IOM'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE 2030 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

OIM ONU MIGRATION | BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE DAKAR POUR L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST ET DU CENTRE

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1.1| RATIONALE

As part of its work in 22 countries in the West and Central Africa (WCA) region, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) works closely with various United Nations (UN) agencies under the framework of the Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP) and UN Country teams (UNCTs). IOM's role as a member of UNCTs has taken a greater significance with the adoption of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) and the roll-out of the UN Migration Network at the country level.

IOM has a diversified portfolio when it comes to programmatic interventions in WCA. With several regional projects being implemented on issues such as labour mobility and free movement of persons, voluntary return and reintegration, youth empowerment and livelihood creation, climate induced mobility, social cohesion, cross-border collaboration and border governance, the contribution to various Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets transpires in the most direct way. Capturing these results through the lens of the SDGs, helps demonstrate and provide documented evidence on the extent and scope of this contribution.

Within this framework, a regional assessment was conducted to identify some of the key programmes in the region (both at country and regional level) and to highlight how they have contributed to the SDGs.

To accomplish this, this report entitled 'Contribution of IOM's Interventions to the 2030 Development Agenda: Regional Study - West and Central Africa intends to:

• Highlight the linkages between migration and the various SDG targets through practical examples drawn from programmes implemented in the region;

• Identify best practices and propose recommendations that could be used to improve a better alignment of future programmes to the SDGs.

1.2 | GLOBAL POLICY FRAMEWORK

In September 2015 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda). The Agenda consists of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 accompanying targets. These goals and targets were formulated through a participatory and multi-stakeholder process that involved states, global civil society, and many other actors. The 17 Goals are successors to the 8 Millennium Development Goals (2000) and aim to be a comprehensive set of targets that tackle poverty and inequality.

The 2030 Agenda recognizes migration as a core development issue, being the first-time migration is integrated explicitly into the global development agenda. This sets an important precedent on the ways migration governance can advance in the coming years. The principle of universality underpinning the SDGs is particularly significant for migration, as it can promote international collaboration on the matter. The applicability of all SDG targets to all countries underlines that each country has a role to play in migration and provides a framework for moving towards more effective international governance of migration based on global partnerships (IOM, 2018).

IOM's entry into the UN System in 2016 brought the organization into the United Nations Sustainable Development Group whose mandate is to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. IOM is increasingly progressing to articulate its activities and mandate in relation to the 2030 Agenda, to report on its activities supporting Member States in achieving the commitments therein and to contribute to the global discussions on migration and sustainable development.

The UN Development System (UNDS) reform brought substantial changes to the way the UN operates in-country, but also at regional and global levels, with the 2030 Agenda now positioned as the central and overarching framework guiding the UN's development activities. In this new context, IOM has the opportunity remove to work in partnership across the UNDS and beyond to maximize the potential of migration to achieve sustainable development outcomes (IOM, 2020).

Furthermore, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) was adopted in December 2018 in Marrakech, Morocco. It is the first international framework under United Nations (UN) auspices calling for a common approach to the many dimensions of international migration.

This includes its first objective, to improve migration data and its use as the basis for making evidence-based policy decisions. This objective

calls for improving international comparability of migration statistics and provides both a basis for pursuing harmonized methodologies and strengthening national capacity to collect, analyse and disseminate migration data. It also includes policy recommendations to help countries better understand data needs and data gaps, in order to improve evidence-based policymaking (IOM, 2019).

IOM's institutional strategy on migration and sustainable development puts the focus on maximizing 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. Migration and sustainable development are multidimensional and interdependent. Maximizing the benefits of migration requires a comprehensive approach. The realization of this will rest on three outcomes:

1. Human mobility is increasingly a choice. Migration is a natural expression of people's desire to choose how and where to lead their lives. This requires addressing the adverse drivers that force people to move out of desperation. It involves building resilience and coping capacities of populations along the mobility path – both prior to travel and at different points along the journey. It also means creating opportunities so that people can move safely and regularly to fulfil their personal aspirations. Tackling the inequalities.

2. Migrants and their families are empowered as development actors. Migrants can face many barriers to reaching their development potential. These include language and cultural barriers, unfair recruitment processes that pull them into debt, exploitation or even forced labour, precarious working conditions and limited access to basic services such as health, education, and social protection.

3. Migration is increasingly well governed. The ability to successfully govern migration depends directly on the political, socioeconomic, developmental and migration governance structures in place at the international, national, and sub-national level, as well as the stability and security situation in countries. Timely, reliable, and comparable data on migration will also help policymakers devise evidence-based policies to address the migration aspects of the SDGs.

As per IOM's Constitution, IOM is mandated to work towards maximizing the positive linkages between migration and economic, social, and cultural development. In accordance with national policies and priorities, this institutional strategy on migration and sustainable development further signals IOM's commitment to the realization of the 2030 Agenda vis-a-vis its Member States and key stakeholders in the UN system and beyond (IOM, 2020).

1.3 | REGIONAL OVERVIEW

1.3.1 | Policy Framework

The IOM Regional Office for West and Central Africa has defined three regional strategic objectives for the 2020–2024 period, based on the three pillars of the IOM Strategic Vision (2019–2023). They respond to current and emerging challenges, positioning the organization to better serve Member States and migrant populations throughout all stages of their journey across the WCA region and beyond. Furthermore, they are in line with IOM's dedication to assist Member States in implementing intergovernmental commitments, such as the Global Compact for Migration, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063. Based on the IOM Strategic Vision and the IOM Continental Strategy for Africa, IOM in West and Central Africa pursues the following objectives under the three pillars of resilience, mobility, and governance (IOM, 2020).

1. Resilience. Enhance the resilience and protection of migrants, displaced persons, and communities by addressing underlying vulnerabilities and drivers of irregular migration and displacement, ensuring timely and adequate support, and reinforcing the capacities of these groups to identify, cultivate and leverage means to assure their enhanced resilience.

2. Mobility. Contribute to African economic and social integration through the promotion of policies and protocols for the free and voluntary movement of people, supporting national authorities, regional entities, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders with the requisite expertise, tools, technology, and partnerships to achieve safe, orderly, and regular migration.

3. Governance. Foster cooperative, informed, and robust migration governance across the region, in partnership with a broader range of stakeholders to build capacity, promote policy coherence and synergize operational efforts towards achievement of improved migration management (IOM, 2020).

1.3.2 | Outlook of projects in the region

In line with the global objectives, and considering IOM's strategic vision and the latest IOM standard project type list (2019), the database of projects in the region has been analysed across the following thematic areas:

- Migrant Protection and Assistance

- Emergency response (incl. Transition and Recovery, and Preparedness and Response)

- Immigration and Border Management[1]

- Labour Mobility and Human Development

- Migration policy, research, and communication

- Migration Health

- Migration, Environment and Climate Change

These thematic areas have served as a variable of analysis of the report. A general revision is provided below to understand the context of the regional landscape. This summary is based on the analysis of a database initially curated by IOM staff, comprising a total of 236 project, combining country-level interventions and regional or multi-country programs for the period 2016-2021.

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[1] *The Immigration and Border Management thematic has been renamed 'Immigration and Border Governance in 2022. The former name is used in this report as all previous projects included in this assessment refer to it as such.*

Figure 1: Proportion of projects per thematic area in the WCA region, 2016-2021
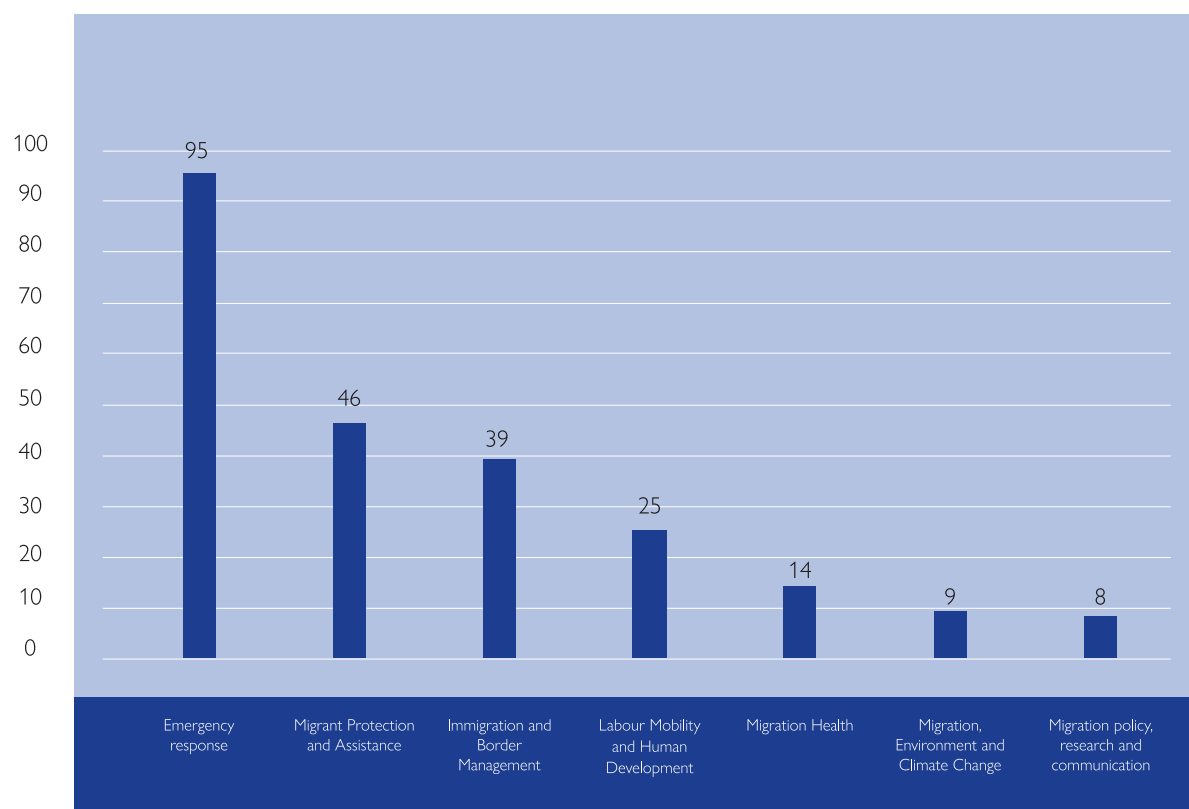
Source: prepared by the consultant, based on Data from IOM's internal project database.

A first look at the projects in the region, and as seen in Figure 1, reveals that the majority of projects are distributed among the categories of Emergency (40%), Migrant Protection and Assistance (19%), and Immigration and Border Management (17%). If the portfolio is analysed at the level of the allocated budget (Figure 2), although the preponderance of the same categories is observed, the importance of Migrant Protection and Assistance projects stands out, representing 46% of the total for the entire region during the targeted period.

Figure 2: Total budget per thematic area (USD) in the WCA region, 2016-2021
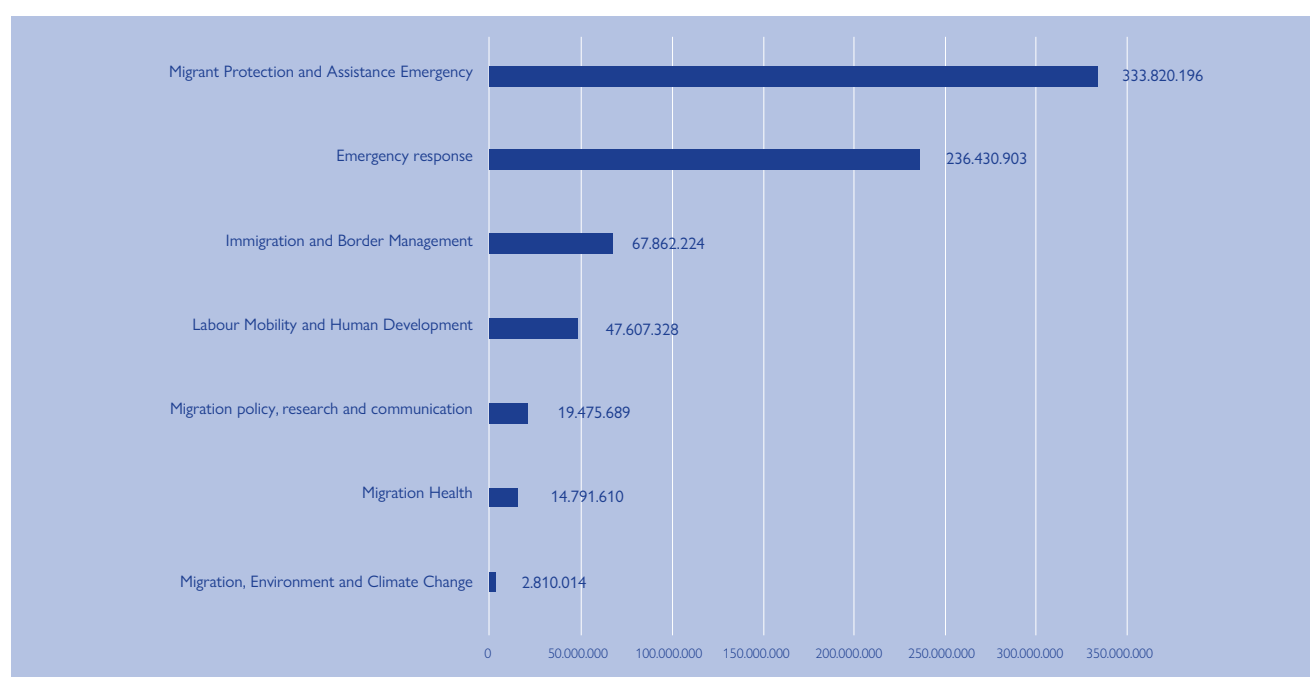
Source: prepared by the consultant, based on Data from IOM's internal project database.

If we analyse the regional portfolio by type of geographical coverage (see Figure 3), we observe that in terms of absolute number of projects, the majority (87%) are at the country level (i.e., the beneficiary country of the project is a single country), with a smaller number of projects (13%) of a regional or multi-country type (i.e. more than one beneficiary country).

Figure 3: Number of projects in the WCA region, by geographic coverage (country level vs regional/ multi-country)
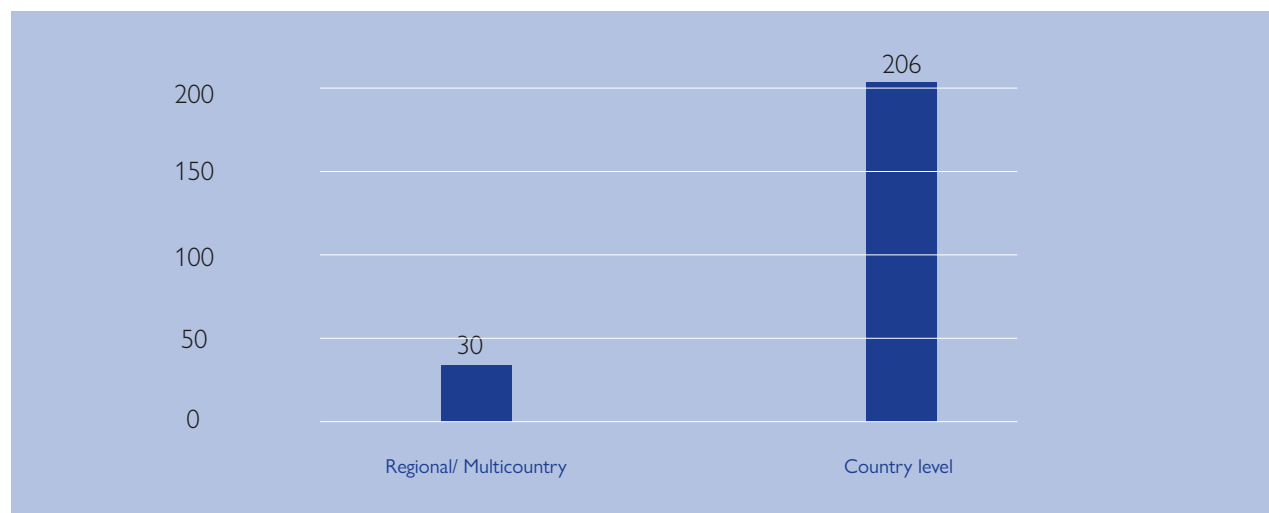
Source: prepared by the consultant, based on Data from IOM's internal project database.

In terms of allocated budget (Figure 4), however, although there is a preponderance of projects at country level, there is a relative increase in the proportion represented by regional projects in relation to the allocated budget (44%), which can be explained by the budgetary volume of many of the regional or multi-country projects.

Figure 4: Total estimated budget of projects in the WCA region, by geographic coverage type (USD)
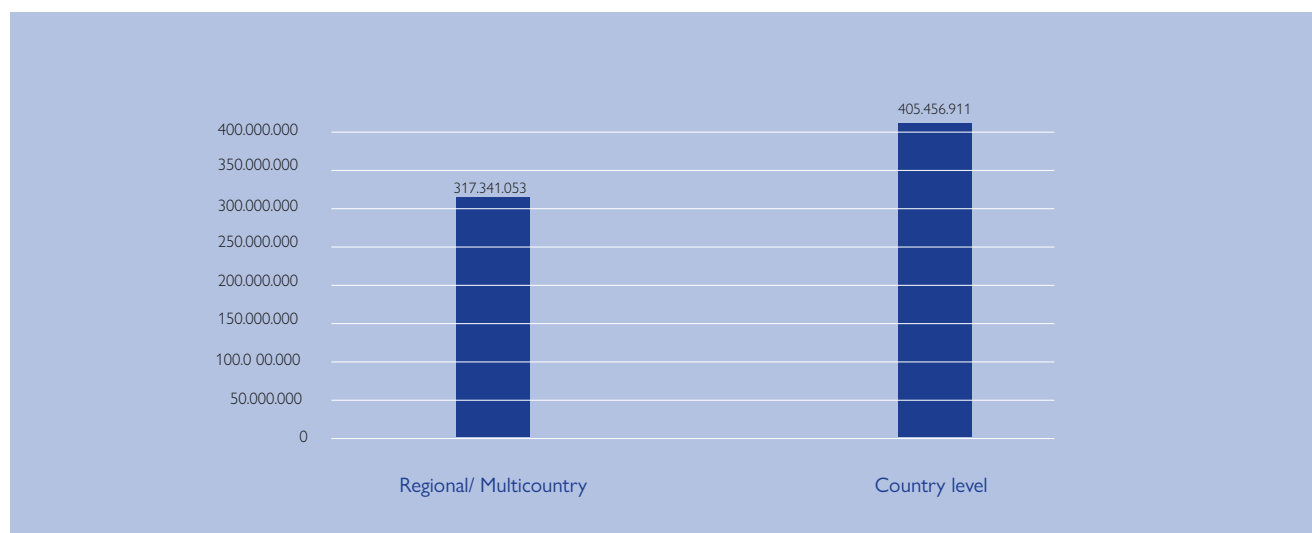
Source: prepared by the consultant, based on Data from IOM's internal project database.

Figure 5: Geographic distribution of country level projects in the WCA region
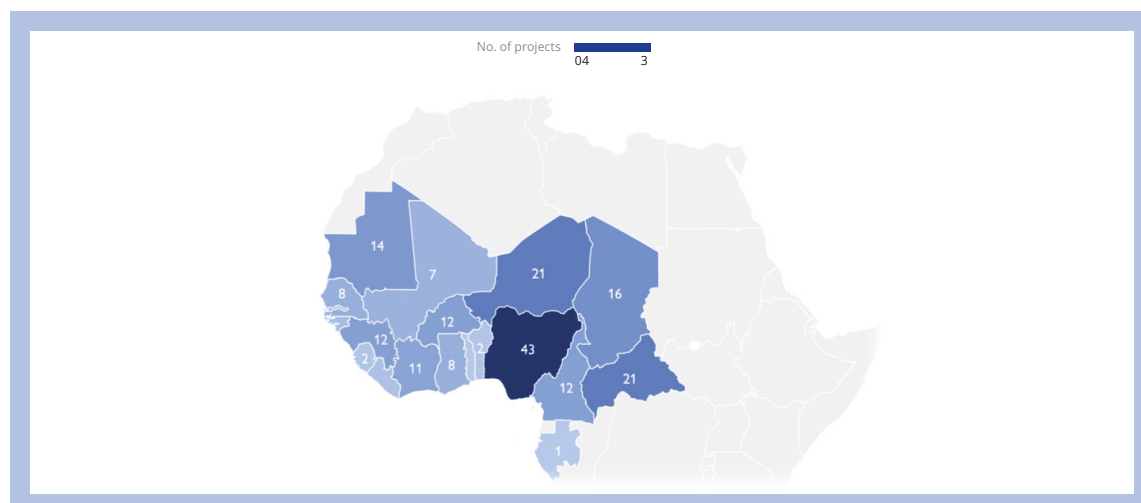
Source: prepared by the consultant, based on Data from IOM's internal project database.

Figure 5 shows the number of projects at the country level. A higher concentration of this type of projects is observed in Nigeria (43), Niger (21) and Central African Republic (21).

Figure 6 shows the thematic distribution of projects at the country and regional levels. In both cases, the largest number of projects corresponds to the Transition and Recovery thematic area.

Figure 6: Number of projects in the WCA region, by thematic area and geographic coverage
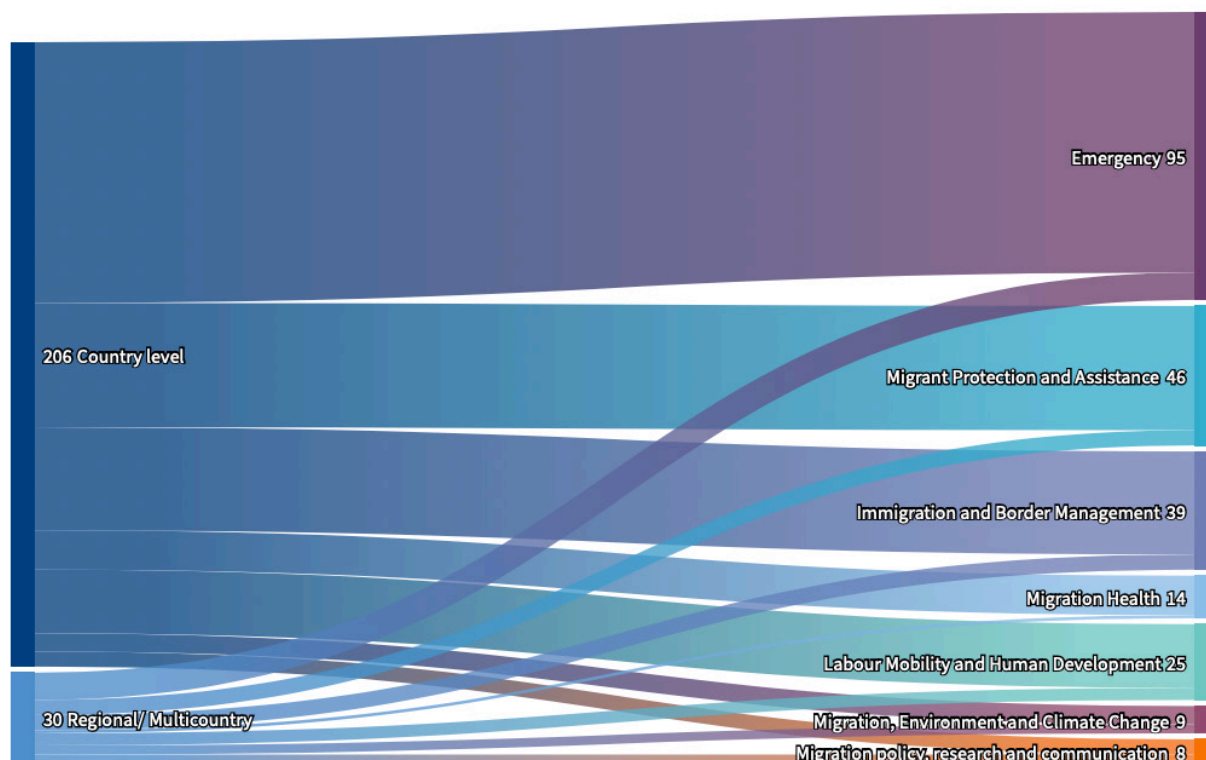
Source: prepared by the consultant, based on PData from IOM's internal project database. An interactive version of this diagram can be accessed via the following link.

2 | METHODOLOGY

The overall approach relied on a balance between two main elements: i) a structured framework that allowed for the identification of lessons learnt and recommendations, and ii) flexible processes that facilitated the adequate integration of specific contextual features, methodological challenges, and stakeholders' expectations. The approach relies on the concept of theory-based evaluations.

In line with relevant evaluation literature[2] in development and humanitarian aid and IOM Monitoring and Evaluation Guidelines[3], this study followed a mixed methods approach[4] allowing, through its synergistic nature, to properly take into consideration the different factors and actors at stake.

The methodological approach therefore consisted of a combination of tools and techniques brought together to identify linkages between IOM's programming in West and Central Africa and the various SDG targets and to identify good practices and barriers, as described in the Terms of Reference for this assignment.

The consultant relied on both quantitative and qualitative methods. The main methods used were i) semi-structured interviews, ii) literature review and text mining, iii) quantitative analysis of applicable indicators, and iv) other online communications with key informants.

The report was conducted in two main phases. The first phase focused on design and data collection while the second phase, focused on the analysis and systematization of the information collected and the drafting of the report.

2.1 | INCEPTION PHASE: DESIGN AND DATA COLLECTION

During the inception phase, a comprehensive literature review of background documentation was conducted, including IOM policy documents and strategies, and global and regional policy frameworks on the implementation of migration-related SDGs. In parallel, a preliminary quantitative analysis of the database of projects in the region (see section 1.3.2 above) was undertaken to identify possible selection criteria for the sample to be analysed in this study (see further details of the project sample selection criteria in section 2.1.1 below).

After a screening and a first pre-selection of projects disaggregated by IOM thematic areas, a consultation process with key informants was launched. The consultation was conducted in two main stages. First, IOM Regional Specialists were contacted via email and a bespoke instrument was shared with them to guide the collection of information that would help craft the selection criteria and define the final sample of projects per thematic area. The instrument consisted of a list of pre-selected projects on which the specialists could provide feedback looking at different elements of each project, such as the linkage to SDGs, involved actors, and project strengths. In addition, it included a section of qualitative open-ended questions to allow for further insights, particularly with regards to enabling the identification of potential good practices as well as difficulties and barriers.

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[2] *ALNAP, 2016. Evaluation of Humanitarian Action Guide. ALNAP Guide. London: ALNAP/ODI.*

[3] *International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2020. IOM Monitoring and Evaluation Guidelines. IOM. Geneva.*

[4] *There is rarely a single evaluation methodology that can fully capture all the complexities of how programmes operate in the real world. Consequently, evaluators must find creative ways to combine different evaluation frameworks, tools and techniques. The unique feature of mixed methods approaches is that they seek to integrate social science disciplines with predominantly quantitative and predominantly qualitative approaches to theory, data collection and data analysis and interpretation.*

The consultation process also included a subsequent stage of remote interviews with regional thematic specialists from the IOM Regional Office for West and Central Africa and IOM policy officers at Headquarters. Interviews were held using a semi-structured questionnaire to guide the conversations, and all interviews covered the same elements even though the thematic areas and SDGs analysed were different. The conversations covered not only the relevance of including selected projects in the sample, but also aspects of how the projects had contributed to the different SDGs, difficulties and barriers, and key points of success. In addition to refining the final sample of projects, the interviews also served to identify good practices and challenges, and to help formulate findings and actionable recommendations. The main sources of information during this stage were: i) overall background documentation, ii) overall database of projects and associated analysis, iii) qualitative information obtained through interviews with Regional Specialists, and iv) information from Regional Specialists through the data collection instrument described above. For each thematic area, the information available varied according to different factors, as shown in Annex I.

2.1.1 | Project sample selection

The project sample selection process was guided by i) a preliminary documentary review, ii) a quantitative analysis, and iii) information provided by Regional Thematic Specialists.

As a first step, the consultant carried out a quantitative analysis and desk review, assessing aspects including: the number of projects per thematic area, the proportion of the budget that each area represented within the total regional budget, the documentation availability, the existence of relevant evaluations, and the geographic distribution of projects. It is worth mentioning that this analysis was conducted using a database of regional projects shared by IOM staff, including initiatives implemented in West and Central Africa since 2016.

Following this first analysis, a tool was subsequently developed to calculate the sample. The tool estimated the proportion of each thematic area in the entire portfolio of projects in the region. This would ultimately help determine the required number of projects per thematic area to be included in the sample depending on the defined sample size.

In consultation with IOM staff, a target sample of up to 26 projects was defined, with the final selection of projects based on this total sample size. Using the previously described tool, projects were selected by thematic area according to the proportion that each one represented within the regional portfolio. This selection also sought to ensure geographical representativeness and the inclusion of regional or multi-country projects.

After determining the number of projects to be selected under each thematic area and carrying out the initial pre-selection of projects, a preliminary list was shared with the Regional Specialists via the tool described above (see 2.1) for their feedback. The selection of projects was finalised by gathering information from the specialists through the tool and interviews. This ensured that the chosen cases were illustrative of the overall portfolio, geographically representative, and constituted good examples to showcase. Finally, together with IOM staff, it was also ensured that there were existing documents for each of the projects to be selected, thus finalising the selection of the sample to be included in the study. The full list of projects in the sample can be consulted in Annex II.

2.2 | SYNTHESIS PHASE: SYSTEMATISATION, ANALYSIS AND SYNTHESIS

The synthesis phase of the study focused on i) the systematization of the collected data, ii) analysis of the linkages of the programmes with the SDGs, and iii) synthesis into lessons learned and recommendations.

As a first step, the information collected was systematized. The main sources during this stage were secondary information related to the projects (including project proposals, monitoring reports, final reports, and evaluations), and primary information from the in-depth interviews and the questionnaire answered by the Regional Specialists. To conduct this systematization, two tools were developed: i) a matrix of project linkages with SDGs, and ii) an expanded matrix providing qualitative details on the project linkages with SDGs.

The 'matrix of project SDG linkages' associates each selected project with three SDG targets. It is important to note that linking projects to the SDGs was not contemplated as a project design requirement nor was this information available for the projects analysed. The linkage of each project to the SDGs has only been included into the corporate tools (with the roll-out of PRIMA for All), therefore the systematization and identification of targets for each project in this study was done on a case-by-case basis, based on available information and input provided by Regional Specialists.

Although, as mentioned above, SDG reporting was not explicitly part of the design of many of the projects analysed, this does not necessarily imply that the SDGs, as well as other global guiding documents such as the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), did not constitute a reference framework for the design and operationalization of these projects.

With this in mind and considering that the implementation of these projects already suggests some degree of SDG integration into project strategies, an 'expanded matrix' was developed. This matrix aimed to provide additional qualitative evidence on the contributions of each project to the different SDG targets and was the basis for the analysis in section 3 of this report.

2.3 | LIMITATIONS AND CHALLENGES

The time and availability constraints of key informants did not allow the researcher to expand with interviews with additional stakeholders. The reliability and objectivity of the information collected is inevitably affected by this and should be considered when reading this report. Beyond this methodological shortcoming, the mixed-methods approach to data collection and analysis was designed to allow comparison of information collected from various sources and through different methods to minimise potential biases. A triangulation approach was used whenever possible, by combining multiple data sources and methods in an effort to overcome the bias that is inherent to studies relying on a single informant, method, observer, or theory.

Moreover, as mentioned earlier, the fact that the SDGs were not an explicitly integrated in the design of all analysed projects posed an inherent challenge for the study. As a mitigation measure, the consultant has sought to incorporate various sources of information (including primary sources) to identify each project's connection to the SDGs. Additionally, a simple methodology based on credible literature has been developed to substantiate the analysis of SDG Mainstreaming in the projects.

3 | IOM'S CONTRIBUTION TO SDGs IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

3.1 | OVERVIEW OF IOM'S CONTRIBUTION TO SDGS IN WCA

According to the methodology described above, IOM's contribution to the SDGs in the WCA region was assessed for the projects included in the sample. As a first step in identifying these projects' links to the SDGs, a matrix ('matrix of project SDG linkages' described in section 2.2 above) was developed to map each project with related SDG targets. This study was conducted based on several sources that have already been listed, including an analysis of reference documents, evaluations, project proposals, and interviews with Regional Thematic Specialists. During this mapping exercise, a clustering of the SDGs by thematic groups was also incorporated. This provides the foundation for the analysis in this section.

Figure 7: Thematic grouping of the SDGs

Source: designed by the consultant.

A first glance at the overview of 'linkages'[5] of sample projects to SDGs in the WCA region (Figure 8) shows a prevalence of SDGs linked to Migration Governance (38% of projects in the sample are linked to at least one SDG target within this group), followed by SDGs linked to Migration, Employment and Productivity (31%), Migration and Social Services (23%), and Migration and Environment (8%).

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[5] *Linkage refers to each single relationship of a project to an SDG. As mentioned in section 2.2 above, each project in the sample has been linked to three SDG targets. With a sample consisting of 26 projects, this adds up to a total of 78 different SDG 'linkages'.*

Figure 8: Number of linkages within sample projects contributing to SDGs in the WCA region, by SDG group
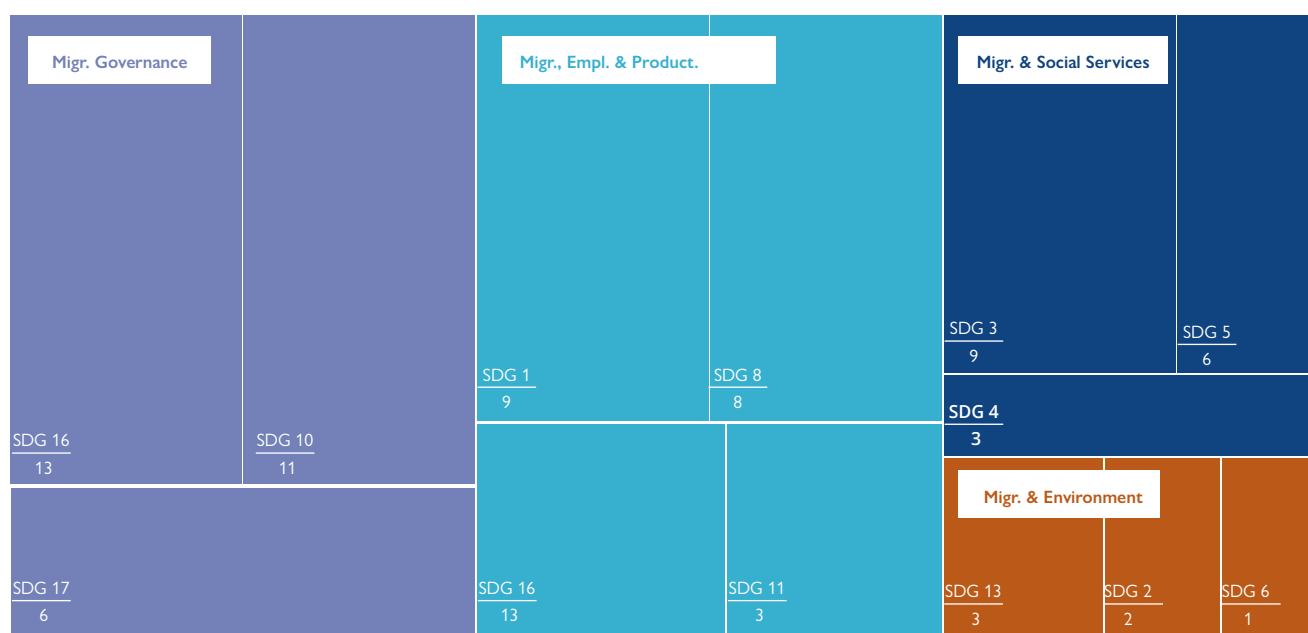
Migr. Governance	Migr., Empl. & Product.	Migr. & Social Services		
		SDG 3 — 9	SDG 5 — 6	
	SDG 1 — 9	SDG 8 — 8	SDG 4 — 3	
SDG 16 — 13	SDG 10 — 11		Migr. & Environment	
SDG 17 — 6	SDG 16 — 13	SDG 11 — 3	SDG 13 — 3	SDG 2 — 2	SDG 6 — 1

Source: prepared by the consultant, based on Data from IOM's internal project database and own analysis.

When analysing the sample based on the volume of budget[6] associated with each SDG group (refer to Figure 9), a similar trend emerges. Migration Governance ranks first, depicting a significant difference compared to the rest.

Figure 9: Volume of budget associated with each SDG group in the WCA region.
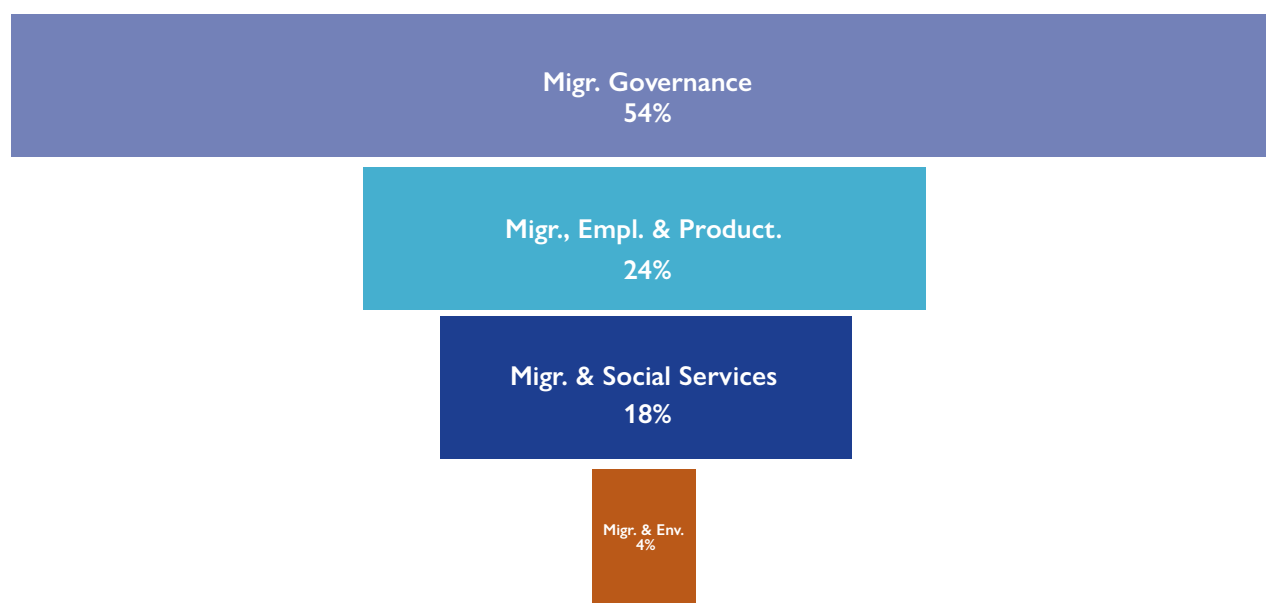
Source: prepared by the consultant, based on Data from IOM's internal project database and own analysis.

When assessing the number of projects linked to each SDG (Table 1), those with the highest number of linkages are SDG 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions (with 13 linkages within projects in the sample) and SDG 10: Reduced Inequality (11 linkages), both belonging to Group 1: Migration Governance. They are followed by SDG 01: No Poverty with 9 linkages (belonging to Group 3: Migration, Employment & Productivity), SDG 03: Good Health and Well-being with 9 linkages (belonging to Group 4: Migration and Social Services) and SDG 08: Decent Work and Economic Growth, with 8 linkages (belonging to Group 3: Migration, Employment & Productivity). Moreover, some SDGs did not present primary linkages with the selected IOM projects, namely: SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy, SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG 14: Life Below Water and SDG 15: Life on Land.

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[6] *The budget is assessed here in terms of overall volume, as there is no disaggregated information per SDG or group of SDGs but only at project level.*

Table 1: Overview of sample project linkages with SDGs in the WCA region, by SDG group

SDG group	SDGs	# of linkages
Migration Governance	10: Reduced Inequality	11
	16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions	13
	17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal	6
Migration and Environment	02: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	2
	06: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	1
	07: Affordable and Clean Energy	0
	13: Climate Action	3
	14: Life Below Water	0
	15: Life on Land	0
Migration, Employment & Productivity	01: No Poverty	9
	08: Decent Work and Economic Growth	8
	09: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	4
	11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	3
Migration and Social Services	03: Good Health and Well-being	9
	04: Quality Education	3
	05: Gender Equality	6
	12: Responsible Consumption and Production	0

Source: prepared by the consultant, based on Data from IOM's internal project database and own analysis.

Figure 10 below illustrates the different relationships drawn between the various SDGs based on the analysis carried out in this study. The size of the spheres indicates the total number of linkages with each SDG, whereas the thickness of the lines represents the number of times these linkages repeat. In line with what has been presented in this section, the top five SDGs with the largest number of linkages are SDG 16 (13 linkages), SDG 10 (11 linkages), SDG 1 (9 linkages), SDG 3 (9 linkages), and SDG 8 (8 linkages) respectively. This is reflected in the diagram, with these five SDGs being those with the largest spheres. In terms of the number of repeated linkages, the SDG sets that have been linked most often among the projects in the sample are SDGs 10-16, 1-10, 8-16 and 1-11, as can be seen in the figure below by examining the thickness of the lines linking these SDGs.

Figure 10: Overview of sample project linkages with SDGs in the WCA region
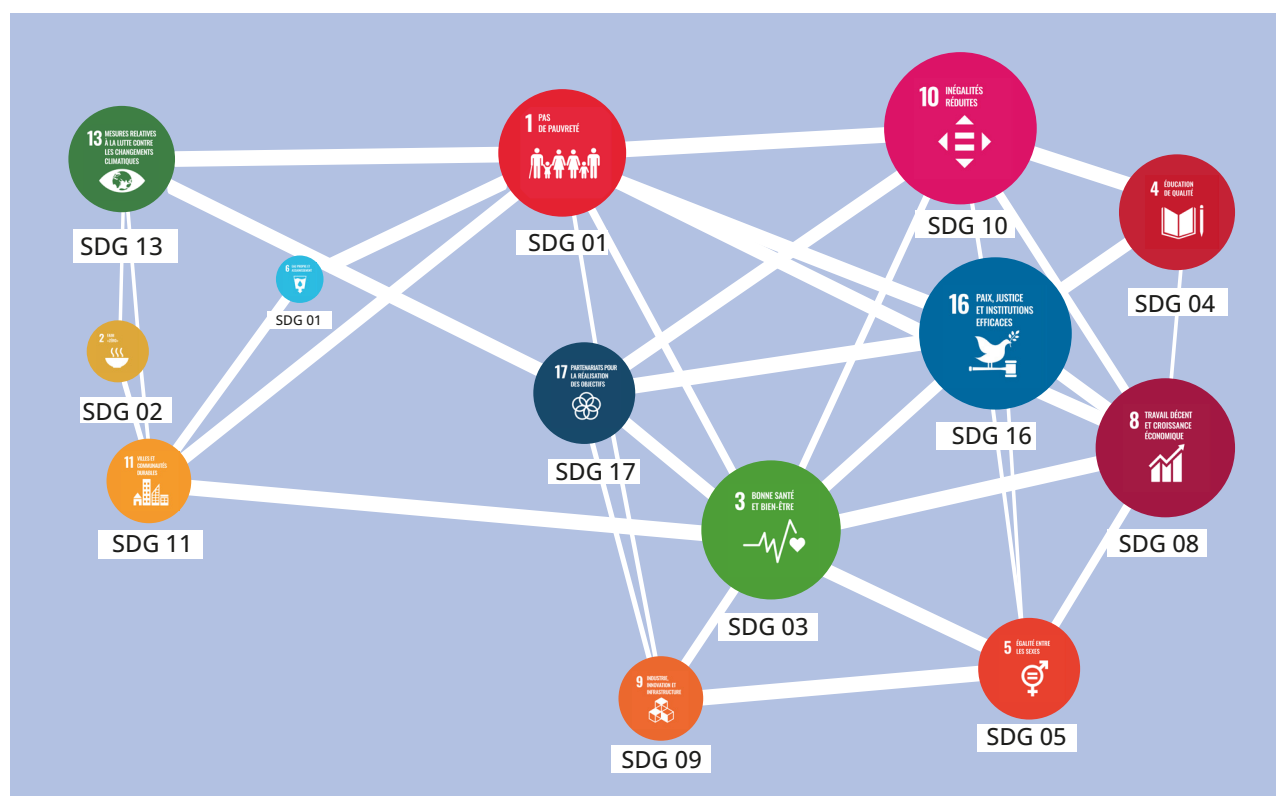
Source: prepared by the consultant, based on Data from IOM's internal project database and own analysis. An interactive version of this diagram can be accessed via the following link.

3.2 | CONTRIBUTION TO SDGS LINKED TO MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

This section analyses the contributions of the sampled projects linked to migration governance, namely SDGs 10 (Reduced Inequality), 16 (Peace and Justice Strong Institutions) and 17 (Partnerships to achieve the Goal).

As mentioned in the previous subsection, this group of SDGs presents the highest number of projects linked to at least one SDG target. Looking at the level of each individual SDG, SDG 16 has the highest number of linkages (13), followed by SDG 10 (11) and 17 (6).
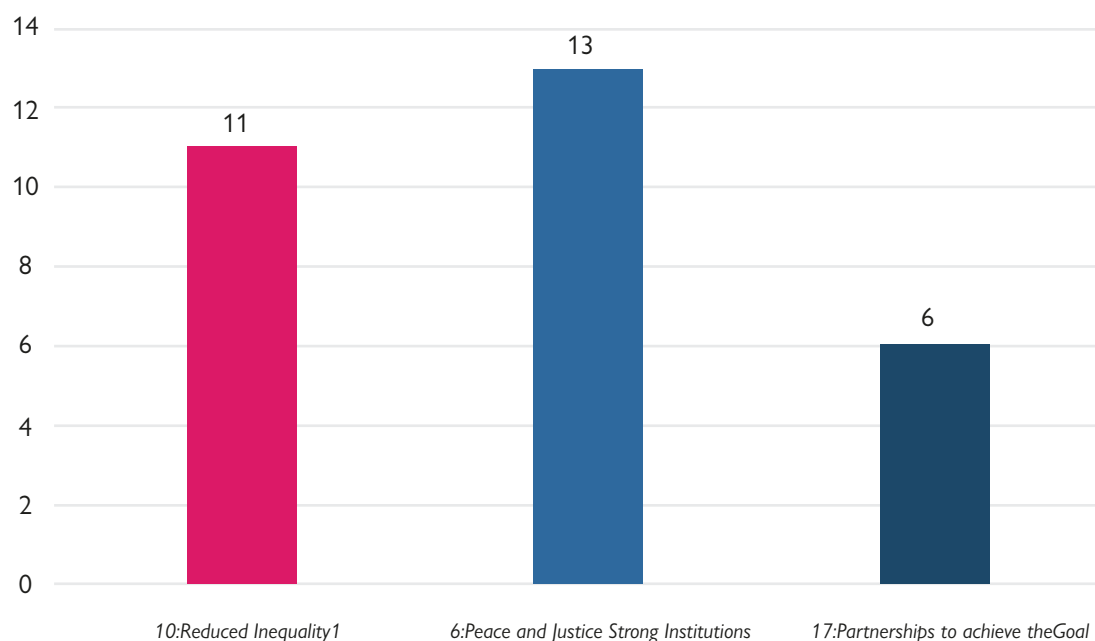
Source: prepared by the consultant, based on Data from IOM's internal project database and own analysis

Moving on to analyse the targets, within SDG 10, it can be seen that the largest project contributions to SDGs are related to target 10.7[7], which is the migration target by excellence and one of the targets with explicit references to migration.[8] Projects that have contributed to this target are working to improve migration governance, supporting activities related to border management, capacity building and engaging with communities, among other approaches. The initiative "Enhancing Social Stability through Border Communities' Empowerment in Guinea", contributing to this target, has, for instance, aimed at enhancing social cohesion among communities near the Guinea border by supporting law enforcement agencies and border communities.

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[7] *Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.*

[8] *In this report, following the typology of the report 'Migration and the 2030 Agenda: A Guide for Practitioners', targets with explicit mentions will be referred to as targets with a direct connection, while those where it does not appear explicitly but transversally will be referred to as having a cross-cutting connection.*

Figure 12: Number of linkages to SDGs in the area of Migration Governance, by SDG target
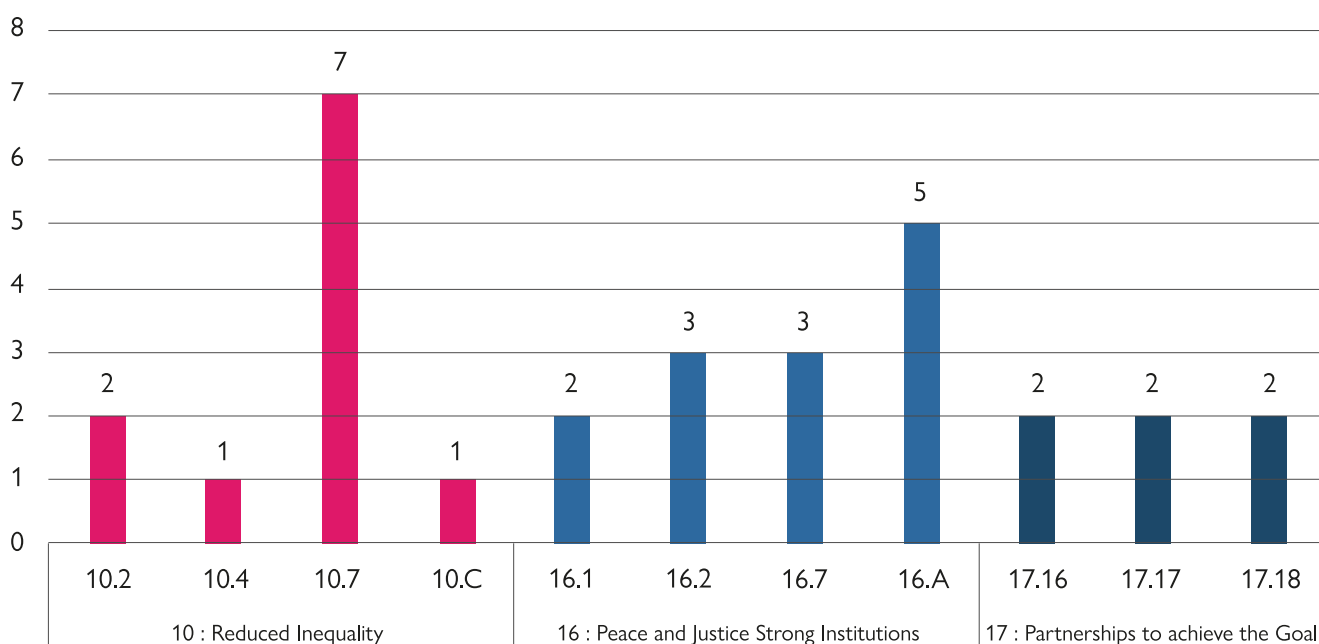
Bar chart values:

SDG target	Value
10.2	2
10.4	1
10.7	7
10.C	1
16.1	2
16.2	3
16.7	3
16.A	5
17.16	2
17.17	2
17.18	2

Groupings: 10 : Reduced Inequality (10.2, 10.4, 10.7, 10.C); 16 : Peace and Justice Strong Institutions (16.1, 16.2, 16.7, 16.A); 17 : Partnerships to achieve the Goal (17.16, 17.17, 17.18)

Source: prepared by the consultant, based on Data from IOM's internal project database and own analysis

Target 10.2[9] follows two linkages, both related to projects with an approach on promoting social, economic, and political inclusion among vulnerable migrants. Such is the case, for example, of the "Programme of support in the prevention of conflicts and violent extremism in the border areas of Benin, Burkina Faso and Togo" whose objective was to contribute to the improvement of the resilience of populations in the cross-border areas of Benin, Burkina Faso, and Togo by strengthening their socio-economic resilience.

Targets 10.4[10] (with a focus on wage policies[11]) and 10.C[12] (focus on remittances[13]) have only one project contributing to each.

Moving on to SDG 16, there is a more homogeneous distribution between the different targets, although target 16.A is predominant.[14] This is explained by the emphasis of several of the projects in the sample on building the capacity of national and local institutions. An example of this is the project "Enhanced Collective Capacity to Assist Vulnerable Migrants in Chad", designed to address the urgent protection needs of vulnerable and stranded migrants in Chad. In the context of this programme, IOM has supported the development of a training guide and the delivery of training to senior and mid/lower-level management officials of the law enforcement agencies covering national and local legislative and institutional Chadian frameworks on the provision of services to migrants and related issues.

Under this SDG at least three projects have contributed to target 16.7[15], being typically projects with a participatory and community involvement approach, such as the initiative "Empowering vulnerable young people in Chad to become peacebuilding agents". Targeting two major issues, youth unemployment and peacebuilding, this project's approach was cantered in strengthening community decision-making mechanisms to increase the active participation of young men and women.

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[9] By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

[10] Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality.

[11] "Strengthening the Capacities of Local Institutions in Cameroon to Expand the Social Security to include Cameroonian Migrant Workers Living in Belgium"(2016-2018)

[12] By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent.

[13] "Improving Capacities to Leverage Remittances for Development in Ghana" (2015-2017)

[14] Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.

[15] Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.

At least three projects have contributed to target 16.2[16], with an emphasis on preventing human trafficking, torture, and abuse of young people. The project "Support to civil society and institutional actors for the protection of migrants and human rights in Mauritania" has contributed to this target by promoting the protection of migrants' rights and the governance of migration in Mauritania through capacity building of Mauritanian civil society and institutional actors, including the profiling of minor migrants.

Target 16.1[17] has two linked projects that primarily aim to combat violence and promote social cohesion, such as the programme "Enhancing Social Stability through Border Communities' Empowerment in Guinea". This project's main goal was to promote state and human security and enhance social cohesion around targeted Guinea border communities.

SDG 17, target 17.16[18] groups projects that have adopted a multi-stakeholder collaborative approach, mainly in terms of information sharing (e.g., "Improving Capacities to Leverage Remittances for Development in Ghana"). Target 17.17[19] has been contributed to by projects that have focused on strengthening multi-stakeholder dialogue mechanisms (e.g. "Cities deliver for life and health: Strengthening the capacity of four selected Central African cities to support access to HIV-related services for Internally Displaced People and host communities"), while target 17.18,[20] also directly connected to migration, has had contributions from projects with data systems strengthening components (e.g. "Global Health Security Partner Engagement - Expanding Efforts and Strategies to Protect and Improve Public Health Globally").

Figure 13: Number of linkages to SDGs in the area of Migration Governance, by IOM thematic area
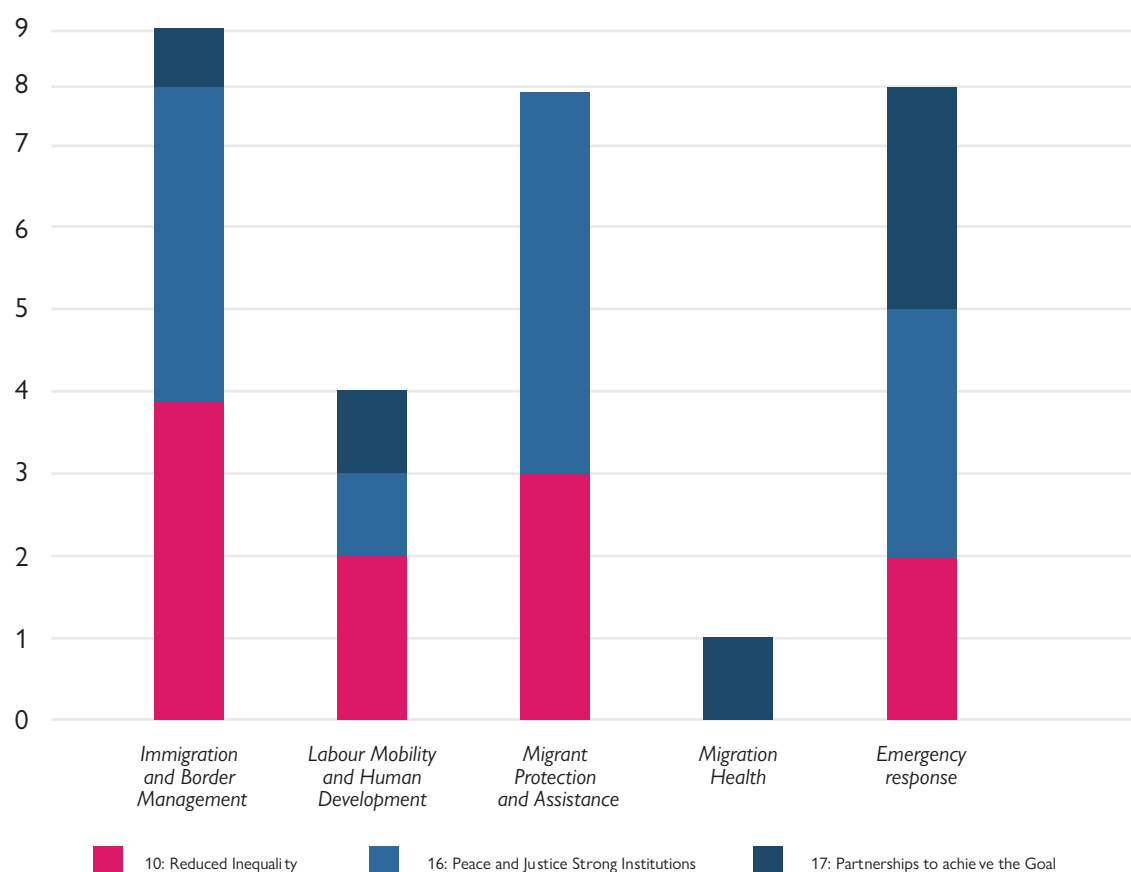
Legend:
- 10: Reduced Inequality
- 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions
- 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal

Source: prepared by the consultant, based on Data from IOM's internal project database and own analysis

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[16] *End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.*

[17] *Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.*

[18] *Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries.*

[19] *Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships*

[20] *By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.*

An analysis according to IOM thematic areas shows a distribution that is consistent with the overall distribution of projects in the sample and the general trends under this group of SDGs. It is worth noting that the highest concentration of projects contributing to SDG 10 are linked to thematic areas working on migrant protection and assistance and work related to border management. Contributions to SDG 16, with a focus on peace and social cohesion are more linked to projects under the area of migrants' protection and assistance, while the strongest linkages to SDG 17 on partnerships have taken place under the area of emergency response, an area that requires coordinated work for rapid response.

Finally, under this group, 10 multi-country or regional projects have contributed to at least one target. The budgetary volume of these regional projects most likely explains the preponderance of this group of SDGs in budgetary terms, as visualised in Figure 9. At the country level, Mauritania and Guinea stand out as those with the most SDG-linked projects in the sample within this group.

Figure 14: Geographic distribution of linkages to SDGs in the area of Migration Governance
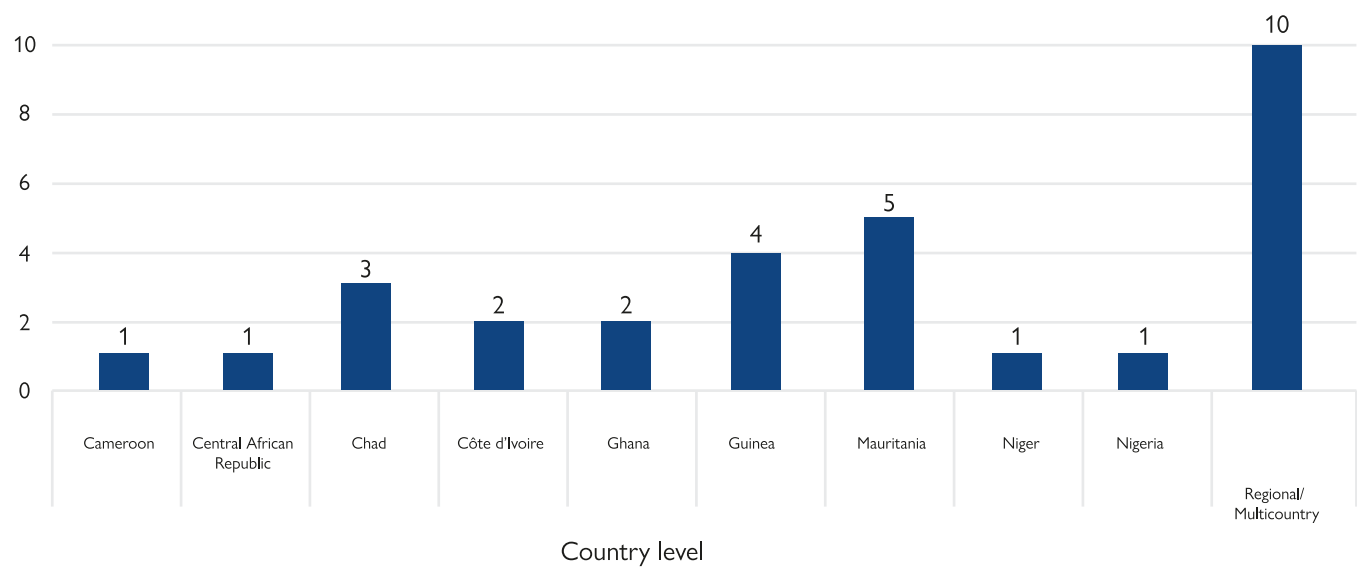
Source: prepared by the consultant, based on Data from IOM's internal project database and own analysis

Box 1: Good practice – "EUTF–IOM initiative for strengthening border management and protecting and reintegrating migrants" – Mauritania

This project proposes an innovative approach in Mauritania that relies on local cross-border communities to strengthen border management and promote cooperation and mutual trust between security agents, local authorities, and cross-border populations.

Launched in December 2016 with the support of the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration is the first comprehensive programme bringing together African countries, IOM, and the EU around the shared aim of ensuring that migration is safer, more informed, and better governed for both migrants and their communities. It is implemented in 13 countries in the Sahel and Lake Chad region.

Mauritania is a country that lies at the junction of sub-Saharan Africa and the Sahel region. For several years, these areas have been subject to increased migratory flows of various kinds, combined with an unstable security situation that significantly impacts the country. Although Mauritania has made an effort to enhance its border management capability, it remains impacted by the complex and intertwined nature of international migration.

The low presence of security forces at the border limits regular interaction with the populations living in the most remote areas. These populations are established on both sides of the border and maintain social or family relations with the communities on the Senegalese or Malian side.

The involvement of these populations in border management is therefore essential to compensate for the lack of resources of the services in charge of borders.

To ensure good synergies and improve coordination between the various state and non-state actors in border management, IOM has also established a coordination committee of border management actors in Mauritania. In addition to the Mauritanian government, this committee includes services involved in this field, international organizations, and embassies implementing border management projects. This experience exemplifies the alignment between different levels of action (local, national, and regional). "The community engagement approach aims, firstly, to assess the communities' perceptions of the border area, their concerns about security and protection issues, as well as how they value or perceive the authorities. Based on this assessment, and in collaboration with the communities is implemented on the ground. We must be extremely responsive because the country next door is different, which is why we are trying to make it a cross-border exercise to bring communities from both sides together to have this type of dialogue" (Regional thematic Specialist on Border Management)

This project has contributed to the following direct (10: Reduced Inequality) and cross-cutting (16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions) SDGs.

Source: assessment done by the consultant based on project documentation and interviews,

3.3 | CONTRIBUTION TO SDGS LINKED TO MIGRATION AND ENVIRONMENT

This section analyses the contributions of the sampled projects linked to migration and environment, namely SDGs 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture), 6 (Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all) and 13 (Climate Action). SDGs 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 14 (Life Below Water) and 15 (Life on Land), which also belong to this SDG group, did not present any primary linkages with the selected IOM projects.

As presented in previous subsection 3.1, this group of SDGs is the one depicting the lowest number of projects linked to related SDG targets, with a total of 6 linkages out of the total of 78 possible linkages. Looking at the level of each of the SDGs in this group, SDG 13 has the highest number of linkages (3 linkages), followed by SDG 2 (2 linkages) and 6 (1 linkage).

Figure 15: Number of linkages to SDGs in the area of Migration and Environment, by SDG
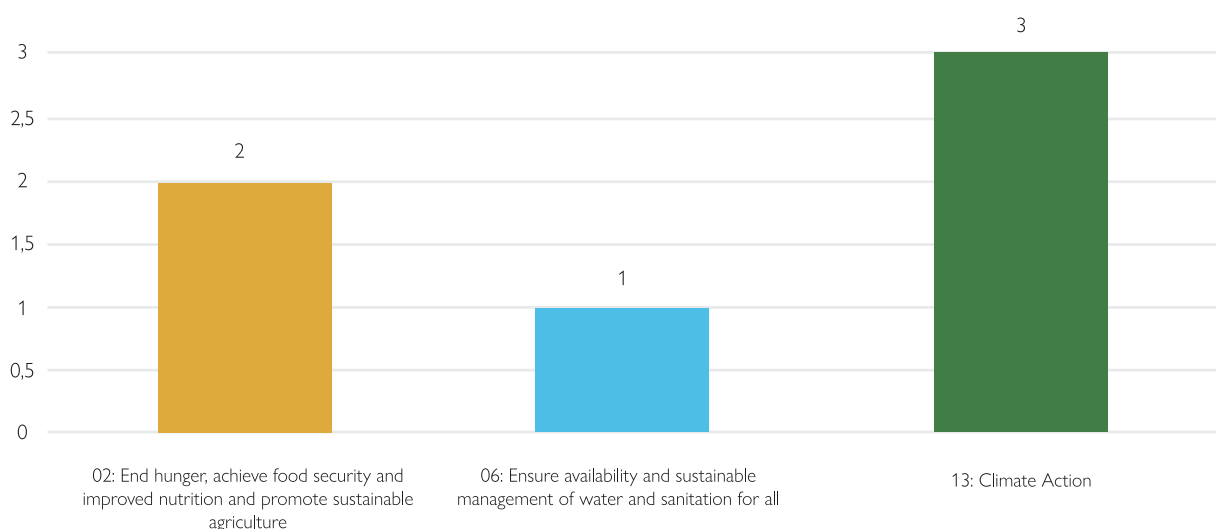
Bar chart showing number of linkages:
- 02: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture — 2
- 06: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all — 1
- 13: Climate Action — 3

Source: prepared by the consultant, based on Data from IOM's internal project database and own analysis

Shifting to the analysis of the targets, within SDG 13. most of the project contributions are related to target 13.3[21], which is a target with cross-cutting connection to migration. Linked projects contributing to this target emphasize the dissemination and awareness raising activities among communities and governmental actors. An example of this is the multi-country[22] project 'Enhancing State and Partner Capacity to Capture Flows Across the Central Transhumance Corridor' (2020-2021), which aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Member States and regional and local partners to monitor transhumance flows and to promote information sharing and cooperation.

Figure 16: Number of linkages to SDGs in the area of Migration and Environment, by SDG target
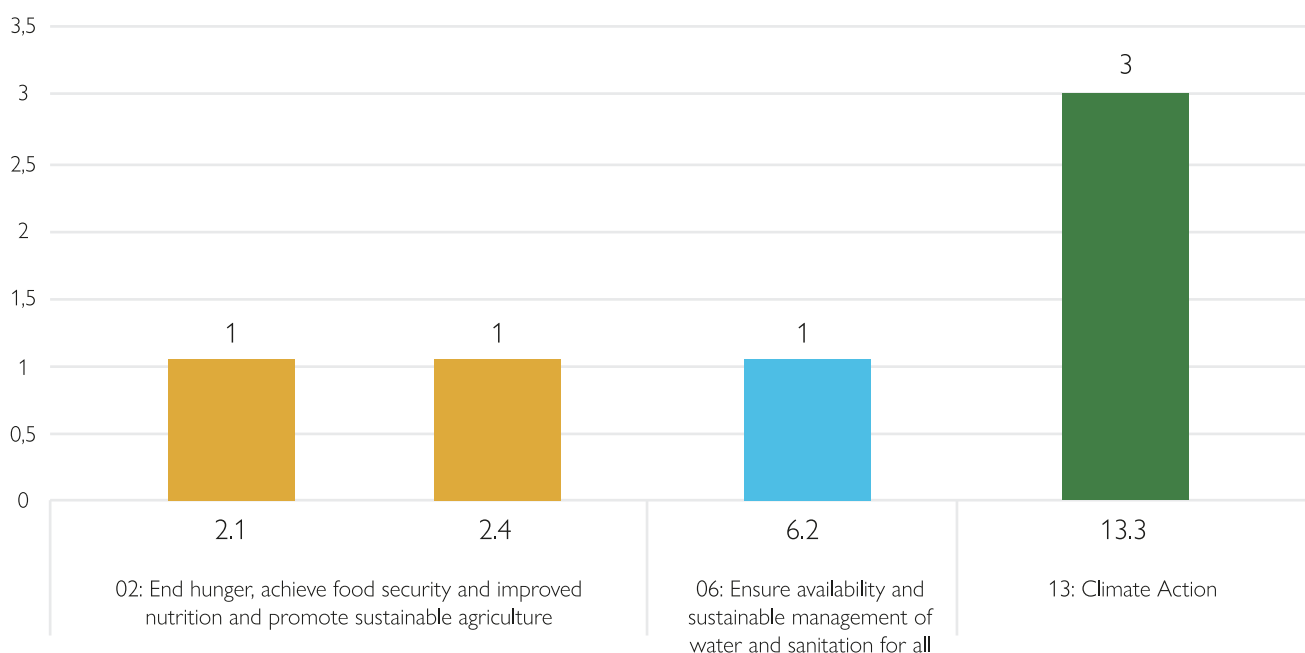
Bar chart showing number of linkages by SDG target:
- 2.1 (02: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture) — 1
- 2.4 (02: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture) — 1
- 6.2 (06: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all) — 1
- 13.3 (13: Climate Action) — 3

Source: prepared by the consultant, based on Data from IOM's internal project database and own analysis

Moving on to SDG 6, we can see only one project's contribution to target 6.2.[23] With the objective of building 'Durable return assistance to displaced population in Mbomou Prefecture' (Central African Republic), this project launched in 2019 has helped to provide access to potable water to the population of the city of Bangui.

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[21] *Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.*

[22] *Burkina Faso, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Togo.*

[23] *By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations*

Under SDG 2, two projects have made contributions with regards to food security and nutrition. A project[24] related to target 2.1[25] has provided support to Malian refugees and affected host communities in Burkina Faso to benefit from diversified and high-quality food, nutritional products for their livestock and community-built infrastructure. Contributions to target 2.4[26] are related to a community-based approach to increase community resilience and local productive value chains in the context of the project 'Building the Resilience of Communities Affected by Climate Change and Environmental Degradation in Guinea'.

Figure 17: Number of linkages to SDGs in the area of Migration and Environment, by IOM thematic area
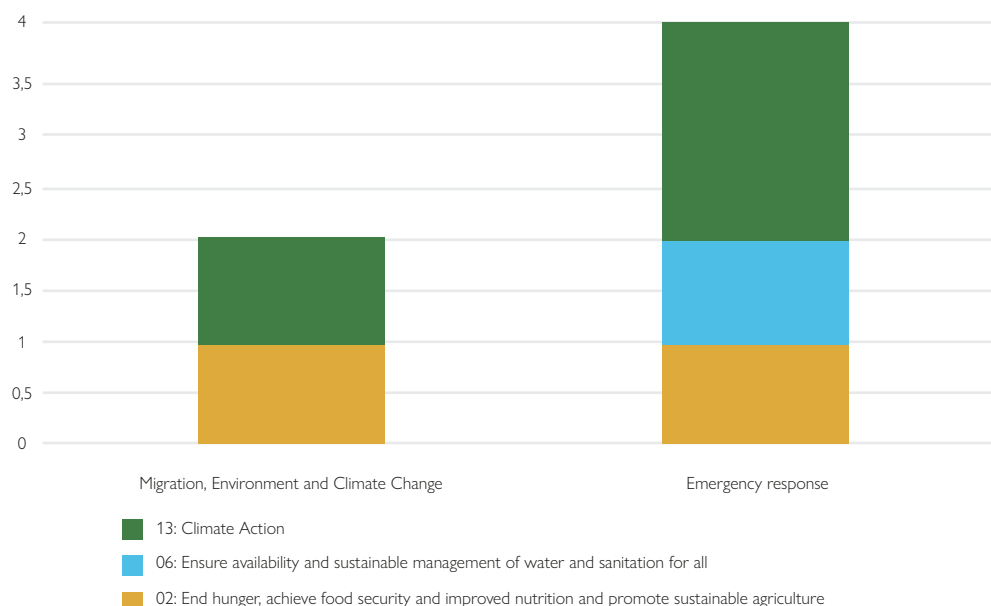
13: Climate Action

06: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

02: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Source: prepared by the consultant, based on Data from IOM's internal project database and own analysis

If we incorporate IOM thematic areas as a variable of analysis, it is interesting to note that the specific thematic area related to this group (MECC) is not the area with the most linked projects. This is explained by the reduced number of projects under this thematic area (being implemented and therefore considered for the sample of this study), and by the cross-cutting nature of the environmental challenges that make it an element to be considered in the framework of projects with different objectives.

Within this cluster, a greater geographic concentration can be seen compared to other SDG groups. Projects have been predominantly country-based, with only one multi-country project, which shows that the Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) nexus is still an emerging thematic. This is also seen in the small number of projects and the relatively low budget compared to other SDG clusters or thematic areas during the target period of 2016-2021.

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[24] *'Support to Vulnerable Malian Refugees and Selected Host Communities through Livelihood Opportunities and Protection Activities in the North Region, Burkina Faso- Phase 2' (2020-2021)*

[25] *By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.*

[26] *By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.*

Figure 18: Geographic distribution of linkages to SDGs in the area of Migration and Environment
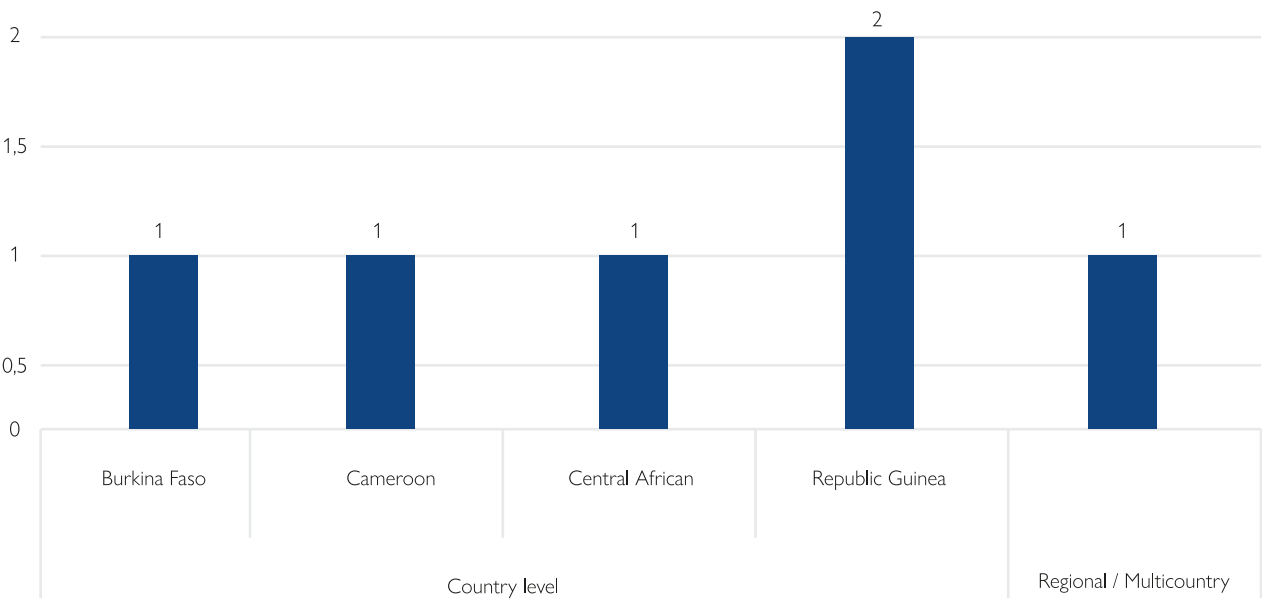
	Burkina Faso	Cameroon	Central African	Republic Guinea	Regional / Multicountry
Value	1	1	1	2	1

Country level   Regional / Multicountry

Source: prepared by the consultant, based on Data from IOM's internal project database and own analysis

Box 2: Good practice – "Building the Resilience of Communities Affected by Climate Change and Environmental Degradation in Guinea"- Guinea

The consequences of climate change in Guinea cannot be disassociated from the socio-economic hardship. These challenges have in no small way influenced the migration flows in border areas and neighbouring States, with an increase in the internal movements from rural-rural or rural-urban areas in search of livelihood opportunities.

The objective of the project has been to contribute to improving access to sustainable livelihoods solutions among communities most affected by climate change in Guinea focusing especially on women. The emphasis has been on facilitating dialogue with relevant actors and strengthening the knowledge production and good governance of the Guinean authorities when it comes to the Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) nexus.

Despite health and security restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the socio-political instability related to the 2020 elections in Guinea, the project has adapted to a changing reality. It succeeded in strengthening the project's governance and ownership through a steering committee, including key Ministries and UN agencies, with the Ministry of Environment appointed as project lead. This laid the groundwork for strategic relationships and dialogues with relevant actors involved in the MECC nexus that facilitated a successful realisation and long-term impact of the project. Appearance of partnerships with other stakeholders is key for the sustainability of the project.

In addition, the baseline study provided concrete data drawing the links between migration, environmental degradation, and climate change, but also a set of policy recommendations on how to design and implement more sustainable and gender-sensitive policies and development plans to improve the livelihoods for climate vulnerable communities in Guinea. Incorporating an evidence-based and data-driven approach represents a direct linkage with the development of goals and strategic planification.

The fact that the project was a part of the UNDAF has given it more visibility within the UN System, which in turn has opened new possibilities to create synergies with other agencies for future joint initiatives.

An interesting fact is that the local partners started taking the MECC nexus into consideration in their activity planning.

"The approach is mostly holistic. It includes generating evidence and trying to inform policy making and stimulate policy dialogue around environment, climate, displacement and relocation through communication and visibility efforts. We focus on trying to "show concrete solutions", working at the community and policy-making level with tangible action and evidence-based solutions. We are the first organization of our kind to have such a specialised area and we have been supporting different audiences to better internalise the issue. Much remains to be done but we are starting to see the first impacts of our actions". (Regional thematic Specialist: Migration, Environment and Climate Change)

This project has contributed to the three cross-cutting SDGs (02: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture, 13: Climate Action, 01: No Poverty).

Source: assessment done by the consultant based on project documentation and interviews,

3.4 | CONTRIBUTION TO SDGS LINKED TO MIGRATION, EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY

This section analyses the contributions of the sampled projects linked to migration, employment, and productivity namely SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) and 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

This group of SDGs ranks second in terms of the overall number of projects linked to at least one SDG target. Analysing each SDG separately, SDG 1 is the one with the highest number of linkages (9), followed closely by SDG 8 (8), and then by SDG 9 (4) and SDG 11 (3).

Figure 19: Number of linkages to SDGs in the area of Migration, Employment and Productivity, by SDG
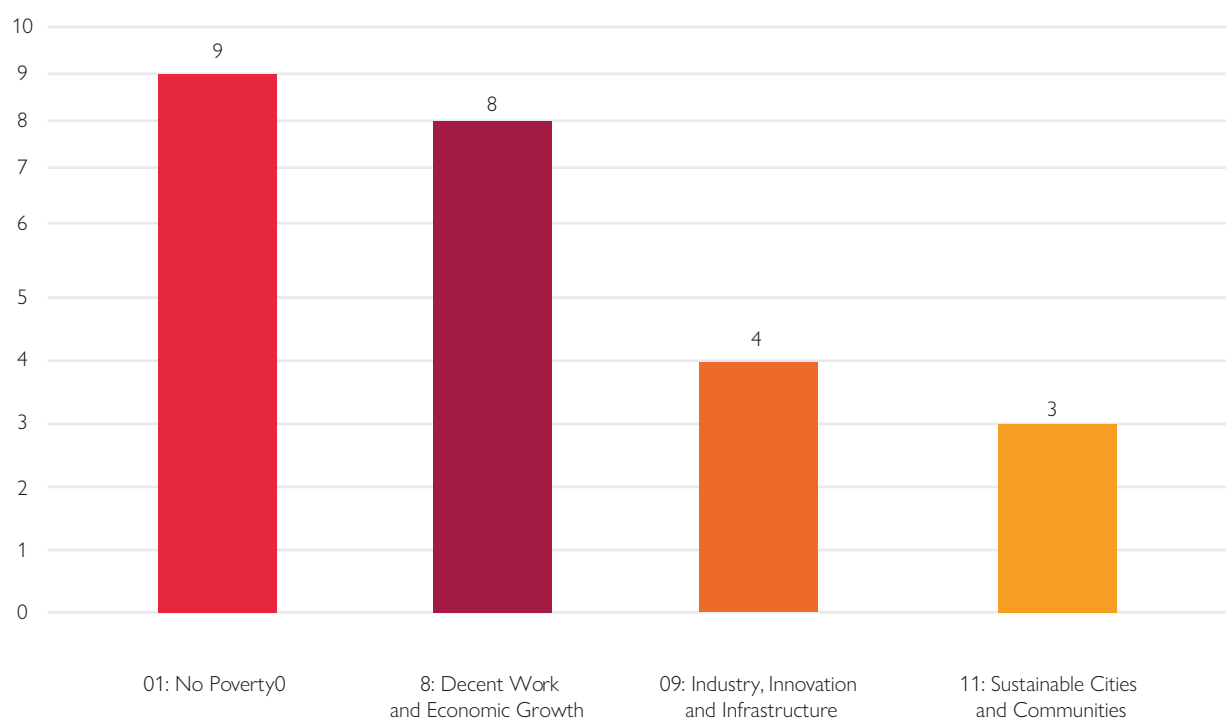
Source: prepared by the consultant, based on Data from IOM's internal project database and own analysis

Turning to the analysis of the targets, within SDG 1, the largest project contributions to SDGs are related to targets 1.4[27] and 1.5[28,] both of which focus on people in vulnerable situations with the aim of contributing to access to equal economic rights and resources (1.4) and building resilience (1.5). Projects contributing to target 1.4 focus mainly on responding to immediate needs and providing support in terms of access to resources, improved housing conditions and short-term livelihoods. The project "Cross Border Engagement between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia to Reinforce Social Cohesion and Border Security – Phase II", for instance, in addition to its objective of reducing tensions in border areas between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, has provided relief to local communities by meeting many of their expressed needs. These include the rehabilitation of several basic community infrastructures including water pumps, cross-border markets, the provision of table benches to elementary schools, the renovation of health centres and donation of delivery beds.

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[27] *By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.*

[28] *By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.*

Figure 20: Number of linkages to SDGs in the area of Migration, Employment and Productivity, by SDG target
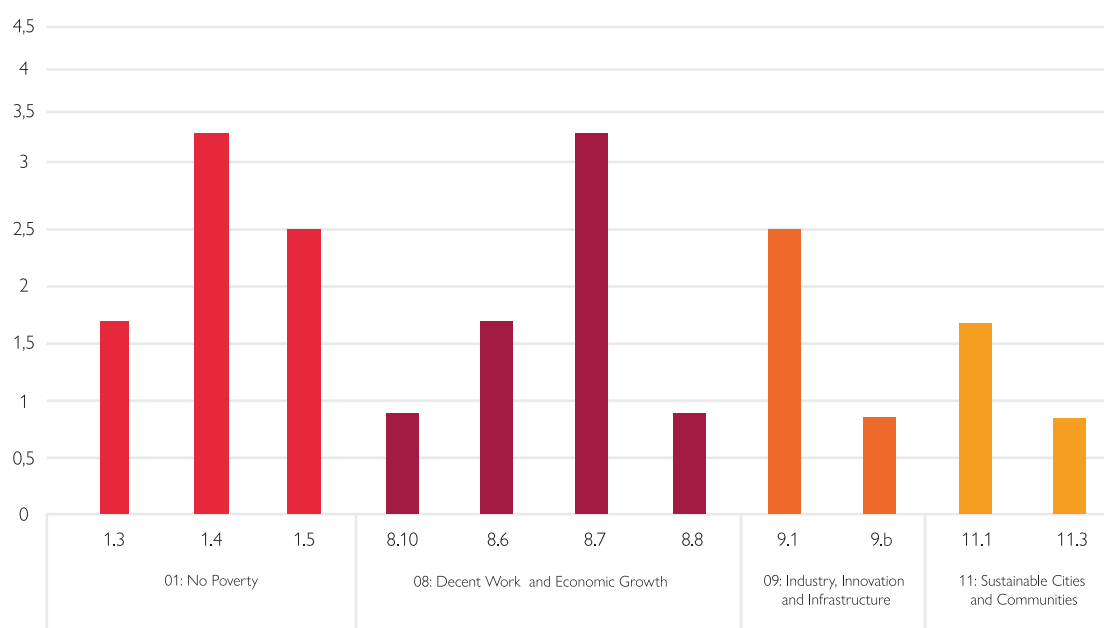
Source: prepared by the consultant, based on PRIMA for All data and own analysis

Projects contributing to target 1.5 have had a stronger focus on resilience building. The project "Enabling Better Institutional and Operational Response Capacity to Climate Change and Disasters in Mauritania" had as its main objective to improve the institutional and operational capacity of the Mauritanian government as well as NGOs in Disaster Risk Reduction, preparedness, and response, by developing an up-to-date national contingency plan to enhance the country's preparedness to major disasters.

Last under SDG 1, target 1.3[29] holds links with two projects whose contributions relate to the protection and access to social security. For instance, the project "Strengthening the Capacities of Local Institutions in Cameroon to Expand the Social Security to include Migrant Workers Living in Belgium" targeted Cameroonian diaspora and aimed to contribute to the extension of the social security system in Cameroon by extending social protection to Cameroonian workers living in Belgium.

Under SDG 8, most contributions are attributed to target 8.7[30] which, having a direct connection to migration, focuses on eliminating forced labour and human trafficking. The projects that have contributed to this target have therefore focused on this topic through different approaches and actions. It is interesting to mention, for example, project "IOM X West Africa" which had an innovative awareness-raising approach to influence migrants' attitudes and behaviours regarding regular migration and/or alternatives to irregular migration.

Projects contributing to target 8.6[31] have implemented actions to promote employment, particularly among young people. An illustration of this is the programme "Supporting Youth with Efficient and Effective Employment Counselling Centres in Niger", which is contributing to this target by providing alternatives to irregular migration by creating effective mechanisms to integrate youth into the labour market in Niger.

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[29] *Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.*
[30] *Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.*
[31] *By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.*

The remaining targets under this SDG have shown only one linkage each. Concretely, the project contributing to target 8.8[32] has a focus on promoting labour rights and preventing labour exploitation[33], while the project contributing to target 8.10[34] focuses on financial capacity building in remittances management[35]. SDG 9, related to industry, infrastructure, and innovation, is connected to 4 projects in the sample. The target to which most projects have contributed to is 9.1[36], with a focus on resilient, sustainable, and accessible infrastructure. To prevent gender-based violence (GBV) and strengthen protection, the programme "Strengthened protection from gender-based violence in Adamawa state in north-east Nigeria" has built a Multi-Purpose Community Hall in Malkhohi Local Government Area to address some of the identified needs indicated in the needs assessment initially conducted.

Target 9.b[37] has received contributions from only one project, linked to the innovative development of technological tools, in this case to monitor transhumance flows within ECOWAS Member States.[38]

Last, under SDG 11, target 11.1[39] has been linked to two projects while target 11.3[40] to one. Projects contributing to target 11.1 have done so through actions aimed at supporting access to adequate and affordable housing and services, such as in the project "Durable return assistance to displaced population in Mbomou Prefecture", in which IOM has supported returnees in the Mbomou Prefecture by addressing the basic needs of returnees and their communities through the reconstruction/rehabilitation of their homes. The intervention contributing to target 11.3, on a different note, has put a stronger emphasis on the participative approach related to access to housing as evidenced in the programme "Support to Vulnerable Malian Refugees and Selected Host Communities through Livelihood Opportunities and Protection Activities in the North Region, Burkina Faso (Phase 2)".

There is a great diversity in terms of IOM thematic areas contributing to this group of SDGs (Figure 21), with most of them (except for two) contributing to SDG 1.

By far, emergency response is the largest contributing area that contributed to all SDGs in this group with a total of 11 distinct linkages, which is consistent with the relevance of this thematic area to the portfolio under analysis. It is also coherent that, for example, labour mobility is the area that has contributed the most to SDG 8.

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[32] *Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.*

[33] *"Strengthening the Capacities of Local Institutions in Cameroon to Expand the Social Security to include Cameroonian Migrant Workers Living in Belgium" (2020-2021)*

[34] *Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all.*

[35] *"Improving Capacities to Leverage Remittances for Development in Ghana" (2015-2017)*

[36] *Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all.*

[37] *Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities.*

[38] *"Enhancing State and Partner Capacity to Capture Flows Across the Central Transhumance Corridor"(2020-2021)*

[39] *By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.*

[40] *By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.*

Figure 21: Number of linkages to SDGs in the area of Migration, Employment and Productivity, by IOM thematic area
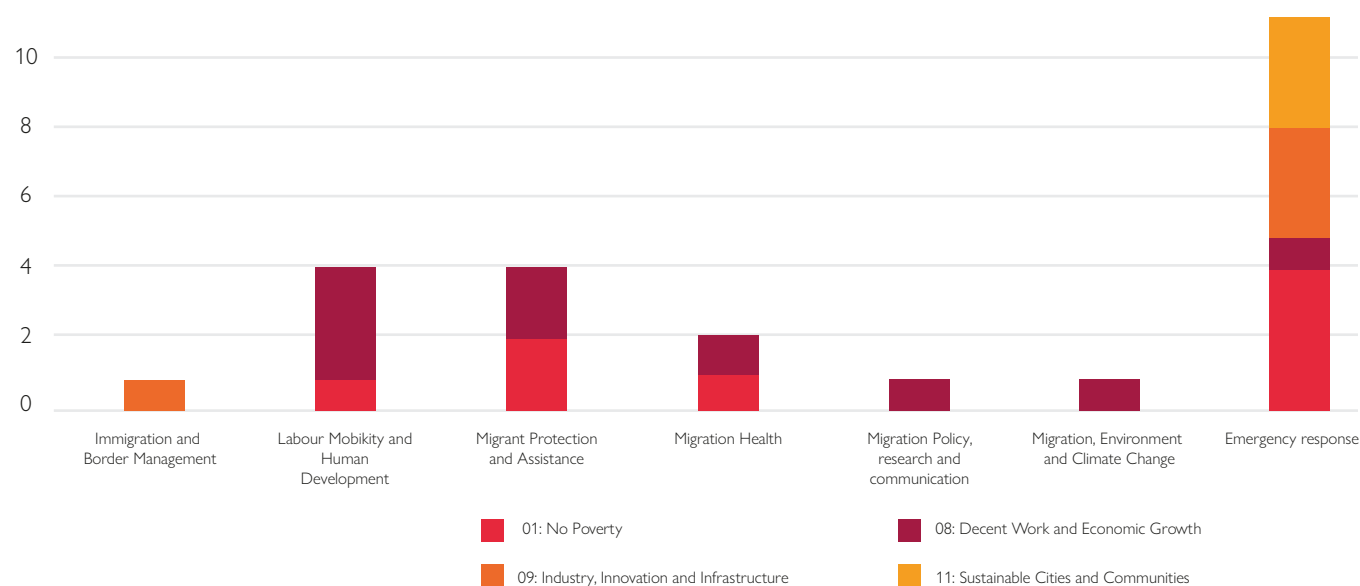
Legend:
- 01: No Poverty
- 08: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- 09: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

In terms of geographic focus, this group shows a considerable diversity of projects, with Cameroon, Mauritania and Nigeria being the countries with the highest number of target linkages. This diversity, together with the presence of 5 regional or multi-country projects, demonstrates a high heterogeneity in terms of the countries that have contributed to the SDGs in this group and a broader and more balanced regional coverage.

Figure 22: Geographic distribution of linkages to SDGs in the area of Migration, Employment and Productivity
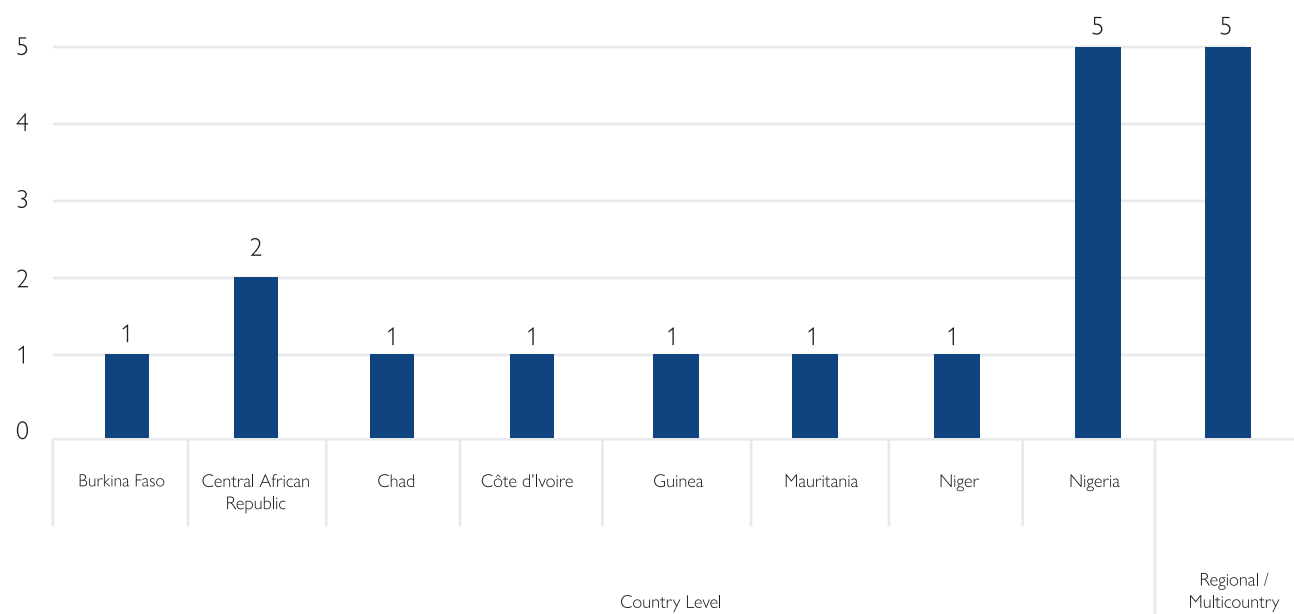
Box 3: Good practice – "Enhanced Collective Capacity to Assist Vulnerable Migrants in Chad" - Chad

While many migrants taking the Libyan frontier via Zouarké find themselves stranded, vulnerable and in need of urgent assistance, refugees (especially Sudanese) present in Chad since 2003 don't have prospects of return. These displacements have weakened the situation of host communities, while the insecurity has restrained interventions by humanitarian actors and limited the delivery of services. This project aimed to address the urgent protection needs of vulnerable and stranded migrants in Chad through direct assistance, reinforcing the capacity of existing local service providers and improving identification of Victims of Trafficking (VoT).

From the beginning of the project on 1st February 2020, IOM built on the existing internal and external capacities and started providing protection and immediate assistance to stranded migrants, including those that were expelled from Libya mainly in the northern part of Chad.

Moreover, IOM increased its efforts in raising awareness on the available services as well as on safe migration. IOM organized training sessions for law enforcement officers to improve the protective environment of vulnerable migrants. The capacity building, in addition to other activities, enabled a better understanding of the relevant legal frameworks at national and local levels. This experience demonstrates how actions can develop into a continuous process, which includes buy-in from different stakeholders and long-term commitment from sponsors.

In addition, infrastructures were rehabilitated or constructed by IOM. In August 2021, IOM finalized the construction and equipment of the transit facility at the Airport of N'Djamena for returning/departing migrants to facilitate their identification processes. In December 2020, IOM finalized the rehabilitation and equipment of the health clinic in Faya, and, in January 2021, IOM finalized the construction of WASH and transit facilities at the Airport of Faya. Once finalized, these buildings were handed over to the authorities who immediately started using them. Faya remains the main transiting hub for migrants including most victims of trafficking. One compartment of the rehabilitated Health Clinic in Faya has been converted by the health authorities into a COVID-19 testing centre.

From February 2021 to April 2021, IOM was able to provide direct assistance and protection services to the highest number of vulnerable migrants compared to other quarters. After several awareness-raising campaigns on available services conducted in migrants' communities in previous months, more than four hundred migrants sought IOM assistance.

"In this project there are direct actions targeting beneficiaries, which are certainly the migrants. But it also involves all the institutional work that can be done with the governments in terms of capacity building, law enforcement when it comes to trafficking, good governance, as well as advocacy with migrants to raise awareness. This is a very interesting and comprehensive project as it has worked on a range of issues around trafficking, victim identification, training of law enforcement officials and direct assistance." (Regional Thematic Specialist: Migrant Protection and Assistance)

This project has directly contributed to these SDGs (10: Reduced Inequality) and cross-cutting (16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions, 01: No Poverty.

Source: assessment done by the consultant based on project documentation and interviews,

3.5 | CONTRIBUTION TO SDGS LINKED TO MIGRATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

This section analyses the contributions of the sampled projects linked to migration and social services, namely SDGs 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 4 (Quality Education) and 5 (Gender Equality).

As mentioned in the previous subsection, this group of SDGs presents the highest number of projects linked to at least one SDG target. Looking at the level of each individual SDG, SDG 16 is the one with the highest number of linked projects (13 out of 26), followed by SDG 10 (11) and 17 (6).

Figure 23: Number of linkages to SDGs in the area of Migration and Social Services, by SDG
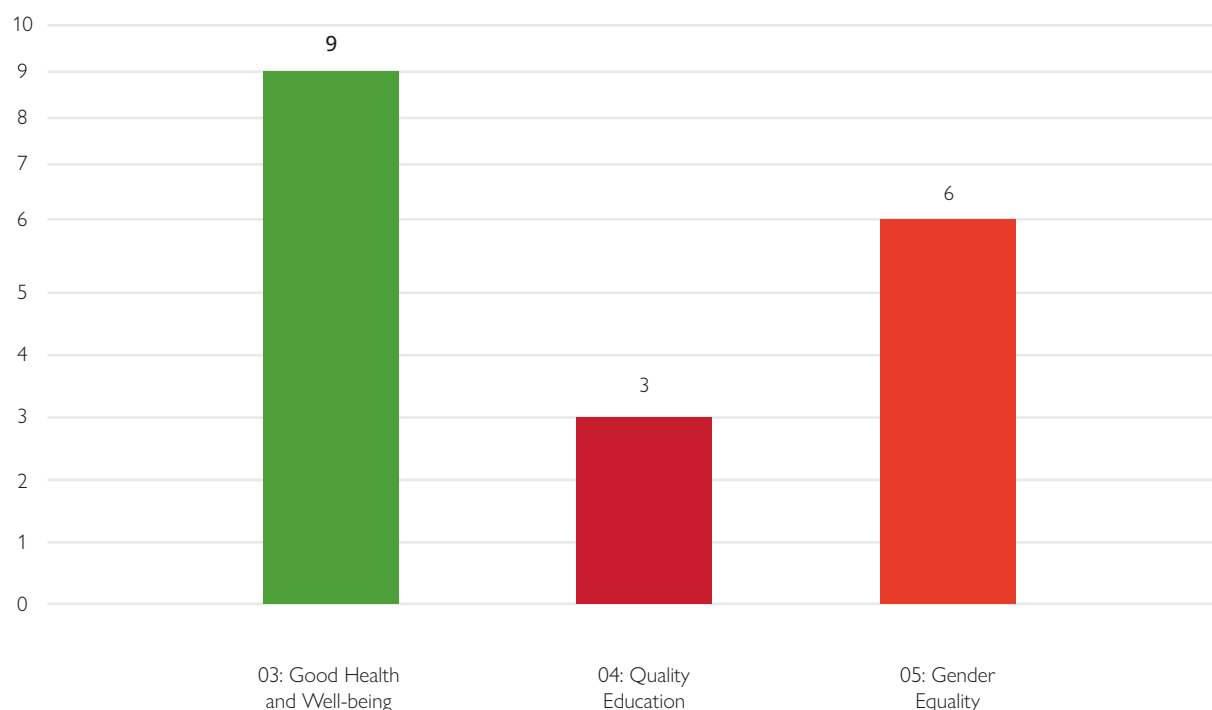
In the overall context of this study, this cluster has the third highest number of linkages, behind the SDGs on migration governance and migration, employment and productivity. In this group, SDG 3 stands out with a total of 9 linkages, followed by SDG 5 (with 6) and SDG 4 (with 3).

Within SDG 3, target 3.D[41] stands out with five linked projects mostly focused on capacity building for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks. Among them, for example, is the multi-country[42] project "Global Health Security Partner Engagement - Expanding Efforts and Strategies to Protect and Improve Public Health Globally" whose objective was to better prevent, detect and respond to complex communicable disease outbreaks and health threats through collaboration at national level.

Figure 24: Number of sample projects linked to Migration and Social Services, by SDG target
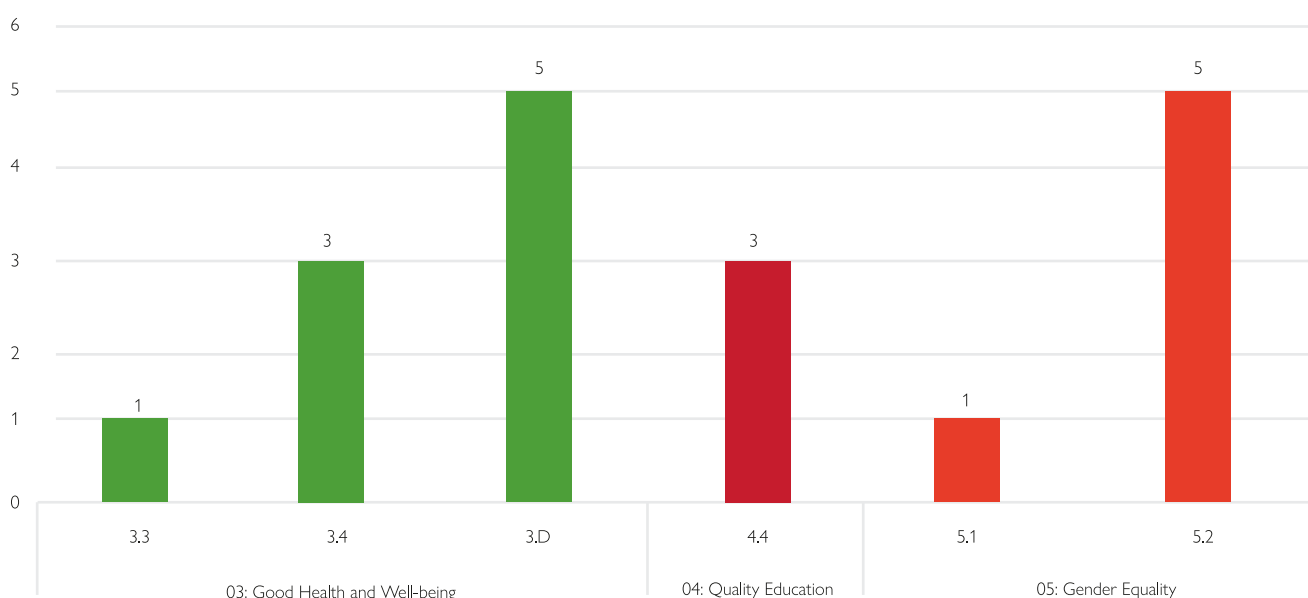
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[41] *Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks.*
[42] *Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Guinea, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Senegal*

Secondly, target 3.4[43] has been linked to three projects, with a specific focus on mental health promotion, such as the initiative on "Prevention measures and response to trafficking in people and mental health and psychosocial concerns in north-eastern Nigeria". Launched in 2019, through this project IOM has contributed to improved mental health and psychosocial wellbeing among crisis-affected populations.

Target 3.3[44], finally, has only one linkage to a project focused on HIV prevention.

In SDG 4, all linkages have been observed with respect to only one target, 4.4.[45] With a focus on skills development and awareness-raising, this target has brought together projects such as Migrants as Messengers, which is further developed in Box 3.

Finally, within SDG 5, most of the projects have been linked to target 5.2.[46] With a direct connection to migration, this target concentrates projects with a component focused on eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls. This includes, for instance, the initiative "Strengthened protection from gender-based violence in Adamawa state in north-east Nigeria". Target 5.1,[47] with a specific approach on the elimination of discrimination, has only one linkage[48] within the sample.

In relation to IOM's thematic areas, a wide variety of areas have contributed to the different SDGs in this group. As shown in Figure 25, the area of emergency response far outweighs the others in terms of contributions to the SDGs in this cluster. This is related to the number of projects under this area in the overall IOM portfolio and the proportion represented in the sample of this study. Interestingly, the SDG to which this thematic area has contributed the most is SDG 3 related to health, which seems to be closely associated with the type of assistance provided by projects in this area.

Figure 25: Number of linkages to SDGs in the area of Migration and Social Services, by IOM thematic area

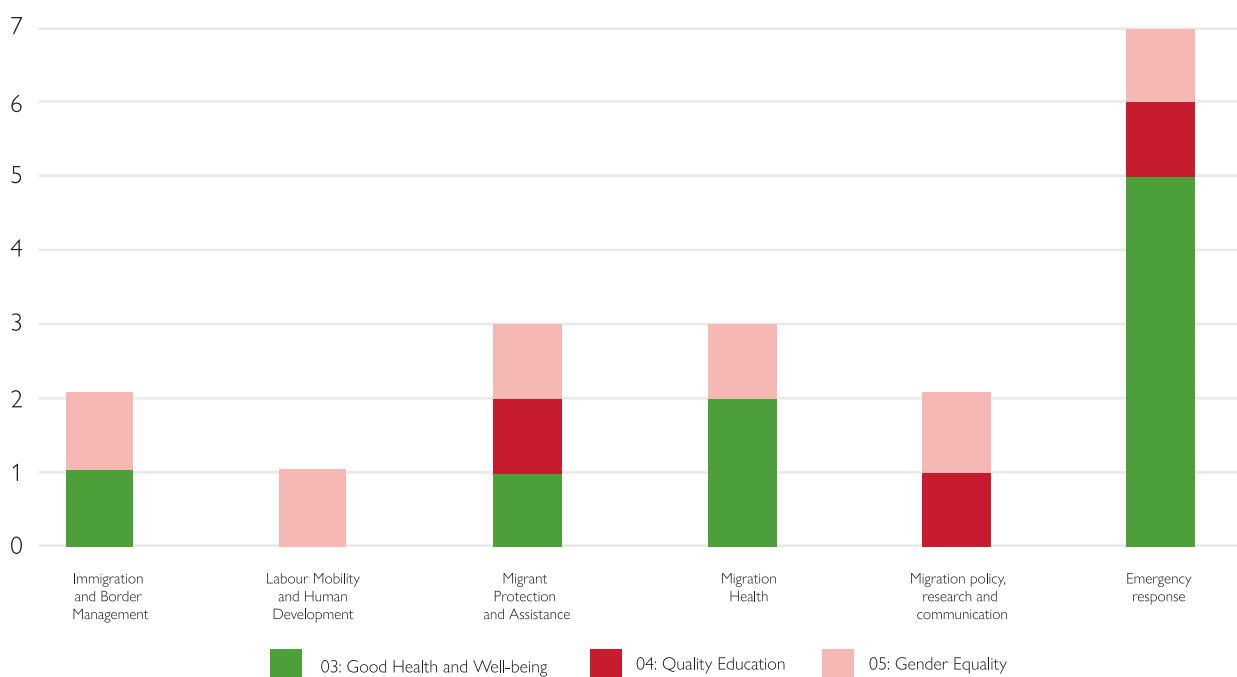*Source: prepared by the consultant, based on Data from IOM's internal project database and own analysis*

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[43] *By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.*

[44] *By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.*

[45] *By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.*

[46] *Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.*

[47] *End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.*

[48] *"Supporting Youth with Efficient and Effective Employment Counselling Centres in Niger" (2019-2020)*

In terms of geographical distribution, while linkages related to various countries can be observed, a high concentration of projects is found in Nigeria. In terms of scope, this SDG cluster has received contributions from 5 regional/multi-country projects which gives a glimpse of an overall broad reach across the region.

Figure 26: Geographic distribution of linkages to SDGs in the area of Migration and Social Services
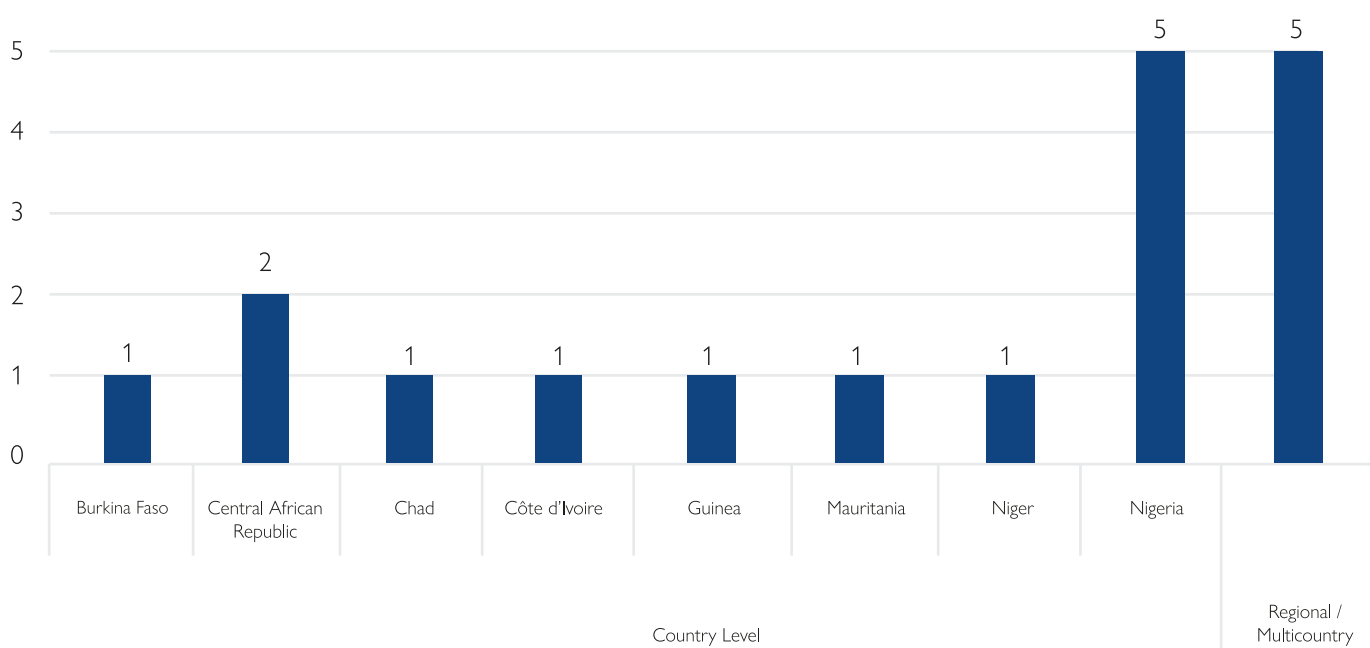
Source: prepared by the consultant, based on Data from IOM's internal project database and own analysis

Box 4: Good practice – "Migrants as Messengers Phase 1" - Guinea, Nigeria, Senegal

Migrants as Messengers (MaM) is a peer-to-peer communication campaign that empowers young people in West Africa to make informed decisions about migration. The campaign is carried out directly by returned migrant volunteers who share honest accounts of their migration experiences with their communities and families. An integral part of the project's overall approach is the inclusion of impact evaluations and other knowledge generation studies to measure behaviour change as a result of activities

MaM started with a focus on irregular migration in Phase 1 (2017-2019: Guinea, Nigeria, and Senegal), and expanded during Phase 2 (2019-2022: Cote D'Ivoire, The Gambia, Guinea, Liberia, Senegal, and Sierra Leone) to address other pertinent topics for youth. IOM's focus on building the capacities of the project network of returned migrant volunteers made it possible to respond rapidly to emerging challenges, such as COVID-19. This is an example of an inclusive approach in which engagement of migrants is key for the development of the project. SDG targets can only be fully achieved if migration and migrants are considered.

A peculiar aspect of the project is its communicational approach which, in an inclusive way, seeks to create a network of professionals around awareness-raising: "We don't tell people what to do, we give them information they can trust, rather than them struggling to get this information or receiving misinformation." (Regional Thematic Specialist: Migration policy, research and communication)

This project has contributed to the following direct (08: Decent Work and Economic Growth) and cross-cutting (04: Quality Education 05: Gender Equality) SDGs.

Source: assessment done by the consultant based on project documentation and interviews,

4 | FINAL THOUGHTS

This study has shown that IOM's work is strongly aligned with the SDGs. The linkage exercise conducted in this paper provides a basis for a possible guidance that can help achieve systematic focus on SDG alignment by IOM, its staff, and partners.

However, as already mentioned, this linkage does exist albeit implicit but there is certainly room for improvement. During this study, many existing difficulties and challenges have been identified that may be considered in future endeavours.

The following sections present the challenges, actionable recommendations and opportunities to drive future improvements.

4.1 | CHALLENGES

Room for improvement in terms of SDG literacy among project implementing staff in the field

During the study, both in the interviews and desk review of project documents, it could be observed that there is room to improve SDG literacy and knowledge of all project implementing staff.

As a first step, it is essential to incorporate the terminology of the SDGs in day-to-day operations to make it easier for staff to associate their daily work with broader development goals.

> *Actionable recommendation: Ensure comprehensive dissemination of the newly added SDG field in OM's internal project database' and provide training accordingly.*

Relative difficulty capturing the Breadth of SDGs within specific project objectives

The breadth of the SDGs has the advantage that project objectives could easily be associated with broad themes, but this presents the difficulty that their wide scope makes specific monitoring of project objectives more difficult.

Align IOM's day-to-day work at project level to broader IOM priorities through SDG prioritization at the level of each thematic area
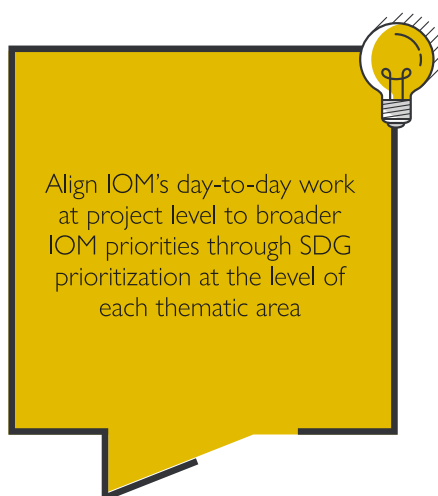
Gap between global processes and field work

In some interviews, it was possible to identify difficulties in translating global processes to the field/ project level and vice versa. That is, translating good practices from the field in order to contribute to the evaluation or theorization of the projects and assessing their contributions to broader processes or frameworks, such as the SDGs.

Actionable recommendation: Align SDGs to the responsibilities of local and regional staff members/ roles.

Although the efforts and hard work of people implementing projects at the local level are evident, there is often no record of it, as there is a gap in the effective tracking mechanisms to capture localized positive practices. It is also difficult to make the work comparable, since the scarcity of 'historical' data and its evolution makes it hard to assess comparative progress.

> *Actionable recommendation:*
> *Link existing project*
> *indicators to the SDGs based*
> *on existing and potential*
> *monitoring capabilities.*

4.2 | OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

Although, as stated earlier, SDG reporting was not explicitly part of the design of many of the projects analysed, this study was able to emphasize that there is still a close link between the SDGs and the work carried out by IOM.

Some of these linkages could be described as 'good practices' as their approach is closely related to the enabling conditions that translate into the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in terms of their inclusive approach, capacity development and focus on evidence generation.

The following (Figure 27) 'SDG mainstreaming roadmap' was developed to identify a pathway to SDG integration into project development and implementation. It aims to identify opportunities for action and potential areas for improvement.

The matrix focuses on six main criteria[49], the selection of which was the result of an exhaustive desk review of existing literature on the linkage between migration and development, the measurement of SDGs and the measurement of policy coherence in the field of migration and development.

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[49] *Further details on the selection and explanation of these criteria are presented in Annex II.*

Figure 27: SDG mainstreaming roadmap

SDG MAINSTREAMING

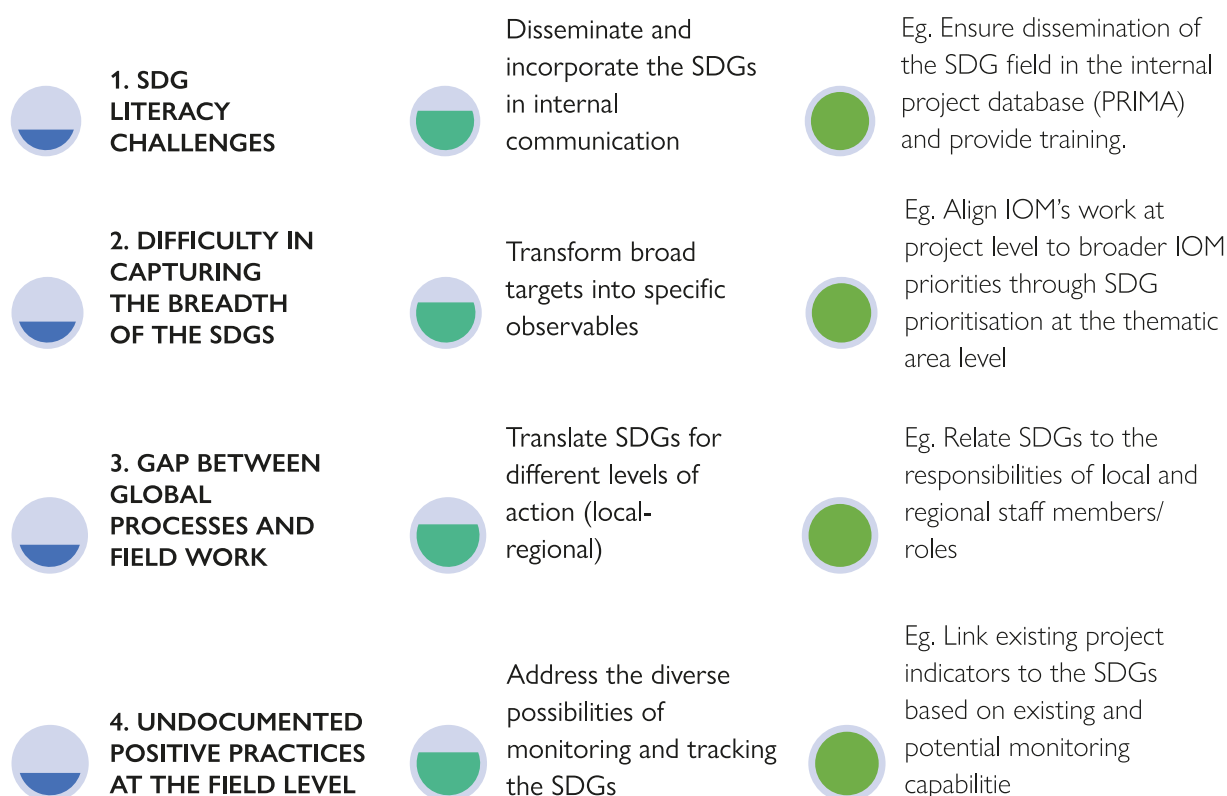| 1. Explicit linkage with SDGs	2. Partnerships	3. Inclusive approach	4. Alignment between levels of action	5. Evidence based approach	6. Sustainability
• Explicit linkage with the SDGs in the project documentation	• Appearance of partnerships with other stakeholders during project implementation	• Engagement of migrants in project development (inclusive approach)	• Alignment between different levels of action (local-national-regional)	• Incorporation of an evidence-based and data-driven approach	• Integration of sustainability approach, with a focus on capacity building

Source: prepared by the consultant.

In light of this, the major challenge in relation to the next steps in the global and integrative work that IOM must undertake will be to operationalize these criteria into observable indicators that can be monitored in order to fully appreciate progress in terms of Sustainable Development Goals.

In this regard, some possible opportunities based on the identified challenges and on the SDG roadmap, are outlined below.

Figure 28: Identified challenges and opportunities for action

1. SDG LITERACY CHALLENGES	Disseminate and incorporate the SDGs in internal communication	Eg. Ensure dissemination of the SDG field in the internal project database (PRIMA) and provide training.
2. DIFFICULTY IN CAPTURING THE BREADTH OF THE SDGS	Transform broad targets into specific observables	Eg. Align IOM's work at project level to broader IOM priorities through SDG prioritisation at the thematic area level
3. GAP BETWEEN GLOBAL PROCESSES AND FIELD WORK	Translate SDGs for different levels of action (local-regional)	Eg. Relate SDGs to the responsibilities of local and regional staff members/roles
4. UNDOCUMENTED POSITIVE PRACTICES AT THE FIELD LEVEL	Address the diverse possibilities of monitoring and tracking the SDGs	Eg. Link existing project indicators to the SDGs based on existing and potential monitoring capabilitie

Source: prepared by the consultant.

5 | ANNEXES

ANNEX I. PEOPLE CONTACTED DURING INCEPTION PHASE

The main sources of information during the inception phase stage included: i) overall background documentation, ii) overall database of projects and associated analysis, iii) qualitative information obtained through interviews with Regional Specialists, and iv) collected information from Regional Specialists through the data collection instrument described in section 2.1. For each thematic area, the collected information varied according to different factors including interviewee availability and response rate. This is presented in the table below.

ANNEX II. LIST OF SAMPLED PROJECTS

Project Title	Benefiting Country	Thematic area	Start Date	End Date
Strengthened protection from gender-based violence in Adamawa state in north-east Nigeria	Nigeria	Emergency response	10/2019	12/2020
Cities deliver for life and health: Strengthening the capacity of four selected Central African cities to support access to HIV-related services for Internally Displaced People and host communities.	Central African Republic	Emergency response	07/2019	03/2021
Empowering vulnerable young people in Chad to become peacebuilding agents	Chad	Emergency response	11/2019	05/2022
Support to Vulnerable Malian Refugees and Selected Host Communities through Livelihood Opportunities and Protection Activities in the North Region, Burkina Faso- Phase 2	Burkina Faso	Emergency response	09/2020	09/2021
Reduction of tensions and conflicts linked to the use of natural resources for agro-pastoral activities in the East, Adamawa and North regions of Cameroon	Cameroon	Emergency response	01/2020	07/2021
Durable return assistance to displaced population in Mbomou Prefecture	Central African Republic	Emergency response	08/2019	08/2021
Enabling Better Institutional and Operational Response Capacity to Climate Change and Disasters in Mauritania	Mauritania	Emergency response	03/2021	03/2022
Enhancing State and Partner Capacity to Capture Flows Across the Central Transhumance Corridor	Burkina Faso, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Togo	Emergency response	08/2020	03/2021

Project Title	Benefiting Country	Thematic area	Start Date	End Date
Programme of support in the prevention of conflicts and violent extremism in the border areas of Benin, Burkina Faso and Togo	Benin, Burkina Faso, Togo	Emergency response	03/2020	03/2022
Cross Border Engagement between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia to Reinforce Social Cohesion and Border Security – Phase II	Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia	Emergency response	01/2020	01/2022
Enhancing Social Stability through Border Communities' Empowerment in Guinea	Guinea	Immigration and Border Management	03/2020	03/2021
Immediate Response to COVID-19 Pandemic for Effective Border Management in Nigeria	Nigeria	Immigration and Border Management	07/2020	03/2021
EUTF–IOM initiative for strengthening border management and protecting and reintegrating migrants – Mauritania	Mauritania	Immigration and Border Management	06/2017	09/2021
Strengthening capacities to combat migrant smuggling along the CMR	Algeria, Libya, Mali, Niger	Immigration and Border Management	01/2020	02/2021
Improving Capacities to Leverage Remittances for Development in Ghana	Ghana	Labour Mobility and Human Development	12/2015	06/2017
Strengthening the Capacities of Local Institutions in Cameroon to Expand the Social Security to include Cameroonian Migrant Workers Living in Belgium	Cameroon	Labour Mobility and Human Development	09/2016	03/2018
Supporting Youth with Efficient and Effective Employment Counselling Centres in Niger	Niger	Labour Mobility and Human Development	09/2019	12/2020
Enhance IOM's and Governments' Capacity to assist returnees with mental health and psychosocial support in Côte d'Ivoire	Côte d'Ivoire	Migrant Protection and Assistance	09/2019	02/2021
Enhanced Collective Capacity to Assist Vulnerable Migrants in Chad	Chad	Migrant Protection and Assistance	01/2020	06/2021
Combatting trafficking in persons in Guinea through improved communication and assistance to victims of trafficking	Guinea	Migrant Protection and Assistance	01/2020	07/2020
Support to civil society and institutional actors for the protection of migrants and human rights in Mauritania	Mauritania	Migrant Protection and Assistance	02/2020	08/2021

Project Title	Benefiting Country	Thematic area	Start Date	End Date
IOM X West Africa Phase 2	Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Guinea, Nigeria	Migrant Protection and Assistance	01/2020	12/2020
Prevention measures and response to trafficking in people and mental health and psychosocial concerns in north-eastern Nigeria	Nigeria	Migration Health	07/2019	07/2021
Global Health Security Partner Engagement - Expanding Efforts and Strategies to Protect and Improve Public Health Globally	Democratic Republic of the Congo, Switzerland, Ghana, Guinea, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Senegal	Migration Health	09/2017	09/2020
Migrants as Messengers Phase 1	Guinea, Nigeria, Senegal	Migration policy, research and communication	12/2017	03/2019
Building the Resilience of Communities Affected by Climate Change and Environmental Degradation in Guinea	Guinea	Migration, Environment and Climate Change	12/2019	12/2021

ANNEX III. CRITERIA FOR SDG MAINSTREAMING

Table 3: Criteria for SDG mainstreaming, definitions

Criteria	Theoretical justification
1. Explicit linkage with the SDGs in the project documentation	Empirical approach.
2. Appearance of partnerships with other stakeholders during project implementation	Any actions to implement the migration-related aspects of the 2030 Agenda must not occur in silos but link to other processes, with other actors

Criteria	Theoretical justification
3. Engagement of migrants in project development (inclusive approach)	Many SDG targets can only be fully achieved if migration and migrants are considered. inclusive approach
4. Alignment between different levels of action (local-national-regional)	While the SDGs are global, their achievement will depend on our ability to make them a reality in our cities and regions. All the SDGs have targets directly related to the responsibilities of local and regional governments, particularly to their role in delivering basic services. That's why local and regional governments must be at the heart of the 2030 Agenda.
5. Incorporation of an evidence-based and data-driven approach	Data disaggregation (by gender and migration status) and availability is considered
6. Integration of sustainability approach, with a focus on capacity building	Capacity-building needs to be a long-term, continuous process, which includes buy-in from all stakeholders and long-term commitment from sponsors. This will increase the potential of sustaining any progress made during the capacity-building process, eventually becoming an endogenous process. While training is a critical component, capacity-building activities also need to focus on human resource development, organization development and institutional development.

ANNEX IV. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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CMR	Central Mediterranean Route
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
EUTF	EU Emergency Trust Fund
GBV	Gender-based violence
GCM	Global Compact for Migration
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MECC	International Organization for Migration
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PRIMA	Project Information and Management Application
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNCT	UN Country teams
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDS	UN Development System
UNSDCF	UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks
UNSDG	UN Sustainable Development Group
VoT	Victims of Trafficking
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WCA	West and Central Africa