It is no longer possible to see human mobility just as background context for development, or even worse, as a by-product of lack of development. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development breaks new ground by recognizing the "positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth" and the "multi-dimensional reality" of migration.

With the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), migration is a core, cross-cutting issue and an important contributor to sustainable development. Mobile populations, whether internal, cross-border or displaced are a key target group for the achievement of the SDGs.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN Migration Agency, is an important actor in the implementation of migration-related SDG objectives. Migration is inserted in several goals and targets, in particular through a dedicated target on “facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people” within the goal on reducing inequalities. The situation of migrant workers is addressed in the goal on decent work and economic development. Trafficking is called the “modern day slavery” that should be abolished, and the situation of trafficked women and children is given special recognition. Migration is also of relevance for targets on sustainable cities and resilience in the face of climate change.

Adopted in September 2015, at the UN Sustainable Development Summit, 17 Sustainable Development Goals otherwise known as the Global Goals, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development seek to end poverty and hunger, realize the human rights of all, achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources. While the SDGs are not legally binding, governments take ownership and establish national frameworks for the achievement of the 17 SDGs.

Like other UN Member States, Ukraine joined the global process of sustainable development. A participatory and inclusive process to adapt the SDGs to the Ukrainian context was launched to establish a national strategic framework for Ukraine up to 2030 based on the principle of ‘leaving no one behind’. Every global target was reviewed at a series of national and regional consultations.

Finally, the following SDGs were defined as priority for Ukraine:

The UN Migration Agency has been providing comprehensive assistance to Ukraine in achieving Global Goals. This brochure invites you to learn more about this ongoing work and cooperation.
Vulnerable migrants, such as former victims of trafficking recovering from their traumatic experience or people uprooted by natural disasters or conflicts often need tools to reduce reliance on external support and to build up their resilience. IOM Ukraine has been providing business training and small grants to victims of trafficking for their sustainable reintegration into society and prevention of re-trafficking since 2006. In 2014, responding to the conflict and crisis in Ukraine, IOM’s Economic Empowerment Programme was adjusted to facilitate long-term integration of internally displaced persons into host communities. Programme beneficiaries are first trained in business management and then develop their business plans to apply for a grant. These small grants for micro-business, self-employment or vocational training are awarded on a competitive basis to empower victims of trafficking, IDPs and members of IDP host communities, creating income-generating opportunities, improving their chances of employment, and helping them to become more self-reliant and economically independent.

As of 2018, over 13,000 people participated in micro-enterprise, self-employment and career development trainings organized by IOM and its partner NGOs all over Ukraine.

Over 7,000 people were supported with grants for micro-business, self-employment or vocational training. Among them about 60% are women.

Olena and Yevhen, IDPs from the Donbas, are working from dawn till dusk at their café “Cheburek” they have opened in Zaporizhia. It is a sea change from their previous professional lives, when Yevhen worked in construction and Olena had a job in IT. At the same time, Yevhen is able to live his childhood dream of becoming a chef by opening the cafe. Visitors to the cafe can immediately tell that this is a family-run business where the owners infuse their creative recipes like apple stuffed chebureks with sincere love and care. The project supported Olena and Yevhen with a food processor and a coffee machine. These gadgets have given a much-needed helping hand to the café owners. “Such programmes give people a chance to start their lives anew,” says Olena. “You even cannot imagine how crucial the equipment we received is. I had blisters on my hands before the food processor arrived, and without a coffee machine we were losing clients. And now this equipment changed everything for better.”
Ukraine is a country of origin, transit and destination for trafficking in men, women and children. Internal trafficking is a growing problem and protracted conflict heightened vulnerabilities of the population as well as induced human trafficking risks. According to the research commissioned by IOM in 2017, over 230,000 Ukrainians became victims of human trafficking (VoTs) since 1991. The Counter Trafficking Programme of IOM Ukraine was launched in 1998, with a strategy to support government and civil society efforts to combat trafficking in human beings and to ensure victims’ access to assistance and justice. Since then, IOM has been providing comprehensive reintegration assistance to VoTs, which, depending on the individual needs of each beneficiary, includes legal consultation and representation in criminal and civil court; medical care, psychological counselling, shelter, vocational training, small-grant programme supporting those trafficking survivors who aspire to set-up their own business.

Svitlana* is an economist by education and used to work in retail. Being a single mother, she was looking for better income opportunities and a job abroad. Unfortunately, Svitlana became a victim of human trafficking in Poland: she was forced to work at a garden centre, where her health was badly affected by fertilizers and hard physical labour. But she managed to overcome the trauma, move on and even did not lose her passion for gardening.

Svitlana received comprehensive reintegration assistance from IOM Ukraine, which included training on micro-entrepreneurship and a grant to start her own small business. Developing her business plan, Svitlana inspired other former victims of trafficking and built up a team of three around her dream business idea – a gardening centre.

The new gardening centre is located on the outskirts of a city in Western Ukraine, where Svitlana and her business partners rent a land plot showcasing hundreds of colourful plant specimen for sale.

“I don’t think about the past any more, and I still love flowers. This business allowed me to revitalize myself, get on my feet and start all over again,” says Svitlana. “IOM has helped me to become financially sustainable, while doing something I was born to do.”

* The name has been changed to protect privacy.
For people on the move, being and staying healthy is a necessary precondition for successfully completing their journeys and for fully contributing their intellectual, cultural, human and financial capital to the social and economic development of their host societies and communities. Health assessments are IOM Ukraine’s largest migration health service, made for the purpose of resettlement, international employment, enrolment in specific migrant assistance programmes, or for obtaining a temporary or permanent visa. Reflecting national differences in immigration and public policies and practices, there is a diverse range of assessment requirements. The purpose is to ensure that migration does not endanger the health of the migrants or pose a public health risk during travel or upon arrival at the final destination. IOM collaborates with medical, laboratory and radiology services in Kyiv and Lviv in order to ensure the delivery of efficient, customized and quality services. In addition to health assessments, IOM Ukraine provides other complementary travel and integration-oriented health promotion services such as treatment, counselling, health education, immunization, medical escorts and DNA sample collection.

IOM Ukraine performs health assessments for Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United States of America and the United Kingdom.

Since 1997, IOM Ukraine’s migration health unit provided health assessment services to more than 210,000 migrants and more than 55,000 refugees.

Serhii* looked like “just another visitor” who applied for a medical examination at the IOM Migration Health Department in Kyiv. Unfortunately, it turned out that he had to delay his trip to New Zealand, as he was diagnosed with tuberculosis.

“No, you are wrong! I’m young, I’m an alpinist and I feel very good,” said the angry man. Serhii initially refused to believe IOM doctors. Fortunately he changed his mind, but New Zealand’s Southern Alps had to wait until the end of his treatment. The X-ray evidence was clear, and a set of tests confirmed the presence of a destructive form of pulmonary tuberculosis. The IOM doctor referred Serhii to a tuberculosis specialist in order to start the treatment, which even required a lung surgery.

Serhii recovered well and was cured of tuberculosis. Although he did not look sick during the first meeting, IOM staff noticed that he looked much better after the surgery, as he came to visit IOM’s Medical Centre. He was very grateful for the service and care.

Fortunately, the majority of IOM’s Migration Health Department visitors are “fit for travel”, and for these people happy endings are the norm, but cases such as Serhii’s remind us that we are dealing with health issues and that sometimes even routine medical examinations can detect serious diseases and save peoples’ lives.

Serhii didn’t climb New Zealand’s Southern Alps. He changed his plans and now lives in Pretoria, South Africa, and IOM’s medical staff assisting him strongly believes that he climbed (or at least dreams of climbing) the Blouberg North Wall.

* The name has been changed to protect privacy
The global strategy of the International Organization for Migration envisages promoting migrants’ wellbeing, supporting integration of national minorities and strengthening the role of migrants in the development of their host countries and the countries of origin.

IOM has been assisting the Government of Ukraine in harnessing the development potential of labour migration for the benefit of individual migrants, their communities and the Ukrainian society.

In particular, IOM Ukraine has been fostering economic integration of migrants through specialized micro-loan schemes for small enterprises; conducting research on labour migration and remittances; providing expert advice on migration legislation; and supporting the Government in discussing bilateral arrangements with main countries of destination for labour migrants.

Trofim, an ethnic Korean from Uzbekistan, over 18 years had visited Ukraine annually as a seasonal agricultural worker before eventually immigrating permanently in 1997 and settling in the southern region of Kherson. In 2010–2013, Trofim and the local NGO he chaired helped IOM to facilitate the integration of other ethnic Koreans like him.

When telling his story, a proud smile stretches across his face. Today Trofim and his family own 25 hectares and rent another 100 hectares of land. They successfully grow melons, watermelons, green peppers, cabbages, carrots, aubergines, cucumbers, tomatoes and other vegetables and fruits. Some of the seeds he occasionally gets from his historical homeland of South Korea.

IOM’s project, funded by the Government of the Republic of Korea, helped to build other ties between ethnic Koreans residing in Ukraine and their ancestors’ land. Ethnic Koreans have moved to Ukraine mostly from the Central Asian republics of former USSR, to which they were exiled from the Russian Far East in 1937. The IOM project assisted in integrating ethnic Koreans who had issues with their legal status and were looking for better business opportunities in the formal economy. This was accomplished through a micro-loan programme, which also contributed to economic development of selected southern regions of Ukraine by raising the beneficiaries’ levels of knowledge in the field of modern agricultural techniques, business start-ups and administrative support. Many of previously undocumented ethnic Koreans were able to obtain legal residence permits through the NGO chaired by Trofim, which established effective cooperation with local authorities. Trofim’s achievements are viewed by many as an integration success story, and with IOM’s assistance he was able to help other ethnic Koreans to put down roots in Ukraine.
Reliable baseline data and monitoring of trends is crucial for any reform and positive change. IOM, being a global source of migration information, has been conducting regular surveys on the situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ukraine since March 2016. The objective of these surveys, titled the National Monitoring System (NMS), is to support the Government of Ukraine in collecting and analyzing information on the socio-economic characteristics of internally displaced persons and IDP households, as well as the challenges they face. IOM adapted its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), a system designed to regularly capture, process and disseminate information on displacement situations, to the Ukrainian context.

The survey collects information on socio-economic characteristics of IDPs, including their monthly income and its correspondence with the official subsistence level. It also includes IDPs’ reports about situations when they feel they are discriminated. Particular attention is paid to the situation of displaced women, their employment level and income opportunities.

The National Monitoring System (NMS) provides a better understanding of the evolving movements, numbers, vulnerabilities and needs of displaced populations in Ukraine.
The SDGs can only be realized with a strong commitment to global partnership and cooperation.

IOM’s assistance to vulnerable conflict-affected populations and victims of trafficking is provided through a network of experienced NGOs in all the regions of Ukraine.

IOM supports further development of the National Referral Mechanism for identification of and providing assistance to victims of trafficking, led by the Ministry of Social Policy. In order to enhance the access of victims of trafficking to justice, IOM provides comprehensive capacity building services to the criminal justice chain in Ukraine. IOM also partners with the State Migration Service and State Border Guard Service of Ukraine to enhance the identification of potential trafficking victims at the country’s borders and to improve the cooperation with specialized police units.

IOM provides assistance to the Ukrainian Government in developing a comprehensive migration and border management system by enhancing its institutional, organizational, operational and human resource capacities. IOM Ukraine works to institutionalize best international practices in close collaboration with Ukrainian authorities entrusted with migration and border management, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the State Migration Service, the State Border Guard Service, the State Fiscal Service, the Office of the Ombudsperson, the Ministry of Interior, as well as civil society organizations.

IOM Ukraine also receives powerful support from private sector representatives. Galnaftogaz in partnership with IOM developed and placed billboards promoting safe migration and counter-trafficking hotline number at the OKKO gas stations located near the border-crossing points.

Western Union Ukraine placed counter-trafficking brochures with information on safe employment in Western Union locations in Ukraine, Italy, Greece and Portugal. In addition to that, the Western Union Foundation funded comprehensive reintegration assistance to 40 Ukrainian victims of trafficking.

Vodafone, Lifecell, Kyivstar have been supporting free-of-charge calls from mobile phones to the National Counter-Trafficking and Migrant Advice Hotline short number 527, since 2007.

Nielsen LLC conducted enhanced marketing and sales training sessions for business trainers among IOM partner NGOs, as well as for IDPs and former victims of trafficking who received grants from IOM.

Robert Bosch Ltd supplies tools and equipment to IOM at wholesale prices for further distributing them among the former victims of trafficking who participate in the Economic Empowerment Programme.

Other businesses that supported the counter-trafficking activities of IOM Ukraine include Coca-Cola, 1+1 Media Group, Leo Burnett and other Ukrainian and international companies.
Established in 1951, IOM is the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners.

IOM is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. It does so by providing services, policy advice and recommendations to governments and migrants.

IOM works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration challenges and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.

The IOM Mission in Ukraine was established in 1996. In 2016 IOM joined the UN system as the UN Migration Agency.

During the years of presence in Ukraine, IOM has assisted over 500,000 migrants (Ukrainians and other nationalities), IDPs, potential migrants, victims of trafficking and other vulnerable groups, directly or through its project partners.