Since its foundation in 1951, a primary function of the International Organization for Migration has been “to concern itself with the organized transfer of refugees, displaced persons and other individuals in need of migration services” (Art. 1§1b of the IOM Constitution). Furthermore, being mandated to deal with internal migration, IOM is widely considered as being competent to address IDP issues.

IOM’s increasing practical involvement in assistance to internally displaced persons in the 1980’s and 90’s has led to a series of internal policy papers calling upon the organization to develop its assistance in this specific area. This process was finally formalized in 2002 with the IOM policy paper on “Internally displaced persons: IOM Policy and Activities”.

IOM has world-wide experience in assisting IDPs, in such countries as Afghanistan, Angola, Guatemala, Haiti, Iraq, Mali, Mozambique, the Philippines, Kosovo, Timor Leste, Colombia, Ecuador, Sudan, Uganda, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and Zimbabwe.

IOM’s activities are aimed at assisting and protecting those who are displaced. Such interventions have improved the lives of IDPs, returnees, host and return communities and significantly contributed towards developing stability within regions.

### A Collaborative Approach

The issue of Internal Displacement is multifaceted and many organizations work on different aspects. Since no single organization is exclusively mandated with the protection, assistance and recovery needs of IDPs, the “Collaborative Response” emerged as the best option.

The Collaborative Response brings all Inter-Agency Members (UN and non-UN agencies) together on the basis of their respective mandates and expertise to respond to IDP crises. In September 2004, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) endorsed the “Implementing the Collaborative Response to Situations of Internal Displacement: Guidance for UN Humanitarian and/or Resident Coordinators and Country Teams”.

Within this framework, IOM is recognized for undertaking different tasks such as providing emergency assistance by transporting and distributing of food and non-food items, undertaking situation assessments and registration of IDPs and conducting capacity building programs.

Since 2005, IOM has been involved in the Cluster Approach taking a leading role in Camp Co-ordination and Camp Management in Natural Disasters as well as being key partners in Emergency Shelter, Logistics, Health, Protection and Early Recovery.

IOM’s overall goal is to mainstream gender, age and diversity issues into all IOM programmes and activities.

### Logistical Support

Logistical support is essential to IDP operations for both IOM itself as well as other partners throughout all phases of displacement.

IOM transports essential relief items such as food, and non-food items on behalf of governments, other international Organizations and NGOs. IOM also helps transport relief workers when necessary.

The facilitation of transportation between warehouses and bases of international organizations, NGOs and other recipients is critical to success of IDP responses.

IOM also assists with customs clearance, database management and tracking of relief items. Logistical support is also necessary for the safe and dignified return of IDPs. IOM provides logistical support for returns programmes and activities. This includes undertaking road assessments prior to return.
IOM’s practical and result oriented focus has allowed the organization to become an important partner in situations of internal displacement. Although IOM has no legal protection mandate, IOM policies and activities in humanitarian responses in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field and other migration services in emergency or post crisis situations, contributes to protecting the Human Rights of the Individual, having the effect, or consequence, of protecting persons involved in migration. IOM is of the opinion that assistance can only be successful if the rights of vulnerable groups are simultaneously protected; assistance and protection are hence intrinsically linked.

IOM is fully committed to support and implement the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. All IOM’s programmes evolve and new interventions are prioritized according to the needs of the affected-communities. The activities assisting IDPs may be divided in 6 areas:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES DURING DISPLACEMENT</th>
<th>RETURN PREPARATION</th>
<th>LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT &amp; REINTEGRATION</th>
<th>CAPACITY BUILDING</th>
<th>STRENGTHENING POLITICAL RIGHTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide emergency assistance including managing camps, providing emergency shelter, distributing food and Non-Food items (NFI), providing health assistance;</td>
<td>Support and strengthen local authorities’ capacity for population resettlement, stabilisation &amp; socio-economic reintegration through community participation;</td>
<td>Provide emergency assistance, including: relief supplies, medical resources, shelter, protective equipment, reintegration;</td>
<td>Strengthen role and capacity of national authorities to address IDP needs including developing a migration tracking system;</td>
<td>Provide technical assistance for starting/ expanding small enterprises &amp; cooperatives;</td>
<td>Assist governments, electoral management bodies, IDP assistance organizations, civil society groups and other representatives of the International Community to improve the capacity of internally displaced populations to participate in political life of their countries and territories through their inclusion in electoral processes;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support/assist inter-agency contingency planning in emergencies;</td>
<td>Undertake training needs assessment surveys amongst IDP &amp; host populations to identify priority areas for implementing Reproductive Health Programmes including HIV/AIDS prevention projects;</td>
<td>Assist IDPs for voluntary return to areas of origin or areas of choice organized based on IDP registrations and vulnerability criteria, if applicable;</td>
<td>Implement capacity-building programmes with local and national levels such as training workshops on migration and human rights; integrated and community-led approaches in areas of income-generating, health, education, community stabilisation, social communication, and transitional housing;</td>
<td>Provide advice/technical assistance for property restitution/compensation programmes;</td>
<td>Provide advice and guidance on the legal frameworks and procedural mechanisms that can best protect the voting rights of internally displaced electorates;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support national/local authorities in developing policies and programmes to reduce/prevent displacement and advocate for improved conditions for IDPs;</td>
<td>Rehabilitate or strengthen the capacity of local primary health care services to be able to deliver adequate services to meet the increased demands created by the displaced populations;</td>
<td>Assist vulnerable, excluded and minority groups (including women and demobilized soldiers) in reintegration;</td>
<td>Implement workshops and training in conflict resolution, conciliatory efforts including the organization and development of productive processes and rehabilitation and construction of infrastructure;</td>
<td>Provide advice/technical assistance for property restitution/compensation programmes;</td>
<td>Provide national and international stakeholders working in the fields of electoral programming and migrant services with assessments that identify problems for IDP enfranchisement and make recommendations on legislative and operational assistance and take coordinated action to address the electoral participation of IDPs;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assist in the relocation of IDPs from high risk to protected areas.</td>
<td>Assist governments, electoral management bodies, IDP assistance organizations, civil society groups and other representatives of the International Community to improve the capacity of internally displaced populations to participate in political life of their countries and territories through their inclusion in electoral processes;</td>
<td>Increase/expand small enterprises &amp; cooperatives;</td>
<td>Support for regional stabilization of returns; micro-credit projects;</td>
<td>Provide technical assistance for starting/ expanding small enterprises &amp; cooperatives;</td>
<td>Assist governments, electoral management bodies, IDP assistance organizations, civil society groups and other representatives of the International Community to improve the capacity of internally displaced populations to participate in political life of their countries and territories through their inclusion in electoral processes;</td>
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</table>

**PUNJAB**: Local truckers bring the backbone of IOM's earthquake relief logistics in Pakistan. As the lead agency of the Shelter Cluster of the Humanitarian Community that is responding to the South Asia Earthquake, IOM provides emergency shelter, logistics support and health services to the survivors of the October 8, 2005 earthquake in Pakistan. © IOM 2005 - MP50223

**AFGHANISTAN**: Afghan IDPs work to clear a river blocked during an earthquake in Northern Afghanistan. IOM provided the shovels and logistical support to aid in the return of water to the community. © IOM 2002 - MAF0149

**CÔTE D’IVOIRE**: IOM staff in Tabou, western Côte d’Ivoire, register third-country nationals who have fled fighting in Liberia for their voluntary return. © IOM 2003 - MC0504

**SUDAN**: IOM is providing transportation assistance to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) who are currently being relocated from Abu Shouk camp in north Darfur, to Al Shalameen, a new camp located a few kilometres away. Other than providing transportation assistance, IOM is also responsible for ensuring newly arrived IDPs are registered on the IDP database. © IOM 2005 - MS0201

**COLOMBIA**: Luz y Vida is an Artisans Women’s Association created by internally displaced Colombian women. Income generating activities are vital to the successful settlement of displaced populations. IOM works with its partners to find sustainable employment for displaced, vulnerable heads of households, to provide support in farming and raising livestock & in the creation of micro-enterprises. © IOM 2005 - MS0201

**INDONESIA**: Trainers from the sub-district animal husbandry office give insights to the participants during the duck husbandry training held in Lancan Village, Jambi, Bireuen, Indonesia. IOM's livelihood training benefits women who may be vulnerable to trafficking for forced labor & works to improve the livelihood of women in tsunami-affected areas. © IOM 2005 - MID0217

**IRAN**: Female electoral worker in Iran. IOM conducts out of country voting for Afghan refugees residing in Pakistan and Iran. The largest ever out-of-country registration and voting programme was for the 2004 elections in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). © IOM 2004 - MIR0209

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**EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**

- Provide emergency assistance including managing camps, providing emergency shelter, distributing food and Non-Food items (NFI), providing health assistance;
- Support/assist inter-agency contingency planning in emergencies;
- Support national/local authorities in developing policies and programmes to reduce/prevent displacement and advocate for improved conditions for IDPs;
- Assist in the relocation of IDPs from high risk to protected areas.

**ACTIVITIES DURING DISPLACEMENT**

- Monitor evolving IDP situations, including protection & assistance concerns;
- Provide NFIs and food distribution;
- Information Management: collect & analyse IDP information, implement socio-economic/ demographic surveys on displacement, IDP registration;
- Undertake needs assessment surveys amongst IDP & host populations to identify priority areas for implementing Reproductive Health Programmes including HIV/AIDS prevention projects;
- Rehabilitate or strengthen the capacity of local primary health care services to be able to deliver adequate services to meet the increased demands created by the displaced populations;
- Assist in the establishment and management of mental health and psycho-social support programmes;
- Provide advice/technical assistance for property restitution/compensation programmes;
- Provide temporary shelter and later permanent housing for displaced;
- Information dissemination/ for IDPs.

**RETURN PREPARATION**

- Support and strengthen local authorities’ capacity for population resettlement, stabilisation & socio-economic reintegration through community participation;
- Prepare movement plans, road reconnaissance, rapid rehabilitation of secondary access routes;
- Assist IDPs for voluntary return to areas of origin or areas of choice organized based on IDP registrations and vulnerability criteria, if applicable;
- Sensitize displaced and the communities (host/return) on return issues & provide them with assistance kits;
- Undertake health assessments, refer for treatment, movement assistance in providing medical escorts for most vulnerable;
- Provide safe and dignified transport with IOM staff escorting trucks;
- Organize & operate transit centres for IDPs & refugee returnees that provide warm meals and safe accommodation in winterized shelters with potable water, sanitation facilities & health services in a secure compound.

**LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT & REINTEGRATION**

- Assist vulnerable, excluded and minority groups (including women and demobilized soldiers) in reintegration;
- Provide community assistance, reintegration & rehabilitation support to IDPs & host communities, including assistance packages on return;
- Capacity building of local human resources for health and rehabilitation of primary health care services to assure continued access to health care for both IDPs and host communities to facilitate reintegration;
- Support for regional stabilization of returns; micro-credit projects;
- Provide technical assistance for starting/ expanding small enterprises & cooperatives;
- Provide IDPs & host communities &/or returnees & return communities with reintegration assistance, including re-training programmes & rebuilding infrastructure;
- Support confidence & peace-building measures & reconciliation activities to create co-existence between communities to promote sustainable return & reduce/eliminate future displacement: sensitisation of communities of absorption;
- Support and/or set up Demobilization and Reintegration programmes.

**CAPACITY BUILDING**

- Strengthen role and capacity of national authorities to address IDP needs including developing a migration tracking system;
- Implement workshops and training in conflict resolution, conciliatory efforts including the organization and development of productive processes and rehabilitation and construction of infrastructure;
- Implement capacity-building programmes with local and national levels such as training workshops on migration and human rights; integrated and community-led approaches in areas of income-generating, health, education, community stabilisation, social communication, and transitional housing;
- Advice and assist national authorities and other interested parties on the technical aspects and requirements of claims programmes that provide for property restitution/compensation to IDPs; help kick-start such programmes that address large-scale human rights abuses as part of a country’s rehabilitation and reintegration efforts.

**STRENGTHENING POLITICAL RIGHTS**

- Provide technical assistance for starting/ expanding small enterprises & cooperatives;
- Support for regional stabilization of returns; micro-credit projects;
- Provide technical assistance for starting/ expanding small enterprises & cooperatives;
- Provide IDPs & host communities &/or returnees & return communities with reintegration assistance, including re-training programmes & rebuilding infrastructure;
- Support confidence & peace-building measures & reconciliation activities to create co-existence between communities to promote sustainable return & reduce/eliminate future displacement: sensitisation of communities of absorption;
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