

GENDER AND BORDER MANAGEMENT

IOM's Immigration and Border Management Division

The International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Immigration and Border Management (IBM) Division plays a key role in ensuring safe, orderly and regular migration by offering guidance and expertise to States aspiring to improve their migration and border management capacities. As gender influences migration dynamics, IOM supports Member States in mainstreaming gender and considering the specific implications for women, men, boys and girls in any of their planned action, including legislation and policies in the field of immigration and border management.



Objective 7: Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration.

Gender refers to the socially constructed roles and relationships, personality traits, attitudes, behaviours, values, relative power and influence that society ascribes to males and females on a differential basis. Gender is relational and refers not simply to women or men, but also to the relationship between them.



Target 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

Target 5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

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.

Gender is a central component of an individual's migration journey. It is recognized that a person's sex, gender, gender identity and sexual orientation shape every stage of the migration experience, with gender influencing reasons for migrating, who migrates and to where, how people migrate and the networks they use, opportunities and resources available at destinations, and relations with the country of origin. Gender constitutes a specific kind of vulnerability and the roles, expectations, relationships and power dynamics associated with being a man, woman, boy or girl, and whether one identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and/or intersex (LGBTI) exposes migrants to different types of risks.

Understanding the gender dimensions of migration and applying this awareness in border management activities is therefore crucial for border agencies when addressing cross-border movements appropriately, efficiently and with regard for migrants' rights.

IOM, through the provision of capacity-building activities to its Member States, can help equip border authorities to properly protect migrants and adopt a gender-responsive approach to border management.

TOOLS FOR GENDER MAINSTREAMING

The IOM Gender Marker is the internal tool that guides the Organization in mainstreaming gender into its activities and its delivery of expertise and technical assistance. It assesses how well projects integrate gender considerations and allows IOM to monitor its performance over time.

MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN THE FIELD OF IMMIGRATION AND BORDER MANAGEMENT

IOM assists Member States to mainstream gender through the following:

1

Providing States with support in developing gender-sensitive migration policies that include an understanding of gender-related vulnerabilities through policy review and providing recommendations.

2

Incorporating discussions on gender and including gender-focused exercises in capacity-building activities for border authorities, for example on gender-based violence.

3

Designing capacity-building activities specifically for women involved in border management and/or ensuring representative participation in general training and workshop activities.

4

Providing advice on ensuring gender-sensitive standard operating procedures at the border, such as appropriate searching procedures or the provision of protection.

5

Providing support to States in implementing protection mechanisms that incorporate gender considerations for vulnerable migrants.

6

Providing support to States wishing to gender equalize their workforce in migration-related departments and agencies.

Gender directly influences the following:

- Migrants' lived experiences of journeys, crises and integration processes, including relationships with the people encountered along the way;
- Susceptibility to specific forms of abuse, such as sexual violence and exploitation;
- Type of discrimination experienced in countries of transit and arrival;
- Protection and relief needs.

