PROTECTING MIGRANTS DURING TIMES OF CRISIS: Immediate responses and sustainable strategies

IOM International Dialogue on Migration
Intersessional workshop, Geneva, 13-14 September 2012
Introduction and Context
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- **International Dialogue on Migration (IDM):** IOM’s principal forum for migration policy dialogue

- **IDM 2012: Managing Migration in Crisis Situations** (theme chosen by IOM Membership)

- **Overall Objective in 2012:** to enhance synergies between humanitarian and migration perspectives in the search for appropriate responses to migration crises.
Introduction and Context

April 24-25 IDM:
- Introduced the concept of a “migration crisis”.
- Analyzed the relationship between crises and human mobility for different types of migration crises.
- Stressed the importance of addressing population movements before, during, and after a crisis.

September 13-14 IDM:
- Focuses on one specific population/type of migration crisis: international migrants caught up in a crisis in their destination or transit country.
September IDM: Migrants Caught in Crisis

- In what ways are migrants particularly vulnerable and where are the gaps in protecting and assisting them in crisis situations?
- What are the immediate and long-term repercussions when migrants are affected by crises?
- How can national policies, international collaboration and the humanitarian system better prepare for and address such situations?
Key Discussion Points
Key Discussion Point: Types of Crisis Scenarios Affecting Migrants

- How are Migrants Affected by a Crisis?

- Migrants may be affected by crisis in their country of destination but **unable to access humanitarian assistance** due to legal or practical barriers;
- Migrants may be affected by crisis and **unable to leave** the crisis zone to seek safety elsewhere, mostly due to practical barriers ("trapped populations");
- Migrants may be affected by crisis but **unwilling to leave** a potentially dangerous situation, typically for fear of losing assets or being unable to return to the country or place of work after the crisis subsides;
- Migrants may be affected by crisis and **internally displaced** in the country of destination;
- Migrants may be affected by crisis and **cross an international border** to seek safety in a country which is not their country of origin; and
- Migrants may be affected by crisis and **return or are evacuated to the country of origin**.
In what ways are migrants particularly vulnerable in a crisis?

- Issues pertaining to legal status
- Practical barriers
- Human rights concerns
- Socio-economic vulnerability
- Gender, age, and health-related vulnerabilities
Frameworks of Protection and Assistance for Migrants in Crisis Situations


- No single legal framework that ensures comprehensive protection of migrants stranded in crisis.
Key Discussion Point: Improving International Preparedness and Response for Migrants Caught in Crises

Policy and international cooperation

Key examples of policy areas for discussion:

- Preparedness and contingency planning
- Strengthening consular capacities
- Reinforcing protection and assistance in situ
- Referral of vulnerable cases, and providing health and psychosocial support
- Humanitarian border management during mass movements
- Evacuations and international migration assistance
- Reintegration and longer-term support
- Reconstruction, recovery and development
IDM Programme and Modalities
Main Sessions

- **Thinking Ahead**: preparedness measures and cooperation mechanisms
- **Immediate Response**: assistance and protection in the emergency phase to migrants stranded in crises
- **Sustainable Strategies**: addressing the long-term consequences for migrants, countries of origin and countries of destination
Workshop Programme and Modalities

- Case Study: Lessons learnt from the Libya crisis
- Migrant’s Perspective
- Special Session
Thank You