The large-scale smuggling of migrants across international borders is a global threat to migration governance, national security and the well-being of migrants. Many migrants resort to using migrant smugglers when they do not have the option of travelling through legal channels. Consequently, migrant smugglers have become an integral part of the irregular migration journey, and criminal networks profit significantly from this situation.

**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.

The International Organization for Migration’s (IOM) Immigration and Border Management (IBM) Division assists Member States to build and strengthen their capacity to directly intervene in and disrupt migrant smuggling operations, requiring coordination with legislative bodies, implementing effective border control measures and ensuring the concerted action of law enforcement agencies. IOM also assists in enhancing regional and international cooperation among key States and advocating for the exchange of best practices.

**WHAT IS MIGRANT SMUGGLING?**

Smuggling of migrants is the “procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident”.

IOM’s Comprehensive Approach to Counter-Migrant Smuggling

The International Organization for Migration’s (IOM) Comprehensive Approach to Counter-Migrant Smuggling addresses the complex dimensions of migrant smuggling by arranging the Organization’s work around the following four pillars:

a. Provide protection and assistance to smuggled migrants;
b. Address the causes of migrant smuggling;
c. Enhance States’ capacity to disrupt the activities of migrant smugglers;
d. Promote research and data collection on migrant smuggling.

IOM’s Partners in Countering Migrant Smuggling

EUROPEAN UNION

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME

AFRICAN UNION

INTERPOL

INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

IOM’s Partners in Countering Migrant Smuggling

African Union

European Union

International Civil Aviation Organization

International Air Transport Association

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

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