

MIGRATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY & THE IOM DEVELOPMENT FUND

GUIDANCE NOTE: PROJECT DEVELOPMENT



This guidance note provides orientation to country offices developing proposals for the IOM Development Fund on how to use the [Migration and Sustainable Development Strategy](#) as a key instrument to streamline the Migration & Sustainable Development approach into Fund projects.

CONTEXT:

In 2019, IOM launched its first ever [institutional strategy on Migration & Sustainable Development \(M&SD\)](#). The Strategy directly responds to recent changes in both the global governance of migration and the UN Development System to foster increased collaboration in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The M&SD Strategy is aligned with the IOM Strategic Vision and grounds IOM's approach in efforts to leverage migration for sustainable development. It will allow for IOM projects to link with broader initiatives of the UN Development System to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In light of IOM's new role as a member of the UN Development System, this will ensure that our contribution to sustainable development is evidenced and recognized by member states and counterparts on all levels.

THE M&SD STRATEGY AND THE IOM DEVELOPMENT FUND:

The IOM Development Fund is a key element of IOM's support to Member States towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It adapts to the priorities of IOM Member States and allows the targeting of policy areas in the field of migration and development that are not always prioritized by bilateral cooperation actors. Thus, it is crucial to capture the impacts of Fund projects, aligning those interventions with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the M&SD Strategy.

This involves defining the SDGs and targets relevant to each project outcome, and clearly indicating how projects contribute towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Agenda. As the M&SD Strategy is complementary to IOM's Strategic Vision, it can connect the broader development language of the UN System and migration-specific language.



For more information and support, please contact IOM's Migration and Sustainable Development Unit at migration4development@iom.int or the IOM Development Fund at iomdevelopmentfund@iom.int



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Using the M&SD Strategy in Conceptualization and Project Development

The M&SD strategy can be a useful tool for project developers and project managers throughout the stages of project development in two distinct ways:

1. **As a resource** to identify links between migration and development during conceptualization, to strengthen the theory of change of your project and ensure coherence in migration and development theory, language and application.

The M&SD Strategy provides several entry points for working on the Migration and Sustainable Development Nexus and is built on a comprehensive theory of change that can be used to strengthen the case of your project in support of sustainable development. By including the elements of the M&SD strategy, you will be able to ensure that the impact of your project for wider sustainable development is clearly stated.

2. **As a strategic communication tool** to link projects with the priorities in UN Strategic Development Cooperation Frameworks and to communicate to the UN System and governments the way in which IOM is working as a development actor.

Ensuring coherence and complementarity of the contributions of the UN System, including IOM, to national and regional development processes is one of the key messages of the UN reform process. The Fund can be an important tool for strengthening partnerships with other UN agencies and communicating IOM's contribution to sustainable development through the UN Development Cooperation Frameworks. In using the theory of change for the migration and development nexus, you will already have established the key elements in which your project will contribute to sustainable development and you will be able to communicate it clearly to the UN Country Team.

IOM's Migration and Sustainable Development Strategy

The M&SD strategy lays out three main outcomes with respective key deliverables through which IOM's support to migration and sustainable development can be leveraged:



Examples of Use of the M&SD Strategy in Project Development

Example 1: Strengthening government capacities to mobilize diaspora potential for development

• **Situation:** Your project aims to work with government institutions to leverage diaspora capacities for national development processes. You have received clear ideas from your government counterpart and are assessing the complementarity with other development processes.

• **Recommendation:** Consult Chapter 2 (p.5) of the Migration and Sustainable Development Strategy for further argumentation on the impact of diaspora mobilization on sustainable development processes.

You will also find relevant information on diaspora and development under Deliverable 2.3 (p.24), which mentions possible entry points and initiatives to align your project with global IOM and UN initiatives (e.g. the iDiaspora Platform).

Finally, you can consult IOM's guide on Migration and the 2030 Agenda to identify links between the project and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to highlight ways the project can maximize the positive impact of diaspora communities on national development processes.

• **Result:** With the elements above, your project can clearly highlight the positive contribution of diaspora groups to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and can be presented in that context both to the UN System and in IOM's global report to Member States.



Example 2: Enhancing migrant integration and social cohesion

• **Situation:** Your government counterpart has requested the IOM Development Fund's support to tackle migrant discrimination and xenophobia. Your project rationale and theory of change is built around improving social cohesion, but you are looking to increase the coherence with the national development plan.

• **Recommendation:** Consult p.10 of the M&SD strategy on the impact of migration and sustainable development nexus on the local/meso level, as well as Deliverable 2.3 (p.24) and consider including elements such as the following paragraph to your project rationale and theory of change:

"The absence of effective integration policies can undermine social cohesion, generate social tensions, increase migrant vulnerabilities and thereby pose additional development challenges for host communities. By addressing the challenges of integration and promoting social cohesion, migrants' agency to support sustainable development processes through their economic and social capital can be strengthened, acting as an accelerator for achieving the sustainable development goals."

• **Result:** The theory of change of your project is now clearly linked with broader impact on development processes, allowing you to:

- Identify indicators to measure this impact throughout all project activities (further guidance on measuring impact using the Strategy is forthcoming).
- Link up your project with global IOM initiatives implemented under Deliverable 3 of the M&SD strategy.
- Integrate your project into the UN Development Cooperation Framework, connect with other UN agencies working on local development processes and leverage additional funding.

Key Resources:

[IOM Migration & Sustainable Development Strategy](#) - Institutional strategy, outlining IOM's approach on migration and sustainable development.

[Migration and the 2030 Agenda: A Guide for Practitioners](#) - Tool to identify linkages between the SDGs and migration in policy planning and implementation.

[JMDI Toolbox](#) - Tool to mainstream migration into local development planning, containing thematic modules and best practices.

[Integrating Migration into COVID-19 Response and Recovery: A Guide and Toolkit for Development Partners](#) - Draft guide and toolkit to mainstream migration into COVID-19 socio-economic response and recovery programming.

Please consult the [Migration and Sustainable Development Sharepoint](#) for the latest resources.

Additional Information on the M&SD Strategy

THE MIGRATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT NEXUS

The key premise of the M&SD Strategy is that migration impacts development, and simultaneously development processes impact migration dynamics. While migration can be a powerful driver of sustainable development for migrants and their communities in countries of origin, transit and destination, both development achievements and weaknesses have an impact on migration.

The ways in which governments incorporate the migration and development nexus in their governance mechanisms and policy planning can therefore considerably shape the success of migration's contributions to sustainable development outcomes.

This requires evidence-based policies, strong institutional frameworks, clear objectives and a long-term perspective. Both development-focused and migration-specific interventions should be better designed, coordinated and evaluated to maximize the benefits of the nexus. Policy coherence between migration and development interventions should be a key lens moving forward.



THEORY OF CHANGE AND THE M&SD STRATEGY

IOM's approach seeks to maximize the potential of migration to achieve sustainable development outcomes for migrants and societies alike. This recognizes that migration, when it is well-managed, can be both a development strategy and a development outcome. As migration and sustainable development are multidimensional and interdependent, the theory of change seeks to apply a comprehensive perspective through three main outcomes.

Outcome 1: Human mobility is increasingly a choice

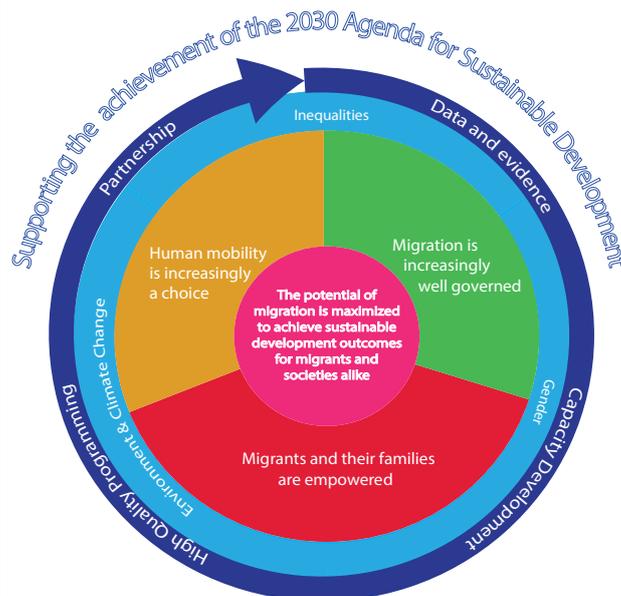
In order to ensure that human mobility can become a choice rather than a necessity, IOM will work to build resilience and coping capacities of population along the mobility path, as well as support creating opportunities so that people can move safely and regularly to fulfil their personal aspirations.

Outcome 2: Migrants and their families are empowered as development actors

By addressing the barriers migrants face to reaching their development potential and ensuring respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights, migrants can be empowered as development actors and contribute to sustainable development.

Outcome 3: Migration is increasingly well governed

The political, socioeconomic, developmental and migration governance structures can largely influence the impact of migration on sustainable development. By strengthening migration governance as part of broader sustainable development planning on all levels, the positive impact of migration for the achievement of the SDGs can be leveraged.



THE M&SD STRATEGY IN LIGHT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 crisis is affecting sustainable development scenarios globally, and the UN System, including IOM, is stepping up to support governments in mitigating COVID-19's impact and boosting recovery efforts (see the [UNSG Report on Socio-Economic Impacts of COVID-19](#)). Fund projects will need to integrate considerations of this new reality. You can use the Migration and Sustainable Development Strategy to better understand the interrelation between the pandemic, migration and development, but also to identify opportunities to include migrants as contributing agents in all phases of the recovery process towards sustainable development.

For instance, Chapter 2 of the M&SD strategy explains the Migration and Sustainable Development Nexus and the complex way in which migration and sustainable development interact. This is an important lens that you can use when analyzing the way in which COVID-19 is having primary and secondary impacts on both migration and development, as well as identifying possibilities in which migrants can contribute to the response and recovery process. For further examples, you can also consult the additional resources on COVID-19 referenced [here](#).