MIGRATION DATA MANAGEMENT, INTELLIGENCE AND RISK ANALYSIS

IOM's Immigration and Border Management Division

The International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Immigration and Border Management (IBM) Division supports Member States in improving the collection and management of migration data, gathering intelligence and developing risk analyses in compliance with national data protection legislation and the established international standards. By assisting Member States with their data collection within the border management process, IOM can help verify and validate the assumptions that inform countries' risk management strategies, and so, improve their border management practices and migration policies.

Objective 1: Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies.

Objective 9: Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants.

Objective 11: Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner.

Target 10.7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

Target 16.a: Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.

THE LINK BETWEEN MIGRATION DATA, INTELLIGENCE AND RISK ANALYSIS FOR POLICY

The collection and use of migration data is directly linked to the provision of strategic and tactical intelligence to relevant border agencies in order to perform risk analyses and determine how best to deploy limited resources and inform future policy decisions.

Efficient collection of migration data	❯	Development of strategic intelligence + Accurate analysis of risks	❯	Development of proactive border management procedures and evidence-based migration policy

States increasingly acknowledge the need to collect and share information and migration intelligence with different interested parties, which can facilitate regional cooperation in addressing migration and border management issues, and the development and harmonization of common policy.

MIGRATION INTELLIGENCE

Migration intelligence is derived from a systematic analysis of migration data and operational information. Not all migration intelligence is threat based. A major part of intelligence can be opportunity based and used to support areas of migration and border management, including policies on labour migration, migration health or the development of bilateral or multilateral agreements.

IOM's capacity-building programmes follow the idea that border management should be able to adapt to changes in cross-border movements. IOM therefore equips policymakers and border officials with advanced know-how and skills in risk analysis and data management to develop usable intelligence.

IOM assists Member States in building their capacity to gather and use migration data through the following:

- Assessing the legal aspects of information collection and ensuring compliance with national and international legal frameworks on data protection and the use of intelligence.

- Establishing and integrating Risk Assessment Units into the border operations of a requesting Member State and providing support with the necessary Information Technology (IT) hardware and software.

- Equipping relevant officials with basic or more advanced information and risk analysis skills, knowledge in the intelligence cycle, the development of intelligence classification systems and an internal system to share intelligence.

- Equipping requesting States' border crossing points with Border Management Information Systems (BMIS), like the IOM-developed Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS), and providing relevant training workshops.

- Assisting States with information and migration intelligence sharing, notably through the support in introducing an Integrated Border Management approach which aims to enhance coordination at the intra-service, inter-agency and international levels.

- Activities include forming inter-agency working groups, encouraging regional cooperation in addressing migration and border management issues, and the development and harmonization of common policy.

Areas of IOM activities in which migration data management, intelligence and risk analysis are important:

COUNTER-MIGRANT SMUGGLING

Building front-line border management capacity to more effectively combat smuggling through data and intelligence. IOM's technical assistance can include training on intelligence cycles, performing risk analyses or sharing data.

VISA POLICY SUPPORT

IOM assists authorities in reforming and modernizing visa policies and procedures, supported by data-driven insights into visa application volumes, processing times and the needs of beneficiaries and States.

BORDER SECURITY

Threats to national security stemming from terrorism and cross-border crime are to be included in States' risk management strategies to balance border control and security while facilitating legitimate cross-border movements.