



WORLD MIGRATION REPORT DIGITAL TOOLKIT FOR POLICY OFFICIALS

Insights from policy officials working on international migration at the country level and at Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Geneva

To maximize the use of migration research and analysis for policy officials working on international migration, the International Organization for Migration's Migration Research Division and the Graduate Institute's Global Migration Centre partnered to develop a digital toolkit for policy officials that draws on the contents of the IOM flagship World Migration Report series and associated products (e.g. interactive data platform). The project received generous support from the Geneva Science-Policy Interface via its 2021 competitive funding round.

Background

To inform the development of interactive digital tools tailored to policy officials' needs, the Global Migration Centre first gathered insights from policy officers during September and early October 2021¹ about their use of migration knowledge products. Policy officer respondents were asked general questions about their access to and use of such products, as well as their specific experiences with the World Migration Report series.

This report presents the analysis of insights gathered from 26 policy officers working on migration from 19 countries, including 18 survey responses at the country level and eight interviews with policy officials at Missions to the UN in Geneva (quotes shown are from the interviews conducted). Attachment A provides information on respondent demographics.

In addition to "key takeaways", insights gathered are presented below in three parts: 1) Why policy officers use migration knowledge products; 2) Practicalities when policy officers use migration knowledge products in their work; 3) Challenges policy officers face when using migration knowledge products and their ideas to address them. While most insights relate to migration knowledge products in general, where respondents commented specifically on the World Migration Report series (up until the 2020 edition), this is noted.

IOM's flagship World Migration Report series

The World Migration Report series commenced in 2000, with new editions being produced by the Migration Research Division every 2 years. Between 2002 and 2016 editions covered a single thematic topic; in 2017 the report was reshaped to become a global reference report. Each edition now has two parts: I) key data and information on migrants and migration; and II) complex and emerging issues.

For early editions, the report was only in English. By 2015 the report was produced in five languages. The 2020 edition is available in ten language outputs (all six UN languages, plus German, Portuguese, Swahili and Turkish).

Up until the 2018 edition, the report was only available in hardcopy or pdf. Recent developments to enhance user access include:

- Dedicated [WMR webpage](#) – early 2018
- Interactive platform piloted – end 2020
- [Interactive Platform](#) with interactive data visualizations – launched May 2021
- [Educators' Toolkit](#) – September 2021
- [Fact-checkers Toolkit](#) – December 2021
- [Media resource platform](#) – December 2021.

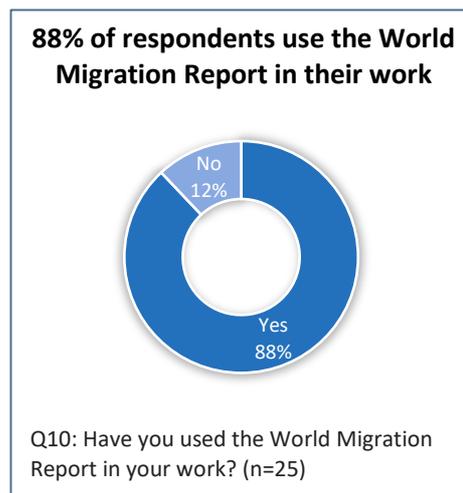
Several of these new initiatives stem from recommendations in the July 2020 Office of the Inspector General Evaluation of the report series (available at [IOG WMR Evaluation](#)).

¹ Due to the timing of the project, feedback on the World Migration Report related to the previous edition (WMR 2020) as the current edition (WMR 2022) was launched several weeks after this study phase took place.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

General

- Respondents working at the international and country levels both emphasized a strong need for migration research and analysis to inform their work.
- Migration knowledge products, and the World Migration Report in particular, are used by policy officials to correct misinformation on migration and to highlight key issues/topics to other colleagues.
- To help reduce the time needed to cross-check key information, summary outputs are useful especially if they include links to explanatory data and sources.
- 88% of respondents use the World Migration Report in their work, often as the first point of reference on migration, citing its reliability, breadth and sound research and analysis. It is the "go to" for many.
- Not all respondents who use the report were aware of the existing additional 'products' such as explainer videos, factsheets, etc, but those who did found them useful. The interactive platform is particularly well received by respondents, who use it regularly and share with colleagues.
- The World Migration Report is used as a key information source for policy processes but also prior to engaging with IOM and other UN agencies. It has also been used as a means to invite IOM staff at the national level to speak to ministry staff.
- Convening World Migration Report in-person events, virtual webinars and/or trainings to discuss report findings would be beneficial for respondents.



Digital toolkit development

- Respondents expressed enthusiasm for a digital toolkit, which would further enhance use of the World Migration Report content. Highlighting cross-cutting migration issues through additional digital resources would be useful.
- Between the 2-year report editions, short updates on data and new policy issues would help policy officers keep abreast of evolving migration issues, via the digital toolkit.
- To enhance toolkit usage among policy officers, and extend the report reach, the following could be considered (noting IOM resource constraints):
 - Summarizing key points in executive summaries and/or FAQs that link to relevant chapters.
 - Providing analytical content in different formats, such as pdf, html, high resolution images (e.g. downloadable graphs, tables, figures and infographics).
 - Continuing to translate the report into all six UN languages, plus Portuguese and other languages; a digital toolkit should also be available in multiple languages (via funding from Member States).
 - Ensuring that all digital tools developed are easy for users to navigate, and are also easy to share with colleagues.
 - Information sessions on the toolkit would be needed to ensure people are aware of it, as well as how to maximize its usage.

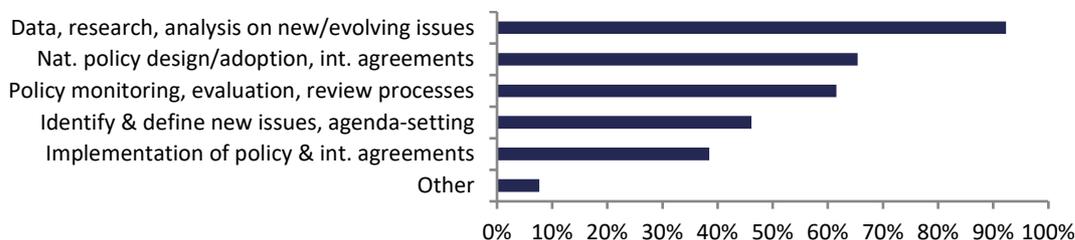
"I use the World Migration Report for quick briefings on the key things going on in the world of migration. It is an excellent source of information on the whole, bigger, global picture... It provides good analysis for capitals."

Anare Leweniqila, Deputy PR, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Fiji in Geneva

PART I: WHY POLICY OFFICERS USE MIGRATION KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

1.1 WHICH STAGES OF POLICY PROCESS?

Respondents mostly use migration knowledge products when working on new and evolving issues, followed by policy design and the adoption of new agreements



Q1: For which stages of migration-related policy processes might you use migration knowledge products? (n=26)

Research helps respondents understand problems as they look at new and evolving issues. When Permanent Missions receive questions from their capital, accessible research outputs serve as a starting point to begin their analysis, and help them determine if they should "keep an eye" on an issue or move quickly.

"Evidence helps communicate the urgency of a situation, and helps predict what might happen. Having a firm evidence base to start a fruitful analysis of any migration-related issue (new or old) is essential."

Representative from a Permanent Mission in Geneva

Respondents explained that research materials inform, assist, and enhance decision-making processes, and support the negotiation of agreements, monitoring situations, and the implementation of policies and agreements. They stressed the role research can play in supporting the development of more sustainable, strategic policies on migration-related issues, which often require analysis of several topics and their connections. Respondents explained that migration knowledge resources, like the World Migration Report, help them see the inter-linkages between different subjects, such as the development-humanitarian nexus.

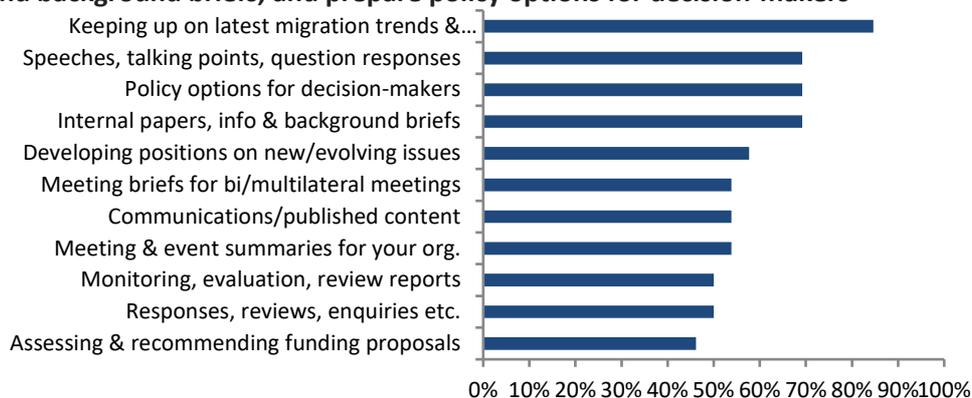
Several respondents said migration research and analysis material, and especially statistics, is also important for supporting monitoring, evaluation and review processes. Others said that insufficient attention is given to the role research should play in review processes. Some stressed the need for better understandings of how migration research is produced.

Key insights:

- Access to migration research outputs is essential for policy officials.
- Highlighting cross-cutting migration issues and interlinkages is particularly useful.
- Research knowledge products can support countries' own monitoring, evaluation and review processes, as well as regional and international review processes.

1.2 WHICH POLICY TASKS?

Respondents use migration knowledge products to keep abreast of trends and issues, prepare policy and background briefs, and prepare policy options for decision-makers



Q2: For which specific policy related tasks might you use migration knowledge products? (n=26)

As focal points on migration and displacement within missions to the UN and national Ministries, respondents often need to obtain reliable information and facts at short notice in order to support policy processes (such as briefings and talking points for Ministers and senior officials). Despite many respondents having experience in migration policy and practice, the rapidly evolving nature of migration as well as the significant breadth of the topic, often means there are substantial knowledge gaps that require access to reliable and trusted information, research and analysis. Respondents indicated that they frequently crosscheck information from at least two sources in order to verify factual information they deliver in their roles, as well as any analytical conclusions they come to.

Respondents also use migration knowledge products to prepare advice, conduct comparative analysis, as well as to understand the current migration politics and narratives used by IOM and the UN in order to prepare for a wide variety of engagements. Research helps them ensure they use accurate data and statistics on migration trends and issues, and serves as a checking mechanism for their policy advice, and in verifying what they may hear from other actors during meetings and other engagements.

“Responding to problems and wanting to change requires political will and courage. Having different policy approaches that come from research is very much appreciated. Feeding (capital) with alternative options – suggesting, passing, highlighting certain things.”

Permanent Mission of Italy in Geneva

“Research provides reliable background, it helps me see what questions to ask. It helps with interactions with colleagues in day-to-day work – to keep informed and prepare, and in turn keep in touch with capital.”

Representative from a Permanent Mission in Geneva

Research also supports permanent missions when liaising with national capital colleagues, including in the preparation of responses to enquiries, providing opinions, comparing data from different sources to respond to questions from other actors (e.g. Parliamentarians, regional bodies); preparing Ministers for interviews; supporting inter-ministerial committee meetings; and presenting alternative migration narratives to senior officials, other ministries and parliamentarians.

Research helps respondents understand local and regional dynamics, the evolution of a situation over time, and different contexts by providing a full picture and historical accounts, such as how a country changes from being a host country to a country of origin. Some respondents warned that research can be used to support policy deliberations in both positive and negative ways.

“We usually show and counter specific narratives that want to depict one kind of narrative on human movement. Migration research, and the World Migration Report in particular, help us paint a proper picture of the whole phenomenon better.”
 Permanent Mission of Italy in Geneva

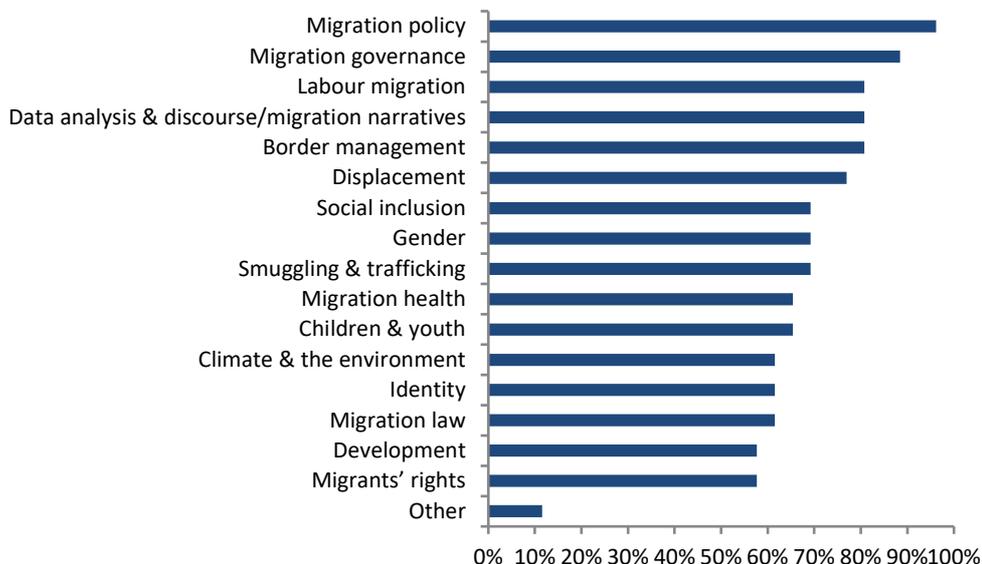
Key insights:

- Including information (and links to research) that considers the context and history of new and evolving migration trends and issues is particularly helpful.
- To help reduce the time needed to cross-check key information, summary outputs are useful especially if they include links to expanded data and sources.
- Short updates on data and new policy issues help policy officers keep abreast of evolving migration issues.

1.3 MIGRATION TOPICS

Migration policy and migration governance are most relevant topics, followed by climate and the environment, although all topics were selected by the majority of respondents as being relevant.

Respondents highlighted the considerable breadth of issues connected to migration, underscoring the extremely high salience of migration in policy terms, but also the considerable challenge in producing migration knowledge products on such a wide-ranging phenomenon. All 16 migration topics were considered relevant by the majority of respondents. Unsurprisingly given their specific roles, 'migration policy' and 'migration governance' achieved the highest results.



Q6: Which migration topics are most relevant? (n=26)

In addition to the migration topics listed above, respondents also use research on the following subtopics: crisis situations and their impact on flows; statelessness; integration policies; international students; flows and specific corridors; the impacts of the pandemic on movements in regions (and how they differ); state and organizational practices on receiving migrants during the pandemic; international remittances; disaster risk reduction; diasporas and communities abroad; migration, security and

detention; internal displacement and cross-border displacement due to climate change; unaccompanied minors; and region-specific topics.

The majority of respondents at national level prioritized climate and the environment as 'high' on their migration policy agenda, unlike some of their colleagues in Geneva, who did not register it as highly. For all other topics, policy officers serving in capitals and PMs were aligned on migration topics.

Respondents stressed the importance of discussing crosscutting issues, such as showing interrelated topics that might be grouped under clusters, such as gender and migration, climate change and migration etc. Some highlighted the need for new research and information on the evolving drivers and factors underpinning migration.

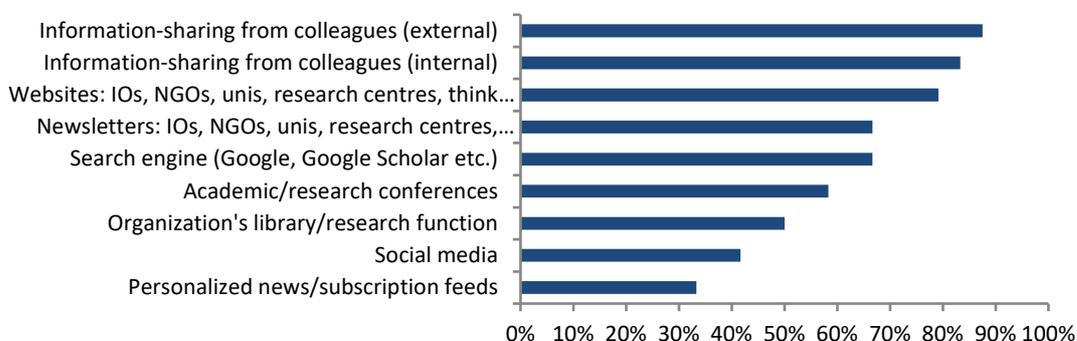
Key insights:

- Help policy officers keep abreast of rapidly evolving migration issues, provide regularly updated links to data and information on new and evolving issues and new research priorities.
- Ensure knowledge products include migration topics high on policy agendas, noting that all topics are considered relevant.

Part 2: PRACTICALITIES WHEN POLICY OFFICERS USE MIGRATION KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS IN THEIR WORK

2.1 HOW POLICY OFFICERS IDENTIFY MIGRATION KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS AND THE TYPES OF PRODUCTS CONSULTED OR REFERENCED

Respondents mostly identify migration knowledge products through sharing information with internal and external colleagues, and websites



Q8: How do you usually identify relevant migration knowledge products? (n=24)

To identify migration knowledge products, many respondents seek the advice of others in the same field, and with capital to see what the view is “back home.” Many respondents use IOM’s website (and Publications Platform) as a key migration research resource. Some respondents attend trainings, undertake further study in executive education, and consult academia. Others feel overwhelmed with too many newsletters, although 'unsubscribe' is almost always possible.

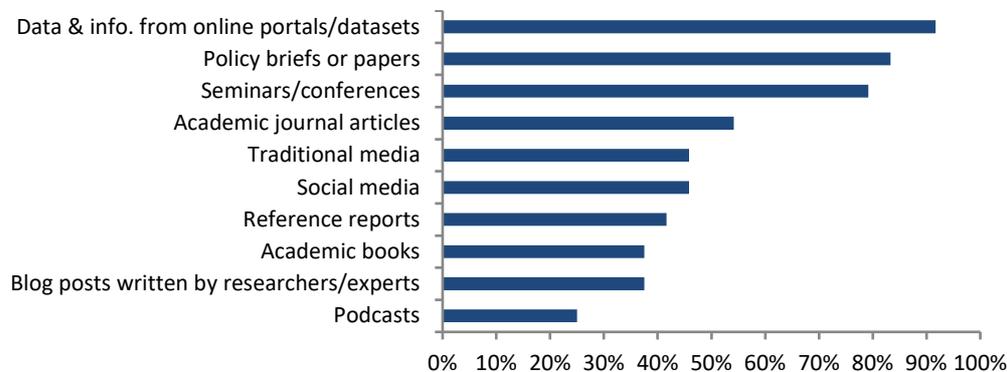
“IOM is the most trusted source of migration knowledge products. Their research is accurate, relevant (and acceptable to all parties), trustworthy, unbiased, not political. Their process is excellent and their resources are reliable.”

Hani Chaar, Senior Advisor, Permanent Mission of Lebanon in Geneva

To identify topics and themes in the World Migration Report, nearly 80% of respondents use the table of contents and/or search by key word in the pdf version of the report. Some respondents also use the chapter and ‘Did you know’ infosheets, while others were not aware of them. Some respondents

arrive at the World Migration Report from references in other publications and sources. Only a few of the respondents access information through social media, while others do not use social media at all.

92% of respondents use data and information from online portals/datasets, followed by policy briefs, policy papers, and seminars



Q7: What types of migration knowledge products (published outside your organization) do you consult and/or reference in your work? (n=24)

Attending conferences and seminars are part of some respondents’ day-to-day work. Prior to COVID-19, they would attend in person, now they mainly attend online. Policy briefs and papers are frequently used and shared when trustworthy and relevant.

“There is a time issue. We need to find relevant information quickly. Academic books, blog posts, podcasts are less preferred.”
 Permanent Mission of Portugal in Geneva

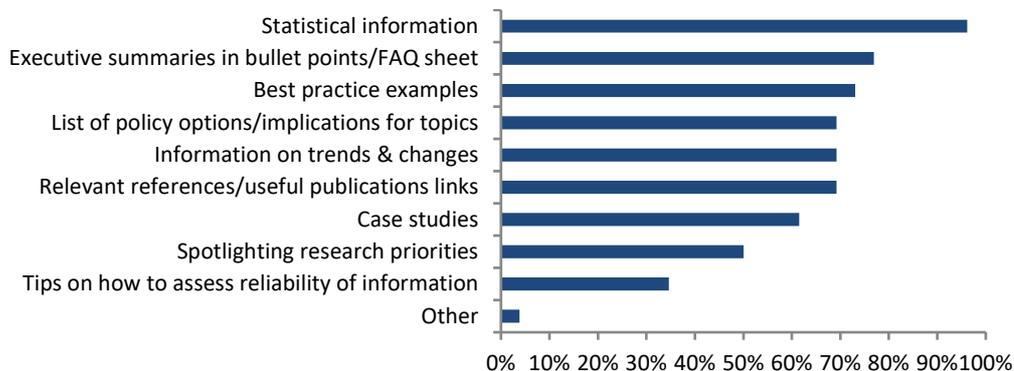
Some respondents rely on social media, including LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter. Others do not use social media at all. Traditional media can lead to other research for some respondents. Several respondents have signed up to NGO and think tank mailing lists related to refugees, such as the International Catholic Migration Commission and Kaldor Centre. Many respondents refer to IOM publications and rely on their research.

Key insights:

- Ensure migration knowledge products are published in a format that is easily shareable (e.g. weblinks and downloadable pdfs) over multiple mediums, including WhatsApp.
- To facilitate access among policy officers to IOM’s online Publications Platform, include links to relevant platform content in the digital toolkit.
- Researchers should ideally publish data and research findings open access, in a range of output formats (e.g. data portals, policy briefs, etc), and hold in-person and online events to discuss key findings.

2.2 TYPES OF RESEARCH MATERIALS USED

96% of respondents find statistical information the most useful and relevant type of information for policy tasks, followed by summaries, FAQ sheets and best practices



Q: Which types of information are most useful and relevant for your policy tasks? (n=26)

Communicating reliable statistics and other data is important for substantiating respondents' briefing and in supporting them as they seek to correct misinformation on migration. Respondents stressed the importance of migration statistics for improving the quality and credibility of statements for different stages of policy processes, and helping improve and develop policies at national, regional and international levels. Statistics enable respondents to better understand migration trends, movements and projected migration patterns.

"Migration is a perennial topic. However, over the past years migration became a heated topic, both at national and international levels – the Global Compact for Migration and the Global Compact for Refugees show the importance of the topics. Communicating data on migration in a clear way is key, both at the international and national levels."

Permanent Mission of Portugal in Geneva

Respondents find the World Migration Report interactive data website helpful for sharing data with colleagues. Some pointed to statistics and other data as recognized in Objective 1 of the Global Compact for Migration, yet lamented the challenges that remain when gathering statistics, and of making data accessible. Several respondents stressed that they need to cross-check data with other sources to ensure it is accurate, and frequently check data from other UN agencies, international organizations and NGOs.

For the 27 EU Member States, collecting and standardizing data takes time and can be an issue. Data in the World Migration Report helps them see various scenarios quickly. One respondent stressed the need for data within the African Union, referring to the limited number of institutions specialized in development statistics.

"Statistics are very powerful – the science of communication"

Permanent Mission of Morocco in Geneva

Most respondents find executive summaries in bullet points and FAQ sheets helpful to see important things quickly, especially given their lack of time. They also appreciate references (via links) to the complete research or detailed case studies, so that they are easy to consult for further information.

"Being able to use statistics in our work on migration is key. For example, (one country) presented a report at the African Summit of Heads of States in 2019 that stressed statistics like 80-85% of migration in Africa being intra-continental. By contrasting this with what happens in Europe, you can use data to help break through misconceptions and certain narratives."

Permanent Mission of Morocco in Geneva

Several respondents find case studies, best practice examples and summaries of State practices helpful for thinking about their own practices, especially when they highlight patterns, and include lessons learned from

policies and programmes that didn't work as intended. They find it useful when links are included to detailed information about the case study or best practice, and when contact details are provided so that they can learn more.

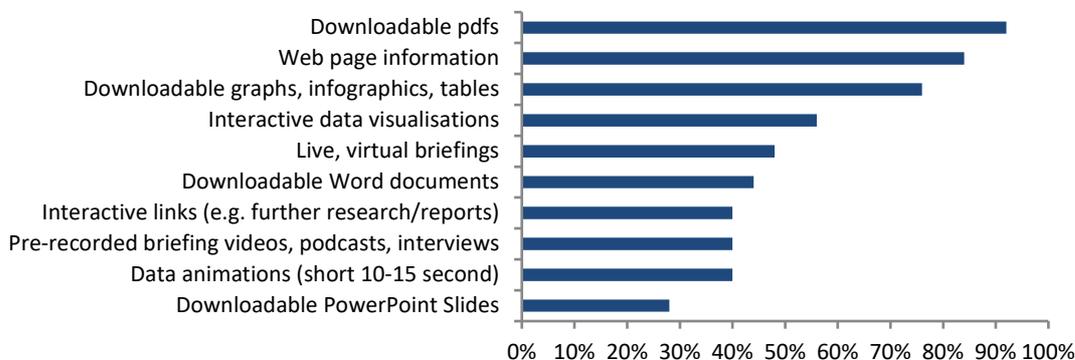
When using information in the World Migration Report, 80% of respondents summarize information and/or copy figures, graphs and tables including from the interactive data page.² Some respondents called for a detailed launch of the World Migration Report and more events, where greater time and attention can be paid to its contents, questions and discussion.

Key insights:

- Summarizing key points clearly in executive summaries and/or FAQ sheets is helpful as long as reference links to further details are included.
- Important to include links to (or elements of) the World Migration Report interactive data website in the digital toolkit for policy officers.
- Best practice examples, case studies and different policy approaches are useful. Include links to where policy officers can find further information on case studies, and/or contact details.
- Ensuring figures, graphs and tables are easy to copy and/or download in pdf format, with the reference built in is important.
- More time in the launch or other events to explain the findings of the World Migration Report would be beneficial.

2.3 TYPES OF PUBLICATION FORMATS USED

Respondents find pdfs the most useful format, followed by web page information and downloadable graphs, infographics and tables



Q4: Which formats might be most useful? (n=25)

The key considerations respondents give to the format of research knowledge products is that they must be easy to navigate, and easy to share with colleagues over different mediums, including WhatsApp. Most respondents find PDFs easy to search (using key words), share, print, attach and download to/from reports. They stressed that PDFs and interactive web pages must be easy to navigate, and it must be easy to return to your page if you jump around. While they noted that the consolidated World Migration Report pdf is difficult to share due to its size, they frequently share individual pdf chapters, a link to the report and/or the interactive website with colleagues.

² From Q13: How have you used information in the World Migration Report? (n=23, including 20 responses from those already using the World Migration Report, and 3 responses from those who might use it in future).

Respondents also find information on web pages easy to use and share, and noted that since the pandemic, they prefer electronic formats rather than printed hardcopies. Some find the presentation of diagrams and case studies in PowerPoint slides helpful to support the preparation of presentations.

“Some websites are difficult to navigate. When filters are so interactive you end up limiting your options and you are left with a very narrow look at the topic. You want a list, an overview of everything that is there so that you don’t miss out on new things because you don’t select the right filters. The parameters need to be set at the right level.”

Representative from a Permanent Mission in Geneva

Respondents find interactive data visualizations helpful for looking at regional data, and to get information quickly. They said infographics are an effective way for them to communicate statistics and comparisons to others, and data animations (short videos of animated data on a specific issue) can be useful for communicating a specific issue to others.

“Infographics help us to imagine the issues.”

Anare Leweniqila, Deputy PR, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Fiji in Geneva

Pre-recorded briefing videos, podcasts and video interviews can be useful for meetings. When brainstorming longer-term issues, pre-recorded videos help respondents to think more broadly on a topic (but they are less suitable for every-day rapid work).

“Videos are great for conveying something quickly to capital, or for sharing in meetings, however I’ll always refer first to the text.”

Representative from a Permanent Mission in Geneva

Live, virtual briefings can be helpful when looking at a topical issue for a group of Member States in a specific moment, such as a briefing on the crisis in Afghanistan, explaining developments, statistics and movements. One respondent suggested briefings to update them on migration tips and tools. Briefings with IOM experts are helpful, including on the state of migration, governance, protection, among other topics. Recordings of full briefings are helpful when respondents are unable to attend live briefings. Podcasts can provide a good snapshot of an issue, if they are not too long.

Some respondents explained that social media posts, hashtags, infographics and images are useful to counter misinformation. They stressed the need to inform people about misinformation and help them evaluate what manipulation is when consuming information through radio, newspapers, advertisements, and television.

Key insights:

- Research knowledge products must be easy to navigate, and easy to share over different mediums, including WhatsApp.
- To maximise use among policy officers, prepare migration knowledge products in multiple formats (i.e. pdf, html, and as downloadable graphs, tables, figures and infographics).
- Interactive data visualizations are useful for quickly seeing trends and differences across regions.
- Infographics can be useful in communicating key statistics and other data.

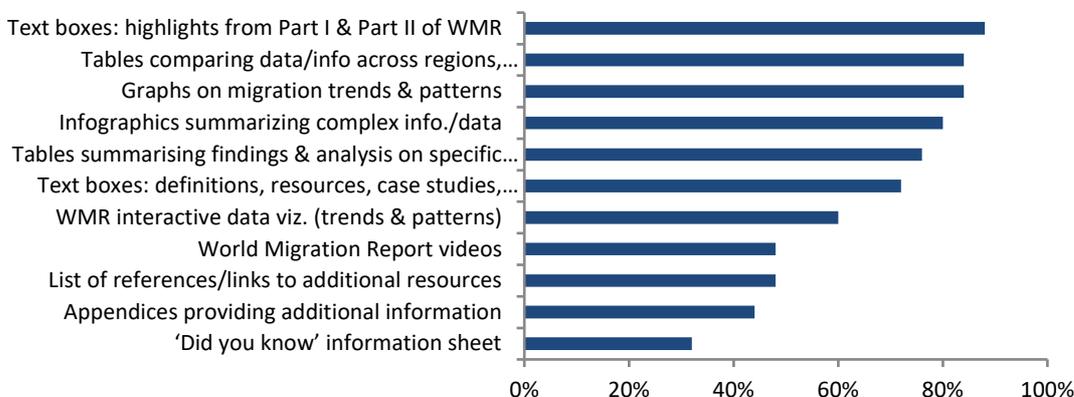
LANGUAGES

Ensure the digital toolkit is available in local languages to encourage use among policy officials at the country level.

- Many respondents called for translation into all six official UN languages, and stressed the importance of translation into other local languages for policy officers working at the country level.
- One respondent encouraged translation into Portuguese, pointing to the large community of Lusophone countries, for which migration is a very important issue.
- Several respondents acknowledged the additional resources required to support translations, and suggested coordination among countries to fundraise.

2.4 HOW DIFFERENT WAYS OF PRESENTING INFORMATION IN THE WORLD MIGRATION REPORT SERVES POLICY OFFICERS' WORK

Respondents find text boxes with highlights from Parts I and II, tables comparing data and information, and graphs on migration trends and patterns most useful



Q14: Which ways of presenting information in the report are most useful for your work? (n=25, including 22 responses from those already using the World Migration Report and 3 from those who might use it in the future).

Under time pressure, respondents find text boxes in the World Migration Report helpful for narrowing the search and as a quick guide to find what they are looking for. When there is time, respondents do a keyword search to read “chunks of the text.” One respondent suggested making text boxes that highlight definitions and provide additional resources more interactive, including links to further resources. Another respondent warned of over-summarizing information, and stressed the importance of including links to further details.

“We use the World Migration Report every day. It gives the global situation around the world, shows the population of migrants, the categories of migrants, the upcoming challenges, the causes, the different difficulties of managing migration, the good practices, it provides options, and empirical evidence. It is very important.”

Representative from a Permanent Mission in Geneva

Most respondents find infographics useful and encouraged increased use of them, for example up front in each chapter. Some warned against infographics that were too descriptive and text heavy. Some respondents find the World Migration Report appendices useful, such as the timeline of multilateral initiatives, but they don’t always think to look at them. Some were not aware of the World Migration Report videos and “Did you know” information sheets.

Some respondents stressed the utility of the thematic chapters that provide key up to date data on specific topics. They also appreciate the breakdown of data by country, and the country and regional overviews. They stressed that data and information on migration flows are useful to compare recent years and to project future years. Others pointed to the future perspectives on migration-related topics presented, and the policies promoted by IOM.

“The World Migration Report provides a good overview and starting point for following up on issues or raising questions with colleagues in capital and for compiling statistics. We often let it lead us to other more precise questions. Statistics, graphs and the comparative work helps us convey things easily to capital.”

Representative from a Permanent Mission in Geneva

Respondents need to be able to refer others to specific sections in the report easily. National respondents use information in the World Migration Report in debates and invite IOM officials to speak to employees about the World Migration Report. Resources like the World Migration Report help respondents fill gaps in their knowledge and prepare high-level Ministers to participate in forums like

the International Migration Dialogue. They find that the report provides a comprehensive view of the debate on topics, such as the link between climate change, environmental degradation and migration.

When using digital platforms, respondents find it frustrating when they navigate to another page and cannot return to their original place. They suggest including a navigation/contents panel on the left, highlighting exactly where the user is within the broader contents, and with the content to the right in sequence. They appreciate the inclusion of links and navigation to/from other pages.

World Migration Educators' Toolkit

Some respondents find the World Migration Educators' Toolkit very useful, including the tools, interactive case studies, and migration-related scenarios that teachers can use. They encouraged greater promotion of it within relevant Ministries and country-level education systems as an easy way to learn about migration and to counter misconceptions, including in countries where migration and refugee issues are not currently taught.

“The World Migration Educators’ Toolkit is a very useful and needed resource. Given the xenophobic, discriminatory environment we live in, we need to have language that is clear, concrete and simple. The questions in the educators’ toolkit and the content of the chapters contain clear language... we created a campaign to oppose the rise of xenophobia, but it was hard to find something substantive – how should a campaign address discrimination against migrants? When you are dealing with an emergency it is important to have concrete, clear messages supported by data.”

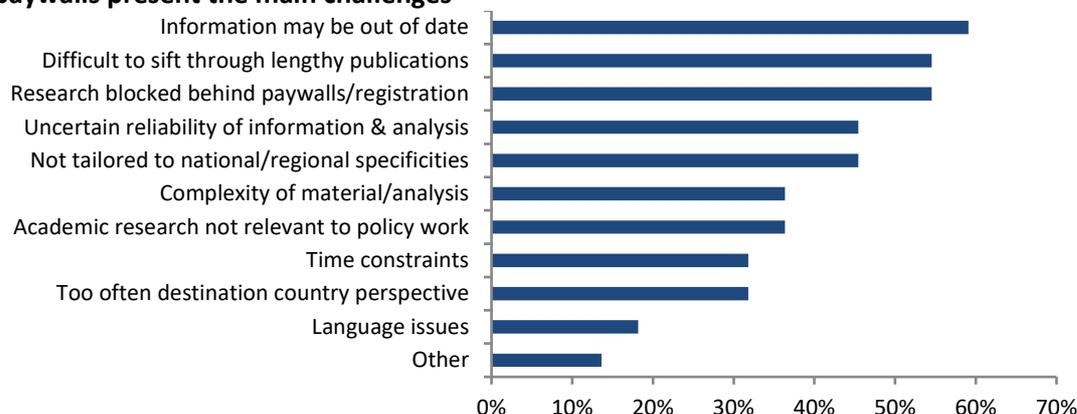
Representative from a Permanent Mission in Geneva

Key insights:

- Include interactive links to further information and useful resources in text/summary boxes.
- Include links to relevant appendices when appropriate in the report and toolkit.
- For digital toolkit navigation, include a table of contents panel on the left, highlighting exactly where the user is within the broader contents, and with the content to the right in sequence.
- Include downloadable graphs, country snapshots, data dashboards, the breakdown of issues and data, and policy action tools. Ensure clear thematic divisions that are easy to follow/navigate and with clear graphics.
- Include multiple language options, and fundraise among IOM Member States for this.

PART 3: CHALLENGES POLICY OFFICERS FACE WHEN USING MIGRATION KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS AND IDEAS TO ADDRESS THEM

Out of date information, time constraints, lengthy publications and having research blocked behind paywalls present the main challenges



Q9: What challenges do you face identifying and using externally produced migration knowledge products in your work? (n=22)

If respondents are uncertain about the reliability of information or if publications are blocked behind paywalls, they simply drop and ignore it and move to something else as they are working under time pressure. Respondents find it annoying when they find what they need, but the information is out of date, or missing the date of publication, creating uncertainty about its currency. When they have time, they try to use the bibliographies as leads to more up-to-date work.

“Any researcher knows that it matters how someone presents the ‘facts’. Much of the research being done is being driven by certain narratives that are tied to special interests and ideologies that undermine not only the research being done, but also the topics chosen as worthy of research and the resulting recommendations given. This makes research being done hard to trust, and, ultimately, to cite.”

Representative from country-level migration government department

Some respondents find academic research often lacks relevance for policy work, however they generally find comparative pieces useful. One respondent explained that they are more likely to reach out to and have conversations with others for specific issues, rather than turn to more traditional research.

Most respondents spoke highly of the World Migration Report, with recommendations for overcoming small challenges

Respondents acknowledge the report’s breadth, which can be challenging initially, however they find the content valuable and useful. Some respondents spoke of the easy-to-navigate region-specific sections and encouraged more information in the report to be tailored to regional specificities. Others suggested making data even more accessible via interactives. Respondents stressed the utility of clear, detailed tables of contents, which help them determine what to read in detail in the report. Some encouraged continued development of key information sheets that summarize findings.

“The World Migration Report is very helpful and the layout is easy to follow. If more interactive parts are added it may take some getting used to.”

Representative from a Permanent Mission in Geneva

Key insights:

- The World Migration Report acts as the "go to" resource on international migration because of its reliability and breadth of content.
- Regional analyses are useful and more information on regional specificities could be useful.
- Make more analytical data outputs interactive.
- Include detailed tables of contents and key information sheets that summarize findings.

Interviews and survey sample

Twenty-six policy officers working on international migration from 19 countries responded to requests to be interviewed or surveyed (see text box below) in September and early October 2021. This represents a response rate of 29% for interviews (28 invited) and 32% for the survey (56 invited).

| <i>Interviews with PMs in Geneva (n=8)</i> | | <i>Country policy official survey respondents (n=18)</i> | |
|--|---|--|---|
| Australia | 1 | Canada | 3 |
| Ecuador | 1 | Australia | 2 |
| Fiji | 1 | Malawi | 2 |
| Italy | 1 | Mexico | 2 |
| Lebanon | 1 | Republic of Moldova | 2 |
| Morocco | 1 | Guatemala | 1 |
| Niger | 1 | Holy See | 1 |
| Portugal | 1 | Mozambique | 1 |
| | | Republic of Mauritius | 1 |
| | | South Africa | 1 |
| | | Turkey | 1 |
| | | United States | 1 |

The number of respondents exceeds that in the GSPI project proposal (maximum 18 interviewees), including because of the need to provide survey options to respondents in addition to interviews. Ensuring diversity of countries and levels of development were important, as was ensuring both those in capitals (18 officials) and those in Geneva (8 officials) were included. Overall, 38.5% of the respondents were female.

Questions

In order to gather feedback to inform the development of the policy officials' toolkit, and maximize its utility, policy officer respondents were primarily asked general questions about their access to and use of migration knowledge products in their work as policy officers. Understanding what makes such products attractive and useful in a policy context was considered central to the development of a high quality WMR toolkit. That said, as the global reference report on international migration, the World Migration Report is widely used, and so specific questions were also asked on the report series itself. Questions posed to respondents are provided throughout the summary findings.

Quotes

Please note that quotes from interviewees included in this report have been approved by the respondent interviewees themselves. Individual preferences on attribution (i.e. anonymity, identifying the PM/country or identifying the individual) have all been reflected according to interviewees' requirements.