

Offering New Beginnings and Promoting Development: Australia and IOM

Partnerships in Action



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

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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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During the years following the end of the Second World War, Australia signed a number of bilateral migration agreements with Western European countries. Typically the agreements covered pre-departure orientation, transport and post-arrival reception in Australia. Above, passengers prepare to leave Bremerhaven, Germany, for Australia on the Norwegian vessel the SS Skaubryn with assistance from the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM). © IOM 1951-HFG0196 (Photo: D. Njezic)

Foreword

As a founding Member State, Australia has been working with IOM for almost 65 years. In partnership we have moved hundreds of thousands of refugees to new beginnings and have given them the tools for a fruitful integration; we have built the capacity of government officials to manage migration; and we have advanced dialogue and regional cooperation on topical migration issues.

IOM's leadership in fostering policy debates has greatly benefited from Australia's support both in terms of funding as well as through their active participation. Thanks to Australia, Regional Consultative Processes from all over the world gathered in 2011 in Botswana to share good practices and common concerns, an event which set the basis for future global gatherings.

Australia's support also extends from IOM's development initiatives to humanitarian relief, from transition and recovery programmes to disaster preparedness and risk reduction. Notably, Australia's generous and prompt contribution in the onset of the Libya crisis enabled IOM to launch a complex life-saving operation which, in its totality, provided humanitarian relief and repatriation support to more than 300,000 migrants and third-country nationals fleeing the conflict.

In the last three years alone, Australia has contributed more than USD 230 million to IOM's operations around the world.

To thank Australia for its long-standing support, I am pleased to offer this special publication: *Offering New Beginnings and Promoting Development*. The publication illustrates the breadth of our partnership and our joint achievements.

I hope that you enjoy this book and that it proves inspirational in setting the scene for new opportunities for migration that benefits all.

Sincerely,



William Swing
Director General



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Resettlement Assistance: Health Assessments, Cultural Orientation and Assisted Travel and Movement

Australia and IOM have carried out humanitarian migration and refugee resettlement programmes for nearly 65 years. Today, Australia and IOM's partnership in humanitarian migration and refugee resettlement is strong and comprehensive, covering a suite of resettlement services that include health assessments, travel loan administration, pre-departure orientation and organized travel. IOM believes that the most successful resettlement programmes provide not only international protection for those most vulnerable, but also foster their full participation and integration into their new societies. To this end, IOM and Australia have worked closely to equip and empower those being resettled in Australia to do so.

Resettlement Assistance: Health Assessments

Since the 1990s, IOM and Australia have worked closely together to ensure that immigrants and refugees bound for Australia receive necessary health assessments and follow up support prior to their departure for Australia. IOM's pre-departure health assessment services aim to protect the health of immigrants and hosting communities throughout the different phases of the migration continuum, with the goal of integrating healthy people into healthy communities. Health assessment services have been one of the core activities of IOM since its inception in 1951, and have long formed IOM's largest health activity in terms of geographical coverage, staffing and number of migrants served. The Government of Australia is one of IOM's longest-standing partners in this domain and has been pivotal in helping IOM adapt and evolve programmes to better address 21st century health challenges. Since 2001, IOM has provided health assessments to over 270,000 refugees and immigrants heading to Australia from nearly 60 countries.





An IOM medical staff conducts a medical briefing at LifeLine hospital in Damak, Nepal. © IOM 2009 – MNP0166 (Photo: Kari Collins)

IOM's Migration Health Assessment Programme



© IOM 2007 – MAF0225 (Photo: Barat Ali Batoor)

IOM and Australia are close partners in the realm of migration health assessment programmes, with IOM's primary interlocutor being the Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP).

IOM began providing health assessment services on behalf of Australia in the 1990s in South-East Asia and Eastern Europe. Traditionally, these services consisted of a statutory immigration medical examination in accordance with the requirements of the Australian Government. The principal purpose of these examinations was to guard against the introduction of communicable diseases into Australia and to optimize health-care resources.

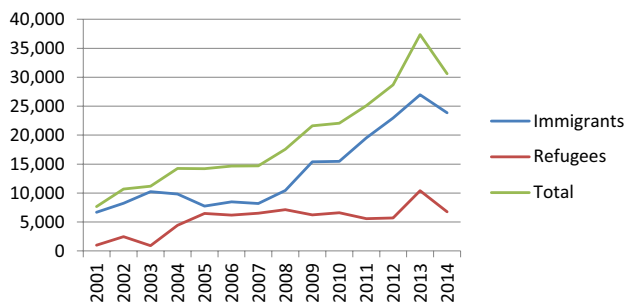
The Evolution

Initially, caseloads for Australia were relatively small, consisting of less than 10,000 examinations per year worldwide. Over the years however, IOM health assessments have evolved to meet changing demands and have expanded in scope, adopting a more public health-oriented approach. For example, in 2014 polio screenings and immunisations were introduced in certain affected areas. Currently, health assessments reach upwards of 30,000 examinations per year.

This growth has not occurred in isolation, but in response to Member States' expectations and IOM's belief that health assessments should serve as a tool not only for the detection of certain conditions, but also for health promotion, education and preventive care. Importantly, these assessments are also critical to foster migrants' integration into receiving communities. Australia has been a strong supporter and partner in this development.

In 2005, the Departure Health Check was incorporated into the health assessment programme for Refugee and Special Humanitarian Programme clients bound for Australia. In addition to the standard immigration medical examination which includes a review of the medical history, a physical examination, chest x-ray, serology and urinalysis, IOM's expanded approach now includes preemptive screening for parasites, rapid testing for malaria, and immunizations within 72 hours prior to departure. The primary objectives of this expanded protocol are to optimize migrants' health prior to resettlement and to address health needs early in the migration process, as well as to enable domestic resettlement agencies to adequately prepare for the arrival of refugees by providing them with important health information in a timely manner.

Health Assessment Caseloads for Australia
2001 – 2014



Health Assessments by Country in 2014		
	Immigrants	Refugees
Pakistan	10,469	1,059
Viet Nam	3,957	-
Cambodia	1,365	-
Bangladesh	1,350	-
Thailand	9	1,318
Iraq	1,079	243
Jordan	276	1,035
Russian Federation	1,182	-
Syrian Arab Republic	106	811
Malaysia	-	864
Other	4,047	1,434
Total	23,840	6,764

A Global Partnership

IOM's partnership with the Australian Government in the provision of migrant health assessments has been a constructive, dynamic and continuously expanding collaboration. Over the past several years, the partnership has focused on enhancing the quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) of health assessment services. To this end, in 2012, DIBP seconded one of its senior staff to IOM in order to advance QA/QC processes and tools, which proved very successful and resulted in the production of numerous guidelines, assessment tools and standards of procedure related to the work of the programme. In addition, DIBP has joined efforts to advance local health care capacity, for example with TB laboratories and mangement centres.

Aside from its bilateral cooperation, IOM closely engages with Australia on health issues at international fora, including at the Intergovernmental Immigrant and Refugee Health Working Group, the Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement, the TB Union and the International Panel Physicians Association.

Resettlement Assistance: Cultural Orientation

Cultural orientation training for refugees and other immigrants who have been admitted to Australia on humanitarian grounds is a long-standing and fruitful area of partnership between IOM and Australia. Beginning in 2003, IOM has delivered the five-day Australian Cultural Orientation Programme (AUSCO) on behalf of the Australian Government to over 60,000 refugees and humanitarian entrants bound for Australia. Delivered in camps, urban settings, and other venues prior to refugees' departure for Australia, AUSCO aims to provide critical information about the settlement and integration process in Australia. Employing innovative and interactive training methods and materials, AUSCO is delivered in participants' native languages. The programme briefs participants on travel arrangements and requirements, the Australian lifestyle, values, laws and norms, and other practical needs such as accommodation, transportation, and health systems. AUSCO helps to equip refugees with the confidence and practical tools to deal with initial stages of their settlement in Australia. AUSCO is one of IOM's flagship pre-departure projects, with trainings having taken place across Africa, South Asia, South-East Asia and the Middle East.



A Bhutanese refugee attending an Australian cultural orientation class conducted by IOM. ©IOM 2009 – MNP0079 (Photo: Kari Collins)

The Australian Cultural Orientation Programme

Origins

The Australian Cultural Orientation (AUSCO) Programme came to fruition following a visit by Honorable Minister Robert Hardgrave to Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya in 2003. Here, discussions began about establishing a dedicated orientation course for refugees bound to Australia, and shortly thereafter, AUSCO was established. The following year the programme was expanded to Egypt, and since then AUSCO has grown extensively and is now offered in four regions: Africa, South Asia, South-East Asia and the Middle East.



An AUSCO participant from Ban Mai Nai Soi camp shares his dream of learning English and a trade. Once he has regular income, he plans to learn to drive and buy a car. © IOM 2014 – (Photo: Beam Teasdale)

The Orientation

AUSCO is provided to refugees and special humanitarian entrants over the age of five prior to their departure for Australia. Orientation sessions are designed for and delivered to adults, youth, children, and pre-literate entrants. A special “Family Day” session has also been designed to address issues associated with resettlement and intergenerational challenges.

AUSCO offers practical information about the journey to Australia and seeks to help participants adjust and integrate into Australia upon arrival. The settlement process is described in detail, and participants are informed about available settlement services and how to access them. IOM encourages the learning of the English language both prior to and after arrival.

IOM’s teaching methodology is highly participative and interactive, and focuses not only on imparting knowledge but also developing the skills and attitudes needed to achieve successful integration outcomes. An AUSCO Student Handbook, available in a number of languages, and a ‘Life Book’ to record the individual’s settlement journey, supplements the course content.

AUSCO links closely with the onshore orientation element of the Humanitarian Settlement Services programme and IOM strongly supports the idea of working with all stakeholders involved in the settlement of newcomers to Australia.



An AUSCO participant proudly displays her certificate of completion. She looks forward to reuniting with her children and grandchildren in Australia © IOM 2014 – (Photo: Beam Teasdale)

Staff Development

Over the years, the AUSCO Programme has been given critical support by the Humanitarian Settlement Services. IOM staff have been invited to attend an annual joint conference designed to bring offshore and onshore trainers together to exchange ideas and best practices. IOM maintains strong links with on-shore providers through various means including effective reporting, and through participation in the AUSCO Exchange Programme where in selected AUSCO and Humanitarian Settlement Services staff trade places for two weeks. This Exchange Programme has been conducted annually for over five years.

“AUSCO is one of IOM’s flagship pre-departure projects and since 2003 over 60,000 participants have attended an AUSCO session. IOM is pleased to have won the bid in August 2014 to continue providing offshore orientation, entering into its fourth contract with the Australian Government.”

- Pindie Stephen
IOM Senior Migrant Training
and Integration Specialist



Children explore and learn the states and territories of Australia. © IOM 2014 – (Photo: Beam Teasdale)



Bhutanese refugees line up to board IOM buses which marks the first leg of their journey to be resettled in third countries. © IOM 2009 – MNP0128 (Photo: Kari Collins)



Resettlement Assistance: Assisted Movement and Travel

IOM, or as it was first known, the Provisional Intergovernmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe (PICMME), was born in 1951 out of the chaos and displacement following the Second World War. The Organization was mandated to help European governments identify resettlement countries for the estimated 11 million people uprooted by the war, and it later arranged transport for nearly a million migrants and refugees during the 1950s. Many of these refugees were assisted to travel to Australia. Today, arranging the safe and orderly movement of refugees and other vulnerable groups remains at the heart of IOM's mandate. Since 2000, IOM has organized the movement of nearly 150,000 refugees and other vulnerable migrants to Australia from 138 countries.



European migrants on an ICEM-chartered boat, the Oceania, arrive in Sydney on 19 April, 1958. ©IOM 1958 – HAU0063 (Photo: Lloyd Triestino)



After the Hungarian uprising of 1956, ICEM assumed responsibility for the resettlement of some 200,000 Hungarian refugees who had fled to Western Europe. Australia received around 14,500 of these refugees. ©IOM 1957 – HAU0311 (Photo: Don Edwards)

Assisted Movement and Travel

Through its agreements with major airlines, IOM offers preferential fares for persons travelling under the auspices of the Organization. As many refugees are first-time travellers, IOM movement services emphasize “continuity of care” with IOM monitoring each movement from embarkation through transit to arrival, providing assistance as needed at each point and alerting sponsors/receiving authorities of any changes to itineraries or schedules.

IOM’s support to Australia is not only limited to assisting refugees, as defined by the UN 1951 Convention. In 1981, the Government of Australia introduced the Global Special Humanitarian Programme (SHP) for individuals who were not found to be refugees but who had family or community ties in Australia and who were subject to human rights abuses in their home country.

Under this programme, IOM has sought to assist SHP visa holders with the arrangement of their resettlement travel to Australia, especially in the process of communication with the local authorities on their exit clearances, arrangement of transportation to the port of international departure, accessing economical international airfare through IOM’s global agreement with various airlines, and transit assistance on route to Australia.

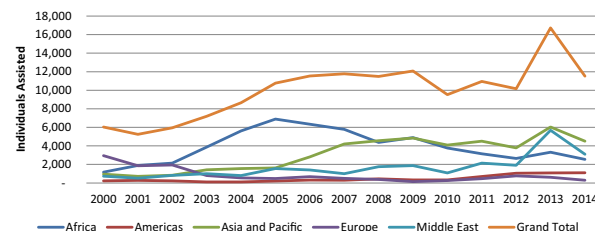
Newly resettled humanitarian entrants who have left their family members back in their home country often face considerable costs associated with sponsorship to resettle to Australia. IOM has therefore made no-interest loan schemes available to ease the financial burden on sponsors of the approved special humanitarian visa holders for their travel to Australia.

The type of humanitarian entrants IOM assists has become more diverse throughout the years in line with changes in the global humanitarian needs. Recently following a request from the Government of Australia, IOM had a major role in the resettlement of locally engaged employees and their family members who have been employed by or worked with the Australian Defence Force in Iraq or Afghanistan and are at risk of harm because of this association.

Throughout our partnership, IOM has worked closely with various government agencies of Australia, particularly with the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) that oversees the management of the Australia's Migration Programme and Humanitarian Programme. IOM also has close relations with the Department of Social Services which handles the settlement and welfare of the humanitarian entrants upon arrival, and various settlement service providers around Australia.

Between 2010 and 2014, IOM assisted the resettlement travel of 54,511 migrants to Australia, including 36,342 refugees and 3,768 SHP visa holders.

IOM Assisted Resettlement to Australia
2000-2014



IOM Assisted Resettlement Movements to
Australia by Country of Origin 2010–2014

Malaysia	4,702
Syrian Arab Republic	4,443
Pakistan	4,390
Nepal	4,311
Thailand	4,145
South Africa	4,065
Turkey	2,759
Islamic Republic of Iran	2,255
Indonesia	2,123

** Figures cumulative, top 10 countries*

	Gender Breakdown, IOM Assisted Travel 2011–2014				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Government-funded	6,330	5,772	12,630	5,631	30,363
Male	3,237	2,973	6,509	2,887	15,606
Female	3,093	2,799	6,121	2,744	14,757
Self-payer	4,090	3,243	2,727	4,565	14,625
Male	1,992	1,620	1,332	2,262	7,206
Female	2,098	1,623	1,395	2,303	7,419
Other Australia-bound movements	527	1,145	1,371	1,332	4,375
Male	279	579	666	678	2,202
Female	248	566	705	654	2,173
Total Male	5,508	5,172	8,507	5,827	25,014
Total Female	5,439	4,988	8,221	5,701	24,349





Technical Cooperation and Border Management

IOM and Australia have developed a strong and reliable partnership in the field of technical cooperation and border management, and are working to facilitate and foster smooth movement management at borders while preventing irregular migration. Focused primarily on the Asia Pacific region, IOM and Australia's portfolio of projects are multi-faceted and include elements of technical capacity-building for governments and border officials, regional cooperation on migration management challenges, and information campaigns for vulnerable migrants.



The Bali Process

Australia is working with states and international organisations to develop a comprehensive regional approach on irregular migration and human trafficking. To this end, Australia is the co-chair with Indonesia of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime that aims to raise regional awareness of the issues and to develop and implement strategies and practical cooperation in response. IOM is supporting the Bali Process through a variety of avenues, including by hosting the Regional Support Office of the Bali Process in Bangkok. IOM is overseeing a programme to enhance the capacity of front-line border officials in the member states of the Bali Process, and is designing a tailored training curriculum. IOM has also provided technical support on the Bali Process Members' Portal that enables member states to share immigration related information and intelligence, documents, and other training materials.

"IOM and Australia have together developed new solutions to combat irregular migration and to support vulnerable migrants."

- Sjef Broekhaar
Head, Immigration and Border
Management Unit, RO Bangkok

Spotlight on Counter-Trafficking

IOM fights the exploitation of migrants in all its forms, and the severe human rights violations suffered by trafficked persons is an especial concern. Migrants, and particularly migrants in irregular situations, are highly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse by human traffickers. Around the world, IOM aims to empower and provide protection to victims of trafficking, to raise awareness and understanding on the issue, and to bring justice to trafficked persons. Australia and IOM have worked together on a number of counter trafficking initiatives, including in the Philippines, Thailand, Afghanistan and Indonesia. These projects have aimed to increase public awareness on human trafficking and relevant laws, to build the capacity of governments and non-governmental organization to protect communities from traffickers, to produce policy guidance that set out legal standards applicable to identify and support trafficked persons and to harmonize measures to return and reintegrate trafficked person. IOM is also identifying case studies and best practices from Bali Process member states to inform policy guidance.

Technical Cooperation and Border Management

Regional Cooperation Arrangement in Indonesia

The Regional Cooperation Arrangement (RCA) that came into effect in 2000 is a mechanism through which the Australian Government and IOM support the Government of Indonesia in managing human trafficking, people smuggling and irregular migration in the Indonesian archipelago. Under the RCA, IOM helps to improve the quality of care for asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants within the structures of the Indonesian law and provides legitimate status resolution pathways including third country resettlement and IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return programmes. IOM is building the capacity of the Government of Indonesia to improve the standards of quarantine facilities and to ensure that undocumented migrants and asylum-seekers are treated in accordance with international human rights standards. At the same time, IOM is conducting regional level trainings, as well as local level sensitizations to promote coordination between national agencies and the establishment of intra-regional and global relationships on people smuggling and other forms of irregular migration.

In light of the growing numbers of migrants drowning at sea, IOM is also working the Government of Australia to ensure that migrants are aware of the risks of travelling through irregular channels and the options and opportunities to travel through legal avenues. In Indonesia and Viet Nam for example, IOM informs migrants of Australia's policies in regards to maritime arrivals, and also seeks to better understand how government policies influence migrants' decision making.



IOM provided technical assistance to the Afghan government to prepare them for the implementation of a new visa and passport system. Above, Afghan officials participate in an IOM led session on passport identification. © IOM 2014 – (Photo: IOM Afghanistan)

Elsewhere in the World

In other parts of the world such as Sri Lanka and Afghanistan, IOM has worked with governments to improve the security of their identity documents and related issuance and management systems. IOM focuses on effective, robust and internationally compliant systems. To this end, IOM has launched a biometric project in Sri Lanka to strengthen the integrity of the Sri Lankan application lodgment and assessment process through the standardization of passport photographs and collection of biometric fingerprint data from all passport applicants that is cross-checked against the official database. In Afghanistan, IOM has supported the Government to introduce machine readable passports and visas compliant with international standards. Trainings for government and border officials in both cases help ensure that border management systems are strengthened in a sustainable manner.

Sustainable Return and Reintegration Assistance

Offering assistance to individuals who wish to voluntarily return home from Australia is an important element of Australia and IOM's work together. IOM seeks to ensure that migrants, especially those most vulnerable, have access to information and confidential counselling services concerning their options to remain in Australia or to return home to their countries of origin. When voluntary return is a chosen option, IOM is available to provide case by case support for individuals in need, to arrange travel arrangements, and to help individuals get back on their feet with reintegration packages upon their return home. IOM and Australia's assisted voluntary return and reintegration programmes have evolved to become holistic return and reintegration programmes that have assisted over 9,200 individuals to voluntarily return home to more than 100 countries since 1999. Tailored reintegration support is often available to help them learn new skills, start a business or connect them with employment opportunities back home.



Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration



Returning home after one year in exile is an emotional moment for this Kosovar family. In July 1999, IOM organized the first safe and orderly return of Kosovars who had been evacuated from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to over thirty host countries.

The Evolution

IOM and Australia have a well-developed and trusted partnership in the field of assisted voluntary return (AVR), with reintegration packages often available to support those returning home to get back on their feet. IOM has worked closely with Australian counterparts to design and oversee programming, especially the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP), which superseded the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

Between 1999 and 2000, and at the request of the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA), IOM provided AVR support to over 5,431 citizens of UNSC resolution 1244-administered Kosovo and Timor-Leste, who had been offered temporary safe haven in Australia during the periods of conflict in those countries. From 2002 to 2006, IOM expanded assistance to include AVR for asylum-seekers from Afghanistan and Iraq who wished to return to their countries.

In 2006, recognizing the success of IOM's AVR programmes and IOM's expertise in working with vulnerable migrants, the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA) [formerly DIMIA] requested IOM to expand upon existing AVR service by providing immigration and information counselling services to vulnerable migrants in the Australian community in New South Wales and Victoria, who were awaiting a decision on their immigration status. IOM's work in this regard became a key component of DIMA's "Community Care Pilot", which sought to empower individuals to make informed decisions about their immigration process. The pilot project worked with vulnerable individuals who faced a variety of challenges, including those with health, family and income related concerns.

Present Cooperation

Since the introduction of the pilot, IOM has worked closely with caseworkers skilled in counselling vulnerable persons to provide migrants with personalized immigration information and counselling services. The aim has been to assist migrants to make informed decisions about their immigration situation, including returning home as a possible outcome. In doing so IOM contributed to, and extended, support services to those most vulnerable migrants in the community by offering them a dignified and humane return option.

In 2009, this pilot project transitioned to a full-fledged AVR programme available to vulnerable migrants, asylum-seekers and others, providing services across all Australian States and Territories.

Since 2006, over 3,600 individuals have been assisted to return voluntarily to some 115 countries.

Spotlight on Sustainable Reintegration


Australia commissioned IOM to work collaboratively in managing a comparative research project, completed early 2015, on the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration of Migrants. The project was conducted in partnership with Maastricht University Graduate School of Governance and consisted of interviews in 15 countries of origin, transit and destination. The research aimed to develop and apply an index for measuring sustainable reintegration in the country of origin, and to identify the factors that influence the decision-making process of migrants, including irregular migrants and asylum-seekers regarding voluntary return. The study found that conditions in the country of destination (especially the lack of legal status and authorization to work) are important determinants of the decision to return. Conditions in the country of origin, for example matters of personal safety and political stability, are less likely to influence the decision to return, but they do play an important part in the sustainability of return.



A returnee opens a grocery shop with assistance provided by IOM.

© IOM 2014 - MLK0330





Resilience Building: Humanitarian Assistance, Community Stabilization, Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction

In the aftermath of natural disaster or conflict, IOM works with government counterparts and humanitarian partners to save lives and to reduce vulnerabilities. IOM and Australia have partnered together in a range of contexts to ensure that people in need receive immediate assistance, be it by transporting migrants who are caught in a crisis to safety, or by providing displaced or vulnerable persons with shelter, non-food items, health and psychosocial services. In the longer term, IOM and Australia are empowering individuals and communities to recover and rebuild, including through livelihood assistance programmes, infrastructure improvements, and inclusive and accessible community institutions and social services. Disaster preparedness and risk reduction is an increasingly important part of IOM and Australia's partnership, where assistance is provided to build government and community capacities to prepare for and manage future disasters.



© IOM 2011 - MLY0082 (Photo: Nicole Tung)

Spotlight on the Libya Crisis

The protests in Libya in February 2011 that escalated into armed conflict resulted in an immediate and protracted migration crisis, as tens of thousands of migrants working in Libya sought to escape the violence. Some fled across the borders with Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Niger and Tunisia, while others travelled the precarious maritime route across the Mediterranean to Europe. Thousands of other migrants remained stranded within Libya in Benghazi and the besieged city of Misrata, often living in insecurity and dire humanitarian conditions.

In this context, IOM launched a massive humanitarian response in cooperation with the governments of Egypt and Tunisia as well as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to deliver immediate relief and provide repatriation transport for those in need. Australia's

generous contribution of over AUD 6.5 million to IOM was critical to the success of IOM's operation, which included emergency sea evacuations and onward transportations for migrants, and the delivery of urgent humanitarian cargo to Libyan cities. IOM worked to ensure the borders were decongested and facilitated the onward movement of foreign nationals in a dignified and safe manner.

By December 2012, IOM had assisted 324,310 migrants to return home on 1,847 charter and commercial flights, 19 vessels and 45,000 busses. Australia's strong support for IOM's leadership in the Libya crisis, among other countries, has helped solidify IOM's role as a key international humanitarian actor.

Life Saving Humanitarian Assistance

In Action

Australia and IOM have assisted migrants caught in crisis, as well as other vulnerable populations, to reach safety and access humanitarian assistance in a plethora of situations across the globe, including in Libya, Côte d'Ivoire, Somalia and Afghanistan. In cases of forced displacement or for vulnerable returnees, IOM and Australia have sought to ensure that secure transportation services are made available so that people can travel home or to another destination safely and in dignity. Temporary accommodation, water and sanitation facilities, the distribution of essential non-food items, and health and psychosocial services are often essential components of the Australian funded IOM humanitarian operations.

Migrants in Countries in Crisis

The impact of natural disasters and conflicts, particularly on migrant populations, has become increasingly visible in recent years, with cases such as the Libya crisis being primary examples. To ensure that humanitarian response mechanisms take into account the particular vulnerabilities of migrant populations in the midst of crisis, the Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) initiative was launched in 2014. Supported by IOM, UNHCR, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development, and the Georgetown University Institute for the Study of International Migration, MICIC aims to improve the ability of states to prepare for, respond to, and protect the dignity and rights of migrants caught in acute crisis. IOM is pleased that Australia is on the working group of this initiative and is helping to raise the visibility of migrants' particular needs and vulnerabilities.



Afghans arrive from Pakistan at Torkham border crossing, where Australian funds supported post-arrival humanitarian assistance and government capacity-building. ©IOM 2012 (Photo: IOM Afghanistan)

IOM as a Humanitarian Actor

Through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, IOM supports coordinated and collaborative responses conducted in close cooperation with the United Nations system and other organizations. IOM is the lead of the Global Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster for Natural Disasters in which it co-chairs with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. IOM also actively participates in the Logistics, Early Recovery, Health, Emergency Shelter and Protection Clusters. IOM's humanitarian activities are ongoing in more than 30 countries around the world, including in today's large-scale regional emergencies.



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Community Stabilization

Displacement following conflicts or natural disasters often disrupts livelihoods and local economies. In many contexts, displacement exacerbates insecurity and poverty, and increases pressures on limited resources that host communities depend on. Internally displaced persons or refugees who decide to return home may face considerable challenges if their homes have been damaged or destroyed or if they cannot find access to income. In these cases, communities and returnees may become particularly vulnerable and at risk of exploitation.

Supporting Livelihoods

Australia and IOM have together worked to reduce the negative impacts of displacement by empowering individuals and communities to rebuild after a conflict or a disaster strikes. In Jordan, Lebanon and Sri Lanka, livelihood initiatives have been a key component of Australia funded IOM community stabilization projects. Job placements, specialized skills or vocational trainings, and business start-up kits are some of the ways IOM has assisted returnees and community members to increase their employability and capacity to access income.

In some cases, livelihood projects are linked to infrastructure projects that are designed to improve living conditions in target communities. A recent Australian funded project in Afghanistan for example saw the building of 150 permanent shelters for vulnerable community members, with labour sourced from within the local community.

Social Inclusion

Ensuring that vulnerable individuals can access community institutions and social services is another area IOM and Australia have worked on to build community resilience. For example, Australia has funded four phases of an IOM-led project to reduce the vulnerabilities of Rohingya in the Tak and Ranong provinces in Thailand by improving their social integration and protection. Such initiatives speak to the belief that communities are strongest when they protect and offer opportunities for all members, especially those most vulnerable.



Regaining access to income is a critical step to supporting family and community resilience. Above, an IOM staff member runs an out-boat motor training for a community in Sri Lanka. © IOM 2014 - MLK0364 (Photo: IOM Sri Lanka)

Raising Awareness

Building resilient and strong communities is also about empowering individuals and communities to be aware of their rights and to be wary of those who might be out to take advantage of them. IOM and Australia have worked across many countries to raise the awareness of vulnerable migrants on the faces of human trafficking, the dangers of irregular migration, and the opportunities and avenues for safe migration. IOM aims to inform different vulnerable groups of their rights, for example in regards to sexual and gender-based violence, and to build the capacity and awareness of local and national authorities on the needs and challenges faced by vulnerable groups.

Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction

IOM believes that reducing the risk of forced migration induced by disasters implies an ambitious agenda and strategic partnerships. To this end, IOM and Australia have a rich and growing partnership in the arena of disaster risk reduction, as well as disaster preparedness. Focusing on the Asia Pacific region as the most disaster prone region in the world, IOM and Australia are working to reduce risks and to build government and community capacities to prepare for and manage future disasters.

In Micronesia for example, Australia is working with IOM on a Climate Adaption, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Education (CADRE) Programme that targets 10,000 students in 50 schools. The CADRE programme is supporting sustainable adaption and preparedness strategies, and is increasing the resilience and capacity of vulnerable schools and communities to cope with and respond to climate change and natural disasters. In Timor-Leste, IOM and Australia have also been supporting community based disaster risk management, and have helped strengthen the Government's preparation and response to natural disasters.



DFAT funded CADRE programme in Micronesia aims to build the resilience of communities to natural disasters, particularly those climate induced. Above, female participants from Sekere community, Pohnpei state, map their community as part of a Hazard, Vulnerability, Capacity Mapping (HVCN) exercise. Each HVCN led to the development of a community early action plan related to short and long-term impacts of climate change. Australia has funded 15 climate adaptation and disaster mitigation interventions emanating from the community HVCN process. © IOM 2012 (Photo: Canita Swigert)



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Spotlight on Disaster Risk Reduction Programming in Indonesia

Following consecutive natural disaster events occurring in Indonesia since the 2004 Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami, IOM has become an active and recognized partner of the Government of Australia in disaster risk reduction. In 2011, IOM received funding from the Australia-Indonesia Facility for Disaster Reduction (AIFDR) for a 15-month pilot project in Garut District, West Java. The project aimed to improve the ability of local governments to prepare for, mitigate and respond to natural disasters.

AIFDR later scaled up the pilot to a larger project, this time covering a wider geographical scope in West Java. The AUD 3.6 million programme aimed to reduce Indonesia's vulnerability to natural disasters through the building of a replicable DRR model at the local level where an effective partnership would be forged between the government, communities, civil society and the private sector. Following 24 months of implementation from 2012 to 2014 the project had strengthened the capacity of Disaster Management agencies at provincial, district and subdistrict levels. The project also enhanced the preparedness of provincial and district government offices to coordinate disaster response, increased community participation in DRR initiatives and improved collaboration and partnership between DRR stakeholders.

Between 2009 and 2013, IOM implemented over 257 disaster related projects in 31 countries, supporting at least 23 million individuals exposed to, or affected by, natural disasters.



The construction of the Emergency Operating Centre (EOC) in the remote city of Kupang in East Nusa Tenggara Province took place over 10 months and was completed in June 2014. The EOC is made of rigid concrete with shear walls, has a deep foundation, a concrete roof and is seismic and fire resistant. The building is designed to withstand even severe disaster events. The EOC is also equipped with a radio communication system that enables uninterrupted communication with disaster response actors deployed anywhere in the province, as well as with partner entities situated at the regional and national levels.

IOM has also been implementing a unique AUD 3.5 million programme to strengthen disaster coordination and emergency operations management of government agencies in South Sulawesi and East Nusa Tenggara. The 37-month programme will oversee the construction and hand-over of two fully equipped Emergency Operating Centres (EOCs) for disaster management. The EOCs will be equipped with modern information and communication technology systems that will be operated by trained Indonesian Government staff, and the Disaster Management information systems will be integrated with national systems.

Migration Policy, Dialogue and Research

Australia has long had both a keen interest in international migration policy and a willingness to promote and support international cooperation in this field. In the absence of a global migration regime, IOM encourages dialogue among the international migration community, which Australia has supported through both active participation and financial assistance. Through a variety of avenues including regional consultative processes on migration related issues, participation in IOM's annual International Migration Dialogue Forum, and innovative research projects, IOM and Australia have together sought to promote cooperation, creative thinking and informed policymaking on key migration issues. Australia's support for IOM's policy and research initiatives has been especially notable in the Asia Pacific region.



The International Dialogue on Migration is IOM's principal forum for migration policy dialogue. The IDM provides a space to analyse current and emerging issues in migration governance and to exchange experiences, policy approaches and effective practices. © IOM 2013 - MCH0218 (Photo: Jean Marc Ferré)



© IOM 2013 – MPH0990 (Photo: Alan Motus)

Migration Dialogue, Policy and Research

Regional Consultations

Australia has been particularly active in the promotion and development of intergovernmental consultative mechanisms in the Asia Pacific region. In 1996, Australia was one of 11 South-East Asian countries that responded to IOM's invitation to exchange views on the topic of irregular migration and to work specifically towards the harmonization of legislation and policies on migrant trafficking.

In the same year, the Australian Government sponsored another, larger, regional event focusing on refugees and displaced persons. The next year, the scope of the agenda was expanded to include migration, and participants agreed to continue to meet at regular intervals under the banner of the Asia Pacific Consultations. IOM was a close partner from the start.

In 2002 a broader-based thematic consultative process emerged under the name of the Bali Process. The Bali Process aims to raise awareness on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime and to develop cooperative responses among participating states. Australia is by far the largest donor to this process. IOM is providing advice, expertise and support, and is also hosting the Regional Support Office of the Bali Process in its Regional Office in Bangkok.

The 10th Anniversary of the Bali Process in 2012 was marked by a meeting funded by Australia that brought together participating states in that process, but also Regional Consultative Process (RCP) from other regions, thereby furthering a key goal of IOM to promote cooperation and dialogue within and across regions. Australia's support for the RCPs has also manifested

in the continuous financial support offered to IOM to host the biennial global meetings of RCP Chairs and Secretariats.

International Migration Dialogue

At the global level, Australia's strong and continuing financial support has greatly contributed to the success of IOM's International Dialogue on Migration (IDM). From its early beginnings as an experimental space to debate policy issues at the annual IOM Council, the IDM has grown into a major international forum where policymakers, academics and civil society representatives meet to analyse contemporary migration challenges and opportunities. Migration and Development, Trade and Migration, Return Migration, Migrants in Times of Crisis, Diasporas and Development, and Migration and Families are just a sample of the topics that have been addressed so far. This year the IDM will be on the theme of Migrants in Cities.



Warren Pearson of Australia's Department of Immigration and Citizenship speaks at the Diaspora Ministerial Conference in 2013 on the panel concerning diaspora and societies © IOM 2013 (Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)



© IOM 2014 - MLK0346 (Photo: IOM Sri Lanka)

Migration Research

IOM engages in policy research for a variety of reasons including to contribute to a better understanding of the social, economic and political underpinnings of migration, to gather empirical evidence for more effective policy formulation, and to evaluate migration policies and programmes.

Australia has been one of the most reliable contributors to IOM's biennial flagship publication *The World Migration Report*, with each issue providing cutting edge research into a new topic of interest. The 2013 edition of the report presented findings from a unique source of data – the prestigious Gallup World Poll surveys, conducted in more than 150 countries – allowing for the first-ever assessment of the well-being of migrants worldwide.

Australia has also been a major contributor towards the publication of several studies that have now become standard academic references including *Migration and International Legal Norms* (2003) and *Foundations of International Migration Law*, (2012). Australia is represented on the editorial board of IOM's *Migration Policy and Practice* journal and is a regular contributor to its pages.



Strengthening IOM

Much has changed in the world since the time of IOM's creation when it was mandated to assist in the resettlement of Europeans uprooted by the Second World War. Today with some 232 million people on the move internationally, migration has been rendered a key characteristic of many contemporary societies. Over the last sixty-five years, Australia has supported IOM to evolve and expand its mandate in line with these shifting global realities. IOM has thereby evolved from a logistic agency to a migration agency with a diversity of expertise and a wide portfolio of operations. IOM is grateful that Australia continues to invest and support the Organization to grow, to take on new responsibilities, and to help ensure that migration is for the benefit of all.

Strengthening IOM

Looking Back

Australia was a founding member of IOM, at the time the Provisional Intergovernmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe (PICMME), and has played an important role in expanding the Organization's mandate and capacity to become the leading international migration agency.

Australia was one of the 16 states that met at the 1951 Brussels International Conference on Migration to create the PICMME that would become the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration the following year. Nearly 40 years later, the membership decided to review the Constitution to bring it into line with evolving global realities. Australia was actively involved in the consultations and debates that led to a significant expansion of IOM's membership and activities and the adoption of a comprehensive approach to migration management, as reflected in the 1989 amendments to the IOM Constitution.

Moving Forward

Today, IOM has 157 member states, with some 8,400 staff working in over 150 countries worldwide. Australia continues to play an important role in ensuring IOM is fit to address and provide leadership on contemporary migration phenomena.

Australia's support for the publication of the World Migration Report has kept IOM at the forefront of the debates on international migration policy and research. In the realm of emergencies, Australia's participation in the Migrants in Countries in Crisis initiative is helping



ICEM Director General, Mr Marcus Daly, arrives in Sydney at the beginning of a four-week tour of Australia and New Zealand. ©IOM 1959 – HAU0313

IOM to raise the visibility of the impact of crisis situations on migrants and to better protect them from harm. In technical cooperation and border management, Australia is helping IOM innovate more effective solutions to combat irregular migration and protect vulnerable migrants. These examples highlight the importance of Australia's leadership and commitment to building IOM's capacity at a time when the challenges and opportunities of migration are increasingly complex and multifaceted.

Spotlight on the IOM Development Fund

The Government of Australia is making a significant contribution to building IOM's capacity by supporting an Associate Expert position for the IOM Development Fund (IDF) in the Department of Migration Management. This position has been made available since the beginning of 2013, and Paul Priest is the second Associate Expert with the Fund. The IOM Development Fund is a unique organizational resource that provides seed funding for innovative initiatives that empower eligible Member States to develop their migration management capacities.



© IOM 2005 - MID0068 (Photo: Jonathon Perugia)

A Rewarding Experience: Thoughts from an Associate Expert

“The opportunity to join the IOM Development Fund as an Associate Expert has proven to be a highly rewarding professional and personal experience. I have gained a strong understanding of the Fund and its project management processes, policies and priorities. I am contributing to achieving important IOM objectives and am gaining skills that will be beneficial to my role within Australia's Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

I have led the process for drafting the IDF's Strategic Plan, where in I coordinated multiple team meetings to agree on programme goals, outcomes and outputs. I built strong working relationships with key internal stakeholders including IOM's focal points for Gender, Results-Based Management, and the Migration Governance Framework. I have made a significant contribution to the development of the IDF's Project Management and Information Application which is an IT system that will be an integral organizational resource used by IOM Officers to manage and report on IDF projects.

I have also acted as lead on immigration detention issues, representing IOM's Immigration Border Management team. My contributions have primarily focused on leading an internal collaborative effort to draft a Guidance Note on Immigration Detention.

I am grateful that IOM has highly recommended my extension in the role for an additional year, and I very much look forward to continuing this strong and rewarding relationship in the future.”

- Paul Priest, Australian Associate Expert 2014–2015

Where We Came From



950 Italians and Sicilians disembark at a northern Queensland Port 27 May, 1955. They travelled aboard an ICEM chartered vessel, the Flamina, which took the northern route from Italy to Australia. ©IOM 1955 – HAU0019



After the Hungarian uprising of 1956, ICEM assumed responsibility for the resettlement of some 200,000 Hungarian refugees who had fled to Western Europe. Australia received around 14,500. ©IOM 1956 – HAU0291



Following the surge of boat departures from Viet Nam in the mid-seventies, Australia took in large numbers of refugees from camps in South-East Asian countries of first asylum. Mrs Nai Thuy joins her husband she has not seen for six years. ©IOM 1988 – HAU0328 (Photo: Eric Algra)



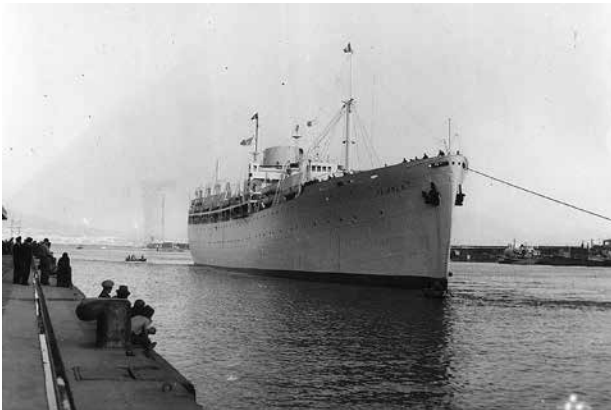
A large party of White Russian refugees were accepted in Australia for permanent settlement under the auspices of ICEM, which arranged for their passage to Australia aboard the Anshun. ©IOM 1959 – HAU0074 (Photo: John Turner)



Following World War II, Australia signed a number of bilateral migration agreements with Western European countries. This aircraft chartered by ICEM brought German women to Australia under the West German-Australian Assisted Migration Scheme. ©IOM 1959 – HAU0275 (Photo: Don Edwards)



Greek migrants in Germany prepare for departure to Australia. This blessing for safe passage is conducted at Camp Lesum. ©IOM 1953 – HFG0203



Loaded with Greek migrants, the Fairsea leaves the port of Bremerhaven, Germany, for Australia. ©IOM 1953 – HAU0241



Delegates from all over Victoria listen to the Commonwealth Minister for Immigration, Mr Opperman, at the 12th annual conference of the Good Neighbours Council of Victoria, Melbourne. ©IOM 1962 – HAU0314

Offering New Beginnings and Promoting Development: Australia and IOM

Partnerships in Action



International Organization for Migration (IOM)