# HUMANITARIAN BORDER MANAGEMENT

## IOM's Immigration and Border Management Division

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) recognizes the need for appropriate border management responses at times of humanitarian crises arising from both natural and human-made disasters. Through its humanitarian border management (HBM) activities, IOM's Immigration and Border Management (IBM) Division provides capacity-building assistance to Member States wishing to improve their preparedness and establish adequate response mechanisms to protect nationals and foreigners crossing the border while ensuring that the security of the border is maintained. Well managed crisis responses can help prevent the closure of borders and assist the international community in effectively responding to humanitarian needs.

Through HBM, IOM seeks to help Member States in building and improving response to crisis settings on two fronts:

- **a.** Protect crisis-affected migrants and nationals, and guarantee their human rights and interests in accordance with international law; and
- b. Respect national sovereignty and ensure border security.

IOM is well-positioned to provide on-the-ground, targeted expertise and capacity-building assistance to countries who wish to establish or improve their response mechanisms to heightened cross-border movements. IOM assists Member States in building robust immigration and border management programmes and activities complemented by appropriate policies, laws, procedures and information systems that assist migrants with a variety of vulnerabilities and protection needs.

### **MIXED MIGRATION**

Human rights abuses, large-scale displacement of civilian populations, drug and arms trafficking, environmental disasters and health crises present direct threats to human security and may drive highly vulnerable populations across borders. Population movements during migration crises include people on the move who, although not always fitting into established protection categories, are nonetheless vulnerable and require protection. HBM seeks to ensure that border management practices can adapt to the needs of specific groups found within complex mixed migration flows.

## HUMANITARIAN BORDER MANAGEMENT IN IOM'S MIGRATION CRISIS OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK

IOM developed a Migration Crisis Operational Framework (MCOF), which serves as a practical, operational and institutionwide tool for improving and systematizing the way in which the Organization supports its Member States and partners to better prepare for and respond to migration crises. IOM's Technical Assistance for Humanitarian Border Management is one of its components.





**Objective 4:** Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation.

Objective 7: Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration.

**Objective 9:** Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants.

**Objective 11:** Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner.

**Objective 23:** Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration.







**Target 9.1:** Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans- border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all.

**Target 10.7:** Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

**Target 16.a:** Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.

### **IOM'S THREE STAGES OF INTERVENTION**







### **PRE-CRISIS**

- HBM capacity assessments
- Situational context analysis
- Legal framework for human rights
- Standard operating procedures
- Early warning systems
- Inter-agency contingency planning
- · Training and capacity-building

### **IN CRISIS**

- Registration and collection of data on migration movements
- Screening, identification and referral of vulnerable people
- Evacuation/search-and-rescue operations
- Rapid mobile intervention teams and mobile assistance/ training
- Procurement of mobile registration and communications equipment
- Emergency consular services; assistance in readmission and return of third-country national

### **POST-CRISIS**

- Assessments on impact of HBM interventions
- Restoration of infrastructure
- Integration or return programmes
- Maintenance of secure but protection-sensitive borders

