

Working with international partners to amplify reach

CASE STUDY



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MIDEQ has worked closely with five international organisations since its inception: the International Organisation for Migration (IOM); the International Labour Organisation (ILO); UN Human Rights (OHCHR); the UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) which has UN observer status. All are formal, funded, partners and were involved in co-producing the proposal and subsequent plans. In addition, MIDEQ is informally partnered with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) through Co-Director Alison Phipps, UNESCO Chair of Refugee Integration through Languages and the Arts and Professor Tim Unwin (WP9), UNESCO Chair in ICT4D.

International organisations have leverage within the international arena, yet, to date, they have often lacked knowledge and research on the relationships between South-South Migration, inequality, and delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As this knowledge gap was the overall rationale for establishing MIDEQ, international partners have proactively engaged from the start providing solid foundations for MIDEQ impact. The funding model for MIDEQ's collaboration with OECD and UN partners is highly innovative for academic institutions in the UK which normally engage staff from these organisations on a non-costed basis as external advisory committees. It was designed to secure more far-reaching development impacts.

The provision of resources for UN and OECD staff has resulted in significant leverage and progress towards the delivery of co-designed and co-produced programmes of work. Specifically, the MIDEQ Theory of Change (ToC) sets out that we: inform, influence and challenge migration policy and practice at national, regional and global levels through strategic engagement with local project partners and national governments in ODA-recipient countries and with regional migration governance actors and institutions, and through our collaboration with our international partners (ILO, IOM, OECD, UNRISD and UN Human Rights). MIDEQ's UN partners (and OECD.) are actively engaged and committed to MIDEQ and its work. All are members of the MIDEQ Executive Group and participated in our annual meetings including in Accra, Nairobi and virtually (2019-2021). At these meetings, representatives engaged in discussions about methodology, the Hub's ToC, impact-related activities and conceptual development. UN representatives have also participated in the regular MIDEQ seminars (internal and external), contributing to two UN and OECD panels (February 2020, October 2019).

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MIDEQ's work with international partners has already delivered some significant achievements:

- MIDEQ Director Professor Heaven Crawley has advised UN Human Rights on the production of the [Seven Key Elements on Building Human Rights Narratives on Migrants and Migration](#). This online toolkit addresses the “[d]iscrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, hate speech and hate crime [which] have a severe impact on the human rights of migrants”. The toolkit informed the development of MIDEQ's [Story of Migration](#) animation produced in collaboration with PositiveNegatives. Both initiatives support: 1) the [United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action against Hate Speech](#) to counter hate speech, including in the context of migration which was launched by the UN Secretary General in 2019; 2) the GCM commitment to ‘promote an open and evidence-based public discourse on migration and migrants in partnership with all parts of society, that generates a more realistic, humane and constructive perception in this regard’ (Objective 17). Most recently Professor Crawley's work has informed UN Human Rights' online campaign [#Standup4migrants](#) which provides resources to help people tell a new story of migration, one of hope, shared values and human rights;
- MIDEQ Co-Investigator Dr Katharine Jones (WP5) co-organised IOM's [Global Conference on the Regulation of International Recruitment and Protection of Migrant Workers](#) held in partnership with the government of Canada, the US Department of State, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and the Province of Quebec. Over 100 senior policymakers, leading experts, and practitioners representing Ministries of Labour, Foreign Affairs and Immigration from 30 UN Member States led a global dialogue to create clear, practical guidance to better monitor the private recruitment industry and protect migrant workers through the process of recruitment, deployment, and employment. Dr Jones subsequently prepared practical policy guidelines for UN member states published as the [Montreal Recommendations on Recruitment](#). This document is referred to by IOM as a “flagship resource” addressing 1) Global Compact on Migration Objective 6: Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment in the context of decent work, and 2) SDG 10.7 Facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration. In 2020 IOM launched the [UN Global Policy Network on Ethical Recruitment](#) to promote implementation of the guidelines drafted by Dr Jones with IOM and the UN Member States;
- In 2019, Dr Katja Hujo (UNRISD) produced a MIDEQ blog addressing the question of [why we need better migration governance for achieving the SDGs](#). Dr Hujo has also been working very closely with researchers on WP1 (gender equality);
- MIDEQ researchers have contributed to *Development Matters*, a platform hosted by OECD that offers open discussions on development opportunities and challenges. Blogs featured on the platform include: [The potential of migration for development in Afghanistan](#) (Dr Nassim Majidi); [Social](#)

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[protection and risk: the ultimate root cause of migration?](#) (Dr Jason Gagnon and Dr Jessica Hagen-Zanker); [Haitian families and loss of remittances during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) (Dr Toni Cela and Professor Louis HERNs Marcelin); and [Why understanding the relationship between migration and inequality may be the key to Africa's development](#) (Professor Heaven Crawley);

- In Spring 2021, Co-Is from WP1 (Professor Nicola Piper) and WP5 (Dr Katharine Jones) presented to the newly established [ILO Knowledge Hub on Fair Recruitment](#). Drawing on emerging analysis from the MIDEQ Hub, Professor Piper and Dr Jones have produced a report entitled [Locked Down and in Limbo](#) which examines the global impacts of COVID-19 on migrant worker rights and recruitment published in November 2021. This contributes to 1) SGD 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth, and 2) SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities;
- Dr Jason Gagnon (OECD), Dr Jessica Hagen-Zanker and Dr Carmen Leon-Himmelstine (WP4) have collaborated on a paper on *Social Protection and Emigration* due to be published shortly. The paper reviews evidence on social protection policies and migration contributing to 1) SDG Target 1.3 implement social protection systems, 2) the ILO and ITUC global campaign on extending social protection to migrant workers; and
- MIDEQ Hub researchers, including from the Global South, have contributed to a range of UN and OECD policy fora including the OECD Policy Dialogue held annually. OECD and UNRISD also participated in a MIDEQ panel chaired by Professor Joseph Teye (Ghana) on the importance of South-South migration for development at the 2019 European Development Days event in Brussels.

Evidence-based policy is at the heart of the adoption of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and SDG Target 10.7 (Facilitating Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration). Collating and analysing evidence is therefore a significant area of programming for international organisations. MIDEQ is contributing to this work. First and foremost, access to improved knowledge through MIDEQ is enabling IOM, ILO, UN Human Rights to offer better quality and more nuanced technical assistance to states on the topic of migration in relation to south-south migration, inequality and the SDGs. For instance, IOM is the Secretariat for the multi-agency UN Network on Migration which will act as a “source of ideas, tools, reliable data and information, analysis, and policy guidance on migration issues, including through the capacity-building mechanism established in the GCM.” ILO is responsible for measuring 14 SDG Indicators, and is an active contributor to the World Bank’s Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development. For the OECD Development Centre, robust research evidence is also pivotal to the technical assistance they offer to developing countries and emerging economies to find innovative policy solutions to promote sustainable growth, and reduce poverty and inequalities. By extending the

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reach of MIDEQ's work through international organisations we hope ultimately that migrants themselves will become beneficiaries of the Hub's work.



Cover image

The flags of the 32 countries. Photo by Nick Fewings via Unsplash . CC BY-NC 2.0

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