

MIEUX Case Study Kenya (2017-2019)

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International Centre for
Migration Policy Development

How to read this case study?

MIEUX Thematic Areas



Migration and
Development



Legal Migration
and Mobility



Irregular Migration
and Trafficking in
Human Beings



International Protection
and Asylum Policy



Horizontal
Interventions

Ten features of good practice in MIEUX Actions

- 1 There should be ownership on the part of the partner country
- 2 Actions should provide an opportunity to be innovative in their context
- 3 Actions should be able to be replicated
- 4 Actions should provide tangible results
- 5 Actions should be endorsed at a high level
- 6 Actions should be integrated into existing priorities
- 7 Actions should be based on the highest levels of experience
- 8 Actions should complement and be in synergy with other initiatives
- 9 Actions should provide EU added value
- 10 Actions should act as a catalyst for the acquisition of knowledge through the exchange of experiences

DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR MIGRATION DATA MANAGEMENT

Kenya (2017-2019)

This cooperation resulted from the previously mentioned COMESA II Action and aimed at improved information sharing at national and regional levels. Implemented jointly with the German Development Agency (GIZ), the Kenya II Action supported the development of comprehensive SOPs on data management in the area of migration.

Context

Kenya has the largest, most diversified economy, and the second largest population in the region of Eastern Africa. As 'the gateway to East Africa', Kenya also plays a vital role as a transportation hub for much of sub-Saharan Africa. Due to its relatively healthy economy and stable political situation, Kenya is a country of destination for economic migrants from all over Africa, and a host country of mainly Eastern African refugees. Kenya is also a necessary transit point to two main migration routes, namely Eastern African migrants on the move towards Southern Africa, as well as Eastern and Southern African migrants *en route* towards Europe, the USA or the Arabian Peninsula.

Compared to other countries in similar stages of development, Kenya collects significant amounts of migration data through its population census and household surveys, and data collected at borders, as well as from administrative records. Data on immigrant stocks and flows, remittances, international arrivals and departures, hotel beds occupied by visitors, passports and work permits issued, as well as the stock of registered refugees, is all readily available to the public in the form of annual reports or surveys.

However, data was not sufficiently, shared, analysed and disseminated among the interest-



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ed parties, and this realisation prompted the Kenyan National Migration Coordination Mechanism (NCM) to request MIEUX's support to develop SOPs with the aim of providing a harmonised framework and a practical operative tool for institutions dealing with international migration data management in Kenya.

Action Design

Following a fact-finding mission that included a visit to a border crossing point, a combination of workshops on data management and data collection took place, as well as drafting sessions and remote support to collectively develop and finalise the SOPs. A final workshop focused on the operationalisation of the SOPs.

The Action involved two public officials from the national statistics offices of Italy and Malta who were able to contribute different examples of migration data management. The experts presented how data collection frameworks are set up in their respective countries, and the legal frameworks that exist in order to ensure that data is shared and analysed regularly. Different models were presented so that they could be adapted to the local context. The experts also presented several tools that facilitate the sharing of data, such as creating tables with overviews of data sources and types of data that are available per source.

The SOPs were collectively finalised and endorsed at technical level.

Practices

- **European data sharing protocols:** The experts shared European practices with the participants and explained how to tackle various challenges in sharing migration data, including developing harmonious definitions of migration terminology so as to facilitate the production of data and statistics among several countries.
- **Coordination and synergies with other international actors:** During this Action, MIEUX collaborated closely with GIZ to ensure additional follow-up with the Kenyan authorities between each of the MIEUX activities. This collaboration increased the Action's efficiency by shortening the timeline for SOP drafting.
- **Transposing regional agreements at national level:** This Action reinforced COMESA's efforts in the production and dissemination of migration data among its MS. The Action was complementary to MIEUX' s previous COMESA Action on migration data collection and sharing which resulted in the creation of a formal data exchange mechanism for the COMESA region. This was achieved by developing a common set of standardised/harmonised definitions, and introducing tables to facilitate data sharing in the region. The SOPs

were drafted in a way that they also took into account the migration data requirements of the COMESA region.

Impact

At individual level, 20 technical agents were trained on available data sources in the area of migration and how to find the information required. They were also trained on how to draft SOPs, which they can replicate on other occasions if required. As a follow-up to this initiative, a training session on data analysis will be organised by GIZ for a core group of five to ten technical agents from the NCM who were selected from the workshop participants. The use of the SOPs will constitute a training pillar to ensure that they are correctly applied and widely used.

- At institutional level, the NCM was allocated new responsibilities and recognised as having the coordinating role among other government agencies. Roles for the implementation and updating of the SOPs, as well as for data analysis and dissemination, were assigned between the NCM and other government bodies. The NCM will lead on data analysis and dissemination, undertake the annual SOP update starting in February 2020, while each agency will take care of cleaning and validating its own data. The concrete assignment of roles and timeframes enhances the sustainability of the SOPs and strengthens the NCM's institutional capacity.
- Enabling environment: all members of the NCM agreed that the SOPs will be presented to the higher decision levels for official adoption.

Lessons Learnt

- It is essential for a legal framework or MoUs to be in place to effectively implement data sharing procedures.
- The creation of the SOPs shows the importance of collating regional advances in data management.
- Kenya will be able to take on the role of champion for data collection and sharing at regional level (COMESA), and share practices and experiences with other MS that can lead to more openness in sharing migration data across countries.



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Since launching operations in 2009, the Migration EU eXpertise (MIEUX) Initiative has provided space to request capacity development activities and EU expertise, allowing the sharing of knowledge and practices between peers working in institutions in and outside of Europe.

The adoption of the Global Compact on Migration and the creation of the UN Network on Migration coincided with MIEUX's ten-year anniversary. To mark the occasion, MIEUX undertook a comprehensive analysis of its achievements, methodologies and practices.

By delving into MIEUX's portfolio of over 100 interventions, this series of case studies intend to offer a glimpse of the broad range of tools, methodologies and approaches that can inspire or be used by governments and migration and development practitioners to advance a cooperative and sustainable international architecture of migration.