MIGRATION GOVERNANCE IN THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY:

WELL DEVELOPED AREAS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

JULY 2024

IOM
UN MIGRATION

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INTRODUCTION

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is a grouping of twenty countries: fifteen Member States and five Associate Members stretching from The Bahamas in the north to Suriname and Guyana in South America. It is home to approximately sixteen million citizens, 60% of whom are under the age of 30. Except for Belize, in Central America and Guyana and Suriname in South America, all Members and Associate Members are island states. CARICOM was established in July 1973 with the signing of the Treaty of Chaguaramas.[1]

In February 2019, CARICOM Heads of Government have mandated the CARICOM Secretariat, along with CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS), to collaborate with the relevant United Nations (UN) Agencies on **the development of a Regional Migration Policy**."[2]

This report supports the development of the regional migration policy by drawing on data and insights from IOM's flagship Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) programme. The MGI is a critical tool to support governments in assessing the comprehensiveness of their migration policies, as well as in identifying gaps and areas that could be strengthened. Since 2016, it has been implemented in **111 countries as well as with 97 local authorities**, assisting governments in assessing their migration policy systems across the full spectrum of migration. 11 CARICOM Member States have so far undertaken an MGI assessment: The Bahamas (2024), Barbados (2024), Belize (2020), Dominica (2023), Grenada (2023), Guyana (2021), Haiti (2022), Jamaica (2019), Saint Lucia (2023), Suriname (2022) and Trinidad and Tobago (2021).

[1] More information available at CARICOM - Caribbean Community
[2] More information available at CARICOM - News

METHODOLOGY

The MGI assessment consists of 99 indicators that evaluate countries' migration governance structures in a process that is voluntary, consultative, and sensitive to local specificities.[3] MGI questions, in general, inquire about the existence of certain policies, institutions and coordination mechanisms related to different aspects of migration governance. As part of the MGI process, country offices coordinate with the governments of the countries conducting the assessment, to single out—for each MGI domain—a limited set of MGI questions on migration policy areas that are deemed as country priorities.[4] The analysis draws direct links between MGI results and relevant objectives and principles under the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).[5]

Possible answers to MGI questions are categorized in a way that allows for easy interpretation (e.g. yes/partially/no) and with clear guidance for data collectors in relation to which answer applies in different cases. Generally, an affirmative answer implies that a policy, institution, or coordination mechanism is well-developed, meaning that it formally exists (backed up by a piece of legislation or a formal agreement), is consistently applied (meaning that its provisions are implemented in practice) and is regularly updated. A "partially" answer may mean that such a policy, institution or mechanism does not exist, but some ad hoc measures are implemented in practice, or that it exists but has become outdated or obsolete. Finally, a "no" means that neither of the latter conditions are fulfilled. For the purpose of this analysis, whenever the answer to an MGI question is either "partially" or "no", the corresponding area of migration governance is considered to have the potential for further development, and when the answer is "yes", the corresponding area is considered to be "well-developed". Countries self-identify their own priority areas at the time of the assessment, as part of the consultative nature of the MGI.

This report draws from the data collected during MGI assessment processes with CARICOM Member States. The analysis presents aggregate findings in order to identify common priorities and challenges across countries in the region. It is based on a two-part analysis:

The first identifies **common priority areas**. These are the areas that the government has indicated as priorities during the assessment process. Common priorities are those selected **by at least 5 countries**.

The second analyses whether a policy, institution, or coordination mechanisms related to the common priority areas are well-developed or would benefit from further development. **Well-developed common priority areas** are those that according to the MGI assessments are "well-developed" and -simultaneously- have been singled out as a priority, by four or more countries that conducted the MGI assessment across each of the six domains of the Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF). **Common priority areas for further development** are those that have been singled out as a priority by four or more countries that conducted the MGI assessment and where there is potential for further development.

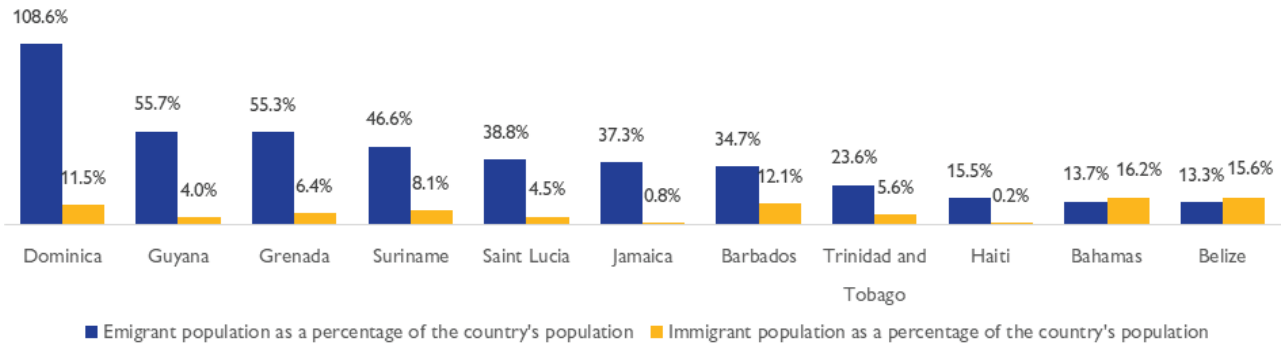
Selected examples under each domain were drawn from the respective MGI Profiles available online, for illustrative purposes only and do not intend to be comprehensive.

[3] For more information about the MGI process see MGI Key Characteristics.
[4] On average, MGI countries select around one third of the 99 questions as country priorities.
[5] More information on the relationship between the MGI and the GCM can be found in the MGI-GCM Guidance Note.

MIGRATION TRENDS

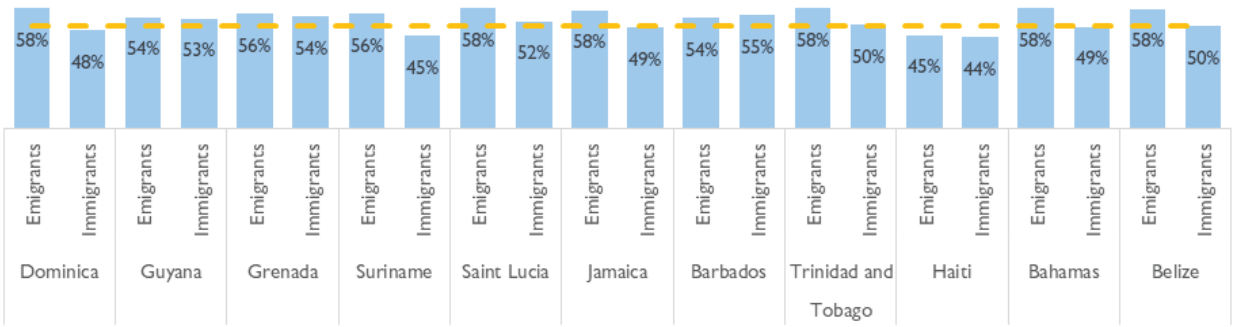
Most MGI countries display a higher percentage of emigrant populations compared to the percentage of international migrants (*Figure 1*). For instance, Dominica's emigrant population represents 108,6% of the national population, the highest in the region, while international migrants represent only 1,5%. Only The Bahamas and Belize have a higher percentage of international migrants compared to emigration figures, with international migrants representing 16,2% of the population in the Bahamas and 15,6% of the population in Belize. The distribution by sex (*Figure 2*) indicates that in most countries, females represent slightly more than half of the emigrant population and at least half of international migrants within each country.

Figure 1. Percentage of immigrant and emigrant population per country at mid-year 2020



Source: UN DESA, 2020. International Migrant Stock 2020.

Figure 2. Share of female immigrant and emigrant population per country at mid-year 2020



Source: UN DESA, 2020. International Migrant Stock 2020.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The following is a summary of specific policies/topics that, according to MGI assessments, were classified as "well-developed" or "with potential for further development". Additionally, these policies were identified as a priority by most CARICOM countries participating in the MGI assessment, and therefore, can be considered priority policies in the region. The results are presented by MGI domains (see Annex 1 for more information).

DOMAIN	WELL-DEVELOPED COMMON PRIORITY AREAS	COMMON PRIORITY AREAS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT
Migrants' rights	• Availability of data on nationals living abroad • Agreements on portability of social security entitlements • Access to health services	• Policy to combat violence, xenophobia and discrimination • Vote from abroad in national elections • Migrant's access to employment, education and social protection
Whole of government approach	• Institutions responsible for emigration and diaspora policy • Legislation regulating immigration • Migration data in the census • Provision of information pertaining to migration	• Formulation of national migration strategy aligned with development strategies • Establishment of institutions responsible for the implementation of migration policies/ strategies • Interministerial coordination mechanisms on migrationw • Migration data collection and publication (outside census)
Partnerships	• Regional agreements promoting labour mobility • MoU related to migration • Regional consultative processes/interregional consultative forums	• Formal engagement with civil society organizations, private sector and diaspora members in migration policy design and implementation • Negotiations/bilateral consultations with countries of origin/destination

Wellbeing of migrants	• Formal accreditation for the recognition of foreign qualifications	• Assessments to monitor labour immigration demand and labour supply • Creation of formal remittance schemes and financial inclusion programmes for migrants and their families • Ethical recruitment of immigrant workers • Protection of nationals working abroad • Regular collection of labour market data disaggregated by sex and migration status
Mobility dimensions of crises	• Communication systems in place for information on crises	• Establishment of contingency plans for managing large-scale population movements • Provisions to make exceptions to immigration procedures in times of crisis • Emergency management framework with specific measures to assist migrants • Measures to assist nationals abroad in times of crisis • Inclusion of human displacement measures in national development strategies • Measures for sustainable reintegration of migrants • Inclusion of human mobility considerations into environmental and climate change policies
Safe, orderly and regular migration	• Dedicated border control and security institutions • Strategies to combat human trafficking • Cooperation agreements to prevent/counter smuggling of migrants	• Noncustodial alternatives and strategies to ensure migrant detention is used as last resort • Measures to combat labour exploitation of migrants • Anti-trafficking data collection on a regular basis • Establishment of systems to monitor visa overstays • Reintegration of returning nationals • Establishment of measures to identify and protect migrants in vulnerable situations

CORE FINDINGS

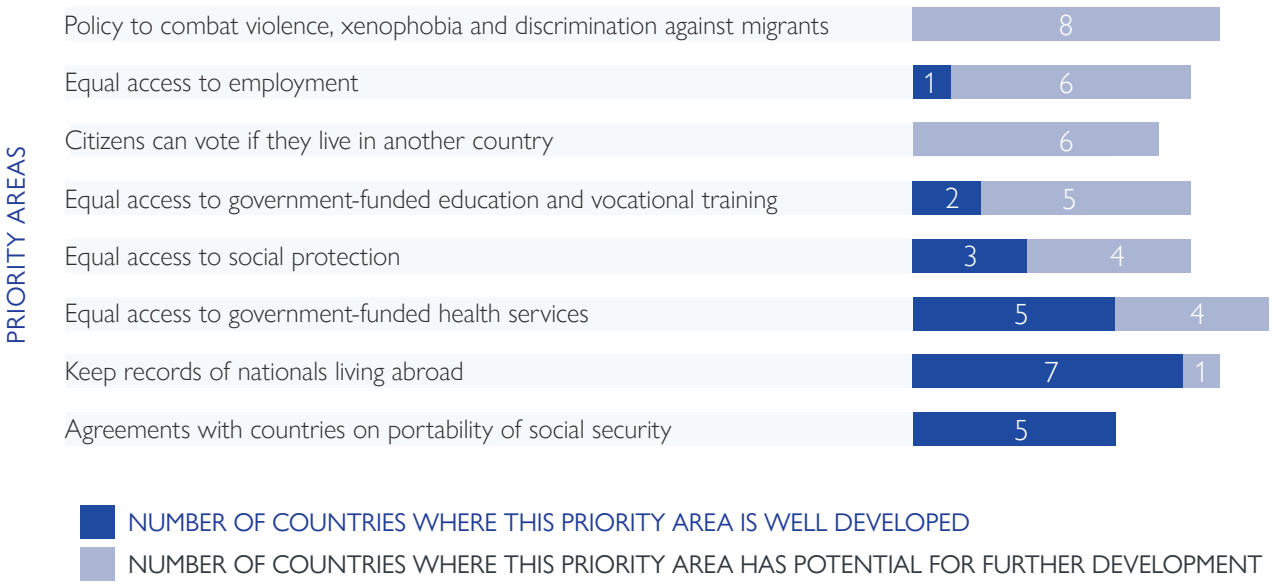
1 ADHERE TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND FULFIL MIGRANTS' RIGHTS

In this domain, **eight topics were identified as common priority areas (Figure 3)**, meaning that they have been singled out as a priority by five or more countries that conducted the MGI assessment. Out of those, **five common areas have the potential for further development (Box 1)**.

BOX 1. COMMON PRIORITY AREAS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

- Develop policies to combat violence, xenophobia, and discrimination against migrants.
- Establish specific measures to facilitate migrants' equal access to employment.
- Expand voting rights to citizens living abroad in national elections.
- Grant migrants the same status as citizens in accessing government-funded education and vocational training.
- Establish guidelines to allow that all immigrants have equal access to social protection.

Figure 3. Common priority areas: Well-developed areas and areas with potential for development



GCM Objective	Selected Examples from MGI Data
4 LEGAL IDENTITY AND DOCUMENTATION	**Barbados** keeps records of its nationals living abroad through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade's Barbados Diaspora Database[5]. This registration process is voluntary, and individuals can register online through the Diaspora Database website. Nationals living abroad are asked to submit their name, date and place of birth, Barbados passport details, address, phone number, email, next of kin, and occupation.
15 ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES	**Saint Lucia** has regulations in place to prevent discrimination against migrant children in accessing public education. Under the Education Act Cap.18.01 (2005), primary and secondary education is provided free of charge. The Act states that school attendance is compulsory for all children between the ages of 5 and 15 (section 17) and prohibits discrimination in admission to public educational institutions based on race and place of origin (article 29).[6]

[6] Barbados Diaspora Database
[7] Education Act. Chapter 18.01, 2005.

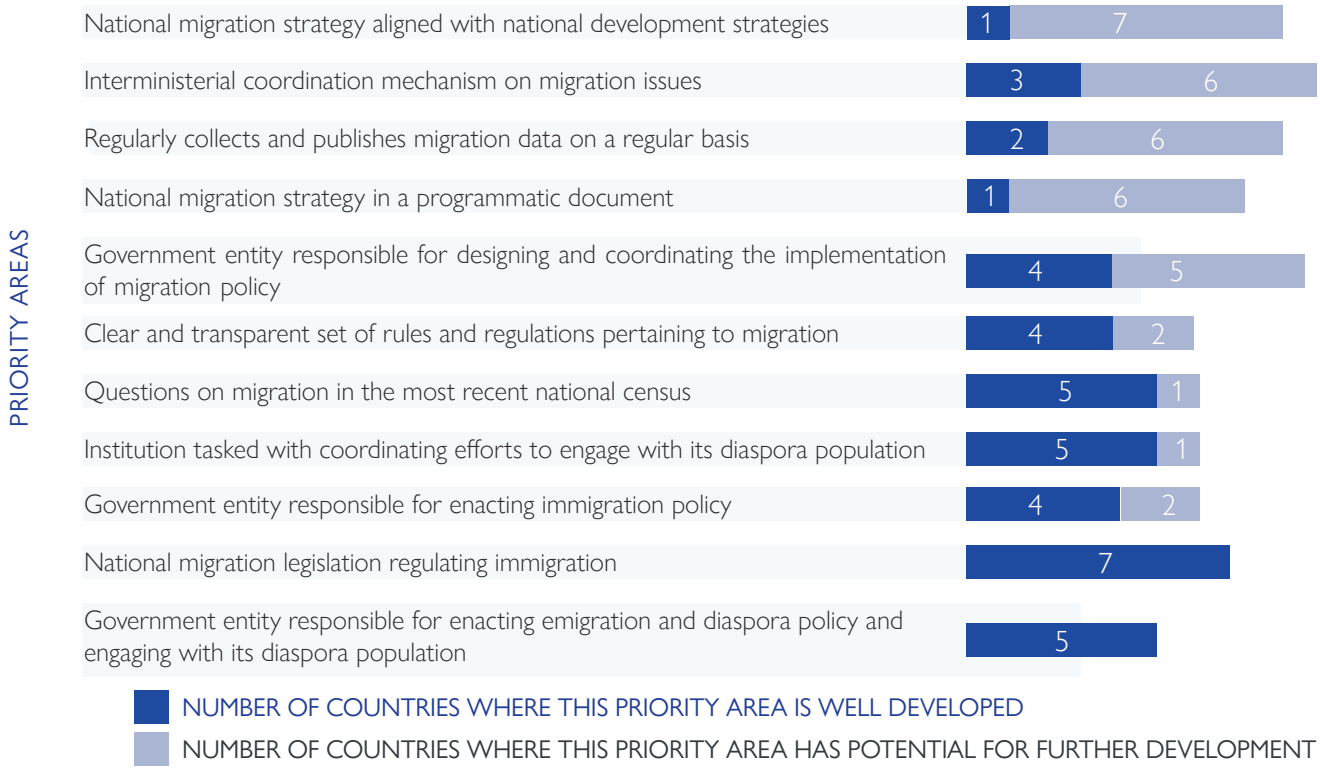
2 FORMULATES POLICY USING EVIDENCE AND "WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT" APPROACH

In this domain, **eleven topics were identified as common priority areas (Figure 4)**, meaning that they have been singled out as a priority by five or more countries that conducted the MGI assessment. Out of those, **there are five common areas with the potential for further development (Box 2)**.

BOX 2. COMMON PRIORITY AREAS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

- Align the national migration strategy with national development strategies.
- Establish an inter-ministerial coordination mechanism on migration issues.
- Collect and publish migration data (outside the census) on a regular basis.
- Formulate a national migration strategy defined in a programmatic document or manifesto.
- Establish a government agency or department responsible for designing and coordinating the implementation of an overall migration policy or strategic plan.

Figure 4. Common priority areas: Well-developed areas and areas with potential for development



GCM Objective	Selected Examples from MGI Data
101100 11100 0011 01110 **1 DATA**	**The Bahamas** collects and publishes data on migration on a regular basis. The Department of Immigration collects and publishes data on regular entries and exits, visa applications, residency permits, and work permits on an annual basis. Annual statistics on visitor arrivals, repatriation, and permits approved are available from 2017 through to the first quarter of 2023.[8] The Bahamas National Statistical Institute, established by the Statistics Act (No. 9 of 2021),[9] provides relevant statistics to the Department of Immigration. The Department of Statistics, under the Ministry of Finance, also collects basic information regarding immigrant flows into the Bahamas. It has published the Population Projections 2010–2040 (2015),[10] which includes migration data disaggregated by age and sex, although not by migration status or country of origin.
WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH	The Directorate of Immigration and Emigration (DIE) of **Haiti** is a technical and administrative unit of the Ministry of the Interior and Territorial Communities whose mission is to control migratory flows on Haitian territory. Among its main tasks, the DIE supervises the application of the immigration and emigration laws, regulates the stay of nationals and foreigners on the national territory, issues residence permits to foreigners and collects information on migratory flows in Haiti.[11]
WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH	The Planning Institute of **Jamaica** and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade led the efforts to develop the National Policy on International Migration and Development (2017),[12] in collaboration with various stakeholders. The policy is a framework for integrating international migration into the planning processes for the development and well-being of Jamaicans in the country and abroad. It represents a strategy for improving the living conditions of migrants in Jamaica by supporting the rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees. Its objectives are aligned with Vision 2030 Jamaica, the national development plan.

[8] Government of The Bahamas. Department of Immigration, Annual Statistics, 2023.
[9] Parliament of The Bahamas. Statistics Act, 2021.
[10] Department of Statistics. Population Projections (2010–2040), 2015.
[11] Directorate of Immigration and Emigration.
[12] White Paper. National Policy on International Migration and Development, 2017.

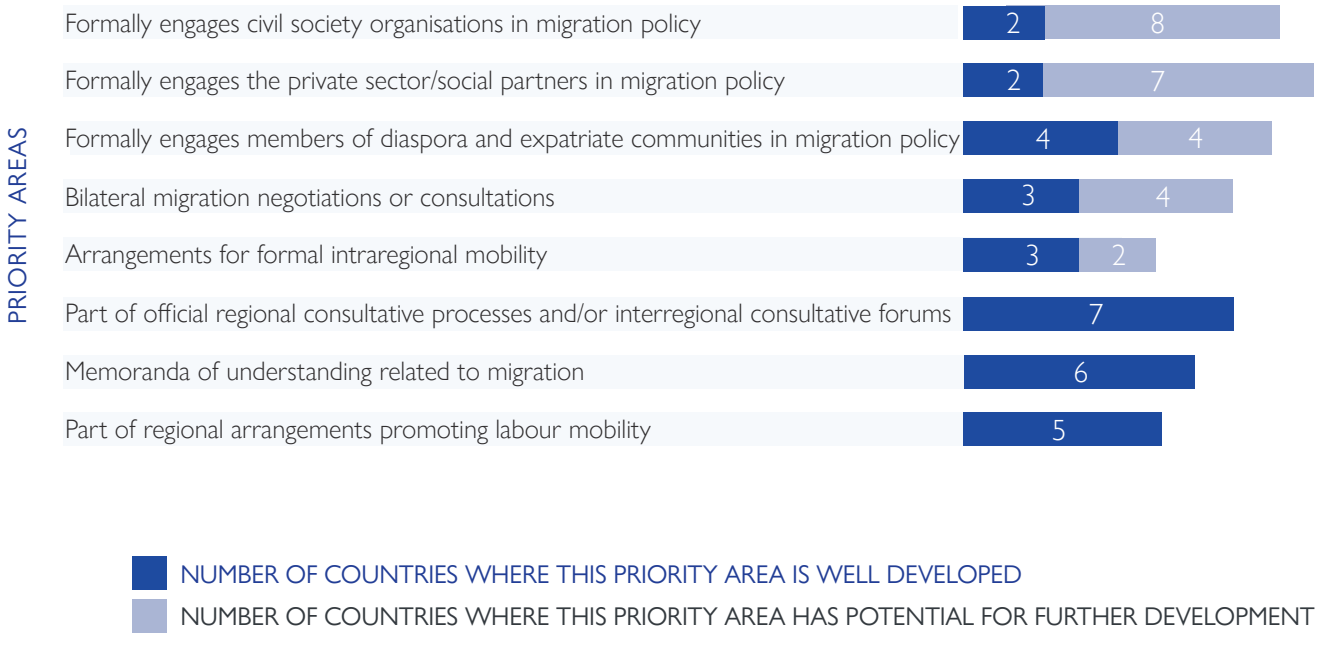
3 ENGAGES WITH PARTNERS TO ADDRESS MIGRATION AND RELATED ISSUES

In this domain, **eight topics were identified as common priority areas (Figure 5)**, meaning that they have been singled out as a priority by five or more countries that conducted the MGI assessment. **Out of those, there are four common areas with the potential for further development (Box 3)**.

BOX 3. COMMON PRIORITY AREAS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

- Formally involve civil society organizations in agenda setting and implementation of migration-related issues.
- Formally engage with the private sector and social partners in agenda setting and implementation of migration-related issues.
- Formally involve members of the diaspora and expatriate communities in agenda setting and implementation of development policies.
- Participate in negotiations, discussions, or bilateral consultations on migration with the corresponding countries of origin or destination.

Figure 5. Common priority areas: Well-developed areas and areas with potential for development



GCM Objective	Selected Examples from MGI Data
19 MIGRANT AND DIASPORA CONTRIBUTIONS	**Belize** formally engages with members of its diaspora through the Belizean Diaspora Program, implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The programme seeks to "engage the Belizean Diaspora by documenting skills, resources and the return interest and plans of those willing to support the development of Belize".[13] Its overall objective is to support the economic development of the country.
23 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	All 11 MGI countries covered in this study are part of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). The CARICOM Single Market and Economy is a regional governance framework aimed at enhancing intra-regional trade through the elimination of tariffs and other trade barriers. The primary objective of the Single Market and Economy is to remove barriers to the free movement of goods and services through policy harmonization as a means of enhancing and strengthening regional integration. Within this framework, free movement rights can be exercised under three provisions: (a) movement of professionals, (b) services, and (c) right of establishment.
23 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	**Suriname** and **Guyana** participate in the South American Conference on Migration,[14] a platform for consultations on counter-trafficking and counter-smuggling, integration, rights of migrants, information exchange, migration exchange and other topics and meets biannually.
23 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	**Dominica** has two memorandums of understanding on migration: with the European Union on the short-stay visa waiver, which was signed in 2015;[15] and a bilateral agreement on readmission with France, signed in 2006 and which has been in force since 2007.[16] The first memorandum allows for visa-free travel between the European Union and Dominica. This arrangement permits a maximum stay of 90 days within any 180-day period in the respective territories. The second memorandum establishes streamlined procedures for the identification and safe and orderly return of persons who do not fulfil the conditions to enter or remain in the territory of France or Dominica. Moreover, in 2022, China and Dominica signed an agreement on mutual visa exemption.[17]

[13] Diaspora Belize.
[14] International Organization for Migration. The South American Conference on Migration.
[15] As of February 2024, Dominican nationals need to apply for a visa to travel to the United Kingdom. See this article from RIF Trust for more information.
[16] Agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica on the readmission and transit of persons in an irregular situation, 2016.
[17] The Agreement on Mutual Visa Exemption between the People's Republic of China and the Commonwealth of Dominica, 2022.

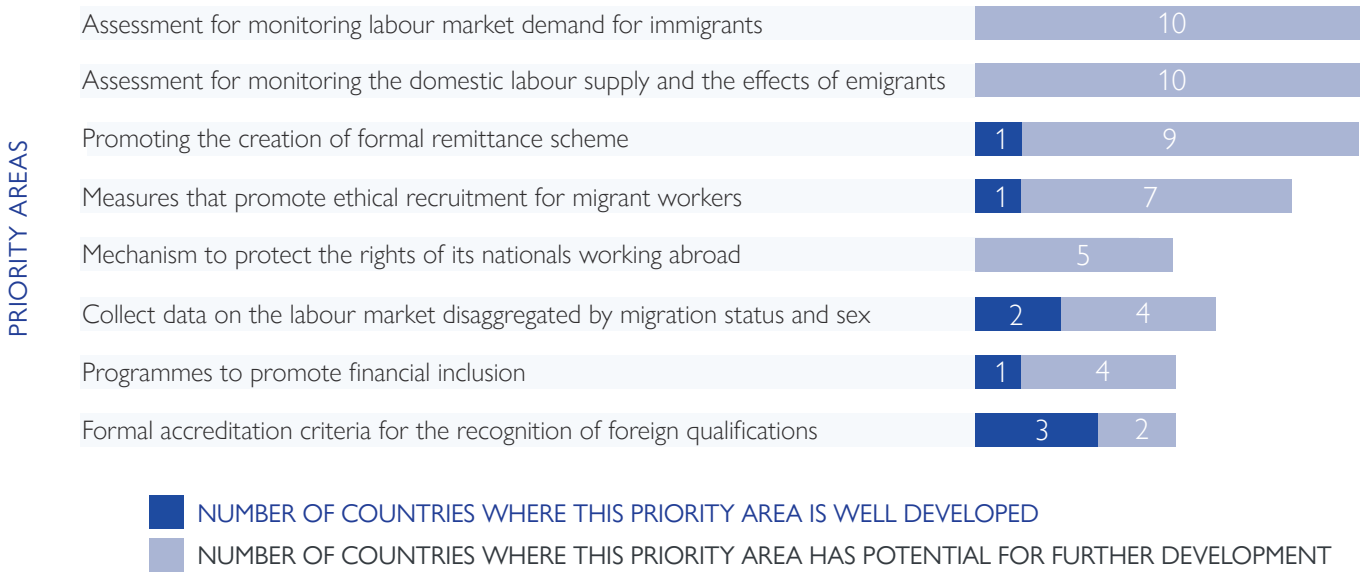
4 ADVANCE THE SOCIOECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF MIGRANTS AND SOCIETY

In this domain, **eight topics were identified as common priority areas (Figure 6)**, meaning that they have been singled out as a priority by five or more countries that conducted the MGI assessment. **Seven common areas have potential for further development (Box 4)**.

BOX 4. COMMON PRIORITY AREAS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

- Conduct assessments to monitor the demand for immigrants in the labour market.
- Monitor domestic labour supply and the effects of emigrants on the domestic labour market by conducting national assessments.
- Actively participate in promoting the creation of formal remittance schemes.
- Develop measures to promote the ethical recruitment of immigrant workers.
- Develop mechanisms to protect the rights of nationals working abroad.
- Collect data on the labour market disaggregated by migration status and sex.
- Implement programmes to promote the financial inclusion of immigrants and their families, particularly when they are remittance senders and/or receivers.

Figure 6. Common priority areas: Well-developed areas and areas with potential for development



GCM Objective	Selected Examples from MGI Data
18 SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND RECOGNITION	**Barbados** has formalized criteria for recognizing foreign qualifications which are administered by the Barbados Accreditation Council (BAC). As per the Barbados Accreditation Council Act (2004),[18] the BAC is mandated to "advise on the recognition of foreign-based institutions and their awards" and to "determine the equivalency of programmes and qualifications" to enable comparability of foreign qualifications with local ones.
1 DATA	The Ministry of Labour, the Labour Market Information Unit of **Trinidad and Tobago** collects data on the labour market disaggregated by migratory status and sex through the Labour Market Information System.[19] The data on unemployment and the labour market are also disaggregated by industry. The Central Statistical Office carries out the Continuous Sample Survey of the Population,[20] facilitating the compilation of a range of demographic and socio-economic statistics, with emphasis on labour force data. This data includes the place (national or foreign) and the country of birth.

[18] Barbados Accreditation Council, 2004.
[19] Ministry of Labour. Labour Market Information.
[20] Ministry of Planning and Development. Continuous Sample Survey of Population.

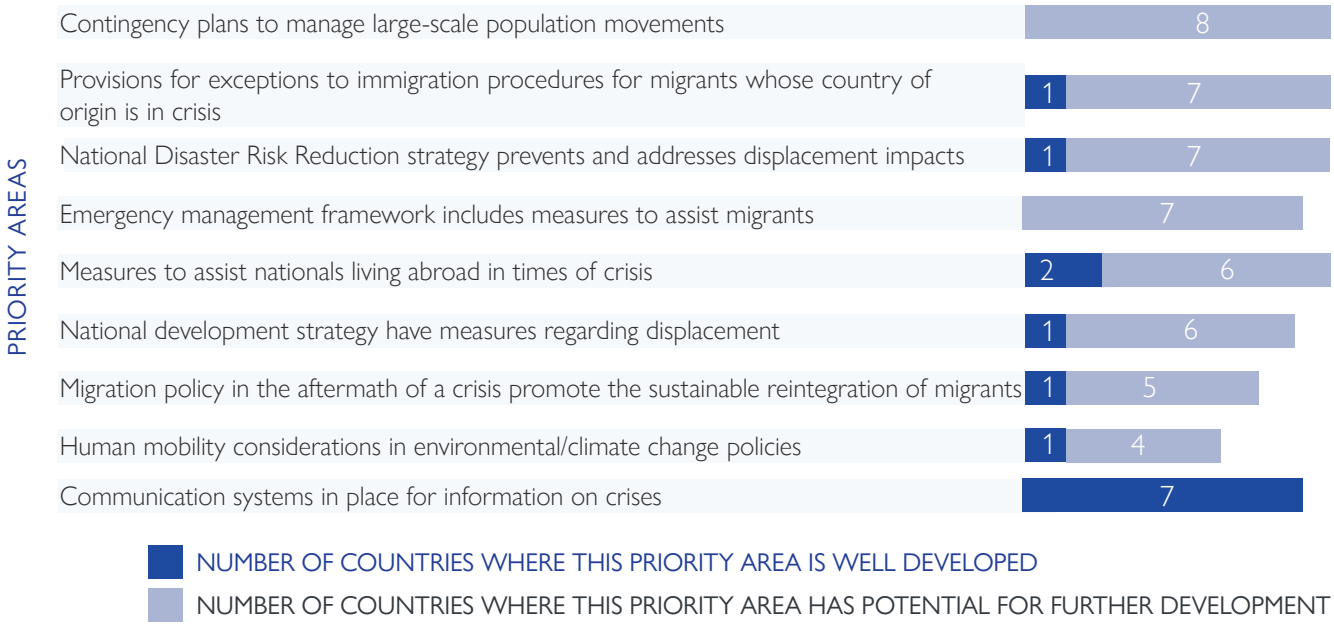
5 EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS THE MOBILITY DIMENSIONS OF CRISES

In this domain, **nine topics were identified as common priority areas (Figure 7)**, meaning that they have been singled out as a priority by five or more countries that conducted the MGI assessment. Out of those, there are **eight common areas with the potential for further development (Box 5)**.

BOX 5. COMMON PRIORITY AREAS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

- Have a contingency plan for managing large-scale population movements in times of crisis.
- Establish specific provisions to make exceptions to immigration procedures for migrants whose country of origin is experiencing a crisis.
- Formulate a national disaster risk reduction strategy with specific provisions to prevent and address the impact of disasters on displacement.
- Develop an emergency management framework with specific measures to assist migrants before, during and after the crisis.
- Implement concrete measures to assist nationals living abroad in times of crisis.
- Include in the national development strategy measures related to displacement, e.g., provisions on refugees and internally displaced persons.
- Include in the migration policy measures that promote the sustainable reintegration of migrants who fled the country during the crisis.
- Integrate human mobility considerations into environmental and climate change policies.

Figure 7. Common priority areas: Well-developed areas and areas with potential for development



GCM Objective	Selected Examples from MGI Data
2 MINIMIZE ADVERSE DRIVERS	Environmental and climate change policies and legal frameworks in **The Bahamas**, such as the National Policy for the Adaptation to Climate Change (2006), the National Communication on Climate Change (2014), and the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) (2022)[21] include considerations for human mobility. The NDC submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2022 affirms that "the country will seek to establish a baseline on non-economic and social loss and damage, as well as territory and ecosystem services; and design and development of infrastructure and plans for relocation/ resettlement of households and communities from frequently affected areas through the technical assistance." In addition, The Bahamas' First National Communication on Climate Change (2001)[22] refers to rural–urban migration and the linkages between population movements and health. The Second National Communication on Climate Change (2014)[23] calls attention to planned relocation processes at the national level. The National Policy for the Adaptation to Climate Change (2006),[24] developed by the National Climate Change Committee & The Bahamas Environment, Science, and Technology Commission, recognizes the country's potentially high vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change.
3 INFORMATION PROVISION	The National Disaster Management Committee of **Grenada**, under the National Disaster Management Advisory Council, is responsible for emergency telecommunications, with sub-committees accountable for specific disasters.[25] The Land Use Division of the Ministry of Agriculture (in partnership with the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology) is responsible for communications related to flooding and drought. The Meteorological Services and Maurice Bishop International Airport are responsible for the communication related to tropical storms and hurricanes. The University of the West Indies Seismic Research Centre and the University of Hawaii (which monitors sea-level rise) are responsible for communicating information regarding earthquakes and tsunamis. The National Disasters (Emergency Powers) Act (1984)[26] states that the Prime Minister holds power to establish communication in times of crisis (Article 4).

[21] The Bahamas (Updated) Nationally Determined Contribution under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2022.
[22] First National Communication on Climate Change, 2001.
[23] Second National Communication on Climate Change, 2014.
[24] National Policy for the Adaptation to Climate Change, 2006.
[25] National Disaster Management Advisory Council, 2005.
[26] The National Disasters (Emergency Powers) Act, 1984.

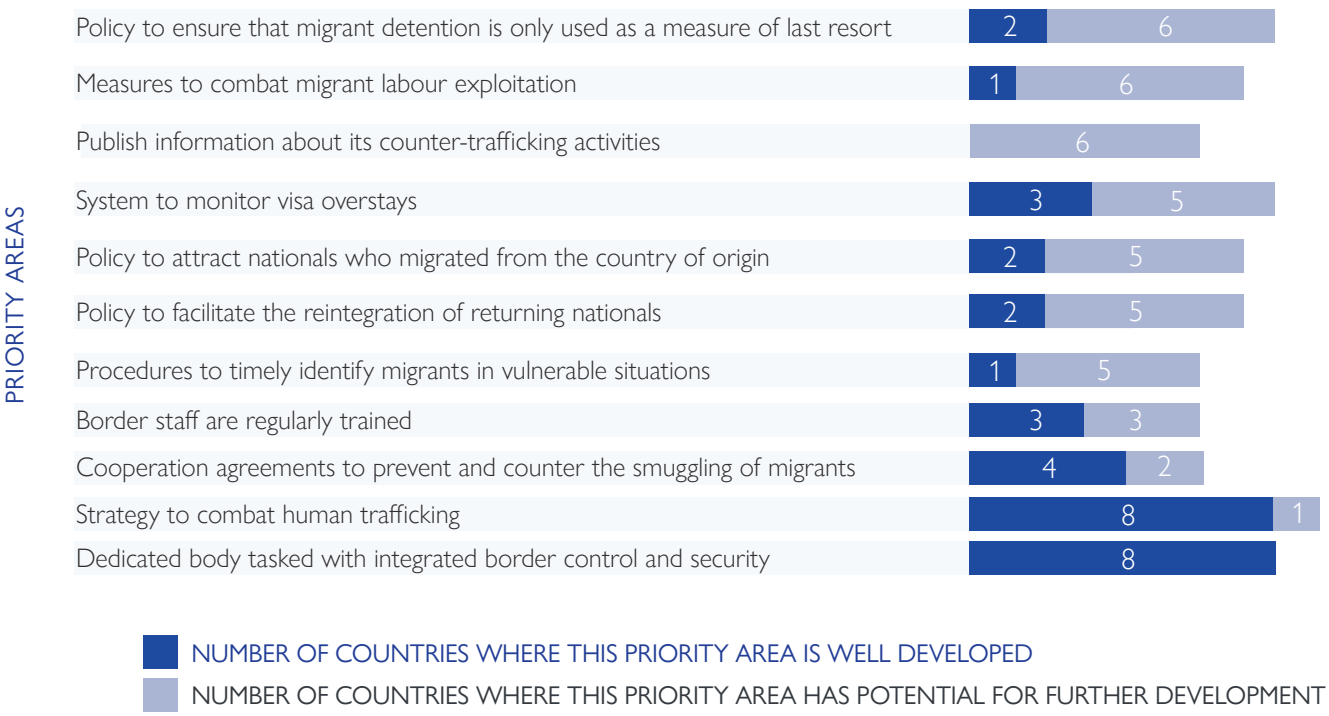
6 ENSURES THAT MIGRATION TAKES PLACE IN A SAFE, ORDERLY AND DIGNIFIED MANNER

In this domain, **eleven topics were identified as common priority areas (Figure 8)**, meaning that they have been singled out as a priority by five or more countries that conducted the MGI assessment. Out of those, there are **seven common areas with the potential for further development (Box 6)**.

BOX 6. COMMON PRIORITY AREAS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

- Develop a policy or strategy to ensure that migrant detention is used only as a last resort and work toward non-custodial alternatives.
- Take specific measures to combat labour exploitation of migrants.
- Publish information on anti-trafficking activities on a regular basis.
- Have a system to monitor visa overstays.
- Develop a formal government programme focused on attracting nationals who have migrated from the country of origin.
- Implement an official programme or policy focused on facilitating the reintegration of returning nationals.
- Establish policies and procedures to identify migrants in vulnerable situations and provide them with adequate referral and protection services.

Figure 8. Common priority areas: Well-developed areas and areas with potential for development



GCM Objective	Selected Examples from MGI Data
10 ERADICATE TRAFFICKING	**Guyana's** Combating and Trafficking in Persons Act No. 7 of 2023[27] provides for measures to combat trafficking in persons including children, by: (a) protecting and assisting victims of trafficking, having due regard to their human rights; (b) facilitating the efficient investigation of cases of trafficking in persons and the prosecution thereafter; (c) facilitating the just and effective punishment of individuals and organisations involved in trafficking in persons; and (d) promoting partnership and cooperation between Guyana and other States in order to prevent and suppress trafficking in persons and to punish offenders.
13 ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION	In **Suriname**, both victims of trafficking and migrants with irregular immigration status awaiting deportation are kept out of detention as long as they comply with a weekly reporting requirement to the police trafficking unit or the Aliens Service, respectively. Migrants with irregular immigration status who do not intend to leave the country are offered advice by the Aliens Service (e.g. on how to return to their country of origin in order to return with the correct documents).
21 DIGNIFIED RETURN AND REINTEGRATION	The Government of **Belize** has established the Diaspora Returnee Incentive Program[28] to attract members of the Belizean diaspora who are thinking of returning. Diaspora members who qualify for the programme are entitled to various benefits, including the advantage of bringing with them personal effects free of all import duties and taxes, with a value of up to USD 20,000. The programme also targets Belizeans "who have a [recurring] monthly pension or income from a guaranteed source, which they would be depositing and spending in the local economy".

[27] Combating and Trafficking in Persons Act, 2023.
[28] Belizean Diaspora Returnee Incentive Program, 2010.

CONCLUSION

This section summarizes all common priority areas for further development that were identified across the report and links them with the respective Global Compact objectives. These areas were singled out as country priorities by five or more countries that conducted the MGI assessment and have the potential for further development.

GLOBAL COMPACT OBJECTIVES	COMMON PRIORITY AREAS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT ACCORDING TO MGI ASSESSMENTS
	• Collect and publish migration data (outside the census) on a regular basis. • Conduct assessments to monitor the demand for immigrants in the labour market. • Monitor domestic labour supply and the effects of emigrants on the domestic labour market by conducting national assessments. • Collect data on the labour market disaggregated by migration status and sex.
	• Develop an emergency management framework with specific measures to assist migrants before, during and after the crisis • Formulate a national disaster risk reduction strategy with specific provisions to prevent and address the impact of disasters on displacement. • Integrate human mobility considerations into environmental and climate change policies.
	• Develop measures to promote the ethical recruitment of immigrant workers. • Develop mechanisms to protect the rights of nationals working abroad. • Take specific measures to combat labour exploitation of migrants.
	• Have a contingency plan for managing large-scale population movements in times of crisis. • Establish specific provisions to make exceptions to immigration procedures for migrants whose country of origin is experiencing a crisis. • Establish policies and procedures to identify migrants in vulnerable situations and provide them with adequate referral and protection services.
	• Publish information on anti-trafficking activities on a regular basis.
	• Develop a policy or strategy to ensure that immigration detention is used only as a last resort and work toward non-custodial alternatives.

- Implement concrete measures to assist nationals living abroad in times of crisis.

- Implementing measures to grant migrants the same status as citizens in accessing government-funded education and vocational training.

- Establishing specific measures to facilitate migrants' equal access to employment.

- Development of policies to combat violence, xenophobia, and discrimination against migrants.

- Expanding voting rights to citizens living abroad in national elections.
- Formally involve members of the diaspora and expatriate communities in agenda setting and implementation of development policies.

- Actively participate in promoting the creation of formal remittance schemes.
- Implement programs to promote the financial inclusion of immigrants and their families, particularly when they are remittance senders and/or receivers.

- Include in the national development strategy measures related to displacement, e.g., provisions on refugees and internally displaced persons.
- Include in the migration policy measures that promote the sustainable reintegration of migrants who fled the country during the crisis.
- Develop a formal government program or specific policy focused on attracting nationals who have emigrated from the country of origin.
- Implement an official program or specific policy focused on facilitating the reintegration of returning nationals.

- Establish guidelines to allow that all categories of immigrants have equal access to social protection.

- Participate in negotiations, discussions, or bilateral consultations on migration with the corresponding countries of origin or destination.

GLOBAL COMPACT PRINCIPLES

COMMON PRIORITY AREAS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

- Formulate a national migration strategy defined in a programmatic document or manifesto.
- Align the national migration strategy with national development strategies.
- Establish an inter-ministerial coordination mechanism on migration issues.
- Establish a government agency or department responsible for designing and coordinating the implementation of an overall migration policy or strategic plan.

- Formally involve civil society organizations in agenda setting and implementation of migration-related issues, for example, in working groups.
- Formally engage with the private sector and social partners in agenda setting and implementation of migration-related issues.

NO RELATED IDENTIFIED 'PRIORITY AREA FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT'

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: MGI DOMAINS

The MGIs consist of almost 100 indicators grouped under the six different dimensions of migration governance that draw upon the MiGOF categories:

MIGRANTS' RIGHTS

Indicators in this domain look at the extent to which migrants have access to certain social services such as health, education and social security. They also look at family reunification, access to work, and access to residency and citizenship. The international conventions signed and ratified are also included.

WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH

Indicators in this area assess countries' institutional, legal and regulatory frameworks related to migration policies. This area also looks at the existence of national migration strategies that are in line with development objectives and overseas development efforts, as well as institutional transparency and coherence in relation to migration management.

PARTNERSHIPS

This category focuses on countries' efforts to cooperate on migration-related issues with other States and relevant non-governmental actors, including civil society organizations and the private sector.

WELL-BEING OF MIGRANTS

Indicators in this area assess countries' policies on the recognition of migrants' educational and professional qualifications, provisions regulating student migration and the existence of bilateral labour agreements between countries. Aspects of diaspora engagement in the country of origin and migrant remittances are also under this domain.

MOBILITY DIMENSION OF CRISES

This category looks at the type and level of preparedness of countries when they are faced with mobility dimensions of crises. The questions look at the processes in place for nationals and non-nationals in relation to disasters and climate change, including if humanitarian assistance is equally available to migrants as it is to citizens.

SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION

This area looks at countries' approach to migration management in terms of border control and enforcement policies, admission criteria for migrants, preparedness and resilience in the case of significant and unexpected migration flows, as well as the fight against trafficking in persons.

ANNEX 2: MGI AND GCM MAPPING

The analysis of MGI data in relation to the Global Compact for Migration started with mapping the 98 MGI questions against each of the 23 Global Compact objectives. The mapping consisted of a systematic evaluation of the thematic proximity between each MGI question and the main commitment and/or one or more of the associated actions considered to be relevant policy instruments and best practices for each objective. In the resulting analysis, 79 out of the 98 MGI questions were mapped against a Compact objective. Each MGI question is associated with only one objective.[28] The thematic proximity between each MGI question and the main commitment and/or one or more of the associated actions varies across the Global Compact for Migration objectives. In order to offer a full picture of global, regional and thematic trends associated with each objective, MGI data would need to be complemented with other sources of data.

MGI COUNTRIES INCLUDED IN THE ANALYSIS AND YEAR OF ASSESSMENT

Country	Year of Data Collection
Belize[30]	2019
Commonwealth of Dominica[31]	2023
Commonwealth of The Bahamas*	2024
Co-operative Republic of Guyana*	2021
Grenada*	2022
Jamaica[32]	2019
Republic of Barbados*	2024
Republic of Haiti[33]	2021
Republic of Suriname[34]	2022
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago*	2021
Saint Lucia[35]	2023

Note: *Not yet published

[29] As a result of the first mapping exercise, see IOM flagship publication: Migration Governance Indicators Data and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: A Baseline Report.
[30] Migration Governance Indicators: Belize, 2020.
[31] Migration Governance Indicators: Commonwealth of Dominica, 2023.
[32] Migration Governance Profile: Jamaica, 2019.
[33] Migration Governance Indicators: Republic of Haiti, 2022.
[34] Migration Governance Indicators: Republic of Suriname, 2022.
[35] Migration Governance Indicators: Republic of Saint Lucia, 2024.

GCM OBJECTIVES MAPPED AGAINST MGI INDICATORS, PER DOMAIN

www.migrationdataportal.org/mgi

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