



Agenda item 16 (a)

IOM's Approach to Protection of Migrants and Displaced Persons

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POLICY AND POLITICAL EVOLUTION

- Evolved from a logistics agency to the UN's lead migration agency.
- UDHR, UN Charter and formal UN family member since 2016.
- Active IASC member, bound by the Centrality of Protection Statement.
- Public international organization, empowered by its constitution to protect migrants.
- Facing ever increasing scrutiny on its obligations to protect persons under its care.
- MOPAN Assessments (2019; 2023).



WHY THE PROTECTION APPROACH?

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OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- Unprecedented levels of migration and displacement.
- Expanded operations and contact.
- Projectized organization with fragmented narratives on protection that resulted in incoherent, inconsistent and unpredictable responses.
- Requests and funding from member states to enhance protection, and to engage better with traditional protection actors, mandated agencies (UNHCR, OHCHR, ILO).

EXPANDED REACH IN PROTECTION ASSISTANCE



OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS: 2023

- **Humanitarian action:** 2.69 million individuals assisted, a (32% increase from 2022)
 - Child protection: 172,324 reached in 45 countries (40% increase)
- **Migrants in vulnerable situations:** 146,036 reached with
 - 8,460 victims of trafficking (12% increase)
 - Unaccompanied or separated children: 9,211 (up 8%)
- **Return and Reintegration assistance (AVRR and VHR):** 71,951 migrants - 17% children
- **Missing Migrants:** Over 8,600 deaths/ disappearances globally (15% increase from 2022)

DEMYSTIFYING THE APPROACH

What It Is Not:

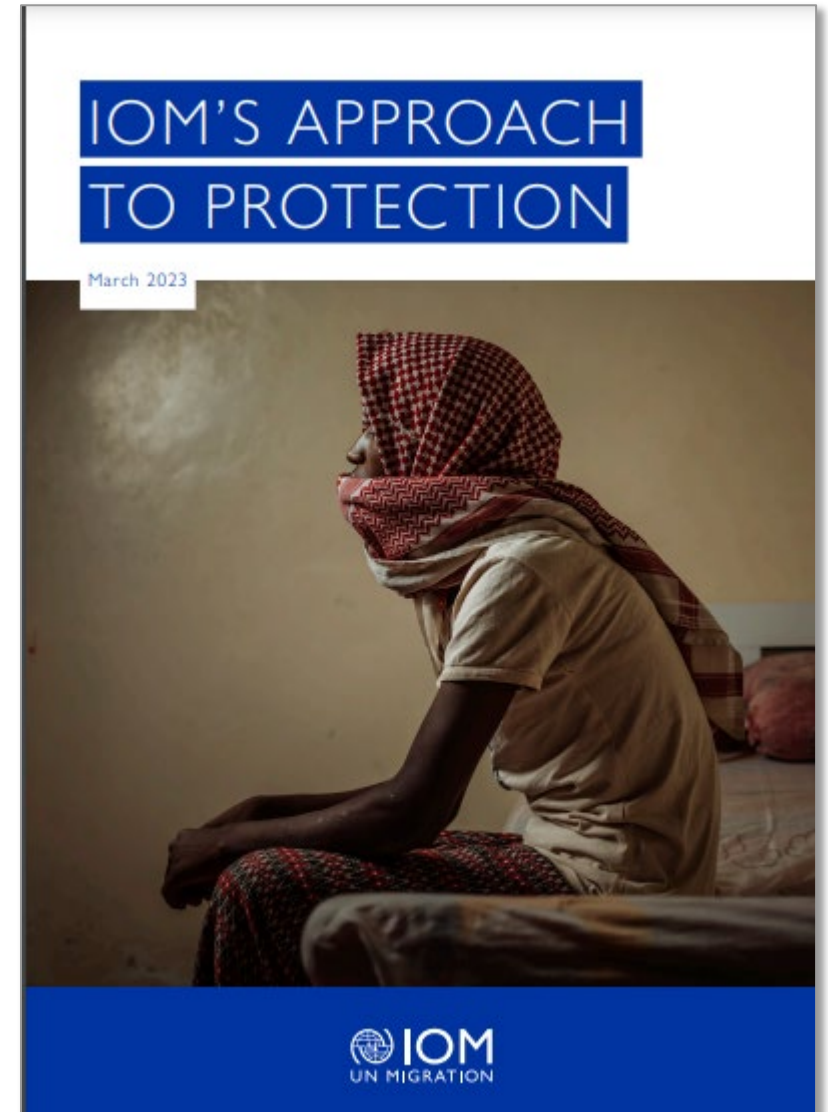
- No creation or expansion of mandate.
- No overlap with UNHCR's mandate, the focus is exclusively on populations outside of the asylum/refugee regime.



DEMYSTIFYING THE APPROACH

What it is:

- Restatement of the IASC protection definition and response to the IASC Protection Policy Review.
- Reemphasizes IOM's duty to protect as defined in its Constitution.
- Reiterates IOM's goal on protection; it explains IOM's responsibility; describes protection in action; explains how IOM delivers on its protection commitments; details thematic areas of intervention; and reinforces partnership.



DEMYSTIFYING THE APPROACH

What it is:

- Consolidates IOM's approach covering specialized, integrated and mainstreamed protection areas and prompted the release of the Six-Pillar Framework for IOM's specialized protection work.
- Enhances accountability and ensures protection is delivered consistently, coherently and predictably.
- Primarily for staff but also for those we serve, partners and Member States.





RECOMMENDATIONS TO MEMBER STATES

- Join the upcoming **IOM Protection Action Advisory Group**.
- Allocate funding and second experts to strengthen protection resources.
- Advocate for increased access, sustained support and stronger protection of migrants.



IOM's Protection Approach will support staff to deliver better for those we serve. Implementing this Approach is essential to saving lives and protecting people on the move.