THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION’S IMMIGRATION AND BORDER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES

The ability to address migration issues comprehensively and cooperatively is today a fundamental requirement for responsible national governance, effective international relations and full participation in international or regional institutions. While the prevailing view is that migration has been mainly a positive force for development in both countries of origin and destination, unregulated migration can have social, financial and political costs for individuals, societies and governments alike. Comprehensive, transparent and coherent approaches to immigration and border management processes, involving all countries in the migration continuum, can help minimize the negative impact of migration and preserve its integrity as a natural social process.

As the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration, IOM is increasingly called upon by States to assist in addressing complex border management challenges. The Immigration and Border Management (IBM) Team, consisting of a core group of specialists with substantial technical expertise and strong border management experience, posted to strategic locations in the field as well as in IOM headquarters, has been established to offer guidance and expertise to governments aspiring to improve their migration and border management and operational procedures.

In support of IOM strategy, IBM activities are directed at helping governments create policy, legislation, administrative structures, operational systems and the human resource base necessary to respond effectively to diverse migration challenges and to institute appropriate migration governance. Such activities are designed as partnerships, with the requesting government and other relevant interlocutors working closely with the IBM Team to identify needs, determine priority areas, and shape and deliver interventions.

The IBM portfolio is steadily growing, with over 300 active projects valued at nearly USD 90 million implemented worldwide in 2010.

OUR OBJECTIVE

OFFER GUIDANCE AND EXPERTISE TO STATES ASPIRING TO IMPROVE THEIR IMMIGRATION AND BORDER MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES AND RELATED OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES
AREAS OF EXPERTISE

IOM’s Immigration and Border Management Programmes are often transversal and comprehensive by nature, and encompass seven broad areas of expertise.

BORDER AND MIGRATION MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENTS

IOM conducts migration and border management assessments that allow States to identify areas for development. Assessments focus on administration, regulatory frameworks, operations, and information management systems. Since 2005, the IBM Team has conducted over 25 assessments, notably in Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Sierra Leone and Uganda.

CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR BORDER AND MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

IOM assists States in the process of enhancing their ability to achieve high performance and sustainable results. At the request of interested governments, IOM develops and implements Capacity Building in Management (CBMM) Programmes that are ideally put in place after an assessment mission. More specifically, CBMM Programmes are designed to be implemented in one to two years and put emphasis on three areas that are crucial for the emergence of strong and sustainable structures: developing institutional capacity, developing human capacity and developing operational capacity. In this framework, the IBM Team shapes and delivers training courses for migration officials, as well as “training of trainers” programmes. On a regional scale, IOM’s African Capacity Building Centre (ACBC) provides considerable IBM experience within Africa.

BORDER MANAGEMENT

IOM supports States in strengthening the operational capability of border crossing points, in enhancing border management information systems and related procedures, and in enabling concerted border management cooperation and long term regional synergies. In the Philippines, IOM helped develop a memorandum of understanding between government agencies to increase data sharing. In the Western Balkans and Turkey, an integrated border management model is being implemented, guiding the development of functional, effective and integral border management systems based on risk management and in line with European Union standards.

IDENTITY MANAGEMENT

IOM assists States in assessing and improving the security of their identity documents, especially travel documents, and related issuance and management systems, with a focus on effective, robust and internationally compliant processes. The IBM Team is committed to put in place full identity management chains, from the delivery of reliable breeder documents such as birth certificates, to the issuing of secure identity and travel documents. In 2009 and within the ICAO framework, IOM conducted identity management assessments in Haiti together with Passport Canada as well as in Armenia in cooperation with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

CURBING PEOPLE SMUGGLING

IOM supports States to embed procedures that permit law enforcement agencies to more effectively target those responsible for organizing people smuggling while at the same time complementing activity against trafficking in human beings. The IBM Team for instance helps governments to identify technical equipment required to help detect irregular migrants at border crossings, such as X-ray vehicle scanners or surveillance cameras. IOM’s Personal Information and Registration System (PIRS) can also be a valuable tool to fight smuggling, since it can be connected to national and international alert lists such as Interpol’s I-24/7 Global Communication System.

MIGRATION DATA MANAGEMENT, INTELLIGENCE AND RISK ANALYSIS

IOM supports States and government agencies to shape proactive migration policies through improved migration data collection and management. Knowing that well-designed border management systems can tremendously boost the ability of States to manage their borders, IOM has developed its own Border Management Information System, called the Personal Identification and Registration System (PIRS). This IT-enabled system allows to collect, store and process information on travelers entering and exiting border points for the purpose of statistical analysis, identification and/or authentication, and has already been installed in 15 African countries.

IMMIGRATION AND VISA SUPPORT SOLUTIONS

IOM assists immigration departments to better manage their visa application caseloads, by providing tailored support solutions designed to enhance data collection, streamline processes, eliminate time-consuming administrative functions, lower costs, improve service standards, combat fraud and strengthen security at diplomatic missions. IOM’s service solutions simplify the visa application process for applicants and aim to ensure that only properly completed applications are submitted. In 2010, IOM assisted in the processing of over 56,000 individuals, primarily migrants bound for Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States of America.

THIS PUBLIC RELATIONS SET will guide you through the activities carried out by IOM in the framework of its Immigration and Border Management Programmes:

- General Overview
- Border and Migration Management Assessments
- Capacity Building for Border and Migration Management
- Training for Border and Migration Management Officials
- Integrated Border Management
- Identity Management
- Data Management, Intelligence and Risk Analysis
- Border Management Information Systems
- PIRS: the Personal Identification and Registration System
- People Smuggling
- Immigration and Visa Support Solutions
- Visa Application Centres
- Document Integrity and Verification Solutions
- Publications and Training Manuals

IOM TODAY

MORE THAN 140 MEMBER STATES
MORE THAN 400 FIELD LOCATIONS
7,300 STAFF WORKING ON 2,900 ACTIVE PROJECTS
MORE THAN USD 1.4 BILLION EXPENDITURES IN 2010

IOM IS COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLE THAT HUMANE AND ORDERLY MIGRATION BENEFITS MIGRANTS AND SOCIETY. AS AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION, 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.