

READMISSION – IMMIGRATION AND BORDER GOVERNANCE DIVISION



Return and readmission are integral components of migration governance, with readmission referring to the act by a state accepting an individual's re-entry on its territory. To facilitate safe, dignified and rights-based readmission for all individuals, IOM operationalizes its [Policy on the Full Spectrum of Return, Readmission and Reintegration \(RRR\)](#), which defines a comprehensive approach to readmission that promotes cooperation and good practices among governments in compliance with international law.

The Immigration and Border Governance (IBG) Division of IOM provides customized support to Member States to foster international dialogue and cooperation on rights-based return and readmission, including capacity and technology support to address related challenges. Such support comprises policy and legal research and assessments, capacity development activities, and technical interventions. IBG's work is closely linked with key frameworks and initiatives that prioritize sustainable development, human rights, and holistic migration governance, including those within the United Nations Network on Migration and other forums. Thematically, this entails collaboration with other related IOM areas of activity such as Legal Identity and Protection, to ensure the effectiveness and coherence of IOM's work in the field of RRR.

Within this context, IOM aims to facilitate and strengthen collaborative partnerships among countries of origin, transit, and destination, with a focus on promoting safe and dignified readmission practice and processes. The following guiding principles underpin IOM's approach to RRR and apply equally to all activities IOM undertakes on readmission:

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 Rights-based approaches through active protection and upholding migrant rights
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 Gender-responsive, child- and vulnerability-sensitive perspectives
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 Sustainability of reintegration
- 
 Whole of government approach and government ownership
- 
 Partnership and cooperation
- 
 Confidentiality
- 
 Safe environments for return
- 
 Do no harm
- 
 Migrant agency
- 
 Accountability

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)



Target 10.7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

Target 16.9: By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration.

GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION (GCM)



Objective 4: Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation.

Objective 7: Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration.



Objective 21: Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration.

Objective 23: Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration.

CORE AREAS OF READMISSION SUPPORT



Research and analysis of the return and readmission context, and including gaps and needs analysis - IOM may research existing readmission cooperation frameworks in place between the countries concerned, analyse existing data and information, policy, legislative, institutional, human resource, financial and operational gaps impeding the implementation of a readmission agreement in line with human rights standards, and provide recommendations to address gaps and challenges identified.



Capacity development and training for governments and non-governmental actors on the technical requirements of return and readmission management and cooperation, as well as on ensuring compliance with international standards - IOM's capacity development work may cover technical, legal and operational matters including identification and electronic readmission case management via the Electronic Readmission Case Management System (eRCMS), identity management and consular coordination, stakeholder coordination and support to implement return procedures (Standard Operating Procedures, templates), case processing practices and database management, data protection standards, use of biometrics, referral of vulnerable migrants, as well as support to safeguard applicable international obligations and human rights standards surrounding return and readmission procedures.



Identity determination and management - IOM may assist States with the provision of technical solutions aimed at helping to determine legal identity, including advice on technical solutions regarding fingerprint matching and identity management processes to ensure the proper identification of those to be readmitted, proof of nationality and the provision of travel documents, subject to international law and applicable data protection standards.



Review legislative and institutional return and readmission practices and provision of recommendations for subsequent revision - IOM analyses relevant national and regional immigration legislation. To meet international standards, IOM may also offer recommendations to enhance institutional frameworks and inter-agency cooperation in return and readmission management, including the development of State and inter-governmental bodies and infrastructure.



Deployment of IOM's electronic Readmission Case Management Systems (eRCMS) - The eRCMS facilitates efficient and secure management of readmission cases. This digital platform enables secure exchange of returnee data between two or more governments on a reciprocal basis, supporting identity verification and travel document issuance processes for State-led returns and readmissions. Using a standardized, IOM-developed IT architecture and deployment model, the eRCMS has the potential to connect governments across regions and continents. After the eRCMS is handed over to the hosting State, IOM's role is limited to the provision of technical support. Deployment is subject to, among others, data protection requirement assessments.



Strengthening of dialogue, exchange of good practice as well as monitoring and evaluation - IOM may support the creation of a community of practice on return management by offering guidance, promoting good practice, and facilitating dialogue among participating states. IOM can also develop and implement monitoring and evaluation systems to contribute to upholding human rights, identify policy, management and cooperation challenges, inform policy and practice, and ensure accountability in return and readmission management.

JOINT EFFORTS AND COORDINATION WITH OTHER IOM DIVISIONS

Through IOM's Immigration and Border Governance (IBG) Division, the IBG Thematic Specialists posted around the globe, and in cooperation with other concerned Departments, Divisions and Units, IOM has broad internal capacity to provide targeted technical assistance and support to Immigration and Border Services in the technical areas described above.

Notably, IBG partners with the Protection Division (PxD) to operationalize the IOM Policy on Return, Readmission and Reintegration (RRR) and to safeguard the protection of migrants' rights at all stages. This collaboration is essential in providing comprehensive and effective support to migrants, with each Division bringing their unique expertise to the table.

