



MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

REGIONAL STRATEGY
2020–2024

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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Cover photos: (Top left) Since 15 June 2014, IOM has worked around the clock to provide much needed assistance to people fleeing the recent violence in Mosul and the surrounding governorates. © IOM 2015

(Top right) A displaced Iraqi woman participates in psychosocial activities (baking training) at Hassan Sham Camp for displaced Iraqis. © IOM 2019 Sarah ALI

(Bottom left) A Yazidi woman participates in cash-for-work activities in Sinjar, which aim to keep schools clean while supporting the participants through a daily fee to support them financially, as part of IOM's effort to support return and recovery in Sinjar. © IOM 2019 Sarah ALI

(Bottom right) Tahany is one of many women who participate in Sarafaya's market (in Al-Fasher, Sudan) every Tuesday and Friday. © IOM 2019 Heba FOUAD

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FOREWORD

In November 2019, the IOM Strategic Vision was presented to Member States. It reflects the Organization's view of how it will need to develop over a five-year period, in order to effectively address complex challenges and seize the many opportunities migration offers to both migrants and society. It responds to new and emerging responsibilities – including membership in the United Nations and coordination of the United Nations Network on Migration – as we enter the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. As part of the implementation of the Strategic Vision, I asked each of the Regional Offices to develop its own strategic priorities for the 2020–2024 period, integrating key elements of the Vision to respond to emerging needs within the region.

This regional strategy reflects the essential role that IOM plays in the field of human mobility: protecting, assisting and supporting migrants across the world, developing effective responses to the shifting dynamics of migration, and serving as a key source of advice on migration policy, research, data and practice. It also highlights the critical work that IOM undertakes in emergency situations, developing the resilience of communities and mobile populations, and particularly those in vulnerable situations, while building capacity within governments to manage all forms and impacts of mobility.

Most importantly, this strategy highlights the current and future regional and cross-regional trends and challenges with respect to migration and situations of displacement, and outlines how IOM will seek to address them, including through collaboration with United Nations agencies and other partners.

I would like to thank colleagues at all levels of the Organization – and particularly at the regional and country levels – for their diligent and insightful work in developing this strategy, which places IOM's global strategic objectives in context and sets out a course of action to achieve them. It is particularly timely, given the high salience of human mobility in public discourse, and as operational needs on the ground, particularly in the humanitarian sphere, are becoming more complex in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under this strategy, IOM colleagues will engage with a wide range of stakeholders in all countries in the region, along with key regional bodies, including economic communities, consultative processes and multilateral forums, on the priorities it sets out. I and all my colleagues look forward to working with you over the next years to ensure that migration is safe, orderly and regular for the benefit of all. Together, we can respond to the needs and aspirations of migrants and displaced populations around the world, building societies fit for a modern, mobile and interconnected world.



António Vitorino
Director General
International Organization for Migration

“

The MENA Regional Strategy 2020–2024 is launched at this critical time to complement IOM’s comprehensive efforts towards enhancing an inclusive and equitable environment, guided by evidence-based policy and programming, and targeting migrants, displaced populations and host communities alike. The strategy was formulated in accordance with regional priorities and Member States’ efforts to improve migration governance and protect vulnerable populations at all times. The diversity of the MENA region requires an innovative, comprehensive and coordinated response. Adopting a whole-of-society approach and enhancing multi-stakeholder partnerships are key to addressing structural factors and promoting the inclusion of migrants to utilize their potentials through adequate migration governance frameworks.

”

Carmela Godeau
Director
Regional Director
Middle East and North Africa
International Organization for Migration

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ACRONYMS

AUC	African Union Commission
COVID-19	coronavirus disease 2019
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix
ESCWA/UNESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
GP20	Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement
IDP(s)	internally displaced person(s)
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISCM	inter-State consultation mechanism on migration
MENA	Middle East and North Africa (region)
MHAC	Migration Health Assessment Centre
MRC	Migration Response Centre
MRRC	Migration Resource and Response Centre
MRRM	Migration Resource and Response Mechanism
PoE	point of entry
SDG(s)	Sustainable Development Goal(s)
SRF	IOM Strategic Results Framework
UNHCR	(Office of the) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees



1.

INTRODUCTION



1. INTRODUCTION

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic since early 2020. While the short-term impacts are already being felt most acutely by vulnerable groups, the longer-term and socioeconomic, development-related and humanitarian consequences are yet to be fully determined. These outcomes will continue to impact the needs of migrants and other populations on the move, as well as host communities and governments, and must therefore be fully reflected in the programming of IOM, which has already shifted in response. This regional strategy should, therefore, be read in light of these developments and will be reviewed periodically to ensure the necessary response to address ongoing and emerging impacts of the pandemic and other significant regional and global developments.

The core values and principles of IOM are at the heart of its work. The Organization holds itself to high standards, guided by the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including upholding human rights for all. Respect for the rights, dignity, empowerment and well-being of all migrants and (associated) communities remains paramount. IOM has always assisted governments in their effective implementation of international standards in its programming and will continue to do so. In addition to the values enshrined in the IOM Constitution, the Organization continues to adhere to the core United Nations values of integrity, professionalism, equality and respect for diversity, ensures that it is accountable to its beneficiaries, and plays an active role in preventing sexual exploitation and abuse.

Established in 1951, IOM is the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration, working closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners. IOM in the Middle East and North Africa (hereinafter, “IOM MENA”) supports governments in the region to fulfil their commitments towards migrants,¹ displaced populations,² affected populations, returnees and host communities in accordance with national priorities, as well as regional and global commitments and migration processes. Guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and Agenda 2063 of the African Union Commission (AUC), IOM MENA aims to prioritize three key pillars – [resilience](#), [mobility](#) and [governance](#) – for 2020 to 2024.

MENA Regional Strategy 2020–2024 was developed based on a series of consultations organized at the Regional Office and with country missions, in coordination with IOM Headquarters. These consultations included brainstorming sessions to identify key priorities and areas for institutional development. Consideration was given to the migration outlook and policy developments in the region, as well as the Organization’s commitments towards promoting regular migration pathways.

¹ *Migrant* is an umbrella term, not defined under international law, that reflects its common lay understanding as a person who moves away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for any of a variety of reasons. The term covers a number of well-defined legal categories of people, such as migrant workers; persons whose particular types of movements are legally defined, such as smuggled migrants; and those whose status or means of movement are not specifically defined under international law, such as international students. (Adapted from: IOM, *Glossary on Migration*, International Migration Law No. 34 (Geneva, 2019). Available at https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iml_34_glossary.pdf.)

² A displaced population consists of persons or groups of persons who have been forced or are obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, either across an international border or within a State, in particular, as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights, or natural or human-made disasters. (Adapted from: United Nations Commission on Human Rights (OHCHR), “Guiding principles on internal displacement”, addendum to the report of the Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr Francis M Deng, submitted pursuant to Commission resolution 1997/39, at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights of 11 February 1998 (E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2), para. 2 of “Introduction: Scope and purpose”.)

1.1. VISION STATEMENT 2020–2024

Migrants, displaced populations, returnees and host communities in the Middle East and North Africa are able to exercise their rights in an inclusive and equitable environment that is guided by evidenced-based policy and programming under these three pillars and their objectives.

1.2. PILLARS AND OBJECTIVES

Policy and programming will fall under these three pillars and the following objectives:

- (a) **Resilience.** Ensure that migrants, displaced populations, host communities and governments in the MENA region have increased capacities to prepare for, mitigate and respond when faced with a wide range of risks across all stages of migration.
- (b) **Mobility.** Enhance existing and develop new, efficient, rights-based and safe mobility pathways.
- (c) **Governance.** Drive evidence-based interregional, regional, national and local processes to enhance governments' capacities to integrate mobility into improved policies, legal frameworks, institutions, practices and international cooperation mechanisms through improved data.



2.

POLITICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL OUTLOOK FOR THE REGION





2. POLITICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL OUTLOOK FOR THE REGION

The MENA region is one of the most conflict-affected regions globally. It has faced – and continues to face – interlinked challenges stemming from protracted crisis situations and prevalent socioeconomic, political, natural resource management and climate-related issues. Such factors, among others, have led to increasing patterns of mobility, including displacement. However, while several countries in the region remain affected by internal conflicts, others are transitioning towards peace and development. Countries in the region have been working towards commitments enshrined in the 2030 Agenda and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, as well as key global and regional processes.

In accordance with its core principles, IOM ensures responding to the needs of diverse target groups.³ The Organization adopts an inclusive approach in all its programming by working towards environmental sustainability⁴ and safeguarding migrants' access to health and protection services.⁵ It additionally seeks that its response programmes be youth- and gender-responsive. IOM adopts a comprehensive approach by mainstreaming migration into development plans and reinforcing the positive impacts of migration on sustainable development.

2.1. PROGRAMMING AND POLICY

The MENA region has one of the largest populations of youth and children globally and some of the highest youth unemployment rates in the world. Conflicts witnessed in the region have exacerbated inequalities, affecting youth and children. IOM supports the United Nations Youth Strategy and its implementation at the global, regional and national levels and advocates for strengthening efforts towards ensuring decent work for young people by focusing on evidence-based, scalable and innovative solutions and alliances, as outlined in the strategy itself. IOM also assists Member States and other partners to advocate for access to basic services for all youth, as well as building capacity through access to education and skills training.

Gender influences why and how people migrate. Additionally, it determines the networks they use, the opportunities and resources available to them at destination, and their relation with the country of origin. Risks, vulnerabilities and needs are also shaped in large part by one's gender, and often vary drastically for different groups. Given the gendered nature of migration, the following are central to the work of IOM: (a) advocating for equal rights under the law in employment and mobility; (b) combating discriminatory migration practices; (c) understanding how gender impacts and is affected by migration; (d) responding based on how gender influences access to services, economic growth, individual capacities, risks and vulnerabilities, and access to services; (e) ensuring diversity and inclusiveness in consultations

³ As part of its inclusive approach towards various groups and in line with United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, IOM has adopted its own Disability and Inclusion Strategy.

⁴ IOM places particular attention to environmental sustainability in its offices, as well as in its programming, in line with the IOM global environmental policy, itself connected to the United Nations system's environmental sustainability strategy.

⁵ IOM emphasizes mainstreaming health, including mental health and psychosocial support, and protection in all its research, policy and programming to address and mitigate risks faced by migrants, displaced populations and host communities alike.

and participation in activities; and (f) addressing how migration influences gender roles and relationships. Given the prevalence of displacement in the region, IOM is working towards reducing gender-specific vulnerabilities during displacement.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – and the commitment to “leave no one behind” and “reach the furthest behind” – will not be achieved without due consideration of migrants, including those with heightened vulnerabilities, such as displaced populations. As evidence from the region shows, migration can be a powerful driver of sustainable development for migrants and their communities in countries of origin, transit and destination, including displaced populations and host communities, and including in urban settings. However, when migration policies or other relevant policies do not consider the needs of migrants and displaced populations, or the effects of migration, they can be put at risk, communities can come under strain, and development gains can be jeopardized. To mitigate negative impacts and, essentially, maximize the development potential of migration, both development-focused and migration-specific interventions should be coordinated and evaluated to maximize the benefits of the migration–development nexus. MENA Regional Strategy 2020–2024 supports governments in the region towards achieving this, ultimately leveraging the potential of migration through a whole-of-government approach to achieve sustainable development outcomes for all. It is a direct contribution to the Decade of Action to fast-track progress towards the SDGs. It does this by bringing greater coherence and development impact to IOM activities and allows for a joined-up approach to the way the Organization designs and delivers its operations, as called for in its Strategic Vision.⁶ It echoes the principles and approach adopted by the IOM Continental Strategy for Africa to maximize the potential of migration as a fundamental driver of inclusive and sustainable development.

2.2. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

IOM engages in partnerships with multiple stakeholders to strengthen its response to the needs of migrants and support frameworks for regular, safe and orderly migration.

2.2.1. Key policy development and partnerships with governmental stakeholders

IOM actively engages with interregional, regional, subregional and national stakeholders to promote good migration governance in the region. IOM partners with regional bodies, including, but not limited to, the AUC, the League of Arab States (LAS) and the European Union. Countries in the MENA region have made progress in policy areas of relevance to migration, including nationality and statelessness, labour migration, irregular migration, human trafficking and migrant smuggling, displacement and refugees, and admissions and residency procedures.⁷ Additionally, given the overwhelming adherence to the Global Compact for Migration in the region and the engagement of governments towards the 2030 Agenda, the Organization has worked through active inter-State consultation mechanisms (ISCMs).⁸ At the national level, IOM works closely with Member States in identifying

⁶ IOM, *IOM Strategic Vision 2019–2023: Setting a Course for IOM* (C/110/INF/1) (Geneva, 2019). Available at <https://governingbodies.iom.int/system/files/en/council/110/C-110-INF-1%20-%20IOM%20Strategic%20Vision.pdf>.

⁷ United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and IOM, *Situation Report on International Migration 2019: the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the Context of the Arab Region* (E/ESCWA/SDD/2019/3) (Beirut, United Nations, 2020). Available at www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/publications/files/situation-report-international-migration-2019-english_0.pdf.

⁸ For example, the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (also as its (de-facto) secretariat) and as an observer organization in the 5+5 Dialogue on Migration in the Western Mediterranean. IOM also contributes to the following ISCMs as an observer: the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, the European Union–Horn of Africa Migration Routes Initiative (“Khartoum Process”), the Rabat Process, the Pan-African Forum on Migration, the African Union–Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling (also as co-secretariat), and the Colombo Process.

national priorities and leading action plans for the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration and for the execution of the most relevant actions and objectives. Adopting a whole-of-government approach, IOM works closely with national-level stakeholders, including ministries, national councils and parliaments. Furthermore, given the important nexus between urban development processes and migration and displacement patterns in the MENA region, IOM works closely with local authorities to respond to migration dynamics to ensure that urban communities benefit from migrants' capacities and skills.

2.2.2. Partnership with United Nations organizations

Partnerships with United Nations organizations.

As part of the United Nations system and in accordance with the “Delivering as One” approach,⁹ IOM enhances its coordination and collaboration with United Nations partners. IOM engages with global platforms concerned with internal displacement, such as the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (GP20) and the High-level Panel on Internal Displacement to find concrete solutions to internal displacement in the region.¹⁰ IOM serves as both the Coordinator and Secretariat of the global United Nations Network on Migration, supporting the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. In the region, IOM serves as co-convenor of the newly established, hybrid Issue-based Coalition (IBC) on Migration, the United Nations Regional Network on Migration,¹¹ and the IBC on the Humanitarian and Development Nexus. Through partnerships with various other United Nations agencies, the Organization enhances the interlinkages between migration and development in the region by mainstreaming migration into local and national policy and programming.

IOM contributes to monitoring migration-related SDGs. As recognized in the 2030 Agenda and promoted in the Organization-wide approach to migration and sustainable development,¹² human mobility is inextricably linked with sustainable development. As a member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG), IOM has a clear responsibility to articulate its activities and mandate in relation to the 2030 Agenda; report on its activities to support MENA countries in achieving the commitments therein; and contribute to regional discussions on migration and sustainable development. MENA Regional Strategy 2020–2024, therefore, supports the Organization's active engagement in the United Nations system in the region and hinges on building stronger partnerships within the system and beyond. In close coordination and collaboration with other United Nations partners, IOM also supports efforts to enhance disaster risk reduction strategies in response to growing levels of systemic risk driven by the impact of climate change in the region. This thereby increases the resilience and protection of migrants, especially displaced populations, including through the realization of their right to health. This will be a result of, among others, improving access to quality health care, including mental health and psychosocial support, for displaced populations and affected communities. Lastly, partnerships with other United Nations agencies is key to efficiently addressing challenges related to migration in the context of environmental degradation and climate change in the region. The aforementioned initiatives and partnerships, among others, ensure support for migration governance efforts towards the realization of migrants' and displaced populations' rights.

⁹ The Delivering as One approach is based on these five pillars: (a) One Programme, (b) One Fund (a common budgetary framework), (c) One Leader, (d) Communicating as One and (e) Operating as One.

¹⁰ IOM will support the work of the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement (a once-in-a-generation opportunity to break through the challenges impeding progress on this issue) and acknowledge the institutional footprint on internal displacement.

¹¹ Previously known as the Working Group on International Migration in the Arab Region, of which IOM served as Co-chair.

¹² See: IOM, *IOM Institutional Strategy on Migration and Sustainable Development* (Geneva, 2019). Available at <https://publications.iom.int/books/iom-institutional-strategy-migration-and-sustainable-development>.

2.2.3. Partnerships with multiple stakeholders

IOM has solid partnerships with the private sector, academia, media, civil society and migrant communities. The Organization engages widely with the private sector on employability programmes and awareness campaigns to support governments, as well as entrepreneurs among migrants and displaced populations and host communities. IOM works with academia and migration experts to support governments in promoting knowledge and good practices in migration governance. It collaborates with global academic institutions to produce high-quality research to support the goal of understanding the needs of migrants, displaced populations, host communities and governments. As part of its awareness-raising campaigns, advocacy efforts and strategic communications, IOM collaborates with media for evidence- and human rights-based migration coverage, and to prevent and address stigmatization of migrants, as well as highlight the resourcefulness of migrants to countries of origin and receiving countries alike. The Organization works with civil society groups, including at the community and diaspora levels, to enhance the positive aspects of migration.

2.3. BUILDING THE EVIDENCE BASE

IOM programming and policy advice are driven by evidence, relying on strong data and research at the regional and national levels. The Organization works on four main workstreams related to migration data and research, namely:

- (a) Primary data collection and field-based research;
- (b) Secondary data compilation and analysis (non-field-based research);
- (c) Internal capacity-building on data, as well as capacity-building of Member States, specifically, national statistics offices and line ministries, in data production and use;
- (d) Fostering national, regional, interregional and global dialogues¹³ and exchange of innovative practices in migration data.

Through its Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC), IOM works in knowledge management and capacity-building in data collection and analysis, and aims to support Member States in the collection of data and analysis for migration governance.

Through its extensive field presence and operational capacity deployed especially in emergency and post-conflict contexts, and using the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) and other primary research tools, IOM routinely collects and disseminates data and information on internal displacement and on migration trends and routes. IOM MENA is mindful of the need for research findings to form the evidence base for informed policymaking and strives to strengthen this link through the production of research and think pieces. In this regard, the Organization provides technical support to governments for the improvement of their national/official statistics (i.e. “national statistics”), in line with their national migration data strategies.¹⁴ The DTM is moving towards being a transition and recovery tool, especially in relation to achieving sustainability of durable solutions. The Organization has enhanced

¹³ For example, in collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), IOM hosted the Second International Forum on Migration Statistics in Egypt on 19–21 January 2020.

¹⁴ The work of IOM MENA, particularly in Africa, is aligned with and supports the Pan-African Statistics Program (PAS) of the African Union and its Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA), through the work of its specialized technical groups on migration and demography, and from the onset of crises to ending protracted situations.

its cooperation on data with national and regional observatories and statistics offices.¹⁵ Dissemination of information and good practices are enhanced through online platforms and innovative knowledge management and communication strategies.

¹⁵ Partners of IOM include the African Migration Observatory in Morocco and the National Observatory on Migration of Tunisia. In addition, and among other research-related partnerships, it has started its collaboration with and is supporting the recently established Pan-African Institute of Statistics (STATAFRIC) of the African Union, based in Tunis, and its Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA).



3.

MIGRATION OUTLOOK FOR THE REGION



3. MIGRATION OUTLOOK IN THE REGION

Migration and displacement are key features across the MENA subregions (North Africa, Middle East/Mashreq, and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and Yemen).¹⁶ The key migration patterns¹⁷ in the region are labour migration, mixed migration¹⁸ and displacement. Due to multiple conflicts and changes in the social, political and economic landscape of several countries in the region, migration patterns have become diverse. Moreover, population growth and unemployment rate among the youth of the region are the highest globally.¹⁹ Compounding these factors are the adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation, which also contribute to population movements in the region, with water resource issues becoming increasingly complex.²⁰ The region hosts over a quarter of all people internally displaced by conflict and violence in the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen and Iraq.²¹ The region also hosts large numbers of labour migrants who contribute to the economies of other regions economically. Furthermore, according to IOM statistics, a total of 3,416 migrants returned from the MENA region in 2018 – a 37 per cent decrease from the total number of returns in 2017. The number of beneficiaries of assisted voluntary return to the MENA region (8,138, or 13% of the total caseload) decreased by 20 per cent from 2017.²²

3.1. NORTH AFRICA

Countries in North Africa²³ have been facing growing mobility trends in recent years. The subregion is one of destination, origin and transit and hosts millions of displaced persons. Patterns of migration in North Africa have included inflows and outflows of migrants, in addition to migrants transiting from subregions such as West Africa. The countries of the North African subregion are confronted with protection challenges associated with irregular movements. The number of missing migrants across the Mediterranean remain high, estimated at 1,885 by the end of 2019.²⁴ The conflict in Libya has had a significant impact on the political, economic and social situation in North Africa and the MENA region as a whole, and has magnified the number of displaced persons.²⁵ Floods and droughts in the

¹⁶ ESCWA and IOM, Situation report on international migration 2019 (see footnote 7).

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Mixed migration consists of a “movement in which a number of people are travelling together, generally in an irregular manner, using the same routes and means of transport, but for different reasons. People travelling as part of mixed movements have varying needs and profiles and may include asylum seekers, refugees, trafficked persons, unaccompanied/separated children, and migrants in an irregular situation.” ((Office of the) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *The 10-Point Action Plan in Action, 2016*, (Geneva, 2016, p. 282). Available at www.refworld.org/docid/59e99eb94.html)

¹⁹ World Bank, “FCS lists from FY06 to FY20”, in: “Classification of fragile and conflict-affected situations”, brief (Washington, D.C., 2017). Available at www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/brief/harmonized-list-of-fragile-situations.

²⁰ IOM, “Migration and water in the Middle East and North Africa”, regional position paper (Geneva, 2019). Available at <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/sites/default/files/IOM%20MENA%20Regional%20Position%20Paper%20Migration%20and%20Water%20February%202019.pdf>.

²¹ Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), *Global Report on Internal Displacement 2020* (Geneva, 2020). Available at www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2020.

²² IOM, *2018 Return and Reintegration Key Highlights* (Geneva, 2019). Available at https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/avrr_2018_kh.pdf.

²³ IOM operates in Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and the Sudan.

²⁴ IOM, Missing Migrants Project website. Available at <https://missingmigrants.iom.int> (accessed 14 February 2020).

²⁵ IOM, “Migration and migrants: regional dimensions and developments”, in: *World Migration Report 2020* (Geneva, 2020). Available at https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/wmr_2020_en_ch_3_1.pdf.

subregion are also worsening the structural conditions underlying vulnerability, compelling people to move.²⁶

DTM figures published in March 2020 reveal 355,672 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Libya and 2,098,740 in the Sudan.²⁷ Additionally, DTM data estimates the number of returnees to Libya at 447,707 and to the Sudan at 553,501 by the end of 2019.²⁸ In countries in transition, such as the Sudan, increased return in some areas, alongside continued displacement in others, drives the need for flexible transition and recovery support, with sustainability of durable solutions and stabilization activities.

3.2. MIDDLE EAST

Economic and political instabilities²⁹ shape mobility, including displacement, in countries in the Middle East,³⁰ where the largest group of displaced populations originates from the Syrian conflict – with more than 6.6 million refugees, over 6.1 million IDPs and close to 140,000 asylum seekers by the end of 2019.³¹ IDPs in several parts of the subregion struggle to access life-saving support, as well as to actualize or achieve sustainability of durable solutions. For example, there is a growing number of returnees to Iraq (including among IDPs) who are facing challenges related to lack of infrastructure, access to health care and employment opportunities, as well as issues related to housing, land and property rights, along with complex social cohesion issues.³² Additionally, with the protracted nature of the Syrian crisis, Syrian refugees, alongside migrant communities, are confronted by a lack of access to labour markets and challenging working conditions in host countries. The lack of protection and opportunities create significant bottlenecks that keep countries from advancing on the 2030 Agenda.

3.3. GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COUNTRIES AND YEMEN

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries³³ draw large numbers of migrant workers. The increase in labour migration to these countries has led to remarkable demographic change and a notable presence of migrant women. The main migration corridors towards the GCC countries originate in Southeast Asia, North Africa, and East and the Horn of Africa, and pass through the Gulf of Aden. Migration policies in GCC countries are shaped by the kafala sponsorship system.³⁴ Several Gulf States, however, have implemented reforms to the kafala system and to their migration frameworks in recent years. Such efforts have included major steps to prevent and combat smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons; pioneering self-sponsorship work permit systems; and reinforcing ethical recruitment to protect workers from abuse and exploitation, as well as guaranteeing safe and regular

²⁶ Juliann Tangermann and Hind Aissaoui Bennani, *Assessing The Evidence: Migration, Environment and Climate Change in Morocco* (Geneva, IOM, 2016), available at <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/assessing-evidence-migration-environment-and-climate-change-morocco>; Abdelala Bounouh and Sonia Gsir, *Migrations et Environnement en Tunisie : Relations Complexes et Défis pour le Développement* [Migration and the Environment in Tunisia: Complex Relationships and Challenges for Development] (Geneva, IOM, 2017), available at <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/country-profiles> (in French).

²⁷ IOM, DTM monthly regional update – Middle East and North Africa, March (Geneva, 2020). Available at <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/middle-east-and-north-africa-%E2%80%94-monthly-regional-update-march-2020>.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ The subregion has been affected by conflicts in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as political unrest in Lebanon. Additionally, the devastating explosion in Beirut on 4 August 2020 is certain to amplify an already dire humanitarian situation across Lebanon.

³⁰ IOM has offices in Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon.

³¹ UNHCR, *Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2018* (Geneva, 2019). Cited in: IOM, *World Migration Report 2020* (Geneva, 2020), p. 84. Available at www.iom.int/wmr.

³² IOM participates in advocacy efforts for the reintegration of IDPs and their families.

³³ IOM has country offices in Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar and a presence in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

³⁴ The kafala system requires all migrant workers to have an in-country sponsor, usually their employer, who is responsible for securing a visa for them to ensure their legal status. The system is in place in most GCC countries, as well as Lebanon and Jordan.

pathways. Job nationalization policies in GCC countries, which are expected to limit access to their labour markets, however, are creating anxiety among migrant workers. In addition, challenges to the protection of migrants in irregular situations continue to arise. Such policies will have a tremendous impact on remittances and development in countries of origin. Lack of remittances will affect the economies of countries of origin and the vulnerabilities of families left behind. In addition, challenges to the protection of migrants in irregular situations continue to persist with predicaments resulting from COVID-19.

The situation in Yemen continues to deteriorate. The total number of deaths since the beginning of the humanitarian crisis in the country has been estimated at 233,000, of which approximately 131,000 were due to indirect causes, such as lack of food and barriers to quality health care and infrastructure.³⁵ In 2019, the number of IDPs in Yemen was estimated at 3,647,250,³⁶ with the number of IDP returnees estimated at 1,280,562.³⁷ IDPs in Yemen continue to face severe conditions. Additionally, Yemenis and migrants face malnutrition and lack access to basic health services. With the outbreak of COVID-19, health risks are exacerbated for all individuals in Yemen. Despite the conflict situation in the country, however, the Gulf of Aden remained a main transit route from the Horn of Africa, across the Red Sea to GCC countries in 2019, with over 138,000 arriving in Yemen – the majority intending to make the onward journey to GCC countries.³⁸ However, given COVID-19 border restrictions in Yemen, Djibouti and Somalia, migrant arrivals in Yemen declined by nearly 94 per cent in July 2020 compared to July 2019.³⁹

3.4. REGIONAL OUTLOOK AND KEY AREAS OF INTERVENTION

Given the migration patterns and the situation of migrants, displaced populations, returnees and host communities across the three MENA subregions, a comprehensive approach is required to address the key determinants of mobility. Prolonged conflicts, instability and inequality are likely to induce more mobility from, to and within the MENA region while heightening the vulnerabilities of certain groups. As countries are experiencing economic challenges and mitigating or recovering from prolonged conflicts, IOM seeks to enhance its response in coordination with countries of origin and receiving countries alike.

With the global outbreak of COVID-19,⁴⁰ the risks and needs of migrants, displaced populations and host communities are likely to rise. All countries in the region have been affected by COVID-19 at the time of the drafting of this regional strategy.⁴¹ Access to life-saving assistance for displaced populations and stranded migrants in humanitarian settings continues to be of grave concern. In addition, there are severe socioeconomic implications for returnees who have returned to their home countries, as well as for stranded migrants, and migrant workers in the informal sector, as well as displaced populations and other

³⁵ Jonathan D. Moyer, David Bohl, Taylor Hanna, Brendan R. Mapes and Mickey Rafa, *Assessing the Impact of War on Development in Yemen* (Sana'a, United Nations Development Programme, 2019). Available at www.undp.org/content/dam/yemen/General/Docs/ImpactOfWarOnDevelopmentInYemen.pdf.

³⁶ IOM, DTM monthly regional report – Middle East and North Africa, February (Geneva, 2020). Available at <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/middle-east-and-north-africa-%E2%80%94-monthly-regional-update-february-2020>.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ IOM, DTM monthly regional report – East and Horn of Africa, February (Geneva, 2019). Available at <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/east-and-horn-africa-monthly-regional-update-february-2019>.

³⁹ IOM, Flow Monitoring Dashboard, July 2019, available at <https://migration.iom.int/reports/yemen-flow-monitoring-points-migrant-arrivals-and-yemeni-returns-saudi-arabia-july-2019>; IOM, Flow Monitoring Dashboard, July 2020, available at <https://migration.iom.int/reports/yemen-flow-monitoring-points-migrant-arrivals-and-yemeni-returns-july-2020>.

⁴⁰ Please see Annex on the COVID-19 regional response.

⁴¹ As of 5 August 2020, a total of 959,935 COVID-19 cases had been confirmed and 17,683 deaths reported in the region (IOM, MENA Region COVID-19 response situation report 9, 23 July – 6 August (Geneva, 2020). Available at www.iom.int/sitreps/iom-mena-region-covid-19-response-situation-report-9-23-july-06-august-2020).

vulnerable groups.⁴² Migrant workers occupy jobs that are essential to economic recovery from the pandemic in host countries in the MENA region – jobs that are often precarious and low-skilled.⁴³ However, in many contexts, the lack of frameworks governing labour markets, particularly those in the informal sector, exposes migrants to hazards, including protection- and health-related ones.⁴⁴ In addition, COVID-19 increases the risk of migrant workers losing their jobs and returning as soon as possible to their home countries, which will impact not only countries of destination but also countries of origin, where domestic labour markets will be overburdened.

According to the IOM Tracking Mobility Impact: Points of entry (PoEs) analysis, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to significantly impact regional movement in the form of various mobility restrictions.⁴⁵

While the full impact of the pandemic and its consequences on mobility have yet to be observed, it has become evident that it has already significantly affected migrants and displaced populations in the MENA region,⁴⁶ as reflected in the following:

- (a) Health, social and economic consequences for migrants, displaced populations and returnees in the region;
- (b) Lack of access to livelihoods due to the loss of previous jobs, or lack of access to new ones amidst the lockdowns;
- (c) Increased cases of sexual and gender-based violence due to lack of access to livelihoods and lack of mobility;
- (d) Increase in irregular migration facilitated by smuggling networks due to COVID-19-related travel restrictions and border closures;
- (e) Heightened tensions between pastoralist and sedentary populations due to mobility restrictions and limited available resources;
- (f) Stigmatization against migrants and displaced populations;
- (g) Decreased access for humanitarian actors acting to ensure life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable populations in conflict-affected countries;
- (h) Lack of livelihood prospects and lack of access to return home due to travel restrictions.

⁴² IOM, "Understanding the migration and mobility implications of COVID-19", COVID-19 Analytical Snapshot No. 32: Socioeconomic Impacts (Geneva, 2020). Available at www.iom.int/sites/default/files/documents/covid-19_analytical_snapshot_32_socioeconomic_impacts_on_migrants.pdf.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ In collaboration with the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), IOM released, in August 2020, employer guidance for measures to protect migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁴⁵ According to IOM Mobility Impact Tracking, as of 5 August 2020, around 40 per cent of monitored international airports had fully closed, 27 per cent were partially operational, and 27 per cent of these PoEs had reopened and were fully operational. (IOM, MENA Region COVID-19 response situation report 9, 23 July – 6 August 2020.)

⁴⁶ IOM, MENA Region COVID-19 response situation report 4, 14–28 May (Geneva, 2020). Available at www.iom.int/sitreps/iom-mena-region-covid-19-response-situation-report-4-14-28-may-2020.

In accordance with the IOM Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan to COVID-19, IOM MENA engages in the following areas:

- (a) **Coordination and partnerships.** Responding to the needs of migrants and displaced populations, in close coordination with national governments.
- (b) **Tracking mobility impacts.** Providing a comprehensive understanding of the effects of COVID-19 on mobility.
- (c) **Risk communication and community engagement.** Ensuring mobility is taken into account in public health messaging, and that migrants and displaced populations have access to timely, contextually specific and correct information.
- (d) **Disease surveillance.** Supporting governments in strengthening disease surveillance.
- (e) **Points of entry.** Supporting governments at priority points of entry (PoEs), including international PoEs, land border crossings and seaports.
- (f) **National laboratory systems.** Supporting enhanced national capacity for the detection of COVID-19.
- (g) **Infection prevention control.** Strengthening the provision of critical water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities and services in health-care facilities, camps, PoEs and displacement settings.
- (h) **Logistics, procurement and supply management.** Engaging with relevant stakeholders to support supply management efforts through the procurement, storage and distribution of critical supplies.
- (i) **Camp coordination and camp management.** Supporting national and local authorities in developing contingency and response planning to ensure the continuation of services in existing displacement sites at risk, as well as through preparedness for the anticipated increase in displaced populations.
- (j) **Case management and continuation of services.** Provision of technical and operational support to governments, as well as of life-saving primary health care.
- (k) **Protection.** Enhancing national capacities to ensure the protection of and access to services for all migrants, displaced populations and local communities.
- (l) **Addressing socioeconomic impacts.** Assessing the impacts of the disruption caused by the ongoing crisis in migrants', displaced populations' and host communities' financial and socioeconomic well-being and development, as well as facilitating the development of policies and mechanisms to improve remittance services for migrants.

4.

REGIONAL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



4. REGIONAL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Mobility in the MENA region is diverse, requiring comprehensive data management, policy and programming to address the needs of migrants and displaced populations, and to support governments and communities in enhancing equitable societies.

For 2020–2024, IOM will engage in evidence-based policy and programming, with a focus on the three main pillars of [resilience](#), [mobility](#) and [governance](#), with specific regional priorities under each.⁴⁷

4.1. RESILIENCE

Considering the needs of migrants, displaced populations and host communities in the region, and understanding the interlinkages between migration and development, IOM is adopting a comprehensive approach to cover all stages of migration. Rights-based and gender- and youth-responsive principles are necessary for empowering affected populations to take ownership of the process of achieving resilience and reaching sustainability of solutions. Furthermore, IOM is adopting a comprehensive, humane and protection-oriented approach, as it continues to support GP20 to ensure that IDPs are entitled, without discrimination, to the same rights and freedoms under internal and domestic law as other persons in their country during each stage of displacement.

Goal: Ensure that migrants, displaced populations, host communities and governments in the MENA region have increased capacities to prepare for, mitigate and respond when faced with a wide range of risks across all stages of migration.

The following regional priorities fall under the resilience pillar:

- (a) Provide humanitarian assistance and recovery response to large-scale, mobility-related events and violations of human rights, crises, hazard-related disasters, and slow-onset natural hazards linked to climate change.
- (b) Promote communities and governments' capacities and preparedness to ensure equal access to protection, services and opportunities for all persons and communities affected by large-scale, mobility-related events and services.
- (c) Assess drivers of migration and advance sustainability of solutions to displacement while ensuring a participatory approach that is in line with GP20.
- (d) Promote prevention and progressive solutions to complex migration dynamics within crisis and fragile contexts, in-line with the Global Compact for Migration and the United Nations Secretary-General's "Prevention Agenda".

⁴⁷ These strategic priorities respond to the pillars described in the IOM Strategic Vision. The IOM Strategic Results Framework (SRF) and its four objectives (humanitarian response and resilience (SRF Objectives 1 and 2), mobility (SRF Objective 3), and governance (SRF Objective 4)) capture the areas highlighted in the IOM Strategic Vision. The strategic priorities in MENA Regional Strategy 2020–2024 will be tackled through coordinated cross-thematic approaches to contribute to broader regional goals.

Considering the driving forces of migration in the region, which include protracted conflicts, socioeconomic challenges, including economic transformation, demographic trends and climate change, IOM promotes a cross-thematic and multisectoral approach to address the needs of communities, migrants and displaced populations. Beyond its solid role in enhancing preparedness and resilience in crisis situations, the Organization aims to enhance the interlinkages between emergency response and long-term development through effective transition and recovery programming. It partners with governments and other actors to assess the drivers of migration and ensure that migrants, displaced populations and communities of migrants abroad are adequately included and not left behind in the development plans of countries, as outlined in the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration. Empowering communities, migrants and displaced populations ensures their participation in and contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and resolves bottlenecks with respect to relevant SDGs. Empowerment of vulnerable groups is likewise a key goal of Agenda 2063.

4.2. MOBILITY

In response to the diverse and complex migration patterns in the region, IOM is working towards enhancing safe, orderly and regular migration. It seeks to create a balance between ensuring effective mechanisms to address displacement and unsafe mobility and promoting regular and safe alternatives, while at the same time acknowledging that mobility can be a necessity and life-saving strategy in times of crises. IOM promotes voluntary, safe and orderly return and sustainable reintegration, as well as sustainability of durable solutions for displaced populations. IOM also continues to support the safe and dignified resettlement of refugees and the protection of migrants through case management and identification of long-term solutions for each individual, health assessment and related voluntary assistance; and movement management and operations, and by integrating pre-departure and post-arrival measures, as well as promoting durable solutions for displaced populations. IOM prioritizes harnessing the skills and the social and economic contributions of migrants and displaced populations to benefit wider sustainable development outcomes in both countries of destination and countries of origin.

Goal: Enhance existing and develop new efficient, rights-based and safe mobility pathways.

The following regional priorities fall under the mobility pillar:

- (a) Provide governments with evidence-based expertise in legal, policy and technical solutions to enhance efficient, data-driven and balanced mobility policies and regular pathways for all, including the most vulnerable migrants and displaced populations. These efforts cover the various phases of conflict-, disaster- and/or climate change-induced migration.
- (b) Support governments and affected populations by promoting safe and dignified movements, as reflected in voluntary return and reintegration, evacuation, and resettlement of migrants, and within the framework of sustainability of durable solutions for displaced populations.
- (c) Promote regular and safe mobility pathways to enable migrants and displaced populations to fully contribute to sustainable development processes in the region, both abroad and at home.
- (d) Assist governments with the review and implementation of regularization measures that enable non-nationals in an irregular or undocumented situation to remain lawfully in a country.

Capitalizing on its various initiatives on migration data, IOM works to address key migration data gaps (especially with regard to stranded migrants, migrants in urban settings, displaced populations and returnees). To promote alternatives to irregular migration, IOM engages with governments and other stakeholders to strengthen protection frameworks for mobility and safe return during the onset of crises, and to seek durable solutions for displaced populations and safe return for migrants, all in accordance with the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration. In doing so, the Organization provides capacity-building to governments in innovative and evidence-based practices to improve coordination for cross-border, regional and interregional policy development. Through partnerships with the private sector in the region, IOM is well-positioned to promote innovation and technology to support migrant workers and end protracted situations for displaced populations and host communities. The Organization supports transforming economies in both countries of origin and receiving countries, and, hence, reducing inequalities and promoting decent work. Its approach to mobility resonates with key objectives outlined in the Global Compact for Migration. IOM is working towards the SDGs through reducing inequalities and ensuring that migrants have access to health services across all stages of migration, including by integrating migrants in national health systems, which is becoming a necessity, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

4.3. GOVERNANCE

Considering the clear commitment of Member States in the region towards the Global Compact for Migration and to efforts towards achieving the 2030 Agenda, IOM MENA widely engages with Member States in data-driven policy dialogues. The Organization provides expertise to Member States in adopting rights-based and coherent policies and legislation, in line with international standards, regional commitments and national priorities. Ensuring coherent migration governance and sustainable development can mitigate risks and promote new opportunities for migration to act as an accelerator for sustainable development.

Goal: Through improved data, drive evidence-based interregional, regional, national and local processes to enhance governments' capacities to integrate mobility into improved policies, legal frameworks, institutions, practices and international cooperation mechanisms.

The following regional priorities fall under the governance pillar:

- (a) Collaborate with governments on mobility governance models, laws and practices, in line with the SDGs, GP20, the Global Compact for Migration, and the IOM Framework for Addressing Internal Displacement and its Progressive Resolutions for Resolutions of Displacement Situations (PRDS) Framework, in addition to regional and national frameworks.
- (b) Facilitate dialogue and partnerships and cooperation in all areas of mobility cooperation.
- (c) Serve as a stakeholder and partner to governments in migration data collection and use, as well as on integrated border management (including health-proofing in response to COVID-19), focusing on intra-service, inter-agency and international cooperation.
- (d) Initiate and continue partnerships with key stakeholders to support policy coherence and increase the effectiveness and sustainability of programmatic interventions.

IOM engages in policy reform and review, in alignment with national, regional, continental and international frameworks, to promote the inclusion of the rights of migrants and those affected by displacement. To ensure engagement in and promotion of well-informed migration policies at the local, national, regional, cross-regional and interregional levels, the Organization works with governments to enhance capacities in accessing, producing and disseminating migration and displacement data. The Organization works with communities to enhance governance structures and promote a broadened understanding of migration, emphasizing the role of migrants as agents of change. IOM migration data serves in governance structures that take into consideration the needs and conditions of migrants. IOM expands existing partnerships with ISCMs, academia, the private sector, other United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and media.⁴⁸

⁴⁸ Enhanced governance structures will follow the key objectives of the Global Compact for Migration and SDG 10 (specifically, Target 10.7 on orderly, safe and responsible migration) and SDGs 8, 16 and 17 on decent work, peace and partnerships. They will also be in line with the African Union's Agenda 2063 goals of promoting human rights, capable institutions and peace.

5.

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT





5. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

5.1. RESEARCH AND POLICY

Building on the outlined policy engagement and knowledge management of migration in the region, IOM MENA aims to create closer interlinkages between data collection and migration policy design through its Migration Research and Data Unit and in accordance with the IOM Migration Data Strategy. To ensure governments have a robust evidence base for different migration policy areas, IOM utilizes various tools including, but not limited to, the Global Compact for Migration knowledge platform and the United Nations Network on Migration's Knowledge Platform and Connection Hub.

5.2. STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INNOVATION

IOM has enhanced – and continues to enhance – partnerships with governments, other United Nations agencies, media, NGOs and local communities and leads conversations on migration (including displacement), building on its credibility and positioning. It ensures balanced accounts of migration by disseminating data and knowledge to a wider audience and by using a participatory approach with migrants. To further expand its visibility and outreach, IOM continuously seeks out new partnerships to encourage the inclusion of innovative methods and processes. IOM promotes the use of flexible and scalable solutions through improved data collection and analysis, as well as the coordination of all country-level strategic planning. IOM will make use of strong networks to ensure migration policy and cooperation that spans borders, regional and interregional, and, working with the United Nations Communications Group at the country level, enhance communication initiatives on country-level innovations in the area of migration.

5.3. STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE

IOM strives to pursue an inclusive organizational culture and work environment that supports and facilitates the mental health of staff. In alignment with the IOM Global Mental Health Strategy, IOM MENA places great emphasis on staff welfare and is, therefore, enhancing capacity by increasing the number of staff counsellors.⁴⁹ In addition, the Regional Office in Cairo has also designated a Respectful Workplace Focal Point.

⁴⁹ Staff counselors are available for individual consultation, emergency support, self-care and resilience training, team well-being interventions, managerial consultations, and provision of online resources.

6.

CONCLUDING STATEMENT: IOM IN THE REGION IN 2024





6. CONCLUDING STATEMENT: IOM IN THE REGION IN 2024

By 2024, IOM aspires to further support governments in their national priorities and regional and international commitments to allow migrants, displaced populations and host communities to exercise their rights. To achieve this, IOM has adopted a human-rights based approach in all its programming directed at migrants and displaced populations, regardless of their legal status or mobility drivers.

The Organization aims to enhance its response in the region by complementing its humanitarian approach with further engagement in advocacy and policy initiatives, crisis prevention, resilience, durable solutions, peacebuilding and long-term programming in the contexts of conflict, disasters, climate change and environmental degradation.

By expanding partnerships with national, regional and international stakeholders, IOM continues to support the region in achieving adequate policy reforms that consider migration as a positive tool for achieving sustainable development.

IOM seeks to strengthen its internal capacities in policy development, knowledge and data management, monitoring and evaluation, communications and visibility, innovation, and staff development to achieve its key objectives.

ANNEX: IOM IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Geographic coverage

IOM covers 17 countries in the Middle East and North Africa, with established offices in 13 countries and a presence in 2 additional countries.

IOM offices and staff counts in the region (as of November 2020)

Egypt	Algeria	Jordan	Bahrain	Iraq	Kuwait	Lebanon	United Arab Emirates
Cairo	Algiers	Amman	Manama	Erbil	Kuwait	Beirut	Dubai (IOM presence)
Total staff: 185	Total staff: 38	Total staff: 358	Total staff: 15	Baghdad	Total staff: 9	Total staff: 143	Total staff: 1
Total non-staff: 73	Total non-staff: 11	Total non-staff: 11	Total non-staff: 4	Al Basrah		Total non-staff: 124	
				Total staff: 352			
				Total non-staff: 22			

Libya	Morocco	Saudi Arabia	Sudan	Tunisia	Yemen	Qatar
Tripoli	Rabat	Riyadh	Khartoum	Tunisia	Sana'a	Doha
Total staff: 148	Tangier	Total staff: 2	El-Fasher	Sfax	Aden	Total staff: 3
Total non-staff: 13	Total staff: 79		Geneina	Tuni-LY1	Hodeida	
	Total non-staff: 12		Kadugli	Zarzis	Ibb	
			Nyala	Total staff: 62	Marib	
			Abyei	Total non-staff: 15	Total staff: 218	
			El-Gedaref		Total non-staff: 86	
			El-Fula			
			Kassala			
			Total staff: 228			
			Total non-staff: 99			

	Country
	Main office
	Sub-office
	Number of staff

Total staff	1,841
Total non-staff	470



IOM offices and their functions and activities

In 2020, the [IOM Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa \(MENA\)](#) in Cairo coordinates IOM activities through its 13 country offices (CO) in Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Qatar, the Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen. IOM also has a presence in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. In addition, IOM has numerous sub-offices, Migration Health Assessment Centres (MHACs), Migration Resource and Response Mechanisms (MRRMs), Migration Resource and Response Centres (MRRCs) and Migration Response Centres (MRCs) throughout the region.

The Regional Office oversees, plans, coordinates and supports IOM activities within the region. The Regional Office is responsible for project reviews and endorsements and provides technical support to country offices, particularly in the areas of project development, project implementation, monitoring and evaluation, resource mobilization, resource management, and liaison coordination with regional and subregional governments, United Nations agencies, and other key partners. In this regard, IOM engages with interregional, regional, subregional and national stakeholders to promote good migration governance. More precisely, the Organization partners with regional bodies, including, but not limited to, the League of Arab States (LAS), the African Union Commission (AUC) and the European Union. These relationships enable IOM to translate political decisions into practical programmatic and policy responses at the regional and national (country) levels. Through partnerships with various United Nations agencies, the Organization enhances the interlinkages between migration and development in the region by mainstreaming migration into local and national policy and programming. IOM also has solid partnerships with the private sector, academia, media, civil society and migrant communities. At the thematic level, the Regional Office provides guidance and support to country offices and other partners in the following key areas covered in the region:

- (a) Migration policy research;
- (b) Partnerships;
- (c) Multilateral processes;
- (d) International migration law;
- (e) Inter-State consultation mechanisms (ISCMs) on migration;
- (f) Resettlement and movement management;
- (g) Internal displacement;
- (h) Land, property and reparations;
- (i) Prevention, emergency preparedness and response;
- (j) Transition and early recovery, including peacebuilding and durable solutions;
- (k) Migration health, including mental health and psychosocial support;
- (l) Labour mobility and human development;
- (m) Migrant protection and assistance, including by addressing human smuggling and trafficking in persons;
- (n) Migrant training and integration;
- (o) Immigration and border management and prevention mechanisms;
- (p) Migration, environment and climate change.

Building on the extensive field presence of IOM and its deployed, operational capacity, especially in emergency and post-conflict contexts, as well as its unique migration portfolio and expertise, the 13 country offices and field office in the region implement a wide range of projects in the thematic areas listed above, addressing the needs of migrants and displaced populations and supporting governments and communities in enhancing equitable societies. The country offices keep abreast of current migration issues and emerging trends and disseminate IOM policies and positions within the region, develop appropriate responses, and contribute to regional strategies and planning. Country offices are financed predominantly by the projects implemented in their respective locations. Partners include, among others, migrants and communities; governments at the local, national and regional levels; other United Nations entities; multilateral bodies, including regional economic communities; non-governmental, community-based and civil society organizations; the private sector; and diasporas.

The MENA region also hosts several ISCMs, to which IOM is an observer, and supports the secretariats of and/or provides the secretariat to these ISCMs. These ISCMs include the following:

- (a) Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugees Affairs (ARCP);
- (b) Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling (“Khartoum Process”);
- (c) Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development (“Rabat Process”);
- (d) Abu Dhabi Dialogue (a ministerial consultation on overseas employment and contractual labour for countries of origin and destination in Asia);
- (e) Colombo Process (a regional consultative process on overseas employment and contractual labour for countries of origin in Asia).

IOM has supported the establishment and operation of five MRRMs in Libya – specifically, in Bani Walid, Qatroun, Sebha, Tripoli and Zwara. The main functions of the MRRMs are to offer a wide range of IOM services and needs-based assistance to vulnerable migrants, including health and psychosocial support, and needed humanitarian items. In the Sudan, an MRC (in Gedaref) addresses migrants’ immediate protection and assistance needs, as well as assist them with access to information, and an MRRC (in Khartoum) provides migrants with medical assistance, counselling and information on the risks of irregular migration, and has established a programme for assisted voluntary return and reintegration to countries of origin.

IOM operates seven MHACs in six countries, namely Egypt (Cairo), Iraq (Baghdad, Erbil), Jordan (Amman), Lebanon (Beirut), Libya (Tripoli) and Yemen (Sana’a). Their main functions are to offer full health assessments, including immunization and pre-departure medical screening with presumptive treatment, to all applicants based on the respective receiving countries’ relevant guidelines. MHACs are a one-stop-shop for all health screening-related activities, including registration, counselling, nursing operations, physical examination, phlebotomy/lab services, radiology and vaccination.



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