

International Organization for Migration (IOM)



Established in 1951, IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners. IOM works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people. IOM works in the four broad areas of migration management:

WHAT IS IOM

Migration and development

Facilitating migration

Regulating migration

Forced migration

IOM WASH services extend from infrastructure and management to education and behavior change, delivering on the full continuum of WASH interventions from immediate needs to long-term development. As one part of a comprehensive response, IOM ensures the delivery of inclusive, durable and appropriate WASH interventions through coordination with local and international partners. By March 2021, IOM WASH programs has assisted an estimated **21.5 million individuals** across the world.

IOM AND WASH

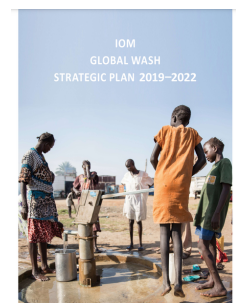
1.3 M
individuals assisted with access to latrines

4.1 M
Individuals assisted with safe water

16 M
individuals served with hygiene promotion

4 M
Individuals served with sanitation services

2019 marked the release of the IOM Global WASH Strategic Plan 2019-2022, a roadmap aimed to enable IOM to deliver high-quality and comprehensive WASH programming at scale, ensuring the human rights to water and sanitation and empowering affected populations to meet their demands. Additionally the Strategic Plan intends to equip the IOM WASH component to address the humanitarian and development nexus to a greater degree and contribute to the achievement of SDGs.



MIGRATION AND WATER

The intensification of water challenges and resulting migration flows have created a strong impetus to integrate migration policy concerns into water governance at the global level. As part of its mandate on migration, environment and climate change, IOM has been examining the nexus between migration and water governance and exploring potential synergies between both policy domains.

IOM established and maintains the [Environmental Migration Portal](#): **Knowledge Platform on People on the Move in a Changing Climate**. The Portal provides up-to-date information on key policy processes and developments, capacity building efforts, research and publications, and operational projects addressing the migration, environment and climate change (MECC) nexus.

IOM GENDER INCLUSION
AND GBV RISK
MITIGATION TOOLKIT FOR
WASH PROGRAMMING



In 2020, IOM WASH developed the **IOM Gender inclusion and gender-based violence (GBV) risk mitigation toolkit for WASH programming**. The Toolkit, through a human rights-centered approach, provides guidance and support to WASH programmes to achieve appropriate and sustainable solutions that, through meaningful design and adaptations, contribute to mitigating GBV risks.



**CLOSING THE GENDER GAP IN WATER,
SANITATION AND HYGIENE**
Programme Guidance



Also in 2020, IOM issued a guide titled "**Closing the Gender Gap in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**" which is intended to support humanitarian staff primarily working in the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector in South Sudan to actively prepare and encourage more women to enter the WASH sector at all levels. The recommendations, checklists and matrixes contain information about how to break down the current barriers and create and maintain an enabling environment for women's participation and leadership.

THE WAY FORWARD

I am interested in IOM's new approach on migration, climate change and water, linking to social dimensions. This approach is in line with my vision, namely, the socio-environmental approach to the human rights to water and sanitation and the promotion of democratic water governance. I look forward to working with IOM, particularly on my thematic report in 2023 on water for peace.

Pedro Arrojo-Agudo,
UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

*The Special Rapporteur held a meeting with IOM representatives on 19 January 2021

