



# GUIDELINES

TO PROTECT MIGRANTS  
IN COUNTRIES  
EXPERIENCING CONFLICT  
OR NATURAL DISASTER

# MICIC

MIGRANTS IN COUNTRIES IN CRISIS

## GUIDELINES TO PROTECT MIGRANTS IN COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING CONFLICT OR NATURAL DISASTER

The Guidelines apply to situations in which migrants are present in a country experiencing a conflict or natural disaster. They provide concrete and practical guidance to stakeholders at the local, national, regional, and international levels on how to prepare for and respond to crises in ways that protect and empower migrants, leverage their capacities, and help migrants and communities recover from crises. The Guidelines address the full cycle of crises – crisis preparedness, emergency response, and post-crisis action.

### THE GUIDELINES PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS

**STATES** bear the primary responsibility for assisting and protecting migrants. The Guidelines address roles and responsibilities of host States, States of origin, and States of transit.

**PRIVATE SECTOR** actors make significant contributions as providers of services. Employers and recruiters play an important role in protecting their migrant workers before, during, and after crises.

**CIVIL SOCIETY** actors are among the first responders and migrant advocates and allies. They can be a critical bridge between governments and migrant communities.

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS** provide direct assistance to migrants and their communities, as well as crucial support to States and other stakeholders.

## THE GUIDELINES COMPRISE PRINCIPLES, GUIDELINES AND PRACTICES

The ten **PRINCIPLES** are fundamental, cross-cutting precepts, drawn in some instances from international law. The principles are intended to inform, underpin, and guide all actions to protect migrants.

The fifteen **GUIDELINES** are targeted suggestions, organized by crisis phase and theme, that identify in broad terms the types of actions needed to better protect migrants.

The **PRACTICES** are a selection of examples that illustrate ways in which each stakeholder can implement the guidelines. They are based on existing practices as well as recommendations and can be adapted to suit particular contexts and priorities.

### ONLINE REPOSITORY OF PRACTICES

An online repository of practices complements the Guidelines. It comprises a selection of existing practices of States, international organizations, private sector actors, and civil society. The repository can assist stakeholders to exchange knowledge and expertise.

## THE MICIC INITIATIVE

The Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) Initiative, a government-led effort co-chaired by the United States and the Philippines, aims to improve the protection of migrants when the countries in which they live, work, study, transit, or travel experience a conflict or natural disaster. Through a broad and inclusive consultative process, launched in 2014, the MICIC Initiative developed Guidelines to Protect Migrants in Countries Experiencing Conflict or Natural Disaster (The Guidelines).

## CONSULTATION PROCESS

Seven regional consultations were held with States and other key representatives to gather evidence and discuss good practices. Civil society provided consolidated input through the organization of parallel regional consultations. Three stakeholder consultations enabled the active engagement of a broad range of actors from civil society, international organizations, and the private sector.

## WHY MIGRANTS?

When conflicts or natural disasters erupt, migrants may require targeted assistance. Migrants have unique vulnerabilities, needs, and capacities, which can be overlooked in crisis preparedness, emergency response, and recovery. Some of the challenges that create particular needs for migrants in crisis situations include:

- Language barriers
- Lost, destroyed, or confiscated identity or travel documents
- Isolated working conditions and limited social networks
- Discrimination
- Insufficient inclusion in preparedness and response frameworks

## PARTNERS

**Co-chairs:** Philippines and the United States  
**Secretariat:** International Organization for Migration (IOM)

### Other working group members:

- Australia, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Ethiopia
- European Commission
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- Office of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General for International Migration
- International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)
- Georgetown University Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM)

The Guidelines are available in all UN official languages and can be downloaded from the [MICIC Initiative website](#).

### CONTACT

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# THE 15 GUIDELINES AT A GLANCE:

