

Migration and displacement

Our approach
and priorities



What we do and aim to achieve

Migration is – and always has been – a fundamental part of human life.

Historically, such mobility has contributed to development, growth and more broadly to economic and social change for individuals and societies.

Yet managing global migration and displacement is not without its challenges. Host countries are struggling to find effective ways to deal with large movements of people, whether voluntary or forced, and to address concerns around integration. Source countries are not always able to reap the full benefits of migration. And millions of people are stuck in situations of protracted displacement. Our research, policy engagement and public affairs examine how we can meet these global challenges. Our focus is on how to better manage human mobility through realistic and sustainable actions.

Migration and displacement are currently very high up on the political and policy agendas of national governments, donor agencies and international organisations. This gives us a unique opportunity to influence these agendas and help reshape the international governance of migration and displacement, through the Global Compacts on Migration and Refugees, and through national and local engagement. We do so by combining innovative and policy-relevant research with strategic convening amongst key and influential actors and outreach to a variety of audiences.

Our areas of work

Migration and development

Our research generates an understanding of the interrelationship between migration and development, across a range of different countries and sectors.

We use this knowledge to inform policies and practice at all levels, especially the Global Compact on Migration and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Priorities

Migration and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: We assess the impact of migration on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as gender, health, urbanisation, climate change, social protection, education and poverty reduction. We identify policy entry points to improve development outcomes through human mobility.

Labour mobility and livelihoods: We are exploring how migration can be managed to the benefit of migrants, host, and origin countries and the various avenues government and private actors are using to generate jobs and economic opportunities for refugees and migrants.

Climate-induced migration: We are bringing together cross-ODI expertise to analyse the current and future impact of climate change and natural disasters on migration flows, and how migration affects climate change.

Migration and social protection: Our work shows that improving social protection coverage goes hand in hand with better management of labour migration. Going forward, we will look at the ways in which social protection coverage for migrants can be expanded and implemented more effectively, and how access to social protection affects migration outcomes.



Featured work



Did you know that 48% of global migrants are women? We explore the role of migrant women in the global care chain, and its impact on achieving the SDGs.



Policies tend to ignore climate-induced migration and displacement. Here, we outline how the Global Compact on Migration should address climate as a driver of human mobility.

Our engagement with the Global Compact on Migration

Over the next year we will work closely and directly contribute to the process leading up to the Global Compact on Migration in a number of ways:

- We are acting as technical experts during the Compact's consultation and thematic sessions.
- At the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) in Berlin, we are co-hosting an official side event and contributing to a panel during the Business Mechanism.
- We are presenting our Migration and the SDGs series at an official side event during UNGA 72 in New York.
- We act as strategic and policy advisers to IOM's Migration Research Leaders Syndicate.
- We are contributing to the 'Panel Series on Academic Thinking on Migration', convened by the UNU Office in New York (UNU-ONY) and the UNU Migration Network.

Our areas of work

Refugees and displacement

With our work, we hope to ensure the realities of refugee experiences are reflected and integrated in policy and decision-making processes.

Over the next year, our aim is to influence and engage with the Global Compact on Refugees and other policy processes.

Priorities

Dignity in displacement and refugees' aspirations: We are looking at humanitarian response efforts on the ground, and whether they are upholding people's dignity. We have also been exploring how refugees pursue their own aspirations and how aid agencies can better support their livelihoods, including the potential impact of institutional arrangements such as the Jordan Compact.

World Commission on Forced Displacement: We act as the Commission's Secretariat. We also produce research on the political, social and economic impacts of forced displacement and the successes and failures of refugee policy to inform the Commission's work.

Volunteer responses: Over the last few years we have been focusing on the humanitarian response to the recent influxes of refugees and migrants. In particular we explore the role of volunteers responding to arrivals in Europe and the implications for the humanitarian system.



Featured work



There are more than 9 million long-term displaced refugees – once someone is displaced for six months, their exile is likely to be protracted over many years. This tool can be used to understand what assistance is needed.



The majority of Syrian refugees live in cities throughout the region. We look at their ‘displacement life history’, what their lives are like now, and how to better support their livelihoods.

Our voice on refugees and displacement

Despite record numbers of refugees and internally displaced people, myths and misconceptions remain. We endeavoured to put this right – outlining our 10 things to know about refugees and displacement, and presenting these facts around the world.

We also introduced the realities of living in displacement – from the refugees own perspectives – into the refugee crisis debate. This sparked public conversation in a Twitter chat and expert discussion at a public event. A photo story and video of Rohingya refugees in Malaysia brought these realities to life, and the struggles many face in rebuilding their lives.

Finally, our annual lecture, delivered by Karen AbuZayd (former United Nations Special Adviser on the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants), addressed the need to strengthen global responses.

Our areas of work

Journeys and borders

Throughout all of ODI's work, we focus on how different policies shape migration outcomes and what informs decisions.

We engage with policy processes to ensure that they are informed by refugees and migrants own priorities and aspirations.

Priorities

Migrant decision-making: We have a long history of producing impactful work on migrant decision-making, including for those in host and transit countries. In 2017, we will continue this work in areas of origin, looking particularly at the impact of non-migration policies on the decisions of prospective migrants.

Legal pathways: We continue to highlight the importance of legal pathways to manage human mobility. As part of this effort, we are generating evidence as to how these pathways can be introduced. As a first step, we released a report, looking at the impact of deterrence policies on migrant flows.

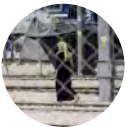
Ripple effects: We found that the deterrence policies of high-income countries have had a 'ripple effect' on the increasingly restrictive policies of lower-income states. In particular, we looked at the influence of Australian and European policies on Indonesia, Kenya and Jordan.



Featured work



By analysing the lives and aspirations of Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia, we look at whether it is possible for policy-makers to prevent, or reduce, irregular migration through refugee resettlement and in-country livelihood support.



Europe has spent billions on deterring refugees and migrants through tighter border controls and bilateral agreements. We investigate the impact of this spending and propose a new approach.

Our innovative communications

We published our flagship report, *Journeys to Europe* alongside a series of infographics, and a comic which showed the realities of one woman's journey from Eritrea to Great Britain. The findings were shared widely with MPs and quoted by The Huffington Post, The Economist, The Times, The Daily Mail and El País. We launched the report at an event held at ODI - Peter Sutherland (former UN Special Representative on Migration) was the keynote speaker.

For the report *Journeys on Hold*, we worked with a visual journalist who documented what life was like for a refugee who had fled from Eritrea to Ethiopia. The resulting film has now been viewed over 17,000 times. The research findings were translated into a scrolling website and covered by BBC World Service, NPR and Deutsche Welle.

Our partnerships

ODI has long-standing partnerships with leading organisations including:

- International Office for Migration (IOM)
- United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR)
- Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- World Bank
- Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC)
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)

ODI and Chatham House Forum on Refugee and Migration Policy

The aim of the Forum is to provide a platform for open and frank discussion of problems relevant for global, regional and national policy related to refugees and migration. The Forum aims to feed into and act as a resource for the formal institutional process towards the 2018 compacts, including by supporting closer dialogue between the forced displacement and migration policy communities. The Forum is supported by the German and Swiss governments.

We have excellent academic connections, and work closely with researchers from the Universities of Oxford, Sussex, Coventry and Maastricht, as well as the New School, the London School of Economics and the Migration Policy Institute.

In addition, we have formed a number of new partnerships with government actors across the world, and with innovative private sector bodies such as the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, The Joffe Charitable Trust, Talent Beyond Boundaries and the IKEA Foundation.

Our team



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odi.org/migration

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- p5: Wajir, Kenya © Jervis Sundays, Kenya Red Cross 2011
- p9: Idomeni, Greece © Maso Notarianni 2016

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