



Irregular Migration



Irregular Migration

Learning Objectives

- identify the range and types of irregular migration
- understand the overlap and basic distinctions between types of irregular migration
- understand the nature of certain types of irregular migration
- identify the range of international and national measures designed to address the problem of irregular migration and provision of assistance to victims



What is usually understood under irregular migration?

- "Illegal entry" shall mean crossing borders without complying with the necessary requirements for legal entry into the receiving State

(Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Crime)



What is usually understood under irregular migration?

- Movement that takes place outside the regulatory norms of the sending, transit and receiving countries. There is no clear or universally accepted definition of irregular migration. From the perspective of destination countries it is illegal entry, stay or work in a country, meaning that the migrant does not have the necessary authorization or documents required under immigration regulations to enter, reside or work in a given country. From the perspective of the sending country, the irregularity is for example seen in cases in which a person crosses an international boundary without a valid passport or travel document or does not fulfil the administrative requirements for leaving the country. There is, however, a tendency to restrict the use of the term “illegal migration” to cases of smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons.



Understanding of irregular migration

- Who are irregular migrants?
- Why does irregular migration exist?
- Why do migrants become irregular?
- What can we do to address irregular migration?



Types of irregular migrants

Who are they?

- Overstayers
- Migrants abusing asylum system
- Irregular workers
- Migrants illegally entering the country
- Migrants violating the rules on sojourn of non-nationals
- Trafficking victims
- Smuggled migrants



Why does irregular migration exist? Why do migrants become irregular?

- Do not reach their goals in the country of destination
- Economic situation in the country of origin
- No other legal means to stay in the country of destination
 - too strict system
 - too liberal system
 - unbalanced system
- Became victims of crime
- Do not know the law



Responses to irregular migration

- Can we help migrants to reach their goals?
- Adjusting migration law and policy to real life situations
- Different activities and tools to deal with irregular migration:
 - Regularizations / amnesties
 - Opening legal channels
 - Voluntary returns
 - Readmission
 - Info campaigns
 - Border control
 - Expulsions / deportations
- Development activities