



IOM introduces its Migration Crisis Operational Framework to Ministry of Interior representatives from the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries

May 4-8 IOM presented a three-day workshop on the Migration Crisis Operational Framework (MCOF) in Kuwait as well as sessions on emergency preparedness. It was attended by 27 participants, predominantly from the Kuwait Ministry of Interior (MoI), but also from the MoI of other Gulf Cooperation Council countries, including Qatar and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). The Director of Research & Studies of Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, KSA, also attended the workshop.

The workshop covered aspects of different crises; different patterns of mobility; IOM's approach to migration crises; and, IOM's role in the humanitarian system, including emergency preparedness components such as contingency planning and SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunity & Threat) analysis.

The workshop, which was the first of its kind in Arabic to be rolled-out in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, was facilitated by Ms. Rana Jaber, the Regional Emergency and Post-Crisis Specialist, and Ms. Rania Yousif, the National Disaster Risk Reduction / Monitoring & Evaluation Program Officer from IOM Sudan.

Participants were introduced to various crises involving conflict and natural disasters that are posing growing challenges to states and the international community,

reflecting on the earthquake in Haiti, the massive floods in Pakistan, and the conflict in both Libya and Syria. A description of what IOM has been witnessing in terms of patterns of mobility were presented and, through analysis of the related operational challenges faced by the humanitarian actors and states, the advantages



of viewing and understanding crises and crisis response from a migration perspective were demonstrated.

In the second half, the MCOF was introduced whereby participants were asked as part of group work to develop an operational plan for a fictitious crisis. The participants were divided into four working groups, the MCOF wheel was distributed, and participants developed plans for before, during and after crisis scenarios using the MCOF's 15 sectors of assistance, which they presented at the end of the session.

The participants felt that the workshop and the issues discussed were important and hoped that more ad-

vanced and additional workshops will be held in the future.

They had positive feedback and recommendations regarding the presentations and felt that they had acquired new skills, including determining the extent of a crisis and its impact on society; the actions required to be able to better respond to and manage crises; teamwork and participation in contingency planning; how to minimize damages during a crisis; effective coordination and Information sharing; and, knowledge of IOM's crises activities, which can be shared with others in order to encourage further participation in such trainings. Participants also hoped that future workshops could include visits to IDP/refugee camps.

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