Inter-sessional Workshop

Protecting Migrants During Times of Crisis

Immediate Responses and Sustainable Strategies

Geneva, 13 – 14 September 2012
Outline

1. IOM’s Involvement in Crisis  
   - with Significant Impact on Migration

2. Steps Taken for Future Emergencies
1. Response to Migration in Crisis

- IOM repatriated international migrants stranded in the Middle East following invasion of Kuwait by Iraq in 1992.

- 165,000 people assisted by IOM to return home to Egypt and various Asian countries.
I. Response to Migration in Crisis

- IOM Organized Evacuation and Return of some **13,500** migrant workers
- Most: Female Migrant Domestic Workers
- Isolated in Employers’ Homes, Unable to Seek Safety & Assistance

Lebanon 2006
I. Response to Migration in Crisis

- Hundreds of Thousands of Migrant Workers Caught in Conflict
- IOM with UNHCR Evacuated/Repatriated 229,000 Migrant Workers to 54 Countries
- IOM Still Evacuating Stranded Migrants in Southern Libya
- Others (still) Stranded in Libya: Targets of Xenophobia, Violence and Suspicion.

Respect for Human Rights of Migrants - Weak
Anti-migrant Sentiment - Rife
I. Response to Migration in Crisis

• IOM Responded to Requests from Govs. to Evacuate Nationals from Syria.

• Donors Reluctant to Support Effort

• To Date, Almost 1,400 nationals Evacuated to Bangladesh, Chile, Romania, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Côte d’Ivoire and Philippines
2. Steps Taken for Future Emergencies

- Migration Crises Take Different Shapes and Forms
- Crisis in Which Migrants Primary Victims: Not New
- Human Mobility on the Increase, Crises More Frequent
2. Steps Taken for Future Emergencies

A. Inter-Agency Collaboration

• Guiding Principle for IOM in International Humanitarian Responses

• Joint UNHCR/IOM Humanitarian Evacuations cell set up in 2011 in Libya:
  - Particularly Successful;
  - Pleased to See This Model Continue.
2. Steps Taken for Future Emergencies

B. Predictability of Response

• Rapid Mobilization of Resources: Is & Remains a Challenge

• At IOM’s 100th Council in December 2011:
  - IOM Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism (MEFM) established by IOM MS – Funding: 30 mil. USD
  - First Activation Authorized to Enhance IOM Response in Syria.
2. Steps Taken for Future Emergencies

C. Organizational Coherence

Lessons From Field Experience

Sharpen Focus on Human Mobility in Crisis Situations

Bring it Into a Coherent Operational Framework
High-Level IDM Guests

Her Excellency the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh

His Excellency the Foreign Minister of Chad

His Excellency the State Minister for Labour and Social Affairs of Ethiopia

His Excellency the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management of South Sudan

His Excellency Minister Plenipotentiary and Secretary of the National Committee for Refugees Affairs of Yemen

His Excellency, Director General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, European Commission
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