THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION'S BORDER AND MIGRATION MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENTS

As the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration, IOM is increasingly called upon by States to assist in addressing complex border management challenges. The Immigration and Border Management (IBM) Team, consisting of a core group of specialists with substantial technical expertise and strong border management experience, posted to strategic locations in the field as well as in IOM headquarters, has been established to offer guidance and expertise to governments aspiring to improve their migration, border management and operational procedures.

The IBM team is committed to undertake actions that are both coherent and sustainable in the long term. One of the main tools available to us in support of this goal is our comprehensive Border and Migration Management Assessment framework. This framework is designed to ensure that IOM gains a complete overview of the migration management structure of the surveyed country and thus allows us to properly identify genuine development needs and requirements. This approach has proved to be very effective in providing a baseline of current capacity, ensuring that activities are not duplicated, but also in attracting potential donors and providing assurance that their funds are being properly targeted towards genuine needs and will achieve maximum impact.

Our assessment framework includes thorough examinations of the major elements of migration and border management including, but not limited to, legislation, policy, standard operating procedures, passports and travel documents, visa issuance, entry/exit controls, health, IT, HR and monitoring/reporting. The request for an Assessment is normally received from a host government after liaison with the IOM country office or after direct interest and enquiries from donors. The methodology of the Assessment will be decided by the host government and IOM and a team of experts will be established. The Assessment is then carried out, focusing on four main areas which encompass the specific elements listed above; administration, regulatory framework, operations and information management. Once completed, the team produces a set of recommendations as well as a road map for development which is then shared with the host government. The report typically identifies short- and long-term objectives and highlights priority actions.
BORDER AND MIGRATION MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENTS AT A GLANCE

The assessment model breaks down the functions of border and migration management into four interrelated components, each of which can be further desegregated into distinct elements:

ADMINISTRATION – Structure, resources, recruitment, performance standards, training programmes, staff turnover, values and conduct;

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK – Policy, legislation, regulations, procedures, international agreements, inter-agency and regional cooperation;

OPERATIONS – Entry and residence, passenger processing at border posts, investigations, intelligence, prosecutions, detention, removal, humanitarian and health considerations;

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT – Border management information systems, alert lists, passport and visa systems, system integrity.

The scope of the assessment is defined in close cooperation with the requesting government and the assessment itself is conducted with the assistance and active collaboration of senior government officials responsible for migration and border management in the country concerned. To complete an assessment in a thorough fashion, the time frame normally varies from two to three months.

If implemented, the assessment’s recommendations significantly contribute to enhance the effectiveness of migration management in the relevant country by:

- Strengthening the capacity of States to control migratory movements to and through their territories;
- Encouraging collaboration with neighbouring States; and
- Supporting the implementation of measures to combat people smuggling and trafficking in human beings.

Donors regularly request corroboration to justify funding needs. Border and migration management assessments are perfectly suited to provide this important supporting evidence. Examples in recent times where this has proved to be the case include a UK-funded assessment in Jordan that led to a European Commission/Dutch-funded project for 1.2 million euros to address learning and development needs identified by the assessors. In Haiti, two assessments were carried out thanks to IOM’s 1035 facility, thus reinforcing the coherence of the ongoing Capacity Building in Migration Management programme. In this particular case, the recommendations, combined with the CBMM programme, joined forces to address Haiti’s challenges: improve the effectiveness of the existing border management and passport production systems, strengthen the government’s capacities in counter trafficking and people smuggling, and enhance security in the country and the region.

In recent years, IOM’s border management experts have undertaken needs assessments in over 25 countries, notably in Belarus, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Lao PDR, Malawi, Mongolia, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Ukraine.