



Managing Migration for the Benefit of All

Established in 1951, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the principal intergovernmental organization in the field of migration. We are growing rapidly and currently count 157 member states. A further 10 states hold observer status, as do numerous international and nongovernmental organizations. IOM is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. It does so by providing services and advice to governments and migrants. IOM works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, be they refugees, displaced persons or other uprooted people. The IOM Constitution gives explicit recognition to the link between migration and economic, social and cultural development, as well as to the right of freedom of movement of persons. IOM works in the four broad areas of migration management: migration and development, facilitating migration, regulating migration, and addressing forced migration. Cross-cutting activities include the promotion of international migration law, policy debate and guidance, protection of migrants' rights, migration health and the gender dimension of migration.

IOM Mission Globally

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As the leading international organization for migration, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to:

- Assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration management.
- Advance understanding of migration issues.
- Encourage social and economic development through migration.
- Uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

IOM's Strategic Focus

1. To provide secure, reliable, flexible and cost-effective services for persons who require international migration assistance.
2. To enhance the humane and orderly management of migration and the effective respect for the human rights of migrants in accordance with international law.
3. To offer expert advice, research, technical cooperation and operational assistance to States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, in order to build national capacities and facilitate international, regional and bilateral cooperation on migration matters.
4. To contribute to the economic and social development of States through research, dialogue, design and implementation of migration-related programs aimed at maximizing migration's benefits.
5. To support States, migrants and communities in addressing the challenges of irregular migration, including through research and analysis into root causes, sharing information and spreading best practices, as well as facilitating development-focused solutions.
6. To be a primary reference point for migration information, research, best practices, data collection, compatibility and sharing.
7. To promote, facilitate and support regional and global debate and dialogue on migration, including through the International Dialogue on Migration, so as to advance understanding of the opportunities and challenges it presents, the identification and development of effective policies for addressing those challenges and to identify comprehensive approaches and measures for advancing international cooperation.
8. To assist States to facilitate the integration of migrants in their new environment and to engage diasporas, including as development partners.
9. To participate in coordinated humanitarian responses in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field and to provide migration services in

other emergency or post-crisis situations as appropriate and as relates to the needs of individuals, thereby contributing to their protection.

10. To undertake programs which facilitate the voluntary return and reintegration of refugees, displaced persons, migrants and other individuals in need of international migration services, in cooperation with other relevant international organizations as appropriate, and taking into account the needs and concerns of local communities.

11. To assist States in the development and delivery of programs, studies and technical expertise on combating migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons, in particular women and children, in a manner consistent with international law.

12. To support the efforts of States in the area of labor migration, in particular short term movements, and other types of circular migration.

IOM in I.R. IRAN

IOM in IR of Iran has its focus on the capacity-building workshops, effective sustainable return and reintegration of qualified Afghans, advocating the integration of migration into development planning and programs, encourages links with diasporas, including through knowledge and skill transfer programs and remittance facilitation. To this end, the following activities have been undertaken:

- ✦ Technical cooperation with the government entities of the I.R. of Iran on migration-for-development projects;
- ✦ Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration of Afghans from Iran to Afghanistan (AVRR-ARIA);
- ✦ Facilitated movement service;
- ✦ Return of Qualified Afghans (RQA);
- ✦ Cultural Orientation (CO);
- ✦ Capacity-building workshops for the IR government officials.

RQA

The RQA program focused on the return of qualified Afghan nationals scattered in IR Iran, who are motivated to contribute their skills for the benefit of the reconstruction process on short or long-term basis in their home country. RQA candidates from Iran generally return with their family members. This is a clear indication that those returning under the RQA project intend to stay in Afghanistan permanently which ensures a more sustainable contribution to the reconstruction process than temporary returns. In order to enhance the sustainability aspect of this project, some facilities have been foreseen for those who are willing to return with their families so that the cost of the return of the main applicants and his/her immediate families is covered within the project.



IOM Staffs Briefing Qualified Afghans – Right to Left: IOM Programme Coordinator, Local BAFIA Representative, UNHCR Representative, Head of NICCO (Japanese NGO)



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Capacity Building

Within the purview of this project, IOM approaches the linkages between migration and development from the perspective that international migration, if properly managed, can contribute to the growth and prosperity of countries of origin and of destination, as well as benefit migrants themselves. IOM, therefore, developed the course curriculum pivoting on “the harnessing the development potential of migration for the benefit of individual migrants and societies”. Put differently, activities in this project include strengthening the capacity of governments and other stakeholders to effectively involve migrant populations in development processes in the country of origin, fostering economic and community development in areas where there is a high level of emigration, enhancing the development impact of remittances and facilitating the return and reintegration of qualified nationals.

The cornerstones of the project could be summarized as follows:

- ✚ To build the capacity of governments and other stakeholders in countries of origin to communicate with and engage their expatriate communities in initiatives related to home country development, and to contribute to the increase of more development-oriented migration policies.
- ✚ To address root causes of economically-motivated migration, by enhancing the ability of governments and other key actors to focus development actions more strategically on home-country migration dynamics.
- ✚ To focus on expanding economic opportunities and improving social services and community infrastructure in specific geographic areas prone to economically-induced outward migration, or in developing areas to absorb and sustain the return of migrants to that region.
- ✚ Identify the potentials of remittances and stressing its potentially notable role in development of countries. Remittances, being foremost private transfers, also offer enhanced and wider development possibilities for families, communities and countries. Activities in the remittance area aim to facilitate the development of policies and mechanisms that improve remittance services to migrants and enhance the development impact of remittances. At this stage, IOM's focus is on data collection, policy dialogue and dissemination of good practices.



Capacity Building Workshop funded by The Government of Japan: Shiraz city

Resettlement and Medical Screening

The movement of people and the associated activities to facilitate orderly migration around the world has been a substantial part of IOM's operational programs over the years. Considering the fact that mobility is an essential feature of today's world, and also bearing that integrated world markets, emergence of transnational networks and the rapid growth of communication technologies all contribute to the increasing movement of both high and low – skilled workers, students, trainees, families and tourists; all in all, urges IOM to keep abreast of the above mentioned trend. IOM assists with the resettlement of people accepted under regular immigration programs through the processing of relevant documentation, performing medical screening and arranging safe, reliable and economical transportation. Further facilitating migrants' travel, medical escort is also offered at the request of some receiving countries to facilitate the integration of migrants into their new host societies.



Cultural Orientation Courses

Any one moving to a country where culture, tradition and practices are different from one's own can be expected to undergo an adjustment period of variable duration and difficulty. Refugees accepted for resettlement to third countries often come straight out of camps and have little, if any, knowledge of the societal and economic practices of modern countries. Migrants, permanent or temporary, may be less vulnerable, considering the more regular and voluntary process they undergo in preparing for such a move. However, many of them, like the refugees and humanitarian entrants, may have unrealistic and perhaps inaccurate expectations of life in the new country. Expectations will not only cause stress to the newcomers upon their arrival, they can also cause pressure on the social service providers of the host community who work to help the newcomers adjust. The provision of CO reduces anxiety on the part of refugees and migrants by painting a more realistic picture of what awaits them. It equips them with coping skills to deal with the unfamiliar, and helps them shape attitudes towards life in their new society. In parallel, CO also provides an opportunity to establish links between the country of origin and the country of destination, as well as an opportunity for the receiving community to learn more about the culture and profile of these new members of their society.