Established in 1951, IOM is the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners. IOM’s 149 Member States, a further 12 States holding observer status, and offices in over 100 countries, IOM works 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. IOM also provides humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and displaced persons.

What is a migration crisis approach?
A migration crisis approach means looking at crises through a migration lens.

By looking at a crisis through a migration lens, we can draw attention to aspects of a crisis that have sometimes remained invisible: for example the situation of international migrants caught in crisis in their destination countries, the needs of displaced populations in urban areas, the heightened risk of human trafficking among populations affected by a crisis, or the emerging issue of environmental migration.

What does a migration crisis approach add?
A deeper analysis of crises
It helps us understand complex mobility patterns related to crises.

A more effective operational response
It helps to organize and focus IOM’s activities for crisis preparedness, emergency response, and transition and recovery.

How does IOM use the migration crisis approach?
To respond better to migration crises, IOM created the Migration Crisis Operational Framework (MCOF).

In November 2012, IOM’s 149 Member States approved the MCOF by consensus through a resolution of the IOM Council. The MCOF combines IOM’s humanitarian activities and migration management services. It is IOM’s way to address migration dimensions of modern-day crises.

Ultimately, the Migration Crisis Operational Framework will help crisis-affected populations to better access their fundamental rights to protection and assistance.
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 fulfill 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.

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.

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.

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

Sometimes people have to cross borders to seek safety. This sector focuses 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.

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.

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.

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 fulfill 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.

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.

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.

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

Sometimes people have to cross borders to seek safety. This sector focuses 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.

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.

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.

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 fulfill 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.

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

Sometimes people have to cross borders to seek safety. This sector focuses 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.

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.

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.

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 fulfill 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.

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

Sometimes people have to cross borders to seek safety. This sector focuses 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.

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.

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.

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 fulfill 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.

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

Sometimes people have to cross borders to seek safety. This sector focuses 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.

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.

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.

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 fulfill 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.

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

Sometimes people have to cross borders to seek safety. This sector focuses 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.

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.

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.

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 fulfill 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.

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

Sometimes people have to cross borders to seek safety. This sector focuses 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.

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.

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.