

COMMUNITY POLICING

IOM's Immigration and Border Management

Community policing programmes strive to promote a collaborative relationship between a community and law enforcement agencies. The International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Immigration and Border Management (IBM) Division provides support to requesting Member States in the development of community policing initiatives focusing on communities with large numbers of migrants.

Community policing in border areas enables a decentralized approach in which government officials establish a proactive relationship with border communities, including informal community leaders, to help avert cross-border crime, identify issues and build ownership of regional challenges. IOM assists Member States in building better ties between law enforcement, migrants and host communities, and implementing whole-of-community developed initiatives to ensure the effective protection of fundamental rights and a better quality of life in the community.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Objective 7: Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration.

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

Objective 17: Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration.

GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION



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.

Community policing activities:

- Establish and maintain a partnership between the community and the police.
- Improve transparency in the service and accountability of the police to the community.
- Promote joint problem identification and problem solving by the police and the community in relation to crime, service delivery, disorder and poor community police relations.
- Monitor the effectiveness and efficiency of the police.
- Implement projects in the interests of improved community safety.
- Conduct joint activities to raise awareness on potential involvement in cross-border crime.
- Work with the public on collecting information on crime trends.
- Promote a positive narrative on migration to counter xenophobia.
- Provide training on conflict resolution and mediation skills.

IOM'S TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON COMMUNITY POLICING

Community policing activities strengthen the population's sense of civic engagement while creating conditions for law enforcement to best serve and protect the community in full respect of human rights. IOM assists in building capacity at the community level to prevent and mitigate conflict, supports the training of law enforcement on community policing, and assists Member States in bringing together community representatives to enhance lines of communication.

KEY DIMENSIONS OF IOM'S ASSISTANCE ON COMMUNITY POLICING



COMMUNICATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Training of police officers on skills including communicating and mediating, building trust, developing effective approaches to addressing community concerns and to solve problems, and conveying the public's concerns to police management and other stakeholders. Training for communities focuses on enhancing its capacity to engage with the police to report concerns and crime.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Building or rebuilding trust between the police force and the community and encouraging communities to work collaboratively with the police in setting priorities and developing and implementing local anti-crime strategies.

PROTECTION

An important indicator of the relationship and level of trust between community and law enforcement is whether victims report violence and receive justice, adequate protection, support and compensation. IOM's community policing mechanisms seek to involve vulnerable and marginalized groups by, for example, establishing specific units dealing with violence against women or child protection issues. It also does so by increasing the representation of women and minority groups in law enforcement agencies and establishing linkages with civil society organizations.

