families' access to social protection without exclusionary laws or policies is a basic human right recognized in international human rights law and international labour standards, and key to attaining the GCM objectives

as well as Goals 1 and 10 of the 2030 Agenda. Despite many multilateral and bilateral social security agreements providing for the portability of social security benefits, many migrant workers and their families remain excluded from adequate social protection. Owing to their status, type of employment, duration of stay or other practical barriers, many migrants cannot access social protection, including health care. Some developed countries (Australia, Canada, EU Member States) have included regular migrants in social protection systems, although the level of benefits and their portability varies among countries. In other countries, migrants have limited access to social protection schemes due to *de jure* or *de facto* exclusion (Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand). For this reason, international organizations such as ILO, OHCHR and UNICEF have introduced guidelines to facilitate migrants' integration into social protection systems and address other significant needs.

Governments have initiated promising efforts to reduce gender gaps in recognition of migrants' specific needs, particularly of women migrants, in terms of training and knowledge about safe migration, digital services and literacy, as well as female returnees' economic empowerment (Bangladesh, the Philippines, Tanzania).

Incidences of stigmatization, discrimination and xenophobia have increased during the pandemic. Hateful narratives towards migrants, including returnees, have incorporated fake news, social media harassment and violent political rhetoric, as well as a growing number of assaults, such as harassment, shunning, physical assaults, workplace discrimination or being barred from establishments. This has put social cohesion with local communities at risk and prevented migrants from seeking aid for

screening, testing or treatment, and other essential services, jeopardizing their safety and public health efforts. Social cohesion is vital for socio-economic (re)integration. When social cohesion is strong, it generally promotes (re)integration, while (return) migrants face more challenges when social cohesion is weak.

The uncertainty surrounding the pandemic requires social dialogue among governments, employers and workers, on issues such as supporting migrant workers to retain their jobs and work permits, receive visa extensions or social assistance irrespective of migration status, as well as to reduce tensions between nationals and foreigners. In Kenya, for example, migrant workers who lost their jobs were able to maintain their residency status and work permits.

Including migrants in public health responses is crucial to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Beyond this, governments must ensure that policies and programmes are inclusive of all migrants, regardless of their status, while also addressing pre-existing challenges that already affected people on the move, and which were exacerbated by the pandemic, to leverage migration's benefits and recover from the immediate and long-term socio-economic consequences that COVID-19 is expected to pose.

In this regard, governments could consider good practices before and during the COVID-19 crisis to build upon and scale up. With these efforts to integrate migrants, the GCM and the 2030 Agenda serve as a powerful framework for governments to ensure that, as the world recovers from the pandemic, human mobility remains safe and inclusive, and respects international law.

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1. Introduction

The exponential increase of COVID-19 infections and the related policy responses to contain the spread of the virus around the globe have had significant impacts on international migrants, their households, as well as communities of origin, transit and destination. The closing of borders has made it increasingly challenging or even impossible for people to migrate regularly, leaving thousands stranded in origin, transit and destination countries, between borders or at sea with limited capacity to continue the journey or return home.

In addition, many migrants already abroad have been adversely affected because lockdowns and other policy measures adopted to “flatten the curve” have hit the industries in which they work. Evidence has also shown that COVID-19 has significantly contributed to increases in unemployment and drops in income among migrants, especially those working in the informal sector who are more vulnerable to exploitation, in addition to migrant workers often being excluded from or having limited access to social protection schemes (ILO, 2020f; OECD, 2020a). In this regard, migrant workers have been, on average, more affected than citizens of destination countries.

Migrants often live and work under precarious conditions and lack appropriate access to health care systems, hence increasing their risk of exposure to and infection with the virus (IOM, 2020a; OECD, 2020a). COVID-19 has also had impacts on integration efforts, as social contacts have been reduced to a minimum and language and integration

courses have had to be stopped or changed from their usual format, while those perceived as “foreign” suffer from increased racism, hostility and discrimination (Bartos et al., 2020). Migrant women face additional barriers to integration, as migrants and as women, and heightened risks of exclusion. Likewise, in countries of origin, the sudden return of migrant populations has raised challenges to often weak economies, which were already experiencing significant disruptions due to the pandemic (ILO, 2020e; World Bank, 2020b).

At the same time, migrants play a key role in many sectors of societies around the world. Their contribution has been instrumental in many national responses to the COVID-19 crisis. They have significantly contributed as front-line and essential workers in key sectors such as health and agriculture (IOM, 2020j). Migrants have also continued to support households as other forms of financing to developing countries declined. In this respect, remittances remained more resilient than expected during 2020. “Officially recorded remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries reached US\$540 billion, only 1.6 percent below the \$548 billion seen in 2019. Remittances exceeded foreign direct investment flows by a wider margin in 2020. Excluding China, remittance flows surpassed the sum of foreign direct investment and official development assistance” (World Bank, 2021). Resumption of migration will be an important factor in spurring and supporting socio-economic recovery from the pandemic in both countries of origin and destination.

Key definitions

International migrants can be defined as individuals who move away from their countries of usual residence, temporally or permanently, for a variety of reasons. The term “migrants” refers to both individuals who move in a regular or documented manner as well as those in irregular situations (based on IOM and UN DESA definitions).

Integration may be broadly defined as “...the process by which migrants become accepted into society, both as individuals and as groups.... [Integration] refers to a two-way process of adaptation by migrants and host societies...[and implies] consideration of the rights and obligations of migrants and host societies, of access to different kinds of services and the labour market, and of identification and respect for a core set of values that bind migrants and host communities in a common purpose” (IOM, 2011, p. 51).

Reintegration can be understood as the “[r]e-inclusion or re-incorporation of a person into a group or a process, e.g. of a migrant into the society of his or her country of origin or habitual residence” (IOM, 2011, p. 82).

Social cohesion can be defined as “the extent of trust in government and within society and the willingness to participate collectively toward a shared vision of sustainable peace and common development goals” (UNDP, 2020, p. 11).

Social protection is defined as the set of policies and programmes designed to reduce and prevent poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion throughout the life cycle. Social protection includes nine main areas: child and family benefits, maternity protection, unemployment support, employment injury benefits, sickness benefits, health protection (medical care), old-age benefits, invalidity/disability benefits, and survivors’ benefits. Social protection systems address all these policy areas by a mix of contributory schemes (social insurance) and non-contributory tax-financed benefits (including social assistance)” (ILO, 2017). In most ILO documents, the terms “social security” and “social protection” are used interchangeably and encompass a broad variety of policy instruments, including social insurance, social assistance, universal benefits and other forms of cash transfers and measures to ensure effective access to health care and other benefits in kind with a view to securing social protection.

Decent work comprises four strategic objectives:

- (i) Promoting employment by creating a sustainable institutional and economic environment in which:
 - a. individuals can develop and update the necessary capacities and skills they need to be productively occupied for their personal fulfilment and the common well-being;
 - b. all enterprises, public or private, are sustainable to enable growth and the generation of greater employment and income opportunities and prospects for all; and
 - c. societies can achieve their goals of economic development, good living standards and social progress;
- (ii) Developing and enhancing measures of social protection – social security and labour protection – which are sustainable and adapted to national circumstances, including:
 - a. the extension of social security to all, including measures to provide basic income to all in need of such protection, and adapting its scope and coverage to meet the new needs and uncertainties generated by the rapidity of technological, societal, demographic and economic changes;
 - b. healthy and safe working conditions; and
 - c. policies in regard to wages and earnings, hours and other conditions of work, designed to ensure a just share of the fruits of progress to all and a minimum living wage to all employed and in need of such protection;
- (iii) Promoting social dialogue and tripartism as the most appropriate methods for:
 - a. adapting the implementation of the strategic objectives to the needs and circumstances of each country;
 - b. translating economic development into social progress, and social progress into economic development;
 - c. facilitating consensus building on relevant national and international policies that impact employment and decent work strategies and programmes; and
 - d. making labour law and institutions effective, including in respect of the recognition of the employment relationship, the promotion of good industrial relations and the building of effective labour inspection systems; and
- (iv) Respecting, promoting and realizing the fundamental principles and rights at work, which are of particular significance, as both rights and enabling conditions that are necessary for the full realization of all of the strategic objectives, noting:
 - a. that freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining are particularly important to enable the attainment of the four strategic objectives; and
 - b. that the violation of fundamental principles and rights at work cannot be invoked or otherwise used as a legitimate comparative advantage and that labour standards should not be used for protectionist trade purposes.

Nonetheless, the pandemic has exacerbated many of the issues that many migrants already faced, especially with regard to their vulnerable situation when it comes to enjoying protection and rights (UN, 2020c). This paradox is also acknowledged in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), which recognizes the great potential benefits of migration, while highlighting the lack of rights protection and challenges created by poorly governed human mobility.

The different COVID-19 variants and inequitable access to vaccines have delayed the potential end of the pandemic that the rollout of vaccinations suggested since late 2020. However, it is timely to consider addressing issues concerning migrants' situation not only within the COVID-19 response and post-COVID-19 recovery processes, but also in the longer term once the virus no longer represents a threat.

In this respect, this paper focuses on migrants' socio-economic (re)integration, both the integration of immigrants into the societies and labour markets of their host countries, and the sustainable reintegration of returnees into their origin countries. Socio-economic (re)integration, in line with best practices, international norms and standards in terms of human rights, labour standards, gender equality and social cohesion, is key to fostering integration that supports the positive effects that migration can have for sustainable development and is a central component of coherent migration policies. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes migration as a core development consideration (IOM, 2016). Respect for migrants' human rights is of central importance in building resilient and sustainable societies in line with the vision of the GCM, the 2030 Agenda and its promise to leave no one behind. Fully empowered and integrated migrants are best placed to make vital contributions to States' recovery and to "building back better" for the benefit of countries and communities of origin, transit and destination alike (UN, 2020b).

Therefore, even as most countries across the world are still in the midst of the pandemic, the full socio-economic inclusion of migrants and the mutual

engagement of receiving communities and migrants should be a priority, in line with Objective 16 of the GCM ("Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion"). For those migrants who have returned as a result of the pandemic, efforts to ensure that their return is safe, dignified and accompanied by support to ensure their sustainable reintegration, as outlined in GCM Objective 21 ("Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration") is essential to help countries of origin manage the consequences of COVID-19-induced return.

Several other objectives of the GCM, the inclusion of migration in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and international human rights and labour standards also highlight the importance of socio-economic (re)integration of migrants. It should therefore be a priority in recovering from the pandemic to further work towards meeting these goals. Working jointly towards the inclusion of immigrants and returnees in the respective societies will ensure that future crises will not have similar adverse effects on migrants.

Against this backdrop, and in line with the purpose of the UN Network on Migration's COVID-19 portal,¹ this paper assesses the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on migrants, especially those already in countries of destination, and returnees in countries of origin, as well as their communities. The paper also discusses some of the policy and programme responses that different stakeholders, at local, national and international levels, have adopted to address this impact, as well as the costs associated with a lack of integration policies. The paper finally makes specific recommendations aimed at promoting migrants' socio-economic (re)integration and social cohesion. Within this framework, a broad approach to integration and reintegration is taken, looking at issues such as labour markets, gender equality, social protection and peaceful coexistence, both in countries of destination and upon return in countries of origin.² Focus is placed on rights-based and gender-responsive policies and programmes looking especially at recovery and longer-term development plans.

¹ <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/covid-19>

² The paper focuses on the socio-economic integration of immigrants in countries of destination and returnees' reintegration in countries of origin. It does not analyse the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on remittances, nor the role that diasporas have played in helping their countries of origin face the consequences of the pandemic.

2. The socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on migrants

Before considering the socio-economic responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and socio-economic (re) integration in the light of post-pandemic recovery, it is important to take stock of the impacts that the crisis has had on migrants and their communities.

Before the pandemic, migrants already faced multiple disadvantages, affecting their enjoyment of human and labour rights. For example, data from a number of high-income and low- and middle-income countries found that migrant workers earned between 12.6 percent and 17.3 percent less per hour than nationals, while women paid a double wage penalty as women and migrants, with migrant women in high-income countries earning

20.9 percent less than non-migrant men (ILO, 2021e). Border and mobility restrictions imposed due to the pandemic reduced international migration to destination countries. Migrants who had already been working in these countries were affected in different ways. Migrants faced challenges both with regards to accessing health, social protection and other essential services, and in terms of education and employment, including discrimination in wages and working conditions. Return migration during and as a result of the pandemic shaped international migration patterns from the beginning of the pandemic, posing several challenges for returnees themselves and their communities in countries of origin.

2.1 Impact of border and mobility restrictions

Governments across the world have imposed various movement restrictions to “flatten the curve” of the COVID-19 pandemic. The policies and measures include travel bans, border closures as well as nationwide or localized lockdowns (IFRC, 2020a), which have disproportionately affected populations in vulnerable situations, especially migrants. Migrant workers work predominantly in the informal economy, or are engaged in temporary forms of work, and as such have been particularly affected, facing loss of income, often without access to social protection measures or financial support.

In some countries, labour migration has been suspended temporarily (IOM, 2020a), while others have returned thousands of migrants to their countries of origin (World Bank, 2020b). Border and port closures have prevented people from accessing safety and protection of their human rights elsewhere (Guadagno, 2020) and left large numbers of migrants stranded in countries of origin, transit or destination, at sea and between borders with limited preparation, support and unable to return home or continue their journeys (İçduygu, 2020; IOM, 2020j).

These restrictions have not halted migration entirely, but they have changed migration patterns by decreasing the number of international migrants and increasing return migration, with concerning impacts for migrants' human rights. According to the latest migration report by the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the growth of global numbers of migrants was slowed down by about 27 percent, or two million migrants, in 2020 (UN DESA, 2020a).

When it comes to returns, some governments have organized repatriation flights (see Section 2.1.4) and covered expenses (such as transportation, medical certificate in specific timeframe, and pre-departure accommodation) partially or fully. While the United Nations Network on Migration has called for the suspension of forced returns in response to COVID-19 to uphold migrants' human rights regardless of their migratory status, some countries continued such returns (UNICEF, 2020h). On the other hand, the difficulty of travelling in the context of mobility disruptions due to changing laws, limited capacity to organize return compared to demand,

and costs imposed by cancelled or rescheduled travel have restricted people's ability to return (IOM, 2020b). Others seeking to move have seen the costs of migration increasing as recruiters, travel agents, smugglers and others charge higher fees to respond to movement restrictions, impacting the finances of migrant families, and causing many to incur debt to cover these costs, or making them more vulnerable to abuse, exploitation and human trafficking (Guadagno, 2020). Smugglers have not stopped their operations and increasingly turned to more perilous routes to avoid the more patrolled areas, thus further endangering the lives of migrants. It is expected that the economic consequences of the pandemic will lead to an increase in migrant smuggling (UNODC, 2020a).

Furthermore, the impacts on migrant workers, who numbered 169 million in 2019, have been acute in all regions (ILO 2021d, ILO 2020f). Travel bans prevented

migrant workers with visas from taking up employment abroad, while migrant workers in destination countries who lost their jobs risked moving into irregular status and being forced to return due to loss of temporary visas or work or residence permits (ILO 2020c, ILO 2020f). Governments have struggled to provide timely and sufficient information on procedures and restricted consular and visa processing support (IOM, 2020b; UN, 2020c). This situation has hindered migrants' ability to return to their jobs, studies or families while also exposing them to the risk of falling into irregularity by overstaying their visas and associated risks of marginalization, detention, deportation and penalties (Bernal, 2020). In addition, the lack of cooperation (legal, political and operational) between origin and destination countries has worsened existing difficulties regarding movement between countries for migrant workers and people seeking international protection under international human rights law (IOM, 2020b).

2.2 Access to health and other basic services

Prior to the pandemic, migrants in many contexts already faced denials of their rights to access basic services despite the call in GCM Objective 15 to "[p]rovide access to basic services for migrants". Migrants lacked access to essential services including health care systems, education and training and social protection, due to legal, cultural and linguistic barriers, as well as fear of arrest, detention or deportation (Hui et al., 2019). This was particularly true in contexts where firewalls between service providers and immigration authorities were not in place. COVID-19 has exacerbated these vulnerabilities (IFRC, 2020a). In a UNICEF survey of 159 countries where it has an operational presence, half the countries reported a reduction in health care among migrant children during COVID-19 (UNICEF, 2020a).

While all migrants, regardless of their nationality or migration status, have an equal right to social protection, including health care, they often face obstacles in accessing it, including language and cultural barriers, costs, lack of information and the wide-reaching consequences of xenophobic attitudes and behaviours (OHCHR, 2020a). Migrants

in an irregular situation are often unable or unwilling to access health care or provide information on their health status for fear of being reported to the immigration authorities, detained or deported (Hui et al., 2019; OHCHR, 2020a). In addition, many migrants in regular situations may not be able to afford social protection, including health care, or might rely on their employers to do so (ILO, 2020a).

Migrants might furthermore be excluded from COVID-19 treatment plans (Capps and Gelatt, 2020; KFF, 2020). For instance, the "Public Charge Final Rule" prevented immigration applicants in the United States of America (people with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals of Temporary Protected Status, temporary visas) from accessing health care services, health treatment coverage, nutrition assistance, or seeking other support until it was lifted in March 2021. Thus, even when state authorities such as the New York State authorized access to COVID-19-related health services for low-income migrants regardless of status (Mixed Migration Centre, 2020), migrants did not use these services out of fear of affecting their chances of remaining in the U.S with

their families, making them more vulnerable (Gonzales, 2020). Moreover, administrative barriers, such as Social Security numbers or documentation requirements, limited access to reliable information and longstanding mistrust in government services, often stemming from discriminatory attitudes among service providers, further discouraged migrants from accessing health care services (Lebano et al., 2020).

Where migrant families are excluded from socio-economic recovery programmes, lose their livelihoods and fall into poverty, children from the most disadvantaged communities are at an increased risk of child labour, child marriage and child trafficking as families are pushed into negative coping mechanisms (UN DESA, 2020b; ILO-UNICEF, 2020). Moreover, in a UNICEF survey of 159 countries in which it has an operational presence, 36 percent report reduced protection services for migrant children (UNICEF, 2020a).

Another major challenge is the inclusion of migrants, regardless of their nationality and migration status, in COVID-19 vaccination strategies to ensure their right to health and non-discrimination. Within this it is crucial to consider migrants' risks and needs; the provision of accessible information; firewalls between immigration enforcement and COVID-19 vaccine provision to prevent fears of reporting, detention and deportation; and cooperation and assistance to ensure access to vaccination globally, especially for countries facing economic and financial difficulties (CMW et al., 2021; UN Network on Migration, 2021b). In this context, the Migration Network Hub provides guidance on access to vaccines and the prioritization of those most exposed and vulnerable to COVID-19, including migrants.

Delivery of migrant-focused services is limited by data gaps. National and local authorities often do not know the exact number of migrants and their distribution across the territory, making it difficult to obtain information about, monitor and trace affected populations (Guadagno, 2020). This situation limits the inclusion of migrants in health policies or schemes and, in the COVID-19 context, the effectiveness of schemes such as health promotion, disease prevention, treatment and care, and financial protection in reducing the virus's spread and negative impacts (IFRC, 2020a; WHO Europe,

2020). When addressing data gaps, it is crucial to collect and manage data in a manner that preserves the privacy and confidentiality of personal information in accordance with international ethical rules on data protection (including the right to privacy in the collection, use and dissemination of data, and effective firewalls between public services and immigration authorities) (GCM, 2017).

Lack of culturally and linguistically appropriate information also hinders migrants' awareness of existing rights and social protection programmes, preventing them from seeking medical aid (ILO, 2020a). States have not always provided translated information on COVID-19-related preventive measures, recommended practices and service options, despite their obligation to do so. In turn, this information circulates unevenly in key locations of migrants' communities or along their journey routes via individuals, international organizations and NGOs trusted by migrants (Arfaat, 2020).

Lack of access to the right to adequate housing has had major impacts for migrants. Overcrowded living conditions such as workers' dormitories or immigration detention centres without basic sanitation and water or with insufficient medical personnel are a major challenge in this regard. This situation hinders migrants' ability to adhere to public health measures such as physical distancing, self-isolation, proper hand hygiene, increasing their potential to contract COVID-19 (Bukuluki et al., 2020; Kluge et al., 2020). For example, Singapore was ranked among the top ten countries of infection rates per million in June 2020 and the majority of cases were from migrant workers living in dormitories (Subramaniam, 2020a). Migrants living in bunk rooms and lacking proper hygiene facilities accounted for more than 90 percent of COVID-19 cases in the country (Kaur-Gill, 2020). The surge of cases in migrant worker dorms forced the country to enforce several measures such as a nationwide lockdown and movement restrictions for foreign workers.

In opposition to GCM Objective 13 ("Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives"), in some countries authorities have conducted a number of raids and arrested significant numbers of migrants since the beginning of the pandemic.

Detainees are at risk being placed in overcrowded detention centres, undermining efforts to fight the pandemic. In this context, the United Nations Network on Migration has released guidance for States and stakeholders focused on preventing and responding to COVID-19 in the context of immigration detention (UN Network on Migration, 2020a).

Most countries around the world have closed schools at some point during the pandemic, which has negatively affected children, especially migrant children, by disrupting education, social and psychological support, child protection services, protection from abuse at home, and access to school feeding programmes. It has led to an increase in child marriages due to schools' closure (UNICEF, 2021; You et al., 2020). For instance, distance learning can result in a disadvantage for migrant children, who might not speak the host country language fluently or who, due to their parents' limited resources, might not have access to a computer or internet connection (OECD, 2020a).

At least a third of the world's schoolchildren were unable to access remote learning during school closures and children on the move have been disproportionately affected (UNICEF, 2020b). In this regard, 58 percent of UNICEF country offices surveyed reported inadequate remote learning options for vulnerable child populations, including migrants (UNICEF, 2020a). In Colombia, UNICEF mobile education teams targeted hard-to-reach Colombian families and migrant families from Venezuela in

spontaneous settlements and on the streets with educational activities, psychosocial support, and hygiene promotion (UNICEF, 2020c). In this context, it is also important to mention that the burden of unpaid care work has increased for many women, including migrants, due to the closures of schools and other child-care services (UN Women, 2020a). School closures have also inhibited the reporting of child maltreatment cases and overall adverse effects on children have been noted (UNESCO, 2020).

The pandemic has also affected other services for migrants. For example, many integration schemes have been suspended, while government restrictions have also closed community centres or limited the delivery of assistance and services upon which migrants might rely for their well-being (Guadagno, 2020). Migrant Worker Resource Centres (MRCs) also partially had to stop operations or at least scale them down. Many shifted their focus to the increased needs of return migrants (ILO, 2020f). Access to justice has further been challenged by the closing or reduced operativity of courts and the uneven use of substitute technological means (UNODC 2020b). It is also well documented that only a small share of sexual violence suffered by women is formally reported to law enforcement authorities and it is likely that national lockdown measures limited the access of women to those reporting channels, with police, first responders and health services being overburdened and operating at limited capacity (UNODC 2020c).

2.3 Impacts on jobs and livelihoods

COVID-19 has had a differentiated socio-economic impact on migrants' livelihoods, largely depending on their respective working conditions.³ Migrant workers are disproportionately represented in the informal economy characterized by decent work deficits, such as lack of secure status and low-paid work, and in sectors that remained operational with in-person work throughout the pandemic (health care, agriculture, agro-food processing, logistics and delivery, manufacturing, retail and wholesale, cleaning services) (ILO, 2020a, ILO 2020f). In the US, for example, they

constituted 19 percent of the workers in such front-line sector (Gelatt, 2020). In this sense, migrants were over-represented in sectors highly affected by the crisis and in industries essential to COVID-19 responses, where in most cases working from home was not an option. Inadequate provision of personal protective equipment and adherence to workplace safety measures increased their risk of exposure to COVID-19.

During the pandemic, migrant workers were more likely to lose their jobs and be excluded from

³ This also applies to refugee workers, who have faced many of the same employment challenges during the pandemic.

assistance and stimulus packages (Gelatt, 2020; ILO 2020f, UN Women, 2020a). In OECD countries, around 30 percent of the workforce in the hardest-hit sectors was foreign born (UN, 2020a), pushing migrants towards underemployment and unemployment, and the risk of falling into irregularity. In addition, migrant entrepreneurs have also been significantly affected by lockdowns and other measures implemented in many countries as part of the COVID-19 response. Micro, small- and medium-enterprises (MSMEs) and own-account work are an important income source for migrants when access to employment is limited. COVID-19 has led to challenges regarding income generation for such self-employed workers, including for setting up new businesses and keeping existing ones profitable (ILO, 2020g).

Despite migrant workers being major contributors to socio-economic development and welfare systems, they are more likely to be excluded from or have limited access to social protection schemes due to the length of their employment, residence in the country, nationality, nature of the employment, such as seasonal agricultural work, self-employment, domestic work, or unavailability of social security agreements (ILO, 2020a). Such restrictions on rights to social protection prevent migrants from being compensated for job dismissal and income loss, due to lockdown, business failure or closure, layoffs or working hours' reduction (ILO, 2020a; UN Women, 2020a). In Lebanon, for example, many employers dismissed migrant workers without previous notice or stopped paying their salaries as a result of mandatory businesses closures (ILO, 2020c).

This situation affects migrants' livelihoods directly and increases the risks of exploitative working conditions, violence and abuse while hindering their re-entry into the workforce, access to income and, therefore, ability to meet basic needs and stay healthy (Gavlak, 2020; ILO, 2020a; World Bank, 2020a). For instance, a survey conducted in 2020 from late March to end April found that 32 percent of employed ASEAN migrant workers reported facing employment challenges and abuses during the pandemic (ILO, 2020b). These included contract termination, compulsion to work against their will, forced unpaid leave, inability to refuse work during the lockdown, reduced working days and pay, threats,

harassment or violence from employers as well as withheld salaries and legal documents. Being overrepresented among domestic and care workers, with limited labour law protection, migrant women were particularly vulnerable to these abusive practices (ILO, 2020b). When migration status is tied to being employed and holding a regular contract, workplace closures might also result in the possibility of non-renewal or withdrawal of residence or work permits, making migrants fall into an irregular situation and, therefore, become ineligible for social protection entitlements, basic services or be forced to return (European Migration Network, 2020; Guadagno, 2020). In this sense, the economic downward spiral has seriously harmed migrants working in the low-wage informal economy who had limited access or were excluded from social protection measures (UN, 2020c).

The loss of employment and wages among migrant workers has also resulted in a decline in remittances which, although less than feared, is nonetheless significant and has affected vulnerable communities in origin countries. Millions of people live in low- and middle-income countries, in households that receive money or other forms of support from a family member abroad that are allocated in different ways such as addressing basic needs, accessing health services and accessing education (World Bank, 2021; Zambra-Cruz and Rees, 2020). UNICEF has found that in 30 percent of remittance-receiving households with children, children's nutrition has been affected as households reduced the number of meals or their nutritional value (Blume and Moussa, 2020).

Discrimination and xenophobic sentiments towards migrants and minorities associated with migration saw a notable rise with the COVID-19 outbreak in all regions across the world (IOM, 2020g). In South-East Asian countries such as Malaysia, for example, it was announced that the distribution of aid during the lockdown to migrant workers' buildings was a responsibility of the home country and not of the Malaysian Government. Even though migrant workers did receive food supplies from government agencies and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), there was a diversity of xenophobic sentiments on social media where Malaysians

questioned the government actions to supply food to migrant workers (Subramaniam, 2020b). Moreover, according to UNICEF (2020a), children on the move have also experienced increasing hostility, a trend that is expected to intensify as the socio-economic crisis generated by COVID-19 worsens and millions of migrants return home to countries with increasing rates of unemployment.

Women represent around 42 percent of all migrant workers (ILO 2021d), and COVID-19 has placed them in a particularly vulnerable situation due to their disproportionate representation in the informal economy, often with irregular status, as well as the

extra burden of unpaid care work that they bear (UN Women, 2020a; 2020b; ILO, 2020a). Women migrant workers in front-line work such as domestic workers, care workers and cleaners also faced a high risk of infection, especially when they had limited access to culturally and linguistically appropriate information (ILO, 2020a). Women migrant workers were often unable to reach their homes and were trapped in workplaces, accommodations or quarantine facilities where they were at risk of experiencing abusive practices, human trafficking or gender-based violence (GBV) with limited options to benefit from social and protective networks or services (UN Women, 2020a) (also see Section 3.2.2 and 4.1.6).

2.4 The challenges of return and reintegration

The COVID-19 pandemic has translated into a significant decrease in the global growth rate of international migrants (UN DESA, 2020a). This is due to the fact that pandemic responses have slowed down new migration, while return migration increased in late 2020 after initial periods of migrants being stranded in destination and transit countries. In this respect, return movements that occurred during, and as a result of, the crisis were complex and varied by the circumstances and motivations that caused them. In addition to forced returns, which several countries maintained despite the crisis, many voluntary returns were the result of the lack of economic alternatives and access to rights in countries of destination. This has been the case for many migrant workers in the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). In this context, large numbers of migrants returned at once to their home countries, posing specific challenges to these countries (IOM, 2020f). While ensuring that nationals are received and readmitted, in accordance with the human right to return to one's own country and the obligation of States to readmit their own nationals, mass returns have made additional vulnerabilities among returnees difficult to detect and manage (for example, identifying children in need of protection, including unaccompanied child migrant workers and the children of migrant workers in situations of vulnerability, and victims of trafficking or forced labour, including among domestic workers), leading to the risk of further victimization and ex-

ploitation. In addition, non-payment of wages and other worker entitlements is particularly hard to address in these conditions, compounding the lack of access to justice frequently experienced by migrant workers (UN Network on Migration, 2021a).

Job losses were the main motivation for return migration. Such trends were observed, for example in the context of the GCC countries, from which thousands of migrants returned to countries of origin like Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. India repatriated more than 600,000 migrants through special flights and boats by October 2020 (World Bank, 2020b), while more than 230,000 Filipino workers were repatriated to their country by October 2020. Around 120,000 migrant workers returned from Thailand to Cambodia and around 2 million Ukrainians abroad returned to their country due to COVID-19. Furthermore, around 2 percent of the 4.3 million Venezuelans in South America returned (OAS, 2020). In this context, the Organization of American States reported an estimated 6,000 returns from Brazil and 105,000 from Colombia between March and September 2020 (OAS, 2020; Mazza, 2020). Such a sudden increase of return migrants put pressure on the communities to which they returned. Initially, returnees need quarantine facilities and, in many cases, assistance upon arrival such as reintegration counselling, psychosocial support, food provision, onward transportation and accommodation, and medical screenings (World Bank, 2020b).

In the case of children, return must be a sustainable solution in the child's best interests. During the pandemic, thousands of children of all ages (unaccompanied, separated and with their families), have been sent back using approaches that lack child sensitivity, including child safeguarding protocols, with no screening of asylum, protection and family reunification claims, and without conducting best-interest procedures, vulnerability assessments or family tracing (UN Network on Migration, 2021). This situation puts children at risk of violence, abuse and exploitation before, during and upon their return, as well as stigma and exclusion in their communities of origin. Moreover, the high number of returns in the context of COVID-19 has resulted in little follow-up of returned children due to limited availability and capacity of child protection and social services in countries of return, coupled with a lack of access to services for reasons including increased insecurity and mobility restrictions in the context of lockdowns (IOM and UNICEF, 2020).

It is important to recognize that many migrant workers bring skills and talent that can help economies in their countries of origin rebuild better after the pandemic. However, the key to unlocking this potential is the establishment of rights-based return and reintegration systems, access to social protection and proper skills recognition. In addition, policies on return and reintegration should be compatible with existing economic, employment and labour market policies. This can

facilitate better skills and jobs matching and increase productivity for national industries. At the same time, there is often a lack of human and financial resources to provide targeted employment support for return migrants. Existing policies should create labour market opportunities that are inclusive of return migrants and their skills, avoiding the necessity for specific support measures (ILO, 2020e; Wickramasekara, 2019).

Many return migrants also faced stigmatization and exclusion (also see Section 3.2.1) besides shame at the self-perception of being a failure for not having secured an income, which increases the importance of enhancing psychosocial support for migrants (Pujol-Mazzii, 2019). At the early stages of the pandemic, for example, many Senegalese migrants returned because they feared being stranded in Europe without an income. Because Senegal closed its borders, returnees either travelled through Mali or paid fishermen to bring them into their home country via sea. Yet, in some cases, residents tried to prevent the boats from docking because of the stigma that return migrants were bringing COVID-19 into the country (IOM, 2020c; Neveu Kringelbach, 2020). Such issues are also common in other countries, including a number of South Asian countries and Venezuela (ILO, 2020j; Moloney, 2020). As another example, UNICEF reports that as of May 2020, more than 2,000 unaccompanied children returning from the United States to Mexico and northern Central America had been victims of acts of violence and discrimination (UNICEF, 2020d).

3. Socio-economic responses to the COVID-19 crisis: innovations and exacerbated challenges

Recognizing the diverse impacts of COVID-19, a variety of stakeholders, including national and local governments, national human rights institutions, international organizations, and non-

governmental and civil society organizations, developed policy and programme responses, often inclusive of or specifically targeted at migrants and their communities.

3.1 Migrant-inclusive responses to the COVID-19 crisis

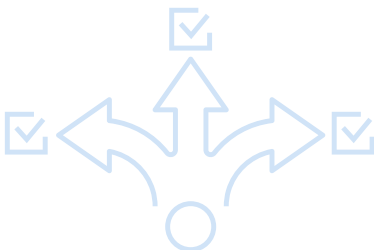
Responses to the pandemic that addressed migrants' needs and vulnerabilities focused on the different areas in which they were impacted, as outlined in the previous section. Responses grounded in rights-based and decent work approaches, such as those incorporating enhancing the skills and knowledge of migrants, ensuring

the protection of their rights, and migrant-inclusive social protection and livelihood support programmes, could serve as useful practices and a basis for launching post-pandemic socio-economic recovery and (re)integration for migrants in their countries of origin and destination.

3.1.1 Protection of migrants' rights

Most countries around the world extended visas, work and residence permits, an important first response to ensure the protection of migrants' rights. Failure to extend such documents exposes migrants to the risk of becoming irregular and puts them in potentially vulnerable positions. Countries such as Bahrain, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, South Africa, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates provided migrants opportunities to extend work visas or introduced other measures to limit constraints migrant workers and their families faced in countries of residence (ILO, 2020f). In other countries, conditions for the renewal or extension of a residence permit, such as minimum incomes, were relaxed, to prevent income losses due to COVID-19 from putting migrants at risk of losing their status (European Migration Network, 2020).

As migrant workers' movement became more difficult, some countries and organizations took measures to ensure that migrant workers could move safely and under fair recruitment conditions. For example, in Mexico the recruitment agency CIER-TO took steps to ensure that all migrant workers had access to health coverage, regular COVID-19 testing, and vaccines, in addition to existing measures to ensure that migrant workers did not pay fees to migrate. Meanwhile the Guatemalan Autonomous Popular Union Movement and the Global Unions of Guatemala added an annex to their strategy on labour migration and fair recruitment on prevention and mitigation of COVID-19 in the workplace, to ensure that migrant workers could move safely and enjoy their rights in the workplace.



 5 REGULAR PATHWAYS	<i>Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration.</i>
 6 RECRUITMENT AND DECENT WORK	<i>Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions.</i>
 15 ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES	<i>Provide access to basic services for migrants.</i>

Some States have taken positive actions under GCM's Objective 15 on migrants' access to basic services, and particularly on COVID-19 related health care services. For instance, in March 2020 more than half of the EU and OECD Member States reported that irregular migrants had access to COVID-19-related treatment services, while among these countries some of these services' costs were reimbursed or covered by the State (European Migration Network, 2020). In March 2020, the Government of Portugal issued Order No 3683-B/2020 to temporarily regularize the residency status of immigrants with pending residence applications and asylum seekers (who claimed international protection before 18 March) to ensure access to health care and public services (Moore and Kortsaris, 2020). In the Republic of Korea, medical institutions have been exempted from reporting the undocumented migration status of their patients to immigration authorities, making COVID-19 testing and treatment more accessible for irregular migrants (Hyun-ju, 2020). In Thailand, Universal Health Coverage, already available since 2013 to migrants regardless of their status, included the provision of COVID-19 related health services to everyone, including undocumented migrants (Greater Mekong Subregion, 2020). The Italian Government "relaunched" Decree-Law No. 34/2020 dedicated to irregular migrant workers' status regularization in response to the labour shortages experienced during the COVID-19 crisis

in sectors such as agriculture (livestock, fisheries and aquaculture), personal care and domestic work (Giovine, 2020). The Decree created two pathways for irregular migrants who had already worked in these sectors and had lost their jobs, allowing employers of irregular migrants to regularize their status, or migrants in irregular status to apply for permits to seek work in the relevant sectors (European Commission, 2020; Human Rights Watch, 2020a).⁴

As discussed in Section 2.1, migrant workers, especially women, often engage in informal employment. The consequences of COVID-19 hit them even harder than other groups (ILO, 2020a; 2020f). However, as outlined there, migrants in formal employment were also adversely affected by the pandemic, which further highlights the importance of including migrants in overall COVID-19 response plans. Several countries took measures to support workers who faced income losses as a result of the pandemic, and some explicitly included migrants in these initiatives. In Brazil, for example, migrant workers, both regular and irregular, as well as refugees were eligible for a support programme for the unemployed. Other countries, including Chile, New Zealand and Tunisia, gave migrants access to unemployment benefits, although they did so only for those with regular status (ILO, 2020f).

Singapore also committed to improving living standards and building new dormitories, guaranteeing

⁴ The effort has been criticized because if the migrant workers have not obtained a regular contract at the end of the six months, they fall back into an irregular status (Giovine, 2020).

more space, lower occupancy and better ventilation (Bloomberg, 2021). Countries such as Bahrain have also mandated specific responsibilities of employers and workers in the private sector to guarantee appropriate accommodation and facilities for migrant workers during the pandemic, such as fewer workers per room, three metres' distance between individuals, toilets and sanitation items (ILO, 2020f).

When it comes to vaccinations, the United Nations Network on Migration has called on States to ensure that migrants are included in COVID-19 vaccination plans, regardless of their status (UN Network on Migration, 2021b). Some countries have provided different initiatives to approach migrants' inclusion in COVID-19 national campaigns. European countries, such as France, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom,

are including irregular migrants in their vaccination campaigns. Belgium has announced the inclusion of undocumented migrants but remains uncertain if it will be implemented as part of a national plan (Zivkovic, 2021). Others have included migrants through indirect means. For instance, in February 2021 Colombia introduced a temporary legal status for 10 years for around 1.7 million Venezuelans who entered the country before 2021. This regularization of migrants provides protection and access to Colombia's COVID-19 vaccination plan (Sköld, 2021; MedGlobal, 2021). Further, the Qatar Red Crescent announced a \$100 million "Leave no one behind" initiative in cooperation with the World Health Organization to provide COVID-19 vaccines to migrants in over 20 countries across Africa, Asia and the Middle East (Al Jazeera, 2021).

3.1.2 Livelihood support and social protection

 7 REDUCE VULNERABILITIES	<i>Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration.</i>
 15 ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES	<i>Provide access to basic services for migrants.</i>
 22 SOCIAL PROTECTION	<i>Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits.</i>

The COVID-19 pandemic led several countries to include migrants in social safety and protection schemes. Livelihood support was also offered to marginalized groups, which in many cases includes migrants, in different countries. Many countries, for example Ireland, Italy and New Zealand, included migrants in their more general support packages for those affected by the pan-

demic. Ireland, for instance, initiated a COVID-19 unemployment payment (EUR 350 per week) for a maximum of 12 weeks for both employees and self-employed workers. The financial support is available to students, non-EEA nationals and part-time workers aged 18 to 66 who lost their employment due to the pandemic and had not been diagnosed with COVID-19 (ILO, 2020a).

Moreover, rapid assessment surveys in different countries, such as Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and ASEAN countries, were supported by the ILO to identify needs, based on which recommendations for social protection measures for workers, including migrants, could be developed (ILO 2020a; 2020b). Securing the right to social protection, including health care services, is also a crucial element of the COVID-19 response (ILO, 2020a) and many countries ensured this, as already discussed in Section 2.1.2.

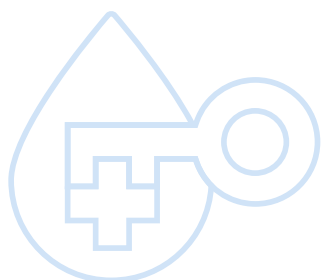
Addressing the specific vulnerabilities, including those caused by the pandemic, faced by the large number of Venezuelans in the region, ILO and UNDP supported the launch of a strategy on socio-economic integration of migrants with the Quito Process (ILO, 2021b). The Colombian government developed a plan to facilitate their inclusion in the country's COVID-19 response, and ultimately to foster social cohesion (see Section 4.2). The inclusive and comprehensive plan addresses the following six main points:

- Responsible border management;
- Access to health services on an equal basis with Colombian nationals;
- Adaptation of support programmes for migrants (cash-based programmes for housing and food purposes, WASH assistance, and health and shelter services were strengthened);
- Attention to vulnerable Venezuelans (enrolment in governmental assistance initiatives such as «Solidarity Income Programme» and «School Feeding Programme»; delivery of food kits);
- Focusing programmes on high-impact areas;
- Greater coordination and information (UNHCR, 2021).



Supporting the livelihoods of migrant workers was also a priority of the Philippines through its Overseas Workers Welfare Administration. The government created an emergency fund that provided one-time cash assistance (\$200) to more than 320,000 overseas Filipino workers (OFW) who had been displaced due to COVID-19

regardless of their status (ILO, 2020a; Patinio, 2020). To support returning migrants, the Bangladeshi government arranged for assistance for every returnee on arrival at the airport (Tk5,000, equivalent to \$34) as well as options for small loans to start economic activities (The Business Standard, 2020).



3.1.3 Recognition of migrants' skills and knowledge



Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences.

The recognition of skills has in some cases facilitated access to employment, particularly in the health care sector, during the COVID-19 response where there was an increased demand for workers with relevant skills in many countries. In Argentina and Peru, expedited procedures for the recognition of skills of Venezuelans were implemented, at least for the duration of the pandemic (ILO, 2020f). In Argentina, the recognition of diplomas normally requires a valid identity document, in addition to the cost and time (generally more than a year). Therefore, the Ministry of Education approved a temporary and exceptional procedure in some jurisdictions, in which expert commissions convened by the ministry could validate degrees in certain professions. The procedure is free and takes less time while allowing the applicant to work

for two years in the jurisdiction that requested it (ILO, 2021c). In the same vein, Germany included foreign doctors in the COVID-19 response even before they obtained the license they would usually need to practice (ILO, 2020g).

Such initiatives were not limited to the health care sector. Migrants also contributed to other sectors with their skills and labour. Some countries also made efforts to facilitate the recognition and use of return migrants' skills. In Egypt, for example, the government attempted to connect returned Egyptians with trainings or jobs to foster their reintegration into the country's labour market based on information collected during quarantine about their qualifications and areas of expertise (Egypt Independent, 2020; Hause, 2020).

3.2 The costs of non-integration

The COVID-19 pandemic also highlighted several pre-existing structural challenges that migrants faced related to integration, or rather a lack thereof. Two significant issues in this regard, as outlined earlier, are discrimination and xenophobia (linked to lack of rights protection) as well as gender and social protection gaps. These structural challenges predated the pandemic: For example, migrant workers in high-income countries earned 13 percent less than national workers, enjoyed less secure

contractual status and were more likely to be working part-time (ILO, 2021e). The pandemic served to widen these gaps, further eroding the position of migrant workers.

The following subsections will present responses by different stakeholders to strengthen migrants' rights to address the issues that arose or were exacerbated during the pandemic.



3.2.1 Increased discrimination and xenophobia⁵



Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration.

Stigmatization, social exclusion and xenophobia are recurrent reactions towards migrants during and in the aftermath of crises such as terrorism and disease outbreaks, and the way policymakers and the media address such issues can have significant negative impacts on migrant communities and social cohesion. During COVID-19, those perceived or portrayed as foreigners have often been falsely accused of spreading the virus and endangering communities (IFRC, 2020a; IOM, 2020d). For instance, based on UNICEF's socio-economic impact survey of the COVID-19 pandemic, 39 percent of UNICEF Country Offices surveyed reported an increase in tensions around migrants and displaced persons, with the share in fragile contexts even higher at almost 50 percent (UNICEF, 2020a).

Tensions can spill over into violence and destabilize communities, and also deter migrants and displaced persons from accessing public services and push them into negative coping mechanisms (Hennebry, 2020; WHO, 2020a). This can lead to a significant number of undetected cases, perpetuating transmission of COVID-19, harming migrants and jeopardizing wider public health responses to the virus (IFRC, 2020a). Since the early stages of the pandemic, media sources in some countries and political figures have referred to COVID-19 as the "Chinese virus", which promoted stigma, discrimination and racist incidents against Asian migrants and their descendants. For instance, in the United States around 1,843 cases of anti-Asian xenophobic incidents and crimes (harassment, shunning, physical assaults, spitting and coughing, workplace discrimination, being barred from establishments) were reported between 19 March 2020 and 13 May

2020 (8 weeks) to the Stop AAPI Hate Reporting Centre in the US (Xu et al., 2020; Neuman, 2020).

As already outlined in Section 2.2, returning migrants also faced discrimination in their home countries, resulting in verbal and physical harassment, threats and acts of exclusion by nationals or government representatives (ILO, 2020j; Janetsky, 2020; Jha, 2020; Moloney, 2020). In Nepal, some Dalit (lower-caste) returnees from India who tested positive for COVID-19 faced discrimination, harassment and humiliation even after recovering from the infection (ILO, 2020j). Venezuelan migrants returning home were also stigmatized and blamed for spreading the virus (Moloney, 2020).



Through social media, the WHO has endeavoured to show solidarity in support of migrants and counter false messaging or narratives. Initiatives include evidence-based reporting, involving social influencers and sharing stories and images of those who have recovered from COVID-19 to amplify their

⁵ Note that the ILO has recently developed Template Terms of Reference on 'How to mainstream conflict-sensitivity, social cohesion and peacebuilding in COVID-19 socio-economic/labour market assessments. https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/-/-ed_emp/documents/instructionalmaterial/wcms_742185.pdf

voices (WHO, 2020b). In line with GCM's Objective 17, and within the COVID-19 context, Colombia UNHCR launched a media anti-xenophobia media campaign called "Somos Panas Colombia" to incentivize solidarity towards the Venezuelan population, providing information on issues such as access to health, work and protection of rights to guide migrants from Venezuela. The campaign has also promoted actions to reduce xenophobia against Venezuelans (UNHCR, 2020), and is complemented

by the "Super Panas" campaign that targets and mobilizes youth to stand up to stigmatization through a social media campaign (UNICEF, 2020e). OHCHR's #StandUpForMigrants campaign and toolkit to reshape narratives on migration illustrates ways everyone can contribute to narrative change and elevate the voices of migrants, the communities that welcome them and those who defend their rights, including those showing solidarity in Europe during the pandemic (OHCHR, 2020b).

3.2.2 Gender and social protection gaps



Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration.

Women migrants face multiple challenging forms of discrimination exacerbated by COVID-19, such as inadequate working conditions (overwork, precarious employment, wage discrimination compared to non-migrant women and migrant men (ILO, 2021e), lack of access to adequate personal protective equipment), unpaid caregiving responsibilities and gender-specific limitations in migration policies, finding themselves trapped in places where they might be endangered due to risks of gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual exploitation and abuse (Hennebry, 2020; UN Women, 2020c; World Bank, 2020a; OHCHR, 2020d; WFP, 2020). COVID-19 has also intensified the risk of GBV at all stages of migration, particularly among women with an irregular status who might experience barriers to reporting cases of violence due to fear of arrest or deportation (WFP, 2020; UN Women, 2020a).

Migrant domestic workers, already vulnerable to abuse due to lack of protection under labour law, have been disproportionately affected by lockdowns that have isolated them in employers'

homes, potentially subject to discrimination and sexual and gender-based violence and abuse without recourse to help (OHCHR, 2020a). GBV cases from intimate partners have also increased during lockdown measures, when women may be forced to live with potential perpetrators or in abusive relationships (WFP, 2020; UN Women, 2020a), with limited access to means of reporting abuse and accessing support (UNODC, 2020c). Some States acted to mitigate gender-based violence. Portugal, Spain and the state of New York (USA) declared that gender-based violence protection and assistance services were essential to keep operational during the lockdown. Other countries have implemented proactive initiatives to alert authorities and protect victims. France introduced the code word "Mask 19" so victims of domestic violence can go to pharmacies and report their cases using the code, while Argentina launched a campaign for women to call or go to pharmacies asking for a "red surgical mask" as a code to seek help (OHCHR, 2020d).



Overloaded health care systems, reallocation of resources, shortages of medical supplies and lack of lifesaving support facilities for women's and girls' well-being have undermined their psychological, sexual and reproductive health (access to maternal and newborn care, safe abortion, menstrual health items, contraception) (WFP, 2020; OHCHR, 2020d). States have implemented promising gender-responsive initiatives to ensure the availability and accessibility of sexual and reproductive health services. Midwife teams in the Netherlands have equipped hotels (that were closed during the pandemic) to provide maternity care. The United Kingdom Midwifery Unit Network, following the Dutch initiative, also recommended establishing makeshift birthing centres near hospitals, while the government changed its regulation to allow women to resort to emergency contraception at home during the pandemic instead of traveling to a clinic. France guaranteed the delivery of contraceptive pills to women, including those who were unable to renew prescriptions (OHCHR, 2020d).

COVID-19 has also raised awareness about the imperative of building effective rights-based, migrant-inclusive and gender-responsive social protection systems to ensure that they properly account for the different realities of men, women and persons with diverse gender identities, including the LGBTI community. These schemes should include access to quality health care, enhanced income security through cash transfers, protection of workers in the informal economy, ensuring decent income and jobs as well as extending the coverage of social health protection mechanisms during and after the crisis (ILO, 2020d). For instance, the LGBTI community faces specific challenges such as de-prioritization from health services including hormonal, HIV or gender affirming treatment, or stigmatization and discrimination, which may increase negative health outcomes due to fear of arrest (in countries with laws that target gender identity or expression) or violence while accessing health care services (OHCHR, 2020c).

4. Beyond recovery: socio-economic (re)integration and social cohesion

After looking at the socio-economic responses to challenges faced by migrants and their communities during the COVID-19 crisis, this section takes a longer-term view and looks beyond recovery, while including pre-pandemic good practices that states and other stakeholders could build upon and scale up further. As outlined earlier, many issues that migrants faced were caused by a lack of sustainable integration prior to the pandemic. It is, therefore, important to consider gender-responsive, child-sensitive and human rights-based options for policy and programmes that address such challenges and provide comprehensive and coherent approaches to the socio-economic (re) integration of migrants and social cohesion, also in the light of the potential contributions that

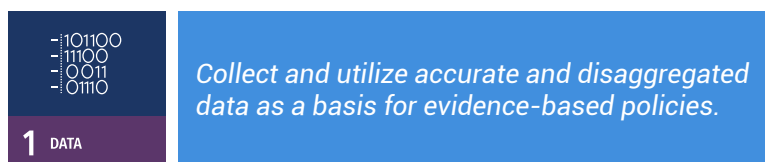
migrants can make to sustainable development. This would entail legal reforms and programmatic approaches based on the 2030 Agenda and the GCM that focus on realizing the human and labour rights of migrants, including women, drawing on whole-of-society and whole-of-government approaches, supported by international organizations (Objectives 7, 16, 18, 19, 20). Such interventions can help kick-start socio-economic recovery from the pandemic while building societal resilience to future crises by opening safe, regular migration routes. These would enable migrants to enjoy their human rights and contribute to sustainable development in countries of origin, transit and destination, and address the factors that make migrants vulnerable to the negative impacts of the pandemic.

4.1 Fostering migrants' socio-economic (re)integration

This subsection focuses on different approaches aimed at facilitating the socio-economic integration and reintegration of migrants, drawing from programmes and policies implemented during and prior to the pandemic, which can provide examples of ensuring socio-economic (re)integration. Key areas include improving the collection and analysis of data on migration, the development and recognition of skills and

qualifications as well as strengthening the employability of and fostering entrepreneurship among migrants. Furthermore, access to social protection, in addition to being a right recognized in international labour standards and human rights law, is key to fostering migrants' (re)integration, as is the reduction of gender gaps. Finally, encouraging digital innovations that can support migrants is gaining increasing importance.

4.1.1 Improving data collection and disaggregation on migration



As the first of 23 objectives, the GCM calls for the collection and use of “accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies” (UN General Assembly, 2019, p.6). The GCM suggests a need for accurate, reliable and comparable data, which can be disaggregated by characteristics such as age, gender, origin, destination location (rural/urban) and migratory status (UN General Assembly, 2019). The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted challenges with existing data sources, revealing significant gaps in the information currently available. These limitations hindered the real-time monitoring of migration movements throughout the crisis, especially in terms of return migration (World Bank, 2020b). Very little was and is generally known about the specific needs of immigrants and returnees. This, in turn, hinders the development and implementation of targeted policies and programmes, necessary to foster the sustainable socio-economic (re)integration of migrants. It is key that data is collected and managed

in a manner that contributes to evidence-based migration policy and protection of the human rights of migrants, including the right to privacy and data protection, while maintaining firewalls between service providers and immigration enforcement agencies and protecting migrants' privacy rights.

The realization of the need for better data on migration has, among other initiatives, resulted in the set-up of IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) and its Migration Data Portal, launched at the end of 2017. This initiative aims to function as a platform that brings together comprehensive and timely data on migration at the global level (Global Migration Data Portal, 2021). Another recent example is the Migration Network Hub, launched in March 2021. The tool is a “platform intended to share migration knowledge, expertise, good practices and initiatives related to GCM among Member States, practitioners and UN system” to provide evidence-based migration policy (IOM, 2021).

At the same time, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs is producing data and estimates on migrant stocks (UN DESA, 2019) and the ILO has established the largest global database on labour migration statistics, covering 124 countries and 51 indicators. Through the International Conference on Labour Statisticians (ICLS), states have comprehensive and consistent guidelines, terms and concepts for data collection, as well as global and regional estimates on international migrant workers and gathering and presenting data on labour migration on its ILOSTAT database. The latest global and regional statistics on migrant workers were released in June 2021 (ILO, 2021d). In addition, the ILO ASEAN triangle project gathers data on migrant flows in South-East Asia (ILO, 2021a), while the Southern Africa Migration Management Project is setting up a Migration Data Repository covering Member States of the Southern African Development Community (ILO, n.d.b). ILO is also the co-custodian with the World Bank of Sustainable Development Goal target 10.7.1 ("Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of yearly income earned in country of

destination"), working with countries to gather data on recruitment costs and support national statistical offices to build capacity around this indicator.

The International Data Alliance for Children on the Move, an initiative co-led by UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM and OECD, was launched in 2018. The Alliance aims to improve statistics and data on migrant children to support evidence-based policymaking for their protection and empowerment (UNICEF, 2020f). In 2021, UNODC launched the first UN Observatory on the Smuggling of Migrants, aimed at assessing the characteristics, drivers and impacts of migrant smuggling in rapidly changing contexts. The Observatory will provide accurate and up-to-date evidence on the modus operandi of migrant smugglers, smuggling routes, financial aspects and the human costs of using smuggling services. This information and analysis are essential to better understand the phenomenon of smuggling of migrants as well as to better prevent and combat migrant smuggling, related human rights abuses and other crimes (UNODC, n.d.).

4.1.2 Ensuring access to the development and recognition of skills and qualifications

 18 SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND RECOGNITION	<i>Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences.</i>
 21 DIGNIFIED RETURN AND REINTEGRATION	<i>Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration.</i>

Ensuring the recognition of the skills and qualifications of migrants in both host and origin countries is beneficial not only for developing their own capacity, dignity and (re)integration, but also helpful for employers and the economy (UNESCO, 2018). Therefore, many countries have given and/or improved access to skills and qualification recognition and development for migrants, which can be built upon to foster socio-economic recovery and (re)integration. The importance of skills is recognized in objective 18 of the

GCM and the Global Skills Partnership on Migration, a joint initiative by the ILO, the IOM, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Employers Organization (IOE) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). It aims at mobilizing the organizations' technical expertise for the recognition and development of migrant workers' skills, particularly among women and youth. In this light, the joint effort aims to contribute to:

- Sustainable labour market integration and outcomes in origin and destination countries, career development and well-being of migrant workers;
- Regular labour migration, also through bilateral and multilateral agreements, based on skills demand and relevant, quality training provisions for potential and return migrant workers; and
- Enhanced productivity and retention of migrant workers, leading to better economic results and business performance (ILO, n.d.a).

The German government provides vocational language courses for foreigners. In addition to the language, these courses include specific vocational components for diverse fields of work. Moreover,

explicit training programmes such as vocational and language training based on the demands in the labour market in host countries can build up skills and qualifications (UN, 2018a).

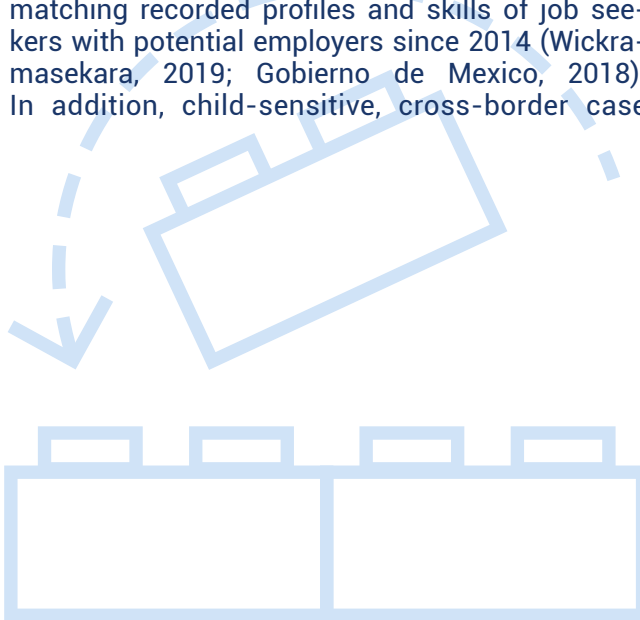


Many other countries are also improving and ensuring access to skills and qualification recognition and development for migrants. The Bangladesh government developed a National Skill Development Policy in 2011 to build up the skills of migrant workers (Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh, 2011). In Colombia, the National Training Service provides skills assessments and offers certification services to migrants from Venezuela (ILO, 2020i). Sri Lanka has implemented a "skills passport", a portfolio that documents the skills and qualifications acquired informally by returnee migrant workers or workers in Sri Lanka. This platform allows skills matching by enabling upward employability and facilitating the recruitment of individuals for jobs that require specific skills, filling the gaps in local and overseas labour markets (TVEC and EFC, n.d.).

The issue of recognition of qualifications and skills development of migrants is also addressed in several regional mechanisms⁶ (for example, the European Qualifications Framework, ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework, Caribbean Vocational Qualifications, Pacific Qualifications Framework). Such regional frameworks, by standardizing skills recognition across countries, facilitate the reintegration of migrants in labour markets at appropriate levels, preventing brain waste and promoting decent work.

Moreover, the ILO has recognized pre-pandemic economic difficulties, in addition to the need for countries to achieve GCM Objective 21, by developing guidelines for elaborating return migrant-tar-

geted policies. In this regard, governments should coordinate with different actors such as ministries, social partners, public employment services, and training institutions, and execute concrete actions to leverage the professional experience, skills and qualifications that these migrants can bring back home. The same report emphasizes the importance of collecting information from return migrants for an effective assessment of returnees' skills and qualifications, and requirements for their recognition and labour market reintegration. It also remains central to adequately identify labour demand gaps, which return migrant workers may be able to fill (ILO, 2020g). For instance, in Cambodia the ILO and the National Committee for Tourism Professionals (NCTP) launched a joint pilot project targeting the recognition of prior learning (RPL) assessment on housekeeping for the Common ASEAN Tourism Curriculum Certificate II (Level 1) for returning migrant domestic workers. The project will enable returnees with some experience in the tourism sector to get their acquired skills recognized (Wickramasekara, 2019). In Mexico, the programme "Somos Mexicanos" (We are Mexicans) has helped Mexican returnees' reintegration by providing multiple services, for example access to identification papers, certification of qualifications and experience abroad, skills re-training, health benefits, information on jobs and investment opportunities, and access to an online job bank for matching recorded profiles and skills of job seekers with potential employers since 2014 (Wickramasekara, 2019; Gobierno de Mexico, 2018). In addition, child-sensitive, cross-border case



⁶ For more information and policy measures on skills development, recognition and matching for migrant workers, please consult ILO (2020k).

management is critical to ensure a continuum of care and protection before, during and after return. Independent post-return monitoring of children and families' situations in the country of origin is also essential for sustainable reintegration. In this regard, IOM and UNICEF have jointly developed a child-sensitive module on reintegration assistance for returnee migrant

children and their families called "A Child Rights Approach to the Sustainable Reintegration of Migrant Children and Families". The module combines an integrated approach across the social, economic and psychosocial dimensions, while addressing the needs of returnee children and their families at the individual, community and structural levels (IOM and UNICEF, 2020).

4.1.3 Strengthening the employability of migrants



Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries.

As discussed above, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted several vulnerabilities faced by people on the move around the world when it comes to employment. Hence, different actors (especially governments and private sector) in host countries must act to strengthen migrants' employability both in terms of post-COVID recovery and beyond.

Various programmes and initiatives have been developed by governments, international and civil society organizations to strengthen the employability of migrants. These create conditions for their contribution to development in countries of origin or destination in line with GCM Objective 19. For instance, the Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council in Canada and the "100 Club" in Sweden aim to strengthen migrants' employability (OECD and UNHCR, 2018). Undoubtedly, such initiatives contribute to socio-economic integration of these groups and therefore have a positive impact on the employability of migrant communities as a whole.

Several countries have also recognized the importance of enhancing return migrants' employability as part of their reintegration process and contribution to the local community and economy. The Philippines has developed the OFW Reintegration through Skills and Entrepreneurship Programme, a Web-based online training for promoting and strengthening OFWs' skills and entrepreneurial willingness as an option for their economic reintegration and livelihood support (Department of Labor and Employment, 2020). The Republic of Korea created the Happy Return Programme of the Employment Permit System to minimize temporary workers' overstaying in Korea and facilitate their reintegration and use of acquired newly skills in their home countries. The programme provides vocational training and pre-return recruitment services such as assistance in applying for jobs in Korean companies located in the workers' home country, and administrative support for insurance benefit claims (GFMD, 2014; Wickramasekara, 2019). In Ethiopia, 806 vulnerable migrants who returned to Ethiopia due to the COVID-19 pandemic benefited from cash transfers as part of a comprehensive initiative supporting the reintegration of migrant workers in the labour market.



4.1.4 Promoting entrepreneurship, business development and financial inclusion



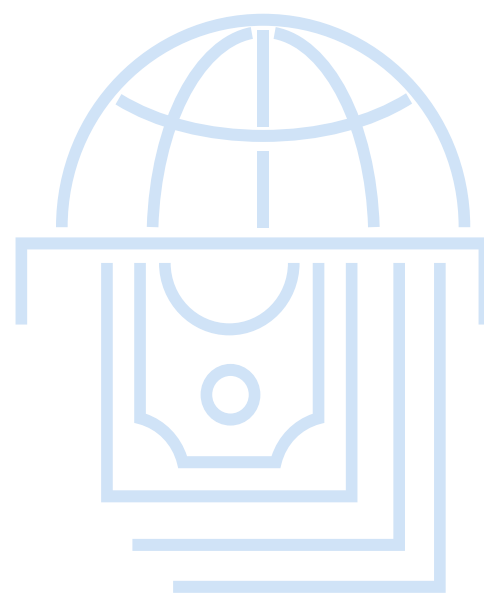
Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants.

Supporting migrant entrepreneurship can play a vital role in their socio-economic (re)integration and contribute to economic growth in both their countries of origin and destination (Zhan et al., 2018). However, they face challenges, especially in the early stages of entrepreneurship. Therefore, to promote migrant entrepreneurship in host countries, policy-makers should consider supporting them through administrative and legal advice on the requirements to start a business, business training, setting up business networks, one-to-one business support, transversal support such as communication skills, self-confidence and language skills) and access to finance and a place to start a business (Solano et al., 2019). ILO's Start and Improve Your Own Business programme is often used to help train returnees and help ensure sustainable entrepreneurship.

Access to and use of financial services is a crucial type of support for migrant entrepreneurs, as recognized and included in Objective 20 of the GCM. Thus, various countries have started initiatives to support entrepreneurs, including migrants, such as Kompass – Centre for Entrepreneurship in Germany, the Ester Foundation in Sweden (Solano et al., 2019) and RAISE (Rural and Agricultural Integration within a Supportive Environment) implemented in Serbia (European Union, 2016). According to Atkinson and Messy (2013), financial education of people, including migrants, is pivotal to promote their financial inclusion⁷.

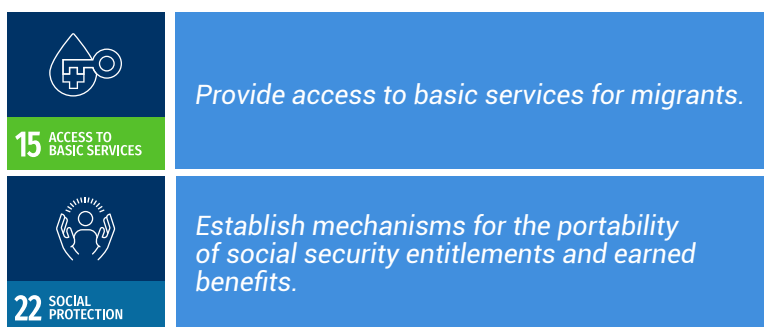
Governments have also introduced different services for encouraging entrepreneurship among returning migrants while facilitating their economic reintegration in home country communities. In Cape Verde, the Portuguese Institute for Development Assistance implemented the Country of

Origin Migrant Support Centre (CAMPO), which facilitates reintegration into the labour market of Cape Verdean returnees from EU countries. The project provides information about investment opportunities, legal steps to start a business, fiscal incentives and taxes, labour laws, social assistance, access to credit and other relevant topics (Wickramasekara, 2019; Camões-Instituto da Cooperação e da Língua Portuguesa, n.d.). In the Philippines, the government introduced the Livelihood Development Assistance Program (LDAP) for assisting OFW returnees' livelihoods. Since its launch in 2011, the programme has reached more than 15,000 beneficiaries and livelihood projects such as convenience stores, beauty parlours, rice trading, machine shops and furniture making, besides providing business enterprise start-up kits including materials necessary for the beneficiaries' proposed businesses (MICIC, n.d.).



⁷ For an overview of different approaches to delivering financial education for financial inclusion please refer to Atkinson and Messy (2013).

4.1.5 Expanding migrants' and their families' access to social protection



Social protection through social security is a human right (ILO, 1952; UN General Assembly, 1948; 1966; UDHR, 1948, art. 22; CESCR, 2008; OHCHR, 2014), so everyone, including migrants, in any country should have access to it. This was reiterated at the latest International Labour Conference, which adopted a resolution calling for greater accessibility and portability of social protection for migrant workers (ILO, 2021aa). However, in practice, migrants face challenges in accessing social protection in many countries of destination. These challenges can be due to discriminatory or exclusionary laws and policies, exploitative work arrangements, inadequate duration of their residence permit and employment, or inadequate or no awareness of their rights (ILO, 2015). Expanding migrants' access to and coverage by social protection is essential in achieving Goals 1 and 10 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (UN General Assembly, 2015) and crucial to attain Objective 22 of the GCM.

In high-income countries such as Australia, Canada and several European countries, most migrants have legal access to social protection (Hagen-Zanker, 2017). However, the level of benefits differs among countries. Within the EU, for example, it is based on the living standards of the Member States (Poptcheva and Tuchlik, 2015). In other countries, migrants have low to no access to social services. For instance, migrant workers in the Gulf Cooperation Council or Southern African Development Community countries do not have access to social protection after arrival (Hagen-Zanker et al., 2017). In the ASEAN region,

the Philippines has tried to increase social protection for its overseas workers. Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand have only provided access to social protection for migrants in case of medical emergency and illness (Hall, 2012). To expand social protection for migrants in the ASEAN region, Olivier (2018) concludes that "it is necessary to appreciate and introduce the complementarity of unilateral, bilateral and multilateral interventions" (p. XVII). Globally, access to social security systems is mostly guaranteed based on being in a regular status or having a regular work contract under the national labour law, therefore excluding those in the informal economy (ILO, 2020a).

However, even existing agreements do not provide sufficient access to social protection for migrants in many countries. For example, Van Panhuys et al. (2017) studied the existing multilateral and bilateral agreements for social protection in 120 countries and found inadequate benefits for migrants. More specifically, bilateral agreements between China and EU member countries have limited impact on labour migrants' access to social protection (Lianquan, 2019). The expansion of access to social protection for migrants can be challenging financially, as it requires funding and political backing (Hagen-Zanker, 2017). The latter is because immigrants are often viewed as taking more benefit from the available social benefits systems of the host countries than contributing to the economy (European Commission, 2010; Ford and Heath, 2014), despite evidence that shows that migrants (and their descendants) generally bring net

fiscal gains to countries of destination (UN, 2018b). To guide migrants' integration into social protection schemes, the ILO published comprehensive policy guidelines in June 2020, which address social protection mechanisms during COVID-19 and beyond⁸. The guidelines advise that in the short term, governments considering their social protection scheme besides financial and fiscal capacity, should ensure migrant workers' immediate needs such as access to health care and income protection, appropriate working and living conditions, and compliance with occupational and health safety standards. In Turkey, the Transition to Formality Programme, implemented by the Social Security Institution in cooperation with the ILO, is helping employers to formally hire Syrian and Turkish workers, including paying social security contributions and work permit fees to ensure social protection coverage for employed workers and their families through employment retention (ILO, 2020g). In the medium-to-long-term, countries should grant migrant workers and their families' access to inclusive national social protection systems that are economically sustainable for the country (ILO, 2020a). Further comprehensive guidance on including migrants in social protection systems is forthcoming (ILO, forthcoming).

OHCHR's guidance on COVID-19 and the Human Rights of Migrants and UNICEF's Technical Note, *Social Protection for Children and Families in the Context of Migration and Displacement during COVID-19* (OHCHR, 2020a, UNICEF, 2020g), both provide recommendations to mitigate the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on migrants, including children and families in the context of migration. UNICEF's Technical Note includes recommendations to address barriers to social protection services, such as establishing firewalls to ensure undocumented migrants can access services wi-

thout being detected, detained or deported by immigration authorities or law enforcement. It also highlights the importance of keeping remittances flowing by mitigating any operational impacts of COVID-19, and in the medium term supporting emerging remittance models to overcome regulatory and infrastructure barriers (UNICEF, 2020g).

The COVID-19 pandemic and its repercussions have highlighted the need for coordinated cross-national responses. In the case of international migration, members of families or households are distributed across countries. Migrant workers earn an income, raise their political voices, care for family members and save for retirement in more than one country. This raises questions about the relative responsibilities of host countries and countries of origin, as well as international organizations, in providing support for the unique situations of dispersed families and households. The need for bilateral and multilateral social protection systems, which operate according to a rights-based approach, has long been recognized. Some government social protection schemes do cross national borders. COVID-19 brings an unparalleled impetus to extend such approaches and discuss the potential institutional arrangements required to provide a genuinely transnational social protection system to migrant workers and their families (Zambrana-Cruz and Rees, 2020).



⁸ For a complete overview of ILO's short-term and medium-to-long-term policy responses, see ILO (2020a).

4.1.6 Reducing gender gaps



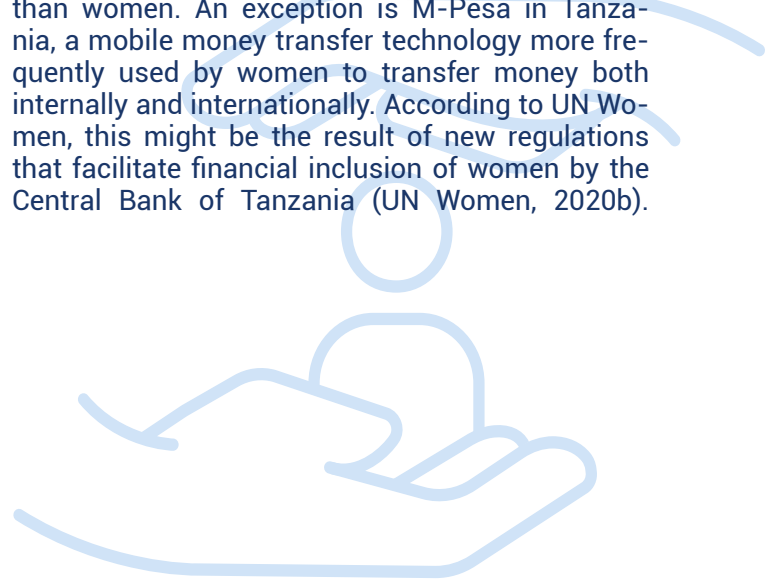
Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration.

As highlighted above (see Section 3.2.2), the experiences of migrant women, men and persons with diverse gender identities tend to differ, whether during the COVID-19 pandemic or more generally. Migration policy therefore requires specific gender-responsive analysis and solutions to foster the socio-economic (re)integration particularly of women migrants, including legal reform to address gaps, bringing domestic work under the protection of the labour law, and ratification of relevant ILO Conventions, among other actions.⁹

Providing information and training targeted specifically at women that address their specific vulnerabilities is also important. For example, the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Ministry of Bangladesh offers training to Bangladeshi women who want to migrate as domestic workers to the Middle East. The training prepares them to make informed choices and provides knowledge about safe migration, raises awareness about migrant rights and measures to be taken if and when their rights are violated (ILO, 2019a). Other examples are the Philippines' Women REACH Program (WR) and Balik Pinay! Balik Hanapbuhay! Programme.

The former aims to help OFW women returnees start their reintegration process in the Philippines while exploring possible economic opportunities. Women returnees are empowered through modules on entrepreneurship training, access to start-up assistance, access to microfinance and access to a pool of business coaches (Garcia, 2016; NRCO, n.d.a). The latter focuses on vulnerable OFW women returnees, including victims of illegal recruitment, human trafficking and displaced women domestic workers, and provides skills training to increase their employability or to facilitate starting their own businesses (NRCO, n.d.b; Kuschminder and Ricard Guay, 2017).

Another gender gap highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic has to do with access to digital services and digital literacy. In most contexts, men are much more likely to use such technologies than women. An exception is M-Pesa in Tanzania, a mobile money transfer technology more frequently used by women to transfer money both internally and internationally. According to UN Women, this might be the result of new regulations that facilitate financial inclusion of women by the Central Bank of Tanzania (UN Women, 2020b).



⁹ Relevant Conventions include: *Migration for Employment Convention (Revised)*, 1949 (No. 97); *Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention*, 1975 (No. 143); *Private Employment Agencies Convention*, 1997 (No. 181); *Domestic Workers Convention*, 2011 (No. 189); *Violence and Harassment Convention* (No. 190)

4.1.7 Encouraging digital innovations



Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries.

Technological and digital innovation can play a vital role in migrants' socio-economic integration in host countries. Digital platforms for recruitment can increase transparency in recruitment procedures, helping ensure fair recruitment (ILO-IOM, 2020). Technology, especially mobile phones, is crucial for migrants throughout their journey and when settling in a new country to access information and get and stay connected. In addition, a need for integration encourages innovations (Gelb and Krishnan, 2018). Some international organizations including ILO, IOM and UNDP support and encourage migrants' digital innovation in various countries. Several digital initiatives have been developed by public and private sectors in host countries for migrants, one is Workeer, an online platform in Germany that matches refugees looking for a job or internship with employers who provide employment, internships, and apprenticeships (Bathke, 2019). In the Netherlands, Skill-Lab – a social enterprise – helps disadvantaged job seekers, including migrants, with software,

such as through a dedicated app, in their economic integration with the skills they have. Despite the advantages, digital innovations can also marginalize those migrants who have no access or have had little or no access to digital skills development (Patuzzi, 2020). Proactive measures, including rights protection, are required to ensure the accessibility of these innovations to all migrants.



4.2 Promoting social cohesion and protecting rights

Besides fostering the socio-economic (re)integration of migrants, it is important to promote social cohesion as the nature of the relationship between communities and (return) migrants also influences the process of (re)integration. When social cohesion is strong, it generally promotes (re)integration, while (return) migrants face more challenges when social cohesion is weak. Discrimination and xenophobia not only violate migrants' human rights, but promote

inequality in society and the workplace among nationals and migrants, and have deeply adverse impacts on social cohesion. Approaches to fighting against them are therefore not only important to protecting human rights and ensuring social justice, but underpin our social contract. In addition to protecting the rights of migrants, community-based approaches as well as social dialogue are key to achieving social cohesion and will be discussed in turn below.

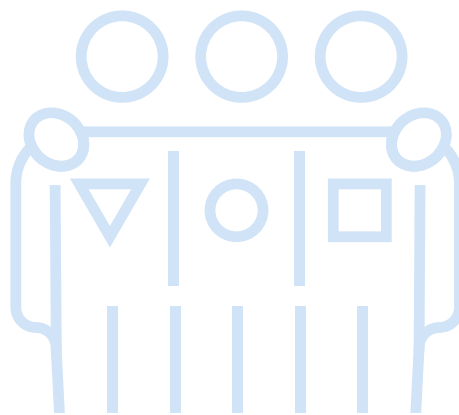
4.2.1 Fighting against discrimination and xenophobia

 16 INCLUSION AND SOCIAL COHESION	<i>Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion.</i>
 17 ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION	<i>Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration.</i>

The pandemic has only worsened migrants' pre-existing vulnerabilities, resulting in a vicious cycle. Precariousness or exclusion from programmes in response to COVID-19 increases the risks of infection and transmission to migrants, reinforcing the public perception that those portrayed or perceived as foreign pose a danger rather than being at risk. This situation, along with misinformation and fears associated with the pandemic, have fed into pre-existing discriminatory and xenophobic attitudes, which labelled migrants as a "threat" (see for example ILO and UN-Women, 2019), while impacting the physical and mental well-being of migrants (Hennebry, 2020; IOM, 2020g).¹⁰ As a result, migrants experience rights violations and barriers, and inhibit themselves from accessing services available to the general population, increasing their risk of contracting COVID-19

or other diseases and affecting the country's public health response (Bauloz et al. 2020).

Discrimination and xenophobic sentiments against people perceived as foreigners, in addition to the rights violations they cause, might harm the health of those who are targeted as well as the general population (IOM, 2020e). Similarly, these attitudes can promote violent actions and hateful rhetoric, besides having a direct detrimental effect on the incorporation of migrants in various societal areas like education, health, employment, housing, and civic or political involvement or hindering their contributions to host societies through trade, skills, and cultural exchange (IOM, 2020e). All these factors can affect migrants' safety, sense of belonging and harmonious co-existence in the receiving communities, undermining social cohesion.



¹⁰ For more information, key solutions, and best practices, please consult IOM (2020g).

Numerous hostile incidents towards migrants were documented during the pandemic in different countries. However, some governments have introduced measures in line with Objective 17 of GCM to eliminate forms of discrimination, stigmatization and xenophobia, and promote social cohesion among migrants and host communities (Hennebry, 2020; IOM, 2020g). In Austria, the Anti-Discrimination Office of Styria introduced an app “Ban Hate”, which allows people to report hate speech online, as there had been an increase of posts accusing migrants of spreading COVID-19 (FRA, 2020a). In Romania, some Roma communities experienced total lockdown. The village of Țândărei underwent a visible COVID-19 outbreak that was associated with returned Roma seasonal workers, and broadcast on prime-time television using inappropriate racialized language. The National Audiovisual Council issued a public warning. In addition, the National Council for Combating Discrimination sanctioned certain persons, including a leading political science professor, for distributing an image with racist content related to the Țândărei situation (FRA, 2020b).

In May 2020, after many videos of mistreatment of Africans living in Guangzhou, China went viral, the local authorities introduced new measures to reduce the xenophobia against migrants from African countries. African migrants had been evicted by landlords, rejected in hotels, forced to quarantine and banned from restaurants (Gyamfi Asiedu, 2020; Human Rights Watch, 2020b). The new regulations aimed to provide equal treatment to any specific group in regard to access to education, medical service facilities, public transport, public venues, hotel accommodation and housing (Gyamfi Asiedu, 2020; Elmer, 2020).

UNICEF leveraged existing youth and child-led groups to involve children and youth to proactively advocate against xenophobia, stigma, and discrimination. For instance, in Romania, UNICEF’s Children’s Board, which includes members of different ages, some of them with migration backgrounds,

created resources on distance and online learning and messages against stigma and discrimination towards migrants. Social media channels widely amplified these messages. In Guatemala, misinformation and stigmatization of returnees, including children, is being countered by raising awareness through radio (UNICEF, 2020c).

Engagement of receiving communities through open dialogue, transparency and evidence-based information about the positive contribution of migration and the changing composition of societies is necessary to improve public confidence and dispel misconceptions that feed xenophobic sentiments (IOM, n.d.b). Therefore, to build strong communities and foster social cohesion, it is essential to design inclusive programmes and policies that encompass both different migrant groups and host/return communities, and simultaneously prevent actions such as discriminatory practices and violence among groups that put social cohesion at risk. In this sense, programmes targeting migrants/returnees should also include local communities in the design, implementation, and other phases of the intervention to address underlying inequalities among groups and to avoid negative perceptions or tensions of the host communities towards individuals with different cultural backgrounds or experiences (UNDP, 2009).



4.2.2 Investing in community-led resilience and response systems



Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion.

Societies and mainly local communities (individuals and households) have to develop mechanisms to meet disruptions and restore stability, to emerge stronger from crises and anticipate the effects of future exposures to disasters, shocks or crises that might arise, and prevent rights violations. Limitations such as strained public services and language barriers impede the successful integration of migrants in host communities (Pope, 2017). Therefore, authorities at different levels (national, federal, local) should incorporate commitments and collaborate with other actors including international organizations, NGOs, employers and trade unions to implement adaptive grounded community-led responses for empowering households, while reducing livelihood vulnerabilities and fostering resilience (IOM, n.d.a).

A noteworthy example is the Sub-policy and National Action Plan on Return and Reintegration of Migrant Workers, launched in 2015 by the Government of Sri Lanka with support from the ILO. The policy includes a comprehensive action plan for addressing returnees as well as their families and communities. Some of the inclusive strategies were: setting up a special unit to support safe and dignified return and reintegration; developing "One Stop Centres" for the provision of information on economic, health and training services to returnees in each district/division; and creating an inter-agency committee to monitor the reintegration plan's implementation (Kuschminder and Ricard Guay, 2017).

Economic opportunities and access to infrastructures and services are key to resilience (IFRC, 2020b). However, communities within countries have diffe-

rent characteristics and challenges. The recognition of their complexity means that coping actions must be tailored to their distinctive needs. The people in communities often know how things work in their surroundings or are able to identify how their lives can be improved. With the support of trusted partners, this scenario serves as an opportunity to help communities increase their capacity to prioritize, prepare for and respond to critical situations (IFRC, 2020b).

For instance, recognizing the mass returns from Saudi Arabia, the ILO, in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of Ethiopia and funding from the European Union, developed in the project "Support to the reintegration of returnees in Ethiopia" in 2015. The project considers community-based assistance to avoid preferential treatment and negative sentiments from host/local communities. It pays particular attention to people in vulnerable situations among both returnees, including women, youth or victims of abuse and exploitation, and in local communities such as unemployed youth, female-headed households, and persons with disabilities. In response to COVID-19, the project provided cash transfers to 806 people forced to return due to the pandemic, as part of a comprehensive initiative supporting the reintegration of migrant workers in the labour market. In El Salvador, FAO is supporting the governmental programme "El Salvador es tu Casa" for sustainable economic and psychosocial reintegration, specifically in rural high return areas. The programme promotes organization and associativity among returnee groups, coordination mechanisms to support the implementation of productive projects in rural areas and their livelihoods' recovery as well as strengthen social cohesion (FAO, 2019).

Addressing vulnerable and crisis-affected groups through the principles of inclusion, ownership and sustainability is at the core of UNDP's 3x6 approach for promoting sustainable livelihoods. This approach, which has been applied in

human mobility settings, contributes to social cohesion and reconciliation in a post-conflict context (UNDP, n.d.). The approach entails three phases (Kuschminder and Ricard Guay, 2017):



1. INCLUSION: Foreign and local populations voluntarily engage and work together in community-defined projects and produce direct dividends; half can be taken, and the other half invested.

2. OWNERSHIP: Beneficiaries can work together at the end of the programme to invest their own savings and associate to develop projects or businesses, creating livelihood opportunities through employment and self-employment. In this approach, the collectively invested amount from the savings from the work programme is matched by three times the amount invested by UNDP (i.e. \$100 invested by the beneficiaries will be matched by UNDP's \$300, resulting in a total investment of \$400 for the association).

3. SUSTAINABILITY: UNDP assists to ensure the projects' sustainability and the livelihoods of the beneficiaries through the creation of employment and productive capacities.



4.2.3 Strengthening social dialogue

 16 INCLUSION AND SOCIAL COHESION	<i>Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion.</i>
 23 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	<i>Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration</i>

All policies should be based upon social dialogue among governments, employers' and workers' organizations to ensure their inclusiveness, effectiveness and sustainability. Strengthening social dialogue promotes the needed social trust that facilitates the implementation of crisis responses to protect individuals and contribute to countries' socio-economic sustainability.

Social dialogue mechanisms (agreements and protocols) to offset the impacts of the pandemic with policies to protect workers and create a safe working environment have been negotiated. The ILO counted 381 outcomes achieved through social dialogue between 1 February 2020 and 31 January 2021 (ILO, 2021f). This includes the provision of safety equipment, improving sanitary provision, and reorganizing workplaces and working hours to allow for physical distancing (OECD and ILO, 2020). The Swedish Public Employment Service in cooperation with social partners, for example, has developed fast tracks for the promotion of fair working conditions by allowing recently arrived immigrants to enter the domestic labour market and close the gaps in sectors experiencing labour shortages.

Social dialogue is also essential to prevent deeper economic recessions across countries after COVID-19's negative impacts on world economies, which in turn has intensified the inequalities among the population (OECD and ILO, 2020). Governments, in cooperation with social partners and stakeholders, may implement alternative work arrangements and commitments based on fairness and trust to develop widely accepted social protection schemes (ILO, 2020i). The uncertainty surrounding the duration of the pandemic and the decline in the

labour markets requires policies grounded in social dialogue including employers and workers' full involvement for migrant workers to retain their jobs and work permits, receive an extension of visas or social assistance irrespective of migration status, as well as to promote social cohesion by reducing tensions between nationals and foreigners (ILO, 2020g; ILO, 2020h). In Kenya, a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding containing a package of measures was signed on 20 April 2020. It included one particularly relevant aspect for migrant workers: Those who lose their jobs maintain their residency status and work permit for the stipulated time frame, with no change in their migration status (ILO, 2020f).

Social dialogue also acts as a connector to create a virtuous circle where skills development and lifelong learning policies can foster productivity and accelerate job creation. Investing in skills and lifelong learning can benefit individuals, businesses and governments, thus enabling countries to adapt to the pressing changes posed by the COVID-19 crisis and beyond by facilitating sustainable socio-economic development. In some countries, Global Union Federations and local trade unions such as Southern African Trade Union Coordination Council, International Transport Workers' Federation in the UK, Public Services International, and IndustriAll have introduced efforts to advocate for the protection of migrant workers' rights (IOM, 2020d). The Icelandic Confederation of Labour (ASI) has implemented the "Equal Rights - No Exceptions" campaign to foster decent working conditions for young people and migrant workers by developing communication materials to inform companies and migrant workers on collective agreements and most vulnerable workers'

5. Conclusion

rights and obligations (OECD and ILO, 2020). Migrants have been profoundly and negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in several ways, including in their enjoyment of their human and labour rights. These negative impacts in many ways reflect pre-existing vulnerabilities and shortcomings in migration governance systems. As a result, migrants often tend to be concentrated in poor-quality housing and employment, have precarious status and are excluded in important ways from socio-economic integration. The closing of borders and restrictions to mobility left migrants stranded in countries of destination, or forced them to return to countries of origin in an unplanned and chaotic manner. Those who have continued working in jobs essential during the crisis have often faced unnecessary risks of exposure to the virus in the workplace. Others, including those in informal jobs, were the first to lose their jobs in many countries, leading to sharp increases in unemployment.

Challenges in accessing social protection including health care, combined with a lack of protection mechanisms, have made migrants more vulnerable in many contexts. In several countries, this has led to a situation where migrants have been without livelihoods in the country of destination and/or had to return to countries of origin. COVID-19 has also heightened pre-pandemic vulnerabilities that affect female migrants, especially risks of GBV and sexual exploitation, or abuse in workplaces, homes or during migration journeys. Children are also particularly vulnerable, through the disruption of several protection services including education, social and psychological support, access to school feeding programmes or child marriage increase. Sudden and large-scale return migration also has significant impacts in places already operating in crisis mode.

Many of the impacts outlined in this paper can be linked to pre-pandemic challenges and gaps in terms of migrant rights' protection and integration in countries of destination and reintegration

in countries of origin. Looking at the communities in which migrants live, the COVID-19 pandemic has made the relevance of human rights and social cohesion tangible in new ways. Cases of stigma, discrimination and xenophobic attacks have been recorded globally. These jeopardize the safety and well-being of migrants, while hindering social cohesion in the longer term.

The pandemic is not over, especially as several new variants have emerged. However, signs of hope are emerging as vaccines roll out, albeit unequally, across the world. Countries are beginning to consider reopening economies and societies to begin the process of socio-economic recovery. These measures must include immigrants, including migrant workers, in countries of destination and returnees in countries of origin, as agents and beneficiaries of recovery. Socio-economic responses and recovery measures should focus on whole-of-society and whole-of-government approaches, and address tensions and distrust among different groups. This will benefit not only migrants, but the societies in which they settle in or return to.

This is also in line with the GCM, which is based on the understanding that migration can only contribute to sustainable development when it is well governed. This requires addressing and reducing the needs and vulnerabilities of migrants and their communities by respecting, protecting and fulfilling their human and labour rights, and providing them with care and assistance through effective and transparent rights-based procedures. If poorly managed, migration can generate challenges, including many of those exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. For countries of destination this means that facilitating the integration of migrants in line with Objective 16 of the GCM should be a priority. In this respect, better protection of migrants can lead to better living and working conditions for them and facilitate positive contributions to development (OECD and ILO, 2018). This also requires ensuring coherence of different policy areas relevant to sustainable integration

and protection, such as migration policies, the recognition of skills and qualifications, active labour market measures and social policies, among others. In countries of origin, return migrants contribute to local economies and development, including through the transfer of skills and expertise. However, facilitating sustainable reintegration is crucial as returnees can face significant challenges and re-migration in perilous conditions is common. As such, policymakers in origin countries should consider safe and dignified return migration in national development planning, and sector-specific action plans and strategies. When return migrants come back to environments where socio-economic conditions are difficult and unemployment rates are high, as in the COVID-19 context, it is important that the often-limited resources dedicated to facilitating income-generating activities are inclusive of both return migrants and the communities to which they return. Otherwise, sustainable reintegration is at risk.

Overall, the GCM serves as a powerful framework to ensure that as the world recovers from the pandemic, human mobility is safe and inclusive, and respects international law, including human rights and international labour standards as part of a transformative agenda of sustainable development. Many of the socio-economic policy responses and areas outlined for focus in this paper will remain relevant during the post-recovery phase. This necessitates addressing the gaps that still exist in the governance of migration and

integration (UN Network on Migration, 2020b). As such, the phase of recovery from the crisis will be important to further facilitate the implementation of the GCM to achieve better governance of migration at local, national, regional and global levels, and to strengthen the contributions of migrants and migration to sustainable development. In this regard it dovetails with other post-COVID frameworks, such as the ILO Global Call to Action for a human-centred recovery from the COVID-19 crisis that is inclusive, sustainable and resilient. Partnerships between different stakeholders play a key role in this process. This includes governments at different levels as well as international, non-governmental and civil society organizations, workers' and employers' organizations, and other relevant stakeholders, which all have a role to play in fostering migrants' socio-economic (re)integration. In addition, countries of origin and destination should cooperate throughout the migration cycle to ensure safe journeys, human rights protection, decent work conditions, access to services and socio-economic integration in countries of destination and sustainable reintegration in countries of origin.

Aspects such as recognition of skills and qualifications and the portability of social security benefits are examples of areas on which both countries of origin and destination can work together to strengthen the protection of migrants and make them less vulnerable during possible future crises.

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Annex: Overview of policy and programme responses

Policy/Programme response	Issues addressed	Countries	Responsible	Description	Reference
Rapid policy survey to understand the extent to which the Government of Ireland included migrants in their response to COVID-19	Protection of migrants' rights and access to decent work/Access to health and other basic services/The challenges of return and reintegration/Expanding migrants' and their families' access to social protection.	Ireland	IOM	In May 2020, IOM Ireland conducted a rapid policy survey to understand the impact of COVID-19 from a migration governance perspective, providing insight into the extent to which the Government of Ireland included migrants in their response. The survey, developed by IOM's Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) Team, was designed to complement the standard MGI assessment and consisted of twelve questions. IOM Ireland reached out to the Government to propose the initiative. The survey and report were possible due to the collaboration with the MGI Team, the Department of Justice and additional departments who provided inputs.	IOM Ireland Rapid Policy Survey Report: The Irish Government's Policy Response to COVID-19 from a Migration Governance Lens (March 2020 – August 2020): https://publications.iom.int/books/iom-ireland-rapid-policy-survey-report-the-irish-governments-policy-response-covid-19-migration
Toolkit for Development Partners: Integrating Migration into COVID-19 Socio-economic Response developed by IOM	Livelihood support, social safety nets and protection/Access to health and other basic services/Expanding migrants' and their families' access to social protection/Access to health and other basic services	Global	IOM	The aim of this toolkit is to provide information and tools for development partners to integrate migration – in all its forms – into development centred plans, programmes and projects linked to COVID-19 socio economic response. Informed by the “UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19” and relevant EU and UN policy frameworks, the toolkit provides analysis and practical tools to enable policymakers and practitioners to deal with the ways in which migration and sustainable development interact within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.	Toolkit for Development Partners: Integrating Migration into COVID-19 Socio-economic Response: https://eea.iom.int/publications/toolkit-development-partners-integrating-migration-covid-19-socio-economic-response
Comprehensive COVID-19 Response in West and Central Africa	Impact of border and mobility restrictions/Improving data collection and disaggregation on migration/Livelihood support, social safety nets and protection/Access to health and other basic services/Expanding migrants' and their families' access to social protection.	Burkina Faso, Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal, The Gambia, Togo	IOM	IOM in WCA worked in close collaboration with the governments in the region to support their national COVID-19 responses while strongly advocating that no migrants be left behind, by extending support to governments and migrants in Sahel and Lake Chad countries under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative.	COVID-19 Response-IOM West and Central Africa (#2 to #12): https://rodakar.iom.int/situation-reports

Policy/Programme response	Issues addressed	Countries	Responsible	Description	Reference
Comprehensive COVID-19 Response in West and Central Africa	Impact of border and mobility restrictions/ Improving data collection and disaggregation on migration/Livelihood support, social safety nets and protection/ Access to health and other basic services/ Expanding migrants' and their families' access to social protection.	Burkina Faso, Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal, The Gambia, Togo	IOM	IOM in WCA worked in close collaboration with the governments in the region to support their national COVID-19 responses while strongly advocating that no migrants be left behind, by extending support to governments and migrants in Sahel and Lake Chad countries under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative.	COVID-19 Response- IOM West and Central Africa (#2 to #12): https://rodakar.iom.int/situation-reports
EU-IOM Joint Initiative: supporting vulnerable migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic	The challenges of return and reintegration/ Livelihood support, social safety nets and protection/Investing in community-led resilience and response systems	North Africa: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia Horn of Africa: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan Sahel and Lake Chad: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, The Gambia	EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration	The EU-IOM Joint Initiative took several immediate actions to adapt its programmes to the COVID-19 pandemic and protect vulnerable migrants in the three regions it covers (Horn of Africa, Sahel and Lake Chad, and North Africa). Below, three select press releases are shared to exemplify some of the support extended to governments and migrants in Sahel and Lake Chad countries under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative.	EU-IOM Joint Initiative: supporting vulnerable migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic: https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/all-news-and-stories/eu-iom-joint-initiative-supporting-vulnerable-migrants-during-covid-19-pandemic-en

Policy/Programme response	Issued addressed	Countries	Responsible	Description	Reference
Stranded for Three Months, 338 Malians Come Home via Humanitarian Corridor	The challenges of return and reintegration	Mali	EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration	In June 2020, 338 Malians returned home through a humanitarian corridor opened by the governments of Niger and Mali (159 migrants) and a charter flight organized by IOM with the EU funding (179 migrants). Through the COVID-19 fund under the Joint Initiative, more than 3,300 migrants in West and Central Africa have been assisted during the 2020 border closure with return through humanitarian corridors and ca. 4,000 have received COVID-19 related support including PPE.	Stranded for Three Months, 338 Malians Come Home Via Humanitarian Corridor: https://www.iom.int/news/stranded-three-months-338-malians-come-home-humanitarian-corridor
IOM Supports "Strategic Diaspora Mobilization" During COVID-19 Outbreak in Mauritania	Investing in community-led resilience and response systems/ Livelihood support, social safety nets and protection/Recognition of migrants' skills and knowledge	Mauritania	EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration	The initiative "Strategic Diaspora Mobilization" for the socio-economic development of Mauritania provides a new but very familiar source of international support: overseas Mauritians returning for short-term assignments. With support from the IOM-EU Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration, Mauritania is availing itself of assistance from returning doctors supporting the Ministry of Health in the COVID-19 response.	IOM Supports "Strategic Diaspora Mobilization" During COVID-19 Outbreak in Mauritania: https://migrationjointinitiative.org/news/iom-supports-strategic-diaspora-mobilization-during-covid-19-outbreak-mauritania
Global Diaspora Virtual Exchanges on COVID-19 Response	Investing in community-led resilience and response systems/ Livelihood support, social safety nets and protection	Global	IOM	Through the iDiaspora platform, IOM organized three Global Diaspora Virtual Exchanges on COVID-19 Response with two main objectives: (1) to create a space for collaboration where diaspora groups from around the world could share their best practices responding to the COVID-19 crisis and (2) to showcase the work already done by diasporic groups and enhance the cooperation between policymakers, practitioners and stakeholders involved in mainstreaming of migrant communities into the coronavirus crisis.	Global Diasporas reacting to the COVID-19 crisis. Best practices from the field. Retrieved from: https://publications.iom.int/fr/system/files/pdf/idiaspورا-global-diaspora.pdf

Policy/Programme response	Issued addressed	Countries	Responsible	Description	Reference
Gambian Returnees Produce 50,000 Face Masks for Schools	Investing in community-led resilience and response systems/ Livelihood support, social safety nets and protection	The Gambia	EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration	The EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration, funded by the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa. 36 returnees in the Kanifing Municipality, Upper River Region and West Coast Region were identified and trained to produce the masks in compliance with guidelines by the Gambia Standards Bureau, which also certified the masks.	Gambian Returnees Produce 50,000 Face Masks for Schools: https://rodakar.iom.int/news/gambian-returnees-produce-50000-face-masks-schools
Guidelines to support education of children left behind	Investing in community-led resilience and response systems/ Livelihood support, social safety nets and protection	Thailand	UNICEF	Children left behind by migrating parents are thought to be among the most disadvantaged in their preparedness for distance learning necessitated by school closure, as well as at risk of disrupted financial support from remittances. UNICEF conducted a rapid assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on these children to inform government action and ensure they receive the support they need.	A rapid assessment of children left behind during the COVID-19 pandemic situation: https://www.unicef.org/thailand/reports/rapid-assessment-children-left-behind-during-covid-19-pandemic-situation
MHPSS for asylum seekers and migrants	Investing in community-led resilience and response systems/ Livelihood support, social safety nets and protection	Mexico	UNICEF	As of July 2020, thousands of migrants and asylum seekers remain stuck in Mexico due to pre-existing restrictive immigration policies and asylum cooperation agreements, with border closures and access to US territory for asylum processing suspended since mid-March following COVID-19. UNICEF set up internet and screens in migrant shelters to virtually offer psychosocial support, including recreational sessions, to accompanied and unaccompanied migrant children who are unable to leave shelters due to lockdown measures. Psychosocial support is also being provided to front-line workers in these shelters.	Taking and Inspiring Action: UNICEF Practices for Children on the Move during COVID-19 (July 2020): https://www.unicef.org/media/83536/file/Taking-and-Inspiring-Action-UNICEF-Practices-for-Children-on-the-Move-during-COVID-19.pdf

Policy/Programme response	Issues addressed	Countries	Responsible	Description	Reference
Child protection services	The challenges of return and reintegration/ Investing in community-led resilience and response systems	Gabon	UNICEF	With UNICEF's support, civil society organizations, public social welfare services, child protection police units, the Migration Police Unit and children's judges collaborate through a WhatsApp platform to support case management of migrant children, including the reintegration of returned children amid COVID-19. The platform allows child protection actors to remain connected and collaborate during COVID-19 and works as a tele-workshop to alert the actors of the system, including police, justice or social services, about new child victims of violence, including migrant and displaced children. Actors then analyse a submitted case and advise about the next steps in the child's best interests. On the platform, actors exchange and decide on the child's individual case management action plan before transferring the case to IOM for further support concerning migrant and displaced children.	Taking and Inspiring Action: UNICEF Practices for Children on the Move during COVID-19 (July 2020): https://www.unicef.org/media/83536/file/Taking-and-Inspiring-Action-UNICEF-Practices-for-Children-on-the-Move-during-COVID-19.pdf
Returning migrant children	The challenges of return and reintegration	Ethiopia	UNICEF, IOM	Between 13 March and 22 June 2020, UNICEF supported 1,602 (541 girls, 1,061 boys) migrant children – many unaccompanied – returning from eight countries during COVID-19 with child protection services. IOM and UNICEF are working together in supporting the government and its social service workforce to register returnees, identify returnees who are particularly vulnerable, ensure the most vulnerable are referred to appropriate services based on identified needs, trace families of unaccompanied children, ensure children return safely to their homes, and support reintegration into the community. The two agencies are also supplying the returnees with dignity kits, soap, recreational kits, tents, bedding, and other essential items.	Taking and Inspiring Action: UNICEF Practices for Children on the Move during COVID-19 (July 2020): https://www.unicef.org/media/83536/file/Taking-and-Inspiring-Action-UNICEF-Practices-for-Children-on-the-Move-during-COVID-19.pdf

Policy/Programme response	Issued addressed	Countries	Responsible	Description	Reference
Supporting access to learning	Access to health and other basic services/ Investing in community-led resilience and response systems	Turkey	UNICEF	UNICEF has mobilized 12,000 Syrian volunteer education personnel to provide refugee and migrant parents and caregivers information on accessing distant learning opportunities due to COVID-19. These efforts are helping to ensure that 680,000 Syrian and other refugee children in public schools and temporary education centres benefit from the government's national distance learning programme via broadcasting lessons on TV and digital learning platforms.	<u>Taking and Inspiring Action: UNICEF Practices for Children on the Move during COVID-19 (July 2020): https://www.unicef.org/media/83536/file/Taking-and-Inspiring-Action-UNICEF-Practices-for-Children-on-the-Move-during-COVID-19.pdf</u>
Supporting access to learning	Access to health and other basic services/ Investing in community-led resilience and response systems	Greece	UNICEF	UNICEF is supporting efforts to reach all children with distance and home-based learning through printed homework packages as well as digital tools. With the Ministry of Education, UNICEF is ensuring the registration of refugee and migrant children into the government's distance learning program, through translating informational materials to parents into multiple languages and providing physical support in the online registration process. Unaccompanied children on the islands and the mainland received tablets, allowing them to access the UNICEF/Akellus digital language learning platform in six languages (English, French, Farsi, Arabic, Kurmanji, Sorani). Together with the government's Institute of Educational Policy, a series of online workshops were also organized for teaching personnel in view of documenting challenges and good practices in relation to distance learning activities during the COVID-19 pandemic.	<u>Taking and Inspiring Action: UNICEF Practices for Children on the Move during COVID-19 (July 2020): https://www.unicef.org/media/83536/file/Taking-and-Inspiring-Action-UNICEF-Practices-for-Children-on-the-Move-during-COVID-19.pdf</u>

Policy/Programme response	Issued addressed	Countries	Responsible	Description	Reference
Cash transfers to undocumented Venezuelan migrants	Expanding migrants' and their families' access to social protection	Peru	UNICEF	Around 70% of Venezuelans in Peru are settled in Lima, and 88.5% work in the informal economy, making Venezuelans especially vulnerable to the economic impact of lockdown measures and service disruptions. A cash transfer initiative by Peru's Ministry of Social Development did not originally include undocumented migrants. Therefore, UNICEF, in coordination with the UN Country Team, is providing technical guidance to the Ministry of Social Development to implement a specific strategy to provide cash transfers that reach at least 63,000 extremely vulnerable migrants. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has officially requested UN support, mobilization of funds and capacity to implement this action. Starting in August 2020, UNICEF is launching a cash-based intervention in northern Lima to benefit 350 families in the initial phase of the programme, to be scaled up to reach more families in the following months.	Taking and Inspiring Action: UNICEF Practices for Children on the Move during COVID-19 (July 2020): https://www.unicef.org/media/83536/file/Taking-and-Inspiring-Action-UNICEF-Practices-for-Children-on-the-Move-during-COVID-19.pdf
National social assistance and cash transfers	Expanding migrants' and their families' access to social protection	India	UNICEF	UNICEF is supporting the government in ensuring national social assistance and cash transfers to vulnerable families such as families of migrant workers and other vulnerable daily-wage earners especially impacted by COVID19, by supporting additional social protection monitoring mechanisms. These mechanisms provide feedback loops for continuity of regular social protection delivery across 16 states, with a special emphasis on social protection packages including cash transfers for students and girls to prevent child marriage and child trafficking. In Uttar Pradesh, the results of a rapid assessment led to expanding the availability of banking services through micro-ATMs. UNICEF has also supported migrant workers' identification and account detail verification in 20 districts, which has already enabled 2,300 families to access social protection schemes.	Taking and Inspiring Action: UNICEF Practices for Children on the Move during COVID-19 (July 2020): https://www.unicef.org/media/83536/file/Taking-and-Inspiring-Action-UNICEF-Practices-for-Children-on-the-Move-during-COVID-19.pdf

Policy/Programme response	Issues addressed	Countries	Responsible	Description	Reference
Information dissemination to combat human trafficking	Investing in community-led resilience and response systems	Gabon	UNICEF	UNICEF has supported a national NGO created by Beninese and Togolese migrants to fight human trafficking in their community by disseminating messages in French and five other languages spoken by migrant girls working as domestic workers or shopkeepers and currently confined due to COVID-19. Messages appeal for the protection of migrant children on the premises where they work or the transfer of these children to designated transit centres for their social support.	Taking and Inspiring Action: UNICEF Practices for Children on the Move during COVID-19 (July 2020): https://www.unicef.org/media/83536/file/Taking-and-Inspiring-Action-UNICEF-Practices-for-Children-on-the-Move-during-COVID-19.pdf
Responsibilities of employers and workers in the private sector towards migrant workers	Access to health and other basic services	Bahrain	Bahrain	Bahrain implemented specific responsibilities of employers and workers in the private sector to guarantee appropriate housing accommodations and facilities for migrant workers during the pandemic including reduced number of workers per room, three metres distance between individuals, toilets, and sanitation items).	Protecting migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/-/ed_protect/-/protrav/-migrant/documents/publication/wcms_743268.pdf
Enhance the national response on identification and prosecution of trafficking and smuggling during humanitarian crisis and in the context of the COVID-19 crisis.	Livelihood support, social safety nets and protection	Mexico	UNODC	The initiative includes an assessment by the end of May 2021 on the current situation and COVID-19 impact in selected migrant shelters; building a specialized guideline by August 2021 to detect and provide first responses to possible human trafficking and migrant smuggling cases during humanitarian assistance in shelters; and, by October, a methodology on applying the specialized guidelines through a pilot workshop.	SOMMEX - Prevención y combate del tráfico ilícito de migrantes en México: https://youtu.be/ybxOzE9YGmc

Policy/Programme response	Issues addressed	Countries	Responsible	Description	Reference
Transforming Alerts into Criminal Justice Responses to Combat Trafficking in persons within migration flows – TRACK4TIP initiative	Impact of border and mobility restrictions	Aruba, Brazil, Colombia, Curaçao, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago.	UNODC	The overall objective of the project is to enhance the regional criminal justice response to human trafficking among migration flows within the beneficiary countries following a victim-centred and multidisciplinary approach working at the regional and local levels to identify, prevent and prosecute cases. Currently the project supports the establishment of a task force of specialized prosecutors committed to enhancing joint investigative and data collection actions.	Transforming Alerts into Criminal Justice Responses to Combat Trafficking in persons within migration flows – TRACK4TIP initiative: https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/track4tip/index.html
Guidance note on ensuring access to justice during the COVID-19 pandemic	Livelihood support, social safety nets and protection	Global	UNODC, UNDP	The guidance note presents key issues to consider in ensuring access to justice during the pandemic, and is divided into three sections: Preparation, Response, and Recovery. While there may be a chronological overlap across the different phases as states face differing dimensions of the crisis, the note highlights critical elements for the justice sector to respond effectively to the short-, medium-, and long-term impacts of the pandemic.	Ensuring access to justice in the context of COVID-19: https://www.unodc.org/documents/Advocacy-Section/Ensuring_Access_to_Justice_in_the_Context_of_COVID-191.pdf
Charter flights for voluntary Ghanaian returned migrants	Challenges of return and reintegration	Ghana	EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration	On 24 November, 157 Ghanaians were provided with voluntary humanitarian return assistance from Libya. Before boarding, migrants received consular assistance, medical screening, and personal protective equipment (masks, gloves and hand sanitizers, psychosocial support). Upon arrival in Accra, migrants were tested for COVID-19, provided with onward transportation and cash assistance for their immediate needs including travel to their home communities.	IOM Charter Flight Brings Home over 150 Ghanaians from Libya: https://www.iom.int/news/iom-charter-flight-brings-home-over-150-ghanaians-libya

Policy/Programme response	Issues addressed	Countries	Responsible	Description	Reference
Repatriation flights	Challenges of return and reintegration	Philippines	Philippines	During 2020 (since February 9) the Philippines repatriated around 327,511 overseas workers.	Over 325K Overseas Filipino Workers Repatriated in 2020: https://crew-center.com/over-325k-overseas-filipino-workers-repatriated-2020
Return assistance operations	Challenges of return and reintegration	Sierra Leone	IOM-European Union	99 Sierra Leoneans migrants in the transit centre in Agadez returned via flight chartered to Niger after being stranded for six months.	99 Stranded Sierra Leoneans Return from Niger: https://www.iom.int/news/99-stranded-sierra-leoneans-return-niger
Return assistance operations for stranded migrants	Challenges of return and reintegration	Uganda-Madagascar	IOM	Ugandan women migrants were assisted in September and December 2020 (first flight returned home 113 and the second 105) in a flight funded by German humanitarian assistance in coordination with Saudi Arabia and Uganda. On 9 December 2020, IOM, supported by the governments of Germany and the UK, returned 75 women migrants to Madagascar after they were stranded almost nine months in Saudi Arabia.	Over 100 stranded Ugandan Women Provided with Return Assistance from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: https://www.iom.int/news/over-100-stranded-ugandan-women-provided-return-assistance-kingdom-saudi-arabia#:~:text=Kampala%20FRIYadh%20%E2%80%93%20On%20Tuesday%20(stranded%20due%20to%20COVID%20D19
					IOM, Partners, Support Madagascar Government to Return Stranded Vulnerable Migrant Workers: https://www.iom.int/news/iom-partners-support-madagascar-government-return-stranded-vulnerable-migrant-workers

Policy/Programme response	Issued addressed	Countries	Responsible	Description	Reference
Traineeship modules for returnees to address psychosocial reintegration	Challenges of return and reintegration	Nigeria	EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration	The IOM has hosted a series of modules to train 20 returnees in a community-based approach to psychosocial reintegration and well-being in Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria	Returnees, Health Workers Join Hands to Improve Psychosocial Well-being in Nigeria: https://www.iom.int/news/returnees-health-workers-join-hands-improve-psychosocial-well-being-nigeria
Vande Bharat Mission (repatriation flights) Operation Samudra Setru (navy vessels)	Challenges of return and reintegration	India	India	The operations were launched in May 2020 to bring home Indians stranded in foreign countries due to the pandemic. The first Operation Samudra Setu massive evacuation repatriated around 698 Indians from Maldives and culminated in July after successfully bringing home 3,992 Indian citizens by sea (in total within May-Jul). Until 20 August 2020, the Vande Bharat Mission, considered the country's largest repatriation programme, returned home more than 1.1 million stranded Indians.	Indian Navy Completes "Operation Samudra Setu": https://www.indiannavy.nic.in/content/indian-navy-completes-%E2%80%9COperation-samudra-setu%E2%80%9D https://meaningofmigrants.org/video/ More than 1.1 m stranded Indians returned home through Vande Bharat Mission: https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/more-than-1-1-mn-stranded-indians-returned-home-through-vande-bharat-mission/story-Ad30XTSgHMsg3k2UTVIRN.html
Worker/SkillLab	Encouraging digital innovations	Germany, Netherlands	Worker, SkillLab	There are several digital initiatives developed by public and private sectors in the host countries for migrants and refugees, such as Worker – an online platform in Germany, which matches refugees (looking for a job or internship) with employers who provide employment, internships, and apprenticeship opportunities. In the Netherlands, SkillLab – a social enterprise - assists refugees via an app in their integration into the labour market with the skills they have, also helping employers to tap into this pool of human capital.	Digital support and integration services for migrants in Germany: https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/15102/digital-support-and-integration-services-for-migrants-in-germany Driving Migrant Inclusion through Social Innovation. Lessons for cities in a pandemic. International Organization for Migration/ Migration Policy Institute Europe: https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/mpie-social-innovation-covid19-final.pdf

Policy/Programme response	Issued addressed	Countries	Responsible	Description	Reference
National Skill Development Policy (Bangladesh)/National Training Service (Colombia)/ChileValora (Chile)	Ensuring access to the development and recognition of skills and qualifications	Bangladesh, Colombia, Chile	Bangladesh, Colombia, Chile	In Bangladesh, the government developed a National Skill Development Policy in 2011 to build up the skills of migrant workers. In Colombia, the National Training Service provides skills assessment and offers certification services to refugees and migrants from Venezuela since 2017. In Chile, the skills recognition for nationals, migrant workers and refugees is conducted by ChileValora	Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh. (2011). National Skills Development Policy-2011. Ministry of Education, Dhaka. How to Facilitate the Recognition of Skills of Migrant Workers (Second Edition): https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/-ed_protect/---protrav/-migrant/documents/publication/wcms_748721.pdf
Policies for migrants' skills and qualification recognition	Ensuring access to the development and recognition of skills and qualifications	Germany, Finland, Belgium	Germany, Finland, Belgium	The German government provides vocational language courses for foreigners. In addition to the language, these courses include specific vocational components for diverse fields of work. In Finland, NGOs have government permission to provide business training and advising for interested asylum-seekers to set up their own businesses. In Belgium, the government provides asylum-seekers access to different measures provided by public employment services including subsidies, training and work permit after four months.	Vocational Education and Training: Bridging refugee and employer needs: https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/files/9120_en.pdf
App "Ban Hate"	Fighting against discrimination and xenophobia	Austria	Austria	The Anti-Discrimination Office of Styria introduced the app "Ban Hate", which allows people to report hate speech online, as there had been an increase of posts accusing migrants and refugees of spreading COVID-19.	Coronavirus Pandemic in the EU- Fundamental Rights Implications. Bulletin #1, 1 February- 20 March 2020. European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, Vienna: https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2020-coronavirus-pandemic-eu-bulletin_en.pdf

Policy/Programme response	Issues addressed	Countries	Responsible	Description	Reference
Help/hotline counselling services for migrants	Gender, entitlement, and social protection gaps	Uganda, Morocco, Cameroon, Ecuador, Mexico, Nigeria, Burkina Faso	UNHCR	UNHCR has developed several operational help/hotlines services (including in Uganda, Morocco, Cameroon, Ecuador) for providing counselling, support to people at risk of GBV, social media, and information campaigns through rural radios (including Mexico, Nigeria, Burkina Faso).	Protecting Forcibly Displaced Children during the COVID-19 Pandemic: https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/78156
Institutional Framework for Addressing GBV in Crisis (GBViC)/ Women's Participation Project Rohingya and Bangladeshi women and girls in Cox's Bazar	Gender, entitlement, and social protection gaps	Bangladesh	IOM	Strategic partnerships and tools have enabled IOM to adapt its GBV programs to the pandemic context. IOM with its GBViC and Action Plan, was able to ensure the continuity of face-to-face individual case management services, maintained its operation of 10 Women and Girls Safe Spaces across nine camps and the emergency safe shelter for GBV survivors. Women's Participation Project (implemented since 2018 in Cox's Bazar and replicated in four camps) has continued providing space for consultations for women and girls to understand how their participation in governance camps structures can reduce the risks of GBV.	IOM Strengthens Gender-Based Violence Response in Cox's Bazar amidst COVID-19: https://www.iom.int/news/iom-strengthens-gender-based-violence-response-coxs-bazar-amidst-covid-19

Policy/Programme response	Issues addressed	Countries	Responsible	Description	Reference
Community messaging about COVID-19 and for coping with distress	Investing in community-led resilience and response systems	Bangladesh-Tanzania	Bangladesh: UNHCR-Translators without Borders. Tanzania: IRC- Radio Kwizera	In Bangladesh , in cooperation with "Translators without Borders", audio versions of the interagency children's book "My hero is you" were recorded in three different languages (Rohingya, Burmese, and Bangla) and circulated in smartphones by community outreach volunteers to help children learn and understand about COVID-19 and how it can be combatted. In Tanzania, IRC and Radio Kwizera (a famous Kiswahili radio station in the Kigoma region), circulated mental health messaging to foster positive coping mechanisms. The messaging uses jingles, educational dramas, and live interviews with psychologists.	Emerging practices: mental health and psychosocial support in refugee operations during the COVID-19 pandemic: https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/5ee2409b4.pdf
Training first responders in psychological first aid and basic psychosocial skills for supporting migrants	Investing in community-led resilience and response systems	Egypt	UNHCR	Trainings for volunteers and community leaders were organized to prepare them for the delivery of psychological first aid and non-specialized psychosocial support after the rise of anxiety and depression cases among refugees.	Emerging practices: mental health and psychosocial support in refugee operations during the COVID-19 pandemic: https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/5ee2409b4.pdf
Assistance operations to crisis-affected communities in the Tigray region	Livelihood support, social safety nets and protection	Ethiopia	IOM	IOM provided emergency shelter and non-food items including blankets and jerry cans, to deliver water, sanitation and hygiene services, management support and emergency health assistance. IOM is also working with local authorities to decongest displacement sites and construct new collective shelters and communal infrastructures.	IOM and Partners Provide Relief to People Affected by the Crisis in Northern Ethiopia: https://www.iom.int/news/iom-and-partners-provide-relief-people-affected-crisis-northern-ethiopia

Policy/Programme response	Issued addressed	Countries	Responsible	Description	Reference
Cash top-ups for connectivity and hygiene	Livelihood support, social safety nets and protection	Greece	UNHCR	Besides the monthly cash assistance, UNHCR has provided top-up transfer amounts (transfer value depends on household size) to cover additional data/mobile connectivity charges countrywide to improve communications and therefore, access to information on COVID-19 prevention. UNHCR is also supporting the government response through providing hygiene top-up grants for those residing in the Greek Islands.	UNHCR Cash Assistance and COVID-19: https://www.unhcr.org/protection/operations/5e8af8b74/unhcr-cash-assistance-covid-19-emerging-field-practices.html
Cash transfer assistance	Livelihood support, social safety nets and protection	Iraq	IOM	On 4 June, IOM distributed the first round of cash assistance (\$182) for migrant workers (Bangladeshi and Filipino nationals) disproportionately affected by COVID-19, to meet their essential needs. IOM Iraq developed the vulnerability assessment tool to determine eligibility, based on indicators of food and rent insecurity. It also captures specific health vulnerabilities among migrants.	IOM Iraq Provides Cash Assistance to Migrant Workers Affected by COVID-19: https://www.iom.int/news/iom-iraq-provides-cash-assistance-migrant-workers-affected-covid-19
Emergency stipend for Filipino migrant workers	Livelihood support, social safety nets and protection	Philippines	Philippines	The Philippines, through its Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OFWs), created an emergency fund that provided one-time cash assistance (PHP10,000 or US\$200) to around 280,000 Filipino migrant workers abroad (regardless of their status) who have been displaced due to COVID-19.	Social protection for migrant workers: A necessary response to the Covid-19 crisis: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---soc_sec/documents/publication/wcms_748979.pdf DOLE: 280,000 OFWs received govt cash aid. Business Mirror. 20K OFWs to get AKAP cash aid next week: OWWA. Philippine News Agency (PNA): https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1121750#:~:text=Under%20the%20program%2C%20the%20OFW,(-Covid%2D19)%20pandemic

Policy/Programme response	Issued addressed	Countries	Responsible	Description	Reference
Social protection schemes (unemployment and sickness benefits) to migrant workers	Livelihood support, social safety nets and protection/Expanding migrants' access to social protection	Italy, New Zealand, Ireland	Italy, New Zealand, Ireland	Many countries have encompassed migrant workers, including those in the informal economy on irregular status, in their general support packages for those affected by the pandemic. In Italy, a special economic stimulus called "Decreto Cura Italia" provides a €600 allowance to certain workers, including migrant workers with a residence permit. New Zealand announced that international seasonal migrant workers are entitled to government funding in several cases: sickness, if they have to isolate themselves while working in New Zealand (from the start date of their contract), or incapacity to work because their employer's business is affected by the lockdown. Ireland initiated a COVID-19 unemployment payment of €350 per week for employees and self-employed workers for a maximum of 12 weeks. The benefit is available to students, non-European Economic Area nationals and part-time workers aged 18–66 who have lost their employment due to the pandemic and have not been diagnosed with COVID-19.	Social protection for migrant workers: A necessary response to the Covid-19 crisis: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---soc_sec/documents/publication/wcms_748979.pdf

Policy/Programme response	Issued addressed	Countries	Responsible	Description	Reference
Remote support, cash-based assistance, shelter and mental health initiatives	Livelihood support, social safety nets and protection/Investing in community-led resilience and response systems	Peru	UNHCR	Remote support: Over 7,620 protection cases have been followed up through specialized case management services of UNHCR and partners since the pandemic's onset. Humanitarian Cash-Based Assistance: Since COVID-19's outbreak, around 40,000 people (estimated 13,090 households) have received cash transfers via partners Aldeas Infantiles, Caritas, Encuentros and HIAS. Workshops about access to employment, rights and grievance mechanisms to report exploitation and abuse have been conducted by UNHCR, where around 1,480 individuals have participated. Basic Needs and Shelter: As of March 2020, 280 refugees and migrants have been supported with shelter, and over 196,000 food rations have been provided in the 14 shelters, hotels and temporary centres in Arequipa, Lima, Tacna and Tumbes. Over 4,900 kits have been distributed, including baby kits, mosquito nets, masks, clothes and kitchen sets in Tacna, Cuzco, Lima, Arequipa and Tumbes.	Factsheet N.17: COVID-19 Situation Peru. 30 November 2020: https://www.acnur.org/5fd589554.pdf

Policy/Programme response	Issued addressed	Countries	Responsible	Description	Reference
Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMPPR 2020)	Livelihood support, social safety nets and protection/Strengthening social dialogue	Colombia	Colombia	The Colombian government developed a six-point plan to facilitate Venezuelan migrants and refugees' inclusion in the country's COVID-19 response. The inclusive and comprehensive plan addresses the following six main points: 1) Responsible border management; 2) Access to health services (same as for Colombians); 3) Adaptation of cooperation programs for refugees and migrants (cash-based programs for housing and food purposes, WASH assistance and health and shelter services were strengthened); 4) Attention to vulnerable migrant and refugee populations (enrolment to governmental assistance initiatives such as "Solidarity Income Program" and "School Feeding Program", delivery of food kits); 5) Focusing programs on high-impact areas; and 6) Greater coordination and information.	Colombia's 6-point plan for Venezuelan migrants during COVID-19. Retrieved from https://globalcompactrefugees.org/article/colombias-6-point-plan-venezuelan-migrants-during-covid-19
"Telemedicine" enhancement to fill health care delivery shortage	Livelihood support, social safety nets and protection	Somalia	IOM	Hospitals and health clinics have been equipped to enhance their diagnosis and treatment services by using digital technology (including videos, cameras, screens, personal computers, tablets). The project aims to support health capacity injection by linking doctors in the country with Somali health experts abroad from the diaspora, mitigating the international travel and physical distancing limitations through telemedicine.	IOM Somalia Supports New 'Telemedicine' Enhancement for Migrants and Host Communities: https://www.iom.int/news/iom-somalia-supports-new-telemedicine-enhancement-migrants-and-host-communities

Policy/Programme response	Issued addressed	Countries	Responsible	Description	Reference
Health and hygiene/ prevention measures, protection, cash-based assistance and anti-xenophobia campaigns	Protection of migrants' rights and access to decent work/Livelihood support, social safety and nets of protection/ Fighting discrimination and xenophobia	Colombia	UNHCR	Health and hygiene: UNHCR provided 25 electric beds for intensive care unit in Buenaventura. In association with Profamilia and the Ismael Roldan Hospital health services, they provided services including sexual and reproductive services to the Venezuelan and migrant population in Chocó. In cooperation with other organizations (CISP, IOM), they provided preventive treatments and consultations in sexual and reproductive rights to 341 Venezuelans in the municipality of Puerto Asís. Protection: In Arauca and Cúcuta, 1,187 and 2,375, respectively, were supported and oriented through the 12 Local Ombudsperson's (Personerías) and legal counsels. In Arauca, 12 separated youth (six girls and six boys) and 16 unaccompanied children (eight girls and eight boys) were identified and assisted by UNHCR's partner Apoyar, in close coordination with the Colombian Institute for Family Welfare (ICBF). Cash-Based Assistance: To date, 45,886 people (11,196 families) have received multipurpose cash, representing 86 percent of the total number of families planned. Livelihoods: UNHCR launched a media anti-xenophobia campaign called "Somos Panas Colombia" to incentivise solidarity towards the Venezuelan population, providing information about access to health, work, and protection of rights to guide Venezuelan migrants and refugees in Colombia. The campaign has also promoted actions to reduce xenophobia against Venezuelans (e.g. Mitos vs Personas Reales, Somos Panas en Positivo).	UNHCR Colombia Response Update #16, 1-15 November 2020: https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Colombia_Response_Update_16_ACNUR_Nov_2020_ENG.pdf

Policy/Programme response	Issued addressed	Countries	Responsible	Description	Reference
Access to COVID-19 related treatment	Protection of migrants' rights and access to decent work	Some EU and OECD countries	Some EU and OECD countries	Irregular migrants in more than half of the EU and OECD Member States had access to COVID-19 related treatment services (BE, CY, CZ, EE, ES, FI, FR, HR, IE, IT, LT, LV, LU -for COVID-19 related treatment- MT, PL, PT, SE, SI, SK) while among these countries some of the services' expenses were reimbursed or covered by the state (LT, LV, LU -for COVID-19 related treatment-, MT, PL, PT, SE, SI, SK). In Germany, despite being excluded from statutory health insurance, they have access to health care service according to the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act.	Inform #1 - EU and OECD Member States Response to Managing Residence Permits and Migrant Unemployment during the COVID-19 Pandemic: https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/librarydoc/inform-1-eu-and-oecd-member-states-responses-to-managing-residence-permits-and-migrant-unemployment-during-the-covid-19-pandemic

Policy/Programme response	Issued addressed	Countries	Responsible	Description	Reference
Access to COVID-19 related treatment	Protection of migrants' rights and access to decent work	Thailand	Thailand	Universal health coverage (UHC) was achieved in Thailand in 2002, where 99% of Thai nationals and registered migrant workers are covered. UHC includes COVID-19 related health services provided to everyone, including undocumented migrants. In the Republic of Korea , testing for COVID-19 is also available for everyone, including migrants in irregular status. Since the COVID-19 outbreak, medical institutions are exempted from reporting the undocumented migration status of their patients to immigration authorities. The fees for testing and treatment are the same as for citizens.	Thai UHC and COVID-19: New Normal; Leaving No-one Behind. Retrieved from: https://events.development.asia/system/files/materials/2020/07/202007-national-health-security-office-adapting-new-normal_0.pdf Impact of COVID-19: Can irregular migrants cope?: https://www.preventionweb.net/news/view/71428 Seoul to plug undocumented migrants loophole in COVID-19 efforts. The Korea Herald: http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200429000769 Managing international migration under COVID-19: https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/view/?ref=134_134314-9shbokosu&title=Managing-international-migration-under-COVID-19 Why Safeguarding Migrants' Health and Achieving Universal Health Coverage Matters amidst COVID-19: https://greatermekong.org/why-safeguarding-migrants%E2%80%99-health-and-achieving-universal-health-coverage-matters-amidst-covid-19 Coming Out Stronger from COVID-19: Policy Options on Migrant Health and Immigration. https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Coming%20Out%20Stronger%20from%20COVID-19_%20Policy%20Options%20on%20Migrant%20Health%20and%20Immigration.pdf

Policy/Programme response	Issued addressed	Countries	Responsible	Description	Reference
Decree-Law n. 34/2020	Protection of migrants' rights and access to decent work	Italy	Italy	The Italian Government "relaunched" the Decree-Law n. 34/2020 dedicated to irregular migrant workers' status regularization in sectors such as agriculture (livestock, fisheries, and aquaculture), personal care, and domestic work. The Decree created two separate pathways for irregular migrants who had already worked in these sectors and had lost their jobs. First, the employer sponsorship scheme enables employers (after paying a 500 euros application fee) to regularize their foreign and Italian workers in these sectors. The length of the residency permit is subjected to the length of the employment contract. The second track allows third-country nationals to apply for a six-month permit to seek employment in these sectors if: 1) They became undocumented after 31 October 2019, 2) they never left Italy, and 3) they have worked in the beforementioned sectors until 31 October 2019. Therefore, the issue of their status remains if at the end of the six months they have not obtained a regular contract.	The new Italian "Relaunch" Decree and the regularization of undocumented migrant workers: https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=c2a0d0c5-af0f-49bc-9e4e-d714082ff908 Italian government adopts targeted regularisation for migrant workers: https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/news/italian-government-adopts-targeted-regularisation-for-migrant-workers Italy: Flawed Migrant Regularization Program: https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/12/18/italy-flawed-migrant-regularization-program

Policy/Programme response	Issued addressed	Countries	Responsible	Description	Reference
Ensure migrant workers have regular status or do not fall into irregular status	Protection of migrants' rights and access to decent work	Bahrain, Kenya, Kuwait, Morocco, South Africa, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates	Bahrain, Kenya, Kuwait, Morocco, South Africa, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates	These countries provided migrants opportunities to extend work visas or introduced other measures to limit constraints migrant workers and their families faced in countries of residence. Bahrain introduced the termination of monthly work fees and fees for issue or renewal of work permits for three months starting on 1 April, lowered fees for flexi work permits and provided amnesty for migrants in an irregular situation until 31 December 2020. The Kenya Ministry of Labour and Social Protection announced that regular migrant workers' residence or work permit shall remain valid for the period stipulated in case of losing their job due to the pandemic crisis. Kuwait extended visas for three months if workers fall into irregular status during the shutdown. The Ministry of Interior of Morocco announced an extension of the 90-day stay limit without a fine for foreigners. In South Africa, the Department of Home Affairs indicated that clients of Refugee Reception Centres (closed during the lockdown) with expired visas would not be penalized provided they legalize their visas once the lockdown has been lifted. In Thailand, around 131,000 migrant workers from Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos will be allowed to remain until the end of 2021 (despite the previous visa extension scheme until 30 November 2020). In the UAE, migrant workers (including domestic) whose work permits expired were exempt from medical tests for renewing their work permits and residence visas. Moreover, the government extended the visas of foreigners in the UAE and residents (inside or outside the country) until the end of December 2020.	Protecting migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/-ed_protect/-protrav/-migrant/documents/publication/wcms_743268.pdf Kuwait gives expats 3 months free extension for expired residencies: https://www.arabnews.com/node/1659611/middle-east Health Alert: Morocco Announces Extension of 90-Day Stay Limit: / Visa extension offers hope to migrant workers in Thailand: https://www.ucanews.com/news/visa-extension-offers-hope-to-migrant-workers-in-thailand/90282# Renewal of work permits and residence visas amid COVID-19: https://u.ae/en/information-and-services/justice-safety-and-the-law/handling-the-covid-19-outbreak/supporting-the-labour-market-in-the-private-sector-in-times-of-covid19/renewal-of-work-permits-and-residence-visas-amid-covid-19#:~:text=In%20April%202020%2C%20ICA%20took,the%20suspension%20of%20air%20traffic.

Policy/Programme response	Issues addressed	Countries	Responsible	Description	Reference
Traineeships for potential domestic worker migrants	Reducing gender gaps	Bangladesh	Bangladesh, ILO	The Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Ministry of Bangladesh offers a training to Bangladeshi women who want to migrate as domestic workers to the Middle East. The training prepares them to make informed choices and provides knowledge about safe migration, raises awareness about migrant rights and measures to take if and when the rights violated.	Skills development training module for Bangladeshi women migrant workers in Middle Eastern countries: https://www.ilo.org/dhaka/Whatwedo/Publications/WCMS_715154/lang-en/index.htm
Fair working conditions promotion	Strengthening social dialogue	Sweden	Sweden	The Swedish Public Employment Service, in cooperation with social partners, has developed fast tracks for the promotion of fair working conditions by allowing recently arrived immigrants to enter the domestic labour market and close the gaps in sectors with a shortage of labour.	Social Dialogue, Skills and COVID-19: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/-dgreports/-dcomm/-publ/documents/publication/wcms_758550.pdf
Initiatives to advocate for migrant workers' rights	Strengthening social dialogue	South Africa, Iceland	The Southern African Trade Union Coordination Council/Icelandic Confederation of Labour	Global Union Federations and local trade unions have introduced efforts to advocate for the protection of migrant workers' rights. The Southern African Trade Union Coordination Council (SATUCC) called for special attention to the situation of migrant workers on 16 March 2020. The Icelandic Confederation of Labour (ASI) has implemented the "Equal Rights- No Exceptions" campaign to foster decent working conditions for young people and migrant workers by developing communication materials about companies on collective agreements and most vulnerable workers' rights and obligations.	Statement on COVID-19 Pandemic: https://www.italc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/satucc-covid19_statement_-_final_draft.pdf Protecting migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/-ed_protect/-protrav/-migrant/documents/publication/wcms_743268.pdf Peak-level social dialogue as a governance tool during the COVID-19 pandemic: Global and regional trends and policy issues: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/-ed_dialogue/-dialogue/documents/briefingnote/wcms_759072.pdf

Policy/Programme response	Issues addressed	Countries	Responsible	Description	Reference
Memorandum of Understanding	Strengthening social dialogue/Protection of migrants' rights and access to decent work	Kenya	Kenya	A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding containing a package of measures was signed on April 20 2020. It included a particularly relevant aspect for migrant workers: Those who lose their job maintain their residency status and work permit for the stipulated time-frame, with no change in their migration status.	Protecting migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Retrieved from https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---migrant/documents/publication/wcms_743268.pdf
ILO's coordinated response strategy in Latin America and the Caribbean	Strengthening social dialogue/Use and recognition of migrants' skills and knowledge/Protection of migrants' rights and access to decent work/Promoting entrepreneurship, business development and financial inclusion	Latin America and the Caribbean	ILO	ILO's coordinated response aims to improve the governance and public policies in the region. The strategy addresses the following six areas to ensure the visibility of Venezuelan workers' contribution to mitigate COVID-19: 1) Migration and labour policies frameworks, 2) Employment perspective, 3) Recognition and certification of previous learning, 3) Business development and value chains, 4) Social protection, 5) Social cohesion and peaceful coexistence.	Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Latin America and the Caribbean. ILO Response COVID-19 Update: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---migrant/documents/publication/wcms_752824.pdf
Initiatives to strengthen migrants' employability	Strengthening the employability of migrants	Canada, Sweden, Germany	Canada, Sweden, Germany	The Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council in Canada , the "100 Club" in Sweden , and the employer network "Businesses integrating refugees" in Germany aim to strengthen the employability of migrants.	Engaging with employers in the hiring of refugees: https://www.oecd.org/eis/mig/ UNHCR-OECD-Engaging-with-employers-in-the-hiring-of-refugees.pdf
Work Programme and Steps to Settlement course	Strengthening the employability of migrants	The United Kingdom	Refugee Education Training Advice Service (UK)	The Work Programme and Steps to Settlement course in the UK was provided by the Refugee Education Training Advice Service on different topics, including English and IT skills to strengthen the employability of migrants and refugees.	Wells, D. (2015). Migrants and work: Introduction to Migration Guidance booklet #11. Integration up North. Retrieved from https://www.migrationworkshare.org.uk/userfiles/attachments/pages/625/11-migrantsandwork-iun-june2015.pdf

Policy/Programme response	Issued addressed	Countries	Responsible	Description	Reference
Global Skills Partnership on Migration	Strengthening the employability of migrants/Ensuring access to the development and recognition of skills and qualifications	Global	ILO, IOM, UNESCO, IOE, and ITUC	The Global Skills Partnership on Migration is a joint initiative among ILO, IOM, UNESCO, IOE, and ITUC that aims to mobilize technical expertise for the skills' recognition of migrant workers, particularly women and youth. In this light, the joint effort aims to contribute to 1) The labour market's sustainability in both origin and destination countries, besides migrant workers' career development and well-being; 2) Regular labour migration (includes bilateral and multilateral labour arrangements), based on skills demand and relevant, quality training provisions for potential and return migrant workers; 3) Enhanced productivity and retention of migrant workers, leading to better economic results and enterprises' performance.	Global Skills Partnership on Migration: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---ifp_skills/documents/publication/wcms_653993.pdf
Skills Passport	Strengthening the employability of migrants/Ensuring access to the development and recognition of skills and qualifications	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka (TVEC, EFC), ILO	The "Skills Passport" is a portfolio that includes the skills and qualifications acquired informally by returnee migrant workers or workers in Sri Lanka. This platform allows skills matching by enabling upward employability and facilitating the recruitment of individuals for jobs that require specific skills, filling the gaps in both local and overseas labour market (TVEC and EFC, n.d.).	What is the Skills Passport?: http://www.nsp.gov.lk/
Academic degrees' recognition and labour insertion	Use and recognition of migrants' skills and knowledge	Health care sector: Peru, Argentina, Chile, Spain	Peru, Argentina, Chile, Spain	Health care: Chile, Peru and Argentina expedited procedures for the diplomas' recognition of Venezuelan migrants to practice medicine as part of the crisis response to reinforce the health personnel during the pandemic. In Spain, the government has introduced measures to fast-track accreditation of foreign doctors and nurses.	Protecting migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Recommendations for Policy-makers and Constituents: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---migrant/documents/publication/wcms_743268.pdf

Policy/Programme response	Issued addressed	Countries	Responsible	Description	Reference
COVID-19 prevention messaging	Livelihood support, social safety and nets of protection	Ethiopia	IOM	IOM reached around 62,938 individuals, including IDPs and migrant returnees in different cities (including Dire Dawa, East Hararghe, Jijiga, Gedeo Borena, West Guji and East Wollega Zones) through door-to-door COVID-19 messaging campaigns and community mobilization, besides health and education facilities.	The impact of COVID-19 on Migrants and Refugees in the Arab Region: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/-arabstates/---ro-beirut/documents/briefingnote/wcms_764761.pdf
Special work permits for undocumented agricultural migrant workers	Expanding migrants' access to social protection	Greece	Greece	Special measures were introduced on 13 April 2020 to address urgent seasonal labour shortages in agriculture, including the automatic extension for six months of special work permits for undocumented agriculture migrant workers.	Inform #3- Maintaining Labour Migration in essential sectors in times of pandemic: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/00_eu_inform3_labour_migration_2020_en.pdf
Transition to Formality Programme	Expanding migrants' access to social protection	Turkey	Turkey	The Transition to Formality Programme, implemented by the Social Security Institution in cooperation with the ILO, are joining efforts for employees to formally hire (including social security contributions and work permit fees) Syrian and Turkish workers, ensuring social protection coverage for employed refugees and their families through employment retention.	Protecting the rights at work of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons during the COVID-19 pandemic: https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/labour-migration/publications/WCMS_748485/lang--en/index.htm
Beneficiary Cards	Investing in community-led resilience and response systems	Maldives	The Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC)	The Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC) issued Beneficiary Cards with a unique number so migrant workers could participate in the process of COVID-19 screening at accommodation centres, which require an identification document that many of the migrants lacked.	Least Protected, Most Affected: Migrants and refugees facing extraordinary risks during the COVID-19 pandemic: https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/IFRC-report-COVID19-migrants-least-protected-most-affected.pdf

Policy/Programme response	Issued addressed	Countries	Responsible	Description	Reference
One-time cash benefit	Investing in community-led resilience and response systems	United States	United States	In April 2020, California (United States) announced the introduction of a one-time cash benefit through the California Immigrant Resilience Fund, for supporting undocumented immigrant workers impacted by COVID-19 who, due to their irregular status, are ineligible for unemployment insurance benefits and disaster relief.	Governor Newsom Announces New Initiatives to Support California Workers Impacted by COVID-19: /
Decreto Cura Italia	Investing in community-led resilience and response systems	Italy	Italy	The Decree ensures the provision of a €600 allowance to different categories of worker, including migrant workers with a residence permit.	Protecting the rights at work of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons during the COVID-19 pandemic: https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/labour-migration/publications/WCMS_748485/lang--en/index.htm
Information translated into Arabic about occupational safety and health recommendations	Investing in community-led resilience and response systems	Turkey	Turkey, ILO	The Directorate General of Occupational Health and Safety of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, with the ILO's collaboration, translated occupational safety and health recommendations into Arabic for bakery workers, call centres, construction, and agricultural workers.	Protecting the rights at work of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons during the COVID-19 pandemic: https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/labour-migration/publications/WCMS_748485/lang--en/index.htm

Policy/Programme response	Issued addressed	Countries	Responsible	Description	Reference
Information campaigns about COVID-19 for migrants	Investing in community-led resilience and response systems	Germany, Canada, Denmark	Germany, Canada, Denmark/ Danish Refugee Council	The German Federal Government implemented a digital campaign initiative that combines both web and social media platforms in several languages to communicate about COVID-19. The information has been circulated through a Facebook page and the platform answers users' questions about misleading information regarding COVID-19. Canada's Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship service also provided content on its website and social media channels on COVID-19. The resources are translated into several languages and provide information about changes, travel restrictions and applications for every migrant group (international students, workers, asylum seekers). Denmark public authorities, in collaboration with the DRC, created a website and phone hotline dedicated to answering questions about COVID-19 in 25 languages.	What is the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on immigrants and their children?: https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/view/?ref=137_137245-8saheqv0k3&title=What-is-the-impact-of-the-COVID-19-pandemic-on-immigrants-and-their-children%3F
Packages for supporting Bangladeshi return migrants	Livelihood support, social safety nets and protection/The challenges of return and reintegration	Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Bangladesh arranged a package to support every returnee with small loans on arrival (Tk5,000 equivalent to \$34), as well as for return migrant workers (Tk5,000 to Tk7,000) and compensation for families of Bangladeshis abroad who died of COVID-19.	Govt to support returnee migrant workers: https://tbsnews.net/coronavirus-chronicle/covid-19-bangladesh/govt-support-returnee-migrant-workers-69733

Policy/Programme response	Issued addressed	Countries	Responsible	Description	Reference
Matching qualifications and skills with jobs and trainings	Use and recognition of migrants' skills and knowledge	Egypt	Egypt	The government tried to record and connect returned Egyptians with trainings or jobs for their integration into the country's labour market based on information collected during quarantine about their qualifications and areas of expertise.	Forced Returns: COVID-19 Puts International Labor Migrants at Risk.; https://www.thecairoreview.com/midan/forced-returns-covid-19-putsinternational-labor-migrants-at-risk/
ILO-NCTP joint collaborative programme	Ensuring access to the development and recognition of skills and qualifications	Cambodia	National Committee for Tourism Professionals (NCTP), ILO, Ministry of Tourism, the Association of Cambodian Recruitment Agencies, and the Manpower Association of Cambodia	The pilot project is focused on the recognition of prior learning (RPL) assessment on housekeeping for the Common ASEAN Tourism Curriculum Certificate II (Level 1) for re-turning domestic migrant workers. The project will enable returnees with some experience in the tourism sector to get their acquired skills recognized.	Egypt's government ready to help returnees find employment: https://egyptindependent.com/egypts-government-ready-to-help-returnees-find-employment/ Effective return and reintegration of migrant workers with special focus on ASEAN Member States: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---sro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_733917.pdf
Skills for Recognition	Ensuring access to the development and recognition of skills and qualifications/ Strengthening the employability of return migrants	Gambia, Niger, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	The project works with targeted pilot measures in four countries, providing needs-based training opportunities to increase employability among the voluntary returnees. The project aims to support migrants in their voluntary decision to return to their home country.	Return and reintegration of forcibly displaced people and international migrants: https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/52739.html Skills for Recognition: https://www.giz.de/en/downloads/Skills%20for%20Reintegration%20(EN).pdf

Policy/Programme response	Issues addressed	Countries	Responsible	Description	Reference
Somos Mexicanos (We are Mexicans)	Ensuring access to the development and recognition of skills and qualifications/ Strengthening the employability of return migrants/Expanding return migrants' access to social protection	Mexico	Mexican Ministry of the Interior	The programme focuses on helping Mexican returnees with their social reintegration into Mexico and strengthening their social and cultural ties, ensuring a dignified, productive and beneficial return to them, and their families' welfare. The programme has a multi-pronged approach in coordination with major stakeholders, NGOs, private sector and government agencies. Somos Mexicanos provides support on food and health, identity, communication to families, transfer and shelter, access to identification papers, certification of qualifications and experience abroad, skills re-training, health benefits, and information on jobs and investment opportunities. The programme also provides access to an online job bank as a platform to match the recorded profiles and skills of job seekers with potential employers.	Effective return and reintegration of migrant workers with special focus on ASEAN Member States: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---sro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_733917.pdf Estrategia Somos Mexicanos: https://www.gob.mx/inm/acciones-y-programas/estrategia-somos-mexicanos
Assist WELL Program	Strengthening the employability of return migrants/Promoting entrepreneurship, business development and financial inclusion	Philippines	Department of Labour and Employment (DOLE)	The programme provides various reintegration assistance/services. The activities include assistance on welfare (including temporary shelter, transport to residence, medical referral, stress debriefing), employment (including job placement, competency assessment and skills training), livelihood (including entrepreneurial development training, business loan assistance, hands-on business mentoring) and legal (including advice, conciliation proceedings). The target groups are required to finish the Small Business Management Training and Financial Awareness Seminar to prepare them to manage a small business enterprise.	The Assist WELL Program: - https://www.poea.gov.ph/AssistWELL/navigation/services.htm

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The Happy Return Programme of the Employment Permit System	Strengthening the employability of return migrants	Republic of Korea	Employment Permit System (EPS)	The programme aims to minimize overstay of temporary migrant workers, facilitate their reintegration into their home countries and help them use their newly acquired skills. It provides vocational training; pre-return recruitment service, including assistance in applying for jobs in Korean companies located in the worker's home country, and administrative support for insurance benefit claims.	Happy Return Programme: Skills enhancement for Return and Reintegration: https://gfmd.org/pfp/ppd/1689 Effective return and reintegration of migrant workers with special focus on ASEAN Member States: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---sro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_733917.pdf
"Returning Experts" Programme	Strengthening the employability of return migrants	Albania, Cameroon, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Kosovo, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Palestinian territories, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Tunisia, Ukraine, Viet Nam	Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM)	The programme focuses on knowledge transfer and provides advisory and placement services to foster well-informed choices. It supports diaspora individuals who live and have worked or completed their education or training there to return to their home country to use their skills, knowledge or contacts. CIM provides advisory and placement services as well as financial support for positions important to development policy.	Developing a Road Map for Engaging Diasporas in Development: https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/thediasporahandbook-Chapter8.pdf Apply now and help bring about change in your home country: https://www.cimonline.de/en/html/returning-experts.html#:~:text=CIM's%20returning%20experts%20programme%20focuses,employers%20in%20their%20home%20country

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Reintegration Package for Returnees: "Support to the reintegration of returnees in Ethiopia"	Promoting entrepreneurship, business development and financial inclusion/ Strengthening the employability of return migrants/Investing in community-led resilience and response systems	Ethiopia	ILO, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of Ethiopia and funded by the European Union	The package includes a range of interventions at different stages of return such as pre-departure, immediate post-return, short-term reintegration and long-term reintegration. The project considers a community-based assistance for its interventions to avoid preferential treatment and conflicts between return migrants and host/local communities, paying particular attention to both vulnerable groups within the returnees, including women, youth or victims of abuse and exploitation and in individuals in local communities, including unemployed youth, female-headed households and persons with disabilities. Some of the interventions include the provision of psychosocial support; intensive awareness campaigns (via media and NGOs); economic empowerment of returnees, including training in entrepreneurship, financial literacy, vocational skills and business development services; placement in wage employment through private sector partnerships; developing standardized training modules with local vocational training institutes for delivery of training; access to finance through revolving funds; and building the capacity of national providers for reintegration.	Support to the Reintegration of Returnees in Ethiopia- https://www.ilo.org/africa/technical-cooperation/WCMS_402981/lang-en/index.htm Effective return and reintegration of migrant workers with special focus on ASEAN Member States: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---sro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_733917.pdf Support to the Reintegration of Returnees in Ethiopia: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---africa/---ro-abidjan/---sro-addis-ababa/documents/publication/wcms_711018.pdf
Women REACH (WR) Program	Reducing gender gaps	Philippines	Department of Labour and Employment (DOLE), National Reintegration Center for OFWs, Coca-Cola Philippines	The programme focuses on helping OFWs female returnees to cope and start their reintegration process in the Philippines. The economic empowerment of female returnees is achieved through the provision of an integrated intervention composed by different modules: entrepreneurship training, access to start-up assistance, access to microfinance, access to a pool of business coaches.	Coca-Cola Phils., DOLE empower women OFWs via entrepreneurship: https://businessmirror.com.ph/2016/03/15/coca-cola-philis-dole-empower-women-ofws-via-entrepreneurship/

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Plan Bienvenid@s a Casa: Por un regreso voluntario, digno y sostenible (Welcome Home Programme for a voluntary, dignified and sustainable return)	Promoting entrepreneurship, business development and financial inclusion	Ecuador	National Migration Secretariat (now replaced by the Ministry of Human Mobility)	The programme was created in 2007 to offer training in entrepreneurship and financial issues to returning migrants. Welcome Home Program facilitates support, initiatives and aid to those who wish to return to Ecuador. Some of the activities include one-way tickets, various workshops, language classes as well as business subsidies and low-interest loans are also available for programme beneficiaries. The Welcome Home Programme includes three different initiatives: 1. Vinculos (Links programme): provides virtual social networking platforms between Ecuador emigrants with their families and communities; 2. Programa de incentivos productivos (Incentives and Orientation programme): facilitates social and productive investments through small loans and technical assistance to migrants; 3. Volver a Casa (Return Home programme): supports migrants' return before departure from destination countries and enables recognition of certifications acquired abroad, access to housing credits and vocational training.	Effective return and reintegration of migrant workers with special focus on ASEAN Member States: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---sro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_733917.pdf Welcome Home Plan (Ecuador) - http://gfmd.org/pfp/ppd/53
Reintegration and Development Assistance in Afghanistan (Rada) (From 2017 to 2021)	Promoting entrepreneurship, business development and financial inclusion	Afghanistan	Funded by the EU and implemented by IOM and the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation	The project is implemented in Baghlan, Balkh, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunar, Laghman and Nangarhar (provinces of high return) with an integrated approach to the economic, social and psychosocial aspects of reintegration at the individual and community levels. Some of the activities to achieve sustainable reintegration are: Integrated Community Development Projects, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SME) scale-up, SME Start-up, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Social and Psychosocial Reintegration.	Reintegration and Development Assistance in Afghanistan (RADA) - https://afghanistan.iom.int/sites/default/files/Reports/radafactsheet.oct28.2020.pdf Reintegration Assistance and Development in Afghanistan (RADA): https://afghanistan.iom.int/sites/default/files/rada-factsheet-jan.19-final.pdf

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Country of Origin Migrant Support Centre (CAMPO)	Promoting entrepreneurship, business development and financial inclusion	Cape Verde	Portuguese Institute for Development Assistance	The project aims to facilitate the reintegration of Cape Verdeans returning from EU countries into the labour market in Cape Verde. It provides information to potential returnees about: investment opportunities, the legal steps to start a business, fiscal incentives and taxes, labour laws, social assistance, access to credit, and other information.	Effective return and reintegration of migrant workers with special focus on ASEAN Member States: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---sro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_733917.pdf Country of Origin Migrant Support Centre (CAMPO): https://www.instituto-camoes.pt/en/activity-camoes/what-we-do/co-operation/programmes-and-projects/previous-projects/campo-country-of-origin-migrant-support-centre
Livelihood Development Assistance Programme (LDAP)	Promoting entrepreneurship, business development and financial inclusion	Philippines	Department of Labour and Employment (DOLE), National Reintegration Center for OFWs	The programme launched in 2011 aims to provide grants for livelihood assistance to undocumented OFW returnees. The LDAP has provided livelihood projects such as sari-sari stores, beauty parlours, rice trading, machine shops, and furniture making, among others. Beneficiaries receive a business enterprise start-up kit worth P10,000 which consist of the materials of their proposed business. Target groups are required to finish the Small Business Management Training and Financial Awareness Seminar to prepare them to manage a small business enterprise.	Livelihood Development Assistance Program (LDAP) - http://www.nrcdoile.gov.ph/index.php/programs-and-services/livelihood-development-assistance-program-ldap
Sustainable Reintegration through Livelihood Support: "El Salvador es tu Casa"	Investing in community-led resilience and response systems/Promoting entrepreneurship, business development and financial inclusion	El Salvador	FAO, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)	FAO is supporting sustainable economic and psychosocial reintegration in high return rural areas. FAO has been supporting the Salvadoran authorities in the implementation of "El Salvador es tu Casa", a programme that promotes organization and associativity among returnee groups, and coordination mechanisms to support the implementation of productive projects in rural areas and their livelihoods' recovery as well as strengthening social cohesion.	Migration as a choice and an opportunity for rural development: http://www.fao.org/3/ca3984en/CA3984EN.pdf

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Balik Pinay! Balik Hanapbuhay! Program (Return Filipina! Return to a Livelihood!)	Reducing gender gaps	Philippines	Department of Labour and Employment (DOLE), National Reintegration Center for OFWs	The programme was created in 2011 to enable vulnerable female OFW returnees to take training to develop skills for employability or to operate livelihood undertakings through self-employment. The target group is women returnees, and priority is given to distressed women OFWs displaced by the hostilities and conflicts in the Middle East, or victims of illegal recruitment and human trafficking and other distressed and displaced women household service workers.	Balik Pinay! Balik Hanapbuhay! Program: http://www.nrcodole.gov.ph/index.php/programs-and-services/balik-pinay-balik-hanapbuhay-program Reintegration background report: https://www.itsilo.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Reintegration-Background-report_web.pdf
Sub-policy and National Action Plan on Return and Reintegration of Migrant Workers	Investing in community-led resilience and response systems	Sri Lanka	Government of Sri Lanka, ILO	The policy includes a comprehensive action plan towards returnees as well as their families and communities. Some of the inclusive strategies are setting up a special unit support safe and dignified return and reintegration; developing "Once Stop Centres" in each district/division for the provision of information on economic, health and training services to returnees; and creating an inter-agency committee to monitor the reintegration plan's implementation	Reintegration background report: https://www.itsilo.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Reintegration-Background-report_web.pdf

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UNDP 3x6 approach	Investing in community-led resilience and response systems	Burundi	UNDP	The 3x6 crisis response approach was created in 2010, targeting both refugee returnees and vulnerable locals. The approach has three phases: 1. Inclusion: returnees and locals voluntarily engage and work together in community-defined projects and produce direct dividends, of which half can be taken, and the other half invested. 2. Ownership: beneficiaries can work together at the end of the programme to invest their own savings and associate to develop projects or businesses, creating livelihood opportunities through employment and self-employment. In this approach, the collective amount invested from the savings from the work programme is matched by three times the amount invested by UNDP (i.e., \$100 invested by the beneficiaries will be matched by UNDP's \$300, resulting in a total investment of US\$400 for the association). 3. Sustainability: UNDP assists to ensure the projects' sustainability and the livelihoods of the beneficiaries through the creation of employment and productive capacities.	Reintegration background report: https://www.italo.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Reintegration-Background-report_web.pdf Burundi 3x6 Post-Conflict Reintegration: https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/partners/private_sector/undpprivate_sectorcasestudies/burundi-3x6-post-conflict-reintegration
EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in Cameroon	Social Dialogue	Cameroon	IOM and Government of Cameroon	The collaboration and dialogue among both actors have been established through regular consultations between reintegration stakeholders while setting formal and informal meetings, working sessions and workshops as instruments to involve the government as an active partner at both strategic and field operations level.	Practice #5- Establishing a permanent whole-of-government dialogue to foster ownership and sustainability of reintegration mechanisms in Cameroon: https://returnandreintegration.iom.int/system/files/resources/document/practice_5_en_establishing_a_permaent_whole-of-government_dialogue_in_cameroon.pdf?type=node&id=639&lang=en

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Programmes to support migrant workers	Protection of migrants' rights and access to decent work	Brazil, Chile, New Zealand, Tunisia, Qatar	Brazil, Chile, New Zealand, Tunisia, Qatar	In Brazil, migrant workers, both regular and irregular, and refugees were eligible for a support programme for the unemployed. Other countries gave access to unemployment benefits, but only to those with regular status. For instance, Chile established an Emergency Stipend (Bono de Emergencia COVID-19) programme for vulnerable families. New Zealand and Tunisia made their Wage Subsidy Scheme available to migrants. Qatar Development Bank (QDB) launched the National Guarantee Programme of QAR 3bn (\$825m) which guarantees local banks to grant interest-free loans to private companies to support wage payments and rents which could benefit migrant workers.	Protecting migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/-ed_protect/-protrav/-migrant/documents/publication/wcms_743268.pdf
A Child Rights Approach to the Sustainable Reintegration of Migrant Children and Families	The challenges of return and reintegration	Global	UNICEF/IOM	The module is conceived as a hands-on tool on how to integrate and promote appropriate reintegration practices for returnee children. It focuses on strengthening child protection and social welfare systems, case management to facilitate referral to education, social protection, health care, access to justice and other appropriate services, and recommends the prioritization of community and family resources and practices.	A Child Rights Approach to the Sustainable Reintegration of Migrant Children and Families: https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iom-reintegration-handbook-module-6.pdf
#StandUp4Migrants	Fighting against discrimination and xenophobia	Global	OHCHR	Campaign and toolkit to reshape narratives on migration illustrates ways in which everyone can contribute to narrative change and elevate the voices of migrants, the communities that welcome them, and those who defend their rights, including those showing solidarity in Europe during the pandemic.	#StandUp4Migrants: https://www.standup4humanrights.org/migration/en/index.html

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Provision of gender-based violence protection and assistance services	Gender, entitlement and social protection gaps	Spain, Portugal and the state of New York (USA), France, Argentina.	Spain, Portugal and the state of New York (USA), France, Argentina.	Spain, Portugal and the state of New York (USA), declared the provision of gender-based violence protection and assistance services as essential to remain operational during the lockdown. France introduced the code word "Mask 19" so victims of domestic violence can go to pharmacies and report their cases using the code. Argentina launched a campaign for women to call or go to pharmacies asking for a "red surgical mask" as a code word to seek help.	COVID-19 and the Human Rights of Migrants: Guidance: https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Women/COVID-19_and_Womens_Human_Rights.pdf
Initiatives to ensure availability and accessibility of sexual and reproductive health services	Gender, entitlement and social protection gaps	Netherlands, United Kingdom, France	Netherlands, United Kingdom, France	The Netherlands midwife teams have equipped hotels (that were closed during the pandemic) to provide maternity care. The United Kingdom Midwifery Unit Network, following the Dutch initiative, also recommended establishing makeshift birthing centres near hospitals, while the government changed its regulation to allow women to take abortion pills at home during the pandemic instead of travelling to a clinic. France guaranteed the delivery of contraceptive pills to women, including those who were unable to renew their prescriptions.	COVID-19 and the Human Rights of Migrants: Guidance: https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Women/COVID-19_and_Womens_Human_Rights.pdf

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Initiatives for better data on migration	Improving data collection and disaggregation on migration	Global	IOM, Migration Network Hub, UN DESA, ILO, UNICEF, UNHCR, OECD, UNODC.	Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) and its Migration Data Portal aims to function as a platform that brings together comprehensive and timely data on migration at the global level. Migration Network Hub, as a "platform intended to share migration knowledge, expertise, good practices and initiatives related to GCM among Member States, practitioners and UN system" provides evidence-based migration policy. UN DESA is conducting ongoing work on migrant stocks, and the ILO is working on labour migration statistics, including global and regional estimates on international migrant workers. The ILO ASEAN triangle project gathers data on migrant flows in South-East Asia. The International Data Alliance for Children on the Move is an example of an initiative co-led by UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM and OECD; its overall objective is to improve statistics and data on migrant children to support evidence-based policymaking for their protection and empowerment. UNODC launched in 2020 the first UN Observatory on the Smuggling of Migrants, to assess the characteristics, drivers and impacts of migrant smuggling in rapidly changing contexts in the Mediterranean area.	About the Migration Data Portal: https://migrationdataportal.org/about International migrant stock 2019: https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/estimates19.asp UN Network on Migration Launches "Migration Network Hub", a Knowledge and Solutions Platform on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: https://www.iom.int/news/un-network-migration-launches-migration-network-hub-knowledge-and-solutions-platform-global International Data Alliance for Children on the Move (IDAC): / 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---stat/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_648922.pdf UNODC Research on Smuggling of Migrants: https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/som-observatory.html

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Guidelines to mitigate the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on migrants and their families	Expanding migrants' and their families' access to social protection	Global	OHCHR/ UNICEF	OHCHR's guidance on COVID-19 and the Human Rights of Migrants and UNICEF's Technical Note on Social Protection for Children and Families in the Context of Migration and Displacement during COVID-19 provide recommendations to mitigate the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on migrants, including on children and families in the context of migration. UNICEF's Technical Note includes recommendations to address barriers that prevent access to social protection services, such as establishing firewalls to ensure undocumented migrants can access services without being detected, detained or deported by immigration authorities or law enforcement.	COVID-19 and the Human Rights of Migrants: Guidance: https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Migration/OHCHRGuidance_COVID19_Migrants.pdf Social Protection for Children and Families in the Context of Migration and Displacement during COVID-19: https://www.unicef.org/media/83531/file/Social-Protection-for-Children-and-Families-in-the-Context-of-Migration-and-Displacement-during-COVID-19.pdf