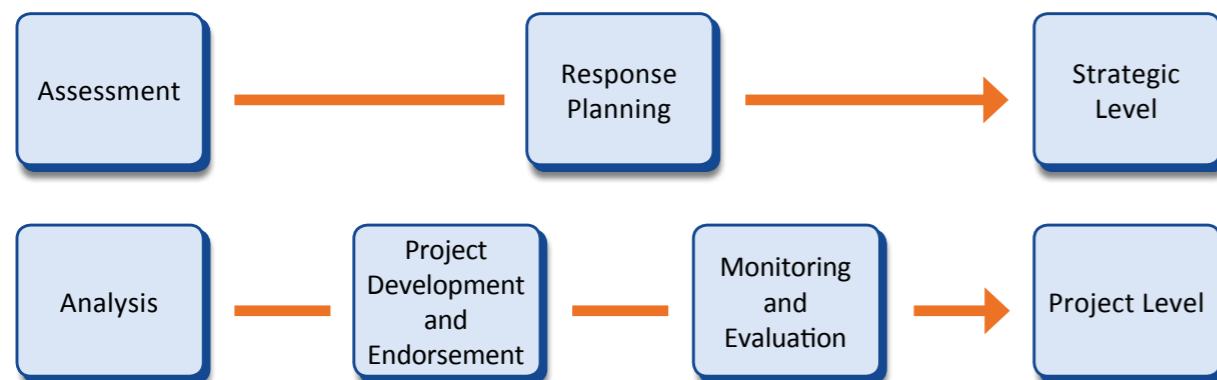




International Organization for Migration (IOM)

PROTECTION MAINSTREAMING IN IOM'S RESPONSE TO MIGRATION CRISES

AT WHAT LEVELS DOES IOM ENSURE PROTECTION MAINSTREAMING?



The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) defines protection as “all activities aimed at ensuring full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and the spirit of relevant bodies of law, e.g. human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee law.”

IOM Migration Crisis Operational Framework reiterates the fundamental protective nature of IOM response, while its 15 sectors of assistance and their links with the cluster system allow IOM to address in a comprehensive and context-specific manner the diverse needs and exposure to risks of displaced populations, migrants and crisis-affected communities.

These efforts come to complement IOM’s overall contribution towards the prevention and response to other protection issues such as gender-based violence, sexual abuse and exploitation, violence against children and human trafficking in times of crisis.

The 2013 IASC Statement on the Centrality of Protection reaffirms that the protection of all affected and at risk individuals and communities must be at the heart of humanitarian decision-making and response, and all humanitarians have the responsibility to protect affected or at risk individuals and communities before, during and after a crisis strikes.

As a Standing Invitee to the IASC, IOM integrates the above-mentioned engagements and commits to mainstream protection into all phases of a migration crisis response: during planning, designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating activities.

Protection mainstreaming is the process of incorporating protection principles through the promotion of meaningful access, safety and dignity in IOM response. The following elements must be taken into account in all activities:

- **Prioritize safety and dignity, and avoid causing harm**
- **Meaningful access**
- **Accountability**
- **Participation and empowerment**



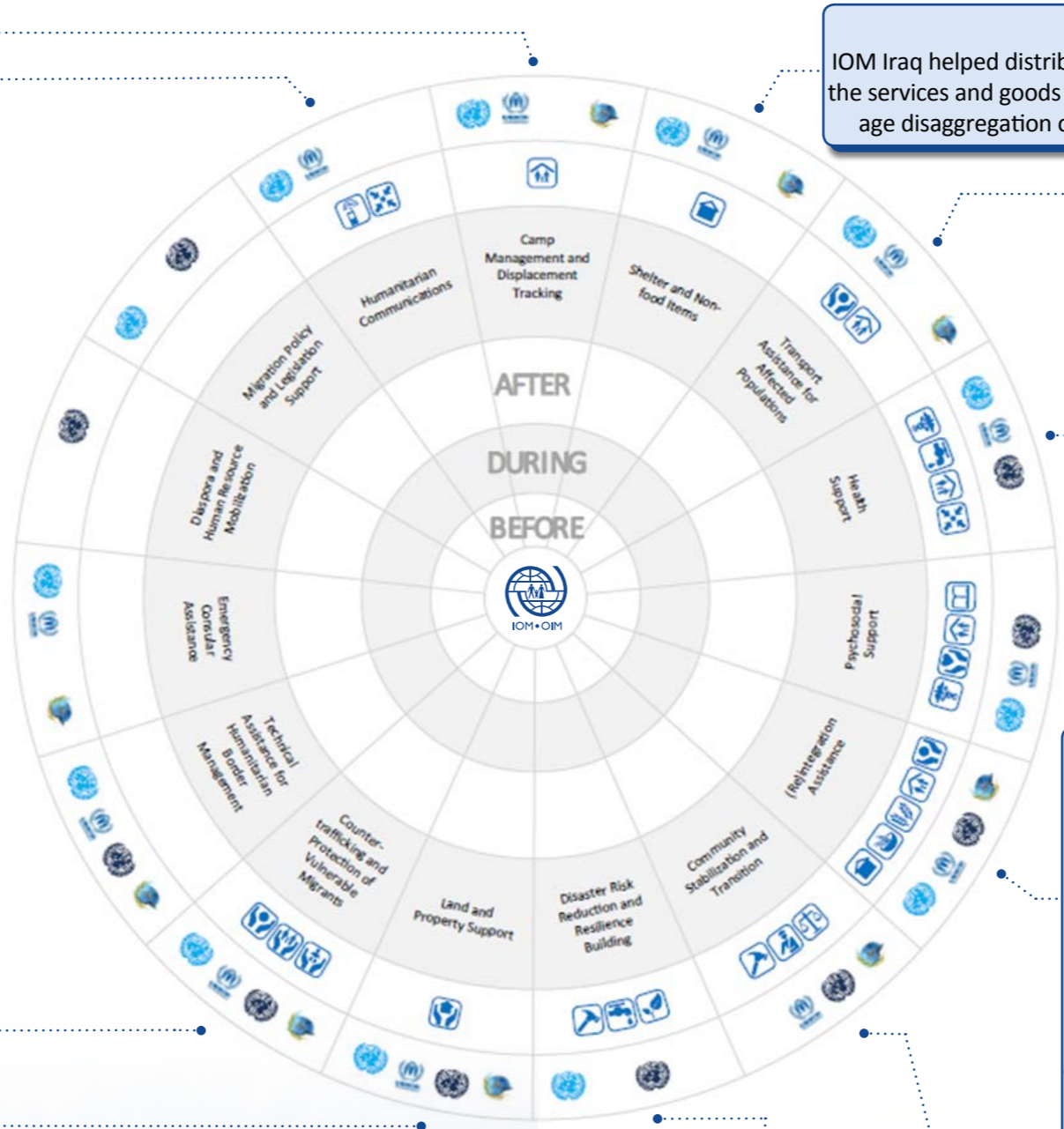
EXAMPLES OF IOM'S PROTECTION MAINSTREAMING EFFORTS

Humanitarian Communications
Within a cash transfer project for IDPs in Ukraine, IOM uses a hotline for direct contact with IDPs and their host communities to inform and encourage the use of available services, provide counselling, and respond to beneficiaries' concerns.

CCCM and Displacement Tracking
In Central African Republic, IOM trains IDP Committee representatives on protection principles and women's rights to ensure that all segments of the affected population are involved in camp management activities and contribute to the reduction of risks.

Counter-Trafficking
To help communities to protect themselves from human trafficking and make appropriate referrals for protection in the aftermath of typhoon Haiyan, IOM Philippines worked with NGOs to train teachers, community leaders and others in organizing community education and acting as focal points for referral of victims.

Land and Property
In Nepal, IOM facilitates access to land claim procedures for conflict victims by providing administrative support and outreach. This opens grounds for further reintegration of ex-combatants and the empowerment of the community at large.



Shelter and Non-food items (NFI)
IOM Iraq helped distribute gender-sensitive NFI kits to IDP households, securing full access to the services and goods for the most vulnerable, including the differentially abled. The sex and age disaggregation of all data also allowed for more accurate monitoring of the project.

Health
Seeking to reduce water-borne diseases among IDPs, returnees and urban poor in Kismayo, IOM Somalia has conducted surveys and focus group discussions to identify different behaviour, needs and impact of safe water and sanitation on women, girls, boys and men.

Transport
In Lebanon, IOM has arranged for the safe and dignified air movement of over 5,700 Syrian refugees to Germany through the Government's Humanitarian Admissions Programme (HAP). IOM works closely with the Government of Germany and UNHCR to ensure selection is based upon individual vulnerability.

Psychosocial Support
In Chibok (North East Nigeria) IOM supported the establishment and capacity-building of 3 Psychosocial Mobile Teams, comprised by men and women of different age groups with relatable backgrounds, to provide psychosocial support to the survivors soon after the kidnapping of hundreds of schoolgirls after a Boko Haram attack at the local boarding school. This included specialized support workshops for the schoolgirls escaped from captivity and community-based support for all the affected families.

(Re)integration
In Colombia, IOM has been implementing a number of community-based projects assisting the reintegration of former-FARC members or affiliates. Along with more traditional approaches aimed at economic recovery through temporary employment, IOM has placed a particular emphasis on social reintegration to foster reconciliation and reparation as a way to strengthen the social fabric, facilitate return and community acceptance of former-combatants and ultimately prevent further violence and forced migration.

Disaster Risk Reduction
Through a cash-for-work project to construct a drainage channel in Fort St. Michel targeting vulnerable youth, IOM Haiti aimed at increasing resilience to floods, improving health and sanitation, and bringing long-term socioeconomic benefits for citizens by facilitating tourist access.

Community Stabilization and Transition
In Afghanistan, IOM contributes to community cohesion by upholding protection principles on participation in intercommunity engagement, civil society development and skills improvement trainings.

Protection mainstreaming is at the heart of IOM's response. Every activity part of the Migration Crisis Operational Framework before, during and after a crisis should:

- Ensure that service and assistance delivery (provided directly or through implementing partners) preserves the physical integrity of individuals and communities, their dignity, and is culturally appropriate and minimizes any harmful and unintended negative consequences.
- Ensure assistance and services are provided according to needs and not on the basis of age, sex, gender identity, nationality, race, ethnic allegiance, etc. Services and assistance are provided in good quantity, within safe and easy to reach locations, are known by the affected individuals and are accessible by all various groups including: medical cases, disabled individuals, discriminated groups, etc.
- Enable the affected individuals and communities to play an active role in the measurement of the quality of interventions that affect them, and put in place effective and easily accessible mechanisms for suggestions and complaints from the population, and in so doing increasing accountability.
- Foster inclusive participation to decision-making processes, support the development of self-protection capacities and assist people to claim their rights and empower themselves.

