As the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is increasingly called upon by Member States to assist in addressing complex migration and border management challenges in order to maintain the delicate balance between the facilitation of cross-border movements, while upholding border security and protecting migrants’ rights.

IOM’s Immigration and Border Management (IBM) Division supports Member States in improving the policy, legislation, operational systems, human resources and administrative and technical structures required to respond more effectively to diverse migration and border management challenges. IBM activities are in line with IOM’s commitment to facilitate orderly, safe and regular migration and mobility.

IBM activities are designed as partnerships with governments and other relevant interlocutors to identify needs, determine priority areas, and shape and deliver interventions. The IBM team’s activities are continuously evolving to meet new migration dynamics on the national, regional and international levels. There are two distinct and complementary portfolios within IBM: (a) Border and Identity Solutions; and (b) Immigration and Visas.

In addition, the IBM team oversees a number of organizational cross-thematic initiatives, notably the responsible and ethical use of biometrics, programming related to counter-terrorism, IOM’s African Capacity Building Centre (ACBC) in Moshi, United Republic of Tanzania and IOM’s upcoming flagship training programme, Essentials of Migration Management 2.0 (emm2.0).

**BORDER AND IDENTITY SOLUTIONS UNIT**

Efficient border and migration management policies and structures, supported by professional, well-trained personnel, facilitates and fosters enhanced movement management at borders, prevents irregular migration, helps dismantle organized criminal networks, and protects the rights of migrants. Upon governments’ request, the Border and Identity Solutions Unit (BIS) addresses a broad range of migration and border management issues by building and enhancing Member States’ capacity.
Enhancing border and migration management structures and procedures to better facilitate cross-border movements while securing national sovereignty. This involves building Member States’ capacity to register, check and analyze cross-border movements, enhance the security of identity documents, improve regional and international cooperation, and develop relevant technical tools.

Providing capacity-building assistance to Member States wishing to establish or improve their operational mechanisms at the border to reduce uncertainty and adequately respond to the changing and often escalating cross-border movements that occur in situations of emergency.

Assisting with the implementation of regularization measures that enable non-nationals in an irregular or undocumented situation to remain lawfully in a country. This includes providing Member States with technical assistance, in particular policy guidance and capacity-building, in managing regularization procedures.

Supporting national development efforts by improving border management procedures in line with development and trade policies and practices. This includes assisting Member States with developing reliable, sustainable and resilient border infrastructure to support economic development and human well-being.

**KEY BORDER AND IDENTITY SOLUTIONS ACTIVITIES**

**READMISSION**

Supporting the establishment and implementation of coordinated and mutually approved readmission agreements that regulate how States return non-nationals in an irregular situation to the country of origin.

**COUNTER-MIGRANT SMUGGLING**

Enhancing Member States’ capacity to disrupt migrant smuggling operations, and improving the harmonization between legislation, border control measures and the activities of law enforcement.

**BORDER AND INFORMATION SOLUTIONS**

Enhancing of border and migration management structures and procedures to better facilitate cross-border movements while securing national sovereignty. This involves building Member States’ capacity to register, check and analyze cross-border movements, enhance the security of identity documents, improve regional and international cooperation, and develop relevant technical tools.

**REGULARIZATION**

Assisting with the implementation of regularization measures that enable non-nationals in an irregular or undocumented situation to remain lawfully in a country. This includes providing Member States with technical assistance, in particular policy guidance and capacity-building, in managing regularization procedures.

**HUMANITARIAN BORDER MANAGEMENT**

Providing capacity-building assistance to Member States wishing to establish or improve their operational mechanisms at the border to reduce uncertainty and adequately respond to the changing and often escalating cross-border movements that occur in situations of emergency.

**BORDER MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT/TRADE**

Supporting national development efforts by improving border management procedures in line with development and trade policies and practices. This includes assisting Member States with developing reliable, sustainable and resilient border infrastructure to support economic development and human well-being.

**CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES**

**Immigration and border assessments**

Conducting assessments of border management policies, legal and institutional frameworks, processes and procedures, and providing Member States with recommendations for improvement.

**Border management capacity-building**

Developing and implementing tailored capacity-building programmes and training courses to help Member States respond to varied border management challenges.

**Immigration and border management policy**

Assisting Member States in reviewing and improving their national and regional border management policies, in compliance with international law, to better address border-related issues.

**Traveller identification management**

Assessing and improving the integrity of identity documents, issuance and management systems in compliance with international standards and specifications.

IOM’s Immigration and Border Management Division
Additional technical support provided by the BIS Unit include the following:

- Travel document inspection
- Community policing
- Immigration detention and alternatives to detention
- Border management information systems – including IOM’s Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS)
- Passenger data – Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR)
- Regional free movement arrangements

**KEY IMMIGRATION AND VISAS ACTIVITIES**

**IMMIGRATION/VISA POLICY SUPPORT**

Assisting national authorities with policy reforms by developing, evaluating and enhancing their visa policies, legislation and procedures through technical assistance and capacity-building measures. This policy support is based on operational insights and aimed at assisting Member States throughout the entire visa policymaking cycle, from issue identification to policy formulation and legislation drafting, implementation and evaluation.

**CONSULAR AND CITIZEN SERVICES**

Consular and citizen services support includes facilitation of consular cooperation between Member States, as well as providing operational support to Member States’ citizens, especially in situations of personal emergency. Where required, such assistance can be delivered through dedicated Consular Support Centres to enhance access to timely and reliable consular assistance, including provision of identity and travel documents.

**ASSISTED TRAVEL**

For migrants requiring travel assistance, such as those with medical needs, unaccompanied minors or the elderly, comprehensive support is provided, including detailed information on air travel, reduced one-way migrant fares, completion of all travel-related documentation, assistance at the airport of departure, in transit and upon arrival, as well as flight escorts when required.

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**THE IMMIGRATION AND VISAS UNIT**

The IBM - IV Unit supports Member States in analyzing, developing and implementing evidence-based visa policies and solutions. With over a billion people on the move today, visa policies are a central tool for Member States to better manage legal migration and to prevent irregular migration. The unit provides innovative, technology-driven operational support to visa application processes, by working closely with immigration and consular authorities and other partners, to facilitate visa schemes in a more efficient and cost-effective manner. IBM’s operational solutions enhance regular pathways for migration and mobility, making them more accessible, better informed, dignified, timely and transparent.
Facilitating efficient and cost-effective implementation of Member States’ migration management policies and systems with the aim of developing well-administered and timely visa and entry schemes, including for work, study and family reunification. IV solutions empower migrants with accurate and timely information on regular migration channels in a language and manner appropriate to their needs and circumstances.

In support of regular migration and mobility pathways, the IV Unit works closely with immigration and consular authorities to help ensure that documentation submitted at various stages of immigration processes is genuine. By facilitating the verification of documents directly with issuing authorities, these solutions result in a more efficient processing of legitimate visa applications while reducing fraud.

Operational solutions provided by the IV Unit include the following:

- Information services
- Case management systems
- Booking and scheduling systems
- E-visa systems (in cooperation with BIS)
- Document review, receipt and verification
- Digitization of documentation
- Secure data input, validation and transfer
- Biometric data collection, validation and transfer
- Payment and transfer systems
- Travel document collection and transfer
- Facilitation of interviews
- Facilitation of DNA testing
- Assisted travel

Operational and Policy-making Capacity Development
Contribute to increased capacities of States in facilitating regular migration and mobility. This is done both through operational support and through policy advice.

Data Analysis and Knowledge Management
The IV Unit’s experience on the ground has yielded valuable insights into current regular migration trends which helps States to develop data driven and evidence-based policies and practices based on good practices and lessons learned. In addition, the IV Unit’s solutions provide States with tools to manage the complex data associated with large application volumes.

Participating in Global Fora and Policy Dialogues with Stakeholders
Leveraging the IV Unit’s operational experience to advance the understanding of visa solutions as tools that contribute to better migration management as well as development. To this end, the Unit provides input to global fora and liaises with Member States, other UN agencies, NGOs, and the private sector.