Efficient and effective border management procedures not only contribute to enhanced border security, but also facilitate the movement of people and goods across borders. Regional and international trade are requisites of economic growth and poverty reduction.

The International Organization for Migration’s (IOM) Immigration and Border Management (IBM) Division supports national development efforts by improving Member States’ border management procedures in line with development and trade policies and practices. IOM assists States with establishing reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure at the border to support economic development and human well-being.

IOM promotes a border management framework that seeks to improve national and international cooperation and coordination among all authorities and agencies involved in border management and trade facilitation, at times replicating the integrated border management approach. IOM offers States support in implementing an integrated approach to border management via intra-agency, inter-agency and international cooperation mechanisms.

Advantages of IOM’s assistance on integrated border management for development and trade

- Simplified and harmonized procedures (no duplication of efforts or tasks)
- More effective use of financial and human resources
- More effective relationships between governmental and non-governmental actors at the borders
- Faster processing of people and goods
- More effective detection of human traffickers and migrant smugglers, terrorists or other criminals
- Faster response to emergencies and threats
- Faster and more effective collection, management, and sharing of information
- More effective mechanisms to detect and protect vulnerable migrants

CORRUPTION

Corruption operates as a strong disincentive to foreign investment, and as such harms economic activity and development. Countries capable of controlling corruption are able to use their human and financial resources more efficiently, attract more foreign and domestic investment, and grow more rapidly. IOM engages in anti-corruption training activities as part of its work on Border Management for Development and Trade.
IOM’s Partner in Border Management for Development and Trade: World Customs Organization

IOM and the World Customs Organization collaborate on joint programming to better support Member States advance and modernize their border management structures to facilitate regular border crossings, exchange goods and services across borders, and protect vulnerable migrants.

Examples of IOM’s Assistance to Member States’ Physical Procedures at the Border

One-Stop Border Posts

A single, shared physical infrastructure in which the customs and border services of neighbouring countries operate side by side.
- Reduces waiting times at border crossing points
- Limits opportunities for corruption
- Enhances cross-border cooperation

BMIS/MIDAS

IOM helps States with the implementation of Border Management Information Systems (BMIS) at borders, including the IOM-developed Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS), designed to collect, process, store and analyse traveller information.
- Speeds up control procedures
- Facilitates data collection and information-sharing

Border Infrastructure and Equipment

IOM helps improve States’ existing border infrastructure and revise their trade and development policies to increase efficiency.
- Optimizes traffic flows during border checks
- Improves working conditions for border staff
- Enhances quality and effectiveness of border checks

Objective 11: Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner.

Objective 23: Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration.

Target 9.1: Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all.

Target 10.7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

Target 16.4: By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flow, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime.

Target 16.5: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.

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For more information, please contact IOM’s Immigration and Border Management Division at ibm@iom.int