



MOVEMENT OPERATIONS AT IOM SWITZERLAND

Since 2020, the Movement Operations Bern (MOB) unit at IOM Switzerland has been managing all operational air travel for beneficiaries in-house.

With a team of dedicated experts, MOB organizes flight bookings and logistical arrangements for the air transportation of migrants who are travelling under the auspices of IOM Switzerland's projects that require human mobility. A key example is the IOM Bern – swissREPAT Movements programme (SIM) which is one of IOM Switzerland's core projects. MOB also supports the mission's cantonal return projects, the Counter-Trafficking Unit and movements within the Family Reunification project.



Additionally, MOB processes on-duty travel of IOM Switzerland's personnel (staff and consultants) as well as sponsored participants in IOM activities.

Having an in-house booking capacity allows MOB to not only identify the best and most cost-effective routes for particular movements but to also respond to emergencies 24/7. Most importantly, MOB can closely monitor migrant movements to ensure that the specific in-flight needs of beneficiaries are met as much as possible.

The strength of the unit's capacity is backed by a series of standard operational procedures (SOPs) which ensure all persons travelling under IOM Switzerland's auspices can do so in a safe, orderly and dignified manner. These organizational SOPs have been time-tested and adapted to a local context to provide a continuum of care throughout the entire journey of all migrants travelling from and to Switzerland.



MOB FACTS

Air travel requests handled: 950+

E-tickets issued: 1500+

Top 3 destinations for outgoing movements: Algeria, Georgia, Brazil

PARTNERSIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

Among MOB's most important partners are the commercial air carriers with which IOM maintains pre-negotiated agreements globally. These agreements provide preferential fares, baggage allowances and advance access to available seats for IOM beneficiaries. The unique and longstanding relationship of IOM with the travel industry ensures that MOB can respond quickly and optimally, whilst always securing cost-effective air transportation.

These partners have been key to the unit's efficiency and ability to react to urgent requests since its creation. Their committed support has contributed to safely helping hundreds of migrants begin a new life in their countries of origin and reunite with their families in Switzerland.

In order to address the needs of IOM Switzerland's beneficiaries throughout their entire journey, MOB relies on IOM's network of Movement Operations units across the globe. All IOM Movement Operations units work with the same global guidelines, proprietary real-time information management tools and established communication protocols – all of which ensure that IOM Switzerland's movements are carried out professionally, with the protection of migrants at its core, from take-off to landing.

RMM Strategy 2020-2023

MOB works in line with the standards and policies of IOM's Resettlement and Movement Management Division (RMM). As such, the unit aligns with RMM's four-year strategy, a largely field-driven and highly collaborative endeavor whereby cross-functional teams of staff with diverse experience work together to achieve common goals.

The RMM Strategy rests on five strategic focus areas: 1) Policy and Planning, 2) Operations and Programmes, 3) Partnerships, 4) Innovation and Learning, and 5) Compliance and Reporting. Currently, MOB contributes to the development of the focus area on Compliance and Reporting.



For more information:

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