PARTNERS IN PREPAREDNESS

STRENGTHENING MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CRISIS COORDINATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF MIGRANTS

WHY?

When a crisis occurs, migrants are often one of the most vulnerable groups affected. Migrants are resilient and resourceful, but a variety of factors may hinder their ability to access protection:

- EXPIRED IMMIGRATION STATUS
- IRREGULAR IMMIGRATION STATUS
- CONFISCATED OR LOST TRAVEL DOCUMENTS
- RESTRICTIONS ON MOBILITY
- LANGUAGE BARRIERS
- LIMITED SOCIAL NETWORKS / ISOLATION

**Migration** contributes to economic development in both origin and host countries, and enriches the social and cultural fabric of communities. However, these benefits can be at risk when a crisis hits. Economies relying on migrant workers can suffer if migrants leave because of a crisis, making recovery even more difficult.

Strengthening coordination among stakeholders will help improve the protection of migrants in the countries in which they live, work, study, transit, or travel in the event of a conflict or natural disaster.

HOW?

Multi-stakeholder coordination

By bringing together relevant stakeholders and establishing the means of coordination before a crisis occurs, migrants will be better supported in the event of a natural disaster or conflict.

Each stakeholder has unique **skills**, **resources**, and **strengths** that when combined appropriately will improve collective responses towards migrants and prevent duplication of efforts.

**Joint planning and coordination**

- MAXIMIZES RESOURCES
- IMPROVES THE EFFECTIVENESS OF RESPONSES
- FOSTERS TRUST BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS

WHEN/WHERE?

No country is immune to crisis

The best time to establish coordination agreements is before a conflict or natural disaster, when stakeholders have the opportunity to anticipate challenges and leverage unique skills and strengths.
Civil society actors are a critical bridge between governments and migrants. They are among the first responders and migrants’ trusted allies and advocates. They gather and share data, knowledge, and information and provide direct assistance.

**WHO?**

Key stakeholders dealing with disaster management and the protection of migrants, such as:

- **Local and National Authorities**
- **Relevant Embassies**
- **International Organisations**
- **Civil Society Organisations**
- **Private Sector**

**KEY STEPS TO STRENGTHENING MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CRISIS COORDINATION**

1. Gather data on migrants and potential crisis situations (conflict or natural disasters)
2. Identify all actors involved in migration as well as crisis preparedness and response
3. Organise a preliminary meeting with relevant stakeholders at local and national level and establish focal points
4. Organise meetings with focal points to draft terms of reference and define standard operating procedures – identify appropriate roles and responsibilities – identify key decision-makers
5. Conduct a risk assessment and create a joint plan of action anticipating challenges to cooperation such as government turnover, communication and political issues, as well as funding
6. Develop a communication strategy and update contact lists
7. Organise regular meetings with all focal points to maintain coordination even when no crises are expected
8. Conduct regular exercises and drills using crisis scenarios to test and improve coordinated responses
9. After a crisis, organise a debriefing to discuss lessons learned and areas for improvement

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