The opinions expressed in the report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries.

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

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This year, IOM and the United Kingdom will convene the first ever high-level strategic dialogue, bringing together cross-IOM and cross-government participation. This meeting arrives at a time when the cooperation between IOM and the United Kingdom is becoming increasingly dynamic and cross-cutting, with engagement solidifying across a number of key priority areas. It also immediately precedes the adoption of the Global Compact for Migration which represents a turning point for international cooperation on migration, as well as in the roles and responsibilities that IOM must take on to support this process.

The relationship between IOM and the United Kingdom has grown significantly since 1961 when the country first became a Member State. In 1992, IOM established its first liaison office in the United Kingdom to support resettlement and voluntary return programmes. Since then, and in the last ten years in particular, cooperation has diversified and become global in scope and significant in size. The United Kingdom remains one of IOM’s largest donors, with work spreading across the range of IOM’s expertise.

In the last five years, the Government of the United Kingdom has generously contributed more than £250 million towards IOM’s programming worldwide. This includes critical humanitarian support and post-crisis response to the world’s most severe and complex crises, as well as supporting the Government in its commitment to resettle 20,000 refugees by 2020. Equally, IOM continues to protect migrants from violence, exploitation and abuse, including from modern slavery, to assist migrants with voluntary return and reintegration services, and to support safe, orderly and regular migration. Building a stronger evidence base through data collection, research and analysis also remains integral to our work together. Within the United Kingdom, IOM also works with local authorities, frontline professionals and others to support migrants, refugees and victims of human trafficking.

The United Kingdom’s vision of a more efficient, accountable and transparent humanitarian system is shared by IOM. The organization is grateful for the United Kingdom’s support to drive organizational improvements, and is looking forward to working towards the commitments made as part of the Grand Bargain. Support through the secondment of staff has been especially welcome, with these officials helping drive key institutional priorities regarding results-based management, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Compact for Migration.

We are pleased to offer this special publication which provides a snapshot of IOM and the United Kingdom’s migration focused work between 2013 and 2017. I hope the publication underlines the impact of our joint achievements and inspires joint endeavours in the future.

António Vitorino
IOM Director General
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**A partnership overview**

**United Kingdom funding to IOM: 2013 – 2017**

**Thematic Overview**

- Humanitarian support and resilience building: £184.6m
- Migrant protection and cohesive prosperous communities: £38.4m
- Orderly migration, refugee resettlement and integration: £26.5m
- Assessed contributions: £8.9m

**Geographic Overview**

- Middle East and North Africa: £74.5m
- Europe: £9.2m
- Americas: £7.6m
- Asia: £58.6m
- Africa: £65.2m
- Global*: £43.2m

* Global refers to resettlement, assisted voluntary return, and other multi-regional projects.
The United Kingdom is one of IOM’s largest humanitarian donors and is a valued partner in helping IOM prepare for and respond to crisis. Support has been especially important in driving a more inclusive and efficient humanitarian response that is based on evidence and targeted to those who need it the most. Investment to reduce the risks for women, girls and children in the context of humanitarian responses has been notable, as is the United Kingdom’s support to IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) that has helped shed light on displacement trends and population mobility. The multi-year funding and unearmarked allocations have been pivotal in helping IOM to build more predictable responses and have enabled IOM to invest in critical programming areas such as cash-based assistance, accountability to affected populations and data gathering and analysis.

Humanitarian support and resilience building

IOM is one of the main water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) providers in the Protection of Civilians sites in Bentiu, Malakal, and Wau, as well as collective centres in Wau town. Managing 50 per cent of the WASH Core Pipeline in South Sudan, IOM helps the Cluster to maintain a high level of preparedness. © IOM 2018 / Amanda NERO
IOM aims to ensure a holistic and integrated humanitarian approach, focusing on mobility dimensions before, during and after a crisis. In close coordination with partners, IOM addresses the needs of crisis-affected mobile populations, including internally displaced persons, refugees and stranded migrants, and provides community-focused assistance to host and returnee communities, as well as affected and at-risk communities.

In the last five years, IOM has reached thousands of women, men and children affected by natural disasters or conflicts. Assistance has been delivered in the aftermath of natural disasters such as the hurricanes in the Caribbean, the earthquakes in Haiti and Nepal and the typhoons in the Philippines as well as in complex and protracted crises such as Iraq, South Sudan, and Yemen.

In these contexts, IOM and the United Kingdom have partnered to provide essential services through camp coordination and camp management, shelter, WASH, displacement and mobility tracking, distribution of relief items, logistics, health, psychosocial support, and protection. The opportunity to access multi-year funding in countries such as Pakistan, South Sudan and Yemen has allowed IOM to mainstream resilience building activities that support recovery from crisis and enable impacted populations to cope better with future shocks and stressors. Most recently, through the contribution of core-funding, IOM is improving the efficiency of its humanitarian action, for example through the establishment of a global supply chain management system.

Delivering humanitarian assistance

Following the influx of 678,000 Rohingya from Myanmar into Cox’s Bazar, crowded living conditions, poor hygiene and sanitation, and low levels of immunization and immunity led to a deadly outbreak of Diphtheria within refugee camps. Diphtheria is a contagious infection that causes extreme difficulty breathing, inflammation of the heart, problems with the nervous system, and fatal paralysis. If untreated, it can be life-threatening. In coordination with the World Health Organization (WHO), IOM rapidly responded by building and equipping temporary Diphtheria Treatment Centres, while supporting community level outreach, vaccination and contact tracing.

Teaming up with United Kingdom Experts: emergency medical support in Bangladesh

In this context, IOM partnered with the United Kingdom Emergency Medical Team, supported by DFID, to deploy 40 British health workers (doctors, nurses and epidemiologists) to provide specialist clinical support and training in collaboration with IOM staff on the ground. This collaboration led to the triage of almost 6,000 patients in IOM Diphtheria facilities, of which 638 were admitted for isolation and treatment. This partnership was critical to save lives and prevent the further spread of disease.

In response to floods in South Sindh, Pakistan, IOM’s One Room Shelter Programme helped almost 160,000 vulnerable people re-build flood resistant shelters.

During the Ebola outbreak, IOM trained frontline responders to be deployed to treatment facilities contributing to enhanced infection prevention and control and improved clinical care for patients.

IOM medical staff and British medics treat a young Rohingya refugee with suspected Diphtheria at an IOM clinic in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh. © IOM 2018 / Fiona MACGREGOR

Humanitarian support and resilience building

10

11
As an agency with large-scale shelter and non-food item (NFI) operations, IOM has led common NFI pipelines to support and facilitate in-kind contributions during disaster response. The establishment of NFI pipelines involves agreements with host governments that facilitate emergency customs clearance of goods, and logistical capacity to deal with the fast-paced incoming and outgoing of items. Reporting mechanisms for both financial and in-kind contributions are introduced to ensure accountability of the items. The management of such pipelines is based on close coordination with distribution actors to define NFI requirements, quantify needs, and organize ongoing distributions once items arrive.

In numerous locations including Haiti, Nepal, Pakistan, South Sudan, Sudan, and the Philippines, IOM has led the common pipeline on behalf of the wider humanitarian community. These efforts have improved efficiencies related to the reception and distribution of in-kind good contributions and have ensured accountability of the items through strong reporting systems. Common pipelines can also harmonize the quality and specification of pipeline supplies, and drive value for money in procurement.

Recent distributions of in-kind items provided by the United Kingdom and managed through an IOM-led common pipeline include the Rohingya refugee crisis response in Bangladesh and the hurricane response in Dominica. In Bangladesh, 10,000 households received blankets, sleeping mats and shelter kits to protect themselves during the rainy season, and in response to hurricane Maria in Dominica, solar lights, hygiene kits, water purification kits, and shelter materials were received and distributed to individuals displaced from the hurricane. IOM is committed to supporting the United Kingdom and other Member States with the efficient distribution of relief items and continues to improve internal procedures to optimize NFI pipeline management.
The data collected through these operations remain one of the principal sources of data on IDPs and support planning, coordination and delivery of the broader humanitarian response, feeding into inter-agency Humanitarian Response Plans and supporting cluster/sector coordination.

The United Kingdom’s multi-year funding approach has proven especially valuable in emergency contexts where regular and timely updates are critical to response operations, improving the continuity and predictability of information flows. DFID’s support has also enabled the rapid scale-up of DTM activities in response to new emergencies, such as the earthquake in Haiti and floods in Pakistan, the 2011 Libya evacuations, the typhoons in the Philippines and earthquakes in Nepal. DFID also supported IOM to use DTM approaches to inform integrated preparedness, response and recovery cycles in disaster-prone contexts such as Pakistan.

Furthermore, the United Kingdom’s support has facilitated the DTM to engage with development partners to close gaps in data on displaced populations to identify changing needs and context to engage early in long-term programming. Important to note is that in its initial phase of expansion, DFID was the main contributor to DTM efforts at global level, which allowed for the establishment of foundational systems that today underpin global operations (e.g. data consolidation, data governance, quality control and data exchange). This core investment has helped build the quality and robustness of the DTM tools, which has been crucial to the utility of the data.

Displacement Tracking Matrix Operations between 2013 – 2017

4,000 data collectors in the field
65% of Humanitarian Response Plans in 2018 based on population figures provided by DTM

30+ million individuals tracked

DTM: Supporting planning, coordination and delivery of humanitarian assistance

DFID has been a key partner and donor for IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), which is an information system for tracking and monitoring displacement and population mobility. Humanitarian actors and governments require information on the location and composition of affected populations in order to deliver services and respond to needs in a timely manner. Through the DTM, IOM regularly and systematically captures, processes and disseminates information to provide a better understanding of the movements and evolving needs of displaced and other mobile populations, whether on site or on route.

The United Kingdom’s support has been essential to establishing and maintaining DTM capacity in some of IOM’s largest humanitarian operations, including Libya, South Sudan and Yemen.
As the global cluster-lead for camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) for natural disaster-induced displacement, and as a significant shelter responder, IOM has strengthened coordination and operational collaboration with protection actors. These efforts aim to equip frontline field staff to mitigate risks within their programming and to safely respond to protection incidents when they occur. Greater collaboration with Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Child Protection Specialists has been especially beneficial for protection response planning and implementation.

In line with commitments made to the then United Kingdom-led Call to Action on Protection from GBV in Emergencies, IOM has made concerted efforts to build the capacity of CCCM, Shelter and DTM staff and partners to better understand the different needs of women, men, girls, and boys affected by crisis. Through the provision of direct technical support and the development of innovative tools, resources and guidance, IOM is moving to better anticipate, recognize and address critical protection risks throughout the programme cycle.

The United Kingdom’s early support to IOM enabled the Organization to pilot and refine its protection approach, and to go on to engage other donors to scale up the initiative. Since efforts began in 2014, IOM has trained over 1,000 staff and partners in approximately 20 countries on GBV mainstreaming, and developed strategic partnerships with key actors, including the GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR). The DFID-funded pilot activities on GBV also supported closer collaboration with Child Protection actors, and now IOM, the Child Protection AoR and Education Clusters are implementing a joint project on DTM.

Individuals with disabilities are disproportionately affected in humanitarian emergencies and can face multiple barriers in accessing protection and humanitarian assistance. Following IOM’s endorsement of the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action in 2017, IOM is working with specialized partners to develop a more inclusive emergency response. Activities to date have focused on improving the participation of women and girls with disabilities in camps and camp-like settings, conducting accessibility assessments in camps, collecting disability disaggregated data in humanitarian settings, and developing inclusive tools and training for shelter practitioners.

IOM is actively participating in the development of the inter-agency guidelines for “Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action” and other inter-agency forums, including those taking place under the leadership of DFID. IOM’s approach is grounded within the existing framework of protection mainstreaming and includes specialized interventions in the health and mental health sectors.

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The United Kingdom has partnered with IOM to deliver timely humanitarian relief across a range of contexts. This map highlights a selection of responses where IOM has saved lives and restored the dignity of affected populations at the onset of major crises and disasters.

**Dominica**
In the aftermath of the 2017 hurricane, IOM distributed essential relief items and services to the displaced population. Shelter repair for 500 households was provided and 100 construction teams were trained to promote local sustainability.

**Sierra Leone**
During the Ebola outbreak, IOM assumed the management of the National Ebola Training Academy in Freetown in collaboration with national authorities and WHO. Training of frontline responders deployed to Ebola treatment facilities contributed to enhanced infection prevention control and overall improved clinical care for patients.

**Haiti**
After the devastating earthquake of 2010, UK-AID support to the cash-grant rental subsidy strategy enabled the relocation of 5,640 vulnerable families out of IDP camps to safe and dignified homes, contributing to the overall recovery of the affected communities.

**South Sudan**
Since the outbreak of the conflict in December 2013, IOM has provided an integrated multisector humanitarian support to thousands of vulnerable individuals including those seeking protection at the UN Protection of Civilian sites. IOM’s response incorporated resilience building interventions and fostered the growth of national partner organizations.

**Libya**
In 2017, life-saving support was extended to migrants rescued at sea and to those in detention centres, including health and psychosocial support, food and NFIs. UK-AID also enabled IOM to build the capacity of local actors on protection screening and referrals and strengthened overall understanding of migration and displacement dynamics within the country.

**Yemen**
Between 2013 and 2017, IOM and its partners assisted >900,000 people in Yemen. More than 650,000 vulnerable migrants from the Horn of Africa and Yemenis forcibly returned from Saudi Arabia received life-saving food, water, health services, non-food items, and other protection services. Another 250,000 conflict-affected Yemenis benefited from essential health services, WASH, or resilience support.

**Pakistan**
The Natural Disasters Consortium, a four-year disaster preparedness, response and recovery programme funded by the United Kingdom, has so far supported 185,000 households through shelter, WASH, food, security and livelihood interventions in 25 disaster-prone districts across Pakistan. The consortium is led by IOM and includes UNICEF, FAO, ACTED and HANDS.

**Philippines**
After Typhoon Haiyan, IOM assisted 46,000+ households with shelter kits. This comprehensive shelter package included construction materials, cash grants, technical trainings on disaster risk reduction and the reutilization of fallen coconut trees as framing material.

**Bangladesh**
In response to the Rohingya refugee crisis, IOM provided multi-sector assistance to thousands of affected families in Cox’s Bazar. UK-AID provided critical shelter upgrades in advance of the monsoon season, strengthened coordination between humanitarian actors and improved communication with affected communities.

**Nepal**
UK-AID support enabled IOM to deliver critical assistance to people affected by the 2015 earthquakes including safer-shelter construction trainings, debris removal, cash for work, camp coordination and management, and coordination of the housing reconstruction sector.

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Globally, displacement caused by natural hazard and conflict-induced crises has grown in scale and scope and is increasingly protracted. Crises have immediate consequences for the well-being of affected populations, but also long-term impacts on individuals, communities and systems.

IOM supports States in preventing, mitigating and seeking solutions to crisis-induced displacement and large-scale mixed migration flows. With over 20 years of experience, IOM employs development-principled approaches to comprehensively address the drivers of displacement and large scale mixed-migration flows. This work builds on humanitarian gains to ensure an effective, sustainable transition to recovery and development in a range of crisis contexts and across technical areas. Conflict sensitivity in the design, implementation and monitoring of transition and recovery programming has proven critical to successful interventions.

In collaboration with national and international partners, IOM aims to mitigate conflict and reduce disaster risk, rebuild communities and build resilience to future shocks and stressors. Ultimately, IOM aims to contribute to the prevention of further displacement, providing the basis for durable solutions and sustainable development. The ‘Strategic Work Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience 2017–2020’ guides IOM’s activities in line with the Sendai Framework priorities. IOM supports better risk governance and information and incorporates “build back better” measures in recovery and reconstruction.

In line with the “New Way of Working,” IOM issued the Progressive Resolution of Displacement Situations Framework, outlining an incremental and resilience-oriented approach to durable solutions, promoting greater coherence across humanitarian, transition and development activities.
In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo*, the United Kingdom has supported IOM’s efforts to pilot community-based approaches in preventing violent extremism. In small, often economically and geographically marginalized communities, IOM is engaging with youth to build resilience to expressions of different forms of violent extremism. IOM tailors its approach to the local needs and adopts a social, whole-of-society approach. Key components include: securing access to closed and difficult-to-enter communities through the engagement of trusted local leaders, and innovative approaches based on social and cognitive psychology that strengthen individuals’ resilience and critical thinking skills, providing tools for peaceful conflict resolution. These approaches support youth to resolve personal issues and grievances that are often exploited by recruiters and extremist propaganda. IOM is creating networks that parents and youth can turn to for advice or referral to prevent the possible development of violent extremism through engagement with parents, teachers and other potential first-line responders.

Peace-building and transition programmes aim to prevent and resolve conflict by addressing conflict dynamics as drivers of displacement and to support sustainable peace and reintegration. These programmes focus on understanding root causes of conflict, managing conflict triggers and addressing the social, economic, resource and political dynamics that drive conflict. In recent years, the United Kingdom supported this work in seven countries, with a significant focus on Colombia.

Peace-building and stabilization

Socioeconomic development and stabilization are growing areas of collaboration, with the United Kingdom supporting IOM interventions with conflict-affected populations in Azerbaijan and conflict-affected and internally displaced populations in Ukraine. In such settings, IOM aims to strengthen individuals’ capacities to achieve self-reliance through livelihoods and/or access to employment. At the same time, IOM engages communities through a community stabilization approach which seeks to create conditions for the restoration of normal social, economic and political life, contributing to social cohesion in fragile communities. The restoration of basic rights and security, functioning state governance, non-violent political processes, effective social policies, livelihoods and service delivery are all key components that support this objective.
The United Kingdom, and DFID in particular, has been successful in pushing an ambitious humanitarian reform agenda, and IOM has joined inter-agency efforts to improve. In November 2017, IOM and DFID signed a new Memorandum of Understanding allocating an annual core contribution of £4 million. As IOM has limited unearmarked resources, this is a critical contribution that will allow IOM to make strategic funding decisions to drive performance and improve organizational efficiency.

The humanitarian reform partnership focuses on key areas of intervention agreed upon in the Grand Bargain, notably transparency, needs assessments, humanitarian/development engagement and accountability to affected populations. The provision of core funding has enabled IOM to develop and strengthen its internal mechanisms to meet Grand Bargain commitments. A major outcome so far has been membership of the International Aid Transparency Initiative. IOM has also been able to increase its efficiency through prepositioned NFI and shelter stocks, which make its humanitarian operations more effective.

Simultaneously, the United Kingdom has supported IOM to identify institutional strengths and weaknesses and to identify key areas of improvement. The 2016 Multilateral Development Review confirmed that IOM was among the agencies that had "stepped up to the challenge and turned their performance around." Progress was achieved thanks to support provided by DFID in the form of a results-based management secondment. The expert helped develop an institutional results framework and supported the consolidation of an Organization-wide results-based management culture.

The Central Assurance Assessment undertaken in 2017 has highlighted additional areas of improvement where IOM is currently developing strategic initiatives. These efforts contribute to the establishment of a transparent and trustful relationship that can further help the United Kingdom in supporting IOM’s mandate both in humanitarian and development settings.

Supporting humanitarian reform and improving organizational efficiency

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For over 65 years, IOM has played a vital role in supporting resettlement operations around the world, in close partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), central and local government agencies, as well as civil society partners. IOM has on occasion facilitated the resettlement of refugees to the United Kingdom since 1977, and more consistently since 2004. In recent years, IOM has also played a key role in transferring unaccompanied asylum-seeking children from Europe to the United Kingdom and in facilitating family reunification.

IOM applauds the United Kingdom’s commitment to resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees by 2020, and has scaled up quickly in response to provide comprehensive, quality resettlement services to these new arrivals. Today, IOM is involved in all government-funded resettlement programmes to the United Kingdom.

In particular, IOM supports individuals and families of refugees with pre-departure health assessments, the provision of travel documents and visas, and cultural orientation which helps refugees prepare for their arrival in the United Kingdom. IOM also transports refugees to the United Kingdom, and provides operational and/or medical escorts during the journey, before refugees are helped to settle into communities across the United Kingdom.
IOM was founded in 1951 to assist in the resettlement of Europeans displaced in the aftermath of World War II. In the years since then, IOM has continued to provide essential support to refugee resettlement operations around the world. Resettlement is a vital international protection tool and a durable solution for some of the most vulnerable people in the world who are unable to return to their country of origin for fear of continued persecution and do not have the option to stay in their country of asylum. In the last decade alone, IOM has organized the resettlement movements of well over 1.19 million refugees and other vulnerable persons of concern from 166 locations around the world. The safe and dignified movement of refugees is a complex process requiring coordination between multiple actors to provide timely travel, appropriate documentation, and reception by host communities. Drawing from IOM’s vast field presence, IOM aims to ensure the process is as comfortable and predictable as possible for the refugees and receiving communities.

In close partnership with United Kingdom authorities, including the Home Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and in coordination with UNHCR and other partners, IOM provides assistance in the United Kingdom through six different programmes:

1. **Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme**
2. **Vulnerable Children’s Resettlement Scheme**
3. **Gateway Resettlement Programme**
4. **Family Reunion Travel Assistance Programme**
5. **Transfer of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children from France, Greece and Italy to the United Kingdom**
6. **Mandate Resettlement Programme**

While the scope and eligibility of these programmes vary, they all aim to provide durable solutions for refugees and other vulnerable groups. The variation between programmes demonstrates how IOM and the United Kingdom have been able to work jointly in different contexts, rapidly responding to complex situations to ensure that individuals and families are protected.

In 2015, the Government of the United Kingdom announced the expansion of the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme to allow 20,000 Syrian refugees to be resettled to the United Kingdom from the Syrian Arab Republic’s neighboring countries of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. IOM scaled up rapidly to support this commitment, and between September 2015 and December 2017, assisted with the resettlement of 10,543 refugees. These refugees were provided with health assessments, travel documents and visas, pre-departure orientation, travel arrangements and IOM operational and/or medical escorts.

The Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) gives priority to particularly vulnerable refugees, mainly from the Syrian Arab Republic. This scheme provides a critical lifeline for very vulnerable individuals, including women, girls, children and adolescents at risk, survivors of violence and/or torture, refugees with legal and/or physical protection needs, individuals with medical needs or disabilities, individuals at risk due to their sexual orientation or gender identity, and refugees with family links in the United Kingdom.

In 2015, the Government of the United Kingdom announced the expansion of the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme to allow 20,000 Syrian refugees to be resettled to the United Kingdom from the Syrian Arab Republic’s neighboring countries of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. IOM scaled up rapidly to support this commitment, and between September 2015 and December 2017, assisted with the resettlement of 10,543 refugees. These refugees were provided with health assessments, travel documents and visas, pre-departure orientation, travel arrangements and IOM operational and/or medical escorts.

**15,000+ vulnerable persons have been resettled in the United Kingdom between 2013 and 2017**

A Syrian refugee is assisted to prepare for departure from Lebanon.

© IOM 2015 / Muse MOHAMMED
The Gateway Resettlement Programme is the United Kingdom’s first resettlement scheme which was launched in 2004, and offers a legal avenue for up to 750 refugees to enter the United Kingdom per year. IOM is a proud partner of this programme since inception, and over the years has assisted with the resettlement of refugees to the United Kingdom from 18 different countries including Burundi, Egypt, Kenya, the Syrian Arab Republic, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

All refugees are provided with health assessments, travel documents and visas, pre-departure orientation, travel arrangements and IOM operational and/or medical escorts until the children meet the local United Kingdom authorities on arrival.

In April 2016, the Government of the United Kingdom launched the Vulnerable Children’s Resettlement Scheme. This programme aims to resettle up to 3,000 individuals with a particular emphasis on children at risk who have become displaced and are in need of international protection in the Middle East and North Africa region. From September 2016 to December 2017, IOM supported the resettlement of 567 refugees, including children and their families.

In particular, IOM is responsible for providing health assessments, arranging travel documents and visas, providing pre-departure orientation, and providing operational and/or medical escorts until the children meet the local United Kingdom authorities on arrival.

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As family reunion is a complex process, and because the resources available to support families to navigate such applications is limited, the British Red Cross and IOM support the reunification of refugees with their families in the United Kingdom. IOM provides end-to-end support in all travel logistics to bring the family members together, while the British Red Cross identifies cases, liaises with families in the United Kingdom, and covers the associated costs. Since 2013, over 6,000 individuals have been assisted to reunite with their families in the United Kingdom through this important programme.
In response to the sudden increase of migrants and refugees travelling across the Mediterranean Sea or overland through Europe in 2015, including the high numbers of unaccompanied children, the Government of the United Kingdom is committed to bringing approximately 300 vulnerable unaccompanied and separated children from France, Greece and Italy to the United Kingdom. IOM is responsible for providing health assessments, pre-departure orientation, travel assistance and providing operational and/or medical escorts until the children meet the local authorities on arrival in the United Kingdom. As of 1 May 2018, IOM has assisted in the transfer of 50 children as part of this programme.

In late 2016, and at the request of the Government of the United Kingdom, IOM also provided travel bookings for 400 unaccompanied children based in Calais to travel to the United Kingdom. This operation took place over a four-week period, and was a remarkable achievement in terms of being able to scale up and respond quickly. The first children arrived within one week of IOM being contacted to support.
IOM delivers and promotes comprehensive, preventative and curative health programmes which are beneficial, accessible, and equitable for migrants and mobile populations. For refugees bound for the United Kingdom under government resettlement schemes, IOM provides each refugee with a detailed pre-entry health assessment before departure. These health assessments are designed to identify conditions that would require treatment before the individual travels to the United Kingdom, or that would require attention once they arrive in the United Kingdom. They also cover vaccinations for vaccine-preventable diseases. Additional pre-embarkation checks ensure individuals are fit-to-travel and that they have the appropriate medical care they need, including medical escorts during travel when relevant. IOM provides the results of all the assessments to the United Kingdom authorities for follow up and support to the refugees with medical conditions. These health assessments facilitate early integration of refugees by promoting the health of refugees, protecting public health, and connecting refugees with the health services they need once they arrive in the United Kingdom. Since 2013, IOM has carried out over 25,000 health assessments for refugees bound to the United Kingdom.

25,000+ health assessments carried out for refugees bound for the United Kingdom between 2013 and 2017

In 2005, IOM and the United Kingdom launched the Tuberculosis (TB) Detection Programme. The programme screens UK-visa applicants from high-TB burden countries for infectious pulmonary TB, covering individuals applying for a range of visas such as study, work, and family reunion. Treatment for positive cases is provided either by IOM in partnership with National Tuberculosis Programmes or through a referral system, after which applicants may reapply for their travel visas.

In 2017, the Global Mental Health Assessment Tool pilot project was rolled out to complement the mandatory health assessment IOM carries out on behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom for incoming refugees. This pilot covered Syrian refugees arriving under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, and aimed to provide a systematic screening of refugees’ mental health.

Supporting mental health

IOM is dedicated to improving the availability and quality of mental health and psychosocial support to refugees and migrants. Equally, IOM is committed to supporting systems that help doctors and other health-care professionals to identify people with mental health problems at the earliest opportunity and provide appropriate interventions. To this end, in 2017, the Global Mental Health Assessment Tool pilot project was rolled out to complement the mandatory health assessment IOM carries out on behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom for incoming refugees. This pilot covered Syrian refugees arriving under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, and aimed to provide a systematic screening of refugees’ mental health.

The pilot is designed to help health-care professionals identify if the refugees may require specialist services, and if so to make appropriate referral upon arrival in the United Kingdom. Additionally, the pilot can provide an indication of the prevalence of certain mental health conditions within the cohort. IOM welcomes this important pilot project, which is a joint initiative between IOM, the United Kingdom Home Office, Public Health England, National Health Service, the Department of Health and the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

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Pre-departure cultural orientation provides refugees practical information on life in the United Kingdom and prepares them for resettlement through setting realistic expectations and developing the skills and attitudes needed to help them integrate. IOM recognizes that pre-departure orientation not only empowers refugees, informing them of their rights and responsibilities but also reflects an investment in their future integration in the societies that they will become part of.

IOM provides United Kingdom Cultural Orientation to refugees arriving under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and the Vulnerable Children’s Resettlement Schemes from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. In 2015 a tailored United Kingdom Cultural Orientation (UKCO) package was designed and developed for refugees being resettled to the United Kingdom from the Middle East and North Africa. The UKCO programme promotes a contextual understanding of life in the United Kingdom, including knowledge of United Kingdom culture and values, laws, rights and responsibilities.

Pre-departure orientation

Given that children make up a significant percentage of refugees being resettled to the United Kingdom, IOM in collaboration with the British Council developed a tailored curriculum for children. This participatory curriculum includes child-centred methodologies and is designed to help children feel more prepared for their journey and early days of life in the United Kingdom.

IOM organizes regular study visits for the cultural orientation trainers allowing them to observe the post-arrival integration support offered to refugees in the United Kingdom. The visits are an opportunity for consultation and engagement with a wide range of stakeholders and to receive feedback from resettled refugees themselves on their experiences of resettlement and integration.

9,000+ refugees provided with United Kingdom cultural orientation since 2016

© IOM 2017
Integration is a two-way process, working best when both refugees and those receiving them have a good understanding of each other’s expectations, cultural differences, and practices. Since May 2016, IOM has been delivering information sessions in the United Kingdom to local authorities and receiving communities to increase their knowledge of the refugee communities being resettled. These sessions have covered a range of national profiles, including Iraqi, Sudanese and Syrian, with recent requests for Congolese, Somali, and Kurdish sessions as well.

IOM partners with members of refugee communities to co-facilitate the sessions and provide their insight into a community’s history and culture. Sharing such background information with those working with refugees can help reduce the adjustment period for refugees and support strong, appropriate integration services.

“Overall an excellent session; very enjoyable and supremely informative but also moving and thought-provoking”

Participant from an IOM-led information session of 2018

Sessions attract a range of participants, including those working in councils, social support, health, police and emergency services, education, employment support, volunteering, and community sponsorship groups. From covering basic greetings to the potential expectations refugees may have of life in the United Kingdom, these information sessions have helped enhance understanding on how to collectively assist refugees from a variety of backgrounds in rebuilding life in the United Kingdom and contributing to their new communities.

IOM has also worked with partners to identify best practices and provide recommendations for improvement in integration initiatives. For example, IOM, UNHCR and City University London conducted a series of interviews with local authorities and Syrian refugees across the United Kingdom to survey integration strengths and challenges under the VPR scheme. The recommendations were published in the report Towards Integration.

Integration is often most successful when a range of stakeholders invest in the human capital of migrants and refugees and consider a long-term investment. With increased numbers of refugees in the United Kingdom, dedicated labour market integration initiatives not only offer support to refugees but also strengthen local economies and communities.

IOM has been working in the United Kingdom with local government, statutory services and the business sector to increase access to labour market opportunities for refugees. A key focus has been to enhance the capacity of businesses, job centres and local authorities to facilitate their engagement with refugees. To this end, IOM has been creating skills profiles of refugees to better inform individual employment plans and to support the matching of refugee skills with local labour market needs. In addition, IOM is working to build the capacities of relevant authorities, intermediaries and employers by improving access to information and services regarding the recognition of skills and qualifications of refugees.

Employers are often ill-equipped to hire and employ workers from vulnerable populations, not least due to lack of guidance and support in assessing their competences. IOM therefore engages employers through group sessions and individual consultations to offer advice on mediating cross-cultural differences, working with refugees to ensure they understand company expectations, and supporting employees who may have questions about refugees’ sociocultural background and context.

© IOM 2017 / Amanda NERO

Arrival in the United Kingdom and integration support

Labour market integration

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Community cohesion is vital to the success of two-way integration between migrants and receiving communities. Yet, as migration is often an emotive topic, it can be challenging to question long-held assumptions and to engage in constructive discourse. IOM therefore organizes events and activities to facilitate engagement between migrants and receiving communities in order to promote dialogue and shared understanding.

The similarities and shared values of Syrian and British children are on display at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. Dozens of British and Syrian children shared their hopes and dreams on leaf-shaped pieces of paper and pinned their leaves together on a tree-shaped installation. The decorated tree showed that children have more things in common with each other than differences, with many of the leaves citing the importance of family, homes and safe places to play.

© IOM 2018 / Abby DWOMMOH

In partnership with the Football Association, refugees have access to tickets to support the English national team and Premier League teams at Wembley Stadium in London.

© Football Association 2018 / Fiona HANSON

Musicians and choirs made up of migrants, refugee, arts communities and the British public gather at the Singing Our Lives concert to celebrate Refugee Week in the United Kingdom. Bringing communities together through music, this event promotes greater understanding of the lives and experiences of refugees and migrants.

© 2017 / Jolade OLUSANYA
IOM believes that safe, orderly and regular migration is of benefit to all. When well-managed, migration can be a driver of development, can contribute to vibrant and productive societies, and can help individuals realize their ambitions and aspirations.

With the Global Compact for Migration and the Sustainable Development Goals drawing international attention to the important role that migration plays, IOM is driving forward an ambitious agenda for a more inclusive, safe, prosperous future.
The United Kingdom is a global leader in the combat against exploitation and modern slavery and has been instrumental in drawing international attention and prompting global action. As a like-minded partner, IOM is engaged at the operational and policy level to strengthen the global response to countering human trafficking and modern slavery. IOM works in partnership with governments, the UN, NGOs, the private sector and development partners on prevention, protection, and prosecution. Since the mid-1990s, IOM and its partners have provided protection and assistance to close to 100,000 victims of trafficking.

IOM participates in, and leads, numerous regional and international multilateral processes, including the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT). IOM also works with the humanitarian community to ensure that the risk of trafficking is mitigated and addressed from the earliest stages of humanitarian responses. To this end, IOM is co-leading the Task Team on Anti-Trafficking in Humanitarian Action established within the Global Protection Cluster, and is leading the Alliance 8.7 Action Group on Migration.

At country level, support from the United Kingdom has enabled IOM to provide technical assistance and capacity-building to government bodies and civil society actors involved in the fight against human trafficking and modern slavery, including by strengthening key institutions and training frontline responders. Examples include:

1. Improved capacity of the government of Kenya in countering human trafficking;
2. Strengthened capacities of the judicial system in Sudan to address human trafficking;
3. Enhanced awareness of deputy governors and provincial directors on trafficking in human beings in Turkey, and
4. Specialized training to government and civil society actors in Tajikistan on psychosocial support to victims.

The United Kingdom has contributed to strengthening IOM’s global response by supporting initiatives that enhance international cooperation and coordination, develop the evidence base on human trafficking and migrant vulnerabilities, and produce international standards and best practices. For instance, the United Kingdom currently supports IOM in advancing the Alliance 8.7 Action Group on Migration to expedite progress towards SDG 8.7.

Combating modern slavery and protecting migrants vulnerable to violence, exploitation and abuse

100,000 victims of trafficking have been assisted by IOM and its partners since the mid 1990s

An IOM psychosocial staff conducts a one-on-one counselling session with an IDP in Nigeria. © IOM 2016 / Muse MOHAMMED
IOM’s programming provides a unique source of primary data on human trafficking. In 2017, IOM launched the Counter-Trafficking Data Collaborative, which is the first global, open-access data hub on human trafficking. The platform hosts victim case data from IOM and other anti-trafficking organizations, combined into one centralized, harmonized, and anonymized dataset. It currently includes case records of over 80,000 trafficked persons from 171 countries. This unique and publicly accessible data can be drawn upon by responders and policymakers to inform policy and programming, for example on prevalence estimates. IOM is continuously trying to grow the dataset and is in early discussions with the United Kingdom to include data from the National Referral Mechanism. The United Kingdom has also contributed to improving the availability of high quality data on human trafficking by supporting IOM to include indicators on human trafficking and exploitation in its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). For example, IOM’s DTM flow monitoring operations on the Eastern and Central Mediterranean routes have collected survey data on over 26,000 individual migrants, including questions about their experiences that may be associated with human-trafficking or other exploitative practices. This data has helped highlight the scale and nature of exploitation along the Mediterranean routes, in turn informing operational and policy responses. The United Kingdom also supports IOM to better understand migrants’ vulnerabilities and resilience to human trafficking. Through a research project in partnership with the University of Bedfordshire, IOM is examining the contextual factors that can influence trafficking at an individual, household, community and structural level. The research focuses on Albania, Nigeria and Viet Nam, as three of the most frequent countries of origin of potential victims referred into the United Kingdom’s National Referral Mechanism. Such research is critical to designing more effective and preventative measures to reduce vulnerability to trafficking in the first place.

The United Kingdom’s Modern Slavery Act is a leading example of how to tackle the demand side of human trafficking, by asking that companies proactively report on their efforts to address the risks of modern slavery in their supply chains. IOM is working closely with the private sector to design tools they can use to promote transparency in their supply chains. For example, the Corporate Responsibility in Eliminating Slavery and Trafficking (CREST) programme helps companies and their suppliers to uphold the labour and human rights of workers, particularly migrant workers. Additionally, the International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS) is a social compliance scheme for labour recruiters that is designed to promote ethical recruitment of migrant workers. Finally, IOM is also providing practical support to companies in the form of remediation guidelines to ensure that victims of exploitation are adequately protected and assisted where harm has occurred. Collectively, these programmes, compliance standards and guidelines, give businesses meaningful due diligence tools to use and report on as part of their efforts to combat modern slavery throughout their supply chains.
Migrants can face a range of vulnerabilities and these vulnerabilities often evolve and are exacerbated at particular points during their journey. For this reason, it is important that frontline responders are equipped to identify migrants who are in vulnerable situations, and to provide the appropriate referrals and assistance to support their protection needs. To this end, the United Kingdom is assisting IOM to develop and operationalize its approach to migrant vulnerability to violence, exploitation, and abuse. IOM’s work provides a standard methodology for identifying migrants vulnerable to (or who have experienced) violence, exploitation and abuse, and provides guidelines, standards, and tools for providing them with appropriate case management, protection, and assistance services. With funding from the United Kingdom, IOM is developing modules to train frontline responders on assistance and protection to migrants and has directly contributed to the protection of vulnerable migrants in many countries, including Libya, Niger, Senegal, Serbia, and Turkey.

Within the United Kingdom, IOM is also working to improve the protection framework that supports migrants in vulnerable situations. In particular, IOM is building the confidence and capacity of foster carers and professionals to look after unaccompanied migrant children. With support from the United Kingdom, IOM is addressing the needs of particularly vulnerable groups, such as Albanian and Vietnamese children, through a pilot project with the London Borough of Croydon to provide foster carers with training, reference materials, and access to expert and peer support through forums, to improve their understanding of the risks of human trafficking. IOM is also supporting engagement with these children so that they know how the support systems work in the United Kingdom and what they can expect.
Since the increase in mixed migration flows towards Europe in 2015, IOM has worked with the United Kingdom to provide protection and assistance to migrants and refugees on the move. In 2018, IOM and DFID committed to an ambitious multi-year and multi-country programme across the Central Mediterranean Route. This unique programme is designed to adapt over time to ensure that migrants are protected from harm and that protection systems better meet migrant needs. In particular, the programme will work towards the following outcomes:

1. Migrants and refugees in vulnerable situations at key points along the Central Mediterranean Route are better protected from harm. This outcome will cover life-saving search and rescue interventions in the desert, direct assistance, protection and referral support, health interventions, and information campaigns.

2. Increased access to solutions, including reintegration initiatives, and strengthening protection systems that meet migrants' needs. This outcome will cover targeted reintegration support in countries of origin, as well as capacity-building for protection systems in countries of origin and transit.

3. Key actors have greater understanding of who moves and where they move to, as well as migrant vulnerabilities and protection concerns, and use this information to make migrant journeys safer. This outcome will include data collection and analysis interventions across West and Central Africa, North Africa, and Europe, as well as targeted research and policy-focused evidence-building initiatives.

4. The evidence base on migration decision-making is built, including the influence that interventions may have on it. This outcome will contribute to understanding of how migration decisions are made and will inform future programming.

In Niger, IOM community mobilizers help raise awareness about the risks of irregular migration, possible alternatives, and connect migrants with services to support their needs.

© IOM 2017
To support IOM’s intervention along the Central Mediterranean Route, and to inform wider operational and policy considerations, DFID has supported IOM to carry out flow monitoring exercises, targeted research and analysis initiatives, and continuous data collection on key trends.

For example, sustained support for the Missing Migrants initiative has increased the quality and availability of data on migrant fatalities. Additionally, support to GMDAC has been important to gather experts from a range of sectors in dedicated workshops – for instance to discuss issues around the definition and measurement of “unsafe” migration (in relation to SDG 10.7).

At the same time, in-depth surveys and research have created a more holistic picture of migration drivers and migrant profiles, which contributes to more targeted operational response. Between 2016 and 2017, these flow monitoring exercises in Europe alone consisted of over 10,500 surveys carried out through 27 field collectors in nine countries. The data was widely accessed and used by humanitarians and policymakers.

Contributions to the IOM Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) have also been instrumental in building IOM’s ability to conduct and disseminate timely, relevant, and accessible research and policy briefs on issues where evidence is scarce.

For example, DFID has supported IOM to adapt DTM tools and methods to capture information on population mobility along migration routes toward Europe. The extension of flow monitoring activities across Central, Eastern and Western Mediterranean routes has contributed to more robust, nuanced and interconnected information on migration movements across countries and regions.

Building the evidence-base along the Central Mediterranean Route

With field staff present across the Central Mediterranean Route, DTM is generating critical information that informs evidence-based policy and programming. © IOM 2018 / Amanda NERO

The Central Mediterranean Route remains one of the deadliest migration routes in the world. The data gathered by the Missing Migrants Project is helping to highlight these risks and underpins efforts to promote safer migration pathways. © IOM 2015

These events allow for exchange of expertise and enhanced collaboration between GMDAC, practitioners and policymakers, and promote the sharing of knowledge and the building of partnership on key migration topics.

© IOM 2015

Migrant protection and cohesive prosperous communities

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© IOM 2015

Migrant protection and cohesive prosperous communities
Opportunities for migrants to secure decent work in a country other than their own can be an important enabler for development of both communities of origin and destination. IOM works with countries to enhance their governance of labour migration and labour rights, including better livelihood and employment opportunities for migrants. In Turkey, the United Kingdom supported IOM to conduct a pilot intervention with Turkey’s Ministry of Labour and Social Security to contribute to the development of a comprehensive and human rights-based labour migration management system. The pilot sought to promote registered employment of foreigners in Turkey through enhanced inter-institutional, legislative and administrative capacities.

This intervention spawned further interventions including a joint programme on entrepreneurship support for Syrians and the host community in partnership with the ILO. Building on the past programmes, the joint programme continued to strengthen the capacity of the Government of Turkey in labour migration management with greater emphasis on the establishment of systems to attract, retain, and integrate skilled migrants into the labour market. These kinds of initiatives are at the heart of the humanitarian and development nexus, contributing to labour market integration, economic growth and employment generation.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes migration as a core development consideration and catalyst for sustainable development. IOM has been working with local, regional, and national governments to strengthen policy coherence between the migration and development agendas so that migration policies can improve development outcomes and development policies can improve migration outcomes. Support provided by DFID in the form of a secondment is also helping IOM to strengthen its engagement in the 2030 Agenda, which will also support GCM implementation.

Diasporas can be powerful agents of development, acting as important links between countries and communities that they are from and where they live. Diaspora communities can support the development of their countries and communities of origin through a variety of avenues, including through the transfer of skills, knowledge, and ideas, to cultural capital, remittances, and trade links. IOM aims to enable, engage and empower transnational communities as agents of development, for example by working with governments to address barriers to trade and investment, with financial institutions and other stakeholders to lower remittance costs, or by facilitating temporary placements of diaspora in their home countries to build local capacities.

Livelihoods, labour mobility and community development

Migration and development

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When migrants in host or transit countries wish to return to their home country but lack the means to do so, Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programmes can offer a solution for migrants to return home safely and with dignity. IOM holds that assisted voluntary return remains an integral part of a comprehensive approach to migration management, and that reintegration assistance is critical for migrant well-being upon return.

IOM delivered the national AVRR programme with support from the Government of the United Kingdom between 2002 and 2011. This programme assisted more than 35,000 migrants with return and reintegration assistance to 130 different countries of origin through a combination of individual and community reintegration models. At the time, the programme was seen as the flagship approach to AVRR within Europe. Since then, IOM and the United Kingdom have worked on a variety of smaller projects around the world to support returning migrants with reintegration assistance, such as through the European Reintegration Network (ERIN) and the MAGNET Project, which successfully piloted job matching to support economic reintegration in Iraq.

Supporting migrants with options to return home and reintegrate sustainably

The United Kingdom has also funded several AVRR initiatives, for instance from Egypt, France and Greece which aimed at addressing the needs of vulnerable migrants, in particular victims of trafficking and unaccompanied migrant children. Additionally, AVRR initiatives implemented in Niger and Sudan have provided an important avenue for migrants who have become stranded along their journey to return to their country of origin with dignity. In the context of these AVRR initiatives which work with very vulnerable groups, IOM continues to advocate for the importance of addressing the risk factors that contribute to migrant vulnerabilities, and to put in place the adequate mechanism and resources that respond to their immediate needs. In regards to reintegration, support from the United Kingdom has been instrumental in enabling IOM to re-conceptualize and refine its approach to sustainable reintegration, which has now been embedded in IOM’s Integrated Approach to Reintegration. Through the DFID-funded MEASURE project, IOM developed a set of 15 field-tested indicators relating to the economic, social and psychosocial dimensions of reintegration. These indicators allow for the measurement of post-return outcomes and improve our understanding of returnees’ progress towards sustainability.

The new approach and tools conceptualized under the MEASURE programme have now been embedded in IOM programming around the world, including the EU-IOM initiatives for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in Africa and in Asia, and mark an important shift in terms of considering reintegration in a much more comprehensive manner.

In the coming years, the United Kingdom will continue to support IOM to develop practical guidance for practitioners on how to implement sustainable reintegration initiatives, including from an economic, social and psychosocial perspective, and will pilot innovative approaches on how to best support returnees in their reintegration journeys. These kinds of programmes are helping IOM to address AVRR in a more holistic manner that responds to the needs of individual returnees, to the communities where they are returning, and to the priorities of concerned governments, overall building a more sustainable and long-term approach.
Effective border management contributes to economic development by facilitating the regular flow of goods and persons across borders and enhances security by countering irregular migration and transnational organized crime. Well-trained and professionalized border officials help manage orderly migration flows, and in times of crisis, can improve humanitarian action and support the protection of migrants in vulnerable situations.

In the last five years, IOM and the Government of the United Kingdom have worked together to enhance capacities of border management agencies through over 30 projects around the world, a number of which are supported through the Conflict, Security and Stability Fund. These projects are often built around capacity-building, and have focused on improving document verification systems, enhancing border security, countering migrant smuggling, strengthening integrated border management, search and rescue and supporting humanitarian border management.

The focus of cooperation has been particularly strong in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region, where IOM has worked on this subject in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey. Initiated in 2014, the “Tajik-Afghan Integration, Resilience and Reform-Building Programme” has been one of the most notable initiatives in the region, employing a comprehensive approach to border security. Now in its third phase, the project facilitates collaboration of border agencies and communities on both sides of the Tajik and Afghan border. Technical assistance for border guards and engagement and trust-building of Tajik and Afghan border communities and border guards has contributed to reducing security threats, building resilience against cross-border violence, and enhancing livelihoods.

IOM is now considering replicating this comprehensive model in other locations. In response to the increased mixed migration flows along the Eastern Mediterranean Route, IOM and the United Kingdom have also supported a broad range of activities in Turkey from document security training and assessment of the national border management framework, to assistance in search and rescue operations.

For example, training workshops were delivered for both the Turkish police and coast guards and equipment was procured to support rescue operations in the Aegean Sea. Additionally, in Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, IOM has helped strengthening the capacity of authorities to better process and support the reception of stranded migrants, ensuring that migrants can access information and referrals in line with their needs.

In Eastern Africa, support has focused mainly on building the capacity of the Government of Somalia in border management. For example, IOM has supported the development of immigration legislation frameworks and the establishment of a fully-function human resources department, facilitated regional collaboration, procured border management information and communication equipment to fill needed gaps, and trained immigration officers.

MIDAS is a comprehensive, fully customizable and interoperable Border Management Information System designed to be compliant with international standards and currently implemented in over 20 countries. With the capability to collect, process, store, and analyze traveler information, MIDAS enables governments to more effectively manage and enter their territory while providing a sound statistical basis for migration policy-related planning.

MIDAS helps facilitate the legitimate movement of persons, as well as identifying irregular cross-border activities by automatically checking all recorded data against national and INTERPOL Alert Lists. MIDAS allows for the automated capture of data from a traveler’s travel document, the collection of biometric data, and electronic transfer of data to a central database for further analysis and data sharing. The Government operating MIDAS has full and exclusive ownership of any data recorded. A useful tool, MIDAS could be an area of future cooperation with IOM.

Female Tajik and Afghan border guards complete a joint training in Dushanbe to gather practical skills and knowledge of border management. © IOM 2014.
It's a unique and exciting time to be working on migration. The momentum that has led to the adoption of the Global Compact for Migration is truly historic and remarkable – historic because it is the first comprehensive framework on migration developed through inter-governmental negotiations in the United Nations, and remarkable that this was achieved at a time when the narrative around migration is so politically charged. The Global Compact recognizes that managing international migration is a shared responsibility of all countries, and presents an opportunity to improve the governance of international migration and to address the benefits and challenges associated with today's migration. IOM commends the Government of the United Kingdom's engagement and leadership to work towards this comprehensive agreement and welcomes the country's consultative approach throughout the process, including through the co-hosting of a civil society consultation event in the lead up to the negotiations.

With the Global Compact's objectives and associated commitments ironed out, now begins the challenging work of implementation. IOM stands ready to support the United Kingdom after the Compact's adoption in Marrakesh, and will also engage closely with the United Kingdom and other Member States as IOM takes on its new role of coordinating the United Nations Network on Migration. Central to the work of the Network will be the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Beyond the global agendas, it's clear that cooperation between IOM and the United Kingdom is growing, reflecting shared priorities. From life-saving humanitarian support, to the efforts to combat modern slavery and support its victims, to helping refugees restart their lives in the United Kingdom, together we are making an important difference for the most vulnerable migrants, refugees, and communities around the world. IOM will continue to improve and innovate so that our work is as impactful as possible.

Looking ahead, we need to build on this momentum so that migration is a choice and not a necessity, contributing to the development of individuals and communities around the world.

Dipti Pardeshi
Chief of Mission of IOM in the United Kingdom

Looking ahead

With support from DFID, children in Zaatari refugee camp participate in activities IOM organized for World Refugee Day in coordination with Jordanian authorities and UNHCR.

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