

FUNDAMENTALS OF THE IOM MIGRATION CRISIS OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK

■ The MCOF combines IOM **humanitarian activities and migration management services**. Migration management activities are not traditionally part of humanitarian responses, but can help tackle migration aspects of a crisis more effectively.

■ The Framework is based on **international humanitarian and human rights law, and humanitarian principles**. In line with these obligations, States are responsible for protecting and assisting crisis-affected persons on their territory. Through the MCOF, IOM supports States to fulfil this responsibility, upon their request and with their consent.

■ The MCOF complements **existing international systems**: specifically, it is designed to fit in with the Cluster Approach of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and the international refugee protection regime. It also identifies opportunities and challenges related to migration in preparedness and resilience-building, peace-building, security sector reform, and in the transition from post-crisis recovery to longer-term development.

EXISTING INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMS

SYSTEMS

- Cluster System (OCHA)
- Refugee Regime (UNHCR)
- Development Actors (UNDP)
- Security and Peacebuilding Actors

CLUSTERS

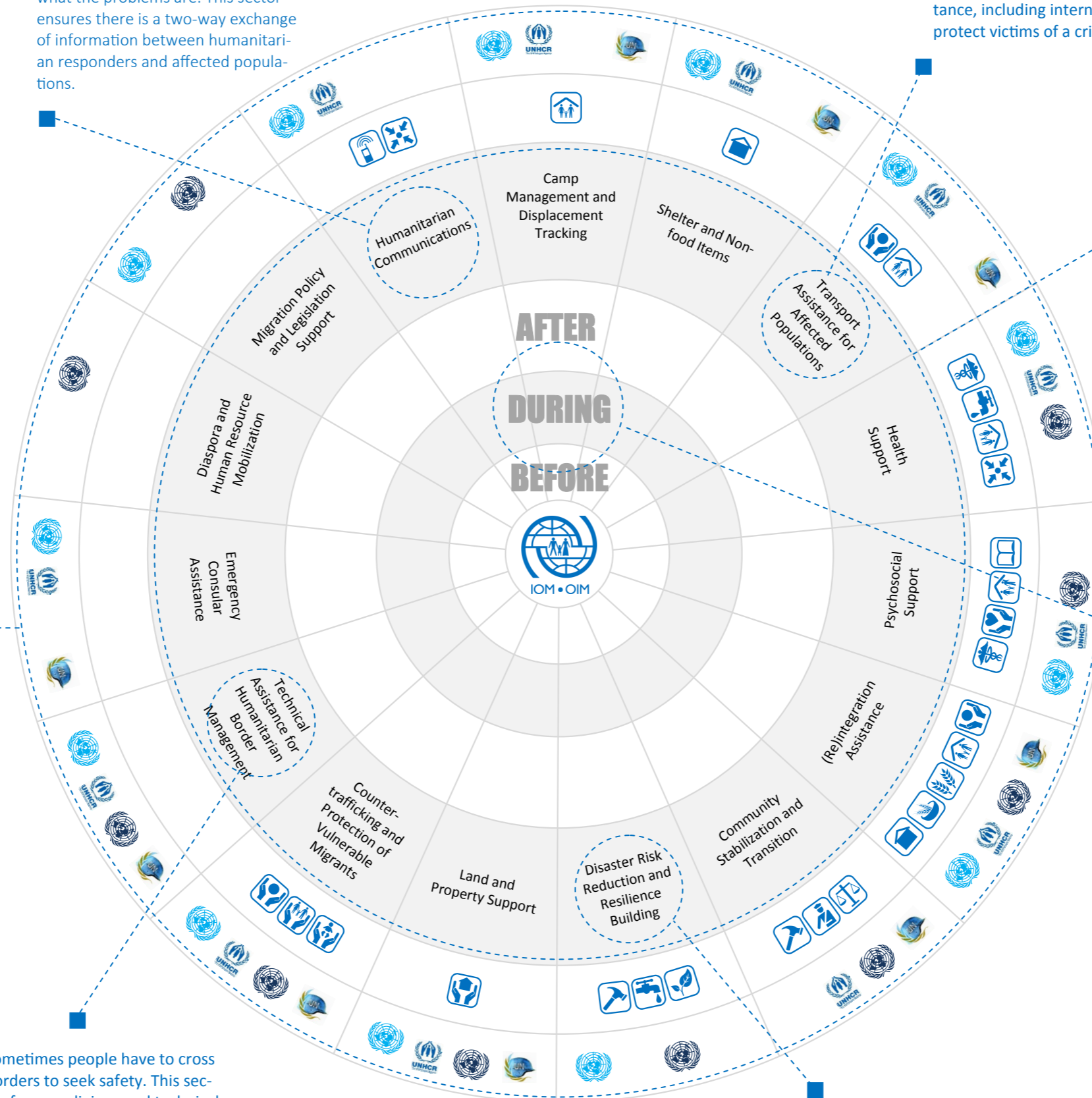
- Camp Coordination & Camp Management
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- Early Recovery
- Education
- Protection
- Logistics
- Emergency Telecommunications
- Health
- Food Security
- Shelter

OTHER CLUSTERS/SECTORS

- Housing, Land and Property Rights
- Gender-based Violence
- Coordination
- Rule of Law and Justice
- Mental Health & Psychosocial Support
- Safety and Security
- Environment
- Child Protection
- Agriculture

People on the move often know best what the problems are. This sector ensures there is a two-way exchange of information between humanitarian responders and affected populations.

Sometimes the best way to be safe is to move out of harm's way. This sector focusses on transport assistance, including international evacuations, as a way to protect victims of a crisis.



SECTORS OF ASSISTANCE

The 15 sectors of assistance are sets of existing IOM activities in which IOM has a mandate to act and long years of experience. By way of example, see short descriptions of a few sectors.

Every crisis is different. Not all sectors of assistance will apply in all situations. The MCOF allows IOM to better assess and prioritize which activities are most useful and needed in a concrete situation.

PHASES

The MCOF focusses not only on the emergency response phase, but also pre-crisis preparedness and post-crisis recovery.

Understanding pre-crisis mobility patterns will help in addressing the migration dimension of a crisis – for example, if people have the habit of crossing a nearby border or going to the nearest city for work, these migration routes may also be used during crisis. Likewise, understanding post-crisis mobility patterns is also relevant for recovery and reconstruction – for example, how to manage large-scale return of displaced persons to areas recovering from a crisis.

Sometimes people have to cross borders to seek safety. This sector focus on liaison and technical assistance to ensure that border management authorities respond appropriately during a crisis, and that different groups have access to the right protection mechanisms.

The aim of the MCOF is to reduce forced migration as much as possible. This sector works to prevent displacement but also to prepare communities for disaster and to help them cope with shocks.

