



COUNTERING MIGRANT SMUGGLING: TAKING A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH



Florian G. Forster
Head Immigration and Border Management (IBM)
International Organization for Migration (IOM)



IOM AT A GLANCE

- Established in 1951
- Leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration
- IOM Mission: Humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society
 - Assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration management
 - Advance understanding of migration issues
 - Encourage social and economic development through migration
 - Uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants

	2001	2015
Member States	90	162
Offices	150	580
Staff	2,600	10,000
Projects	830	2,300
Annual Expenditures	\$286.6 million	\$1.4 billion



COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH

“Every problem, broken down, can be ameliorated”

(Peter Sutherland, UN Special Representative for International Migration, 11. May 2015)

IOM’s 4 pillar approach:

Provide protection and assistance to smuggled migrants

Address the root causes of migrant smuggling while working towards discouraging migrants from seeking migrant smuggling services; more regular, safe migration channels

Enhance States’ capacity to develop and enforce policy, legislation and the operational capability to disrupt, interdict and prosecute migrant smugglers

Promote research and data collection to expand the knowledge base on migrant smuggling



PILLAR 1

Provide protection and assistance to smuggled migrants

- Saving lives!
- Assist States in providing humane, dignified and well organized reception and immediate (individualized) assistance and/or referral service
- Assistance to migrants in detention
- Help effective access to Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR)
- Implementing Humanitarian Border Management (HBM)



Address the root causes of migrant smuggling while working towards discouraging migrants from seeking migrant smuggling services; more regular, safe migration channels

(1) DRIVERS OF MIGRATION

Prevent conflict, promote stability, create education and employment opportunities

(2) REGULAR MIGRATION CHANNELS

- Provide more resettlement/humanitarian admission/alternative legal pathways for migrants
- Offer more off-shore processing opportunities for quicker access to resettlement schemes
- Ensure effective identity management practices
- Opportunities for family reunification
- Open more labour migration channels
- Scholarships



Address the root causes of migrant smuggling while working towards discouraging migrants from seeking migrant smuggling services; more regular, safe migration channels

(3) RAISE AWARENESS

Improve **awareness of the criminality** and **the negative consequences** of smuggling:

- Sensitize employers to the negative consequences of hiring irregular migrants and provide them with information on alternatives
- Raise public awareness on the negative consequences and life threatening risks of migrant smuggling practices
- Raise awareness of law enforcement officials
- Sensitize potential irregular migrants, as well as migrant diasporas to the dangers and criminality of migrant smuggling trajectories to assist in discouraging family or community members from seeking a migrant smuggler



Enhance States' capacity to develop and enforce policy, legislation and the operational capability to disrupt, interdict and prosecute migrant smugglers

(1) LAW, INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

- Provide support to create the needed legal basis in national laws to counter migrant smuggling at various levels: criminal law, administrative law, border regulations and instructions, etc.
- Enhance international, regional and inter-regional cooperation and information sharing of law enforcement and border management agencies:
 - Introduce the topic of counter migrant smuggling in existing global and regional consultative fora
 - Create additional regional fora to specifically address migrant smuggling (example: Bali Process)



Enhance States' capacity to develop and enforce policy, legislation and the operational capability to disrupt, interdict and prosecute migrant smugglers

(2) DISRUPTION

Support law enforcement, immigration and border agencies to **disrupt and interdict migrant smuggling**:

- Provide region-specific data, research and analyses on smuggling routes, financing and profit generation; monitor smuggling routes
- Assist in creating domestic intelligence and analysis units to identify and prosecute smugglers
- Share good practices for smuggling interdiction, such as early investigation/processing at borders, etc.

Consider migrant smuggling as a "business" and strive to **undermine its business model**:

- Reduce the profits for smugglers by increasing the costs they face, financially as well as through punishment and confiscation
- Reduce the demand for smuggling, by offering significantly more and quicker access to regular channels



Enhance States' capacity to develop and enforce policy, legislation and the operational capability to disrupt, interdict and prosecute migrant smugglers

(3) THE SMUGGLED AND THE SMUGGLERS

Assist countries in enhancing capacities of law enforcement and border management agencies to **a) process smuggled migrants and b) prosecute smugglers**

- Assess IT-related and processing needs to record the entry and exit of smuggled migrants; assist in setting up strong identity management infrastructure (biometric registration, establishment of case files, etc.) to allow processing and assistance; support data exchange
- Develop the capacity of staff to identify and meet the protection requirements of smuggled migrants
- Build capacity to develop effective criminal investigation and prosecution processes; provide technical equipment to enable identification and prosecution of smugglers



PILLAR 4

Promote research and data collection to expand the knowledge base on migrant smuggling

- Knowledge and information about migrant smuggling is sporadic due to the covert and rapidly changing nature
- Crucial to gather and share information on modus operandi, routes, economic models of smuggling networks, on links with trafficking in persons and other crimes, financial transfers
- Research is central to the development of global, regional and national level policies



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Questions? Comments?

Florian G. Forster

fforster@iom.int

Head, Immigration and Border Management (IBM)

International Organization for Migration (IOM)