



IOM AND HUMANITARIAN BORDER MANAGEMENT

The International Organization for Migration (IOM)'s Humanitarian Border Management (HBM) programme recognizes the need for appropriate border management responses at times of humanitarian crisis arising from both natural and man-made disasters. HBM activities aim to improve preparedness and responses to protect those who cross borders in emergencies, as well as to ensure that the security of the border is maintained.

Border management agencies including immigration, police, customs, quarantine and armed forces need to be equipped with operational mechanisms that are designed to respond to changing and often escalating movement patterns. In addition, a support network of agencies is necessary in order to assist migrants with a variety of vulnerabilities and protection needs when they are moving in large numbers across international borders. IOM is well-positioned to provide on-the-ground, targeted expertise and capacity building assistance to countries who wish to establish or improve their response mechanisms for mass movements.

HUMAN SECURITY AND MIXED MIGRATION

HBM recognizes the broader role that border management agencies have in supporting human security. Abuses of human rights, large-scale displacement of civilian populations, drug and arms trafficking, environmental disasters or health crises present direct threats to human security and may drive highly vulnerable populations across borders.

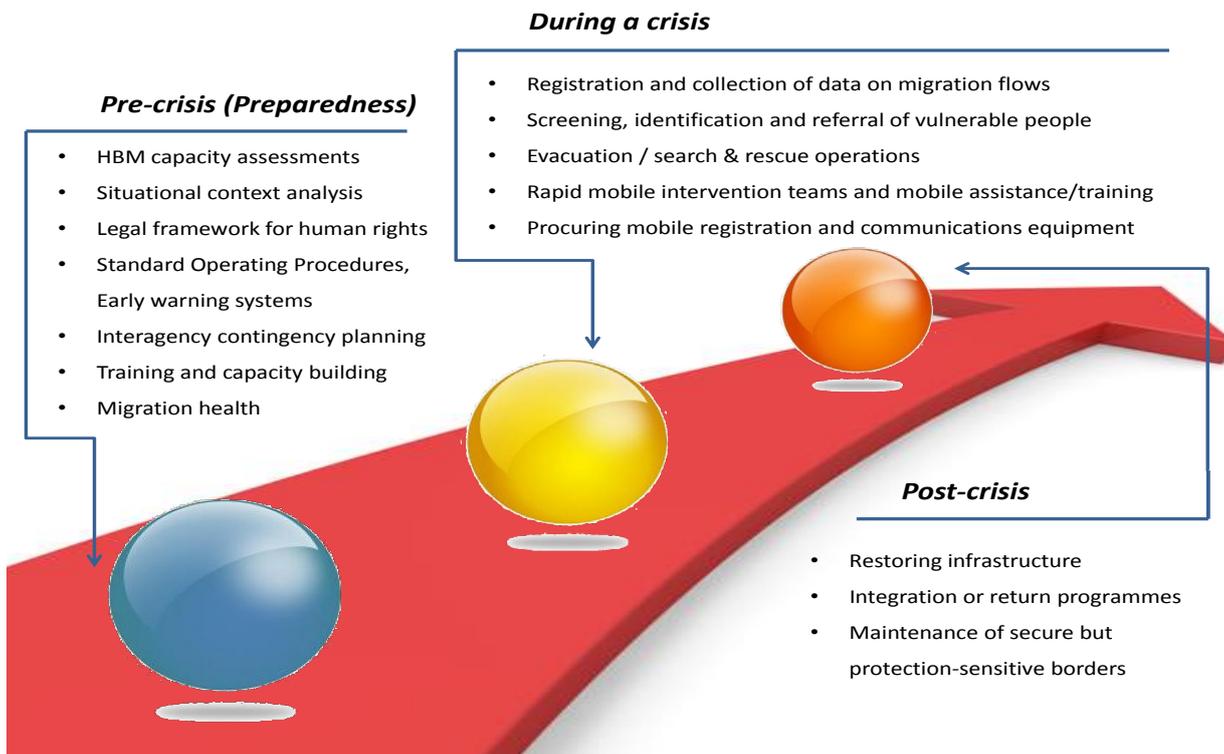
Population movements during migration crises include people on the move who, although they do not always fit into established protection categories, are nonetheless vulnerable and require protection. HBM seeks to ensure that border management practices can adapt to the needs of specific groups found within complex mixed migration flows.

WHAT SUPPORT CAN IOM PROVIDE ?

- Assessments on HBM capacities;
- Delivery of HBM training for border officials;
- Drafting or review of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for emergencies;
- Initiation of and improvement to emergency preparedness and contingency plans;
- Establishment of a referral system to assist migrants and provide humanitarian relief;
- Creation of interagency cooperation mechanisms to allow for a more coherent response to crises;
- Design and procurement of mobile communication and registration technology solutions;
- and more...



THREE STAGES OF INTERVENTION



HUMANITARIAN BORDER MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT IN THE SILK ROUTES REGION

In the context of the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration, an initiative of the Budapest process, IOM conducted an assessment of Humanitarian Border Management capacities in Afghanistan, northern Iraq and Pakistan.

The participating countries have experienced periods of war, political instability, security concerns, natural disasters and economic instability in the last decades. This has led to mass displacements internally and movements across international borders of persons in need of humanitarian assistance, creating significant challenges for each of the Governments.

The IOM assessment focused on legislation, regulatory frameworks and policies for emergency and disaster management. The final report maps HBM capacities in Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan and makes a number of recommendations to improve HBM, such as the development of Standard Operating Procedures to deal with mass movements at borders.

ASSESSMENT OF HBM CAPACITIES IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

The IOM African Capacity Building Centre (ACBC) and the IOM Office in Bunia, DRC, completed a week-long assessment of HBM capacities in the DRC. The IOM assessment team visited four different border crossings in Province Orientale, sharing borders with South Sudan, Uganda and the Central African Republic and they examined the types of crises occurring in these regions, existing preparedness, contingency plans, coordination mechanisms, division of responsibilities and finally, cooperation and exchange of information across the border.

The assessment team made several recommendations, including to reinforce existing border management committees, encourage awareness raising on migrants' rights, create standardized operational procedures for crisis situations, and institutionalize cross-border cooperation. The findings and recommendations of this assessment will serve as a basis for a full-fledged HBM training curriculum to be developed by the ACBC for DRC's border agencies.

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