

Moving to Action: Implementing the MICIC Guidelines



© IOM 2016 - Migrant children in Bangladesh

THE MICIC INITIATIVE AND THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON MIGRATION

By Michele Klein Solomon, Senior Policy Adviser to the Director General, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

As the negotiations for the Global Compact on Migration advance, it is worth reflecting on the experience of the State-led MICIC Initiative. The [New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants](#), which launched the process to develop a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, recognizes the experience of the MICIC Initiative. In the New York Declaration, States commit to assisting migrants in countries that are experiencing conflicts or natural disasters, impartially and on the basis of needs.

The voluntary [MICIC Guidelines](#) provide valuable guidance in this regard and can considerably inform the discussions on the Global Compact on Migration. The Guidelines are both principled and practical. They offer concrete recommendations to stakeholders at the local, national and regional levels on how to better prepare for and respond to crises in ways that protect and empower migrants.

The broad consultative process led by the MICIC Initiative ensured that the perspectives of all relevant stakeholders contributed to the development of these Guidelines. Governments in all regions of the world, civil society, diaspora organizations, private sector actors, all shared their experiences and recommendations in open thematic discussions. This inclusive process represents a good model for the Global Compact discussions.

The modalities for the Global Compact on Migration negotiations have just been concluded and the substantive preparatory process will now begin in earnest. We look forward to bringing the MICIC experience into these discussions and to support the development of a strong Compact that protects the lives of migrants and their communities.

By Colin Rajah, IOM Civil Society Liaison on Global Compact on Migration

In 2015-2016, civil society actively engaged in the six regional consultations leading to the launch of the MICIC Guidelines. Global and regional networks organized corresponding regional [civil society consultations](#) and presented their recommendations at each of the government consultations. In addition, sixty leaders from around the world participated in the global MICIC civil society consultation.

As migrants directly impacted by crises, as first responders in crisis situations, and as advocates for migrants before, during and after crises, civil society are critical stakeholders with vital inputs to bring to the MICIC Initiative. Civil society contributions – especially from those engaged in crisis situations on the ground – are widely reflected throughout the MICIC Guidelines.

As we enter into deliberations around a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, the lessons learned from the MICIC process can be very valuable. The MICIC Initiative demonstrated how real civil society engagement can result in stronger outcomes, and forge effective partnerships for action. Building upon that model, we can resolve to do the same around the Global Compact, perhaps in an even broader and more rigorous manner.

In the [report](#) from the most recent Civil Society Days of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), we applauded the New York Declaration for containing strong language for the protection of ALL migrants, regardless of immigration status, just as we did with MICIC. And we again pledged to fully engage and partner at all levels around the Global Compact, so that it can bring real meaning and change to the lives of migrants.

DISSEMINATING THE MICIC GUIDELINES



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9th Global Forum on Migration and Development

Dhaka, Bangladesh, 11 December 2016

Sharing early implementation stories, the panelists at this side event showed how practical applications of the Guidelines are already leading to better preparedness in migrants' home and host countries. IOM and ICMPD gave insights into their global capacity building projects, and civil society representatives highlighted the need to engage civil society and migrants themselves in these efforts.

Council of Europe: Migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in the context of major emergencies

Lisbon, Portugal, 14 October 2016

The MICIC Secretariat contributed to the development of the Council of Europe recommendations on 'Major Hazards and Migrants: their Involvement in Disaster Preparedness and Response' launched last October. The MICIC Guidelines and capacity building tools were presented at the launch event in Lisbon, attended by practitioners and policy makers.

Third Global Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility, Migration and Development

Quezon City, Philippines, 29-30 September 2016

IOM presented a blueprint of Local MICIC Guidelines to guide local authorities in their efforts to protect migrants in emergency situations. At the Forum, the Mayors of Quezon and Legaspi city launched an Informal Working Group to develop the local MICIC Guidelines into a regional tool for the ASEAN region.

Beyond September 19 - Responding to Migrants in Crisis

New York, USA, 21 September

The side event organized in the framework of the 19 September Summit presented the MICIC Guidelines to a broad audience. Panelists discussed how the MICIC Initiative process and its Guidelines can serve as a model for governments to move forward with similar commitments made at the September 19 Summit.



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UNU Wider Development Conference: Responding to crises

Helsinki, Finland, 23-24 September

The MICIC Secretariat organized a panel on crises and migration governance where the relevance of the MICIC Guidelines to global discussions on migration governance in the context of crises was highlighted. Watch the [video](#) of the panel here.

Regional Consultative Processes on Migration

Since August 2016

The MICIC Guidelines were presented in the framework of several Regional Consultative Processes on Migration in Africa, Asia and the Americas, including the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA), the Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA), the Colombo Process and the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM). References to the Guidelines and the need to build capacities were included in final recommendations.



IOM'S MICIC CAPACITY BUILDING TOOLS

By Lorenzo Guadagno, Manager, MICIC Capacity Building Program, IOM

With the support of the U.S. Government, over the last two years IOM has been pursuing an innovative capacity building program to help States systematically address the vulnerability of migrants in emergencies. In close cooperation with the Governments of Guatemala, Mexico*, Myanmar and Thailand*, countries respectively sending and receiving large numbers of migrants along two of the most significant migration corridors worldwide, IOM developed and piloted a series of training tools and coordination activities. Tools are now available to States and other actors in migrants' home and host countries, where they can be tailored to different contexts,

Home Countries

Institutions of migrants' home countries can provide important support and assistance to their citizens affected by crises abroad. In support of their crisis management efforts, IOM has developed two key tools:

- **MICIC Smartphone Application**

This registration and travel advice smartphone application supports governments to communicate more effectively with their citizens traveling or living abroad. The app allows migrants to access basic consular assistance, to receive warnings and emergency communications, and to request specific support when facing hardship. Migrants can also register through the app.

- **E-learning for consular staff**

The online training package "Managing crises affecting nationals living, working and staying abroad" targets consular staff and representatives of other relevant institutions. The course covers emergency communication, consular contingency planning, evacuation assistance and coordination with host country institutions, among others.

COMMUNICATING WITH NATIONALS ABROAD IN CRISIS



One of the communication tools produced for migrants' home countries.

priorities, and actors. The tools can contribute to turning the MICIC Guidelines into action. With its 401 offices in over 100 countries and its well established operational capacity to assist States and migrants in the context of crises, IOM can provide expert support to States in strengthening their capacity to better protect migrants before, during, and after a crisis. IOM supports its Member States and partners to adopt and adapt the MICIC capacity building tools in different national contexts. For more information, visit the [MICIC website](#) or contact the MICIC Secretariat.

* See next page for more information on implementation.

Host Countries

For migrants' host countries, training tools focus on including foreign nationals in emergency preparedness, response and recovery. Migrants often face specific barriers to accessing assistance, which need to be addressed in inclusive planning and response.

- **Training of trainers: Integrating migrants in emergency preparedness, response and recovery**

This training course targets the personnel of emergency management institutions aiming to improve the integration of migrants in emergency preparedness, response and recovery efforts. The course covers elements such as understanding the characteristics of migrant groups, communicating with migrants, planning for migrants' evacuation; and assisting migrants before and after emergencies. The reference handbook for the training course is available [here](#).

Toolkit

Additional products and services are being developed to support efforts to reduce migrants' vulnerability, including a national capacity assessment toolkit, a template for migrant-inclusive contingency planning, communication and awareness-raising materials and a checklist on special measures for the evacuation of migrant children.

IMPROVING COORDINATION TO BETTER ASSIST MIGRANTS IN EMERGENCIES

PERSPECTIVES ON IMPLEMENTATION IN THAILAND

By Siriwan Limsakul, Project Assistant, IOM Thailand

In the framework of its global MICIC capacity building program, IOM has been implementing activities in Thailand to support national authorities in reducing the vulnerability to disasters of international migrants present in the country. In close coordination with the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) of the Ministry of Interior, this project has successfully put the protection of migrants and their access to assistance on the agenda of disaster prevention and mitigation actors in Thailand.

In March 2016, DDPM and IOM Thailand have co-hosted a pilot training of trainers to familiarize a pool of DDPM staff with the training materials and methodologies of IOM's MICIC capacity building program. The course also provided an opportunity to provide inputs to, and refine the materials.

DDPM trainers contributed to the further adaptation of the training materials to the Thai context and integrated a community based disaster risk management element, in order to roll out more targeted local level training events. An exercise on disaster response for local authorities, migrant communities, private sector actors, local rescue foundations, and civil society organizations was also included in the training methodology, to foster experience sharing and coordination among disaster response actors.

Local-level trainings were organized between June and September 2016 in four provinces: Ranong, Kanchanaburi, Chonburi, and Samut Sakhon. More than 230 participants were trained on migrants' specific conditions of vulnerability in disasters and on ways to integrate this knowledge into their work. Most of the participants were personnel from relevant provincial government agencies and local administrative bodies. Migrant representatives were also involved. The training sessions were designed around participatory, active methodologies and allowed participants from different agencies to share their experience and build a network of practitioners. Practical exercises based on local crisis scenarios enabled participants to understand and test roles and coordination procedures in emergency response.

The DDPM decided to include a brief version of the course into their regular induction training for senior level officers at the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Academy. The 3-hour course will equip DDPM officers to understand migrants' specific conditions of vulnerability and identify basic measures they can take to better assist migrants in disaster situations.

The training workshops also fed into the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on the coordination of all stakeholders to better assist migrants in crisis. The SOP developed by IOM at the request of DDPM reflect the roles various relevant agencies should play in a disaster and the measures each should take before, during and after an emergency to ensure the protection of migrants. The DDPM welcomed the draft SOP and will now work to adapt them for the use of government agencies in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

PERSPECTIVES ON IMPLEMENTATION IN MEXICO

José Ramón Córdoba, Liaison Officer, IOM Mexico

Since 2014, IOM has implemented MICIC capacity building activities in Mexico. Mexico is a major country of transit for Central American and extra-regional migrants directed to the USA, and increasingly a country of destination of migrant workers, who tend to concentrate in border provinces, large urban areas and major touristic destinations on the coasts.

The main governmental counterparts for the implementation of this project in Mexico have been the Mexican National Center for Prevention of Disasters (CENAPRED) and the Grupos BETA, specialized body of the Instituto Nacional de Migración (INM) entirely dedicated to providing assistance to and protecting migrants at risk. Their experience on disaster risk management and emergency work has been key to adapting the MICIC training materials and curriculum to the local context.

In collaboration with trainers from the Civil Protection and Grupos BETA, local trainings have been rolled out in Tapachula, Tijuana, Chetumal and Mexico City to improve the ability of personnel of local emergency management agencies and actors to include migrants in their disaster prevention and emergency response plans. These trainings included the participation of civil society organizations and consular representations from various Central American countries. The involvement of different stakeholders contributed to an improved understanding of roles and responsibilities of local stakeholders, and in particular allowed for improved coordination among Grupos BETA and Civil Protection, as well as of Mexican authorities and consular corps of the migrants' countries of origin.

The project is also supporting the development of a protocol for cooperation among relevant institutions (Mexican agencies, civil society actors, migrants' home country institutions), to improve the civil protection system's capacity to assist migrants in emergencies. In collaboration with IOM, CENAPRED is also developing a set of awareness materials to educate migrants on the risks they face in Mexico, available options for assistance and recommended measures to minimize risks and prepare for potential emergencies.



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EU-ICMPD MICIC CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

MOVING FORWARD AT FULL SPEED

By Daniela Blecha, Project Officer, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)

Following the conduction of the worldwide consultative process and the launch of the MICIC Guidelines last summer, ICMPD kicked off the [European Union funded MICIC capacity building programme](#) in October 2016.

The activities started with a global peer-to-peer training initiative on consular contingency planning, conducted in partnership with the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), targeting first responders: consular staff. Following a first seminar in Lebanon in October, trainings were conducted in South Africa in January and in Thailand in February. As of February 2016, 42 consular officials originating from 29 countries have been trained. In the upcoming months, further seminars will take place in Côte d'Ivoire, Mexico and Ukraine.

This comprehensive hands-on capacity building programme for consular staff focuses on registration and mapping of citizens abroad, crisis monitoring and alert level systems, communication and evacuation strategies. It also includes drafting exercises to develop and/or update current plans, and an expert panel to provide advice on existing consular contingency plans. Participants highlighted the enormous relevance of the seminar, and its high applicability to their daily work. As put forward by an expert after the Seminar in Pretoria, *"it is a welcome development to note that the participants were able to develop an observable competence on crisis preparedness and contingency plan preparation"*.

In addition to each of these seminars, follow-up training activities with a larger group of stakeholders, including international organisations and the country of destination's authorities, will be organised to consolidate the knowledge gained by consular staff. At the end of February, for example, ICMPD will go back to Beirut to test the consular contingency plans that were developed and conduct a training of trainers.

Further to the capacity building activities for consular staff, ICMPD is launching "Partners in Preparedness". Implemented in cooperation with civil society organisations, this initiative aims at creating sustainable and inclusive multi-stakeholder platforms to support dialogue, share information and foster coordination and cooperation at national level between governments, civil society organisations and other key actors to better assist and protect migrants in times of crisis.

ICMPD also supports the dissemination and simplification of the MICIC Guidelines. A series of awareness-raising infographics is being developed, targeting either a specific group of stakeholders such as consular staff or a specific group of migrants such as migrant domestic workers. At a glance, different stakeholders involved in assisting migrants will be able to quickly see their roles and responsibilities.

Capacity building needs are enormous to better address the needs of migrants in the event of a crisis. In the months to come, ICMPD will launch further initiatives. We invite you to contact us at icmpd-micic@icmpd.org should you wish to participate in our current programmes or join forces to develop new activities.

EMERGING FINDINGS: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SIX CRISIS SITUATIONS

By Maegan Hendow, Robtel Neajai Pailey, and Alessandra Bravi, ICMPD

This report contributes to a growing debate about how to prepare for and respond to the critical situation of international migrants who are caught up in crises in the countries in which they have settled. It presents emerging findings from ongoing research on case studies of various crises in six countries over the last two decades – Côte d'Ivoire, Lebanon, South Africa, Thailand, Libya and Central African Republic – that have significantly affected migrants living in these countries, their households at home and abroad, as well as their countries of origin and transit in a myriad of ways. Based on interviews conducted with migrants, their families and key stakeholders in host, origin and transit countries, this study examines emergency and policy responses, changing policy, and practices, with a particular focus on long-term implications for development. While identifying policy shifts and the emergence of new protocols for response, our emerging findings indicate that more needs to be done to position migrants and the communities in which they inhabit at the centre of relief efforts, thereby ensuring long-term protections for migrants. What remains evident across the six crisis-affected countries under study is the need for a broad spectrum of actors involved at pre-crisis, crisis, and post-crisis phases to coordinate their data collection, standard operating procedures, contingency planning, management bodies, and resource mobilisation.

While conflicts and natural disasters have exposed migrants' vulnerability to different threats – especially related to their socio-economic positioning, legal status, age and gender – these crises have also showcased migrants' autonomy, agency, coping strategies and resilience. The ability of migrants to mitigate vulnerabilities induced by crisis depends on the opportunity structures available to them. Whether migrants return to their countries of origin, remain in countries affected by crisis or re-migrate elsewhere, a number of legal, political and economic measures must be adopted to alleviate the potentially negative effects of any future crises. Furthermore, state institutions, international organisations, private sector actors and civil society must work to reduce the root causes of crisis as well as the post-crisis tensions and challenges that may arise.

The full report is available [here](#).

Case studies and final comparative report will be released over the course of 2017.

LAUNCH OF THE NEW MICIC WEBSITE



The new MICIC Website has just been launched!

- Learn more about MICIC capacity building tools available to interested actors.
- Follow the MICIC blog featuring practitioners' views on the implementation of the Guidelines.
- Browse the MICIC Guidelines and Practices – on the interactive Guidelines page.
- Coming soon: 'Guidelines in Action' providing practical insights into the implementation of each of the 15 Guidelines.

Visit www.micicinitiative.iom.int



MIGRANTS FROM MYANMAR AND RISKS FACED ABROAD

David Ndegwa and IOM Myanmar

Myanmar is the largest migration source in the Greater Mekong Subregion, sending an estimated 10 per cent of its 50-million population abroad, mainly to Thailand and Malaysia, as well as to other destinations in Asia and beyond. Limited formal opportunities for safe migration from the country force many Myanmar nationals to use unsafe migration routes and channels, to accept dangerous and irregular jobs, and to live in hazardous conditions in their host locations. These combined factors make them particularly vulnerable to crises of all kind, including disasters, instability, livelihood insecurity, violence and conflicts that threaten their lives and well-being in areas of destination. This study looks at the main population flows currently taking place from Myanmar, the composition of Myanmar nationals abroad and highlights the main risk factors that Myanmar nationals face abroad, in areas of transit and destination. Finally, it examines the institutional structures, and their mandates and capacities, Myanmar has in place to assist them when they are affected by crises abroad.

The full study is available [here](#).

ISSUE BRIEF: EVACUATION AND REPATRIATION

Briana Mawby and Susan Martin, Georgetown University

Large-scale evacuations have been undertaken in both conflict and natural disaster situations. This issue brief discusses efforts made by States, international organizations, private sector actors, and civil society to evacuate and, when appropriate, repatriate migrants. Particular attention is paid to the importance of establishing, before crises occur, contingency plans and financing mechanisms to support evacuation and repatriation. Contingency plans need to address who is eligible for evacuation, how to communicate warnings, where people should gather, how costs will be covered, to where people will be evacuated, which organizations will be involved and how they will be coordinated, and other actions needed for smooth operations. The brief outlines three potential financing models for evacuation and repatriation: 1) Migrant welfare funds and insurance policies 2) Donor financing through international organizations such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the World Bank 3) Employers and civil society organizations facilitating the evacuation of migrants with their own resources.

The issue brief is available [here](#).