



MAINSTREAMING HUMAN RIGHTS INTO IMMIGRATION AND BORDER MANAGEMENT

Human Rights violations at borders have increased significantly around the world, and become more severe, aggravated by the lack of regular migration pathways and security-driven migration policies, thus putting migrants in transit at aggravated risk of such violations. Mobility restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic can be expected to alter migration management in the long term and constitute an area of focus for Human Rights.

As the United Nations agency for migration, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) explicitly acknowledges the importance of ensuring that **migration law, policy and systems must adhere to international standards and fulfil migrants' rights**, to ensure that migration is humane and orderly and benefits migrants and society. Thus, the organization must adequately strengthen its capacities to address Human Rights issues at international borders within the appropriate normative framework.



Implementation Timeframe:

1 August 2021 – 31 July 2023

Budget: 300'000 CHF

Beneficiaries:

- Immigration and Border Management practitioners & project managers
- Migrants at international borders

IOM, with funding from the Government of Switzerland, is implementing a project to review IOM's operational policies and practices in the Immigration and Border Management (IBM) field against international Human Rights laws and standards, including from the perspective of the rights-holders.

The project builds upon existing United Nations tools in Human Rights, notably those which translate the international Human Rights framework into practical border governance measures. The project reviews and identifies challenges in IOM's approach and practice in Immigration and Border Management (IBM) through a series of desk and country reviews; reports on its findings and discusses proposed solutions at a specialized workshop; and undertakes to improve its capacities at the institutional and operational levels, by delivering Training of Trainers activities in key locations. Finally the project develops and deploys an internal IBM Human Rights Risk Assessment Tool, aligned with UN Human Rights standards, policies and principles.

MAINSTREAMING HUMAN RIGHTS IN IBM: PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Assessing Human Rights practices

Supported by IOM offices in the selected regions (see below) and coordinated by IOM Switzerland, an expert consultant **reviews and reports** on IOM's practices and challenges in IBM programming from a Human Rights perspective. The resulting report and recommendations are presented at an **international workshop** where experts and practitioners discuss and formulate further policy recommendations to inform IOM's best practices.

Delivering Human Rights Training

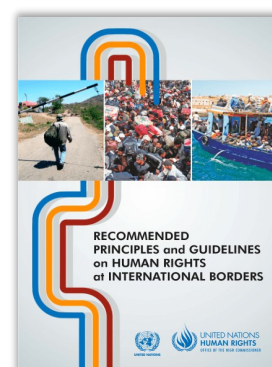
Based on existing UN training programmes, and building upon them with the outcomes & recommendations of the workshop, IOM delivers targeted **Training of Trainers (ToT)** on Human Rights at borders to its IBM staff in the mentioned regions, including relevant Covid-19 / pandemic-specific content as needed, and delivers appropriate certification.

Mainstreaming Human Rights best practices

The project develops a new standardized **Human Rights Risk Assessment Tool**, to ensure that a "Human Rights marker" becomes a pre-requisite in project development for IOM's IBM Unit. While uniquely tailored to IOM's project development and management processes as well as operational work, it is in conformity with and supports international norms and UN practices.

Geographical scope

The project focuses on the Middle East & North Africa and Horn of Africa regions, selected for their strong IBM programming activity portfolio, both for study and deployment of ToT. Institutional desk reviews take place in Brussels and Geneva. The deployment of the Impact Assessment Tool takes place at the global level, in accordance with its institutional scope and impact.



Institutional cooperation

The project integrates proactive consultations with other United Nations agencies such as the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR), the Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), the Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), multinational institutions (Frontex) and other organisations as well as internal coordination with IOM units in particular in the legal field, to maximize its impact, relevance and cohesion.



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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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