OVERVIEW

IOM has contributed to humanitarian response to major crises in the region. Within IOM’s Humanitarian Mandate, health is recognized as an essential component. Humanitarian crises produce increasingly complex and often large-scale migration flows and mobility patterns, which typically expose affected populations to significant vulnerabilities and generate serious and longer-term migration management challenges. IOM’s health response to humanitarian and public health emergencies aims to alleviate suffering, save lives and protect human dignity while also upholding IOM’s commitment to humanitarian principles and protection mainstreaming. IOM’s areas of health assistance for crisis-affected populations include:

- Primary Health Care Provision and Community Health Revitalization
- Health Referrals
- Medical Evacuation and Rehabilitation
- Travel Health Assistance
- Health, Border and Mobility Management
- Camp Management and Displacement Tracking
- Shelter and Non Food Items (NFIs)
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
- Transport Assistance for Affected Populations
- Psychosocial Assistance

![Bar chart showing the number of Migration Health Assistance projects in Asia and the Pacific from 2010 to 2017.](image)
IOM Response in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh

Ongoing Migration Health Assistance for Displaced Populations in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh

IOM and UNFPA are providing critical primary health care including the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for reproductive health in crisis to recently arrived Undocumented Myanmar Nationals (UMNs) living in Kutupalong, Shamlapur and Leda makeshift settlements and within the host communities of Teknaf and Ukhiya Upazilas in Cox’s Bazar. IOM’s roles are to: procure medicines for first aid kits, allocate first aid medicines to 124 community-based health promoters, deploy 54 health promoters to provide first aid services to newly arrived affected population. Deployment of 1 doctor and 1 nurse to provide primary health care services, establishment of 8 vaccination centres in Leda makeshift settlement and printing of IEC materials.

IOM is also providing life-saving emergency health services to newly arrived Rohingyas in Unchingprang, Moiner Ghona and Thangkhali in Cox’s Bazar. The aim of providing critical life saving services to the newly arrived group of Rohingya, the Health sector activities are: expansion and establishment of Primary Health Care Services (mobile teams, fixed clinics), expand referral services for urgent and emergency cases, procurement and distribution of additional medicines and supplies, urgent immunization of newly arrived children, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), Reproductive Health Commodities and MISP including Sexual and Gender Based Violence services, strengthen epidemiological surveillance and early warning systems, and sector coordination and information management.

IOM, along with UNICEF, WFP and UNHCR has proposed an inter-agency Joint UN Response Plan in Cox’s Bazar to the needs of registered refugees, UMNs and host communities. The program will provide life-saving assistance to those in life-threatening situations, reduce vulnerabilities and restore the safety and dignity of the most vulnerable population and strengthen public services to meet the increased demand.

Since 2017, IOM has worked with Health Sector and the Ministry of Health to strengthen primary health care services, provided emergency and primary health care services to 90,100 patients and 3,100 people with psychological first aid and has distributed over 116,000 tarpaulins, benefitting 526,000 new arrivals.
Enhancing Local Health Systems for Recovery: Life Saving Care and Referral Services for Typhoon Haiyan Survivors

IOM, supported by AmeriCares carried out three projects to the health needs of typhoon Haiyan survivors from 2013—2015. The first project from 2013-2014 aimed to enhance local health systems for recovery and successfully provided support for 31,336 patients. Twelve health teams were established to provide services and medical supplies to remote areas.

The second project from 2014-2015 was to enhance capacity of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in typhoon-affected areas for both health professionals and at a community level. Twelve participants were trained in Intensive Mental Health Care, Training of Trainers on Community-based MHPSS for health professionals was conducted with 38 participants. 563 individuals received Psychological First Aid and Psychosocial Support Training.

The third project from 2014-2015 aimed to support the Department of Health in revitalizing health systems in Capiz, Iloilo, Aklan and Antique. 58,891 individuals were supported in primary healthcare augmentation, 3,664 patients were catered to in 24 barangays. Community outreach health activities reached 23,630 people in 134 barangays.

Emergency Response to the Earthquake in Nepal

This project was funded by the Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and successfully implemented by IOM from 2015—2016. A total of 4,042 affected individuals were assisted through emergency life-saving health assistance including: 234 patients with earthquake related injuries and disabilities supported through Assisted Discharge and Referral service, 307 implementing partners representatives and volunteers trained on Mental Health and Psychosocial considerations in Camp Management and Camp Coordination, 1,484 individuals were screened for TB, of which 110 were tested and three enrolled in treatment with National TB program. 36 health and hygiene activities were conducted to benefit 1,049 participants.

Emergency Health Response for Cyclone Giri Victims in Rakhine State, Myanmar

IOM, supported by Department for International Development (DFID) United Kingdom, improved access to essential primary health care services for underserved and severely affected communities in Pauktaw and Kyaukpyu townships from 2010 – 2011. Key results included 22,316 community members participated in 467 community health education sessions on health and hygiene topics. 30,019 water provided to targeted beneficiaries. 29,128 patient were seen by Mobile Medical Teams, with 101 patients referred to secondary level medical care at township hospitals. 5,000 long-lasting insecticide treated bednets were distributed to households with pregnant mothers and children under 5.
IOM MIGRATION HEALTH PROGRAMME AREAS

MIGRATION HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND TRAVEL HEALTH ASSISTANCE
IOM conducts migrant health assessments including resettling refugees, labour migrants and displaced persons either pre-departure or on arrival. This reduces and manages the potential public health impact of human mobility on migrants, receiving countries and communities. Pre-departure services include treatment for conditions such as malaria, and diagnostic treatment for tuberculosis (TB) sexually transmitted infections. IOM also immunizes migrants against preventable diseases and offers specialized counseling.

HEALTH PROMOTION AND ASSISTANCE FOR MIGRANTS
IOM promotes the health of migrants through advocating for migrant-inclusive policies, delivering technical assistance and enhancing partners and government capacity to provide migrant-friendly services. IOM’s programmes include HIV, cholera, TB, malaria, non-communicable diseases, environmental health and influenza, in addition to assisting governments in managing the migration of health workers. Among other key interventions, IOM’s regional, multi-sector coordination Joint UN Initiative on Migration and Health in Asia (JUNIMA) advocates for the right to health and access to health in Asia.

MIGRATION HEALTH ASSISTANCE FOR CRISIS-AFFECTED POPULATIONS
Health is an integrated component of IOM’s overall humanitarian response. IOM is a Coordination Camp Management Cluster lead, coordinating the response of UN agencies to emergencies and crises. IOM a) assists crisis-affected populations, governments and host communities to strengthen and re-establish primary health care systems; b) delivers health care and psychological support for displaced persons, facilitates medical referrals and arranges medical evacuations for individuals who cannot be cared for locally; c) assists in rebuilding community based services and strengthens crisis-affected health care systems.

IOM’S GLOBAL APPROACH TO MIGRATION AND HEALTH

Monitoring Migrant Health
Research and Information Dissemination
STRENGTHENS knowledge on the health of migrants via research and information dissemination to ensure evidence-based programming and policy development.

Migrant Sensitive Health System
Health Service Delivery and Capacity Building
DELIVERS, FACILITATES and PROMOTES equitable access to migrant-friendly and comprehensive health care services.

Policy and Legal Framework
Advocacy for Policy Development
ADVOCATES for migrant inclusive health policies and programmes at a national, regional and global level, and assists in the development of policies to promote and protect the health of migrants.

Partnerships
Strengthening Inter-Country Coordination and Partnership
COMMITTED to developing and strengthening multi-sectoral partnerships and coordination among member states, stakeholders and migrants.

CONTACTS
ROAP MIGRATION HEALTH UNIT
ROBangkokMigrationHealth@iom.int
+66 2 343 9400
https://www.facebook.com/IOMAsiaPacific/
https://twitter.com/IOMAsiaPacific

IOM REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
18th Floor, Rajanakarn Building
3 South Sathorn Road
Bangkok 10120 Thailand
ROBangkok@iom.int
wwwiom.int/asia-and-pacific