IMMIGRATION
DETENTION
MONITORING

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MODULE 0 | IMMIGRATION DETENTION MONITORING SELF-STUDY MODULES

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

LEGEND

✓ **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

👥 **REFLECTION ACTIVITY**

📖 **SUPPLEMENTARY READING**

👤 **SELF-ASSESSMENT**

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Module 0:
Immigration Detention Monitoring Self-Study Modules

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INTRODUCTION

This short module introduces the Immigration Detention Monitoring Self-Study Modules.

✔ **BY THE END OF THIS INTRODUCTION,**
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO:

- ✓ Describe the Immigration Detention Monitoring Self-Study Modules;

- ✓ Explain the objectives of the Immigration Detention Monitoring Self-Study Modules; and

- ✓ Explain what you will be doing to achieve these objectives.

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Chapter 1

RATIONALE FOR THE SELF-STUDY MODULES

Detention in the immigration context must be used only exceptionally. It must be necessary and proportionate in each individual case. Yet States do not always comply fully with these requirements of international law, and they adopt various policy approaches as justification for not complying with these tenets of the law. Today, the use of immigration detention as a migration management tool is on the rise in many countries. And far from being used only exceptionally, it is being increasingly used in a systematic manner as a first response to irregular arrivals. This trend is particularly concerning for asylum-seekers and others in need of international protection. Detention is a deprivation of liberty, and it must, therefore, comply with the relevant safeguards provided in international law.

To ensure that systems of immigration detention comply with international legal principles, it is important that immigration detention centres be open to scrutiny and monitoring by independent national and international bodies.

UNHCR is one of the leading international organizations that carry out monitoring visits to immigration detention facilities.

To prepare an effective monitoring strategy and to carry out effective monitoring visits, we need to understand why immigration detention monitoring is important and necessary. In these self-study modules we will answer the following questions:

➔ What is immigration detention monitoring and why is it important?

➔ What is the context of immigration detention?

➔ What needs to be included in an effective detention monitoring strategy?

➔ What are the elements of an immigration detention monitoring visit?

➔ What are the standards that relate to immigration detention?

➔ What skills are required to carry out a monitoring visit?

➔ How can we help staff cope with the effects of monitoring visits?

CONCEPTUALIZATION OF THE SELF-STUDY MODULES

The self-study modules on immigration detention monitoring are designed to equip you with knowledge and skills for developing an immigration detention monitoring strategy and for carrying out monitoring in your national context. They are addressed to asylum and migration officials, staff of international organizations, NGOs and other stakeholders working for protection of asylum-seekers and refugee and anyone else engaged in monitoring.

More information: http://www.unhcr.org/detention.html

This material was developed in the context of UNHCR's 'Global Strategy Beyond Detention (2014–2019)', which aims to support governments to end the detention of asylum-seekers and refugees. The material was developed within the project 'Global technical assistance and capacity building programme to prevent detention of children and to protect children and other asylum-seekers in detention', funded by the European Union.

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OVERVIEW OF THE SELF-STUDY MODULES

A prerequisite for starting these self-study modules is completion of the e-learning course Fundamentals of Immigration Detention, which equips you with basic knowledge and concepts related to immigration detention.

The Immigration Detention Monitoring Self-Study Modules follow the Fundamentals e-learning course as they contain more specific material on immigration detention monitoring.

The modules are best viewed using the latest version of Adobe Reader. Click here to download it. They can be viewed on tablets and smartphones, but some features may be disabled. No Internet connection is needed to read the modules; we encourage you to download them and view them in Adobe reader. Viewing references and accessing links require an Internet connection. The modules use icons throughout. Review the information on page 2 to find out what they mean.

After you complete these modules, you will be asked to undertake a final test. You must successfully pass the final test to complete the programme.

The readings and activities of these modules should take you at least ten hours to complete. If you cannot do them all at once, you can come back to the modules later and continue where you left off.

The modules and topics are as follows:

Module 1. Introduction to Immigration Detention Monitoring

➔ What is detention monitoring

➔ The value of detention monitoring

Module 2. Immigration Detention Context

➔ The process of immigration detention

➔ The context for immigration detention

➔ The stakeholders involved in detention monitoring, and their roles

Module 3. Immigration Detention Strategy

➔ Drafting a detention monitoring strategy

➔ Advocacy strategies to carry out the monitoring strategy developed at the country level

Module 4. Immigration Detention Monitoring Visit

➔ The three main elements of a monitoring visit (preparation, visit and follow-up)

➔ What to examine during a detention monitoring visit

Module 5. Immigration Detention Standards

➔ Detention standards applicable to the conditions of detention and safeguards against arbitrary detention

➔ How detention standards apply to people in situations of vulnerability/risk, particularly children

Module 6. Monitoring Skills

➔ Interviewing skills

➔ Drafting skills with specific focus on drafting recommendations

➔ Negotiating skills required for detention monitoring

Module 7. Coping with Effects

➔ How to maintain safety and well-being of monitors before, during and after the monitoring visit

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METHODS OF LEARNING ASSESSMENT

Your learning during these self-study modules will be assessed by both self-assessment tools and more formal learning objective assessments. The aim of these is to give you an opportunity to test and judge the knowledge you have acquired so as to enable you to assess their comprehension of the topic.

How to Complete the Self-Assessment Exercises

Self-assessment exercises are found in the modules and are denoted with the Icon.

Questions preceded by this symbol should be answered using the empty space provided after the exercises. While these exercises are not mandatory to complete the self-study modules, we strongly encourage you to do them because they are an opportunity to get a feedback and check your knowledge.

In Module 7 you will find the self-reflection exercises that are meant to stimulate your own reflection in a structured manner, to reinforce your learning of the topic. They are also intended to make you think about how the content of this module relates to your own operational reality. We encourage you to save this module on your computer and keep working on the saved version, to keep your comments for each self-reflection exercise directly in the PDF file.

Alternatively, you can print the module and write your comments with a pen or pencil on the hard copy. Writing also encourages focus and engagement; it allows you to take 'time out' to reflect on what might be happening in our operational context.

Last, but not least, it is important to note that your self-assessment and self-reflections are personal and confidential. There is no requirement to share them with anyone.

Chapter 5

This material was developed within the project 'Global Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Programme to Prevent Detention of Children and to Protect Children and Other Asylum-Seekers in Detention' funded by the European Union.

The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union.