

Report of the IOM-CSO Consultations 2012
Enhancing Dialogue, Cooperation and Partnership on Migration
25 October 2012, Geneva, Switzerland



Introduction

The annual consultations between IOM and civil society organizations (CSOs) took place on 25 October 2012 at the IOM Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland under the theme – *Enhancing Dialogue, Cooperation and Partnership on Migration*. The consultations were attended by more than forty participants representing civil society and IOM colleagues. In welcoming participants to the meeting, the IOM Director General, Ambassador Swing, underscored the importance of IOM-CSO collaboration in a range of areas of mutual interest and reiterated the commitment of IOM to enhancing dialogue, cooperation and partnership with CSOs on migration.

The consultations built on the outcomes of the 2011 consultations – delineating the progress made on the recommendations flowing from that meeting. The programme of work was informed by thematic areas proposed by CSOs and allowed for presentations from civil society and IOM colleagues. The open format of the meeting facilitated the sharing of experiences and constructive plenary discussions. The consultations also presented an important opportunity to exchange views on how IOM and CSOs could continue working together towards enhancing their dialogue, cooperation and partnership in the field of migration for the benefit of migrants and societies.

This year's annual consultation follows several consultations held throughout the course of the year at both the Headquarters and regional levels involving CSOs and other stakeholders, focusing on a range of thematic issues. The various deliberations underscored the value of identifying common priorities, potential synergies and innovative solutions that harness the myriad opportunities and address the complex challenges associated with migration for IOM and CSOs.

Session 1: Taking Stock of IOM-CSO Partnership¹

Summary

An overview of the regional and thematic consultations held throughout the course of the year was presented. Specific mention was made of the CSO consultations convened by the IOM regional offices in Vienna, Austria; Brussels, Belgium; and Cairo, Egypt and the challenges and opportunities identified by participants. While the issues raised at the regional consultations were varied, a number of CSOs indicated that they valued partnership with IOM in a range of areas and expressed the desire to have more opportunities for direct exchanges of experiences with IOM and CSO partners working at the national, regional and global levels.

Participants welcomed the usefulness of the survey that had been undertaken by IOM to map the various CSO partners that IOM engages with across the world. It was suggested, however, that the methodological approach to this survey could be further enriched. Concrete suggestions in this respect included the need to differentiate between international CSOs, regional and national/local CSOs that partner with IOM, the importance of detailing financial aspects relating to the partnership and providing disaggregated data on key demographic and/ or thematic indicators.

More generally, IOM was asked to clarify the purpose of the CSO consultations. IOM underscored that the consultations were an important platform for enhanced engagement and active outreach to CSOs, in particular to explore how IOM and CSOs might work better together towards those goals, which they have in common.

Key Recommendations

- Enhance interaction, including more dialogue throughout the year on areas of common interest and in advocating for the protection of the human rights and well-being of migrants;
- Ensure a greater balance of IOM and CSO colleagues in the programme of work and a call for CSO colleagues to accept invitations to participate as presenters and discussants;
- Review the planning, timing and format of the consultations. Suggestions made in this regard included the following-:
 - Consider the UNHCR model of CSO consultations, which allows for wider participation of CSOs from all over the world and convening the IOM-CSO Consultations on the eve of the annual IOM Council session so as to ensure the CSO voice is also transmitted to the IOM Council;
 - Consider using technology – including video/ teleconferencing – to ensure broader participation, in particular of partners who are not represented in Geneva;
- Develop the CSO inventory further to provide disaggregated information, in particular information on the breakdown of international versus national/local

¹ Panellists included IOM and Shelter Centre colleagues – see <http://www.iom.int/cms/en/sites/iom/home/partnerships-1/civil-society/annual-consultations/annual-consultation-2012.html> for full details of the presentations delivered.

CSO partners; the financial volume of CSO partnership and additional analytical aspects;

- Promote a better understanding of the respective mandates and roles of IOM and CSOs partners. In this regard, it was also highlighted that language plays an important part and that references to CSOs as sub-contractors were considered counter-productive. Participants agreed that IOM-CSO partnership needs to be informed by a genuine willingness, respect for the value of partnership, and appreciation of the respective contributions of the various stakeholders;
- Articulate the IOM vision and strategic goals for IOM-CSO partnership more clearly, and take into account the interest that the consultations impact on collective work in the domain of migration policy; and
- Establish an IOM-CSO Communications Working Group to facilitate the improvement of communications between IOM and CSOs.

Session 2: Operational Framework to Respond to Migrants in Crisis²

Summary

The operational framework developed by IOM in consultation with partners, including IOM Member States, international organizations (IOs) and CSOs, to respond to migrants in crisis situations was presented. The framework originated from a call from IOM Member States for stronger tools/ mechanisms to respond to migrants in crisis. The framework is premised on a people-centric approach that emphasizes consultation, dialogue and partnership in the various sectors of IOM assistance. Of significance, the framework consolidates existing humanitarian operational mechanisms, addresses existing gaps in humanitarian partnerships and complements the humanitarian framework in the three phases of a conflict, i.e. before, during and after a crisis. A key tenet of the framework acknowledges that different crises result in different patterns of mobility, which in turn necessitates tailored humanitarian responses. An overview of crisis situations in Libya, Haiti, Pakistan, Thailand and the Philippines and the concomitant large scale movements of people was given. The case studies presented illustrated that there were various forms of crises, including those emanating from natural or man-made causes, which take place internally or across international borders, are sudden or slow in onset – all of which had varied impacts on human mobility and humanitarian action.

The presentations and discussions highlighted the need for strengthened multi-stakeholder collaboration in responding to the challenges associated with crisis related movement including as relates to the following key aspects:

- wide spectrum of short – long term needs and vulnerabilities of migrants;
- regional dynamics, including the extent to which countries in the region could provide safe, humane and orderly migration channels for migrants in crisis;

² IOM and Manisha Thomas were panellists in this session – see <http://www.iom.int/cms/en/sites/iom/home/partnerships-1/civil-society/annual-consultations/annual-consultation-2012.html> for full details of the presentations delivered.

- combination humanitarian interventions to address the multifaceted issues affecting migrants in crisis situations;
- rapid and effective deployment of human and financial resources in response to crises;
- cooperation amongst the host of stakeholders in humanitarian responses;
- government engagement in the return and reintegration of nationals and/or the transit of third country nationals; and
- long-term socio-economic consequences and increased vulnerabilities occasioned by the trauma experienced by returnees, the loss of income and remittances, increased pressure on existing resources in the societies and countries to which migrants return.

Participants noted the wide scale and complex nature of the consequences of recent crisis situations. In responding to the various issues outlined, participants agreed that more could be achieved for migrants in crisis in the short, medium and long term through improved information management and better coordination of humanitarian action. In addition, participants reinforced the importance ensuring IOM and CSOs strengthened operational engagement in responding to migrants in crisis, including through the development of guidelines detailing how the IOM operational framework will incorporate CSO collaboration and the inclusion of CSO experts on emergency surge staff rosters.

Plenary discussions highlighted the importance of making use of constructive terminology with reference to the IOM operational framework in order to avoid the possible misperception by the public that the term “migration crisis” implies that migrants are the cause of the crisis, which in turn could contribute to anti-migrant sentiments in various parts of the world. IOM indicated that it would consider using less ambiguous terminology if possible in the context of time constraints to finalizing the framework in coordination with its Member States³.

Key Recommendations

- Convene more consultations with CSOs and other stakeholders on the IOM operational framework for migrants in crisis, in order to build on and improve the framework;
- Provide regular updates to CSOs on the IOM operational framework to respond to migrants in crisis, including the on proposed revisions of the terminology and development of guidelines for CSO engagement;
- Ensure emergency surge staff rosters maintained by IOM accommodate relevant and interested CSOs. Continued efforts are needed to ensure that the roster remains open to CSO partners for the deployment of their experts together with those from IOM in emergency responses; and
- Improve outreach to vulnerable migrants through partnership with CSOs, States; IOs and other humanitarian actors.

³ The title presented was *IOM Migration Crisis Operational Framework*.

Session 3: Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR)⁴

Summary

The session was informed by presentations from IOM and partners in AVRR providing an overview of case studies drawing on AVRR experiences, in particular in Switzerland, Norway, Iraq and Sudan. The presentations provided insight into the collaboration that IOM and CSOs have on the ground, underscoring that CSOs often have mandates, capacities, dedicated resources and specialized interventions that can be complementary to IOM, especially in those areas where IOM does not have a presence or direct access to people in need of assistance. Similarly it was underscored that IOM plays an important role by providing AVRR capacity development activities and by connecting different actors, including local and national authorities, with other partners and stakeholders in the field of AVRR. It was noted that cooperation between IOM, CSOs and other stakeholders was therefore crucial to successful AVRR programming.

Plenary discussions emphasized the importance of distinguishing AVRR from detention and deportation processes, maintaining the voluntariness of the option for AVRR and taking into account several important factors including, the provision of counselling and psycho-social support through the AVRR process. Discussions also highlighted the importance of linking AVRR to broader issues of migration and development, socio-economic reintegration support, and the provision of comprehensive information and reintegration assistance.

Key Recommendations

- Provide more information, including by way of detailed case studies and good practices on the often misunderstood area of AVRR;
- Increase training for government and CSO personnel working directly with migrants and AVRR issues on both ends of the AVRR spectrum;
- Further strategic development of the interface role played by IOM in connecting the different players in AVRR and in collaboration with CSO partners;
- Develop and disseminate guidance notes to educate as well as provide important information to States, CSOs, and other stakeholders on AVRR; and
- Explore and harness synergies in the stimulation of entrepreneurial activities, income generation and development projects by IOM, CSOs, governments and other stakeholders.

⁴ Presentations were made by colleagues from IOM, the Canton of Vaud and Det Felles Innvandrered i Hordaland (DFIRH) – see <http://www.iom.int/cms/en/sites/iom/home/partnerships-1/civil-society/annual-consultations/annual-consultation-2012.html> for full details of the presentations delivered.

Session 4: Migrant Health⁵

Summary

This session was informed by presentations made by IOM and CSOs underscoring the importance of migration as a social determinant of health. Disparities in the health situation of migrants relative to that of nationals were increasingly acknowledged although this recognition was still to be fully reflected in key documents, processes and fora on health and migration. It was noted that several positive developments, including the *Resolution of the World Health Organization (WHO) on the Health of Migrants*⁶, the *2010 Global Consultation on Migrant Health*⁷, and the *2011 Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health (SDH)*⁸, have taken place highlighting the importance of migrant health. Despite these developments, it was noted that there still appeared to be a strong resistance to the inclusion of migrant health on the international agenda, occasioning the need for a global alliance of stakeholders to advocate for the inclusion of this issue, in particular in the post-2015 development agenda.

Discussants asserted that health was a recognized right for both nationals and non-nationals in many places, however there was still significant debate on the extent to which health could be realized as a universal right for migrants. Participants nonetheless agreed that health was critical to sustainable development and that there were public health and economic imperatives to address migrant health. Healthy migrants were better able to achieve their potential, integrate into society, contribute to both countries of origin and destination and have increased resilience to diseases. The many myths around migrants/ migration in relation to the spread of diseases and the perceived burden to health systems are generally misleading as migrants are, more often than not, healthy at the start of the migration process and only become ill later on in the migration process.

Key Recommendations

- Increase avenues for IOM, CSOs and other stakeholders to share experiences and good practice on migrant health;
- Address myths linking migrants health and the spread of diseases, including through information campaigns to address the stigmatization of migrants;
- Promote broader alliances between IOM and CSOs, including through joint advocacy for the inclusion of migrant health in the post-2015 development agenda and partnership on migrant health projects;
- Strengthen migrant health activities including the provision of psycho-social support; and
- Establish a repository of information on CSOs working on migrant health, as part of the ongoing efforts to take stock of IOM-CSO partnerships.

⁵ Panellists in this session included Caritas Internationalis and IOM colleagues – see <http://www.iom.int/cms/en/sites/iom/home/partnerships-1/civil-society/annual-consultations/annual-consultation-2012.html> for full details of the presentations delivered.

⁶ Resolution WHA 61.17, Sixty-First World Health Assembly, 24 May 2008.

⁷ The Global Consultation on Migrant Health was held in Madrid, Spain on 3-5 March 2010.

⁸ The Rio Political Declaration on SDH was adopted during the World Conference on Social Determinants of Health on 21 October 2011.

Session 5: Multilateral Framework for Cooperation on Migration and Development⁹

Summary

The NGO Committee on Migration – an umbrella organization of over 40 organizations – and IOM provided an overview of their respective support for preparations for the Second High-level Dialogue (HLD) on International Migration and Development to be held by the United Nations General Assembly in October 2013. The NGO Committee for Migration underscored the importance that the 2013 HLD take into account the views of civil society, and allow for their inclusive participation in the proceedings of the event. Participants were informed that the NGO Committee had circulated a set of recommendations to inform the debate within the Second Committee of the United Nations General Assembly on a draft resolution on international migration and development that would include the modalities, themes and type of participation in and form of outcome of the 2013 HLD. The NGO Committee has also set up a working group to establish suggested benchmarks for the four anticipated roundtables of the 2013 HLD, and recommended that there be monitoring of the implementation of any agreed-upon milestones.

IOM expressed the view that the HLD was a necessary and useful forum to further strengthen international consultation and cooperation on migration and development, while keeping the well-being of migrants at the centre of the debate. The state-led Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), as an outcome of the first HLD in 2006, has over the years become a platform on which various stakeholders have been able to meet and engage in the sharing of perspectives and good practices on achieving coherence between migration and development policies. The NGO Committee on Migration welcomed the strides made by the GFMD in collaborating with civil society, while encouraging continued improvement in this area.

Participants agreed that additional work was required to ensure that the well-being of migrants and the protection of their human rights are at the center of global, regional, national and local efforts to mainstream migration into development and other sectoral policies, as well as to ensure that migration policies more effectively support human development and the human rights of all migrants. IOM added that issues of irregular migration, stranded migrants and migrants in acute humanitarian crises situations also require attention in the context of the HLD. The NGO Committee emphasized that the debate should not distract from the fundamental obligation of States to also fulfill the human development needs of their respective countries. It was acknowledged that it would be important for IOM and CSOs to work in consultation with one another in the lead-up to the 2013 HLD, including in the context of the IOM chairmanship of the Global Migration Group (GMG) in the second half of 2013

In this spirit, IOM briefed CSO participants on the status of the IOM-UNFPA coordinated preparation, in collaboration with the GMG, of a set of provisional

⁹ Panellists included the NGO Committee on Migration and IOM colleagues – see <http://www.iom.int/cms/en/sites/iom/home/partnerships-1/civil-society/annual-consultations/annual-consultation-2012.html> for full details of the presentations delivered.

recommendations and outcomes on migration issues to be presented by the United Nations system ahead of the 2013 HLD, once finalized and approved by the High-level Committee on Programs (HLCP) and the overarching United Nations Chief Executives Board (CEB). There have been 26 contributors to this report, including HLCP and GMG agencies, the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants and the NGO Committee on Migration. IOM discussed some of the potential recommendations that might feature in the HLCP paper, which is currently under review by the GMG, and sought the feedback of CSO partners. Participants welcomed the opportunity to reflect on the suggestions being made and proposed that the paper focus on making high-level recommendations that take into account, among other issues, the South-South dimension of migration and diaspora engagement, prospective labour market needs in developed countries; as well as the critical role that regional economic communities should play in facilitating mobility.

IOM also summarized its broader preparatory activities to enrich the HLD including:

- The organization of five roundtable meetings in New York, in cooperation with UNDESA and UNFPA and interested governments, to help prepare UN delegates and observers for the 2013 HLD. Efforts are being made to invite a key representative of civil society to each meeting (the NGO Committee on Migration participated in the first roundtable on 12 October 2012);
- The production of IOM's 2013 edition of its flagship publication, the World Migration Report (WMR), on "*Migrants and development*", with a focus on the well-being of migrants;
- Contributions to the UN Secretary General's 2012 report on international migration and development, including proposals for the modalities, themes and type of participation in the HLD;
- Co-coordination with UNFPA of the abovementioned paper on proposed outcomes and recommendations on migration issues ahead of the 2013 HLD at the request of the HLCP/CEB, and in collaboration with the GMG; and
- Support for state-led national and regional consultations in preparation for the HLD, including continued support to the Regional Consultative Processes on Migration (RCPs).

The NGO Committee on Migration underscored that CSOs should have a place at the table whenever and wherever migration and development was discussed and detailed their following specific preparatory activities:

- Close cooperation with office of the President of the General Assembly, including in the preparation of an intervention made at the UN Informal Thematic Debate on International Migration and Development in May 2011; and
- Circulation of the said list of suggestions, including to broaden CSO participation in the preparations for and proceedings of the 2013 HLD.

Key Recommendations

- Provide regular updates on IOM and CSO preparations and activities in the lead-up to the 2013 HLD;
- Encourage inclusive participation in the HLD, including by CSOs as expert speakers and in other fora such as the GFMD;

- Advocate for greater attention to the protection of the human rights of all migrants, as well as the operational response to stranded migrants/ migrants caught in humanitarian crises in the global debate on international migration and development, while also encouraging greater attention to the role of regional economic communities in facilitating labour migration;
- Encourage the 2013 HLD to aim for high-level recommendations and outcomes that have a significant impact on the human development of migrants and of their home and host societies;
- Promote structural continuity, transparency and monitoring of progress in the operationalization of the recommendations of the 2013 HLD as suggested by CSO participants; and
- Recommend the incorporation of migration as a cross-cutting issue within the post-2015 development agenda.

Conclusion

At the 2012 annual IOM-CSO consultations IOM and CSOs reaffirmed their commitment to continue actively cooperating at global, regional and local levels. The rich contributions made by participants at the meeting resulted in a series of meaningful recommendations, with a view towards improving this promising collaboration.

Throughout the course of deliberations, participants emphasized the importance of increasing the frequency, scope and quality of interaction, as well as of refining the common objectives for such interaction, be they in the field of operations or advocacy. In supporting more regular dialogue and in implementing associated activities, it is imperative that IOM and CSOs work together in advancing the relationship and reflect on the annual consultations as part of the ongoing process of engagement as opposed to a one-off event. These consultations will have increased significance if IOM and CSOs proactively give effect to the recommendations made and explore additional avenues for cooperation on thematic, regional and global issues of mutual interest.

Participants acknowledged the importance of enhancing dialogue, cooperation and partnership on migration throughout the year; and of ensuring that in 2013 there will be another series of fruitful exchanges building on the outcomes of the 2012 consultations.