



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



Introduction and Context

- **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.



Introduction and Context

□ 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**.



Key Discussion Point: Migrant-Specific Vulnerabilities in Crises

- **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



Key Discussion Point: Frameworks of Protection and Assistance for Migrants Caught in Crises

- **Frameworks of Protection and Assistance for Migrants in Crisis Situations**
 - International human rights law, international humanitarian law, and the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement all apply to migrants caught 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



Workshop 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