DTM STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2026–2028



IOM UN MIGRATION | GLOBAL DATA INSTITUTE DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX

DTM OVERVIEW AND PRIORITIES

WHO WE ARE: International Organization for Migration's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a primary data provider on human mobility across contexts. For over 20 years, DTM has provided actionable data to governments and humanitarian, peace and development actors. DTM has informed various data-driven responses during complex humanitarian emergencies, in post-crisis settings, and in support of safe and orderly migration across the globe. Building on its extensive field presence and operational networks, **DTM provides consistent, high-quality data alongside responsive analysis, enabling operational and policy actors, including IOM programmes, to make timely and evidence-based decisions.** In recognition of this role, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) formally recognized DTM as a lead provider of country-level data on internally displaced persons (IDPs) in 2024.

DTM OBJECTIVE: To deliver robust data to inform evidence-based programming and policy for people on the move.

DTM 2025 AT A GLANCE

76
Active DTM operations at the end of 2025 (operating in 91 countries at the beginning of 2025)

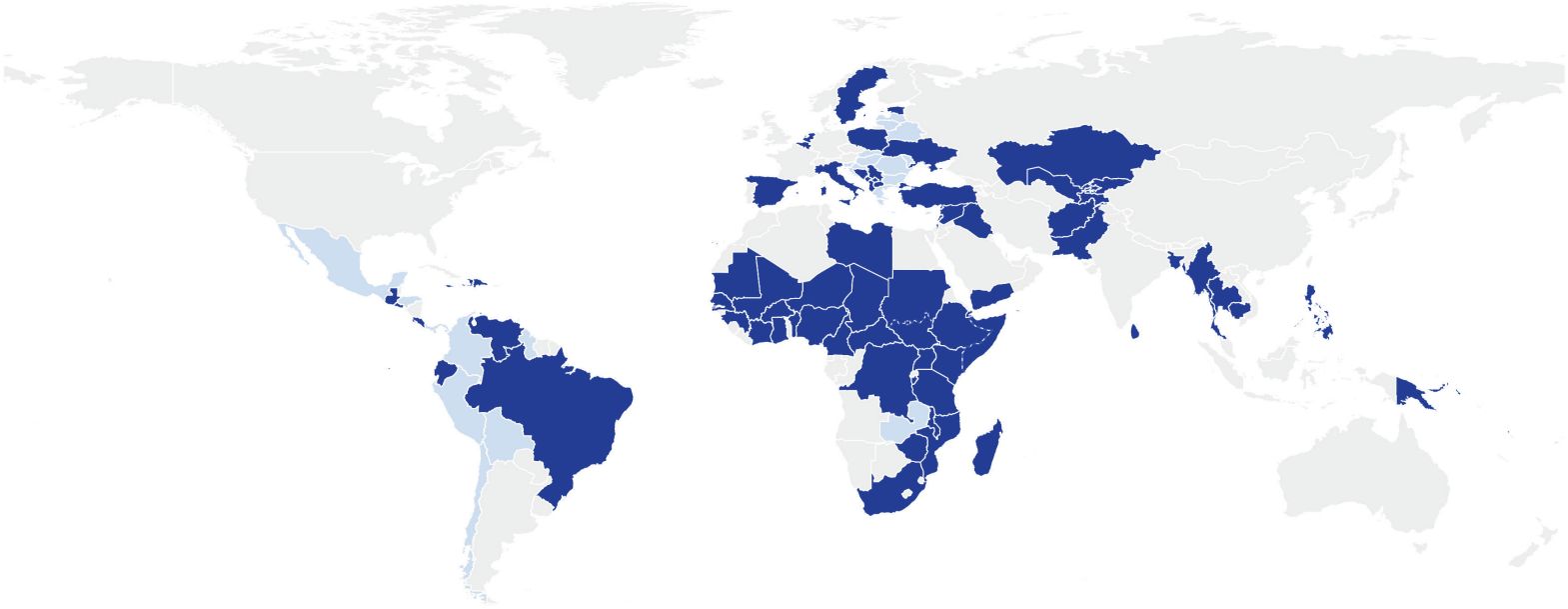
706,386
Number of household interviews conducted

791,141
Key informants (KIs)[1] in the DTM operational network

95%
19/20 Humanitarian Needs Response Plans (HNRPs) informed by DTM data and analysis

97.2M*
Total population monitored by DTM
**Includes IDPs, returnees, migrants and other population categories.*

GLOBAL DTM OPERATIONS IN 2025



This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

Data source: DTM Global Survey of Operations 2025.

1. Many DTM methodological approaches rely on a large and diverse network of credible KIs. KIs are knowledgeable individuals who are interviewed to gather population-level data. They provide macro-level, aggregate information on the demographics, locations, and needs of displaced communities rather than speaking on behalf of their individual households.

Cover photo: *Migrants crossing the border from Bolivia into Chile. © IOM 2022/Richard Arana*

PROGRAMMATIC AREAS

Aligned with IOM's Strategic Plan (2024–2028) and the Strategic Results Framework, DTM provides data on IDPs, returnees, migrants and other populations relevant to IOM's three Strategic Objectives. DTM data are then used by actors across the humanitarian, development and peace nexus.

DTM's programmatic areas link to IOM's Strategic Objectives, and its data and methodologies support the full spectrum of IOM programmes. DTM contributes to standardized indicators that support IOM's results-based management approach, ensuring consistency from data collection to final reporting.

OBJECTIVE 1:
SAVING LIVES AND PROTECTING PEOPLE ON THE MOVE



DTM data operations on displacement, human mobility and needs generate timely evidence that supports life-saving assistance and protects people on the move.

OBJECTIVE 2:
DRIVING SOLUTIONS TO DISPLACEMENT



DTM's Data for Solutions initiatives combine targeted data collection with specialized analysis to inform programmes and policies to drive sustainable solutions to displacement.

OBJECTIVE 3:
FACILITATING PATHWAYS FOR REGULAR MIGRATION



DTM produces insights on mixed migration flows, through Flow Monitoring and other activities that take a route-based approach.



A group of migrants walking outside the city, Djibouti.
© IOM 2021/Alexander Bee

SO 1. Saving Lives and Protecting People on the Move

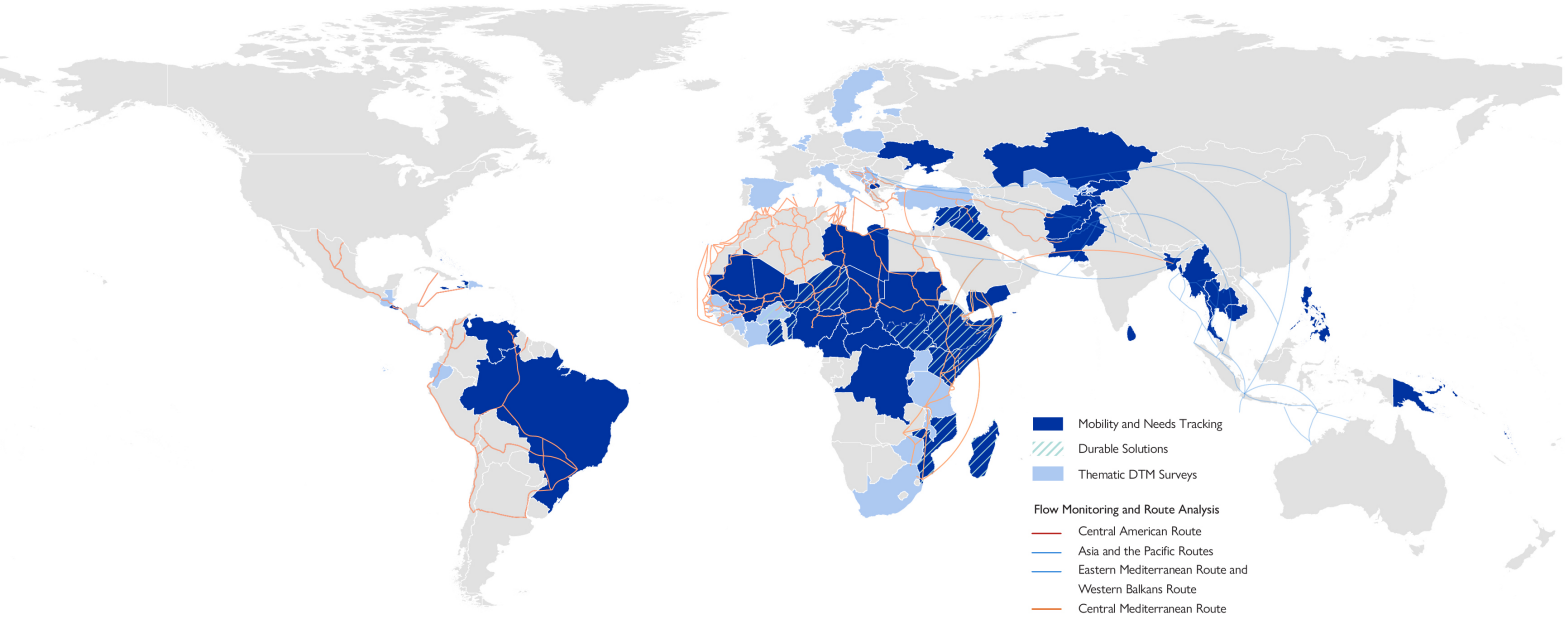
DISPLACEMENT AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS DATA

Delivering data as a common good for efficient, agile and coordinated humanitarian response.

Reliable data on displacement and humanitarian needs remains essential for evidence-based decision-making at the global, crisis, and programmatic levels. This is critical, particularly amid the ongoing UN80 initiative, the Humanitarian Reset reform and improvement of the existing response structures, and growing system-wide financial constraints. Despite increasingly complex human mobility dynamics, DTM is committed to providing high-quality and accessible humanitarian response data for coordinated analysis and effective response.

DTM reinforces IOM's position as a provider of data as a common service and enabler of humanitarian response through data across contexts. Through DTM's extensive field presence and knowledge, IOM is recognized as a trusted data source for actionable data for decision-making across crises, post-crisis, solutions-oriented and development programming. DTM's activities maintain wide operational coverage and an agile field footprint, build data literacy among operational users to enhance accessibility and uptake, and remain at the forefront of developing data systems that can work seamlessly with others, while maintaining high ethical standards and strong governance practices. DTM's well-established operational capacity also functions as an existing network to implement and support high-level UN processes.

DTM GLOBAL OPERATIONS BY COMPONENT IN 2025



This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

Data source: DTM Global Survey of Operations 2025.

DTM OPERATIONS IN 2025

496
Technical experts[2] in country, regional and global teams

60
DTM operations monitoring migration flows

46
DTM operations monitoring internal displacement

15
DTM operations assessing durable solutions and post-crisis contexts

11
DTM operations collecting data on transhumance

2. This includes DTM coordinators, field teams and data management specialists.

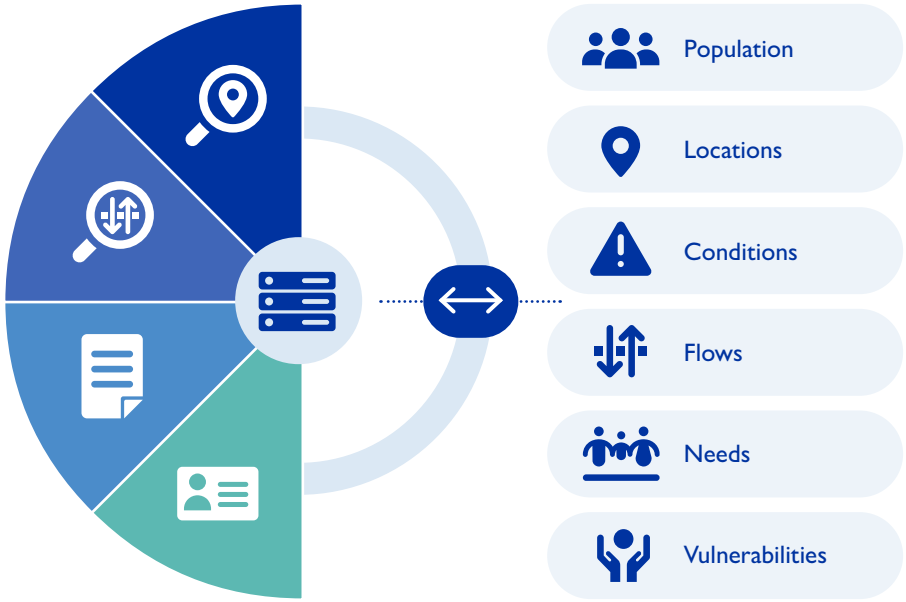
2026–2028
PROGRAMME PRIORITIES

1. **Leverage** the DTM network as a common service, promoting data as a public good to support efficient, coordinated and cohesive responses to humanitarian crises and development challenges.
2. **Integrate** DTM into cross-cutting initiatives to foster common data pipelines through interoperable systems, platforms and software.
3. **Enhance** operational structures to generate information in an agile and efficient way, supporting data-driven decision-making for both rapid response and in-depth strategic planning.
4. **Promote** safe, ethical and effective data management processes that can anticipate crises, inform early-warning and respond to life-saving needs.

DTM COMPONENTS: HOW DATA IS COLLECTED

DTM data are collected through a set of core components, each capturing different aspects of population mobility. These components draw on years of global operational learning, consolidated in the DTM Methodological Framework, which provides shared standards and guidance to ensure consistency and quality across DTM operations worldwide. DTM methodologies, tools and components are continually optimized to address changing contexts.

1. **Mobility tracking** – systematically monitors mobility and cross-sectoral needs in locations of interest to target assistance
2. **Flow Monitoring** – estimates movement flows and the overall situation at key points or at origin, transit locations and points of entry
3. **Surveys** – gathers specific information using sampling from the population of interest
4. **Registration** – registers individuals and households for beneficiary selection, vulnerability targeting and programming



CROSS-CUTTING IMPACT ACROSS DISPLACEMENT, MIGRATION & SOLUTIONS

The **Displacement and Humanitarian Needs programme** forms the backbone of DTM's work. As the longest running area of DTM's operations, it forms an essential and interconnected support structure for data and operational efforts across the full range of human mobility. Preventative analysis and action, as well as risk and preparedness modelling are grounded on DTM core displacement data. Over time, DTM data on mobile populations in emergency contexts serves as the baseline for informing solutions to internal displacement, and the design of stabilization, return and local integration programming. For cross-border mobility, data on displacement dynamics is used to assess the impacts of crises on cross-border flows and on migrants in countries experiencing crises. This anchors DTM across programmatic stages of preparedness, risk-reduction and response through to post-crisis solutions, peace and development.

SO 2. Driving Solutions to Displacement

DATA FOR SOLUTIONS TO INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

DTM is the leading source of data on internal displacement, providing the evidence base to inform and track progress towards durable solutions.

The rising number of IDPs worldwide and protracted displacement trends demand data-driven action that enables communities to achieve durable solutions. With its extensive presence in major internal displacement crisis, post-crisis and development contexts, IOM launched the Solutions and Mobility Index (SMI) in 2022 to leverage DTM's unique position to generate high-quality data and research that inform national, regional, and global decision-making for displacement solutions. Implemented in over 20 countries since 2022, the SMI helps generate high-quality data and research to inform national, regional and global decision-making.

The SMI provides timely, context-specific data and analysis to support long-term development-oriented approaches in crisis-affected settings – from community stabilization and transition to recovery and durable solutions. Its analytical products shape programmatic efforts that are aligned with the UN Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS), and the inter-agency Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID) Working Group.

TYPES OF DATA FOR SOLUTIONS

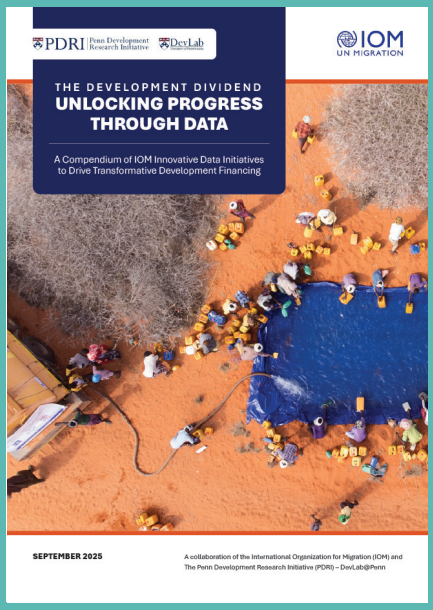
DTM's Data for Solutions work draws on a wide range of information to understand people's intentions and needs, and to support long-term responses in alignment with national development planning efforts. Data and analyses from DTM's core tools, such as Mobility Tracking and rapid Emergency Tracking tools, provide critical data on locations, population estimates, areas of return, duration and cause of displacement. These are complemented by in-depth household surveys, such as Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA), which provide data on living conditions, needs and vulnerabilities, and support comprehensive and comparative analysis for solutions, stabilization, peace and development-focused programming. Finally, the SMI toolkit offers specialized surveys in alignment with global frameworks to identify displacement-related vulnerabilities, access to basic services, participation in public life, safety and security, governance indicators, livelihoods and job creation, and obstacles faced in communities of return and local integration.



As climate change and drought deepen hardship across Somalia, communities rely on temporary water sources to meet daily needs and support their recovery. © IOM 2022

2026–2028
PROGRAMME PRIORITIES

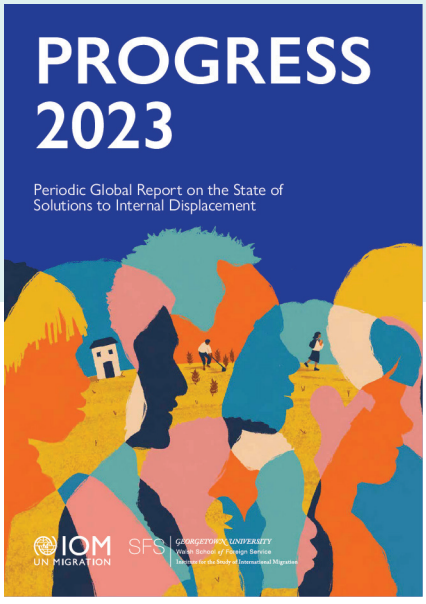
1. **Deliver robust and standardized methodologies** across DTM's SMI tools aligned with global guidance such as from the Expert Group on Refugee IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS) and the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS) indicators for measuring progress and defining 'exit measures' of displacement.
2. **Support national authorities to deliver nationally owned solutions** through collaboration on technical engagement with relevant ministries and statistical offices, long-term capacity building, data collection and alignment with relevant frameworks.
3. **Expand and tailor DTM's solutions analysis** covering factors like jobs and livelihoods to inform programmes, national development plans and multilateral bank investment planning and pipelines. Target development actors for solutions financing and deliver anticipatory action and foresight analysis through new products.
4. **Forge new partnerships** to expand data and deepen the analysis being produced for this programme through engagement with academia, multilateral development banks and the private sector.

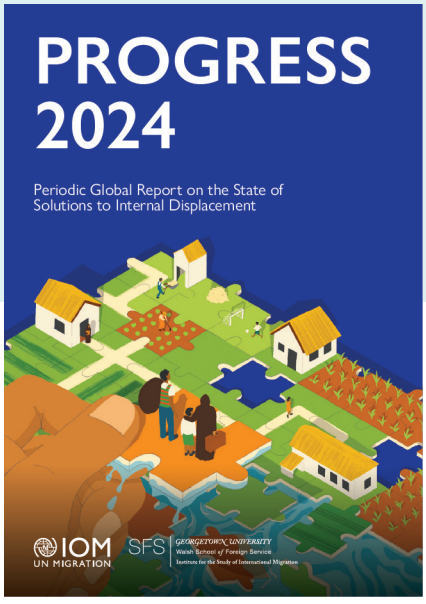


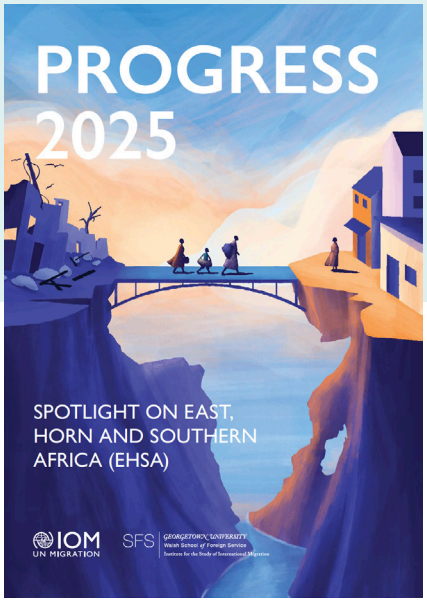
IOM FLAGSHIP: PERIODIC GLOBAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF SOLUTIONS TO INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

In partnership with Georgetown University's Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM), in 2023, IOM launched the flagship Periodic Global Report on the State of Solutions to Internal Displacement (PROGRESS) to provide a people-centered and operationally relevant contribution to the UN Action Agenda on Internal Displacement through actionable data analysis. The report provides a data-driven understanding of the experiences of IDPs, their profiles, vulnerabilities, and progress toward durable solutions based on the criteria outlined in the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS) and IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs. The initiative aims to support governments, multilateral development banks, and partners in promoting evidence-based policymaking and programme implementation.

In line with the recommendations from the UN High-Level Committee on Programmes (CEB/2024,6/Add.1), the 2026 edition will be developed as the first biennial, inter-agency UN system-wide report, designed as a collaborative learning and analytical resource to support the implementation of the IASC-UNSDG Guidance on Solutions to Internal Displacement. The report will be coordinated with the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), with close engagement with the Solutions Hub and DSID Working Group.





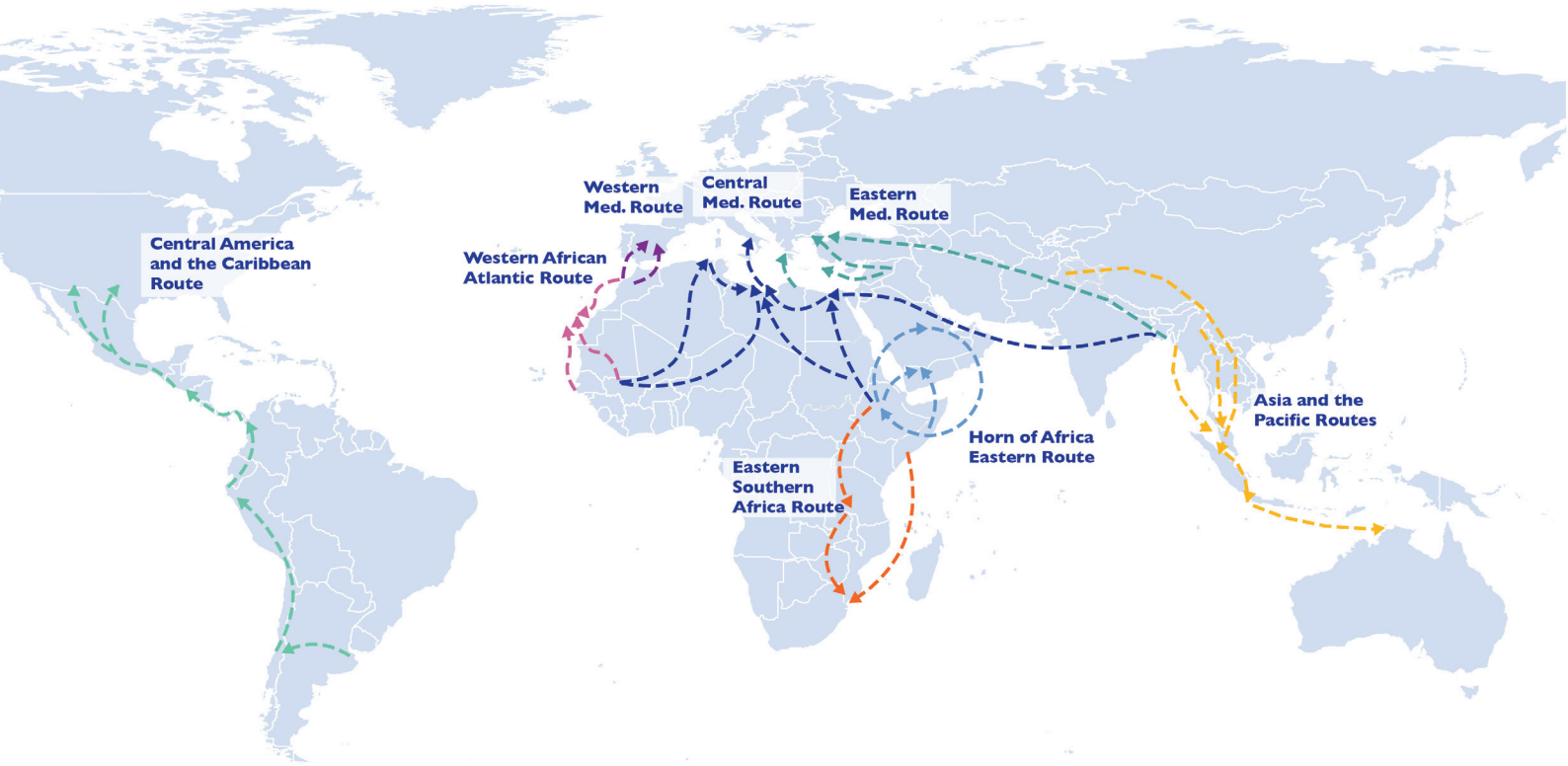


SO 3. Facilitating Pathways for Regular Migration

UNDERSTANDING MIGRATION FLOWS: DTM ROUTE-BASED APPROACH

Consolidating data and analysis on migration routes across the globe.

GLOBAL MIGRATION ROUTES IN 2025



This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

Migration journeys and the routes that shape them are rarely linear. Instead, migration often occurs along fluid, interconnected routes that cross multiple countries and regions. Both the journeys themselves and the routes taken are influenced by a dynamic interplay of factors, including conditions in countries of origin, evolving conditions in transit countries, and the broader geopolitical context in which migration is taking place. In response to this inherent complexity, DTM's Flow Monitoring and route-based data activities, including targeted research, provide IOM and its partners with the evidence base to move beyond fragmented, country-specific approaches toward a more coherent, data driven strategy that addresses migration across all stages of the route. In doing so, these efforts support IOM's strategic objectives to save lives and facilitate pathways for regular migration, while also advancing the broader goals set out in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

DTM's route-based data activities aim to strengthen and align data collection efforts along major migration routes and provide quality and timely analysis of these. They form a central part of IOM's broader Route-Based Approach (RteBA).

IMPROVE DATA QUALITY

by optimizing Flow Monitoring and related DTM tools to ensure reliable, timely and actionable information.

GENERATE INSIGHTFUL ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH

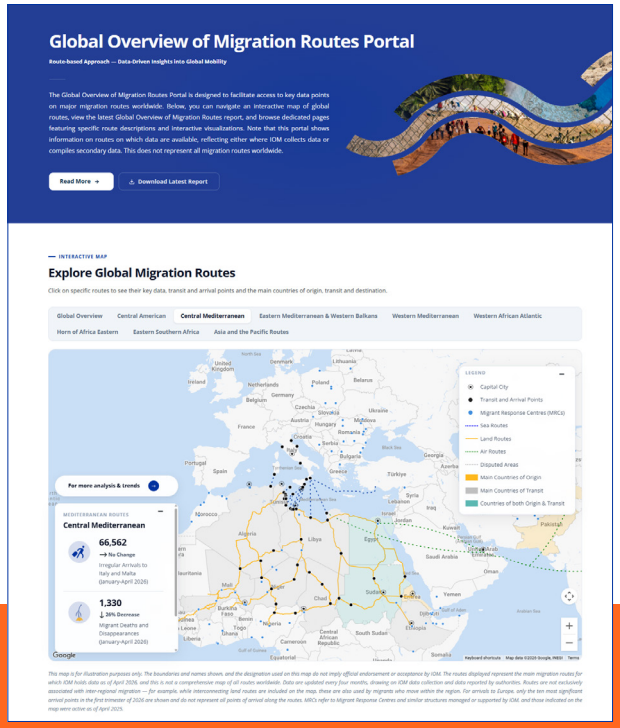
by leveraging multiple data sources, including targeted research initiatives, to generate quality and timely insights across routes in a range of knowledge outputs.

PROMOTE COLLABORATION

with partners across all phases of the migration journey to foster context-specific insights and joint analysis.

2026–2028
PROGRAMME PRIORITIES

1. **Build a more comprehensive understanding of mixed migration dynamics**, capturing movement patterns, barriers, risks and vulnerabilities across migration journeys including by refining concepts, definitions and methodologies used.
2. **Promote a nuanced understanding of diverse mobile populations along routes**, considering distinct groups such as aspiring migrants, those in transit, stranded populations, intercepted migrants, returnees, and those who reached their destination.
3. **Facilitate the transformation of contextual insights into action** by providing decision makers with an understanding of what drives people's movements, the conditions they face along the way, their needs, and the protection and humanitarian challenges that arise at different stages of the journey.
4. **Remain responsive to evolving route dynamics** by conducting targeted analysis and research on emerging priorities.

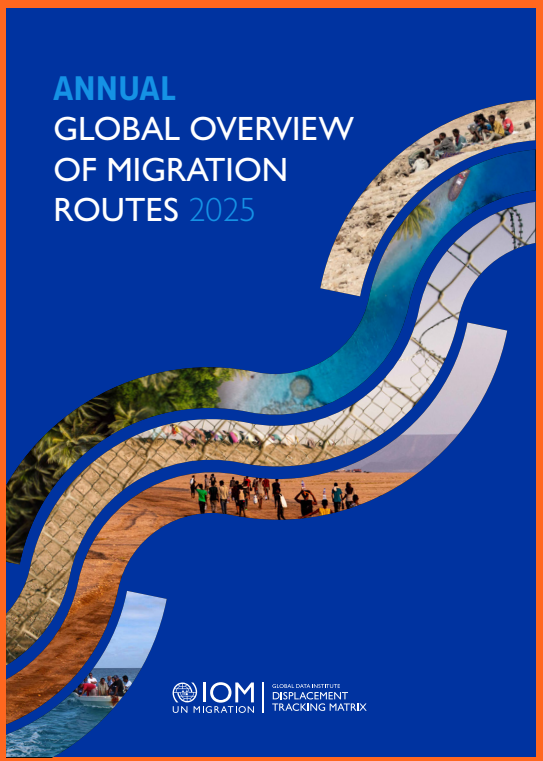


GLOBAL OVERVIEW OF MIGRATION ROUTES PORTAL

The **Global Overview of Migration Routes (GOMR) portal** is an online platform developed to provide a consolidated, data-driven view of key migration routes worldwide. It brings together information on the number and characteristics of migrants, movement trends, demographics and nationalities, and incidents such as migrant deaths and disappearances. By combining data visualization, analysis, and narratives, the portal helps policymakers, researchers, and other stakeholders better understand migration dynamics, identify trends, and support evidence-based responses to migration challenges.

GLOBAL OVERVIEW OF MIGRATION ROUTES REPORT

The **Global Overview of Migration Routes (GOMR)** is a regular publication that aims to provide a snapshot of global migration dynamics, from a route-based perspective, bringing together data from IOM field operations and Regional Data Hubs (RDHs). Produced triannually, the report presents findings in a narrative format, combining trend analysis with contextual insights on migrant movements and route dynamics. It highlights key developments over a specific reporting period, including shifts in migration patterns, demographic trends, and incidents such as migrant deaths and disappearances. Each edition also includes spotlight sections offering more in-depth analysis of particular themes and developments shaping migration dynamics. By synthesizing multiple data sources into a structured analysis, the GOMR report supports policymakers, humanitarian and development actors, and researchers in understanding migration trends and developing evidence-based policies and programming along key migration routes.



DTM CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL MOBILITY

Climate and environmental mobility cuts across IOM and DTM strategic objectives, methodologies and related activities. Beyond its role as a key source of mobility data, DTM supports governments and partners in understanding and addressing climate and disaster-related mobility through data collection, analysis and research partnerships. The resulting evidence supports planning and informed decision-making at local, national and regional levels.

DTM's standardised climate assessments aim to strengthen and align data collection efforts related to climate and environmental mobility. Designed for use before, during and after hazard events, these assessments provide a framework for generating comparable evidence across contexts and over time. They are aligned with global climate and environmental priorities, including the risk framework of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and recommendations on disaster-related statistics from the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

CLIMATE CUTS ACROSS ALL DTM COMPONENTS

- **MOBILITY TRACKING**
- **FLOW MONITORING**
- **SURVEYS**
- **SOLUTIONS AND MOBILITY INDEX**
- **TRANSHUMANCE TRACKING**

STANDARDISED CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL TOOLS

CLIMATE BASELINE

This module provides an overview of past hazard events, including their intensity, frequency and any observed changes over time. It can be supplemented by secondary and satellite data to support a more comprehensive understanding of exposure.

EMERGENCY

When a hazard occurs, DTM's core activities provide timely data to inform humanitarian response, including who has been affected or displaced, where people have moved and their priority needs.

CLIMATE IMPACT

Following a hazard event, this module examines its impacts on human mobility and immobility, as well as sectoral impacts, including the functionality and accessibility of essential services. The findings can also support recovery efforts and contribute to work on loss and damage.

CLIMATE VULNERABILITY

Looking ahead, which locations are most vulnerable to future hazards? This module assesses vulnerability to specific hazards, including droughts, floods and cyclones, across sectors such as livelihoods, food security, health and shelter. The findings support risk-informed planning, preparedness, adaptation and resilience-building measures.

WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE USED FOR?

- **ANTICIPATORY ACTION**
  Where to act before hazards hit
- **DISASTER RISK REDUCTION & ADAPTATION PLANS**
  Risk-informed national plans
- **DURABLE SOLUTIONS**
  Evidence for programme decisions
- **EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS**
  Who to warn first
- **PREPAREDNESS & CONTINGENCY**
  Pre-positioning and scenarios
- **HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE**
  Emergency and impact data

DTM INNOVATION

Ensuring a future ready programme, keeping pace with technological advancements.

DTM's innovation work underpins its three strategic objectives, with technical innovation forming the foundation for how the programme adapts its methodologies, infrastructure and data systems to evolving needs. Technology, data systems, information and analytical needs are evolving rapidly. DTM country, regional and global teams have leveraged the operational agility and adaptability central to the programme to ensure that the methodologies, technical infrastructure and personnel remain future ready. Technical innovation forms the bedrock of the DTM Foundations[3] workstream which strengthens the systems that power all DTM data collection exercises by modernizing and standardizing data processes to ensure seamless integration across various platforms. This allows DTM to build and maintain a robust and scalable data infrastructure that expands data use, improves efficiency and prepares DTM datasets for advanced analytics.

Analytical needs have also changed as the demand for information that can support preventative or anticipatory intervention has grown. Simultaneously, the demand for more in-depth research investigating the complexities of human mobility has also increased. Advancements made through the DTM Foundations workstream have prepared DTM data and staff to support foresight analysis, anticipatory action, preparedness, climate and risk analysis, solutions financing, and other forward-looking initiatives. Human oversight remains central, ensuring data insights are interpreted with context and do not replace expert judgment. Strong data protection, through minimization, controlled access, and secure processing, safeguards sensitive information and builds trust, ensuring analysis remains responsible and accountable.

Central to all this innovation is the DTM Data Kit, a suite of applications supporting standardization of data practices and integrating with existing field operations, thereby enhancing data quality.

DTM ACCESSIBILITY AND USE IN 2025

150,692
Application programming interface (API) requests[4]

2.3M
Downloads of DTM reports, datasets and maps

53
Countries' data available using the DTM API

265,396
Data set downloads on HDX and DTM website

1.4M
DTM webpage views

DISSEMINATION OF DTM DATA AND ANALYSIS

The DTM API transforms how displacement data is shared and used. Instead of downloading static spreadsheets, users can access up-to-date information instantly and seamlessly within their own systems. This means faster insights, easier access, and more informed decisions to support people in need. Bringing key datasets together, the API allows users to quickly select the exact country, timeframe, or data they need. At the same time, it strengthens data protection by sharing only what is necessary and ensures more reliable, consistent information through standardized formats.

This method of dissemination reinforces DTM's role as a common service across the humanitarian data ecosystem, supporting many joint inter-agency analysis efforts such as the Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF), Index for Risk Management (INFORM), and the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC).

The API enables partners to work from consistent, timely, and comparable data, making information faster and easier.

DTM DATA KIT

UN 2.0 Quintet of Change

UN 2.0 AWARDS

2026 Novel Solutions Award Winners

3. Guided by the DTM Standards, work to centralize and harmonize DTM data systems targets all stages of the data life cycle from collection and ingestion, through consolidation and management, to analysis and sharing.
4. The DTM API accelerates secure sharing of data on internal displacement, simplifying access to data across users and partners to support action, insight and foresight.

INNOVATION CATALYST: THE GLOBAL DTM NETWORK

With almost 500 technical data experts and over 10,000 in-field data collectors across DTM country, regional and global teams in 2025, DTM's ability to keep pace with accelerating technological and operational change depends on both a strong network of technical experts in the field, and a deliberate strategy to cultivate the next generation of talent. This distributed support model provides end to end coverage across core areas of expertise. It also serves as a platform for continuous skills transfer and professional development. Underpinned by DTM's core technical assets: the DTM Methodological Framework, DTM Standards, and the DTM Data Kit, this structure efficiently enables real-time troubleshooting, adaptive staff capacity building, and the rapid rollout of innovations in automation, artificial intelligence (AI), tools and methodologies through direct engagement between the Global Support Team, IOM Regional Data Hubs, country level teams and IOM's data community ensuring consistent technical excellence at scale.

Looking ahead, DTM will strengthen this model by intentionally investing in talent pipelines and future focused skills to prepare for the next decade of data driven humanitarian action. Delivering on the priorities outlined in this strategy will require sustained investment in staff capacity, technical systems and organizational support structures across country, regional and global levels.

KEY INNOVATION PILLARS

Scalable and Interoperable Data Architecture

DTM Data Kit
Standardized modular data architecture enabling context-specific specialization and agility, alongside seamless cross-platform integration and interoperability with external data systems.

Minimum Standards
Embedded end to end across DTM operations and enhanced data quality.

Common Core Data Structures
Enabling comparability and cohesion.

Automated Data Sharing
Automation of data management and data sharing processes, such as the DTM API, enabling faster flows from collection to insight and use.

Advanced Analytics, Research and Partnerships

AI Readiness
Preparing DTM datasets for advanced and emerging analytical techniques.

Foresight & Anticipatory Action
DTM data is used for forward-looking evidence generation and programming.

Risk & Early Warning
Using DTM data and operational footprint to design and implement in depth research on human mobility, inform early warning systems and risk models.

Expert Collaboration
Engaging partners to maximize the analytic potential of DTM data.

Innovation Culture in the DTM Network: A Platform for the Future

The DTM Network fosters data fluency across roles, promoting cross regional knowledge exchange, and integrating learning on advanced analytics, digital systems, and AI enabled approaches into operational practice.

The efficacy and reach of the Network are underpinned by DTM's extensive operational footprint.

By coupling technical innovation with sustained investment in people, DTM ensures it remains agile, future ready, and capable of responding to evolving data needs at global, regional, and country levels.

CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES

In 2026–2028, DTM will strengthen work across three key overarching strategic priorities that bridge its programmatic areas to:

BUILD RESILIENT, ADAPTIVE DATA SYSTEMS

Guaranteeing agility and resilience in how DTM collects, processes, analyses and shares data to **ensure predictability and effectively adapt to volatility and shocks** in dynamic operational environments.



ENHANCE DTM'S DATA FOUNDATIONS TO DRIVE USE

Increasing the **accessibility and usability of DTM data to a broader audience**, including decision makers, programme, policy and government actors, and other data practitioners.

STRENGTHEN COORDINATION AND EVIDENCE-BASED ACTION

Advancing **leadership in data-driven programming and policies** by facilitating data use for operational and strategic decision-making at country, regional and global levels, incuding through inter-agency coordination, capacity building and government engagement.

DIVERSIFY DONOR BASE AND ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY

Continue to mobilise significant and sustained financial investment to support DTM's activities, prioritising flexible and multi-year funding, innovative financing mechanisms, and a diversified donor base to support the sustainability and resilience of DTM operations.



IOM's DTM staff conducting the Mobility Tracking Assessment in Corrane resettlement site. © IOM 2024

Top photo: *A group of people gather the emergency shelters distributed by IOM after the earthquake in Afghanistan. © IOM 2022/Léo Torréron*

IOM UN MIGRATION | GLOBAL DATA INSTITUTE
DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX

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