

HUMANITARIAN BORDER MANAGEMENT



IOM's Immigration and Border Governance

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The International Organization for Migration (IOM) assists States in developing effective and rights-based border management initiatives and responses, to ultimately ensure safety for crisis-affected population. Crises such as conflicts, climate change, environmental degradation and uneven development are driving more displacement and irregular migration globally.

In this context, developed as part of the IOM's technical cooperation to support its Member States in enhancing their border and migration management systems, the **Humanitarian Border Management (HBM)** model provides practical and sustainable solutions to strengthen preparedness and establish adequate response mechanisms to assist crisis affected populations, nationals and non-nationals, in need of crossing the border during a humanitarian crisis, while ensuring that the security of the border is maintained. Through HBM initiatives, IOM provides technical support to Member States in building and strengthening responses to crisis settings on three main fronts:

- a. Enhance cross-border humanitarian responses, in line with national security and border integrity, to ultimately uphold the rights of crisis affected population;
- b. Enable border governance conforming with national sovereignty; and
- c. Ensure border security.

IOM is well-positioned to provide on-the-ground, targeted expertise and technical cooperation to countries that wish to establish and/or improve their response mechanisms to heightened cross-border movements.

IOM assists Member States in building robust migration and border management programmes based on solid policies, laws, procedures and information systems, to timely respond also to sudden crisis.

Well-managed crisis responses prevent the closure of borders, hence ensure that fundamental rights and needs are timely addressed while effectively responding to humanitarian crisis.

MIXED MIGRATION

Human rights abuses, large-scale displacement of civilian populations, drug and arms trafficking, environmental disasters and health crises present direct threats to human security and may drive populations in the most vulnerable situations across borders. Population movements during crises include people on the move who, although not always fitting into established protection categories, are nonetheless exposed to violence, exploitation and abuse and crime, including smuggling of migrants, hence in situation of vulnerability that requires protection. HBM seeks to ensure that border management practices can adapt to the needs of specific groups found within complex mixed migration movements.

IOM STRATEGIC PLAN



Objective 1
Saving lives and protecting people on the move



Objective 3
Facilitating pathways for regular migration

HBM IN IOM'S MIGRATION CRISIS OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK

IOM developed a Migration Crisis Operational Framework (MCOF), which serves as a practical, operational and institution-wide tool for improving and systematizing the way in which the Organization supports its Member States and partners to better prepare for and respond to migration crises. IOM's Technical Assistance for Humanitarian Border Management is one of its components.



GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION



Objective 4: Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation.



Objective 7: Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration.



Objective 9: Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants.



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.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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.a: Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.

IOM'S THREE STAGES OF INTERVENTION



PREPAREDNESS

For enhanced, efficient and effective responses and facilitate after the crisis resilience

- HBM legal, capacity and needs assessment
- Situational context analysis
- Legal framework for human rights and international obligations and agreements
- Standard operating procedures
Early warning systems
- Inter-agency contingency planning
- Training and capacity-building
- Development of a framework for cultural mediators support
- Risks assessments to minimize threats posed by transnational organized crime operating in crisis context.
- Verification of legal basis to enable alternatives to administrative detention for crisis-affected migrant population



RESPONSE

Saving lives and protecting people on the move (during the crisis)

- Registration and collection of data on migration movements
- Screening, identification and referral of people in vulnerable situations
- Evacuation/ Search & Rescue (SAR) operations at sea, land and desert.
- Rapid mobile intervention teams and mobile assistance/ training
- Procurement of mobile registration and communications equipment
- Emergency consular services; assistance in readmission and return of nationals of other countries



AFTER THE CRISIS

Evidence-based support for Resilience and Recovery

- Assessments on impact of HBM interventions
- Redefining border and migration management procedures, according to the HBM assessment evidence and recommendations
- Restoration of ordinary border and migration management systems and processes.
- Leveraging values, opportunities and advantages for integration initiatives, and/or return programs.
- Evaluation of avenues for regular pathways, including regularization and/or resettlement.
- Risk assessment to minimize threats posed by transnational organized crime operating in crisis context.

USEFUL LINKS



Article on HBM on LinkedIn



Introductory e-learning course on HBM: [E-Campus](#) and [I-Learn](#)



Promotion Video on HBM



HBM is included in the [Global Crisis Response Plan](#) (GCRP objective 1: Saving lives)



For more information, please contact IOM's Immigration and Border Governance Division at ibg@iom.int