

## G 14: ADDRESS MIGRANTS' IMMEDIATE NEEDS AND SUPPORT MIGRANTS TO REBUILD LIVES



### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Conflict or natural disasters can impact the socioeconomic well-being of migrants and their families in multiple ways. Suddenly unemployed or displaced, migrants may find themselves without income and housing. Migrants' exposure to the risk of exploitative arrangements and trafficking increases with a stemmed flow of income.

Migrants who have been abroad for extended periods of time, when returning to their States of origin, may encounter difficulties re-integrating. For example, it may be challenging for victims of trafficking, individuals who experienced sexual and gender-based violence or children born to migrants to find employment or housing. Providing services such as psychosocial counselling, health care, cash assistance and efforts to restore income, employment and education opportunities can be ways to assist migrants in the reintegration process.

In host States, migrants may experience similar challenges in resuming their previous lives. Their specific needs should be factored into host States recovery plans and programmes at national and local levels. States may consider reviewing immigration and visa rules to provide latitude for migrants who wish to remain in the host States to do so legally. Efforts that leverage the solidarity of migrants who remain in host States towards their host communities and societies could counteract xenophobic and discriminatory attitudes.

#### Lessons from Hurricane Sandy (2012)

Superstorm Sandy had a significant negative economic impact on New York's migrant communities that suffered devastating damage to their homes and personal property. Many migrants lost employment and subsequently income with dire consequences on the socioeconomic conditions of migrants and their families. In particular undocumented workers and domestic migrant workers who could not return to their place of employment were hard hit. Facing sudden unemployment, many of them could not afford housing any longer for which rents were spiking. Despite great needs, not all migrants were able to access immediate and longer-term assistance, as a result of institutional barriers, including eligibility linked to immigration status, or unawareness. For instance the Disaster Unemployment Assistance and Rapid Repair Program provided by the New York State and City, required amongst others, specific immigration status. Compelled to generate an income, many migrant workers were exposed to further hazards linked to unsafe working conditions in re-construction during the clean-up period following Hurricane Sandy.

# TEMPORARY RELAXATION OF IMMIGRATION

## PROCEDURES

### HOST STATES

During crisis, immigration procedures may be disrupted. This may affect migrants' ability to receive or renew visas or otherwise maintain a regular immigration status. Migrants or their employers may have lost or destroyed identity documents, visas or other paperwork. In these cases, temporary relief measures to assist migrants and their employers can be implemented. Such measures can include the temporary lifting of enforcement of sanctions for employers or migrants who are unable to produce work permits or other required documents; extension of deadlines for regularization, or replacing documents on an expedited basis to ease access to recovery assistance. Issuing work authorization for student visa holders experiencing severe economic hardship and allowing fee waivers in relevant situations can be other measures to take.

#### [Documentation requirements for hiring hurricane victims, United States of America](#)

In 2012, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) waived sanctions for employers hiring victims of Hurricane Katrina that were unable to provide documentation as a result of the hurricane. Under Section 274A of the Immigration and Nationality Act, employers are responsible for completing and retaining Employment Eligibility Verification. The DHS refrained from initiating employer sanction enforcement for an initial period of forty-five days.

#### [Temporary immigration relief measures, United States of America](#)

After Hurricane Sandy in 2012, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) implemented a number of temporary relief measures to assist affected migrants. Temporary relief measures for eligible individuals included expedited processing of visa applications, fee waivers, replacement of documents, extensions and changes of status as well as employment authorization for migrant students.

# INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT REGENERATION

### STATES OF ORIGIN

Migrant workers who return to their State of origin or in the aftermath of a crisis in their host States, may struggle to support themselves or their families, due to loss of employment and savings. Finding new sources of income for high and lesser-skilled workers is a key component of return assistance. Services to support employment generation could include trainings to develop and upgrade skills, entrepreneurship programmes and the establishment of employment centres in regions experiencing high-levels of return to meet multiple needs; business starter kits; micro-credits, loans and grants; coordination with recruitment agencies and private sector incentives for employment.

#### [Livelihood Development Assistance Programme, Philippines](#)

In 2014, the Philippines' Livelihood Development Assistance Programme (LDAP) has been reformulated to cater to undocumented overseas Filipino workers. The LDAP provides grants for livelihood assistance to returning migrants. In the three-year period from 2011 to 2014, more than 15,000 migrant workers who returned, benefited from the funding and income generating activities of the programme. Returned migrants could also participate in a Small Business Management Training and Financial Awareness Seminar in preparation of managing their own businesses.

#### [Return and Reintegration of Domestic Workers, Ethiopia](#)

In 2013, Ethiopia witnessed massive returns of Ethiopian migrant workers as a result of a crackdown by Saudi Arabia on undocumented migrants. In response, the International Organization for Migration established a Tripartite Framework for the support and protection of Ethiopian and Somali women migrant domestic workers to the Gulf Cooperation Council States, Lebanon and Sudan. The labour re-integration programme aimed in particular at migrant women workers who returned. It included business and entrepreneurship training, capacity-building as well as awareness-raising measures to prevent stigmatization and discrimination of these returnees.

# REINTEGRATION SUPPORT

## MULTIPLE STAKEHOLDERS

The socioeconomic well-being of migrants and their families can be heavily disrupted by conflicts and natural disasters. Migrants and their families immediate and medium-term needs may require diverse and multiple forms of support and assistance upon their return to States of origin if staying in their host country is not a safe option. Reintegration support services for returned citizens can be provided in multiple ways: including through cash assistance, medical and psychosocial services, family tracing services, temporary and long-term housing, as well as assistance to reacquire employment. Mandating dedicated agencies, creating national and local reintegration centres and combining several services in comprehensive return and reintegration packages can be helpful in implementing these reintegration programmes.

### Emergency repatriation and livelihood restoration of migrant workers, Bangladesh

Following the outbreak of conflict in Libya in 2011, the Government of Bangladesh, with the support of the World Bank and IOM, repatriated more than 36,000 Bangladeshi migrants working in Libya through the World Bank's Emergency Repatriation and Livelihood Restoration programme. Returning migrants were assisted through a one-time cash grant to meet their immediate needs and to commence the process of livelihood restoration. IOM set up a basic cash transfer system for distribution and organized a public information campaign in collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh.

### Return and reintegration programme of returning migrant workers, Ghana

To meet the needs of the migrant workers returning to Ghana from war-torn Libya, IOM, with generous support from the Government of Japan, implemented a return and reintegration programme. Through the provision of training on business development and management as well as in-kind support to business start-up, the project strengthened the capacities of 161 returnees as well as vulnerable return community members. It also provided access to health insurance to 2,018 returnees and their families.

# ACCESS TO REMEDIES TO RECOVER LOST PROPERTY OR ASSETS

## MULTIPLE STAKEHOLDERS

After a crisis, migrants may need support to access avenues to recover lost assets or property, including outstanding wages in the host States. Stakeholders can assist by providing legal support, including legal representation in the host States, or advocate on behalf of migrants with employers, host State authorities and recruiters to provide compensation.

### United Nations Compensation Commission, Global

The United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) was created in 1991 as a subsidiary organ of the UN Security Council with a mandate to process claims and pay compensation for losses and damage suffered as a direct result of Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait. About 2.7 million claims, with an asserted value of \$352.5 billion, were filed with the Commission. These included approximately 1.24 million claims by Egyptian workers employed in Iraq for about US\$491 million, being the dollar value of funds deposited by Egyptian workers into banks in the Republic of Iraq for transfer to beneficiaries in Egypt, in accordance with agreements between Egypt and Iraq.

### Compensation for unpaid salaries of repatriated migrant workers, China

During the 2011 crisis in Libya, when protesters seized control of many parts of Libya, some of the foreign companies operating in the country assisted migrants by arranging for their safe evacuation and repatriation. Upon their return to their home country, one of the Chinese companies remitted unpaid salaries for its Bangladeshi workers directly to the Bangladesh government's Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training to compensate employees that had to leave suddenly.

# IOM'S DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX

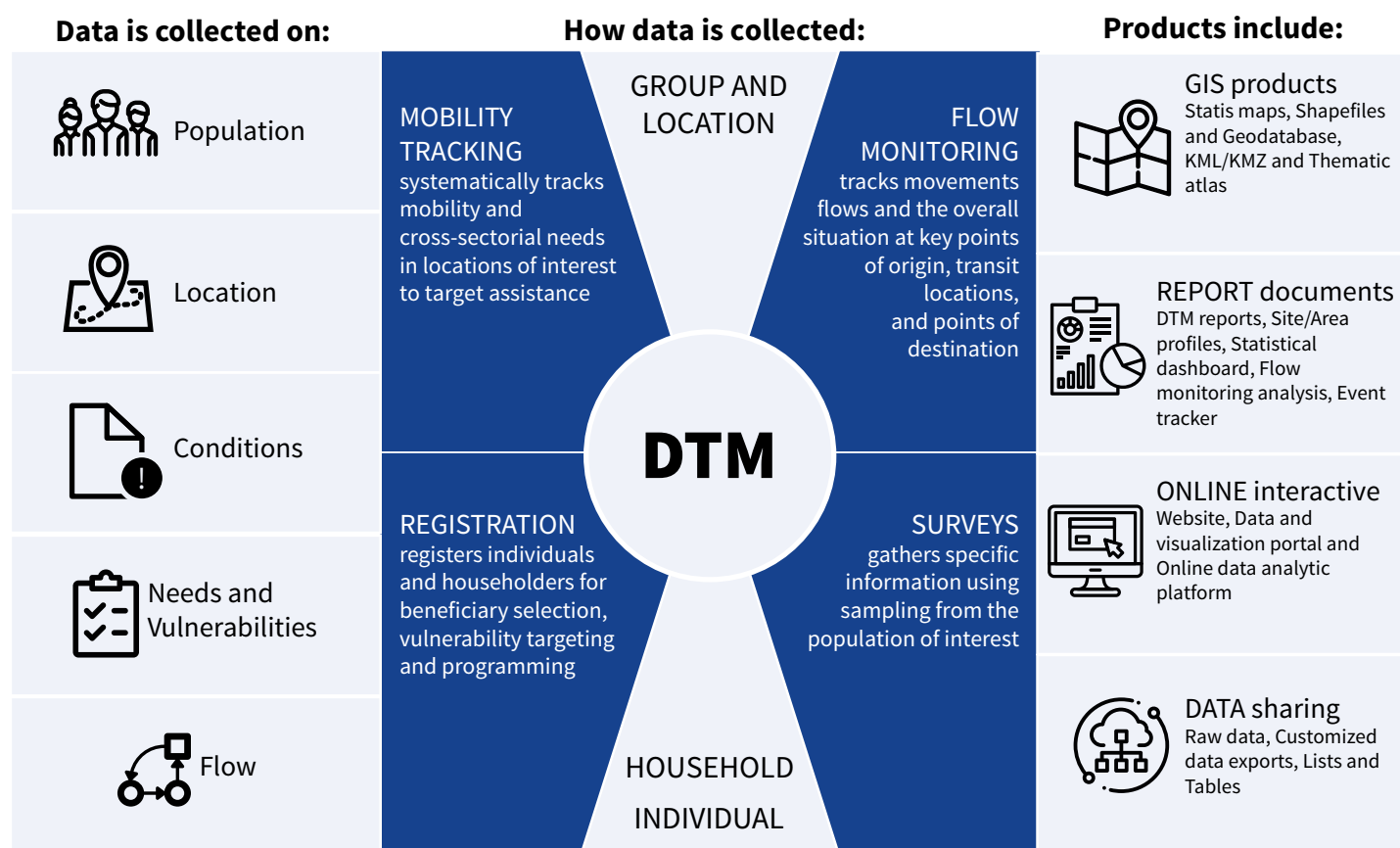
IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a system that tracks and monitors displacement and population mobility. Its tools and methods can provide critical information to decision makers and responders during humanitarian crises and in their aftermath, and contribute to better understandings of population mobility including the root causes and drivers to displacement and migration.

First conceptualized in 2004 to monitor internal displacement in Iraq, DTM has since been adapted for implementation in over 60 countries, including in contexts of conflict, natural disaster, complex emergencies and protracted crises.

During a humanitarian response, data collection and use is oriented toward immediate operational priorities. Adapting the DTM collection tools and analyzing the data with a broader lens, in the context of other relevant sources, can inform longer-term programming that links with recovery and transition processes.

Supporting the transition and recovery of migrants and their families displaced by conflict or natural disaster, requires information and a comprehensive understanding of root causes and drivers of displacement in a given context. It also requires understanding of shifting dynamics and mobility trends that may affect migrants' ability to recover from crises and to rebuild their lives.

Tool at a glance:



DTM's approach is highly customizable and its methods and tools can inform various stages of the humanitarian response, including recovery and transition phases. The operations are guided by its methodological framework, which comprises of four DTM components - each comprising various tools and methods - that can be applied, adapted and combined as relevant for a given context (figure 1). The standard components are: (i) mobility tracking; (ii) flow monitoring; (iii) registration; and (iv) surveys.

The Guidelines in Action present implementation examples and tools to support the operationalization of the MICIC Initiative Guidelines to Protect Migrants in Countries Experiencing Conflict or Natural Disaster. Practices and tools may be relevant for one or more stakeholders. Find more examples of practices in the MICIC Guidelines and in the online Repository of Practices on our website. Contact: [micicsecretariat@iom.int](mailto:micicsecretariat@iom.int) [micicinitiative.iom.int](http://micicinitiative.iom.int)  
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