IOM and Electoral Support

Workshop on Electoral Procurement
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Presentation Plan

- IOM and Migration Management: facts and figures
- IOM’s engagement in Electoral Support: the Election Support Unit its scope and operational modalities
- IOM’s experience in elections
- Partnerships
What is IOM?

How did it begin?
IOM is... an international organization, founded at a conference in Brussels on 5 December 1951 to help resolve the problems of the huge numbers of people – “surplus population” – in Europe who were displaced or unemployed and needing to move following the war.
IOM’s 16 Funding Members

- Australia
- Austria
- Belgium
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Chile
- Federal Republic of Germany
- France
- Greece
- Italy
- Luxembourg
- The Netherlands
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- United States of America
Today IOM has...

- **125** Member States.
- **90** observers including **16** States and **74** global and regional IGOs and NGOs
- More than **420** at present in more than **120** States
- Approximately **5,600** operational staff at present, almost entirely in the field.
- More than **1,770** active projects
- Operational budget of approx **1.1 billion**
What is IOM for?

Mission Statement

“IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society”
What is IOM for?

- IOM works to help ensure the **orderly and humane management of migration**, to promote **international cooperation** on migration issues, to assist in the search for **practical solutions** to migration problems and to provide **humanitarian assistance to migrants** in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.

- The IOM Constitution recognizes the link between migration and **economic, social and cultural development**, as well as to the **right of freedom of movement**.
IOM works in the four broad areas of migration management:

- Migration and development
- Facilitating migration
- Regulating migration
- Forced migration

IOM activities that cut across these areas include the promotion of international migration law, policy debate and guidance, protection of migrants' rights, migration health and the gender dimension of migration.
**What does IOM do?**

**MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT**
- Return of Qualified Nationals
- Exchange of Expertise
- Remittances/Money Transfers
- Overseas Communities
- Micro credit Schemes
- Targeted Assistance
- Brain Drain and Gain

**FACILITATING MIGRATION**
- Workers and Professionals
- Students and Trainees
- Family Reunification
- Recruitment and Placement
- Documentation
- Language Training
- Cultural Orientation
- Consular Services

**REGULATING MIGRATION**
- Systems for Visa, Entry & Stay
- Border Management
- Technology Applications
- Assisted Return and Reintegration
- Counter-trafficking
- Counter-smuggling
- Stranded Migrants

**FORCED MIGRATION**
- Asylum and Refugees
- Resettlement
- Repatriation
- Internally Displaced Persons
- Transition and Recovery
- Former Combatants
- Claims and Compensation
- Elections and Referenda

**CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES**
- Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building
- Migrants’ Rights and International Migration Law
- Data and Research
- Policy Debate and Guidance
- Regional and International Cooperation
- Public Information and Education
- Migration Health
- Gender Dimension
- Integration and Reintegration
IOM's structure is highly decentralised and service-oriented. There are currently 17 Missions with Regional functions (MRFs) serving as resource centres and seven Special Liaison Missions (SLMs).

IOM uses projectization (similar to Activity-based costing), where staff and office costs associated with implementing a project are charged to projects through a time-allocation concept.
How is IOM Organized?

A. Manila Administrative Centre:
   Administrative support base including for Information Technology; Project Tracking; Staff Security; Web site, Intranet and Digital Assets Management and other functions.

B. Missions with Regional Functions:
   Asia (Bangkok, Canberra, Dhaka, Islamabad); Africa (Cairo, Dakar, Nairobi, Pretoria); Europe (Brussels, Budapest, Helsinki, Rome); Americas (Lima, Buenos Aires, San Jose, Washington, D.C.).


D. Special-Purpose Missions: Missions which are set up for short-term durations to deal with emergency operations.

* Financed by Discretionary Income - no allocation of funds from Administrative part of the Budget.
Why is IOM involved in Electoral Support?
IOM believes that the promotion of **fair elections** and democratic institutions can play an important role in **enhancing migration management**, encouraging **popular participation** and engagement in a country’s political future and social and economic development, **stabilizing communities** and reducing the potential for future large-scale population displacement and consequent instability.
The Election Support Unit (ESU) is responsible for the planning, coordination and oversight of all election processes dealt by IOM.

The Unit provides support to Governments as part of their efforts to expand the access of migrant communities and vulnerable populations to democratic electoral process in their countries or territories of origin.
Support to Electoral Process: How?

Out of Country Voting

Support to European Observation Missions

Enfranchisement of Displaced Population

Capacity Development for EU and Domestic Election Observers (NEEDS w/ International IDEA)

Capacity Building and Technical Assistance
Out-of Country Voting
Providing access to voting to the Diaspora

• Supports the inclusion of migrant communities, refugees or displaced populations, into democratic electoral processes in their countries/territories of origin.

• Allows them to become active participants in the electoral process and to be represented in the civil and political life at home.

• Encourages them to maintain links with their home communities while enabling them to participate in the creation of an environment to which they may return safely and resume productive socio-economic lives.

• Empowers those otherwise disenfranchised to elect preferred local and national representatives reducing the effects of ethnic conflicts.
Support to EU Election Observation Missions
Support for the human rights of migrants, and democratization in third countries

• Since 2001, IOM has been actively involved in supporting in 35 EU Election Observation Missions (EU EOMs) worldwide.

• Often implemented in regions with very sensitive security situations or consist of large-scale elections involving complex logistical arrangements.

• Close cooperation building on the EU priority to promote human rights and democratization in its relations with third countries.
Support to enfranchisement of displaced populations

• Two technical cooperation projects:
  - PEP - Participatory Elections:
    aims at identifying obligations, standards, and best practices concerning the political rights of displaced populations in post-conflict elections.
  - PRESS - Political Rights and Enfranchisement System Strengthening:
    aims at further developing international, regional, and national capacity to enfranchise migrants and assist Election Management Bodies, and other international and national stakeholders.

• Assessment missions, studies, analyses on best practices for each country have been published with recommendations to national and international stakeholders.
Strengthening the countries’ ability to conduct external voting programs and strengthen ties with their Diaspora through their diplomatic and consular missions abroad.

**Capacity development** mechanisms and **technical support** include:

- Voter awareness and voter education campaign (normally targeting migrant or potential migrant communities).
- Upgrading and standardizing information systems.
- Training/Support of Consular Officers.
Challenges of Electoral Support

- Security Constraints
- Complex Logistical Arrangements
- Lack of institutional memory
- Bureaucracy of host countries
- High turn over of professional staff
- Tight deadlines and short timeframe between preparedness and implementation
- Lack of adequate infrastructure
ESU: Why?

Consolidate institutional memory

Policy Guidance/harmonization and coordination

Standardized response and best practices

Coordination with different partners for sustainability of results

Proactive vs. Reactive approach
IOM is part of the **EC-UNDP IDEA Global Training Platform on Effective Electoral Assistance.**

IOM expressed its interest in take part to the **ACE Electoral Knowledge Network.**
Out-of Country Voting IRAQ
Thank you!