

4 STEPS TO DATA, RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS FOR POLICYMAKING

While each policy stage requires information and analysis to inform its work, this stage focuses on collecting the evidence required to understand the issue identified and its context.



1

IDENTIFY WHAT EVIDENCE IS NEEDED

- What data, research and analysis are needed to understand the issue and assess the risks and benefits involved?
- What data are needed to inform policy options to address the issue identified?

2

REVIEW AND COLLECT EVIDENCE

- What are the relevant sources of data, research and analysis at the national and subnational levels?
- What are the relevant sources of data internationally?
- How are other States addressing the issue? Consider what global and regional practices exist.
- What relevant signed or ratified international norms need to be considered?

SOURCES OF DATA

Consider available sources of data, such as

- Statistical sources (e.g., census and surveys),
- Administrative sources (e.g., border control and visa),
- Data innovation and new sources (e.g., big data and the Internet)
- Other data sources (e.g., NGOs, international organizations)

For more information on accessing relevant data see the EMM2.0 Handbook

3

ASSESS INFORMATION GAPS

- What information gaps exist in relation to the issue that has been identified?
- Is commissioning your own data collection, research and analysis an option? Consider the importance of the issue and whether sufficient time and resources are available. See more on commissioning research and using research and analysis to inform policymaking in the EMM2.0 Handbook
- Is there a need to develop data capacity around this issue? Find guidance on how to develop data capacity to meet policy needs in the EMM2.0 Handbook

4

ENSURE THAT THE EVIDENCE IS CREDIBLE

- Is the data that has been collected neutral, reliable and of good quality?
- Are there diverse types of evidence that lead to similar advice?
- Is the evidence from a credible and reliable source? Find guidance using research and analysis to inform policymaking in the EMM2.0 Handbook

SAFEGUARD PERSONAL DATA

- What issues of privacy and data protection may be important to consider?
- What data protection safeguards are in place?



Improper use and unauthorized disclosure of personal data may result in a variety of risks to the migrant

- A migrant's personal data need to remain confidential. Unnecessary, unwanted disclosure of personal data should be prevented. For guidance on data protection frameworks and using data for policymaking see the EMM2.0 Handbook.
- Bear in mind that data protection needs to be considered throughout planning, collecting and processing data.

CHALLENGES TO EVIDENCE-BASED POLICYMAKING

Using standardized concepts and definitions	Different definitions and concepts are being used within and across countries. To compare migration data, comparable data is required. See concepts and definitions of migration data that are crucial to enable comparability (e.g., what is a migrant, stocks, flows, etc.) in Data for policymaking in the EMM2.0 Handbook.
Ensuring that data is timely and sound	Data needs to be credible, timely and of good quality to enable informed policies and monitoring of programme activities.
Addressing existing data gaps	Data gaps may exist in different policy sectors such as demographically disaggregated data and types of migrants.
Accommodating contrasts in how policy and research sectors operate	For instance, when looking to fill data gaps by commissioning new research, remember that research timelines can be lengthy while policymakers usually work with time pressures.
Recognizing potential bias	Answers to data collection instruments such as surveys can be biased. How migration data is interpreted and how data is used in the policymaking process can also be influenced. Actors with power may be more interested in evidence that is closer to their political ideology.



2
Data, research
and analysis
for policymaking

! *Data, research, and analysis is needed throughout the policy cycle*

POLICY CYCLE STAGE	ROLE OF EVIDENCE	TYPE OF EVIDENCE
ISSUE IDENTIFICATION AND DEFINITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify new issues Identify the magnitude and the urgency of an issue Identify data that will need to be collected and the risks and benefits of data collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence on the scale and urgency of an issue Evidence of different dimensions of an issue and of causal relationships between the factors underpinning the issue Analysis of risks and benefits of addressing the issue Analysis of data gaps and issues of privacy and data protection
DATA, RESEARCH & ANALYSIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse aspects of the issue in more detail Inform the development of policy options Shed light on factors influencing policy choices Analyse data gaps and issues relating to privacy and data protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Migration data pertinent to the issue from national and subnational sources Research and analysis describing good practices from other States Guidelines, agreements, initiatives and relevant evidence at the regional and global levels Updated risk and benefit assessments for data protection

POLICY CYCLE STAGE	ROLE OF EVIDENCE	TYPE OF EVIDENCE
POLICY FORMULATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform the appraisal stage of Policy Formulation • Clarify the link between an action and the potential outcome (i.e. will the intervention cause the desired effect?) as well as its expected cost and impact • Support the various assessments required (regulation impact; legal implications; risk; human rights compatibility; financial analysis) • Evaluate practical aspects of policy design to inform selection of policies, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ whether a proposal is desirable; coherent with other policies; timely; feasible (i.e. can be regulated and administered; is affordable; can mobilize relevant actors within necessary timeframes; will be tolerated by the public); ◆ how it can be evaluated • Provide a comprehensive understanding of the issue and the available policy options • Clarify possibilities for implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert reports; testimony; national and/or international jurisprudence • Analysis correlating the suggested policy options with potential outcomes • Analysis of policy options' impact, legal implications, risk, compliance with international standards such as human rights compatibility, financial situation and cost-benefit, gender-responsiveness and feasibility • There should be diverse and credible types of evidence that lead to the same or similar policy proposals
CONSULTATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For stakeholders, evidence will help to clarify perspectives and positions in the discussions during consultations. Such communication of the policies can encourage their buy-in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence supporting the perspectives of different stakeholders • Evidence supporting the policy options under discussion
POLICY ADOPTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantiate the policy option to be adopted to support decision-making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and analysis (reports, briefs, academic papers) that support the policy to be adopted
POLICY IMPLEMENTATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the effectiveness of initiatives aiming to implement the policy • Communicate the policy and its changes to relevant stakeholders and the public in a clear and convincing way 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fit-for-purpose explanatory documentation setting out evidence behind the policy rationale • Operational evidence, such as analytic work and systematic learning around technical skills, for instance via action research and pilot projects
POLICY MONITORING & EVALUATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess how effective the implemented policy has been and provide the basis for future decision-making • Inform the continuing policy process • Review risks and benefits to verify any new data protection gaps and issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective, thorough and relevant monitoring of evidence collected systematically (reports) • Recommendations regarding whether and how a policy should be adjusted, extended, terminated based on results • Monitoring reports