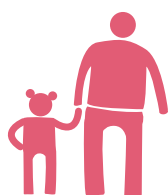


Contributions of international migration to development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Good practices, challenges and recommendations

María Verónica Cano Christiny
Jorge Martínez Pizarro



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Summary

At a time when there are significant tensions between the importance of migration for sustainable development and attacks against this historic process, the contributions of migration are an area of great interest that needs to be protected and constantly supported with robust research and the due dissemination of quantitative and qualitative evidence, for the protection of migrants' rights. The aim of this publication is to present the main findings and evidence of the United Nations Development Account project "Harnessing the contribution of international migration to sustainable development in Latin American and Caribbean countries", implemented by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) between 2020 and 2023. A comparison has been made between the different national realities of five countries of the region (Chile, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Mexico and Peru) in terms of the contribution made by migrants in their territories, whether as immigrants, emigrants, returnees or transit persons. In addition, good practices, challenges and proposals for change that arose from the dialogue between relevant actors at the country level, through national workshops, are presented. Lastly, a preliminary proposal for indicators to measure and monitor the contributions of migration is presented, along with recommendations for policies, with a view to creating a positive narrative about migration that contributes to sustainable development and the protection of the human rights of migrants.

Introduction

In the twenty-first century, international migration in Latin America and the Caribbean has been characterized by the increase, diversity and complexity of flows. In addition, there is a very complex political context that reflects tensions and contradictions. The hardening of borders, restrictive policies and anti-migration discourse coexist alongside policies that promote integration, respect for human rights and the intention to guarantee safe, orderly and regular migration. This complex scenario, fuelled by the immediate and widespread effects of the pandemic, represents challenges and opportunities for the design of public policies that put people at the centre and provide enabling conditions so that migrants can bring their full capacities and potential to the table, thus ensuring their safety, dignity and respect for their rights throughout the migration process.

In the region, international migration has proven to be a key factor for countries' development. The migratory profile of the region continues to reflect a young population of working age, which implies contributions in the labour, economic and demographic spheres, as this is a region that is moving towards ageing.

Supporting the making of these and other contributions by migrant populations throughout the migration process is essential in order to achieve the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals and other regional instruments that address these issues (DESA, 2022). In order for this to happen, there must be evidence-based public policies that highlight the diverse contributions made by migrants in the different dimensions at the local, national and regional levels.

The issue of contributions is linked to the global architecture for the protection of migrants, such as the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families (1990) and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (2018); the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and initiatives at the regional level, in particular chapter F of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (2013), which addresses international migration and the protection of the human rights of all migrants.

Generating evidence about these contributions of international migration is very relevant to the development of strategies and positive narratives about migration, as well as the orientation of public policies and international agreements. However, having up to date, disaggregated, comparable and available data presents enormous challenges. The lack of production and use of data on international

migration is an issue of real and ongoing concern (Working Group on International Migration of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, 2023). That is why progress must be made in this area, by focusing efforts on capturing the dynamism of flows, using the various sources of information (censuses, household surveys, specific surveys and administrative records), generating comparable indicators between countries, combining quantitative data with qualitative surveys and exploring new methodologies for monitoring emerging phenomena.

To this end, within the context of the United Nations Development Account (twelfth tranche) project "Harnessing the contribution of international migration to sustainable development in Latin American and Caribbean countries," ECLAC conducted four studies in 2020 to provide evidence on the contribution of international migration to sustainable development in selected countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (Chile, Mexico, Peru and Costa Rica) and finally, in 2023, the national study on Jamaica was conducted.¹

A. National studies: methodological and empirical innovation

Through these studies, widely disseminated evidence was generated in the selected countries about the contributions of international migration in various dimensions. Based on the results obtained, between 2021 and 2023, dissemination was done through national workshops. These events were face-to-face (except for the first national workshop in Chile, which was virtual, owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, using an expository and participatory methodology in order to stimulate dialogue between the different relevant actors involved in migration and decision makers, to contribute to the design of evidence-based public policies.

The studies had a technical foundation that required many definitions and activities, in addition to the principle of recognizing migration as a development and rights issue, high on the regional agenda that has been promoted by ECLAC. A comparative analysis of the national studies shows the diversity of modalities and different emphases on the characteristics, flows and processes of migration in the region, in addition to the particular possibilities of the available information sources and the cooperation received from those who were interviewed. In each country, quantitative and qualitative information was collected about the contributions of contemporary migration to the development of countries from four main dimensions: economic, demographic, social/labour and cultural.

In this research process, the difficulty of having relevant, reliable and updated information to measure and assess the contributions in their different dimensions was noted. Although the methodologies can be improved, especially in terms of updating the studies and extending them to other countries, the challenges are enormous. It is noted that the data and information sources were not updated in all cases for the dimensions that were to be measured. This meant an additional challenge for the team of researchers who had to overcome the difficulties created by the pandemic, along with the scarcity of data.

To compensate for the limitations in quantitative data, a mixed qualitative and quantitative methodology was chosen for each national study, which allowed for a broader and deeper perspective of the reality of migration in relation to its contributions to development. The perspective that these studies seek to establish is a knowledge base and recommendations that feed into public policies of social inclusion, within the framework of a positive view of migration that, as far as possible, supersedes cost-benefit views, which are so prevalent in the often reductionist terminology regarding the "impacts" of migration on different areas, and moves away from utilitarianism since, often, the public perceptions are that the need for migration is a sectoral and selective issue, closely related to various types of discrimination.

¹ The first four national studies resulted in an ECLAC publication "Sobre las contribuciones de la migración al desarrollo sostenible: estudios en países seleccionados" (Martínez and Cano, 2022) [online] <https://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/47801-contribuciones-la-migracion-al-desarrollo-sostenible-estudios-paises>.

Quantitative evidence on migratory processes is always fundamental and, in these studies, there is the novel approach of combining it with qualitative evidence. The qualitative studies provided a deeper understanding of specialized perceptions of the contributions, facilitation aspects, obstacles, challenges and recommendations made to enhance public policy to support migration's contributions to development. For this methodology, focus groups were conducted with relevant actors from academia, international organizations, the public sector, the private sector and civil society, as well as semi-structured interviews with representatives of these sectors at the national level. In this process, in each of the countries, there were several opportunities for conversation and reflection that revealed valuable information for the study. On the one hand, it was possible to obtain the views of key actors, such as those indicated, regarding the contributions made by migrant populations to the country. The interviews and focus groups were essential for detecting the shortcomings, challenges and social, institutional and public policy gaps that prevent the migrant population from being able to contribute fully in the countries, so that the country itself benefits.

The national dissemination workshops sought to create a space for reflection based on the most relevant findings at the country level. Five dissemination workshops were held in the five countries selected for the study: a pilot workshop in Chile on 25 November 2021 (virtual modality due to the pandemic) and the following ones face-to-face in Mexico on 16 August 2022, 7 September 2022 in Peru, 16 November in Costa Rica and 1 June 2023 in Jamaica. These events were attended by representatives of the relevant government sectors, as well as international organizations, civil society and academia. The workshops had a dual objective: to publicize the results of the study and to create opportunities for group reflection among the participants through a participatory methodology. It sought to promote the participation, discussion, reflection and dialogue of the participants on the results, challenges and recommendations made by the study in order to provide evidence to support the design and management of public policies on international migration, as well as the development of well-informed discourse in the context of positive views of migration, aimed at the protection of migrants' rights.

B. Purpose of the document

The aim of this publication is to present the main findings and evidence of the United Nations Development Account project, making a comparison between the different national realities regarding the contribution made by migrants in the territories studied, whether as immigrants, migrants, returnees or transit persons. In addition, good practices, challenges and proposals for change that arose from the dialogue between relevant actors at the country level, through the national workshops, are presented. Lastly, a preliminary proposal for indicators to measure and monitor the contributions of migration is presented.

The first chapter presents a comparative analysis of the results of the study, according to dimensions. In the second chapter, the findings of the national workshops are presented, based on the categorization of the participatory group space of working groups. In the third chapter, a guide of indicators on the contributions of migration is proposed, to direct and facilitate the work of decision makers for the design of public policies that take the contributions into account and are evidence-based.

I. On the contributions of migration to sustainable development

Over the years, ECLAC has strongly advocated the protection and promotion of human rights and sustainable development in the region. Having sustainable development as the goal, from an ECLAC perspective, means considering development in an inclusive manner, putting people at the centre—so that “no one is left behind”—seeking the eradication of poverty, the reduction of inequalities, and social inclusion (ECLAC, 2020). In this regard, highlighting the contribution of migrant populations to sustainable development means recognizing and valuing diversity, promoting coexistence on an equal footing, where institutions and human rights are for all, without discrimination. It is believed that these contributions constitute a benefit for local populations insofar as migration flows in an informed manner and occurs in a safe, orderly and regular context that, by definition, goes beyond the economic situations, as well as the various crises, the impacts of disasters and climate change, and addresses existing discriminations.

At ECLAC, based on a multilateral perspective of acceptance and recognition of migration processes within the framework of sustainable development, and that migrants are persons with rights, safe, orderly and regular migration takes place only if it is informed (without coercion), facilitated (based on regulatory and policy instruments with forecasting capacities) and protected (with human dignity as a fundamental principle to be respected), which is a cross-cutting proposal in the quantitative and qualitative evidence that these studies have provided on the topic of the contributions of migration.

However, migration processes often lack these characteristics. People who migrate under very vulnerable conditions, forced by the structural conditions of poverty, violence and lack of opportunities in the country of origin, are more exposed to violence, exploitation, xenophobia and discrimination. Adverse conditions continue and are sometimes worse in the destination countries, when migration is done irregularly, with job insecurity, informality, lack of access to services, a dearth of policies and reduced access to social protection programmes, among others. Even so, with all these difficulties, migrants continue to contribute with their work, their customs, their lifestyles and by connecting with the territory, their communities, their families and the host society.

Given the complex migration landscape of the region, with diverse flows and specific characteristics that represent enormous challenges for migration governance, this study seeks to recognize the contribution of international migration throughout the migration cycle. Against the backdrop of the Montevideo Consensus

on Population and Development (2013), the 2030 Agenda (2015) and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (2018), this study aims to contribute to the design of public policies on migration, based on evidence and geared towards the fulfilment of the commitments derived from these international instruments.

A. What is meant by contributions?

In this study, the “contributions” of migrants shall mean, in a broad sense, the set of characteristics, customs, ways of being, doing, living, having, feeling and thinking of migrants in various dimensions of reality, which promote, improve, help or enrich the countries of origin, transit and destination, and contribute to sustainable development.

This broad definition allows, on the one hand, for the analysis of the contributions of migration from objective dimensions, such as the economic, labour and demographic that, through appropriate data and methodologies, reflects the magnitude and characteristics of its contribution.

On the other hand, through qualitative methods, there can be the documentation and creation of discourse on the contribution in subjective and symbolic dimensions, such as the cultural and social dimension, which reflect aspects about the ways of being, doing, living, having, feeling and thinking that cannot be or have not yet been measurable from a quantitative perspective.

B. Comparative analysis by dimensions

1. Economic dimension

Economic contributions are recognized as the most obvious contributions in each national study and, coincidentally, contain the indicators that turn out to be the most comparable among the different data sources available between countries. In fact, this dimension has been very prevalent in the analysis of the consequences of migration in various studies and theoretical and conceptual frameworks, although with variable emphases and, sometimes, seeking to evaluate possible net costs for a country.² The results observed in the different countries under study in this dimension are conceptualized around: (i) labour contribution; (ii) labour contribution of return migrants; (iii) contribution to gross domestic product (GDP); (iv) contribution of remittances; (v) contribution to diversification and innovation; and (vi) tax contribution.

(a) Labour contribution

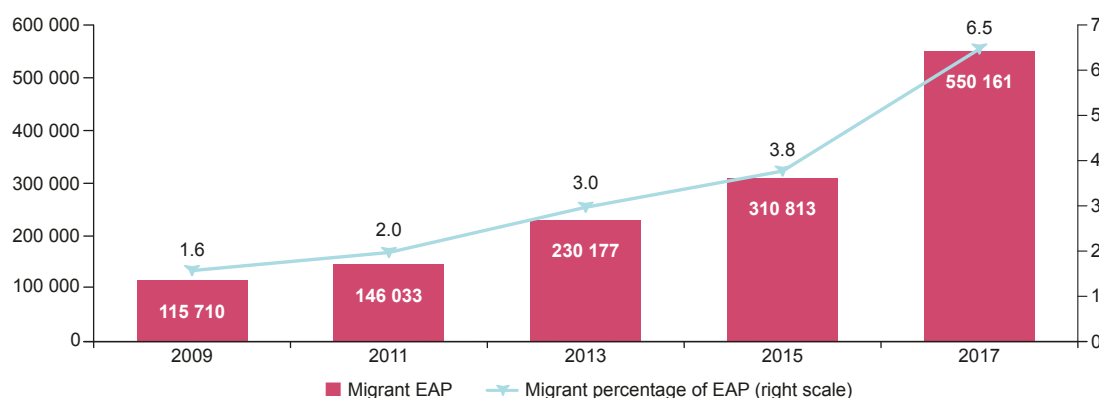
Migration in the selected countries of Latin America and the Caribbean has a marked labour character, both in immigration flows (Chile, Costa Rica) and in emigration flows (Jamaica, Peru and Mexico). Therefore, the current migration in the region can be seen as a labour force transfer system. In the case of countries of dual migration (destination and origin), such as Peru and Mexico, migration helps to fill a labour gap resulting from the mobility of the non-migrant population.

In the case of Chile, during the past decade there has been an uptick in labour migration. As shown in the national study (Canales, 2022a and 2022b), in 2009 there were only 115,000 migrants in the labour force, in 2013 the figure had doubled, reaching 230,000, and it reached 550,000 in 2017. This means that the labour force of migrant origin grew at an average rate of 20% each year, between 2009 and 2017. That is more than 10 times above the annual growth of the labour force of Chilean origin (Canales, 2022a and 2022b). In 2017, migrants accounted for was 6.5% of the total economically active population, as shown in figure 1.³

² The study focused on contributions and no cost analyses were conducted on migration. Cost estimation (e.g. for public social protection systems) is a complex issue and requires rigorous conceptual and methodological definitions that have not been carried out because they have not been considered as part of the project’s objectives.

³ According to the most current figures from the National Institute of Statistics of Chile for the August–October quarter of 2021, the economically active migrant population corresponds to 11% of the total EAP. See *Boletín de Empleo Migrante* prepared by the National Migration Service in conjunction with the National Institute of Statistics [online] <https://www.ine.gob.cl/sala-de-prensa/prensa-general/noticia/2021/12/10/servicio-nacional-de-migraciones-junto-al-ine-publican-el-primer-bolet%C3%Adn-de-empleo-migrante>.

Figure 1
Chile: volume of immigrant workers, 2009–2017
(Percentages)

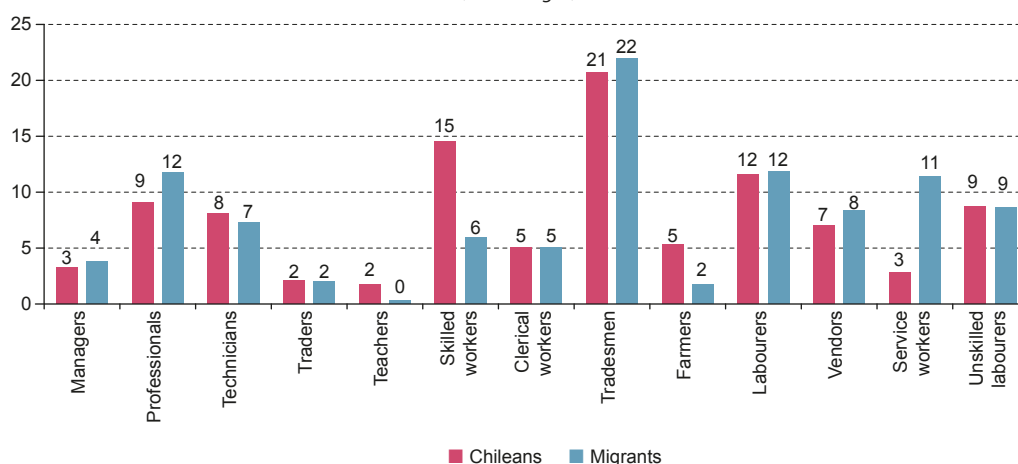


Source: J. Martínez and M. V. Cano, "Sobre las contribuciones de la migración al desarrollo sostenible: estudios en países seleccionados", *Project Documents* (LC/TS.2021/195), Santiago, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2022.

Note: EAP, economically active population.

If the contribution by branch of activity is examined, in Chile there are differentiated contributions that highlight the specific contribution of migration by gender. In the case of migrant men, although they tend to follow the same pattern of occupation as non-migrant male workers, the difference in the skilled jobs sector stands out, where migrant men participate at a lower rate in that sector (only 6%) compared to non-migrants (15%). In contrast, in the case of personal and care services (cooks, janitors, cleaning and maintenance, personal care etc.), although only 3% of the non-migrant male labour force is employed, 11% of immigrant men are employed in these positions (see figure 2).

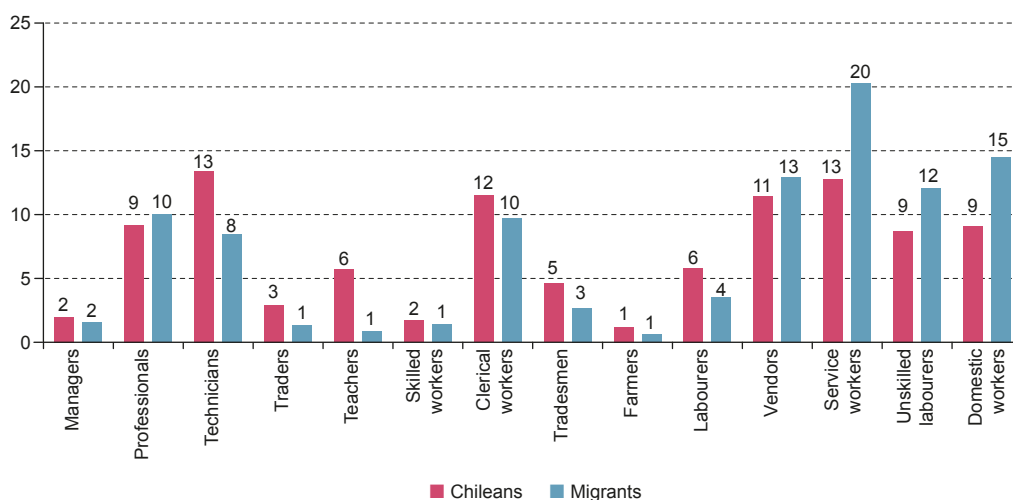
Figure 2
Chile: participation of the male labour force by occupation group and migratory status, 2017
(Percentages)



Source: J. Martínez and M. V. Cano, "Sobre las contribuciones de la migración al desarrollo sostenible: estudios en países seleccionados", *Project Documents* (LC/TS.2021/195), Santiago, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2022.

In the case of immigrant women, according to data provided by the National Socioeconomic Survey, it is noted that they are involved in low-skilled service jobs, such as paid domestic work, care services, maintenance and other personal services (cooks, cleaning ladies, among others). These three types of jobs employ 47% of female migrant workers, a share that drops to only 31% for female non-migrant workers (see figure 3).

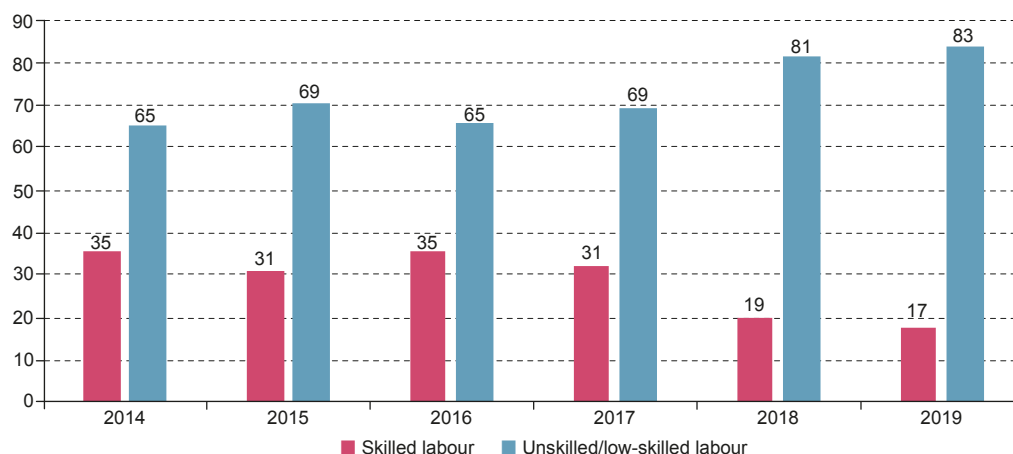
Figure 3
Chile: participation of the female labour force by occupation group and migratory status, 2017
(Percentages)



Source: J. Martínez and M. V. Cano, "Sobre las contribuciones de la migración al desarrollo sostenible: estudios en países seleccionados", *Project Documents* (LC/TS.2021/195), Santiago, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2022.

In the case of Peru, the contribution of migrant populations in low-skilled jobs is very relevant. Jobs that are categorized as low- or unskilled are: office cleaners, construction workers, taxi and public transportation vehicle drivers, street vendors, retail vendors, receptionists, waiters, and hostesses, among other similar occupations. According to the 2019 National Household Survey, 82.8% of migrant employment was in low-skilled sectors (Canales, 2022a and 2022b) and this proportion has been increasing over time (see figure 4).

Figure 4
Peru: evolution of the employment rates of the immigrant population by skill level, 2014–2019
(Percentages)



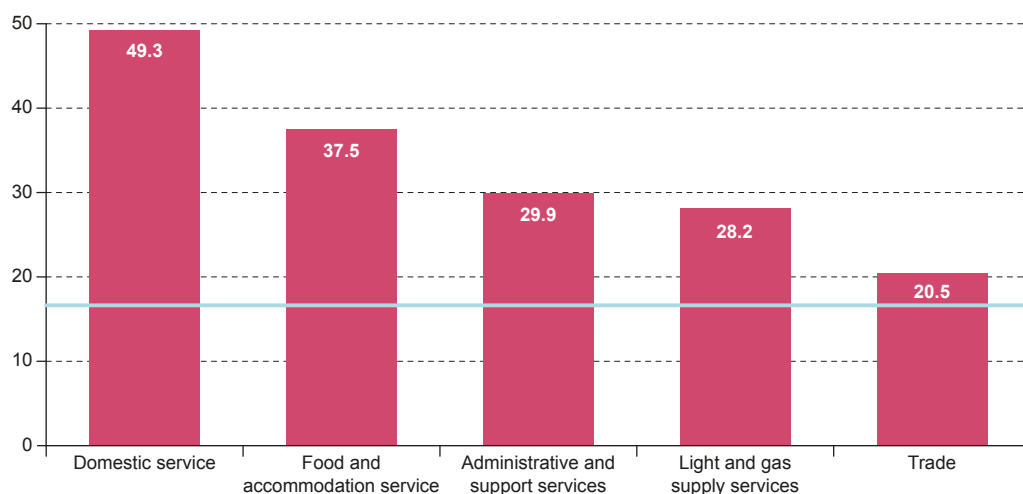
Source: J. Martínez and M. V. Cano, "Sobre las contribuciones de la migración al desarrollo sostenible: estudios en países seleccionados", *Project Documents* (LC/TS.2021/195), Santiago, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2022.

The contribution in the services sector has also been highlighted as one of the activities that generate greater participation of the female migrant population owing to the shortage of labour in this area. As has been seen in the case of Chile, in Costa Rica, migrant women are mainly involved in paid domestic work, and through their work, they are making significant contributions to the care crisis. The employment of migrant women in this sector contributes directly to the care of dependants and, in turn, constitutes a transcendental mechanism that helps to increase female labour participation in destination societies, which is a manifestation of the benefit that female labour migration represents for the receiving society.

In the study on Costa Rica, an analysis was carried out to measure the contribution of the migrant population to economic growth, thus highlighting important findings. It is noted that the total contribution of foreign labour to economic growth increased in the past decade. Between 1999 and 2008, 8.74% of economic growth was explained by the contribution of migrant labour, while between 2010 and 2019, 9.27% of economic growth is explained by this contribution.

During the pandemic, the relevant contribution of the migrant population in essential sectors of activity and occupations in order to tackle the health and economic crisis of that period was evident, such as their activities in the paid domestic service sector, accommodation and food service, administrative and support services, electricity, gas supplies and trade, as can be seen in figure 5, which shows the percentage of participation of the migrant population in these sectors of activity for the metropolitan area of Santiago.

Figure 5
Chile (Santiago Metropolitan Area): activities and occupations with the highest participation of migrant workers, June–August 2020
(Percentages)



Source: J. Martínez and M. V. Cano, "Sobre las contribuciones de la migración al desarrollo sostenible: estudios en países seleccionados", *Project Documents* (LC/TS.2021/195), Santiago, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2022.

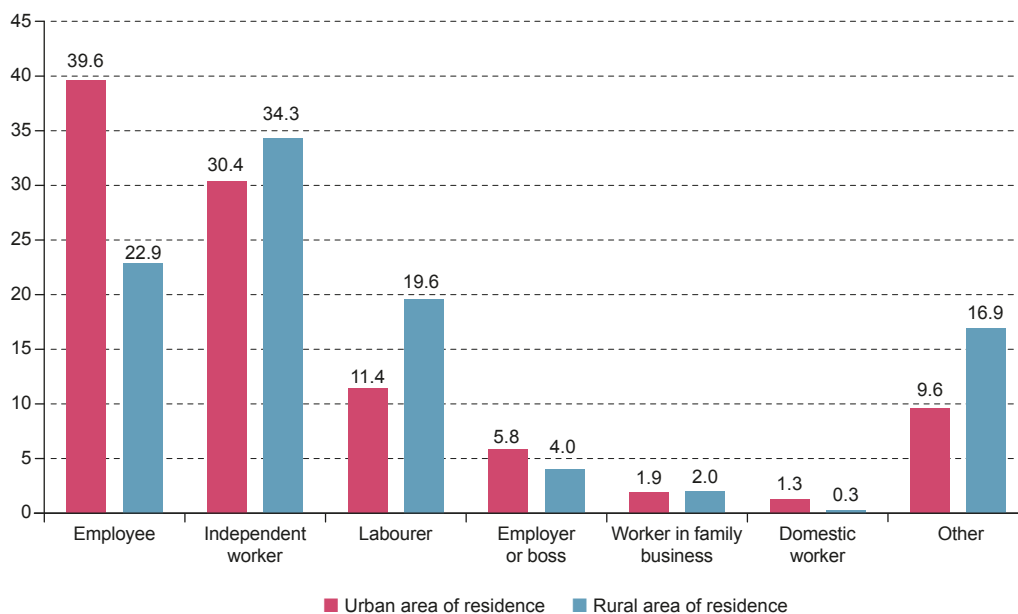
Regarding the labour contributions of the highly skilled migrant population, the study on Mexico recognizes that there is a high proportion of immigrants with high professional qualifications, who contribute to human capital formation, holding positions as directors, managers or executive directors of companies, or as high-level professionals and technical personnel in senior management positions in companies and organizations. The data analysed indicate that the proportion of immigrants in this type of occupation exceeds that of the Mexican population, an indication of high selectivity. While only 15% of Mexicans access these management positions, this proportion rises to 26% in the case of migrants from the United States, 35% in the case of Latin Americans and 48% for those from other regions of the world (Canales, 2022a and 2022b).

(b) Labour contribution of returned migrants

The contributions of returned migrants to local and regional economies are an area of growing and recent interest, in particular in countries with high emigration and which receive returned migrants for various reasons. In Mexico, for example, the main source of immigration is the United States with 76%.⁴ In sociodemographic terms for this country, recent return data indicate that men have always shown a greater propensity to return than women.⁵ In general, returnees are mostly young⁶ and with little schooling.⁷ The contributions of this population, according to the study, show that returnee men have higher labour participation rates than non-migrant men and, above all, their labour participation is higher in rural sectors, with agriculture and construction being the main activities of returned migrants (Canales, 2022a and 2022b).

In the case of Peru, the national study also characterizes the returned migrant population, providing a very clear profile of its characteristics and potential contribution. According to data from the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (Vásquez and Aguilar, 2022) on the maximum level of education obtained by returnees aged 15 and over, according to the 2017 census, 58.2% of returnees obtained some type of higher education and the vast majority of the returnee population seems to return to live in an urban residential population centre (97.9%). The characteristics, in terms of labour participation, reveal the contribution or potential economic contribution made by this population upon its return. Of the population of returnees aged 14 and over, 73.9% were economically active while 26.1% were inactive. In the economically active universe of the returnee population, 94.5% were employed and 5.5% unemployed (see figure 6, where returnees are distributed by occupational category and urban or rural sector where they are involved).

Figure 6
Peru: percentage distribution of returnees from abroad by occupational category and area of residence (urban/rural), 2017
(Percentages)



Source: J. Martínez and M. V. Cano, "Sobre las contribuciones de la migración al desarrollo sostenible: estudios en países seleccionados", *Project Documents* (LC/T.S.2021/195), Santiago, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2022.

⁴ The category of returned migrant refers to a Mexican who, until five years before the date of the census or survey, habitually resided in the United States and who, at the time of the census or survey, habitually resides in Mexico (Canales, 2022a and 2022b).

⁵ In the five-year period, 1995–2000, there was a ratio of 187 men for every 100 women, which increases to 257 in the five-year period 2005–2010 – in the midst of the economic crisis – and increases to 296 in the five-year period, 2015–2020 (Canales, 2022a and 2022b).

⁶ Between 2010 and 2015, 54% of returnees were between 20 and 39 years old (Canales, 2022a and 2022b).

⁷ Between 2010 and 2015, 34% of returnees had completed primary school and 40% had incomplete high school education (Canales, 2022a and 2022b).

(c) Contribution to GDP

Labour migration, owing to its contribution of labour and concentration in productive economic areas, has a positive impact on GDP. For example, in the case of Costa Rica, the total contribution of migrant labour to economic growth has increased in the past decade, from 8.74% in the decade 1999–2008 to 9.27% in the decade 2010–2019 (Oviedo, 2022).

Table 1
Costa Rica: average proportion of economic growth explained by migrant contribution
according to branch of activity and decade, 1999–2008 and 2010–2019
(Percentages)

Branch of activity	1999–2008	2010–2019
A. Agriculture, livestock, forestry and fisheries	0.65	0.56
B. Mining and quarrying	0.01	0.00
C. Manufacturing	0.80	0.79
D. Electricity and gas	0.11	0.04
E. Potable water and sewerage	0.24	0.05
F. Construction	1.50	-0.34
G. Wholesale and retail trade	0.38	1.00
H. Accommodation and food activities	0.57	0.80
I. Transport and storage	0.61	0.21
J. Information and communications	0.64	0.68
K. Financial activities and insurance	0.40	0.30
L. Real estate activities	1.53	1.88
M. Professional, scientific, technical, administrative activities and support services	0.16	2.32
N. Public administration and compulsory social security schemes	0.23	0.03
O. Human health and social care education and activities	0.17	0.49
P. Other activities	0.73	0.46
Average proportion of total growth that is explained by the contribution of migrant labour	8.74	9.27

Source: J. Martínez and M. V. Cano, "Sobre las contribuciones de la migración al desarrollo sostenible: estudios en países seleccionados", *Project Documents* (LC/T.S.2021/195), Santiago, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2022.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the International Labour Organization (ILO) also calculate the contribution of immigrant workers to Costa Rica's gross value added in 2018 at 11.1% (OECD/ILO, 2018).

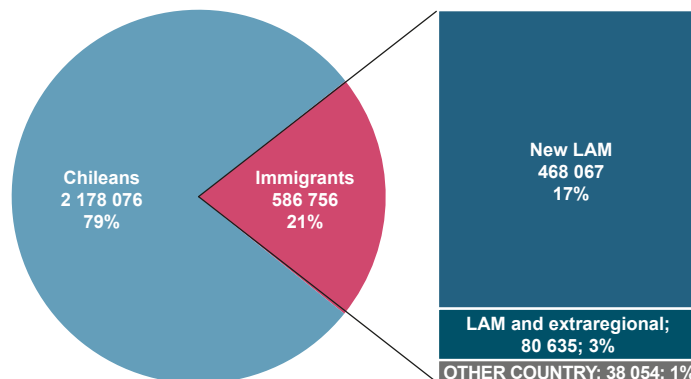
Regarding the case of Chile, between 2009 and 2017 the economy experienced significant growth. During this period, GDP increased by US\$ 63.3 billion, which represented an average annual growth of 3.8%, far exceeding the average for Latin America, which grew by only 2.4% per year in the same period.

In Chile, in 2009, immigrants generated a contribution to GDP equivalent to 1.6% of national GDP, a contribution that increased systematically in the following years, reaching 4.3% of GDP in 2017 (Canales, 2022a and 2022b).

When disaggregating this growth according to the origin of the labour force, it is noted that the growth of GDP in Chile, in the past decade, is based mainly on the contribution made by the Chilean labour force and the labour force from the new countries of origin of immigration, that is, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Colombia, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Haiti.

In this regard, the data indicate that these Latin American immigrants, despite representing only 3.5% of the employed labour force in 2017, contributed 11.5% of economic growth between 2009 and 2017. Similarly, workers of Chilean origin, although they represent more than 95% of the employed labour force in 2017, contributed to 87% of economic growth in that period (Canales, 2022a and 2022b). As can be seen in figure 7, for the period 2009–2017, immigration contributed 13.4% to GDP growth.

Figure 7
Chile: composition of GDP growth by migratory origin of the labour force, 2009–2017



Source: J. Martínez and M. V. Cano, "Sobre las contribuciones de la migración al desarrollo sostenible: estudios en países seleccionados", *Project Documents* (LC/T.S.2021/195), Santiago, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2022.

Note: LAM, Latin America.

(d) Contribution of remittances

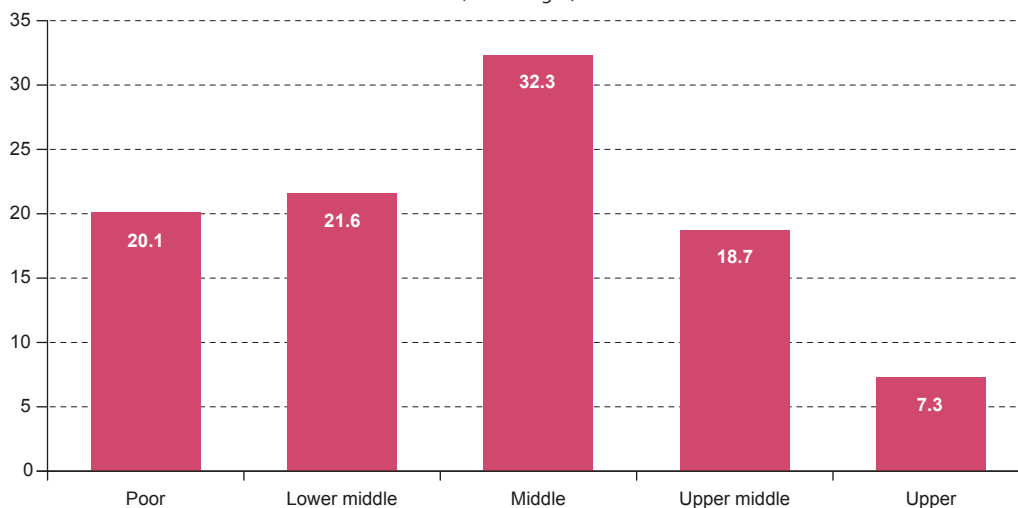
Remittances have been one of the most prominent areas of study in the field of international migration, in particular in migrants' countries of origin. They represent a fraction of migrants' wages that they send to their families of origin for consumption and material support. Their impact on the well-being of the households of people who migrated is relevant, which is especially visible in the study countries with the highest rate of emigration, such as Mexico, Peru and Jamaica.

Remittances were resilient in the context of the pandemic, as documented in the study on Mexico, where remittances represent the largest volume in the region, even though, as a proportion of GDP (4%), they are not as relevant as in other countries in the region, such as El Salvador or Honduras, where remittances represent more than 20% of GDP.

However, in the case of Mexico, the remittances received represent a higher percentage (10% of GDP) in the states of Michoacán, Guanajuato, Zacatecas and Oaxaca. Regarding the impact of remittances at the household level, in Mexico, in 2018 only 4.7% of households were recipients of remittances. Although the percentage is not very high, there is a large volume of municipalities (30% of the total) where the receipt of remittances is a very important occurrence.

According to the study by Canales (2022a and 2022b), for Mexico, in 2018, it is noted that the volume of remittances tends to be concentrated in the middle and lower social strata (see figure 8). It also reveals that the lower middle sectors would be the most likely to receive remittances, with a collection rate of 7.3% (see figure 9).

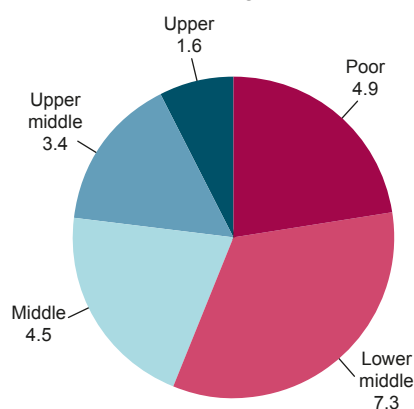
Figure 8
Mexico: distribution of the volume of remittances by socioeconomic stratum of recipient households, 2018
 (Percentages)



Source: J. Martínez and M. V. Cano, "Sobre las contribuciones de la migración al desarrollo sostenible: estudios en países seleccionados", *Project Documents* (LC/TS.2021/195), Santiago, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2022.

Note: Poor: households with incomes below the poverty line defined by the National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy; Lower middle: non-poor households, with current incomes below the national median (50th percentile); Middle: households with current incomes between the 51st and 80th percentiles; Upper middle: households with current incomes between the 81st and 95th percentiles; Upper: households of the 96th percentile or higher.

Figure 9
Mexico: remittance receipt rate per household by socioeconomic stratum, 2018
 (Percentages)



Source: Prepared by the author, based on J. Martínez and M. V. Cano, "Sobre las contribuciones de la migración al desarrollo sostenible: estudios en países seleccionados", *Project Documents* (LC/TS.2021/195), Santiago, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2022.

Note: Poor: households with incomes below the poverty line defined by the National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy; Lower middle: non-poor households, with current incomes below the national median (50th percentile); Middle: households with current incomes between the 51st and 80th percentiles; Upper middle: households with current incomes between the 81st and 95th percentiles; Upper: households of the 96th percentile or higher.

In Jamaica, as recorded in the study, remittances are especially voluminous and growing in relation to the size of the economy, having almost equalled a quarter of GDP in 2021, 24.4% to be exact, with a volume of \$3.631 billion. The increase in remittances was particularly high during the years 2020 and 2021, which contrasts with the difficulties in the economy caused by the pandemic. In the case of Jamaica, its GDP had a percentage variation of -20% in the first of those two years (World Bank, 2022).

In the case of Peru, the analysis of remittances was based on the National Household Survey, in which a total of 276 households receiving remittances were identified between 2015 and 2019,⁸ which would represent on average only 0.24% of the total population in the country (see table 2).

Table 2
Peru: remittance recipients by household and number of persons, 2015–2019

Remittance recipients	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Number of households (sample)	48	49	64	55	60	276
Percentage households (sample)	0.15	0.14	0.19	0.15	0.17	0.16
Percentage persons (estimate)	0.27	0.18	0.25	0.22	0.27	0.24

Source: J. Martínez and M. V. Cano, "Sobre las contribuciones de la migración al desarrollo sostenible: estudios en países seleccionados", *Project Documents* (LC/TS.2021/195), Santiago, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2022.

In the national study, people receiving remittances in Peru were characterized. They had secondary education as the highest educational level achieved, followed closely by the level of higher education, and on average represented 40.5% and 33%, respectively, for the period 2015–2019. As for the employment situation, just over half were people who were not part of the economically active population, on average representing 52.3%, and only 5.3% of the persons who were unemployed during these years.

While it is advisable to have comparable data and indicators to measure the impact of remittances on household income or as a proportion of household expenditure, certain considerations must be taken into account in order to interpret these data that may be useful in assessing the contribution of remittances to development.

First of all, it must be borne in mind that remittances are generally transferred to households in the socioeconomic strata of below the poverty line or the lower middle, so they can be an important contribution to the upward mobility of the population. However, the percentage of remittances as a proportion of household income is generally relatively low. In the case of Mexico, for example, for households receiving remittances, this income corresponds to between 21% and 27% of family income. Although the annual amount received at the country level from remittances may be very large, this amount must be disaggregated into millions of low-level transactions that reach households. In the case of Mexico, in 2018, for example, based on the National Survey of Household Income and Expenditure it is estimated that, on average, each household receiving remittances did not receive more than \$145 per month, a figure that is quite similar to the amount of the monthly minimum wage in the centre of the country for that same year (Canales, 2022a and 2022b).

(e) Contribution to diversification and innovation

Migrants often start up ventures that contribute to the diversification and expansion of various industries. In terms of innovation, the study on Chile, for example, highlights the contribution made by migration in specific areas, such as gastronomy and hairdressers. In these areas, new techniques have been introduced that help to diversify the range of services offered, as well as generate a symbolic value in the migrant communities themselves. Entrepreneurship, for its part, is regarded as an effective alternative for achieving economic stability in light of the barriers and difficulties encountered by migrants in gaining access to the labour market. Facilitating access to financing for entrepreneurship and facilitating administrative access so that migrants have the same opportunities as non-migrants, is a challenge that host countries have to address.

⁸ The total sample size is 625,088 people representing 174,105 households during the five years covered by this study. The identification of households receiving remittances is based on the module of questions on employment. Among the questions on income from current transfers, there was an item referring to remittances received from other households or individuals. However, in the thinking behind the development of this survey, remittances are regarded as national if they come from some other household or person who is in the country and, are considered international remittances if they come from abroad. For the purposes of this study and as remittances were previously conceptualized, only households receiving international remittances will be considered (Martínez and Cano 2022, p. 258).

In the case of the Peru study, one of the key informants comments:

"in the different areas that, as entrepreneurs, they could perhaps grow, they need a combination of two key things. One, for the access barriers to not be so high, and by that, what I mean is money, in other words, the financial resources for entrepreneurship should not be too critical, and that is where all the services provided by people, professional services, plumbing, technical services come in. In other words, any type of service that you can provide with your own skills, those are some of the main sectors in which you can start a business with a certain growth prospect. The other sector where a lot of entrepreneurship is taking place is obviously the gastronomy sector, which has slightly higher barriers, but we still manage to overcome them because you can start at many levels. That is, you can start a food business with a cart on the street or selling arepas at traffic lights. But the way in which you can build on that and redirect it towards becoming a restaurant, a store, with a more interesting growth prospect, depends a little on your capacity as an entrepreneur (...) And the other issue, which perhaps determines where, how one becomes an entrepreneur, is the knowledge of the market. So, something that we see a lot is that many migrant enterprises are directed towards migrants, or are managed with the perception, that is, a very Venezuelan perception of how people consume, how people evaluate quality, how they evaluate the quality of the population. So these perceptions (...) arise in many cases from their own perspective and from the people they know, most of whom are also Venezuelans". (Gustav Brauckmeyer of Equilibrium CenDe).

In the case of Costa Rica, the entrepreneurial contribution made through ecotourism by migrant populations living on the coasts and the labour chains generated by this activity in the non-migrant population is noteworthy:

"the issue of the contributions of many European migrants on the coasts, in general terms, I say European because it is different from the investments coming from the United States, there are different developments in the North Pacific, South Pacific and Limón, then specifically something that is very important for the country, which is ecotourism, the contribution of these migrations has been very important in terms of the linkages. Because people have generally bought land, have established their businesses, and there is a linkage that has to do with local people and with migrants." (Representative of Jesuit Migrant Service (SJM)-Costa Rica).

(f) Tax contribution

Migrants generate a contribution to public finances through tax collection. Indirect taxes, such as general sales tax or value added tax (VAT), are paid by all migrants, regardless of their status of regularity or formality, since these are taxes levied on certain goods and services. In the case of Peru, there has been an increase in the contribution of immigrants to public finances measured by the payment of general sales tax. Specifically, with the increase in the recent migrant population, the contribution of the immigrant population to general sales tax collection has increased. As can be seen in table 3, it has moved from 0.63% in 2014 to 1.09% in 2019 (Vásquez and Aguilar, 2022).

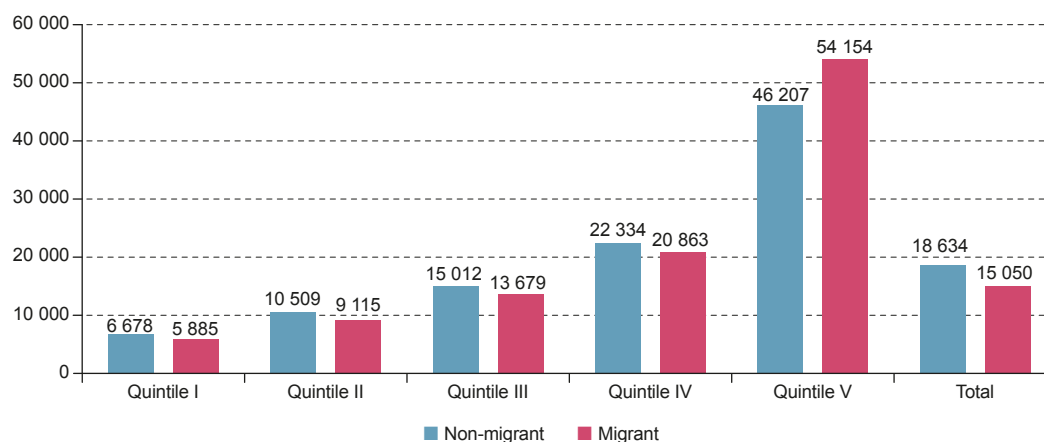
Table 3
Peru: contribution of the population to the collection of general sales tax,
immigrants and non-migrants, 2014–2019
(Millions of soles and percentages)

	2014 Percentage		2015 Percentage		2016 Percentage		2017 Percentage		2018 Percentage		2019 Percentage	
Immigrants	106	0.63	105	0.59	105	0.57	87	0.45	95	0.47	293	1.09
Non-migrants	16 776	99.37	17 512	99.41	18 395	99.43	19 079	99.55	19 930	99.53	26 534	98.91
Total	16 882	100.0	17 617	100.0	18 500	100.0	19 166	100.0	20 025	100.0	26 826	100.0

Source: J. Martínez and M. V. Cano, "Sobre las contribuciones de la migración al desarrollo sostenible: estudios en países seleccionados", *Project Documents* (LC/TS.2021/195), Santiago, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2022.

In the case of Costa Rica, the analysis of the contribution of migration through tax collection was carried out by comparing the income quintiles between the non-migrant and migrant populations. As can be seen in the figure, although non-migrants spent more on tax payments, the fifth quintile shows how migrants paid more monthly than non-migrants for general sales tax in 2018.

Figure 10
Costa Rica: monthly per capita general sales tax paid, by quintile of household
income and migration status, 2018
(Colones)



Source: J. Martínez and M. V. Cano, "Sobre las contribuciones de la migración al desarrollo sostenible: estudios en países seleccionados", *Project Documents* (LC/TS.2021/195), Santiago, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2022.

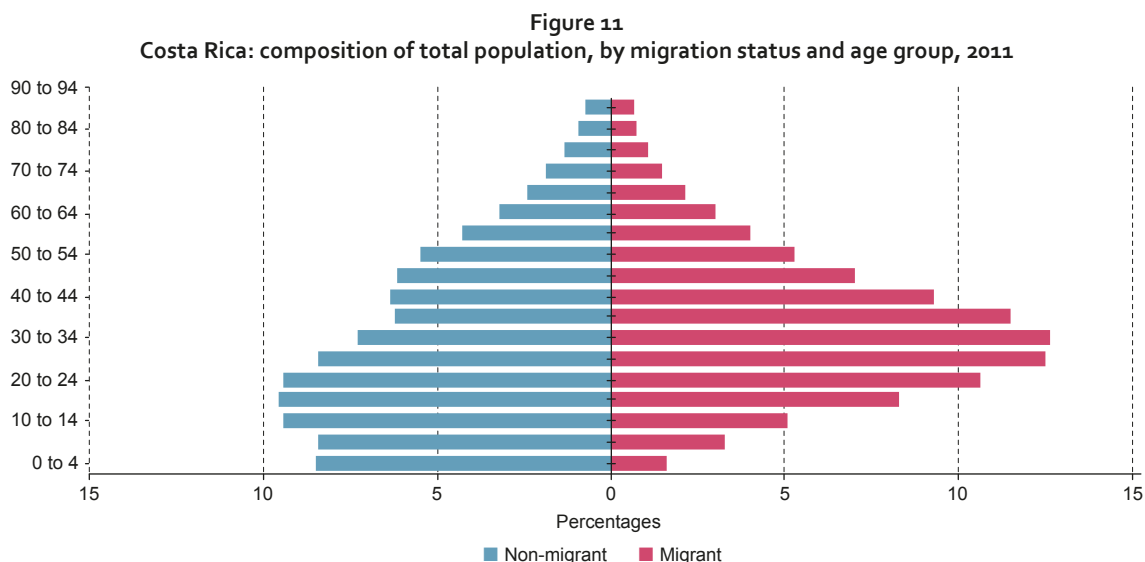
This preliminary measurement of the collection of general sales tax or VAT is suggestive with respect to the contribution made by international migration in fiscal terms, which is independent of migrants' formal labour status.

2. Demographic dimension

Migrants, being a population that is especially young in age, economically active and of reproductive age, make essential demographic contributions in destination countries.

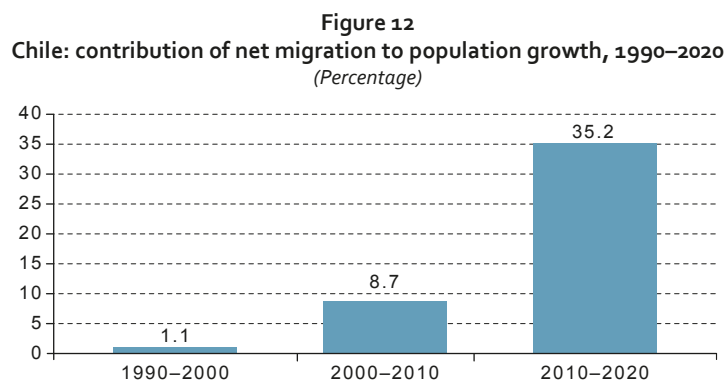
(a) Slowing down demographic ageing processes

International migration contributes to demographic dynamics by changing the age composition of the population. For example, while the population born in Costa Rica has a broad base owing to the presence of children and adolescents, the population born outside Costa Rica has a higher proportion of people of working age (see figure 11).



Source: J. Martínez and M. V. Cano, "Sobre las contribuciones de la migración al desarrollo sostenible: estudios en países seleccionados", *Project Documents* (LC/TS.2021/195), Santiago, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2022.

Migration slows down the ageing of the population, making the birth rate fall less dramatically and rapidly than it would if there was no migration. In Chile, between 2010 and 2020, as a result of both the greater volume of immigration and the significant decrease in birth rate and natural growth, net migration became a fundamental component of population dynamics, contributing 35.2% of total population growth (see figure 12).



Source: J. Martínez and M. V. Cano, "Sobre las contribuciones de la migración al desarrollo sostenible: estudios en países seleccionados", *Project Documents* (LC/TS.2021/195), Santiago, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2022.

Immigration therefore constitutes an increasingly decisive component of demographic dynamics, since it practically compensates for the decline in the number of births in the country, thus helping to keep demographic dynamics at the levels experienced since the final decades of the twentieth century. In turn, population immigration in young and active ages also helps to offset, to some extent, the imbalances created by the ageing of the population and to reduce the levels of demographic dependence (Canales, 2022a and 2022b). These dynamics are very likely replicated in several other populations, in addition to presenting themselves differentially at the subnational level.

(b) Contributing to the birth rates

In Costa Rica, between 1982 and 2019, births to mothers born in another country grew by around 10,000, while births to mothers born in Costa Rica decreased by 20,000 during the same period (see figure 13). Despite the increase in births for women born outside Costa Rica, the birth rate for the period between 1982 and 2019 went from 30 to 13.9 per 1,000 inhabitants. This drop could have been greater, if there had been a similar birth rate between the migrant and non-migrant population (Oviedo, 2022).

Figure 13
Costa Rica: number of births, by mother's place of birth, 1982–2020



Source: J. Martínez and M. V. Cano, "Sobre las contribuciones de la migración al desarrollo sostenible: estudios en países seleccionados", *Project Documents* (LC/T.S. 2021/195), Santiago, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2022.

^a First quarter of 2020.

In the case of Chile, immigration contributes indirectly by compensating for the fall in the volume of births. The birth trends for Chilean and migrant women are very different. In the case of Chilean women, births fell by 39,000 live births, from 243,211 births in 2014 to 204,313 births in 2017. In the case of births to migrant women from Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Colombia, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Haiti (referred to as LAM-1 in table 4), they almost doubled, moving from 5,897 births in 2014 to 12,159 in 2017. While this trend did not reverse the structural decline in births, it did mitigate it. Without migration in the four years between 2014 and 2017, births in Chile would have fallen by 16%; instead, it fell by only 12.7% (Canales, 2022a and 2022b).

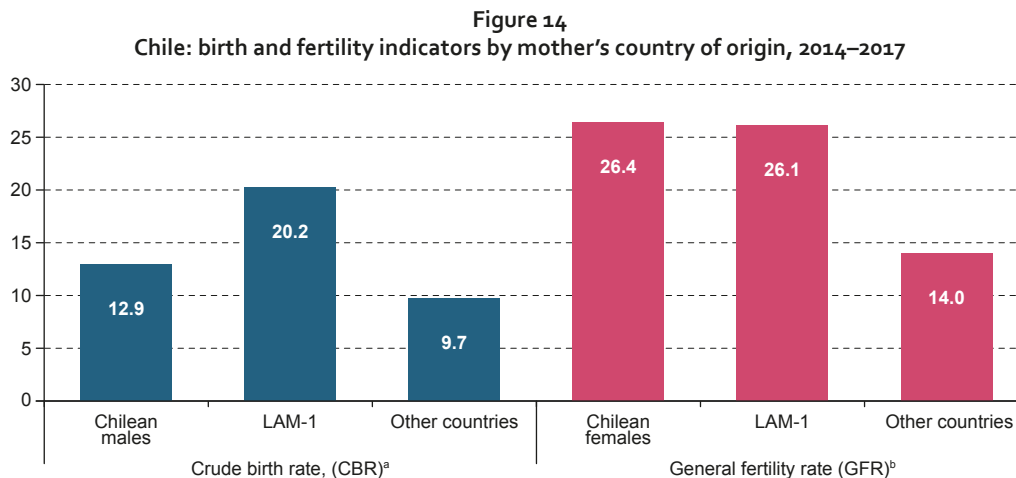
Table 4
Chile: number of births, by mother's country of origin, 2014–2017

Year	Total births	Chilean mothers	Immigrant mothers		
			Total	LAM-1	Other countries
2014	250 997	243 211	7 786	5 897	1 889
2015	244 670	233 434	11 236	8 660	2 576
2016	231 749	219 255	12 494	9 804	2 690
2017	219 186	204 313	14 873	12 159	2 715

Source: National Institute of Statistics, *Anuario de Estadísticas Vitales* (2015–2107), Santiago.

Note: LAM-1, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Colombia, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Haiti.

It should be noted that both migrant and non-migrant women have a similar fertility rate. However, depending on the age structure, the birth rate is higher in migrant women. A population concentrated in young age strata and reproductive ages is more likely to have greater reproductive potential, generating a higher volume of births, even though both populations have similar levels of overall fertility and age groups (see figure 14).



Source: J. Martínez and M. V. Cano, "Sobre las contribuciones de la migración al desarrollo sostenible: estudios en países seleccionados", *Project Documents* (LC/TS.2021/195), Santiago, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2022.

^aCrude birth rate is calculated as births per 1,000 inhabitants.

^bGeneral fertility rate is calculated as births per 1,000 women of childbearing age (15–49 years).

3. Cultural dimension

Information on the cultural dimension was gleaned from national qualitative studies. Of note, the cultural contributions made by recent migration were addressed in the studies on Chile and Costa Rica, generating interesting viewpoints.

Upon opening the discussion on the cultural contributions of migration, a view that seems to be shared by both Chile and Costa Rica is that the contribution of migration predates the activities of migrants because their first contribution is their presence. The key informants recognize that the mere presence of migrants in the territory broadens the local perspective, challenges national realities and promotes a more global consciousness, generating views about interdependence. This is how the interviewees explain it:

"Migrants in some way create a push towards a more global perspective. In the sense that their presence somehow challenges the nationals who are in the territories to think and assume that they are part of something bigger. One of the contributions that I regard as very important is that of pushing or forcing us, the citizens who live fundamentally local existences, to think about these existences that are linked to other spaces". (Academic, Chile).

"Migration makes a contribution to culture because it allows us to make ourselves visible, to recognize ourselves in the migratory realities. It leads us to ask ourselves about Costa Ricans who are not here and who have migrated (...) Migration has forced us to see ourselves as one more part of the migratory framework and Costa Rica has always wanted to see itself as an island, away from all this, isolated from the world, but it is not like that, it has forced us to see ourselves as one more piece." (Academic, Costa Rica).

In addition to presence as a contribution, the cultural exchange of wisdom, knowledge, customs and practices help to create a more diverse and richer identity. This contribution of cultural exchange is recognized at various levels and impacts on ways of thinking and ways of relating between people. These symbolic contributions are difficult to quantify, but they are recognized in the daily experience of people in the workplace, at school, in religious organizations, in communities and in daily activities.

“from the cultural aspect, which is the most visible, from the religious aspect, also from the churches, they have revived the practising of religion, we have also had ... in this encounter with the national, because many migrants are married to Chileans, it's also evident in the gastronomy.

The contribution in work relationships and environments, which is where our services are utilized, we have seen how they have refreshed the knowledge, how they have incorporated other forms (...) in the production chain they have incorporated other knowledge, and this has made the national worker change modalities, change ways of relating, and they have been able to connect in a different way and they have managed to open the mind of the nationals in the sense that many nationals within the spaces who manage to enter the market are nationals who have not had the opportunity to travel or to get to know other things, and manage to open the mind of nationals, they manage to establish extracurricular relationships, have different types of conversations, more multicultural, diverse” (Civil society, Chile).

“In social terms, it is also very important to highlight the impetus given by migrants... the contribution these people make at the community level, many of the people who are involved in community-based activities, such as social pastoral work in the churches, or church groups, or in schools. or community associations, are migrants and some of them are not necessarily formally attached.

This is very important also in terms of how other organizational and social participation practices have permeated these more community-based networks” (Civil society, Costa Rica).

Of special interest is the contribution to cultural exchange made by migrant women in care services. In addition to the contribution that migrant women make with their work allowing for non-migrant women to enter the labour market and, in some cases, mitigating potential national care crises, it is especially important to highlight the contribution made by these women in socialization processes in the field of care. This contribution has not been very visible and possibly has a symbolic and practical impact on the experience of those who are cared for by migrant women.

“one sociocultural issue has not been assessed much, in fact it is practically invisible, which is the contribution made to Costa Rican households through the household worker, there is a tremendous exchange of wisdom, knowledge, practices, cultural processes of the Nicaraguan woman that is there and it has not been assessed.” (Academic, Costa Rica).

From the perspective of relevant actors and key informants, the symbolic and cultural value of migration is recognized as a deep and complex element that should be highlighted. These contributions are often confused with the richness and diversity of artistic expressions associated with migrant populations. In the interviews and focus groups, deeper thoughts emerged about the daily contributions made by migrants through their presence, their ways of relating, thinking, doing and feeling. Highlighting these contributions is essential in order to build a new story or narrative about migration. Perceptions about migration are formed based on experience and not just on quantitative evidence. So that these stories can be based on the contributions of migration, it is being suggested that the encounter and the linkage between the migrant and non-migrant population on equal terms be encouraged, where there is mutual recognition of the symbolic elements that give value to cultural exchange, as noted by the experts:

"How can hard data-related elements, which are very important, be combined with knowing and delving deeper into the feelings generated by the migrant population? And it is extremely complex (...) it seems to me that one of the great challenges is how to combine spaces that have to do with hard information but also with further exploration of feelings and things that are more innate, because generally speaking, these elements that have an educational aspect are very deeply rooted in the construction of national identity." (Civil society, Costa Rica).

"How can we educate ourselves? It is not with numbers, it is by highlighting, recognizing these contributions. If I understand that migrant families have to do with my reality, bring ... closer to a more palpable, more concrete day-to-day reality, that generates more bonding". (Academic, Costa Rica).

"one way to avoid the usual clichés in the meeting spaces is to have a permanent, sustained encounter, on a more or less equal footing that allows us to get to know each other, person to person, and move beyond the imaginary view of nationality as the main characteristic of that other. (...) what changes the behaviour of adults is something more experiential, which happens in local interventions (...) In that space, which is why I was talking about the sustained and permanent encounter and on an equal footing. Because it cannot be an encounter between the employer and his Haitian workers either, who he likes very much because they do everything he says. That is not going to legitimize the Haitian community (...) It has to be sustained over time, in spaces of equality, hopefully in tasks geared toward a common goal, where there is no competition. These are the minimum conditions to stop stereotypes" (Academic, Chile).

In the case of Jamaica, as documented in the national study, the study done by Thomas-Hope and others (2009) found that immigration had had positive effects on the country's cultural diversity. For example, temporary workers in the United States were responsible for the introduction of sound systems on the island, which allowed for the amplification of the recordings of the mento bands, which were listened to in the popular parties and gave wings to the local composers to make their own compositions, instead of copying the American ones (Brodber, 1985; Saakana and Clarke, 1980). The contribution of music is especially relevant in the case of Jamaica. The renting of sound systems, the founding of bands and the establishment of recording studios by Chinese immigrants give migrations a fundamental role in the development of Jamaican music.

II. Comparative analysis of discussions and reflections in national workshops

A. General background

This chapter focuses on analysing and comparing the discussions and brainstorming that took place in the working groups of the dissemination workshops (see box work methodology), bearing in mind that each of the countries has a different migratory context.

Three areas were discussed in the working groups: good practices for harnessing (supporting) the contributions of migration, obstacles to supporting the contributions of migration and proposals for change in order to promote the contributions of migration.

The comparative analysis will be categorized by topics, which are interconnected. In the case of the workshop in Chile, participants answered the question: how could conditions be created for studies such as the one presented to effectively counteract negative perceptions about immigration to Chile and the rise of xenophobia? Although the participants at the working groups in Chile did not directly discuss good practices, obstacles and proposals for change, these can be identified and are included in the analysis.

Box 1 **Methodology of national workshops**

For the conduct of the national dissemination workshops, a participatory methodology was sought that could make participants discuss substantive issues, in order to gather new information based on the consideration of the results presented in that space. That is why the “world café” method was chosen. The world café method is a participatory and inclusive evaluation tool, which allows for the collection of qualitative data, through discussion and debate in large heterogeneous groups. The method involves bringing participants together in a café-like context, where they can sit, meet and talk. At each table, people exchange answers to questions, and after each round, they write down the results. After the minutes allotted to the conversation have expired, they change tables to continue the discussion with a new group. At the end of the exercise, all participants meet to share the results of the discussions. (Löhr, Weinhardt and Sieber, 2020).

The specific context of this methodology facilitates the exchange of information in an equitable manner, and is beneficial not only for research through the production of valuable data, but also for participants through the facilitation of dialogue and mutual learning (Löhr Weinhardt and Sieber, 2020). By using this method, a large amount of data can be obtained from a large number of people in a short period of time. This tool also makes it possible to complement other methods, both by guiding the exploration and verification of topics, and by helping to increase the reference sample, the variety and scope of individual points of view, and the level of participation (Löhr, Weinhardt and Sieber, 2020).

The objective of using this method in the particular case of the workshops was to facilitate a conversation after knowing the results of the study on contributions. In the workshops, the method was used to discuss three relevant areas: (1) good practices, (2) obstacles and (3) proposals for change to support the contributions of migration in the specific context of each country. Based on these three areas of discussion in the workshops, a categorization of the results of this methodology is presented.^a

Source: Prepared by the authors, on the basis of K. Löhr, M. Weinhardt and S. Sieber, "The "World Café" as a participatory method for collecting qualitative data", *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, vol. 19, Sage, January-December 2020.

^aThis categorization is based exclusively on the discussions held by the participants in the context of the face-to-face workshops for the dissemination of results of the study on contributions and are not necessarily representative of each national context.

B. Good practices

The good practices area sought to have participants recognize the good practices they are aware of or those that they have carried out in their own contexts. In categorizing the results, the good practices identified by the working groups of the five national workshops (Chile, Peru, Costa Rica, Mexico and Jamaica) have been organized into five topics:

- (i) Research and data;
- (ii) Standards, policies and programmes;
- (iii) Institutional coordination;
- (iv) Civil society;
- (v) Narrative, communication and information.

1. Research and data

This category includes reflections and comments made by participants that highlight good practices in relation to the production and use of data on migration issues. In the case of the workshop in Mexico, mention was made of the fact that the management of remittances has improved as a result of electronic means and that there is now an updated migration data portal.⁹ In addition, in Mexico, relevant statistics on migration and migrants have been generated that, along with academic studies, are being used by the government as a basis for making suitable public policies. The participants in the Mexican working group also recognized the importance of collecting data on migrants' motivations, as these vary over time and are the basis for understanding the cause of migration and the needs of migrants. The working groups in Peru also mentioned research and the use of data as good practices. The National Institute of Statistics and Informatics, which conducted studies on human mobility, was highlighted, which allowed for the generation of statistical records and evidence, as well as the presentation of the situation of migrants in the country. The participants at the Peruvian workshop also highlighted the use of innovative instruments by the institution.

In the case of Jamaica, the monitoring of Jamaicans who migrate to the main destination countries (United Kingdom, United States, Canada) through social and economic surveys was regarded as a good practice.

⁹ See [online] https://portales.segob.gob.mx/es/PoliticaMigratoria/Direccion_de_Estadistica.

The results of the working groups in Chile and Costa Rica did not specifically identify good practices related to the subject of research and data, but they did identify obstacles and made proposals for change in relation to this issue, which will be addressed in the following sections.

2. Standards, policies and programmes

The discussion on good practices focused on the category of standards, policies and programmes. In particular, the workshop held in Costa Rica found the existence of the National Integration Plan¹⁰ and the Comprehensive Migration Policy¹¹ to be positive. The working groups in Peru also highlighted the implementation of migration regulation strategies by the National Superintendency of Migration. The creation, by law, of the National Migration Council, the Migration Social Fund and the National Fund against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants¹² and the recognition of cross-border workers by law were also deemed positive.

At the Jamaica workshop, the existence of the legislative framework to protect victims of trafficking was highlighted as a good practice, as well as the existence and coherence of the national policy on population and sustainable development, international migration and action programmes, which prioritize the protection of immigrants, specifically, the system established to protect them and ensure that their rights are not violated. In addition, assistance for the reintegration of return migrants into society was deemed positive.¹³

In the case of the workshop in Mexico, the good practices highlighted focused mainly on the issuing of documents to migrants, such as the granting of visas for humanitarian reasons or the unique population registry code,¹⁴ along with study, exchange or employment programmes that are geared towards the integration of the Mexican population, the Mexican population abroad, the returning population and migrant students. The formulation of policies to create employment for migrants has also been recognized as a good practice. In the Peruvian workshop, similarly, the expansion of public employment services for the migrant population by the Ministry of Labour and Employment Promotion was identified as a good practice, as well as the implementation of educational strategies aimed at the population of migrant children and adolescents, such as the *Lima Aprende* strategy, health strategies, such as the integration of certain groups of the migrant population into the Comprehensive Health Insurance, and socioeconomic and professional inclusion programmes. Specific programmes to support migrant women were also highlighted, such as the programme to support migrant women in the canton of Upala, in Costa Rica, and mental health care programmes for migrant women in Mexico. Lastly, it is noteworthy that good practices regarding standards, policies and programmes were mentioned as being related to access to services, such as work, education, or health.

¹⁰ The National Integration Plan for Costa Rica (2018–2022) is associated with the Comprehensive Migration Policy for Costa Rica and aims to strengthen the integration processes for the migrant population.

¹¹ The Costa Rican State developed the Comprehensive Migration Policy for Costa Rica (2013–2023) in order to manage migratory flows, the integration of migrants and inter-institutional actions in migration matters.

¹² The National Fund against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants (created by Law No. 9095 of 2012) provides funding for projects against the trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, as well as those for the care and protection of victims of trafficking.

¹³ In the Annual Report 2021 of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), the organization highlighted its goal of facilitating the integration and reintegration of deported Jamaicans. To this end, PIOJ collaborated with the Ministry of National Security, the National Organization of Deported Migrants and Open Arms to provide care packages for forced returnees through the Reintegration of Irregular Returned Migrants Initiative. Approximately 100 care packages were distributed through the Ministry. In partnership with the identity documentation, birth certificates were provided for five returnees. (PIOJ, 2021, p. 26).

¹⁴ The unique population registry code allows the Mexican State to register residents of the country and allows users to carry out Public Administration procedures and benefit from government programmes. There is also the temporary code for foreigners granted to migrants and refugees.

3. Institutional coordination

The working groups in Mexico and Peru highlighted coordination and integration as a good practice. Specifically, the Ministry of the Interior appreciated the training provided to Mexican government officials in order for them to adopt a multi-stakeholder and multisectoral methodology that allows the community to be involved and create an institutional multiplier network. The participants in the working groups in Peru, for their part, identified the participation of the central government in various international agreements on migration issues as a good practice.

In the case of the workshop in Jamaica, several institutional coordination initiatives for the governance of international migration in the country were deemed positive. The adoption of regional and international agreements, such as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Single Market and Economy,¹⁵ for example, that makes it possible for qualified people from CARICOM countries to travel was highlighted. In addition, the inter-agency technical collaboration of the United Nations system was mentioned as a good coordination practice, along with the national political will that is reflected in a responsive institutional framework, with a coherent approach and ongoing consultation. Specifically, the existence of the multisectoral group for migration, the National Working Group on International Migration and Development was also mentioned as a good practice.¹⁶ The diaspora's commitment and reciprocity between governments and members of the diaspora were highlighted.

4. Civil society

The workshops in Mexico and Costa Rica recognized the contribution and role of civil society in contributing to good practices. Specifically, admiration was expressed for civil society in Mexico for having been involved in campaigns to disseminate the right to migrate.

Meanwhile, in Costa Rica, attention was drawn to the "Las Casas de la Alegría"¹⁷ project implemented by CoopeTarrazú, the participation of civil society in the National Migration Council and, in general, the role of civil society in assisting migrants was highlighted.

At the workshop in Jamaica, the role of civil society was appreciated, especially in terms of assistance provided for return migration. Returned migrants receive assistance with their certifications abroad. For example, those who worked in Canada can assert their experience abroad through certification to facilitate the job search process. In addition, the assistance of civil society organizations with obtaining migrants' administrative documents (for example, finding a birth certificate) was appreciated.

5. Narrative, communication and information

In relation to the topic of narrative, communication and information, some good practices were also identified. On the one hand, in Mexico, special mention was made of communication campaigns by the Migration Policy Unit to highlight migrants and their contribution to development, and the promotion of different ways of thinking about remittances.

Similarly, in the Peruvian workshop, it was noted that greater citizen empathy towards the migrant population was developed through spots and soap operas. On the other hand, in Costa Rica, the provision of information on immigration procedures, for example, through the *Migramóvil*, a bus run by migration officials that brings information and services to the border region between Costa Rica and Panama, was recognized and appreciated.

¹⁵ The CARICOM Single Market and Economy seeks to implement provisions for the elimination of trade and professional restrictions. These provisions facilitate the right to establish businesses, to provide regional services, the free movement of capital and the coordination of economic policies. It seeks to remove existing trade barriers and establish a Single Market area that includes services, capital, technology and the free movement of skilled professionals.

¹⁶ The National Working Group on International Migration and Development, established to coordinate inter-agency and non-governmental actions in relation to migration and development. This committee is co-chaired by the Planning Institute of Jamaica and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.

¹⁷ Project implemented by CoopeTarrazú with public support to provide care and education to children and adolescents related to people involved in coffee activity. See [online] <https://www.coopetarrazu.com/casas-de-la-alegría/>.

Access to information was also identified as a good practice in the working groups in Peru.

The participants at the workshop in Chile identified as a good practice the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees “journalism without labels” initiative, which seeks to provide daily support to journalists, to foster a practice of journalism based on facts and with a human rights perspective.

Notwithstanding the many good practices identified in each workshop, there was an even greater number of obstacles to the contributions of migration in the countries analysed, which need to be recognized in order to be overcome. The following is an analysis of the obstacles in Chile, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru and Costa Rica.

C. Obstacles

The main obstacles to the realization of the contributions of migration identified by the working groups at the five national workshops have been divided into five topics:

- (i) Research and data;
- (ii) Standards, policies and programmes;
- (iii) Institutional coordination;
- (iv) Narrative, communication and information;
- (v) Resources.

The obstacles have been categorized by topic and by country in which the respective workshop was held. The topic where the greatest obstacles have been encountered is that of narrative, communication and information—mainly in the Mexican workshop— followed by the topic of standards, policies and programmes, in each of the workshops.

1. Research and data

In relation to this issue, some obstacles have been encountered in all participating countries in highlighting the contributions of migration. The participants at the workshop in Costa Rica lamented the lack of updated and disaggregated data that represent the migratory situation of the country and can form the basis of public policies.

In addition, in both the Costa Rican and Peruvian workshops, it was found that the lack of integration and interoperability between data results in weak administrative records, which prevents the analysis of the contributions of migration in both countries.

Another obstacle that has been encountered in three countries—Chile, Mexico and Costa Rica—is that even when studies have been done on migration, these have not been sufficiently communicated to the public, thus making it difficult to have sufficient knowledge in order to really understand the migratory phenomenon. In the case of Chile, the following shortcomings were identified in particular: lack of dissemination of study findings through social networks, lack of explanation of such findings to the public and lack of presentation of the possible limitations of the studies.

In the case of the Jamaican workshop, the lack and non-existence of data, in general, as well as the lack of integration and standardization of existing data, were also mentioned as obstacles. As an example, mention was made of the lack of tracking of migrants across borders. One of the participants explained that there are flows of non-migrant teachers and nurses leaving Jamaica, but there are no data on the labour market of this migration, since people are recruited through private agencies.

Ending with the research and data section, the Mexico workshop noted a complexity in measuring migration-related data. This is evident in the fact that inconsistencies have been identified, depending on the information sources used in the measurement of remittances, income, poverty and others.

2. Standards, policies and programmes

Under the topic of standards, policies and programmes, a large number of obstacles have been encountered that limit or impede the potential of migration's contributions in the countries concerned. The national workshops in Costa Rica, Mexico, Jamaica and Peru showed that the costs of the bureaucratic process and/or the documents needed in order to acquire regular migrant status and access services are very high. This is how the requirement that certain documents be provided becomes a major obstacle since many migrants cannot obtain them. In addition, the lack of certain documents exacerbates the vulnerable situation in which migrants can find themselves, for example, in Mexico there is a cross-border identity card,¹⁸ but for migrants it is very costly, so cross-border workers tend not to have it, and although they are allowed to work without this document, their salaries are affected by this. Another example is the one mentioned at the working groups in Peru and Jamaica, where the worrying high rate of informality (an aspect mentioned by one of the participants as the "culture of informality" at the workshop in Jamaica) was identified as a regulatory obstacle, as well as the difficulty in gaining incorporation into the formal sector and for the registration of educational and professional degrees. The participants at the Peruvian workshop also noted that the difficulties encountered regarding access to migration regulations exacerbate the vulnerable situation of migrants, preventing them from fully enjoying their basic rights, such as health, education, justice and work.

Another interesting discussion at the workshops in Mexico and Costa Rica concerned the obstacles present in the policies. On the one hand, the lack of updating of migration policies (Costa Rica) was noted and, on the other, it was recognized that the continuous changes in the administration and the lack of institutional framework result in short-lived policies and, probably, misalignment between them. However, in both workshops it was found that there is a lack of public policies that are clear in their objectives and actions, sustainable over time and guided by a human rights approach. Once again, the participants in the working groups in Mexico and Costa Rica identified as an obstacle the lack of follow-up and monitoring of the impact of policies, as well as respect for the human rights of migrants. This point was also raised at the workshop in Chile, where the tension between the execution and the creation of public policies was recognized as an obstacle.

At the workshop in Peru, specific obstacles were identified that are connected to laws, that is: the Law on Personal Data Protection, which was mentioned,¹⁹ which prevents the interoperability of information, and the Foreign Recruitment Law,²⁰ which was mentioned, which indirectly limits the regularization of migrant workers. Similarly, the rigidity of the Federal Labour Law,²¹ which, according to the participants, would complicate labour integration in Mexico, was described as an obstacle. Despite the fact that the government provides assistance centres for children and adolescents, they flee from them, which suggests that these centres do not meet their specific needs.

3. Coordination and integration

Participants in the national workshops identified the lack of inter-agency coordination and dialogue between levels of government (local, regional, national) as a significant obstacle to harnessing migration's contributions to their countries, resulting in administrative difficulties and weaknesses. Likewise, the working groups in Peru identified the lack of connectivity between international agreements, the executive branch and local governments as a major obstacle. In addition, the working groups in Mexico found that the lack of coordination affects and is present in the world of academia and civil society organizations, and this is always relevant to the issue of coordination and integration.

¹⁸ The Border Worker Visitor Card (see [online] <https://www.programamesoamerica.iom.int/en/border-worker-card-presented-Mexico>) costs 513 Mexican pesos (approximately 28 dollars). See [online] <https://www.gob.mx/inm/acciones-y-programas/tarjeta-de-visitante-trabajadorfronterizo-tvtf> for additional information.

¹⁹ See [online] <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/congreso-de-la-republica/normas-legales/243470-29733>.

²⁰ See [online] http://www.trabajo.gob.pe/archivos/file/descargar/DECRETO_LEGISLATIVO_689.pdf.

²¹ See [online] https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/156203/1044_Ley_Federal_del_Trabajo.pdf.

Chile also recognized the lack of collaboration between academia, politics and the media to create a common sense on the migration issue, as well as a lack of coordination of information among relevant institutions and agencies. It was also evident that there is little inter-institutional commitment to supporting the contributions of migrants to development. At the workshop in Peru, that country's centralization was also mentioned as an obstacle to harnessing the contributions of migration.

In Mexico however, as it is a country of origin, destination, transit and return, the lack of coordination and integration between local Mexicans and Mexicans in the United States was regarded as a limitation.

Another integration difficulty has to do with the operational response capacity of countries for the coordination and use of migrant work. Costa Rica mentioned that there are significant gaps between the need for workers in the labour market and the skills of available workers.

4. Narrative, communication and information

According to the results of the working groups of the three countries in the category of narrative, communication and information, most of the obstacles relate to the making of the contributions of migration in the countries. The participants at the four workshops agreed that discrimination, xenophobia and racism are obstacles to understanding the reality of migration and valuing the contributions of migrants. Moreover, it was recognized that in each of these countries under analysis there is a very influential negative narrative about migration. This narrative is promoted both by the media and by some political discourse. For example, it is believed that in Peru, xenophobic discourse about migration is latent in the society and that a negative view of the migrant population by officials hinders the progress of measures to help this population group. However, in Mexico, it was mentioned that there is a general attitude of rejection towards migrants, and in the workshop in Chile, it was lamented that after years of working with the media, no greater results have been obtained in terms of a non-degrading narrative of migrants. According to workshop participants, this issue has worsened in recent years.

Lack of knowledge about the reality of migration and its contributions is an obstacle because it leaves room for negative basic perceptions that permeate the non-migrant population's assessment of the migrant population. This point was raised at the different workshops. For example, Mexico is perceived as a transit-only country, and when transit or return migration is considered, it is perceived as problematic and as a bad practice, as it is deemed to impose a limitation on the hiring of migrants. In addition, in Mexico, a certain part of the population perceives migrants as being involved in drug trafficking, without having knowledge of who is really behind criminal organizations, or it believes that traffickers use remittances to move money between countries. In addition, several perspectives based on lack of information or disinformation are recognized as obstacles. At the working groups in Chile, it was recognized that there are gaps between statistical findings, such as those contained in the ECLAC study, and the perception of migration, especially in local spaces.

The participants at the workshop in Peru mentioned the lack of knowledge of the rights of migrants, both by this population group and by the various sectors of the Peruvian population, including employers, public officials, and others.

In addition, in the case of Mexico, participants recognized several obstacles that result in the lack of consideration of some aspects of migration, including the fact that remittances are not considered in the development discourse. Mention was also made of one obstacle, which is that the significant increase in the number of women is not regarded as an important part of the migratory reality, nor the needs of migrants who belong to the LGBTQI+ community. The lack of translators in service offices who know the languages of Indigenous Peoples (as well as other languages) has also been identified as an obstacle, so that the service can be provided to all migrants and not only to people who speak Spanish.

The final obstacle mentioned in Mexico, which could be applied to any country, is the acknowledgement of the lack of understanding of the human factor of migration. That is, we must not lose sight of the fact that migration is a reality about people, it is not just statistical data, every person who migrates has different needs, motivations and all have rights that must be respected.

5. Resources

With regard to resources, at the workshop in Peru, it was stated that institutional weakness is linked to the limited resources and budgets allocated to the State's migration institutions and the organization of these institutions. Similarly, the participants at the meeting in Costa Rica recognized that the lack of economic resources to be able to grant sufficient and adequate support to migrants is a major obstacle.

In the case of Jamaica, lack of access to sustainable finance for the implementation of projects and action plans was cited as an obstacle. The lack of resources for monitoring labour programmes, for example, was mentioned.

D. Proposals for change

The final discussion of each of the working groups at the national workshops focused on making proposals for change to enhance the contributions of migration to the respective countries. As in the previous cases, each of the proposals has been categorized under one of the following topics:

- (i) Research and data;
- (ii) Standards, policies and programmes;
- (iii) Institutional coordination;
- (iv) Narrative, communication and information;
- (v) Resources;
- (vi) Labour environment.

As many of the proposals for change attempt to address the obstacles previously identified, most proposals for change fall under the topics of standards, policies and programmes and narrative, communication and information. In the case of Chile, the discussions in the working groups resulted in a large number of proposals for change, rather than obstacles or good practices. This is due to the fact that the workshop was conducted differently from the other three countries, as clarified in the introduction.

1. Research and data

In the four national workshops, proposals for change on the subject of research and data have been clear and central. The workshop in Costa Rica proposed collecting disaggregated information and data on migration, suggesting that it should be done at all levels of government. In addition, it was requested that the data be compiled in orderly, accessible and integrated records.

Similarly, in the workshops in Jamaica, Chile and Peru, it was suggested that improvements be made to the instruments for collecting statistical data, as well as the use of administrative records and that these data on migration be used to operate more effectively and coherently with respect to the needs of the migrant population, in order to facilitate their socio-labour inclusion and, at the same time, highlight migrants' contributions. In addition, in reference to the Law on Personal Data Protection, in Peru, the State is being asked not to limit the interoperability of State databases, to facilitate access to information on the migrant population.

In the case of Chile, under the topic of research and data, proposals for change were made that are interconnected with the topics of narrative, communication and information and institutional coordination. In fact, it was suggested that Chile increase its capacities to disseminate migration studies, for example, through social networks, so that they can reach and be accessible to all. In addition, in Chile, it was requested that the State endorse the results of studies, such as ECLAC's, that these studies be shared with public officials and that both the basic concepts, as well as the design, collection and dissemination of data resulting from these studies, be defined in conjunction with State agencies. It was only in Chile that emphasis was placed on the importance of sharing the results and on the potential limitations of certain studies, with a view to conducting new studies that improve data sources.

Mexico was the only case where good practices were found in relation to the subject of research and data. However, the participants at the Mexican workshop made some proposals that can serve to increase the impact of these good practices, integrating them with other actions. Among these, it was suggested that the importance of academia and its studies on migration be highlighted and it was also proposed that information generators, such as academia, ensure that studies and data are accessible and that they seek more appropriate spaces for the dissemination thereof. As Mexico has a good database on the reality of migration, it was recommended that the topics of study be expanded, for example, by doing research on the origin and use of remittances and how they can be used productively. The participants at the workshop suggested that the Government of Mexico can be better informed about the main countries of origin, their situations and their customs.

2. Standards, policies and programmes

The standards, policies and programmes section is one of the most consistent. According to the results of the four national workshops, all the working groups proposed that the respective countries include migrants—as well as all relevant actors—in political discourse and in the design of public policies, in order to better understand their needs. New migration policies will then be able to recognize the special features of migrants and their respective rights, to make them coincide as much as possible with the needs of the country and its local population. In particular, the participants at the Costa Rican workshop called for the updating of the Migration Policy and other relevant policies, with a focus on human rights and sustainable development. In addition, there was a call for clear and consistent policies and their implementation. The participants at the workshop in Peru and the workshop in Jamaica also proposed the development of local strategies that reach, more specifically, the places where the migrant population is located and that include their needs.

The proposal to facilitate the regularization of migrants was raised at both the workshops in Mexico and Peru. In the case of Peru, the proposals included improving the procedures for regularizing status, in order to grant legal status to migrants who have arrived in recent years, among others, as well as more flexibility for obtaining a foreigner's card and the possibility of making refugee applications online. At the Mexican workshop, the proposal to facilitate the admission of migrants through visas was specified. In addition, it was suggested in Mexico that the administrative procedures for border workers also be facilitated and their costs reduced, so that border workers can truly have the opportunity to obtain the necessary documents. This proposal responds directly to the previously identified obstacle. The participants at the working groups in Mexico also agreed that a good proposal for change would be to increase accessibility to the country, given that people in transit are recognized as a particularly vulnerable population. Similarly, it was suggested that humanitarian visas be granted to migrants in caravans, as was done in an emergency situation, but to make this granting part of an established mechanism.

On the subject of standards, it was proposed that Mexico harmonize its laws to a greater extent. Meanwhile, it was recommended that the state of Peru amend its laws that impede the potential of migration contributions, specifically: the Framework Law on Universal Health Insurance, to guarantee access to health insurance for the migrant population, and the above-mentioned Law on Personal Data Protection, so that it does not limit the interoperability of databases. In the case of Peru and Costa Rica,

the obstacles identified above related to the requirement of certain documents in order to gain access to services, which can be solved through a change of rules and greater regularization, as suggested.

Another important proposal made to the governments of these countries is to implement policies and programmes that promote integration between the local population and the migrant population in the labour, educational, social and cultural fields. The workshop in Mexico and the workshop in Jamaica proposed the development of strategies and measures to take advantage of the skills acquired by returned migrants, who have worked or have been trained abroad, recognizing and certifying their competences, in order to take advantage of their skills and new knowledge. In Mexico, specifically, it was proposed that projects should be implemented at the local level that include groups of migrants that are already organized and have resources (migrants' club). Meanwhile, in Chile it was proposed that community work programmes should be implemented with a focus on the inclusion of mostly migrants. At the same time, there was a call for migration policies and programmes to also take into account host societies along with the migrant population.

It was also proposed that Mexico establish sanctuary cities for people in transit, with rules and policies that serve to create safer environments, following the example of the United States. As there is already the obstacle of migrant children fleeing from assistance centres, it was suggested that the comprehensive response towards migrant children be improved. The Costa Rica workshop reiterated that at all times the State must ensure that the rights of migrants are respected, which requires monitoring actions. In Chile, it was requested that the results of this study be linked to the National Human Rights Plan.

3. Institutional coordination

On the subject of institutional coordination, the participants at the workshops in Chile, Peru and Costa Rica agreed to propose greater collaboration and internal coordination. On the one hand, the Peruvian workshop mentioned the need to create a co-leadership between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Superintendency of Migration (an agency of the Ministry of the Interior), in order to have a more effective authority over migration governance. On the other hand, the Costa Rican workshop suggested greater collaboration between local, regional and national government institutions, which could draft protocols or manuals to ensure clarity and equity in the application of migration policies. The Chilean workshop called for greater collaboration and coordination between agencies dealing with migration, state institutions, local governments, academia and other actors for the adjustment of methodologies applied to studies in order to collect better evidence, and thus reduce xenophobia and discrimination.

According to participants in Costa Rica's working groups, coordination should also take into account the international aspects of migration. The proposed change for the recognition of the contributions of migration in Mexico is also along these lines, proposing that migration management should be promoted in a co-responsible manner with greater coordination between countries of origin, transit, destination and return.

4. Narrative, communication and information

As with the topic of standards, policies and programmes, under the topic of narrative, communication and information, a large number of proposals have been made, especially in the case of Chile and Mexico. These correspond, to a large extent, to the number of obstacles identified under this topic. First of all, in each of the national workshops, education, information, training and awareness of the population in each of the countries analysed were indicated as the main proposal for change in relation to this topic, with special focus on public officials who deal with migrants. This awareness is essential in order to ensure that people act with respect for the rights of migrants. It was also suggested that the narrative about the migratory phenomenon be changed in political discourse, media and everyday speeches that tend to be negative and discriminatory, towards a narrative based on real data. People will then have the information and knowledge to be able to understand migrants more and to appreciate their contribution

to development in all areas. In order to overcome the obstacle of negative narrative about migration as a result of the rotation of officials, workshop participants from Peru mentioned sensitization of officials right after the elections.

Specific proposals were also made at the workshop in Costa Rica, such as the creation of windows and local offices for information and support for the migrant population. It was suggested that these be coordinated by the central government and that their objective be to provide information to migrants about their rights and the functioning of the migration process. Similar proposals also emerged at the Mexico workshop, emphasizing the need for all people —migrants and the Mexican population— to have easy access to reliable information on the migration issue, which will lead to the reduction of stereotyped and negative views of migration. It was also proposed that the government increase the availability of specialized translators for migrant-related procedures and services. In the case of Chile, the discussion focused on educating and training journalists and people who work with the media, giving them tools and knowledge of the appropriate language so that they can correctly refer to migrants and their situations.

As noted above, Mexico is a country of origin, transit, destination and return of migrants, hence additional proposals for change emerged from the working groups' discussions. For example, it was proposed that the discourse be broadened —nationally and internationally— regarding Mexico's role as a destination country also. It was proposed that efforts be made to understand transient migrants as people who actively contribute to the development of the country. In response to one of the above-mentioned obstacles, it was recommended that the positive impact of remittances through the reduction of inequality gaps be disseminated.

It was also suggested that Chile should adopt a more comprehensive view of migration, and that Chileans recognize that they have also been migrants, that cross-border migration is historical (for example, in northern Chile) and that they also recognize the contributions that migration in general can make. The importance of educating children about migration was also emphasized. With this in mind, it was also proposed that the issue of migration be included in the curricula of education programmes.

Lastly, participants in Mexico dedicated part of the discussion to making proposals that link the issue of migration to the climate crisis. In fact, it was proposed that the right not to migrate should be integrated into the migration discourse. This is because individuals and groups of people have the right to a dignified life and integrated development on their own lands. Therefore, they should not be forced to flee their homes because of the climate crisis. For the same reasons, it was recommended that greater attention be paid to sustainable and integrated development and to the combating of environmental degradation.

5. Resources

On the issue of resources, proposals for change were made for Chile, Mexico, Peru, Costa Rica and Jamaica. The participants at the workshop in Costa Rica responded to the identified obstacle of lack of economic resources for the provision of support to migrants by proposing the enhancement of and increase in the resources available to the offices that deal with the regularization of migrants and that facilitate their access to services. Similarly, the workshop in Mexico suggested using resources more efficiently, taking into account the real needs of migrants. At the workshop in Peru, they cited the need to solve the problem of lack of resources, which limits the coverage in the provision of services to migrants. Meanwhile, the Chilean workshop proposed that greater resources be allocated for the financing of intersectoral studies on the issue of migration. In the case of Jamaica, it was suggested that the challenges of financial inclusion on the supply side be addressed, for example, by relaxing the requirements for allowing migrants access to banks and loans.

6. Labour environment

The participants in the working groups in Costa Rica, Mexico, Jamaica and Chile made some proposals for change in the labour environment. At the Costa Rican and Jamaican workshops, a direct response was given to an obstacle already mentioned, which was the proposal that a meeting be held to focus on the needs and gaps in the labour market and the skills and talents of migrants (and in the case of Jamaica, with returnees).

However, the workshop in Mexico proposed the setting of a minimum number of temporary migrants who are hired, so that their precarious situation does not affect them greatly. In addition, it was suggested that migrant communities be transformed into production units, with business groups being organized at the family or community level.

The workshop in Jamaica, for its part, suggested strengthening monitoring and oversight mechanisms in workplaces to prevent labour exploitation.

The participants in the working groups in Chile suggested that a greater correlation be established between the progress of the labour market and the contributions of migration to Chile's development, in particular in the labour environment.

III. Indicators for measuring the contributions of international migrants

The indicators listed in this document have been selected based on the comprehensive and comparative review of the national studies contained in the publication “Sobre las contribuciones de la migración al desarrollo sostenible: estudios en países seleccionados” (Martínez and Cano, 2022). The indicators that were used in the context of the study on the contributions of migration are relevant for the design and management of public policy, that is, they contribute to informed decision-making and to the communicative and social resonance of the contributions of the migrant population.

These 17 indicators show the diversity of possible measurements that can be used to learn about the conditions that would facilitate the contributions of the migrant population in the countries, the type and level of these contributions and the gaps for the realization of the contribution of migration in the countries at the local and national levels. As can be seen, some of these indicators have regional comparative scope, others have national relevance and others reveal the contribution in local contexts.

The main source of data is population censuses, based on the use of a consolidated bank of basic questions.²² However, census data are limited by time frames and may be affected by large-scale migration processes occurring in the intercensus period (ECLAC, 2019). To compensate for this limitation, data from household surveys, administrative records and specific surveys are used. It is also worth mentioning that there is a growing trend of using innovative data sources, such as big data (mobile phones, online platforms, social media, online payment services, among others) and innovative qualitative methodologies based on narratives and ethnography, equally useful for presenting evidence that can be very valuable in the design of public policies. It also underscores the importance of cooperation between different institutions and territorial units in order to achieve a higher level of comparability and data collection.

One of the most relevant challenges that arises in generating information for these indicators is the need for updated and reliable records, surveys and censuses. In addition, most of these indicators require the necessary disaggregation, especially those referring to country of origin and sex, among other variables.

²² Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division compiles international migration data based on the censuses of Latin American and Caribbean countries, in the Investigation of International Migration in Latin America online database.

The indicators presented here must be constructed on the basis of pieces of “measurable” information, with available data, of high quality and comparability. In fact, one of the big problems with data relates to inconsistent definitions and concepts that make comparability difficult.

Among the indicators for which data are lacking in the demographic dimension, by way of example, is the number of immigrants with disabilities (disaggregated by nationality, age, and sex), which measures the demographic weight of migrants who have a disability and which constitutes a matter of increasing attention in the official statistics of a country. Article one of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities²³ interprets persons with disabilities as “[...] those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.” Persons with disabilities are among the most vulnerable and socially excluded in migrant communities (WHO and others, 2013). The indicator, calculated on the basis of the appropriate information, would both ensure the visibility of persons with disabilities and illustrate more broadly the profiles and needs of migrants. This would provide the authorities with an opportunity to implement adequate public policies for each immigrant, their families and communities, with an inclusive perspective as persons with rights.

It is also worth mentioning that, within the sociocultural dimension, indicators can be developed based on the opinions and perceptions of the immigrant population itself about its situation in the destination country. These qualitative data require the conduct of specific interviews and surveys, taking into account legal status, access to education, employment, public health and housing, among other variables. Also, as mentioned in the sociocultural indicators, qualitative data must be collected about the contributions of migration, such as the output of migrant cultural practitioners or the sporting achievements that immigrants have brought to the destination country.

Even with all the current limitations for obtaining data and developing these indicators, this list allows us to recognize the most fundamental areas for highlighting the contribution of migration at national and local levels. Each country can recognize the potentialities and limitations that these indicators account for in its own work in public policies and migration management. This, in turn, facilitates the production of new data or the systematization of existing information for the generation of content for each indicator relevant to each national or regional context.

Some useful indicators for measuring the contributions of international migration in its demographic, economic, political-legal and sociocultural dimensions are presented below.

A. Migratory profile

The migratory profile is the description of sociodemographic data that reflect the main characteristics of the migrant population in national contexts.

(i) Percentage of foreign-born population in total population

Definition. Percentage of foreign-born persons in the total resident population.

Calculation methodology. Ratio between both populations expressed as a percentage.

Data source. National population censuses.

Comment. The variables for the disaggregation of this indicator are: age, sex, country of birth. Some complementary indicators for developing the migratory profile can be: length of stay, level of education, employment situation, place of residence in the country, reasons for migration and recognition of parents born abroad. These additional indicators with these disaggregations could be required for collection and dissemination, depending on national priorities and circumstances.

²³ See United Nations (2007).

(ii) Immigration rate

Definition. Ratio between the number of resident immigrants and the total population for a given territory (per 1,000 inhabitants).

Calculation methodology. Ratio between the number of immigrants registered in a unit of time (generally one year), and the total population at the place of destination, corresponding to this same temporary unit.

Data sources. Population censuses.

Comment. This indicator can be disaggregated both at the national level (total immigrant rate) and at the regional level (immigration rate by region). The rate of immigrants by region allows us to measure the role of immigration in the demographic dynamics of large national regions, for example, in those where the main economic and productive activities take place. Immigration in these regions, through its contribution to population growth, plays a role in sustaining economic growth. However, this indicator by region allows us to analyse the role of a region in attracting international migration flows as a centre of attraction for international migration.

(iii) Masculinity ratio or femininity ratio of the immigrant population by country of origin

Definition. Number of migrant men or women per 100 migrant women or men Calculation methodology. This indicator is a ratio and is based on the variable of sex and the variable of country of birth. It is the ratio between the number of men or women and the number of women or men born abroad in a national territory, multiplied by 100.

Data sources. Population censuses.

Comments. This indicator allows us to establish whether immigration is mostly male or, on the contrary, female. In addition, it allows us to know the changes over time of the composition by sex of the migrant population. More specifically, it allows us to know if the migrant population is becoming more masculine or more feminine and thus establish and follow more effectively the national laws and public policies in this regard.

(iv) Net migration rate

Definition. Net migration is the balance between the number of immigrants and the number of emigrants; that is, the difference between the immigration rate and the emigration rate.

Calculation methodology. Net migration is the difference between the number of immigrants and the number of emigrants from a country during a unit of time (usually one year) per 1,000 inhabitants. Estimating the net migration rate requires the availability of data on emigration trends, mainly from sources in destination countries.²⁴

Data sources. Administrative records.

Comment. This rate can be disaggregated by age and sex, as topics of basic disaggregation. The net migration rate illustrates the contribution of migration to population change. If outflows through emigration exceed inflows through immigration, net migration is negative, which translates into an erosion of population growth. Conversely, positive net migration indicates that inflows through immigration outnumber outflows through emigration. It is worth mentioning that this indicator, as well as the rate of immigration and emigration, do not make distinctions between migrants, refugees, or undocumented migrants, among others.

²⁴ When there are insufficient data from administrative records, net migration is derived from the difference between the growth rate of the general population and the rate of natural increase (the difference between the birth rate and the death rate) during the same period. Such calculations are usually done for intercensus periods.

B. Contributions of migration to development

1. Demographic dimension

(v) Contribution of net migration to population growth

Definition. It links the net migration rate and the population growth rate in a given period of time.

Calculation methodology. Ratio between both rates, expressed as a percentage.

Data sources. Population censuses and population estimates and projections.

Comment. This indicator can be disaggregated by region of the destination country. Based on the number of immigrants who contribute to population growth, as well as emigrants, the change in the relative weight of migratory exchanges in demographic dynamics can be obtained.

(vi) Percentage of children born to foreign-born mothers

Definition. Percentage of children born to foreign-born mothers out of total births (children to non-migrant and immigrant mothers).

Calculation methodology. Ratio between the annual numbers of births.

Data sources. Vital statistics.

Comment. Indicator illustrating the relevance of migration to reproductive behaviour.

2. Economic dimension

(vii) Percentage of economically active population born abroad (non-migrant and immigrant)

Definition. Percentage of the economically active migrant population (or labour force, defined as persons aged 15 years and over working or seeking work) compared to the total economically active population in the destination country.

Calculation methodology. Ratio between both populations.

Data sources. Population censuses and household surveys.

Comment. The disaggregation by sex is relevant because it allows us to reflect the classic gender division in the world of work.

(viii) Economically active population by main branch of economic activity according to migratory status

Definition. Economically active migrant population and national total present in the various branches of activities.

The main branches of activity are the primary sector (agriculture, livestock, hunting, forestry and fishing), the secondary sector (industry and construction), and the tertiary sector (trade and services).

Calculation methodology. Ratio between both populations.

Data sources. Household surveys and population censuses.

Comments. It is recommended that the indicator be disaggregated by sex, since the participation of immigrants in the labour market of economic sectors varies according to whether they are men or women. In addition, it is recommended that the distribution of employment be disaggregated by more specific economic branches within the three sectors, such as care, trade, construction, transport, social services, among others.

(ix) **Unemployment rate by immigration status**

Definition. Unemployment rate of the population aged 15 and over in total population and foreign-born.

Calculation methodology. Ratio between the population (aged 15 and over) looking for a job and the economically active population (aged 15 and over) comprising the employed and the unemployed.

Data sources. Household surveys and population censuses.

Comments. The unemployed are those members of the labour force who are not working and are actively looking for jobs. They are represented by the difference between the economically active population (or the supply of manpower in the labour market) and the employed population (comprising full-time employees or underemployed persons).

(x) **Percentage of employed population contributing to a pension scheme, by immigration status**

Definition. Percentage of employed non-migrant population and foreign-born population aged 15 and over that respectively contribute to a pension scheme.

Calculation methodology. For each population, ratio between contributors and employed persons.

Data sources. Pension statistics and household surveys.

Comments. This indicator can be disaggregated by sex, since there are major differences between the contribution paid by immigrant and non-migrant women (ECLAC/ILO, 2017). Migrant workers face obstacles in terms of access to this right. Limitations on access to social protection are due, first and foremost, to nationality and territoriality requirements (ILO, 2021), but they are also due to the fact that migrant workers are in informal, low-skilled, temporary, seasonal or casual jobs.

(xi) **Contribution of the labour force to GDP according to migratory status**

Definition. The contribution of the labour force to GDP according to migratory status is an estimate of the contribution to national economic dynamics, based on the monetary value of GDP generated by the immigrant labour force. This indicator is disaggregated by the migratory status of the labour force and is expressed in United States dollars.

Calculation methodology. The indicator is constructed from a model of disaggregation of national GDP, based on a factor of disaggregation of GDP and the labour force, which are both compatible and linked in a theoretical and methodological way (Canales, 2022a and 2022b).

Data sources. The data needed to measure this indicator are household surveys (and/or employment surveys depending on the data available) and national accounts. For example, in Chile, estimates are made, for GDP data, based on national accounts and data recorded by the Central Bank of Chile on estimates and measurements of national accounts, and for the employed labour force, based on National Socioeconomic Surveys. The Surveys allow, on the one hand, for access to the variable of the place of birth, thereby facilitating the classification of the population and, on the other hand, the reconstruction of the same classification of the economic sectors used by the Central Bank of Chile (Canales, 2022a and 2022b).

Comment. The value of the contribution of the immigrant labour force allows us to evaluate the change in the national GDP due to international migrant workers.

This indicator illustrates that, although the immigrant labour force represents, in general, minority percentage at the national level, it can contribute significantly to the economic dynamics of the country.

(xii) Contribution of the migrant population to the collection of indirect taxes

Definition. Percentage of annual expenditure on indirect taxes of the migrant population compared to the non-migrant population.

Calculation methodology. The contribution of the immigrant population to taxes can be calculated based on the general sales tax or VAT. To measure this indicator, goods and services are identified, to which the tax rate and a place of purchase are assigned for each. Based on this information, the calculation is done according to the percentage of tax that should be paid for each good or service of the amount paid for general sales tax/VAT. In order to separate the immigrant population from the non-migrant population, the per capita amount in each household is estimated.

Data sources. The main data sources are national household surveys and national household income and expenditure surveys. The sources of taxes paid by the migrant population can also be found in the data of the Internal Revenue Service of the destination countries.

Comment. This indicator is based on estimates and measurements referring to a single type of tax based on the sales of goods and services. Therefore, this indicator must be used and interpreted with caution and data sources must be improved in order to strengthen its measurement. Indicator analysed in a national study of Peru (Vásquez and Aguilar, 2022).

(xiii) Percentage of remittances in GDP

Definition. This indicator refers to the percentage that remittances represent in the GDP of the migrant population's countries of origin, compared to the other variables that make up GDP.

Calculation methodology. Ratio between income from remittances and domestic product.

Data sources. National accounts.

Comments. The indicator of remittances as a percentage of GDP allows for the observation of the change in the contribution of this income to the domestic economy of the receiving countries over time. Remittances are also regarded as a component of household income.

3. Sociocultural dimension**(xiv) Political participation rate**

Definition. Percentage of migrants on the electoral roll out of the total population on the electoral roll.

Calculation methodology. Ratio between both population groups.

Data sources. Actual participation can be gleaned from the electoral roll, provided that it captures the country of origin or migratory status of those registered. This rate of political participation can be complemented and deepened with specific surveys that reflect participation in political groups, interest in holding public office, interest in political participation, public positions held by migrants, among others.

Comment. Generating data on the political participation of the migrant population allows us to learn about the presence of migrants as persons with political rights. This measure reflects, in turn, the potential impact and relevance of the migrant population in political life and public decision-making. It also allows for the representation of their interests and the recognition of their needs in the host society.

(xv) School attendance of the non-migrant population and foreign-born population

Definition. Percentage of immigrant students enrolled compared to the total enrolment in the school system in the country of residence.

Calculation methodology. Ratio between both populations.

Data sources. Education records.

Comment. **Disaggregated by sex and age groups (6–24 years; 6–12; 13–19; 20–24 years), by country of origin** (thousands of people). This percentage can be disaggregated by level of education, that is, primary, secondary, and higher education.

(xvi) Annual number of marriages and binational civil union agreements

Definition. Number of unions of couples formalized and formed by individuals of different nationalities per year.

Calculation methodology. Compilation of direct sources.

Data sources. Vital statistics.

Comment. This indicator should be disaggregated by country of origin. It allows for a better understanding of the representation of intercultural families in a specific national context.

C. Structural conditions of countries

This category aims to describe the international and national structural conditions that exist in a national territory, which affect the migrant population.

(xvii) Accession to international instruments on migration

Definition. The number of bilateral and multilateral migration agreements in force and ratified by the country is a quantitative indicator that establishes a numbered list of different instruments, binding or not, that guarantee safe, orderly and regular migration between two or more States, including the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Calculation methodology. Identification of existing and ratified instruments.

Data sources. The sources that contribute to the construction of this indicator are many, depending on each country and the portals of the United Nations and regional organizations. In the case of Chile, the sources are the Undersecretariat for International Economic Relations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Library of the National Congress of Chile. In the case of Mexico, the information is found in the Information System of International Trade Agreements of the Secretariat of Economic Affairs. In the case of Costa Rica and Peru, the data sources are the Information System on Foreign Trade, and the Organization of American States, along with the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism in the case of Peru. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) also has an online database (Migration Law Database) in which both regional and international instruments and standards can be found.

Comment. At the bilateral level, countries have developed coordination mechanisms to attend to and identify victims of trafficking, among others. At the global level, the international community is committed to establishing regulatory frameworks on international migration.

IV. Final thoughts

Based on the studies and workshops conducted within the context of the project and the indicators suggested for the measurement and monitoring of the contributions of international migration, several lessons have been learned and recommendations have been made at the national and local levels for the design of evidence-based public policies.

One of the main challenges for migrants in terms of contributing to sustainable development is the promotion of multilevel governance of human mobility. This means establishing clear responsibilities both between and within countries. Intergovernmental coordination is key to preventing people from migrating under vulnerable conditions and, in turn, it allows for migration to be safe, orderly and regular.

In this regard, countries must have updated legislation that is in line with international law that facilitates regularization and protects the fundamental rights of migrants, in order to reduce the high level of informality of migrants and, in turn, prevent persons from migrating and living in vulnerable conditions.

The contributions of migrants mentioned in the document can be a great opportunity for development. Most migrants are young and of working age. This generates a contribution in demographic terms by delaying ageing and, in economic terms, by filling labour gaps in specific sectors in the destination countries. Destination countries of migrant labour also profit from not having invested in migrant worker training. The commonly mentioned flip side of these gains for destination countries is remittances, but in most cases, these are not comparable to the cost of the loss of migrants' productive potential in their countries of origin.

While recognizing the multiple contributions of migration to development, negative perceptions about migration continue to encourage xenophobic actions and discourse, racism and discrimination against migrants. In order for migrant populations to fully contribute, actions must be taken for the construction of well-informed discourse on migration. Some strategies suggested are awareness-raising campaigns that highlight the contributions of migration and can help to change perceptions about migration. A new narrative about migration must be developed and disseminated that permeates public discourse and the media. This new affirmative and evidence-based narrative must incorporate an intercultural perspective, that is respectful of human rights and decisively challenges the discourse of hatred, violence and rejection of migration. In this regard, the contributions project produced audiovisual material to disseminate the results of the studies and thus help to disseminate the findings and evidence on the contributions

of migration to a wider audience.²⁵ In addition, evidence suggests that in order to change perceptions about migration, non-hierarchical meeting spaces must be created, intercultural education must be promoted and the exchange of experiences and learning between the local population and migrants must be facilitated. These spaces are essential for combating prejudices and achieving understanding between migrants and non-migrants.

To develop a new narrative, work must continue on the generation of evidence of the contributions of migration and the production and use of data on international migration must be bolstered. To this end, there must be updated, disaggregated and comparable data over time and between countries.

International migration is a complex, dynamic reality with challenges at multiple levels. Therefore, there must be an adequate characterization of the national and regional migrant population to detect specific profiles and needs in order to design contextual public policies appropriate to each reality. To this end, it is suggested that different methodologies be employed, both quantitative and qualitative, using traditional sources, such as population and housing censuses and household surveys, as well as specific surveys, administrative records and new data collection techniques (narrative techniques, use of big data, multi-sited ethnography and participatory techniques).²⁶

At the level of local governance, the challenge faced by local governments to manage migration is multifaceted and, above all, is exacerbated in areas that have a greater influx of migrants, where the challenge includes effectively managing new and large population flows in short periods of time. Based on the analysis of the working groups at the national workshops, some recommendations were made at this level of action, for example: the recognition and individualization of cases; facilitation of information and access to services; the need for more trained staff; more financial resources for migration management; and work on prejudices about migration. To support the contribution of migrants at this level, migration policies must be formulated that guarantee the continuity of policies and programmes that target the migrant population and they must not be subject to administrative rotation at the central and local levels. There is a proposal for the recognition and strengthening of institutional allies at the national and regional levels, such as Civil Society Organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, which are capable of guaranteeing this continuity.

In order for migrants to fully contribute, the migrant population must be empowered by strengthening information channels on the dangers of undocumented and uninformed migration, informing them about their rights, opportunities, institutional processes and the contextual conditions in the destination country. The experts suggest that actions be taken to avoid the discretionary approach at the service windows of public entities, by instituting transparency mechanisms and publicizing legislation and administrative and institutional processes, in order to facilitate access to rights and services through regularization, making the regulations known at the grass-roots level.

Lastly, to reduce emigration and encourage migration by choice, emphasis must be placed on territorial development and the creation of job opportunities for potential migrants. Although investing in local development is a structural and long-term issue, taking actions that are targeted towards it is essential in order to prevent uninformed and vulnerable migration.

These are just some actions and recommendations to bear in mind in order to continue promoting safe, orderly and regular migration, and in turn, support migrants' contribution to sustainable development.

²⁵ For the audiovisual materials created within the framework of the contributions project, see [online] <https://www.cepal.org/en/videos/how-does-international-migration-contribute-sustainable-development-latin-america-and>.

²⁶ The emergence of multi-sited ethnography is located within new spheres of interdisciplinary work, including media studies, science and technology studies, and cultural studies in general. Several "follow-up" strategies have been considered that shape ethnographic research across multiple sites, tracking people, things, metaphors, biographies, and conflicts (Marcus, 1995).

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This document presents the results of five studies on the contribution of migration to sustainable development in a selection of Latin American and Caribbean countries (Chile, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Mexico and Peru), within the framework of a project under the twelfth tranche United Nations Development Account entitled “Harnessing the contribution of international migration to sustainable development in Latin American and Caribbean countries”, implemented by ECLAC between 2020 and 2023. Evidence from economic, demographic and cultural studies is compared using quantitative and qualitative methodologies. An analysis is provided with regard to the dissemination of the studies in national workshops, which were delivered using an expository and participatory methodology to encourage relevant actors and decision makers to engage in discussions that would be useful for designing public policies based on evidence and the protection of rights. Lastly, the document includes a list of proposed indicators on the contributions of migration to development, as well as reflections and recommendations to guide and facilitate the work of policymakers on migration.

