

Violations of basic human rights including rights to housing, land and property (HLP) are part and parcel of the majority of historic and current conflicts around the globe. Although frequently masked by ethnic hatred or political divisions, most of the conflicts are primarily driven by competition for scarce resources, including access to land and productive assets, or, in some cases, deep feelings of historical injustice and marginalization. They are typically characterized by massive human rights violations such as murder, indiscriminate attacks on civilians, torture and sexual violence, enforced disappearances and displacement, as well as destruction and dispossession of land and property. Addressing these causes and consequences of conflict is a precondition for creating an environment suitable for sustainable peace and security, facilitating effective reconstruction and enabling durable solutions and social cohesion for displacement affected populations.



IOM PROVIDES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ACCOMPANIMENT FOR THE TRUTH COMMISSION IN THE COLLECTION OF TESTIMONIES OF VICTIMS IN COLOMBIA © IOM 2020

In carrying out this work, IOM relies on the provisions contained in International Humanitarian Law, International Human Rights Law, as well as international frameworks and guidance notes, such as the IASC Durable Solutions Framework. By addressing the issues related to access to land and property rights, IOM's work contributes toward equitable and sustainable development. Similarly, by facilitating access to remedies for human rights violations, the work also contributes toward rule of law, good governance and social cohesion. IOM's work, complementary to other partners, includes:

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| <p>Development and implementation of capacity-building programmes for institutions and local authorities responsible for implementing reparations, transitional justice, and land and property restitution mechanisms</p> | <p>Technical assistance to implementing bodies, including the development of implementation strategies, standard operating procedures, guidance, and IT solutions</p> | <p>Design and implementation of field surveys, assessments and studies, including consultations with victims or potential beneficiaries</p> | <p>Expert advice and recommendations on legal and institutional frameworks for addressing victims' reparations, transitional justice, and access to land and property rights</p> | <p>Direct implementation of programmes that address land and property issues or provide reparations to individual victims and/or communities</p> |
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HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY (HLP)

Restoration of HLP rights plays a prominent role in reconciliation, peacebuilding and reconstruction efforts for countries in transition. Areas of IOM's expertise within HLP issues includes the resolution of land and property disputes; increasing and protecting access to land and land tenure security for vulnerable populations in rural and urban settings; reinforcing land management institutions and mechanisms; supporting community or State-driven land titling and land rights identification; resolving land and property issues in shelter and/or camp programmes; and addressing housing issues in the context of displacement caused of climate change and planned relocations. Further, IOM is committed to sensitizing international and national actors to the centrality of land issues in post-conflict and post-disaster environments. IOM provides policy guidance, expert advice, and technical assistance to resolving issues relevant for restoring HLP rights, including, but not limited to, restitution.

REPARATIONS TO VICTIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

IOM provides assistance to victims of human rights violations as a result of conflict, communal violence, organized persecution or systematic exploitation, often resulting in displacement and increased vulnerability. The eligibility of the beneficiary is based on public recognition of the perpetrated human rights violations on individual or collective basis. The type and volume of assistance is determined on the basis of the victim's vulnerability profile, protection, reintegration, social inclusion and recovery needs. Reparations programming encompasses technical support to governments and local and international stakeholders in order to promote locally sensitive programme design and the transparent delivery of reparations measures; assisting in developing transformative and victim-centered restorative justice policies; supporting the design and implementation of consultative mechanisms; assessing and strengthening institutional capacities to implement transitional justice mechanisms; building administrative capacity for handling large numbers of claims; and general development of efficient remedy models (financial compensation payments, provision of in-kind benefits, access to healthcare services, and implementation of symbolic reparations).

PROGRAMMING PRINCIPLES

COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS: Including the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Durable Solutions Framework, Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law; the Guidance Note of the UN Secretary General on Reparations for Conflict Related Sexual Violence; the *Pinheiro Principles* on housing and property restitution for refugees and displaced persons and International Human Rights Law (IHRL) and International Humanitarian Law (IHL) provisions.

PARTICIPATORY APPROACH: ensuring meaningful and effective individual and community participation in the development of policies and mechanisms of redress of human rights and land and property rights violations.

VICTIM-CENTERED ORIENTATION: enabling design and implementation of programmes in accordance with victims' and beneficiaries' vulnerabilities, capabilities, needs and expectations.

FEASIBILITY, EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS: ensuring that the needs and expectations of an affected population are met by the governmental and institutional capacities and resources.

HUMANITARIAN-DEVELOPMENT-PEACE NEXUS: Reinforcing collaborative, coherent and complementary programming through simultaneous engagement of stakeholders for increased impact and more efficient use of resources.

EXAMPLES OF IOM'S WORK

- In [Colombia](#), IOM helps to enable government authorities and other relevant actors to provide comprehensive assistance to victims of the conflict. Current projects contribute to improving the assistance provided to victims and knowledge management regarding the administration of justice processes through capacity-building and technical assistance.
- In the framework of the [Roma Holocaust Survivors](#) Humanitarian and Social Programmes, IOM, in partnership with local NGOs, has assisted more than 75,000 beneficiaries.
- In [Iraq](#), IOM provided technical assistance to the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq in the design of the resolution of land and property disputes in Kirkuk and actively participated in the local dialogue and negotiations on land and property issues. IOM conducted a series of assessments and workshops to address [violations under ISIS](#).
- At the request of the [International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia](#), IOM assessed obstacles and options for the provision of reparations to civilian victims. Similar assessment was conducted by IOM at the request of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.
- From 2000-2006, as one of the partner organizations of the German Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future", IOM processed over 330,000 compensation claims from [former Nazi-era forced labourers](#).
- In [Sierra Leone](#), IOM worked with the National Commission for Social Action to implement reparations to conflict victims, including amputees, the severely war-wounded, victims of conflict related sexual violence and other vulnerable groups.
- In [Nepal](#), in collaboration with OHCHR, UNDP, UN Women and others, IOM implemented a number of projects to address the causes and consequences of conflict. These included access to reparations, of Conflict Related Sexual Violence in the Government policies and mechanisms, and of access to HLP for female headed households.



For more information: <https://www.iom.int/land-property-and-reparations-division-lpr>

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