

ASSISTING MIGRANTS IN CRISES: WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

EVERY COUNTRY HOSTS MIGRANTS

In a globalized world, the number of international migrants living abroad for work, education, or family reasons is growing constantly. When disasters strike, migrants can face specific challenges in accessing vital information and assistance. IOM works towards the inclusion of migrants in emergency preparedness, response and recovery frameworks.

MIGRANTS' SPECIFIC VULNERABILITY

Migrants can be among the most affected when crises hit. Legal, social and other factors associated with being a migrant can result in specific vulnerability in these situations. The human and economic losses are felt heavily, including far away in migrants' home countries. Migrants' ability to cope with and recover from the impact of crisis is closely linked to the ability of actors to create the conditions necessary for migrants to cope in their own capacities.

EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Reducing migrants' vulnerability to emergencies is a shared responsibility of governments, international organizations, private sector actors and the civil society. IOM collaborates closely with key stakeholders and assists governments in their long-term strategy to better assist migrants in crisis preparedness, response and recovery. By doing so, IOM works towards realizing its overall vision of facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration.

WHAT DO WE DO?

IOM plays a lead role in disseminating, rolling out, and implementing the MICIC Guidelines. It offers support and services to stakeholders in migrant's home and host countries to strengthen their capacities to protect and assist migrants before, during and after crises.

In migrants' **host countries**, IOM collaborates with governmental and non-governmental actors to ensure that emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities adequately account for the presence of migrants and their communities.

In migrants' **home countries**, IOM collaborates with foreign services to build the capacity of consular and diplomatic personnel to assist and protect their nationals abroad when their host country is affected by a crisis.

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REDUCING THE VULNERABILITY OF MIGRANTS IN EMERGENCIES

IOM's CAPACITY BUILDING WORK
TO IMPLEMENT THE MICIC GUIDELINES

GUIDELINES TO PROTECT MIGRANTS IN COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING CONFLICT OR NATURAL DISASTER

The Guidelines to Protect Migrants in Countries Experiencing Conflict or Natural Disaster are the outcome of a State-led global consultative process that drew from the experiences of a broad range of governmental and non-governmental actors. The Guidelines are non-binding and complement existing protection frameworks. They provide actionable recommendations for all actors to systematically plan, prepare and assess actions to improve response for the benefit of migrants, leverage their capacities and help migrants and communities recover from crisis.

MICIC GUIDELINES AT A GLANCE

CRISIS PREPAREDNESS

1. Track information on crises
2. Collect and share information on migrants
3. Empower migrants
4. Include migrants in emergency management
5. Account for migrants in contingency planning
6. Establish migrant-inclusive communications systems
7. Establish coordination systems among actors
8. Build capacities for inclusive response and recovery

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

9. Provide accurate information on assistance
10. Facilitate migrants' movement to safety
11. Provide assistance without discrimination
12. Establish clear referral procedures
13. Evacuate and relocate migrants if needed

POST-CRISIS ACTION

14. Support migrants' recovery
15. Support the recovery of home and host communities

CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES, TRAININGS AND TOOLS

In support of the operationalization of the MICIC Guidelines, IOM continues to gather evidence through research activities and develops capacity-building tools and activities relevant to a variety of stakeholders that address gaps in assistance to migrants in the context of crisis preparedness, response and recovery mechanisms and frameworks.



AWARENESS RAISING

IOM disseminates the MICIC Guidelines and engages in continuous dialogue with key stakeholders on migrants' inclusion in emergency management on the issues of migrants' affected by crisis abroad. Awareness raising activities take different forms and key audiences include civil society organizations working with migrants, emergency management bodies as well as consular and diplomatic personnel of migrants' countries of origin.



COMPREHENSIVE TOOLBOX

IOM offers a series of templates to support the efforts of various stakeholders in the areas of emergency preparedness, emergency communication, evacuations and contingency planning for migrants' inclusion in emergency response.



COORDINATION OF RELEVANT ACTORS

IOM organizes platforms to promote dialogue and coordination on migrants' inclusion in emergency management among relevant actors, including emergency management bodies, immigration authorities, civil society organizations working with migrants, and consular and diplomatic personnel of migrants' countries of origin. IOM also supports the establishment of coordination structures and procedures.



E-LEARNING COURSE FOR CONSULAR OFFICIALS

IOM offers foreign personnel free access to an

online training package on "Managing crises affecting nationals living, working and staying abroad". The course is available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish language and covers the basics of emergency communications, contingency planning and evacuations. IOM also supports the adaptation of the course to different countries' context.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES

IOM supports a variety of local-level activities, including: data gathering on migrants and their communities; migrant-inclusive contingency planning; development of communications materials and emergency management trainings for representatives of the migrant community.



TRAINING OF EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

At national and sub-national level, IOM organises trainings and trainings of trainers for emergency responders on "Integrating migrants in emergency management". The course targets the personnel of emergency management institutions, and covers topics such as: communicating with migrants, migrant-inclusive contingency planning, and delivery of appropriate relief services.



TRAVEL ADVISORY APP FOR MIGRANTS

IOM supports the development of smartphone applications to facilitate communication between migrants and their consular authorities. The App enables migrants to access basic consular assistance, receive warnings and emergency communication in times of crisis.