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Migration Policy Development**

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**Population Movements Resulting from Crisis Situations in the MTM
Region**

**A Multidimensional Phenomenon: Drawing Lessons from the
Tunisian, Libyan, Malian and Syrian Experiences**

The MTM i-Map Expert Meeting: Population Movements in the MTM Region resulting from Crisis Situations: Experiences, Responses and Challenges ahead

The objective of the meeting is to address various aspects of **population movements** in the MTM region resulting from **crisis situations**



Picture: Libyan refugees arriving in Tunisia, 2011, Getty Images



Picture: Malian refugees in Burkina Faso's Goudebou refugee camp, 2013

Take stock of this phenomenon and the responses provided by national and international actors from a preparedness and emergency perspective in the light of four case studies taken from MTM Partner States namely the **Tunisian, Libyan, Malian** and the **Syrian** crisis.



Definition of a crisis and the qualification of such phenomenon is difficult (**Criteria not defined**).

Multidimensional character of population movements originating from emergency situations which require a wide range of responses from all involved actors.

Crisis-population movement nexus

Crisis

(regardless of their causes)



which can be
rooted in

conflict

or other factors such as
**natural disasters or man-made
catastrophes**

can generate

population movements

(both internally and internationally)



Lessons learnt: strong pressure on the region and beyond


Crises can trigger large scale movements of people crossing the borders into **neighbouring countries** but can also induce **secondary movements**

These situations tend to generate considerable regional population movements, creating high pressure on neighbouring countries



The support of neighbouring states which decide to host affected people needs to be well **acknowledged** as well as their **humanitarian effort** and **solidarity**

Overview of responses: emergency phase



Access to the territory: **open-door policy**

Status in host countries: countries opened opted for a wide range of **different responses in line with their legal framework** and adapted to their capacities

Reception: some countries decided to set up **refugee camps** whereas others opted for accommodation among **local communities**

IOs provided support to affected countries for instance through: RSD process, management of refugee camps and support to urban refugees

The EU and EU MS: Border surveillance through Frontex and provision of humanitarian and other assistance to population in affected countries.

Lessons Learnt: enhancing preparedness

Participants highlighted the need for:



A comprehensive **legislative and policy framework** (particularly on asylum and international protection)

Early warning systems which aim at monitoring potential situations or crisis likely to generate population movements and allow planning the funding for logistics and human resources

Contingency planning which explore all kinds of emergency scenarios and usually include clarification of responsibilities, identification of capacities and resources needs, and coordination between local, national and international actors

Lessons Learnt: Responding to crisis situations in the short term

Crises scenarios may affect nationals as well as third country nationals at the same time, which requires **different and targeted responses to address people's individual needs.**



As an immediate response, ad hoc support to people fleeing irrespective of their background is necessary. Once the immediate support has been provided the responses may differentiate due to the people concerned.

Participants also emphasised the importance of:

- **Anticipating** a crisis and better **planning**
- **Quick mobilisation** of financial, human, and material resources .
- The need for **efficient cooperation mechanisms** between different agencies

Lessons learnt: responding to crisis situations in the long term

Participants shared experiences with regards to:



Elaborating **comprehensive relocation, resettlement and return plans**



Strengthening **humanitarian assistance**



Granting **permanent residence/ humanitarian permits**



Establishing **efficient coordination mechanisms between national and local authorities**

Lessons learnt: long term response

- **Resettlement** programmes: limited opportunities but other options are being explored such as **visas or humanitarian admission permits**. Some EU MS have granted international protection, permanent residence permits, tolerated stay or long stay visas. Processes of applications in some EUMS embassies in Syria's neighbouring countries have also taken place.



- **Repatriation**: requires stabilisation in the country of origin
- **Local integration**: not an option in most countries, mainly due to the lack of legal framework related to international protection

Lessons learnt: risks

Paramount consideration which emerged unanimously: Finding a balanced approach to population movements resulting from crisis situations between:



&



The risk of involvement of transnational organized crime groups is very high in crisis situations



improve police cooperation along the interested routes
(including enhanced cooperation among Immigration Liaison Officers)

Lessons Learnt: The need for a concerted approach

International support is needed as well as **sharing responsibilities** between **Northern and Southern countries**.

Considering that **local communities are highly affected**, it is essential to integrate them in the development of coordination strategies between national and international actors.

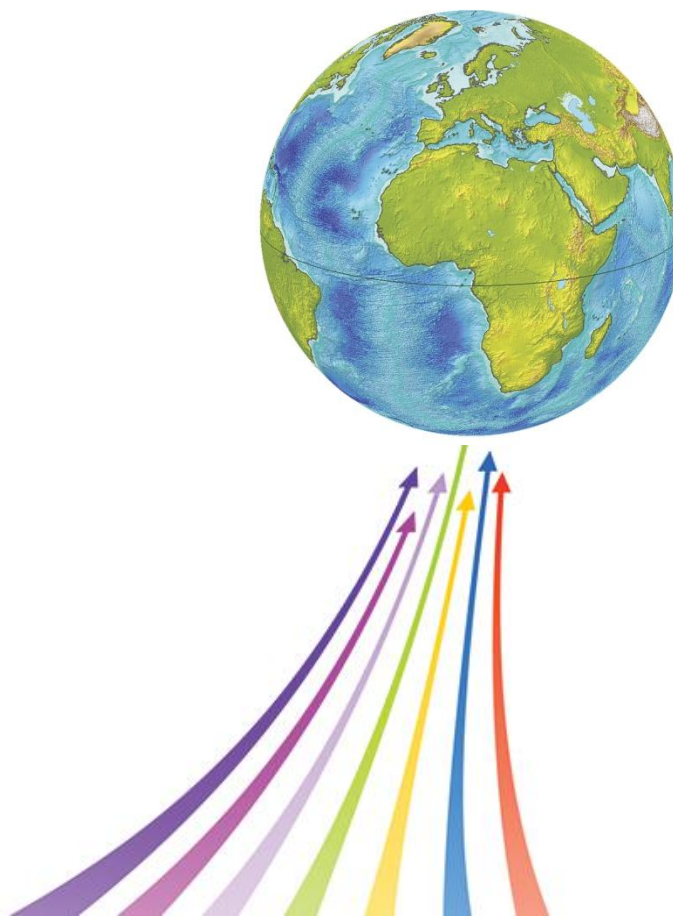
Support from further away countries (EU countries) so far mainly consisted of **resettlement, humanitarian admission programmes, and visa facilitation for family reunification** as well as **provision of financial contributions** to neighbouring countries.

The responses require an advanced level of coordination between national, international and local actors.



Ways forward

Focusing on addressing root causes of these population movements resulting from crises situations, for instance, through a **comprehensive development approach** and **better mobility opportunities** or **political dialogue** should be explored





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Thank you very much for your attention!



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