



IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental body, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration, advance understanding of migration issues, encourage social and economic development through migration, and work towards effective respect of the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

IOM Language Training

IOM's language training courses for migrants and refugees provide participants with language skills that enable them to cope independently with their most immediate needs in their new country while also preparing them for post-arrival experiences which may also include employment.

Newly settled migrants and refugees are equipped with functional and practical language skills to carry out simple tasks required of them during their first few months in-country. With these skills comes an increased level of respect towards the newcomers as host communities are able to communicate and understand them, and respond to their needs. Governments also gain through decreased costs as newcomers become self-sufficient sooner and productive members of the receiving society. All in all, it is an empowering experience for all.

One of the principal features of IOM language training is that language is taught for the purpose of practical communication, rather than as an academic exercise. Each training course is tailored to fit the needs of the particular target population. The focus is more on speaking and listening, although reading and writing skills are also addressed, with reference to real situations. Grammar is learned by deduction. Explanations and translations are not normally provided, and whenever possible the target language is used as the medium of instruction with a focus on language acquisition rather than formal language learning.



IOM International Organization for Migration

For more information please contact:

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Programmes and Experiences (past and present)

- English, French and German language training for migrant workers in construction and hotel industries in Germany, Luxembourg and Switzerland. English language training for migrants bound for Australia, Canada, UK and the US.
- English language training for overseas contract workers in Bangladesh, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.
- English and French language instruction for refugees bound for Canada from Austria, Croatia, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Italy, Philippines, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Thailand and Vietnam.
- German and Hungarian language training for Bosnian refugees settling in Austria and Hungary, respectively.
- Arabic language training in Bangladesh for contract workers bound for the Middle East is underway.
- English language training in Bangladesh for migrant workers developed through a consultative process with relevant government stakeholders, private sector as well as returned and potential migrants. The training intended for migrants, in particular, nurses and hotel workers, will assist them in carrying out job interviews, and improving their general ability to function in English in both a social as well as work environment.
- English language training combined with cultural orientation for African refugees bound for the UK hosted in camps in Kenya, Uganda and Zambia; for Burmese, and Karen refugees hosted in camps in Thailand; and for Burmese Rohingya, hosted in camps in Bangladesh. The focus is on functional and practical language skills that complement the orientation topics and further prepare refugees for everyday tasks they will face in their new country.
- English and French language training under “Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada” programme. It was meant to facilitate early settlement and adaptation through acquisition of language skills, to provide migrants with factual information and cultural insights of Canada to cope with immediate needs upon arrival, and to foster the development of self directed learning as a means of successful integration into Canadian society.
- Combined cultural orientation and language training course in former Yugoslavia to refugees bound for Australia. The language training was based on “functional” approach, that is, the language taught was that which would have an immediate usefulness upon arrival.
- Combined cultural orientation and Italian language training for migrant workers bound for Italy from Albania, Sri Lanka, Moldova and Tunisia as well as programme / curriculum design and training of trainers for “Italian as second language” trainers.
- Survival literacy and numeracy classes for US-bound refugees hosted in Kenya. Six months classes to supplement cultural orientation provided to over 5,000 Somali refugees.
- English language training in Sri Lanka for migrant domestic workers and overseas jobseekers. Activities include curriculum design as well as training of trainers.

Contact Information

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