



## Planning and Preparedness - Lessons Learned

### Handling of the irregular migration crisis in the Mediterranean Sea and Andaman Sea crisis

1. Lack of evidence and analysis of the linkages between push and pull factors, migrants' and refugees' destination choice and patterns of migration:
    - i. Socio-Political context/conflict and persecution/poor economic conditions leading to discontent of the population (particularly youth)
    - ii. Geography - to influence patterns of irregular migration routes
    - iii. Distance shrinking technology and infrastructure - enabling people to get to places quicker and cheaper than before
    - iv. Gaps in border management systems in place in transit countries
  - **Lessons learned:** When addressing migration crises, and considering related irregular migratory flows, most (if not all) of the concerned countries underestimated the complexity of mixed migrant flows as direct and indirect consequence of multiple and multifaceted crisis, namely foreign undocumented labour migrants, refugees fleeing war and/or persecutions (example: people leaving their countries after the failure of the so-called 'Arab spring'). Migrants and refugees are more vulnerable to criminal networks (human trafficking, smuggling of migrants), which have thrived during the crisis.
  - **Recommendations:**
    - I. More in depth and up-to-date analysis of socio-political contexts and related migratory flows:
      - Monitoring of migrants stock and reports on movement
      - Ensuring information-sharing among countries of origin, transit and destination
      - Analysing migration trends/causes in relation to:
        - Socio-political and economic dynamics (national and regional)
        - Migrants and refugees destination choice
        - "Second movements"
        - Transnational organized crime networks and consolidated modus operandi
    - II. Governments need to constantly evaluate, review and update migration and border management processes
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2. Gaps in legal and operational frameworks to prepare for and respond to humanitarian crises to ensure fundamental human rights and protection of migrants and refugees
  - **Lessons learned:** Unilateral, unplanned and unprepared responses led to deaths, inadequate/delayed access to basic services, refusal of landing/entry



- **Recommendations:**

- I. Facilitate international cooperation when responding to transnational crises and ensure full protection of fundamental human rights in accordance with international legal instruments, to which States have committed
- II. Develop contingency plan for migration movements including clear definition of roles and responsibilities and SOP
- III. Institutionalize and harmonize data collection mechanism and procedures at national level (what data to collect, how to most effectively process and how to provide humanitarian and/or longer term assistance to migrants and refugees)
- IV. Enhance respective Immigration and Border Management systems based on the internationally recognized principles of “Good migration governance” and protection of human rights
- V. Establish appropriate structures to respond to such humanitarian crises by enhancing national and local management systems and establishing international cooperation at operational level (e.g. joint task force)
- VI. Enhance the capacity of the countries to manage irregular flows, including investigating and disrupting transnational organized crime, given the tendency of criminal networks to take advantage of gaps in border management

### 3. Inadequate infrastructure and insufficient equipment

- **Lessons learned:** Lack of infrastructure and equipment hindered effective responses and put migrants at additional risks

- **Recommendations:**

- I. Conduct comprehensive needs assessments
- II. Enhance SAR capacities
- III. Equip relevant agencies with data collection and communication technology (supported with harmonized procedures)
  - a. Enhance capacity to track and manage mobility effectively;
  - b. Enhance early warning capabilities for detection of boats (ex. Hotlines)
- IV. Allocate human and financial resources accordingly

### 4. Lack of national/international coordination and cooperation, inadequate early warning system and timely communication

- **Lessons learned:** Lack of legal basis, bilateral/multilateral agreements and technical capacities of concerned countries to facilitate international coordination and cooperation to prepare a robust timely response, led to delayed response. The need of clear channels of communication to and between maritime authorities, including systematic and regular reports on movement, establish hotlines, etc. has been identified as critical

- **Recommendations:**



- I. Stakeholder mapping and analysis to improve national and international cooperation
  - II. Develop a holistic and multi sectorial response at all levels (nationally, regionally and internationally)
  - III. Establish early warning procedures for detection of boats and disembarkation (ex. Hotlines)
  - IV. Define roles and responsibilities for rescue, disembarkation and reception, as well as multidisciplinary teams among border agencies at national and cross border levels (to be included in SOP)
  - V. Define the legal framework of joint operations to deploy “international joint mobile teams” at the border, especially along blue and green borders
  - VI. Define information exchange protocols, especially related to human trafficking and smuggling of migrants and refugees in relation to migrants in crisis (forced migration, stranded migrants, etc.)
5. Need of developing specialized capacity building and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)
- **Lessons learned:** Inability of first responders to identify people with specific protection needs didn't allow rapid preliminary screening for referral and conduct effective operations
  - **Recommendations:**
    - I. Invest in sustainable capacity building in countries of origin, transit and destination
    - II. Develop specialized training, joint trainings and on-the-job peer-to-peer mentoring
      - a. Develop contextualized SOP for screening and caring for the vulnerable (refugees, VoTs, SGBV victims, minors)
      - b. Identify effective practices and share among relevant stakeholders and use it as a training tool for its sustainable operationalization