



THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION AND BORDER MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS

As pressure grows on states to process ever growing numbers of genuine travellers into and out of their territory, while at the same time combating transnational criminality including people smuggling and trafficking in persons, nations are becoming aware of the need to turn to technology in order to help shape their response to these challenges. The introduction of a well designed Border Management Information System (BMIS) is the obvious answer to these issues.

BMIS are IT-based solutions designed to:

- Record passenger movements more accurately;
- Contribute significantly to the collection and processing of reliable and timely statistical migration data;
- Assist in the formulation of strategic and tactical intelligence to inform proactive migration policies; and
- Provide functionality such as watch listing, support to visa issuance, document fraud detection, biometric collection and the use of Advanced Passenger Information (API) for automated risk analysis, pre-arrival processing and screening and intelligence development.

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, including helping to provide increased capacity in these specific areas. 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.

OUR OBJECTIVE

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TO ASSIST STATES IN KEEPING PACE WITH 21ST CENTURY DEMANDS ON THEIR BORDER MANAGEMENT RESOURCES

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IOM International Organization for Migration

INTRODUCING THE PERSONAL INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION SYSTEM (PIRS)

To help reach this objective, IOM has developed its own BMIS, the Personal Identification and Registration System (PIRS) - a cost-effective, tailored solution designed to meet today's immigration and border management challenges.

PIRS is designed to collect, process and store travellers' information at entry and exit border posts, including bio-data, for the purpose of identification, authentication and migration data collection and analysis. It aims to:

- Improve border facilitation and control for exit and entry through real-time information gathering and connection to national and international alert lists, including Interpol's Stolen and Lost Travel Documents (SLTD) database;
- Enable information collection, processing and dissemination in support of data analysis and migration intelligence;
- Support enhanced migration and border management by informing the optimum deployment of human and financial resources at borders, as well as efforts to strengthen and fine-tune migration policies.

To date, PIRS has been installed in more than ten African countries and will soon be implemented in Central Asia and Central America.



BEFORE PIRS: MANUAL RECORDING OF THOSE PASSING THROUGH THE BORDER AND NO POSSIBILITY TO CHECK ALERT LISTS OF WANTED PERSONS.



AFTER PIRS: TRAVELLER DATA CAPTURE INCLUDING PASSPORT READER, WEBCAM IMAGE AND FINGERPRINT CAPTURE. CAPACITY TO CHECK TRAVELLERS AGAINST UPDATED WATCH LISTS.

THE TANZANIAN EXPERIENCE

Drawing from the interest of the Government of Tanzania and with funding from the Finnish Government and the United Nations JP 6.1 programme, IOM Tanzania launched a Capacity Building for Migration Management project (CBMM) concentrating on the North Western Borders of Tanzania in 2003. This multifaceted project focuses on capacity building of border officials and modernization of border infrastructure and equipment. To achieve these two objectives, tailored training was delivered to border officials and IT equipment was delivered and installed at border posts, in order to reduce processing times at entry and exit points.

It is important to point out that the project aims at enhancing the capacity of border officials from all relevant border agencies, situated on both sides of the borders of neighbouring East African Community states (Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya and Uganda) to foster enhanced cooperation and information sharing.

Twenty one locations in three States have been upgraded to fully computerized migration systems through the installation of the Personal Identification Registration System (PIRS) and are fully functional. As a result, officials are able to capture and produce migration statistics and data that, once shared at policy level, enables to shape adapted national and regional migration policies.

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.