

IOM IRAQ

PROTECTING VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES: A GUIDE TO IOM IRAQ'S PROTECTION DIVISION



The International Organization for Migration's (IOM) overarching protection goal is to place the rights and well-being of migrants, including IDPs – regardless of their status – at the centre of its operations. This means ensuring the protection of migrants across the full spectrum of migration management and governance. IOM uses a rights-based approach to identify and address needs in emergency, transition and development contexts, seeking to secure individual and group rights and support societies to create environments where rights are protected, respected and upheld.

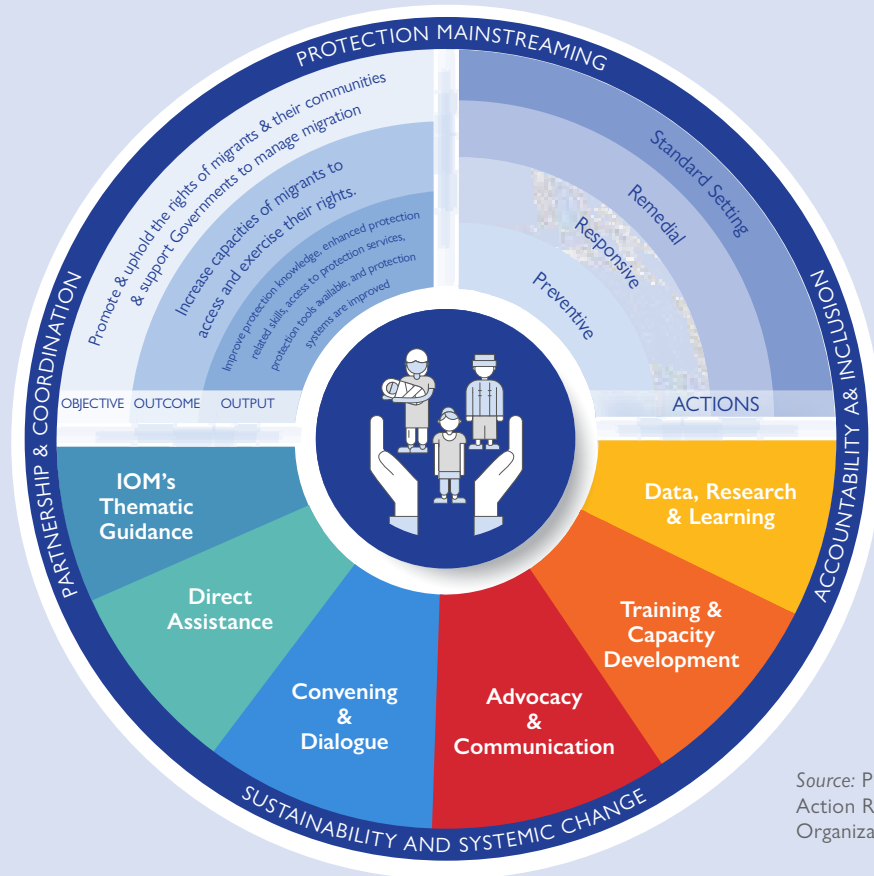
IOM works to achieve protection outcomes through a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach, partnering with national and local governments, the United Nations system, communities and a wide range of organizations and associations in academic, private, governmental and civil society sectors.





IOM's Approach to Protection

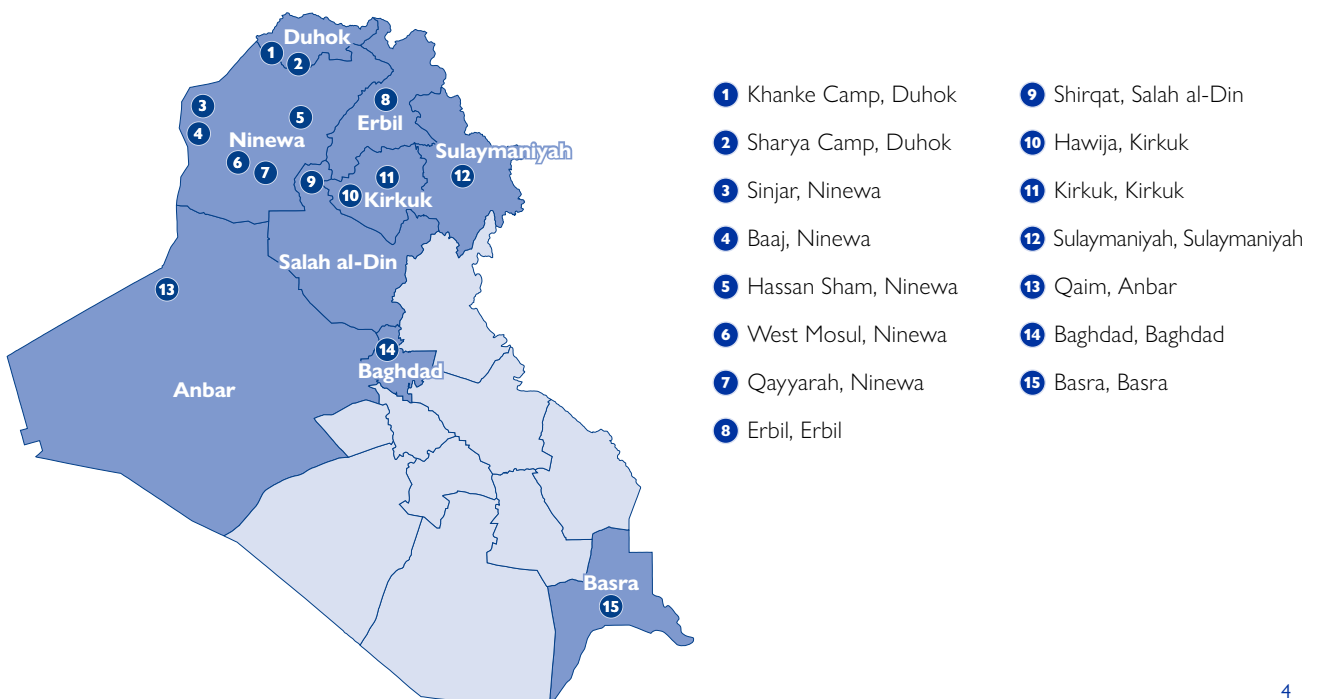
IOM's approach to protection is implemented through its **six pillars** – IOM's thematic guidance; direct assistance; convening & dialogue; advocacy & communication; training & capacity development; and data, research & learning.



Source: Protection in Humanitarian Action Roadmap, International Organization for Migration, 2022.

Geographic Locations of Intervention

The Protection Division is comprised of three workstreams, mainly operating in **nine governorates**.



Protection Division Workstreams in Iraq

IOM Protection Division is comprised of three workstreams.

1

Core Protection

IOM operates in camps, informal settlements and areas of return and relocation to provide specialized protection responses. Protection activities aim to prevent and respond to human rights violations including gender-based violence (GBV), abuse and exploitation.

2

Return & Reintegration

IOM is committed to reducing and preventing migrants' exposure to protection risks, fostering migrant resilience and addressing related needs throughout the migration process and along migration routes.

3

Protection Mainstreaming & PSEAH

IOM ensures that IOM staff and partners uphold the Do No Harm principle for the people we serve and promote meaningful access to services, accountability to affected populations and community participation and empowerment.

1

Core Protection

IOM operates in camps, informal settlements and areas of return and relocation to provide specialized protection responses. Protection activities aim to prevent and respond to human rights violations including gender-based violence (GBV), abuse and exploitation.



Case management

IOM supports survivors and persons at heightened risk of human rights violations with tailored case management services. Strength-based case management services are provided in a confidential, conflict-sensitive manner, and all steps are designed together with the individual. IOM maintains close collaboration with different sectoral leads to ensure comprehensive assistance to the individuals. Within the case management framework, IOM provides emergency cash or in-kind assistance where it will directly prevent, mitigate or reduce a specific protection risk, or where it will support the progression of a case.



Protection information services

IOM provides information to conflict-affected communities through protection information services, which include individual information counselling, group information sessions and community outreach. Tailored key messages are informed by a consultative process in each area of intervention to respond to specific gaps of information.



Operation of safe spaces

IOM conducts activities within its safe spaces to enable survivors and persons at risk to access protection services without stigmatization. These activities serve as an entry point for community members to get familiar with protection issues and ensure safe ways to access protection services. They also provide an opportunity for survivors to build and strengthen personal networks and community.



Protection monitoring and advocacy

IOM contributes to evidence-based protection advocacy through protection monitoring, analysis and rapid needs assessments. Rapid needs assessments are conducted shortly after critical incidents occur and aim to evaluate the resulting protection risks and inform programme implementation. Protection monitoring is systematically conducted over time on a household and community level through key informant interviews, household assessments and community discussions. Protection information collected and analyzed by the team directly feeds into bilateral and multilateral advocacy to key stakeholders including government, humanitarian/development actors and donor communities.



Protection Analysis Report July-October 2022



Recreational Activity, Hassan Sham. © IOM 2022/Sarah ALI



Capacity development of protection actors

IOM is committed to building protection capacities of governmental and non-governmental protection actors for the sustainability of protection initiatives. This is done through joint development of technical tools, training, longer-term mentorship for key staff and other ad-hoc technical support.



Community-based protection

IOM implements community-based protection (CBP) initiatives, which include the engagement of communities in planning and implementing strategies and measures that address the root causes of violence, and exploitation, including GBV, and thus prevent or address the protection risks faced in the community. CBP leverages the local capacities and knowledge of root causes and factors, while providing the needed skills to address them.

2 Return & Reintegration

IOM is committed to reducing and preventing migrants' exposure to protection risks, fostering migrant resilience and addressing related needs throughout the migration process and along migration routes.

Return and reintegration

IOM assists migrants with voluntary return and reintegration services. Recognizing that migrants in vulnerable situations in Iraq might face protection risks, IOM's integrated approach to the full spectrum of return, readmission and reintegration of international migrants is grounded in a rights-based approach and focuses on the well-being of individual returnees throughout the entire return, readmission and reintegration process. It places individuals and the protection of their rights at the centre of all efforts, while recognizing that states have a sovereign prerogative to determine their national migration policies and to govern migration within their jurisdiction, in conformity with international law commitments.

IOM's primary aim is to protect the beneficiary by ensuring their safety, promoting their sustainable assistance and providing protection services from an individualized perspective for sustainable solutions for reintegration.

Sustainable solutions for reintegration require holistic and multidimensional approaches that address a range of economic, social, psychosocial and environmental

factors and enhance synergies between different interventions in the areas of humanitarian assistance, community stabilization, sustainable development, migration management, broader policy coherence and development cooperation.

Trafficking in persons

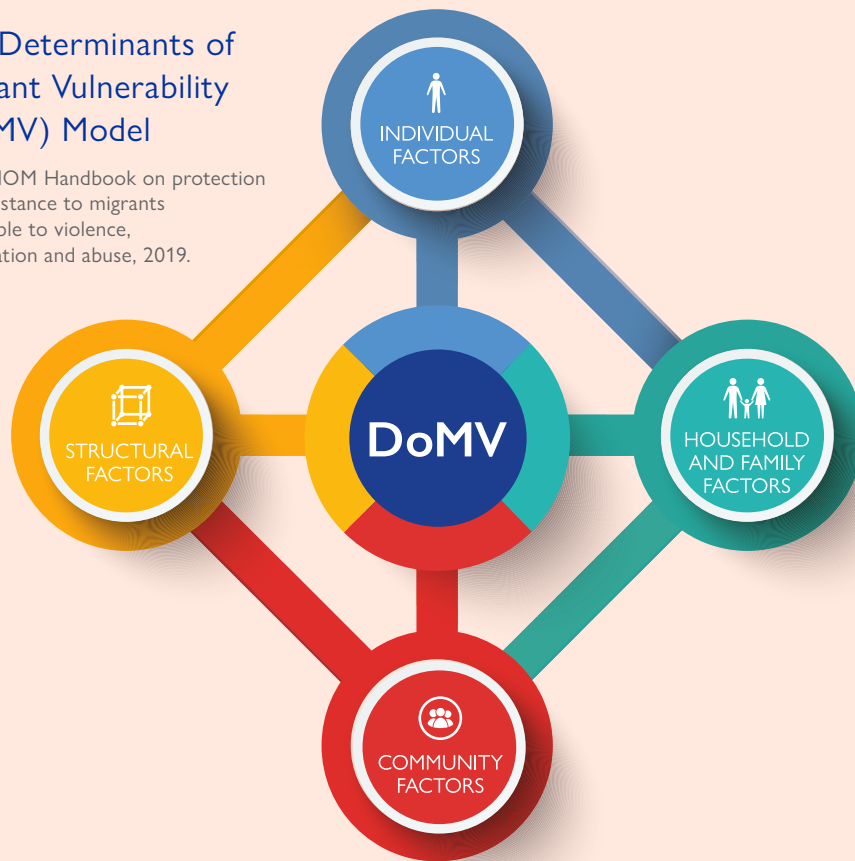
IOM provides comprehensive protection assistance to victims of trafficking (VoTs) identified in Iraq. When providing any form of direct assistance to a VoT, IOM's primary aim is to protect the beneficiary by ensuring their safety and providing sustainable assistance and protection services from an individualized perspective. IOM applies a survivor-centred approach that addresses each case individually with the necessary care needed to support the victim and ensure their long-term empowerment. IOM provides a variety of services to VoTs depending upon their needs, such as (but not limited to): specialized trafficking in persons case management; information counselling; return assistance; medical, mental health and psychosocial support; and legal assistance.



Counter-Trafficking Awareness Brochure

The Determinants of Migrant Vulnerability (DoMV) Model

Source: IOM Handbook on protection and assistance to migrants vulnerable to violence, exploitation and abuse, 2019.



Integrated Approach to Reintegration

Protection functions on individual, community and structural levels.



Source: IOM Reintegration Handbook, p. 14, International Organization for Migration, 2019.

Protection Mainstreaming & PSEAH



IOM ensures that IOM staff and partners uphold the Do No Harm principle for the people we serve and promote meaningful access to services, accountability to affected populations and community participation and empowerment. IOM prioritizes protection against sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (PSEAH) at the highest level within the organization.

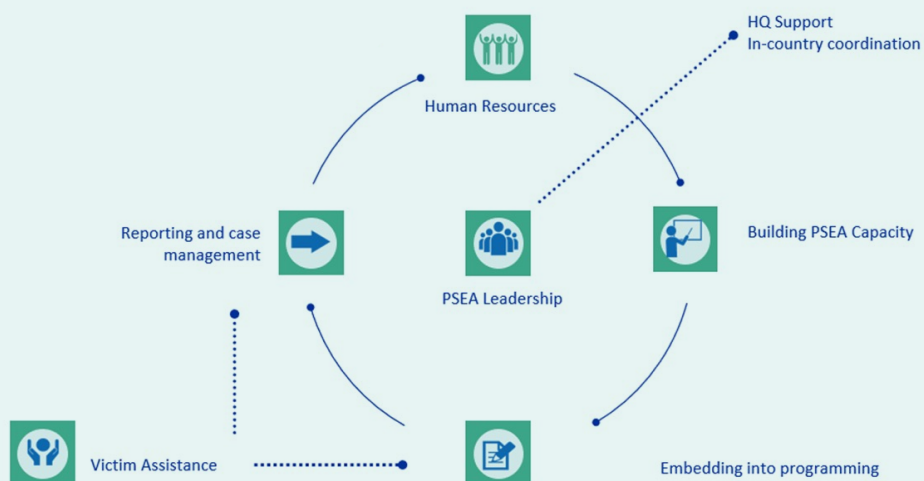
Protection mainstreaming is the process of incorporating protection principles to ensure that IOM programmes and staff do not cause harm to the people that IOM and its partners serve, and to promote accountability to affected populations and their meaningful access to and participation in the services. The Protection Division works across IOM Iraq teams/programmes to promote protection mainstreaming through technical guidance, joint development of tools and training. Thematically, protection mainstreaming is closely linked to data protection, gender mainstreaming, diversity and inclusion and complaint and feedback mechanisms. One particular focus of protection mainstreaming is PSEAH,¹ wherein a PSEAH focal point supports the whole-of-organization approach to prevent and respond to sexual misconduct. IOM has significantly increased its communication on protection mainstreaming regarding PSEAH, especially towards beneficiary communities, who are targeted with information, education and communication materials.



PSEA Poster for Communities

1 Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse links primarily to acts of SEA committed by IOM (or partners) staff against beneficiaries or the affected population Sexual Harassment links primarily to acts commitment by staff against other staff.

IOM Iraq PSEA Framework



Inter-agency Coordination

IOM's Protection programming is closely coordinated with key protection actors in the country to ensure coherence and quality of services. IOM is the Co-Chair of the UN Network on Migration's Trafficking in Persons and Return and Reintegration working groups, as well as the Interagency PSEA Network. IOM is also a member of the Human Rights and Protection Platform Core Group.





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