



FAQs on the World Migration Report series

How often is the World Migration Report published by IOM?

The World Migration Report is published every two years by IOM. The first edition was published in 2000, and the current edition (2022) is the eleventh in the series.

Who produces the World Migration Report?

IOM's Migration Research Division leads the development, writing, production and dissemination of the report. Producing each edition is a highly collaborative process involving IOM colleagues from around the world who contribute to drafting, data, expert review, online data visualization, dissemination, media communications, advocacy, promotion, fundraising and translation. The Research Division also draws on external research partners to maximize the benefits of research-policy-practice collaboration to ensure relevant and rigorous analysis for a wide and growing audience globally.

More about the Migration Research Division can be found [here](#).

Does the World Migration Report focus on a specific topic or theme?

No, the World Migration Report covers key data and information on a wide range of topics - such as migrants, displaced populations, mobility, international remittances, migration flows and trends - as well as deep-dives into specific thematic areas, such as climate change and migration, human trafficking, migration and development, COVID-19, disinformation about migration, artificial intelligence and more.

The thematic chapters change from report to report and focus on complex and/or emerging issues that are highly relevant to migration policy and practice.

Prior to 2016, World Migration Reports did cover a single thematic topic, but this was revised following a review to ensure that the growing readership's information and analysis needs were met through a global reference report on migration covering both data trends analysis and complex thematic issues.

Who funds the World Migration Report?

The World Migration Report is partially core funded by IOM. The majority of funding is secured through external and internal fundraising. Donors include Member States, philanthropic foundations, the private sector, IOM's Regional and Country Offices and IOM's Migration Resource Allocation Committee.

For more information on the funding model of the World Migration Report, see the [Evaluation of the World Migration Report](#) by the Office of the Inspector General (section 2.5).

For the list of donors, see the [World Migration Report's donors page](#).

How is the World Migration Report used by readers?

The World Migration Report is widely used as a key reference on migration globally by States, the media, researchers and students, practitioners and IOM offices worldwide. Below are some illustrations of how the report is used:

- ◆ **Governments:** The report is used by government officials as a key tool for evidence-based policy development, as well as reference background material for preparing high-level meetings and briefing senior officials. The report allows national and local officials better understand global and regional migration trends and contexts as well as complex policy-related issues (such as climate change and migration, and migration and development).
- ◆ **United Nations:** The World Migration Report is used extensively within the United Nations system as it covers the full spectrum of migration, mobility and displacement data, trends and thematic issues. It is referenced in key documents at the intergovernmental level, such as by in United Nations Headquarters documents and Secretary-General reports, and used as a support for States during consultations of the United Nations Network on Migration.
- ◆ **Media:** The World Migration Report is widely used by journalists as a key reference for objective and balanced information on migration and migrants, with hundreds of mentions in diverse media outlets in multiple languages. The report has also been used by the media as a fact-checker to counter misinformation on migration and migrants.
- ◆ **Researchers:** As a high-quality and rigorous source of information and analysis, the World Migration Report is extensively cited in academic and applied research with more than 3.5 million mentions for the entire series recorded on Google Scholar as of November 2021. The report is also often included in reading lists of migration courses in universities worldwide, while professors and lecturers often use infographics from the report to explain complex migration trends and patterns in classes.
- ◆ **Teachers and students:** The World Migration Report is used in classroom settings around the world by teachers and students across a range of subject areas, most notably human geography, economics, social science. Many teachers benefit from the [World Migration Educators' Toolkit](#), which provides learning modules designed for classroom settings.

For more information on the usage of the World Migration Report, see the [Evaluation of the World Migration Report](#) by the Office of the Inspector General.

Feedback on the report from IOM Member States, the academia and other partners is available [here](#).

Can I use the World Migration Report in my own work?

Yes, you can use the World Migration Report in your own work as long as the report is appropriately cited, used for non-commercial purposes and not adapted or altered (see copyrights conditions in next section).

Feel free to use the report in your media/research article, blog, classroom or any other context. According to feedback received, readers have found particularly useful to copy-paste infographics and figures from the report into an article or presentation or to use the World Migration Report interactive webpage for a dynamic and visual illustration of trends and patterns over time.

What copyright applies to the World Migration Report?

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For more information, please visit IOM's Publications Platform webpage on copyright and terms of use available [here](#).

Requests for commercial use of further rights and licensing should be submitted to publications@iom.int.

FAQs on language translations

How many languages is the World Migration Report produced in?

Over the years, IOM has worked on improving the accessibility of the World Migration Report through increasing the number of translations of the report. The last edition, the World Migration Report 2020, is available in a total of 10 language outputs. This includes translations of the entire report in the six official languages of the United Nations, that is, Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish, as well as translation of key chapters of the report into German, Portuguese, Swahili and Turkish.

As for any edition, the availability of the World Migration Report 2022 in different languages is subject to available funding as translations are not covered by IOM's core funding for the report. Depending on the language, translations may take up to 8-12 months to be completed.

The World Migration Report 2022 is currently being translated into Arabic, French, Spanish and Russian.

If you wish to fund a translation of the World Migration Report 2022 in your country's language or another language, please reach out to us at research@iom.int

For more information on funding for translations, see the [Evaluation of the World Migration Report](#) by the Office of the Inspector General (Recommendation no. 3).

Which are the priority languages and why?

While the World Migration Report is first produced in English, IOM prioritizes the translation of the report in the other two IOM official languages, that is, French and Spanish. As a United Nations-related agency, priority is then placed on the other official languages of the United Nations, namely, Arabic, Chinese and Russian.

Other translations focus on languages from developing countries to ensure their access to evidence-based and balanced information and analysis on migration and migrants. The availability of the report in developing countries' languages is indeed crucial as most government officials work in their countries' official language(s) on a daily basis. Similarly, it is easier for the media to access reliable and balanced information in their country's language(s), which supports, at the same time, efforts to counter mis- and disinformation on migration and migrants and by extension discrimination, xenophobia and racism against migrants.

If you wish to fund a translation of the World Migration Report 2022 in your country's language or another language, please reach out to us at research@iom.int.

FAQs on the World Migration Report tools

Other than the report itself, what other tools are available?

Keeping up with digital developments and need to tailored information and analysis to its ever-increasing audience, the World Migration Report has become over the years way more than a PDF report sitting on a virtual shelf. A number of related-tools are currently available or in development to better respond to the needs of the Word Migration Report's audiences. These include:

The World Migration Report interactive webpage

The [interactive webpage](#) is a highly dynamic digital platform that draws upon the extensive analysis of migration trends and patterns in the World Migration Report. Data visualizations allow users to explore and interact with some of the latest migration data and information.

The WMR interactive was recognized at the [2021 International Annual Report Design Awards \(IADA\) competition](#), winning Gold in the online category.

The World Migration Fact-Checkers' Toolkit

The World Migration Fact-Checkers' Toolkit entails a set of resources designed to combat misinformation about migration and migrants around the world. The Toolkit aims to support fact-checkers in addressing myths and disinformation about migration by using the latest data, research, information and analysis from the World Migration Report series.

The Fact-Checkers' toolkit is available in French, English and Spanish and will be regularly updated and expanded.

The World Migration Educators' Toolkit

Drawing upon the extensive research and analysis made in the World Migration Report series, and reviewed by education and migration experts, the [World Migration Educators' Toolkit](#) supports educators teaching students about human migration and displacement through a set of flexible modules containing activities to enhance data literacy and reading and comprehension skills. The module content covers all six UN regions, is interdisciplinary in scope, and thematically diverse.

An interactive digital version is currently in development.

The World Migration Digital Toolkit for Policy Officials (forthcoming)

A [World Migration Digital Toolkit for Policy Officials](#) is currently being developed in partnership with the [Global Migration Centre](#) (GMC) at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies. The toolkit aims to respond to the existing need of policy officers for accessible and tailored digital tools to better leverage migration research for evidence-based policymaking.

The project is funded by the [Geneva-Science Policy Interface](#) (GSPI) as part of its Impact Collaboration Programme, a competitive grant programme aiming at supporting impactful science-policy collaborations.

For more information, please visit the project's webpage on [GSPI website](#) and [GMC website](#).

Are these tools available in other languages than English?

The [interactive webpage](#) and the World Migration Fact-Checkers' Toolkit are available in the three IOM official languages, that is, English, French and Spanish.

As the World Migration Report itself, translation of the Educators' and Policy Officials' toolkits depends on external funding secured. Funding support for translating these tools is welcome on an ongoing basis.

If you wish to fund the translation of one or more of these tools in your country's language or in another language, please reach out to us at research@iom.int.

FAQs on migration statistics

Does IOM use only its own data for the World Migration Report?

No. In addition to IOM data, the World Migration Report uses data and statistics from several other key global data sources produced by United Nations agencies or other international organizations, such as the United Nations Department Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Bank, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), among others.

Why do the international migrant population (stock) statistics for previous years differ in each edition of the World Migration Report?

The international migrant population (stock) statistics presented in the *World Migration Report 2022* are obtained from the dataset International Migrant Stock 2020 (UN DESA), which contains estimates of the total number of international migrants by age, sex, origin country and destination country. The foreign-born population statistics obtained from ongoing population censuses, population registers and nationally representative surveys underpinning the estimated number and composition of international migrants feed into the International Migrant Stock dataset, which is updated from time to time. Therefore, historical data are revised in the data set to reflect the most up-to-date data submitted by countries.

Why is it that some countries' own statistics on international migrants are different to those used in the World Migration Report?

There can be many reasons for this, including definitional issues, reporting date and timing of statistical collection, to name a few. For example, in countries in which citizenship (not country of birth) is used to determine migration status, people who were born in the country of residence may be categorized as 'international migrants' in a country's own statistics, even though they may have never lived abroad and are not in the UN DESA international migrant stock.

Are refugees included in the international migrant population statistics? If so, why?

Yes because the UN DESA International Migrant Stock dataset is based on "foreign born", not policy category or immigration status. See methodological discussion in UN DESA's dataset [Documentation](#).

FAQs on quality assurance

What quality assurances processes have been developed to ensure the content of the World Migration Report is robust?

IOM ensures that the World Migration Report is produced to high quality standards. The report is co-edited and co-authored

with some of the leading academic and applied researchers in the world. Moreover, the Migration Research Division (MRD), which produces the World Migration Report, has a small team of highly skilled and experienced researchers and consultants who work on the report.

Geographic diversity of authorship, sources, academic peer reviewers and IOM expert reviewers is a priority to ensure the report truly is a *world* migration report. Gender balance is also a critical issue.

Prior to drafting, an author workshop is held to outline and discuss the quality assurance measures, IOM style rules, target audience, chapter/report content, etc. All thematic chapters are peer-reviewed by IOM specialists as well as leading academic experts. Thematic chapters that are not of sufficient quality are rejected by the IOM Editor, with due regard to feedback from the academic co-editor and IOM/academic peer reviewers.

The World Migration Report follows strict protocol referencing, including checking all statistics, ensuring sources are reputable and using primary sources, rather than secondary sources. Data is verified to the extent possible through data-checking, and all content is copy-edited prior to finalization.

Are these QA processes used for all IOM publications?

Many IOM publications go through a QA process to ensure that they meet key standards set by the Organization. However, as IOM's flagship publication, with extensive data, information and analysis at the global, regional and sub-regional levels, the World Migration Report applies an extended QA process to make sure that it meets the highest standards possible.

FAQs on design

Who designs the World Migration Report?

The design of the World Migration Report is based on design principles that heighten clarity of data and analytical output, such as is found in user-pays publishing settings. The editor and head of the Migration Research Division works together with IOM's Senior Publications Specialist and the head of the Online Communications Unit to develop report and webpage design outputs, such as the online data visualization platform.

The *World Migration Report 2020* was recognized at the [2021 International Annual Report Design Awards \(IADA\) competition](#), winning gold in the online category and silver in the PDF category.

Are specialists used for the World Migration Report data visualization platform?

In addition to working closely with IOM's Online Communications Unit, who design and provide technical support for the [World Migration Report webpage](#), we also work with some of the leading data visualization specialists to produce digital tools such as the award-winning [Interactive Platform](#).



The World Migration Report series is produced by IOM's Migration Research Division.
For further question, please email research@iom.int.