IOM has become one of the world’s largest humanitarian agencies, with large-scale relief operations under way in most humanitarian settings. This includes responding to forced migration and large-scale population movements, protracted internal and cross-border displacement and refugee situations. IOM’s pre-crisis preparedness, emergency response and post-crisis recovery activities focus on the needs of individuals and uprooted communities, thereby contributing to their protection.

The SEEECA region is made up of countries which are generally able to respond to emergencies. However, the ongoing conflicts and violence within and near the region underline the need to provide emergency assistance and durable solutions for conflict-affected populations. Several protracted or frozen conflicts have resulted in significant numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

In recent years, humanitarian efforts in the region have concentrated on assistance to displaced populations in Ukraine, to Syrians in Turkey, and, via IOM Turkey, to displaced populations in Syria. IOM’s emergency response programming is focused on shelter, relief items, water, sanitation and hygiene, camp coordination, camp management, and displacement tracking.

Much of the region is prone to natural disasters, such as flash floods or earthquakes, as well as slow-onset disasters related to climate change. All these serve to make preparedness and disaster risk reduction essential, and IOM bolsters the preparedness capacities of national authorities.

In addition, IOM continues to roll out and apply its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), which provides critical information to decision-makers and responders during crises, and contributes to a better understanding of population flows. The first DTM programme in the SEEECA region was implemented in Ukraine in 2014. In late 2015, DTM programming was implemented to identify the mobility patterns of the mass mixed migration flows from the Middle East and Africa to Europe through the Western Balkans.

A monthly analysis of the trends across the region is carried out, providing information to policy-makers, humanitarian agencies, academia, and others. In June 2016, a comprehensive DTM programme was launched in Turkey. More information about DTM activities can be found at the regional Flows to Europe Geoportal and the Global DTM website.
COMMUNITY STABILIZATION

IOM transitional and recovery programmes in the post-emergency phase bridge the gap between relief and development, empowering communities to assist in reconstruction and rehabilitation to prevent forced migration. Programmes utilize a variety of activities, including livelihood support for displaced populations and host communities, infrastructure development, and support for the integration or reintegration of returnees.

Gulshanbi’s husband is one of the several thousand Tajiks who were sent to Chernobyl to clean up after the nuclear disaster in 1986. He suffers from serious health problems, making it hard for him to work. Her son migrated to the Russian Federation for work and stayed for many years to help support the family and contribute to their medical care. IOM gave her a mini-tractor to work her fields, and she is now breaking stereotypes to provide for her family. Her son has returned and now works in the family business, while her husband does the accounts.

PARTNERSHIPS

Since the inception of the Cluster Approach adopted by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, IOM has contributed to improving the effectiveness of humanitarian response and ensuring greater predictability, accountability and partnership. Clusters are groups of humanitarian organizations, organized by main sectors of activity, e.g. shelter, camp coordination and camp management, health and logistics.

In the RO Vienna region, IOM coordinates the UN Communications and Advocacy Group and co-chairs the Humanitarian Communications Sub-Group in Ukraine, and participates actively in several clusters. In Turkey, while there is no formal cluster system activated, IOM contributes to inter-agency coordination via the Inter-Agency Mediterranean Task Force, the Winterization Task Force, the Shelter Task Force and the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Working Groups.

SPECIALIZED PROJECTS

The emergency and post-crisis unit at the Regional Office in Vienna oversees individual specialized projects related to humanitarian principles, protection, prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation, reparations, and prevention of violent extremism (PVE). IOM has PVE programmes in the Western Balkans, the South Caucasus and Central Asia, in line with the UN Secretary General’s Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. Refugees and migrants are among those most directly affected by conflict coupled with violent extremism. IOM works to ensure that migrants are not marginalized and that vulnerabilities are tackled.

SDGs covered under DOE

1 NO POVERTY  8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH  9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE  10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES  11 SUSTAINABLE CITY AND COMMUNITIES  12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION  13 CLIMATE ACTION  14 LIFE ON LAND  16 PEACE JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

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