The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits both migrants and society.

As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

Opinions expressed in the chapters of this book by named contributors are those expressed by the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of IOM and its member States.

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“The International Organization for Migration is the world’s principal intergovernmental organization dedicated to the well-being, safety of and, most of all, engagement with the world’s migrants(...).  
IOM is the only humanitarian agency working on the world stage that is dedicated to furthering the principle that migration remains humanity’s oldest and most effective poverty-fighter. Whether it is labour migration by workers seeking a greater return on their efforts, or rural people seeking to move their children closer to better schools—or any school—by migrating to their nations’ growing cities, IOM has always taken the view that such movement benefits all. Human beings leave places where their brains, brawn and bravery are not being used efficiently to redeploy those assets in places where they earn more value. That is the same formula for economic success that created civilizations to begin with. It’s much too late to stop such a trend now. Besides, why would we want to?”

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Background information on migration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>The role and responsibility of the media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>The role of the journalists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>The role of editors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>Stereotypes: think, question yourself, and do not get carried away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>Glossary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>Basic legal notions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>Resources and materials</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BACKGROUND

INFORMATION ON MIGRATION

We live in an era of unprecedented human mobility. Mobility, an integral part of human development, has always been a method of adaptation to environmental, political, and economic spheres. It contributes to the wealth, dynamism, survival and stability of the societies.

IOM estimates that one in every seven person in the world is a migrant—someone who has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence. Migrants can move but stay within their country of origin (internal migrants) or leave their countries of origin or the country of habitual residence to another country (international migrants): 740 million people are internal migrants and 244 million are international migrants (equivalent to 3% of the world population); 60 million are forcibly displaced people who have fled a situation of conflict and/or persecution (more than 20 million of whom have fled outside their country of origin referred to as “refugees”).

DID YOU KNOW? If international migrants were grouped within one country, they would constitute the fifth most populous country in the world after China, India, the United States, and Indonesia.

Migration flows are mainly urban: migrants, both internal and international, settle primarily in cities and urban areas, thus contributing to their diversity and economic dynamism. About 50% of international migrants reside mainly in the ten highly urbanized high-income countries, including Canada and the United States, several European countries (Germany, Spain, France, and the United Kingdom), Saudi Arabia or the United Arab Emirates (DESA, 2013). Migration is a multifaceted domain and should be looked at from various perspectives. Today “we migrate” for multiple reasons that we must distinguish and consider in their specificities. Migration cannot be reduced to the image of a flow of people fleeing their countries of origin to risk their lives for a shelter or to improve their living conditions.

DID YOU KNOW? Nearly half of the world’s migrants originate from Asia, and only 14% comes from Africa.
Migration flows are mainly urban: migrants, both internal and international, settle primarily in cities and urban areas, thus contributing to their diversity and economic dynamism. About 50% of international migrants reside mainly in the ten highly urbanized high-income countries, including Canada and the United States, several European countries (Germany, Spain, France, and the United Kingdom), Saudi Arabia or the United Arab Emirates (DESA, 2013). Migration is a multifaceted domain and should be looked at from various perspectives. Today “we migrate” for multiple reasons that we must distinguish and consider in their specificities. Migration cannot be reduced to the image of a flow of people fleeing their countries of origin to risk their lives for a shelter or to improve their living conditions.

Did you know?

The right to leave any country, including his own, is recognised by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 13). The choice to migrate is inalienable. However, it should remain a personal choice, not a necessity.
THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MEDIA

Migration and mobility provide a deep insight into the evolution of the contemporary world and international relations. Yet the dominant discourse does not reveal the complexity of international migration and above all its demonstrated positive aspects of wealth and diversity. Nowadays, migration is largely illustrated by scenes of boats crowded with migrants risking their lives to reach Europe, the impenetrable and mythical “Eldorado”.

The media and the dominant political discourses have contributed to crafting a shared vision around migration. The media often convey the image of a massive and growing exodus of desperate people fleeing poverty, conflict and famine, thus raising the spectre of a threat to be contained to preserve the stability of industrialized countries. This alarmist message plays an important role in dehumanizing migrants and refugees by depicting them as “invaders”, making it easier to justify racist acts as well as policies and repressive measures.

Does the media contribute, consciously or not, to conveying a false and negative image of migration, by giving in to the stereotypes and conveying a biased point of view? And why? Is it a lack of knowledge about the issue? Lack of reliable data? Lack of time or means? Lack of thinking and boldness to challenge the actual clichés that could mainly be covered the media? Lack of imagination, analysis and desire to thoroughly “examine” the issue? Laxity? Negligence or sensationalism?

The current context must provide an opportunity for in-depth discussion and introspection on the role and responsibilities of journalists and media professional. Media coverage on migration is expensive, but background work is fundamental. This guide aims to make this task easier for you.

How can we get rid of these clichés? How can we address migration issues without falling into the many traps of infotainment, victim narrative, alibis on positive migration? How can w talk about migrants without stigmatizing them? What are the real issues underlying human mobility?
It is about demonstrating professionalism, rigour and ethics. Informing, analysing, documenting, verifying, giving a balanced voice as part of the primary mission of the media.

It means questioning oneself—even resisting—so as not to give in to the dominant, simplistic and often caricatural discourse, at the risk of being trapped by becoming the very instrument of this discourse.

It also means questioning the notion of “living together”. This leads us to question ourselves on our history and that of our neighbours, on the foundations of Humanity: diversity, exchange, dialogue, sharing ideas and knowledge, mutual tolerance and respect, the necessary interdependence and interconnection between us.
THE ROLE OF JOURNALISTS

01 - Obtain information

Reflect on the issue upstream in the news-room. Get information from the various local or international actors. Distinguish the issues: economic, social, health, development, security, education, etc. Acquire the notions of international/national or regional law.

Learn specific vocabulary and data.

Develop knowledge of the issue to avoid being manipulated and spreading false information. Exchange and share ideas with colleagues, editorial staff and people around you. Thinking with others and opening discussions help to better understand the subject.

Can I consider other approaches such as integration, family reunification, remittances, reintegration, etc.?

02 - Analyse

Analyse the dominant discourse and the prevailing context.

Anticipate the potential dangers and consequences of the media content on the audience and the key actors.

03. Follow rigorously journalistic principles

Check your data and information, cite sources, balance interventions, remain impartial and honest. Make sure not to change the meaning of the speakers’ comments. Stand for diversity and pluralism of opinion. Ensure fair representation of views (including the voice of migrants).

Use precise and appropriate wording to avoid confusion and prejudice. Process figures carefully and put them into perspective.

Give a voice to all actors: migrants, migrants’ families and their entourage, diaspora, host populations, civil society, international organizations, politicians, specialists and researchers, local authorities, etc.
04 - Practice responsible journalism. Give a voice.

Describe the context. Why do people migrate?

Do not give in to simplification and caricature. Fight against “clichés” and stereotypes. Respect people’s dignity and consider the trauma they may have gone through. Make the speakers feel human by giving them a voice.

Preserve the anonymity of stakeholders when required.

Do not give in to sensationalism. Even if the theme appeals to your human instincts and reflexes, the journalist must keep the “distance” of reflection and abide by the principles of the profession.

Do not follow the “scoop”. This is particularly true with the use of social media which, despite its many advantages, also has the perverse effect of “immediacy”. Do not forget that information relayed on social media can be spread around the world and cause cascades of reactions, without you being able to easily fix it. Publishing inaccurate or incomplete information can easily happen and have disastrous consequences. Journalistic rigour must be applied to all reports, even on social media.

Ensure human dignity and safety

1. Do not show the faces or reveal the identities of interviewees without their informed consent.
2. Do not disclose personal information that could put them (and their families) at risk.
3. Preserve their anonymity when required (for example, a victim of trafficking).
4. Do not “steal” testimonies (collected without consent)
5. Make sure you obtain all relevant authorizations from the various authorities and actors before giving a media coverage.
05 - Stay open, positive and creative!

Consider migration in its multiple facets, at the national, regional and international levels.

Do not consider the subject only from a tragic perspective. Look around you. There are many examples of successful integration or reintegration. Try to be positive without falling into naivety and propaganda. Balance and approach all aspects by adapting your format.

Stay creative and free your imagination! There is a variety of topics related to migration.

06 - Systematically use a checklist before dissemination.

Ask yourself these questions:

Have I applied the journalistic principles (verification, sources, accuracy, balance, contextualization, restitution)?

Have I understood the angle of my coverage? Do I have a sufficient understanding of the subject? Have I used the right wording? Have I contacted experts (e.g. IOM)?

Have I been manipulated or influenced? Have I been the voice of one side or the other?

How does my production fit into the context and what impact can it have?

What new insight has my production provided?

Have I resisted stereotypes?
What if I self-evaluate my own stereotypes? What do you think of these statements?

It is the poorest people who migrate
It is men who migrate first
“Refugee”, “migrant”, “irregular people”, “undocumented people”, it is all the same. Most migrants are in an “irregular” situation.
Most of migrants come from Africa.
All migrants come from the South.
All migrants move to the North.
Migration is a problem. Migrants are too numerous. Migrants “benefit” from social assistance and “do not contribute”. Migrants are a terrorist threat.

07. Have you looked at it from another angle?

Profiles of migrants...

...who are preparing for their journeys, either regularly or irregularly: motivations, knowledge of risks, planning for their itinerary, fears and vulnerabilities, administrative background, escort, appeals and international law.

...who are on their way: risks and vulnerabilities, support, mistreatment, travel conditions, solidarity, escort and assistance.

...who are in a reception or transit centre: conditions, doubts and questions, support, escort and assistance.

...who are in a host country: economic opportunities, educational and training opportunities, multicultural experience, skill sharing, contribution to their host country, contributions to their country of origin (diaspora), integration, racism, exclusion, living far away, family pressure.

...who have returned to their countries of origin: sharing experiences and skills, social pressure, economic opportunities, reintegration.
Profiles and testimonies of migrant families

Support from family members who have migrated: cultural and economic contributions to the family and community.

Difficulties related to the absence: concerns and vulnerabilities, lack of resources in the family, social and family pressure.

Change in the family unit: separation, distance, structural dynamics, change of emotional ties, independence of migrants, impact of technology.

The importance of the diaspora, support and links with home and host countries. The contribution of migrants in host countries or return to countries of origin.

Migration induced by climate change and environmental degradation.

Historical/geographical/ethnological aspects of migration.

Migrating for security reasons: migrants forced to flee a conflict or threatening context, migration perceived as a source of instability and new conflicts.

Legal migration (international/regional treaties).

Migrating for “comfort”, those who have the choice to choose where they want to live.

Migrating for family reunification

Migrating to “discover the world”, for travel, diversity and encounters. Migrating to study. Migration and arts: how is migration perceived in the field of arts? Art as a means of openness to the other, a means of mixing, diversity, integration, sharing, education.

Migration and sports.
THE IMPACT OF IMAGES
The images -photos or videos- you show have a significant impact on public opinion. We know “the power of images”. We also know how easy it is to manipulate them.

You may be strongly tempted to give in to sensationalism, and the “bottom line” is sometimes difficult to identify. Images are what your reader or audience sees first. Therefore, it is of a paramount importance to select your images with discernment, taking into account the target audience; considering the relevant actors and the public opinion but also considering the impact on journalism and the media.

One may be tempted to select a strong and dramatic image, but the reality it does not always reflect the whole reality.

Without even intending to manipulate, you can expose yourself to polemics and controversies that can negatively affect your reputation and credibility.

Do not forget to credit photographers of the images you publish. Put them in their context. Avoid illustrative images that are not relevant to the covered matter.

It is a reporter’s duty to report the facts, but reality can sometimes shock, positively and/or negatively. What are the limits? What are the risks? Sometimes it is difficult to set them. Respect for dignity and informative value can “guide” our reflections. Discuss the issue openly before publishing.
SOCIAL MEDIA: BE CAREFUL!

Social media is essential for journalists. They are channels for disseminating content but also for collecting information and following “threads”. But we must remain vigilant about the risks of using it and the content that is shared.

When using social networks, apply journalistic principles, and pay attention to the following points:

1. Do not give in to immediacy
   The “flow” and immediacy that characterize social networks can be a “trap” for journalists, tempted to give in to the “information race” at the detriment of information verification. Have you sought confirmation from experts?

2. Check your facts. Identify and verify the author of the message and information before using or redistributing it.
   Who is the author of the information? Look for the primary source of the information (not just the identity of the user that redistributed the information). If the author is unknown, you should be careful! Instead, rely on official media and known sources.
   When you have information, whose source is not verified and/or verifiable, adopt a precautionary approach.

3. Check the date of the information (and the author)
   Beware of old publications that “come back” when they are largely shared. The risk is to consider them as recent.
4. Be careful with the popularity of “posts”.
   The number of shares is not a guarantee of reliability and truth. It is very easy to buy “likes” on social networks.

5. Do not give in to sensationalism and too powerful or “loaded” images.
   Like any professional journalist, do not let your emotions guide you. Even if the theme speaks to their human instincts and reflexes, the journalist must keep “the distance” of reflection and follow the principles of the profession.

6. Cite and credit your source if you reuse or redistribute information.
   Be transparent about your sources, EXCEPT for security reasons. Plan technical measures to keep sources anonymous if necessary.

7. Be careful with the personal digital data you are leaving behind.
   The “web” remembers everything and you can be identified through your browsing history. Do not forget that information relayed on social networks can be spread around the world and cause cascades of reactions, without us being able to easily remedy them. Publishing inaccurate or incomplete information can easily be missed out and have disastrous consequences. You can be held accountable for a mistake you made for years. Think about your trustworthiness and that of your outlet.
WHAT SOURCES CAN I USE?
- Communities (families, diaspora, migrants, etc.)
- Local, national and microlocal authorities and institutions
- UN Agencies
- International Organisations/NGOs
- National organisations and civil society organisations
- International co-operation agencies
- International and regional institutions/commissions
- Universities and Research centres
- Media
- Social networks and relevant websites
- Existing relevant documents

FROM WHICH PERSPECTIVE SHOULD I LOOK AT THE ISSUE?
- Economic
- Social
- Cultural/Experiences and opportunities
- Environmental
- Human rights/law
- Political
- Security/Humanitarian
- Historical/Geographical/Geopolitical
- Touristic
- Artistic
- Technological/Media
- Psychological
- Sport

WHERE CAN YOU FIND RELIABLE STATISTICS AND DOCUMENTATION?
- Database of migration law
- Database of migration-related treaties
- International Organization for Migration
- UNHCR: Statistics and Operational Data
  http://popstats.unhcr.org/en/overview
- Internal Displacement Monitoring Center
  http://www.internal-displacement.org
- Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) Resources Publications
  https://www.nrc.no/expert-deployment/contact-norcapi/

GET INFORMATION / ANALYSE
TALK TO EXPERTS / USE MULTIPLE SOURCES
DISCUSS WITH EDITORIAL STAFF/ ASK FOR THEIR SUPPORT
BE POSITIVE AND OPEN
APPLY THE JOURNALISTIC PRINCIPLES / USE RELEVANT FORMATS TO COVER THE TOPIC
BE A RESPONSIBLE JOURNALIST / GIVE A VOICE / BE CAREFUL ABOUT SOURCE SECURITY
USE SYSTEMATICALLY A CHECKLIST BEFORE DISSEMINATION

WITH THE BENEFIT OF HINDSIGHT, CHECK IF YOU ARE NOT PROMOTING STEREOTYPES AND FALSE INFORMATIONS

FORMAT
- Coverage
- Portraits/stories
- Interactive discussions/talk show
- Documentaries and magazines (short, medium, and long)
- Briefs
- Editorial/opinions
- Papers/chronicles
- Animation (motion design/stop motion)
- Graphics
- Features
- Other formats: fiction/sketch/drama

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THE ROLE OF EDITORS

Create space for exchange and discussion with editorial staff.

Initiate open discussions with the editorial staff. Address even the most sensitive issues. Consider their views.

Be supportive to the journalists. Support them in the reflection, writing, use of images, videos and social networks.

Together, we think better!

Get information/build capacity, work with specialists

Work in close collaboration with the relevant actors (UN organizations, civil society, NGOs, politicians, local authorities, security forces, migrants and their entourage). Do not take the risk of isolating yourself with such a complex issue.

Provide specific training for your journalists (including the corresponding journalists). Engage or encourage specialists to participate in such training (ask the IOM mission in your country if it has planned media training).
Pay attention to the dominant discourse/analyse and anticipate

Analyse the dominant discourse (international/local).

Take a step back and monitor production on a regular basis and ensure that it meets the requirements. Raise questions with colleagues about the quality of the coverage, what we get as information.

Establish an effective and responsive system of self-regulation and mediation, based on a code of ethics adopted by the profession. Be transparent and make this code available for the audience.

Foster effective collaboration with the national media regulatory authority.

Anticipate the impact on the media, the journalist's collaborators, the protagonists who appear in the reports, and on the audience.
Find new ways and formats

Go to the field. Use contacts and networks of actors to access migrant communities. Ask the IOM mission in your country if field visits are organized.

Encourage long-term coverage, followed by thematic coverage and provide the necessary resources.

Use new formats, facilitate dialogue with local populations (discussions, interviews), profiles, profiles of returnees who can share their experience.

Do not cover and focus only on negative aspects.

Do not give in to sensationalism, scoop and competition, especially when using images and social networks. Promote quality work. The readers/listeners, audience will appreciate your work.

In the case of interactivity with your audience (online press), provide an effective and informed community management.

Enhance collaboration with specialists when reporting on the issue (they may be from migration, and who can give inputs).

Encourage cross-cutting approaches and co-productions with other media outlets. Confront the perspectives and pull your resources.

Enhance editorial proofreading before publication, including on social networks.

Put in place mechanisms and measures to ensure the anonymity of sources.

Update and supplement codes and charters that govern your editorial line if necessary.
Let us reflect on this question: Should migration be considered as a “problem”? Migration is part of the History of Humanity, whose primary wealth is its diversity. Migration has promoted cultural, economic and social exchanges, sharing of know-how and skills. Migration in many so-called northern countries is more than desirable; it is necessary and compensates for the ageing of the population. Rather than considering migration as a “problem” to be solved, we should consider it as a reality to be managed.

Seeing it as a “problem” contributes to the rise of a discourse that assimilates migrants to “invaders” and dehumanizes people.

The amalgam of “threat” then makes it easier to impose the idea of repressive policies, and to deny the reasons, conditions and need for protection of migrants.

The debate on migration is very often focused on “problems”, “illegality” (it should be noted that a person is never “illegal”), “threats”, and “integration issues”. We should talk about “irregular migration” or “irregular migrants”. Successful integration, which represents the clear majority, is simply obscured from the debate and the very vision of Migration.

In the end, is the “migration crisis” not partly attributable to the PERCEPTION we have of migration?
02 - “Migrants are too numerous. We cannot host them all. Against mass immigration, we must close borders.”

For several decades, and particularly since 2015, images of the dramas of migration and the discourses that accompany it have conveyed the feeling of an “unprecedented” wave “flooding” western countries.

Statistics give another perspective.

There are approximately 58 million migrants in the world (source - IOM 2017) distributed along the following routes: North-North, North-South, South-North and South-South. This amounts to 3% of the world population. But IOM assumes that statistics are missing in some countries.
Forcibly displaced persons represent 60 million of the world’s population; 86% of them live in developing countries and just over 20 million are refugees. People who flee first move to less affected regions in their country and then in neighbouring countries, with little time and resources to ensure their safety.

Studies reveal that legal migration has tripled in the last 40 years.

Closing borders does not seem to be an effective solution for countries wanting to “protect” themselves against immigration. The systems require a lot of funds (the European Union, for example, has spent over 13 billion euros on control and surveillance systems since 2000) without evidence that they help deter migrants from making the journey. On the contrary, it may encourage them to use illegal and dangerous routes, “fuelling” a lucrative human trafficking market.

"I come from Tambacounda, in the south-east of Senegal. It is one of the main cities of departure for thousands of migrants. In my city, there is neither infrastructure nor job for young people, and the weather temperatures can reach 45 °C. One should understand that life is very hard in this city. To improve your living conditions you have to migrate, often unwillingly. Our families at home feed on the money we send on a monthly basis. Migrants are the ones keeping the city alive.

When I arrived in Paris, I had to work to pay for my studies because I did not have a scholarship. I was victim of discrimination in employment, racial profiling. But thanks to my education, my commitment to not respond aggressively to frequent attacks, I was looked at differently. I made it thanks to my attitude.

To read the full story click on: 
https://iamamigrant.org/fr/stories/france/seydou

Seydou - #iamamigrant
Current Country: France
Country of origin: Senegal
03- “Migrants receive public and social assistance. They steal our jobs and contribute nothing.”

Dependence on public aid is not a viable solution to an emigration project, and weakens it in the short term, simply because public aid is limited in time, difficult to access, and very often governed by strict conditions. Migrants therefore must work to succeed in their emigration projects, looking for conditions legally. In the case of irregular migrants, it is even more difficult to access public assistance as requesting for it would possibly identify them and could lead to their repatriation.

Any person—immigrant or not—who complies with the tax law of the host country contributes to the wealth of said economy by consuming, paying taxes and making social contributions.

Many countries use migration within the legal framework to address an ageing population and to meet needs in specific sectors of activity (due to a mismatch between supply and demand), including sectors with low skill requirements. Trade, hotels, construction, gardening, domestic work and personal assistance now account for a large share of the labour market in developed countries. These services therefore mainly employ immigrants, who either have higher qualifications but are not recognised (see stereotype 6), or by people in an irregular situation with the complicity of their employers.

Irregular situations make immigrants more precarious and expose them to unacceptable conditions of exploitation, under the threat of being identified and returned.

04 - “Migrants are a terrorist threat.”

The amalgam “migrant=terrorist” is not philosophically acceptable, but it is even less so in practice. The routes taken by migrants are long, uncertain and dangerous, and certainly not a preferred route for potential terrorists.

Some civil society actors (including Amnesty International) are also encouraging the establishment of secure and legal channels that would facilitate registering arrivals and requests for protection as well as identifying individuals, based on the international regulations that provide for an “exclusion clause” for persons suspected of serious crimes or posing a threat to the host State.
My mother’s family is from Syria while my father comes from Iraq and Palestine. I myself live in Jordan. To me, it looks like borders do not exist in this part of the world. Many families are as regionally diverse as mine. I feel very connected to everything that is happening in this region. I have witnessed the war and all the related atrocities, and I am deeply affected by all this, especially by what is happening in Syria.

I live in an area of Amman where there are many migrants from all over the world, like me. There is a dynamic art scene, good cafés and lots of opportunities to talk with people to find out where they come from. I feel inspired by these conversations.

To read the full story click on: [https://iamamigrant.org/fr/stories/jordan/bissan-0](https://iamamigrant.org/fr/stories/jordan/bissan-0)

05 - “Migrants do not respect customs and do not want to integrate.”

This stereotype brings out the fundamental question of the identity threat.

The interaction between migrant and host populations requires a necessary common denominator, which remains the key to successful integration. Can the question be raised in such a binary way: who must adapt? Immigrants or host populations? Does not the success of living together lie in the compromise and individual respect of each other, in mutual understanding between immigrants who make the effort to integrate themselves while respecting the rights of their host country, and the host populations who make the effort to tolerate “Others” in their difference? Thus, immigrants do not renounce their identity, beliefs, customs, language, but strive to make them compatible with local culture and law.
Immigration can only be successful if the host community is prepared to see migrants as a potential and a wealth, but not a threat.

Questions that we journalists should ask: Are there national mechanisms for integration? Does the current system tend more to promote exclusion? We often talk about the cost of integration but how much is the exclusion cost and what is its impact on the host society?

Majid is Moroccan. He left for Nouakchott in Mauritania 18 months ago, full of enthusiasm and dreams. But the great promises of his generous employer failed, as did his plan to quickly make savings to start his own company and be independent.

Majid sends money to his wife and children as soon as he can. He pays mathematics courses for his younger sister who prepares for high school and supports his mother and brother. He invests in his country through these remittances.

To read the full story click on:
https://iamamigrant.org/fr/stories/jordan/bissan-0
06 - “Migrants contribute to impoverishing their countries of origin by leaving them.”

There is a twofold reality about migration. “Migrating” requires getting the money needed for the journey and not everyone can make it, especially the poorest. Migrants—excluding in crisis areas—are often people who hold diplomas or are educated, looking for better social and economic conditions.

BEING INSPIRED TO MIGRATE          HAVING THE CAPACITIES TO MIGRATE

* Social, human and material capital that individuals can mobilize to migrate.
Recent research also tends to demonstrate that socio-economic development tends to stimulate migration in the short and medium term. It is when a «middle» class emerges that the project to migrate becomes stronger, corresponding to a desire to build long-term prospects for a family. The migration project is less and less pursued in the wealthiest families who have settled permanently in their country of origin, and obviously in the poorest communities whose insufficient resources do not reasonably allow them to envisage the long and costly emigration journey.

As a first step, one can then assume that there is a “loss” to the migration phenomenon of a “middle and educated” class (the so-called “brain drain”) that sees a country’s skills “flee” to serve other interests.

Many of them find themselves very often confined to underqualified jobs because their diplomas are not recognised and may be victims of discrimination or forms of exploitation (working conditions, wages, benefits, consideration, promotion).

But focusing the issue on this vision would lead to ignore all the related factors. First, migrants remain very connected with their country of origin. They contribute very largely to support to their community(ies) by sending them a large part of their incomes. This money contributes to the education of children (who may be motivated by the example of members of their emigrant family), health care provision and community development. According to the World Bank, aid from the various diasporas in 2015 represents nearly three times the total development aid granted by developing countries.

More and more immigrant communities are organizing themselves into associations and communities to participate directly in the design and implementation of development actions. Migrants, through their experience abroad, acquire new skills and know-how that they will transfer at the entrepreneurial, social, technological and even political levels by sharing democratic values. It is believed that most of the new ruling classes in developing countries have gained solid experience abroad.
The choice of terms is of paramount importance and there is a political battle around semantics. There is a deep meaning to the shift from one to the other, which corresponds both to a legal notion (refugees/foreigners in an irregular situation for example), but also to a political context and a perception of public opinion. Words are also the image of what we want to convey to the audience (migrant/irregular migrant, for example).

The terms you use can increase anxiety and stigma.

Mind your words!
“floods”, “invasion”, “waves”, “torrent”, “swarm” ...

For example, it is noted that words like “clandestine”, “illegal” or “undocumented” used before, have become minority or even pejorative, because they contribute to degrading and dehumanizing the image of migrants, and to increasing stereotypes about communities.
**assisted voluntary return**

Administrative, logistical, financial and reintegration support to rejected asylum seekers, victims of trafficking in human beings, stranded migrants, qualified nationals and other migrants unable or unwilling to remain in the host country who volunteer to return to their countries of origin.

**asylum seeker**

A person who seeks safety from persecution or serious harm in a country other than his or her own and awaits a decision on the application for refugee status under relevant international and national instruments. In case of a negative decision, the person must leave the country and may be expelled, as may any non-national in an irregular or unlawful situation, unless permission to stay is provided on humanitarian or other related grounds.

**economic migrant**

A person leaving his/her habitual place of residence to settle outside his/her country of origin in order to improve his/her quality of life. This term may be used to distinguish from refugees fleeing persecution, and is also used to refer to persons attempting to enter a country without legal permission and/or by using asylum procedures without bona fide cause. It also applies to persons settling outside their country of origin for the duration of an agricultural season, appropriately called seasonal workers.

**facilitated migration**

Fostering or encouraging of legitimate migration by making travel easier and more convenient. Facilitation can include any number of measures, such as a streamlined visa application process, or efficient and well-staffed passenger inspection procedures.
freedom of movement

A human right comprising three basic elements: freedom of movement within the territory of a country (Art. 13(1), Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948: “Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.”), the right to leave any country and the right to return to his or her own country (Art. 13(2), Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948: «Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country».

internally displaced persons

Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border.

irregular migration

Movement that takes place outside the regulatory norms of the sending, transit and receiving countries. There is no clear or universally accepted definition of irregular migration. From the perspective of destination countries it is entry, stay or work in a country without the necessary authorization or documents required under immigration regulations. From the perspective of the sending country, the irregularity is for example seen in cases in which a person crosses an international boundary without a valid passport or travel document or does not fulfil the administrative requirements for leaving the country. There is, however, a tendency to restrict the use of the term «illegal migration» to cases of smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons.
human trafficking

The «recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”  (Additional Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000, art.3)

migrant

IOM defines a migrant as any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of (1) the person’s legal status; (2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; (3) what the causes for the movement are; or (4) what the length of the stay is. IOM concerns itself with migrants and migration-related issues and, in agreement with relevant States, with migrants who are in need of international migration services.

migration

The movement of a person or a group of persons, either across an international border, or within a State. It is a population movement, encompassing any kind of movement of people, whatever its length, composition and causes; it includes migration of refugees, displaced persons, economic migrants, and persons moving for other purposes, including family reunification.
refugee

A person, who “owing to well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinions, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country” (Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, Art. 1A(2), 1951 as modified by the 1967 Protocol).

relocation

In the broad sense, a term referring to the transfer of persons (for example refugees, internally displaced persons and internally displaced persons) from a first place of reception to a second place of reception and integration, usually a third country.

repatriation

The personal right of a refugee or a prisoner of war to return to his/her country of nationality.

resettlement

The relocation and integration of people (refugees, internally displaced persons, etc.) into another geographical area and environment, usually in a third country. In the refugee context, the transfer of refugees from the country in which they have sought refuge to another State that has agreed to admit them.
return migration

The movement of a person returning to his/her country of origin or habitual residence usually after spending at least one year in another country. This return may or may not be voluntary. Return migration includes voluntary repatriation.

smuggling

The procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident (Art. 3(a), UN Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000). Smuggling contrary to trafficking does not require an element of exploitation, coercion, or violation of human rights.

sustainable reintegration

Reintegration can be considered sustainable when migrants have reached a level of economic autonomy, social stability within their communities and psychosocial well-being enabling them to face the challenges inherent to the return. Only sustainable reintegration allows for informed decisions on migration.

vulnerability

IOM defines vulnerability in a migratory context as «the reduced ability of an individual or group to resist or recover from violence, exploitation, abuse and violations of their rights. It is determined by the presence, absence and a mix of factors and circumstances that (a) increase the risk and exposure to, or (b) protect against violence, exploitation, abuse and rights' violations». 
At the international level, no universally accepted definition of “migrant” exists. IOM defines a “migrant” as any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of (1) the person’s legal status; (2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; (3) what the causes for the movement are; or (4) what the length of the stay is.

International migration law (IML) is not a self-contained legal regime. It is a multi-layered body of law consisting of various legal instruments protecting the fundamental rights inherent in every human being and ensuring the basic rights for all persons established outside their country (migrant workers’ rights in particular).

These provisions constitute the international legal framework governing migration, and essentially reflect the interests of States, their nationals and inter-State relations.

For the first time in September 2016, Heads of State and Government came together to establish a global migration governance framework that should lead to the Global Migration Pact, adopted in 2018.

**Basic Reference Documents**

**Universal Declaration of Human Rights,**
**Article 13**

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.
2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

**and Article 14**


**International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990)**

[http://www.ohchr.org/FR/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CMW.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/FR/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CMW.aspx)
The 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees  
http://www.unhcr.org/4ca34be29

The Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air,  
supplementing the Convention against Transnational Organised Crime  
http://www.refworld.org/docid/479dee062.html

Declaration on the Human Rights of Individuals who are not nationals of the  
country in which they live  
https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/HumanRightsOfIndividuals.aspx

For further Resources

Database on migration law

Visit IOM’s online database of relevant international, regional and bilateral treaties; resolutions,  
declarations and other international and regional instruments.

http://www.imlodb.iom.int/_layouts/15/IML.Portal/AppPages/Home.aspx

Status of Treaties

See Chapters IV, V, and VII on Migration and Human Rights.

Reference Guides for Journalists

The National Council of the Journalists’ Association (CNOG) and the Italian National Press Federation (FNSI) in collaboration with UNHCR - Charter of Rome (2008)

http://ethicaljournalisminitiative.org/assets/docs/068/223/47dfc44-3c9f7df.pdf

Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights - “Ethical Journalism and Human Rights” (2011)

https://rm.coe.int/16806da80a

UNHCR. Reporting on Refugees: Guidance by & for journalists (en anglais)


UNHCR. Reporting on Refugees: Guidance by & for journalists


UNAOC and ILO. Media-Friendly Glossary on Migration

https://goo.gl/GQfiQ

PICUM (2001). Ethical Guidelines

http://picum.org/en/resources/ethical-guidelines/


https://goo.gl/3EnyGo

ESIEMTH - The Greek Charter of Idomeni

https://goo.gl/9N9D1t
About Statistics

International Organization for Migration (IOM)
“Where We’re From”, an interactive app to track migrants around the world.

https://www.iom.int/world-migration-report

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Statistics and Operational Data
http://popstats.unhcr.org/en/overview

Internal Displacement Monitoring Center
http://www.internal-displacement.org

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) Resources Publications
http://popstats.unhcr.org/en/overview

Internal Displacement Monitoring Center
http://www.internal-displacement.org

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) Resources Publications
https://www.nrc.no/expert-deployment/contact-norcap/
Further Resources

European Federation of Journalists – Media against Hate Project
https://goo.gl/wMnKYZ

London school of Economics and Political Science (LSE) – The European “migration crisis” and the media – A cross-european press content analysis
http://www.lse.ac.uk/media@lse/research/Migration-and-the-media.aspx

European Federation of Journalists (2016). More solidarity needed while reporting on migration issues
http://www.internal-displacement.org

Ethical Journalism Network (2017). How do media on both sides of the Mediterranean report on migration?

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) Resources Publications
https://goo.gl/g7Rsyf

European Journalism Centre (2013). How journalism can rid migration of its sour reputation
https://goo.gl/L5jGXU

European Broadcasting Union (2016). How public service media are helping public understanding of the refugee crisis
https://goo.gl/7VCkq8

South East European Network for the Professionalisation of Media (2016). OSCE Representative issues recommendations on rights and safety of members of the media reporting on refugees
https://goo.gl/B3CHv6

La Fédération Internationale des Journalistes -Media4diversity report (2014)
https://goo.gl/m9uZw1
About the EU-IOM Joint Initiative on Migrant Protection and Reintegration

Launched in December 2016 with funding from the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF), the EU-IOM Joint Initiative on Migrant Protection and Reintegration is the first comprehensive programme to save lives, protect and assist migrants along key migration routes in Africa.

The EU-IOM Joint Initiative enables migrants who decide to return to their countries of origin to do so in a safe and dignified way, in full respect of international human rights standards and in particular the principle of non-refoulement. In close cooperation with partnering state and non-state actors, it provides assistance to returning migrants to help them restart their lives in their countries of origin through an integrated approach to reintegration that supports both migrants and their communities, has the potential to complement local development, and mitigates some of the drivers of irregular migration.

The EU-IOM Joint Initiative covers and closely cooperates with 26 African countries in the Sahel and Lake Chad, the Horn of Africa, and North Africa.
Notes