

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER MANAGEMENT DIVISION

As the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is increasingly called upon by Member States to assist in addressing complex migration and border management challenges in order to maintain the delicate balance between the facilitation of cross-border movements, while upholding border security and protecting migrants' rights.

IOM's Immigration and Border Management (IBM) Division supports Member States in improving the policy, legislation, operational systems, human resources and administrative and technical structures required to respond more effectively to diverse migration and border management challenges. IBM activities are in line with IOM's commitment to facilitate orderly, safe and regular migration and mobility.

IBM activities are designed as partnerships with governments and other relevant interlocutors to identify needs, determine priority areas, and shape and deliver interventions. The IBM team's activities are continuously evolving to meet new migration dynamics on the national, regional and international levels. There are two distinct and complementary portfolios within IBM: (a) Border and Identity Solutions; and (b) Immigration and Visas.

In addition, the IBM team oversees a number of organizational cross-thematic initiatives, notably the responsible and ethical use of biometrics, programming related to counter-terrorism, IOM's African Capacity Building Centre (ACBC) in Moshi, United Republic of Tanzania and IOM's upcoming flagship training programme, Essentials of Migration Management 2.0 (emm2.0).

BORDER AND IDENTITY SOLUTIONS UNIT

Efficient border and migration management policies and structures, supported by professional, well-trained personnel, facilitates and fosters enhanced movement management at borders, prevents irregular migration, helps dismantle organized criminal networks, and protects the rights of migrants. Upon governments' request, the Border and Identity Solutions Unit (BIS) addresses a broad range of migration and border management issues by building and enhancing Member States' capacity.

KEY BORDER AND IDENTITY SOLUTIONS ACTIVITIES



READMISSION

Supporting the establishment and implementation of coordinated and mutually approved readmission agreements that regulate how States return non-nationals in an irregular situation to the country of origin.



COUNTER-MIGRANT SMUGGLING

Enhancing Member States' capacity to disrupt migrant smuggling operations, and improving the harmonization between legislation, border control measures and the activities of law enforcement.



BORDER AND INFORMATION SOLUTIONS

Enhancing of border and migration management structures and procedures to better facilitate cross-border movements while securing national sovereignty. This involves building Member States' capacity to register, check and analyze cross-border movements, enhance the security of identity documents, improve regional and international cooperation, and develop relevant technical tools.



REGULARIZATION

Assisting with the implementation of regularization measures that enable non-nationals in an irregular or undocumented situation to remain lawfully in a country. This includes providing Member States with technical assistance, in particular policy guidance and capacity-building, in managing regularization procedures.



HUMANITARIAN BORDER MANAGEMENT

Providing capacity-building assistance to Member States wishing to establish or improve their operational mechanisms at the border to reduce uncertainty and adequately respond to the changing and often escalating cross-border movements that occur in situations of emergency.



BORDER MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT/TRADE

Supporting national development efforts by improving border management procedures in line with development and trade policies and practices. This includes assisting Member States with developing reliable, sustainable and resilient border infrastructure to support economic development and human well-being.

CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES

Immigration and border assessments

Conducting assessments of border management policies, legal and institutional frameworks, processes and procedures, and providing Member States with recommendations for improvement.

Immigration and border management policy

Assisting Member States in reviewing and improving their national and regional border management policies, in compliance with international law, to better address border-related issues.

Border management capacity-building

Developing and implementing tailored capacity-building programmes and training courses to help Member States respond to varied border management challenges.

Traveller identification management

Assessing and improving the integrity of identity documents, issuance and management systems in compliance with international standards and specifications.



Data management, immigration intelligence and risk analysis

Improved collection and management of migration data, intelligence-gathering, and developing risk analyses, directly contributing to the formation of evidence-based migration policy and enhanced border security.

Border management and gender

Supporting Member States in mainstreaming gender, taking into account the specific implications for women and men in any planned government action, legislation and policy.

Integrated border management

Assisting Member States with capacity-building initiatives for concerted border management practices focusing on intra-service, inter-agency and international cooperation.

Border security

Helping Member States respond to and mitigate threats at the national borders by providing targeted technical assistance to help assess current procedures and build capacity to identify risks.

Additional technical support provided by the BIS Unit include the following:

- Travel document inspection
- Community policing
- Immigration detention and alternatives to detention
- Border management information systems – including IOM's Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS)
- Passenger data – Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR)
- Regional free movement arrangements

THE IMMIGRATION AND VISAS UNIT

The IBM - IV Unit supports Member States in analyzing, developing and implementing evidence-based visa policies and solutions. With over a billion people on the move today, visa policies are a central tool for Member States to better manage legal migration and to prevent irregular migration. The unit provides innovative, technology-driven operational support to visa application processes, by working closely with immigration and consular authorities and other partners, to facilitate visa schemes in a more efficient and cost-effective manner. IBM's operational solutions enhance regular pathways for migration and mobility, making them more accessible, better informed, dignified, timely and transparent.

KEY IMMIGRATION AND VISAS ACTIVITIES



IMMIGRATION/VISA POLICY SUPPORT

Assisting national authorities with policy reforms by developing, evaluating and enhancing their visa policies, legislation and procedures through technical assistance and capacity-building measures. This policy support is based on operational insights and aimed at assisting Member States throughout the entire visa policymaking cycle, from issue identification to policy formulation and legislation drafting, implementation and evaluation.



CONSULAR AND CITIZEN SERVICES

Consular and citizen services support includes facilitation of consular cooperation between Member States, as well as providing operational support to Member States' citizens, especially in situations of personal emergency. Where required, such assistance can be delivered through dedicated Consular Support Centres to enhance access to timely and reliable consular assistance, including provision of identity and travel documents.



ASSISTED TRAVEL

For migrants requiring travel assistance, such as those with medical needs, unaccompanied minors or the elderly, comprehensive support is provided, including detailed information on air travel, reduced one-way migrant fares, completion of all travel-related documentation, assistance at the airport of departure, in transit and upon arrival, as well as flight escorts when required.





VISA/PERMIT FACILITATION

Facilitating efficient and cost-effective implementation of Member States' migration management policies and systems with the aim of developing well-administered and timely visa and entry schemes, including for work, study and family reunification. IV solutions empower migrants with accurate and timely information on regular migration channels in a language and manner appropriate to their needs and circumstances.



DOCUMENT VERIFICATION SOLUTIONS

In support of regular migration and mobility pathways, the IV Unit works closely with immigration and consular authorities to help ensure that documentation submitted at various stages of immigration processes is genuine. By facilitating the verification of documents directly with issuing authorities, these solutions result in a more efficient processing of legitimate visa applications while reducing fraud.

CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES

Technological Advancement

Leveraging visa-related technology, including biometric solutions and digital identification, to operationalize and improve the efficiency of immigration and visa processes, including for verification purposes.

Timely Assessments and Reviews

Conducting field assessments of migration flows, related regular pathway needs as well as MS policies and procedures related to immigration and visa processes. This helps to facilitate regular pathways for specific migration and mobility contexts, including humanitarian visa and admission schemes, family reunification, student, labour and visitor visa schemes.

Protection and Empowerment of Migrants in Vulnerable Situations

The IV Unit's work follows a vulnerability-sensitive approach that takes into account the specific needs of particular groups. This includes mainstreaming gender considerations both in designing IV interventions and in terms of staffing.

Operational and Policy-making Capacity Development

Contributing to increased capacities of States in facilitating regular migration and mobility. This is done both through operational support and through policy advice.

Data Analysis and Knowledge Management

The IV Unit's experience on the ground has yielded valuable insights into current regular migration trends which helps States to develop data driven and evidence-based policies and practices based on good practices and lessons learned. In addition, the IV Unit's solutions provide States with tools to manage the complex data associated with large application volumes.

Participating in Global Fora and Policy Dialogues with Stakeholders

Leveraging the IV Unit's operational experience to advance the understanding of visa solutions as tools that contribute to better migration management as well as development. To this end, the Unit provides input to global fora and liaises with Member States, other UN agencies, NGOs, and the private sector.

Operational solutions provided by the IV Unit include the following:

- Information services
- Case management systems
- Booking and scheduling systems
- E-visa systems (in cooperation with BIS)
- Document review, receipt and verification
- Digitization of documentation
- Secure data input, validation and transfer
- Biometric data collection, validation and transfer
- Payment and transfer systems
- Travel document collection and transfer
- Facilitation of interviews
- Facilitation of DNA testing
- Assisted travel

