

MARITIME SECURITY AND BORDER MANAGEMENT



IOM's Immigration and Border Management Division

Crime on the high seas is becoming increasingly sophisticated, endangering human life, national security, the economic growth of entire regions and global safety. Maritime security requires appropriate border control measures along maritime border crossing points to help States better deal with transnational organized crime including piracy, terrorism, migrant smuggling, trafficking in persons and arms proliferation.

To facilitate the safe, orderly and regular movement of goods and persons, the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Immigration and Border Management (IBM) Division supports Member States in the enhancement of maritime security by providing technical guidance on appropriate policies, legislation, administrative structures and operational systems.



Objective 1: Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies.

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

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



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 16.4: By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flow, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime.

Target 16.5: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.

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 MARITIME SECURITY ACTIVITIES

To help States respond to and mitigate threats at their maritime borders, IOM provides **technical assistance, technical tools and capacity-building interventions.**



ASSESSMENTS AND POLICY REVIEWS

A large part of IOM's work focuses on assessing and identifying States' maritime border management needs, determining priority areas through policy review and presenting recommendations. IOM uses its assessments as a baseline to shape and deliver targeted interventions, including technical support to allow for the implementation of more effective border security practices and standard operating procedures (SOPs).



SEARCH AND RESCUE

IOM provides assistance to Member States in searching for and rescuing migrants who are lost at sea. It assesses migratory routes and builds Member States' capacity to conduct search-and-rescue missions, including by helping them revise their SOPs, sharing best practices, developing training courses, improving their infrastructure and providing rescue equipment and human resources. Additionally, IOM builds Member States' policy, legislative and operational capacities to interdict criminal transnational activities, including migrant smuggling.



TRAVEL DOCUMENT INSPECTION

IOM helps develop Member States' capacity to examine the validity of travel documents, detect fraudulent and counterfeit ones, and recognize impostors. Other capacity-building activities include providing Member States with travel document inspection equipment and technical support, for example establishing forensic laboratories for document examination.



DATA MANAGEMENT, INTELLIGENCE AND RISK ANALYSIS

IOM supports Member States by strengthening their capacity to effectively collect, manage and share migration data, and by enhancing the government's ability to gather intelligence and create evidence-based risk profiles.



COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

Ensuring effective maritime security involves addressing transnational crime, including migrant smuggling. By organizing capacity building activities, IOM works to increase government officials' understanding of transnational organized crime and border security, including their ability to detect, analyse and address potential threats. IOM also assists Member States in installing and integrating Border Management Information Systems (BMIS), including the IOM-developed Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS). Designed to collect, process and store travellers' information at border crossing points, it enhances States' capacity to identify and apprehend travellers posing a security threat by checking national and INTERPOL alert lists.



RECEPTION, SCREENING AND REFERRAL SUPPORT

IOM assists both Member States and non-governmental organizations with setting up effective reception and screening systems for migrants in countries of disembarkation. This includes building capacity so that migrants can be referred to the competent authorities and partners depending on their needs and ensuring that migrants' rights are protected.



INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT APPROACH

IOM supports Member States in developing an integrated border management approach for better maritime security practices – through its focus on cooperation at the intra-service, inter-agency and international levels – between maritime and land-based governmental institutions. IOM's assistance includes an analysis of the policy legislative, procedural, operational and human resource capacities and formulation of recommendations for improvement to increase the timely sharing of information and harmonized procedures for enhanced border security.

