

The United Nations vision and goals on migration are integrated in the 2018 Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular its Sustainable Development Goal target 10.7 “Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies”.¹ At a time when more and more people change their place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, the United Nations has been steadfast in supporting regular pathways and rights-based policy frameworks for migration, and to enhance the contribution of migrants and migration to sustainable development, while addressing the associated challenges.

¹ Other migration-related targets in the 2030 Agenda include strengthening and retaining the health workforce in developing countries (target 3.c).

Box 1

Mexico: a country of migration origin, transit and destination

of the world of around 11 million people (U.S. Census Bureau, 2021), mostly living in the United States. Out-migration from Mexico to the United States has been high since the 1960s, peaking in the 1990s at around 1.5 million people per year (U.S. Census Bureau, 2022). Subsequent restrictions to immigration implemented in the 2000s led to a decline in out-migration, which, combined with a decline in in-migration, led to a net out-migration of around 1 million people per year (U.S. Census Bureau, 2022). In the 2010s, out-migration continued to taper off, which, combined with a decline in in-migration, led to a net out-migration of around 1 million people per year (U.S. Census Bureau, 2022). In the 2020s, out-migration continued to taper off, which, combined with a decline in in-migration, led to a net out-migration of around 1 million people per year (U.S. Census Bureau, 2022).

Table 1

Mexico: Estimated net migration, 2010-2021 (thousands)

Year	Net Migration (thousands)	Year	Net Migration (thousands)	Year	Net Migration (thousands)
2010		2014		2018	
2011		2015		2019	
2012		2016		2020	
2013		2017		2021	

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Box 2

Migrant persons are vulnerable, especially those in irregular situations

According to OHCHR and GMG (2018), migrants in vulnerable situations are “persons who are unable effectively to enjoy their human rights, are at increased risk of violations and abuse and who, accordingly, are entitled to call on a duty of protection from the State” (OHCHR and GMG, 2018). *Situational* vulnerability refers to

for countries with a relatively small number of highly skilled migrants from the Caribbean or well-educated workers from Eastern Europe or Northern Africa.¹⁰ Conversely, the economic impact of migration to the destination countries are known as “brain gain”. Due to data constraints, most studies have considered highly skilled migrants as those with tertiary-level education, but, from a policy perspective, other measures could also be considered, such as occupational attainment and income (OECD and World Bank, 2018).

The following may have the following implications for the

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migrants with tertiary education would fall into the “brain drain” category. Academic degrees, and professional credentials are not always recognized in the destination country, and skilled migrants to become underemployed in low-skill and low-paying jobs or even to be unemployed. According to the OECD (2008), the greatest challenge to work in the destination country, ranking above language skills, discrimination, and visa restrictions.

Host countries may experience a “brain drain” of skilled populations in host countries, but deteriorate over time

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faced with large numbers of migrants in transit or stationed at the borders.

§ A synergistic approach involving policy coordination between origin and host countries is essential for the effective use of the skills and human capital of migrants and

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