



Land Formalization - Chaparral, Colombia. © IOM

IOM in Land and Property Rights and Victim Reparations

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental body, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration, advance understanding of migration issues, encourage social and economic development through migration, and work towards effective respect of the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

Mandate

As part of its global mandate on migration, IOM works to assist governments and societies address land and property issues and victim reparations in the aftermath of natural disasters or conflict.

Land and property rights as well as victim reparations often need to be addressed as part of broader peace-building and reconstruction efforts, including the development of durable solutions for displacement and sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable populations in transitional societies.

IOM provides assistance services in these areas, drawing on its technical expertise and knowledge of comparative experiences from across the globe. For these services, IOM relies on its global network of field offices and works closely with its international and national partners.

Services

IOM provides the following types of assistance services in the area of land, property and reparations:

- Design and implementation of field surveys and assessments, including consultations of victims or potential beneficiaries;
- Advice and recommendations on locally suitable policy and legal frameworks for addressing land, property and/or reparations

issues, including institutional design;

- Development and implementation of capacity-building programmes for institutions and local authorities in charge of addressing land, property and/or reparations issues;
- Technical assistance to implementing bodies, including for the development of implementation strategies, standard operating procedures, guidelines and IT support;
- Direct implementation of programmes that address land and property issues or provide reparations to individual victims or communities;
- Comparative analysis and research of national efforts to resolve land and property issues and provide victim reparations, including the examination of good practices and lessons observed.

Specific topics covered by IOM services in respect of land and property issues in post-crisis scenarios include: the resolution of land and property disputes; increasing and/or protecting access to land and/or land tenure security for vulnerable populations in rural and urban settings; reinforcing land management institutions and mechanisms; supporting community or state-driven land titling and land rights identification processes; resolution of land and property issues in



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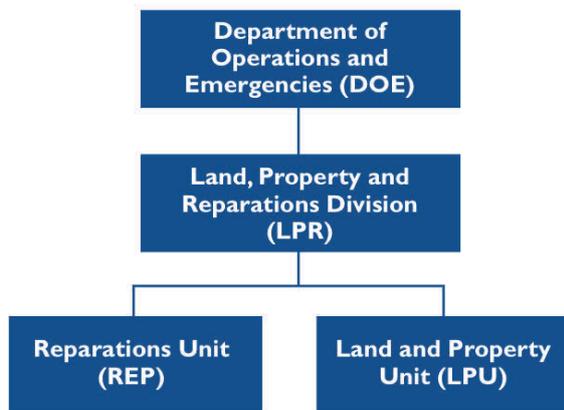
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the context of shelter and/or camp management programmes; and housing and urbanization issues.

With respect to reparations for victims of conflict or serious human rights violations, IOM services include assistance in the delivery of individual or collective reparations measures, including financial compensation payments; the provision of in-kind benefits such as skills training and access to health services; and the implementation of symbolic reparations.

Structure

As a decentralized, field-oriented organization, IOM provides this assistance relying on its network of more than 450 field offices located in over 100 countries. Globally, the Land, Property and Reparations Division (LPR) guides and supports assistance provided by IOM field offices with regard to land, property and reparations. The LPR Division is composed of the Reparations Unit and the Land and Property Unit and forms part of the Department of Operations and Emergencies at the IOM Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.



Examples of IOM work in land, property and reparations

- In Colombia, IOM is currently implementing a 3-year-programme which aims to enable government authorities and other relevant actors to provide comprehensive assistance to the victims of the conflict as required by the Victims Law of 2011.
- At the request of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), IOM has conducted a research project assessing potential obstacles and options for the provision of reparations to civilian victims of the Yugoslav wars.
- As one of the partner organizations of the German Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future", IOM processed over 330,000 compensation claims from former Nazi-era forced labourers at first instance and appeals level in the period between 2000 and 2006.
- In the framework of the Roma Holocaust Survivors Humanitarian and Social Programmes, IOM, in partnership with local NGOs, has already assisted more than 75,000 beneficiaries. The latest phase of the programme aims to address the immediate humanitarian and social needs of 10,000 Roma Holocaust survivors.
- In Iraq, IOM provided technical assistance to the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) in the design of options for the resolution of land and property disputes in Kirkuk and actively participated in the UNAMI-supported local dialogue and negotiations on land and property issues.



Community Symbolic Reparations Event in Makeni, Sierra Leone, 2009. © IOM 2009

- IOM has continued its work in Haiti in order to overcome the different types of land-tenure related barriers by facilitating the prevention and resolution of land disputes applying solutions that have been adopted by the IOM legal team.
- In partnership with the US Institute of Peace (USIP), The World Bank and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), IOM organizes a biannual training on "Land, property and conflict" for policymakers and practitioners with various backgrounds.
- In Sierra Leone, IOM continues to work with the National Commission for Social Action to implement various types of reparations to conflict victims, including amputees, severely war-wounded, victims of sexual violence and other vulnerable groups.
- In collaboration with Canada's International Development Research Centre, IOM has shared technical knowledge about the design and implementation of large-scale restitution and compensation claims programmes with actors of the Middle East Peace Process concerned with Palestinian refugee issues.
- IOM, together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Habitat, is currently working towards preparing Nepal's leaders to develop a national transition plan for the implementation of a comprehensive land reform and property return, thus gradually resolving historic and conflict-related land issues in Nepal.
- Through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), IOM provided technical assistance to the Turkish Ministry of Interior on the implementation of the Law 5233 compensation programme, including the training of civil servants tasked with reviewing the compensation claims of internally displaced persons.
- In Kyrgyzstan, IOM provided legal assistance for the restoration and reinstatement of property rights and documents for victims of the internal displacement that affected the southern part of the country.
- Recent IOM publications on land, property and reparations include: "Ending the 2006 Internal Displacement Crisis in Timor-Leste: Between Humanitarian Aid and Transitional Justice" and "Dealing with Land Barriers to Shelter Construction in Haiti: The Experience of the IOM Haiti Legal Team."

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