



IOM International Organization for Migration  
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations  
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

# MRF NAIROBI BULLETIN

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## IOM HOLDS IMPLEMENTATION MEETING FOR THE JAPANESE FUNDED SHELTER AND LIVELIHOODS FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION PROGRAMME IN ELDORET



Eldoret East MP, Margaret Kamar (third right) addresses stakeholders during the meeting

IOM Kenya last month held an interactive stakeholders' meeting in Eldoret to discuss ways of planning and implementing the Japanese funded *Shelter and Livelihoods for Peace and Reconciliation Programme*. The project is focusing on three components: shelter, livelihoods, and peace building.

The one day workshop was attended by the Deputy Chief of Mission from the Japanese Embassy, Mr. Seiji Okada, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of State for Special Programmes (MoSSP), Mr. Ali Mohammed, Member of Parliament for Eldoret East, Margaret Kamar, and other participants representing more than thirteen professional bodies along with more than twenty IOM personnel.

IOM's Regional Representative, Mr. Ashraf El Nour, stated that the project represents a significant response from the appeal from MoSSP to support construction of low cost housing. He said that the shelter component, which forms the 'hardware' of the project, will benefit 8,000 families, the livelihood component will target 1,200 vulnerable families and the peace building component, which forms the foundation of the project, aims at promoting an overall culture of

peace through the creation of peace centres and other related activities.

The PS for MoSSP stated that the government plans to donate pieces of land for the intended peace centres, and has provided input to IOM concerning matters of allocation - suggesting that the four beneficiary districts may need to be re-considered. He also suggested organizing a larger meeting to finalize the distribution of beneficiaries as some districts that may have greater needs than others.

IOM Kenya was recently awarded a USD 7 million funding from the Government of Japan for the construction of 8,000 shelters to support the Government of Kenya's efforts to resettle returning IDPs following the post election crisis.

The Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Japan, Mr. Seiji Okada, said that the funding was part of the commitment to support development in Africa made by the Government of Japan during the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) and the 34<sup>th</sup> G8 Summit held in Japan.



IOM, with funding from the Japanese Government, are constructing 8,000 shelters, similar to this one for IDPs in the Rift Valley

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## IOM UGANDA AND BLU3 LAUNCH COUNTER TRAFFICKING AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

IOM Uganda and Ugandan pop stars BLU3 launched their counter trafficking awareness campaign in March with concerts in Isingiro District and Kisoro town. The concert saw BLU3 send messages on safe migration and the dangers of human trafficking to a large audience that consisted of Somalis, Congolese and Rwandese refugees, as well as members of the community.

The campaign dubbed *Be Their Voice - Help Combat Modern Day Slavery* had BLU3 compose a song on the silent cries of victims of trafficking who have given up hope of having their freedom back. The song focuses on the three phases of trafficking: recruitment, transportation and exploitation. The audience was also provided with anti-trafficking information materials in Kiswahili, English, Rufumbira and Rwandese languages.



**Being their voice: BLU3 perform the campaign song at the Nakivale Resettlement Area, Isingiro district**

As part of the campaign, IOM, BLU3, and the Ugandan Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Control held radio talk shows on Radio Muhavura in Kisoro District and Radio Kinkinzi in Kanungu District. The talk shows enabled the panelists to have interactive discussions with members of the public about human trafficking and safe migration.

Ugandan pop idols Blu3 were appointed Goodwill Envoys for IOM Uganda to send messages on safe migration and the dangers of human trafficking.

## IOM NAIROBI LAUNCHES INFORMATION CAMPAIGN ON IRREGULAR MIGRATION

IOM Kenya in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), with support from the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU), and in partnership with the Government of Kenya, launched an information campaign aimed at warning migrants and potential migrants on the dangers of irregular migration and the legal alternatives available to them.

The \$20,000 information campaign is part of the EC funded IGAD project "*The East Africa Migration Route: Building Cooperation, Information Sharing and Developing Joint Practical Initiatives among Countries of Origin, Transit and Destination*". The current campaign seeks to build on an earlier message that aimed to build awareness on human trafficking in Kenya.

The campaign aims to: warn of the dangers of illegal migration by sea and by land; warn of the low success rate for those who claim asylum improperly and the dangers of exploitation; inform migrants that even if they migrate illegally they will only be able to do low-skilled work no matter how skilled they are; encourage education through 'highly skilled migrants schemes'; inform migrants of other legal ways in which to migrate; and, make transit migrants aware of all the possibilities available to them for returning to their country of origin.

Various radio dramas and skits about the dangers of irregular migration and advocating safe migration will be broadcast in one national and nine regional stations in Kenya. It is anticipated that at the end of the eight week campaign, the majority of potential migrants will have heard at least one or more of the messages, in the following languages: Kiswahili, Kikuyu, Kalenjin, Luo, Luhya, Kamba, Meru and Somali. The various FM radio stations which will air the messages are Citizen, Inooro, Chamgei, Mulembe, Ramogi, Musyi, Muuga, Frontier, and Star.

Due to the questions that are likely to be generated by the public during the course of the campaign, two call-in radio talk shows in Citizen Radio and one television show will be aired. Various concerns, especially labour export related, will be addressed.

## IOM NAIROBI RECEIVES \$5 MILLION TO RESPOND TO FOOD INSECURITY IN KENYA

IOM Kenya has received a commitment of a further \$5 million on behalf of the Government of Kenya from the Government of Japan to implement various programmes in the North Rift, North Eastern and North Western regions of Kenya.

The Deputy Chief of Mission for the Japanese Embassy in Kenya, Seiji Okada, said that once the \$5 million has been signed and disbursed, it will be used to fund a programme on an integrated response to food insecurity for vulnerable families in the North Rift, North Eastern and North Western regions. He stated that the synergy of the shelter and livelihoods programmes should contribute stability to the overall programme goals.

IOM's Regional Representative, Mr. Ashraf El Nour, said that the \$5 million TICAD funding will be used to implement livelihood, counter trafficking and psychosocial activities in the North Rift and Northern Kenya regions, mainly for the mobile populations in these regions.

The livelihood components of both projects will respond to the appeal made by President Mwai Kibaki on 16<sup>th</sup> January to the international community to step in and assist the government to address the food shortage that about 10 million Kenyans are facing.

## FROM AN IDP CAMP TO IOM FIELD ASSISTANT: NANCY WAIRIMU'S STORY OF HOPE

Nancy Wairimu, like many other Kenyans found herself homeless after the post election crisis in early 2008. She managed to seek refuge with her family in a camp coordinated and managed by IOM at the Eldoret show ground.

Life at the camp, she says, was not easy for her and her family as their means of livelihood had been destroyed during the violence. She was formerly a sales and marketing representative for a company in Eldoret.

While at the camp, Wairimu decided to find work in order to sustain her parents and siblings and she was able to seek employment as a store keeper with IOM at the Eldoret IDP camp.

It was here that she heard of the IOM Psychosocial Support Programme. Being an IDP herself, she understood the significant importance of conducting psychosocial counselling to IDPs. She sought interest in being part of the programme as a counsellor.

However, she did not have the required qualifications to go through the psychosocial training that IOM was carrying out; therefore, she resolved to go to college and take a course in counselling. After successfully completing her course, Nancy Wairimu now works as a field assistant with IOM. "IOM has changed my life. My journey just begun," she exclaims.

## UGANDAN PARLIAMENT PASSES THE PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS BILL

The Ugandan Parliament has passed the Prevention of Trafficking in Person's Bill 2009. The Bill which went to the house for the second reading was passed with overwhelming support from the members of Parliament. It has been sent to the Government Printers for the final printing after incorporating the few amendments.

It will be tabled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading after the Easter break and thereafter sent to the president of Uganda for endorsement. The focus of the bill is to combat trafficking in person, a contemporary manifestation of modern day slavery whose victims are predominantly women and children. The bill also seeks to provide for legislation necessary for criminalizing the offence of trafficking in persons.

It is also anticipated that the Bill will provide measures for the prevention and suppression of the offence of trafficking in persons and the prosecution of offenders as well as the provision of protection and assistance to victims of trafficking in persons with full respect of their rights. IOM Uganda has been a partner in facilitating the process of passing this private members bill since December 2006. Special thanks to the Ugandan Parliament, Uganda Women's Parliamentary Association, Law and Advocacy for Women in Uganda, Uganda Youth Development Link, the International Labour Organisation, and other members of the Uganda civil society fraternity.



Nancy Wairimu talks to a colleague at a stakeholder's meeting in Eldoret

## IOM NAIROBI HOLDS INTERNAL STAFF RETREAT



Participants of the IOM internal retreat

Last month, IOM Nairobi held a two day internal retreat to map the mission's way forward for the next years as well as review the MRF structure and its internal support systems.

The objectives of the retreat included team building, stock taking to facilitate moving towards the future and establishing a work plan for each unit in the mission, detailing activities and priorities for the next year.

During the opening of the workshop, MRF Nairobi's Regional Representative, Mr. Ashraf El Nour, reflected on the strengths and challenges MRF Nairobi faced in the past year with focus on the emergency response following the post election crisis in Kenya. "The emergency mood IOM went into established it as an agency capable of responding to crisis and post crisis recovery", he said. The mission has since widened its activities from health and resettlement programmes and few projects, to be part of national and regional scheme.

IOM also received well earned recognition from the Government of Kenya. The mission is now working closely with several government ministries, the UN Country Team, and donors and partners who provide IOM with the resources needed to carry out projects and activities. In order for IOM to maintain the same level of growth and donors as the past year, Mr. El Nour reminded the colleagues that the mission has more to do as there are lots of expectations regionally and locally.

The main outcome of the retreat was the planned preparation of a strategy document for 2009-2013, annual work plans for all service areas and a set of recommendations to improve the management support system. These outcomes are expected to guide the MRF for the years to come. Also key to the outcome of the retreat was the development of the regional mission

statement which is *to provide a reliable, flexible and responsive migration management resource facility to governments regional organizations and migrants in Eastern Africa*."

The retreat also developed the mission's objective which aims to address migration management priorities, while working closely with governments, regional organizations, UN partners, civil society and migrants.

The meeting also deliberated on a host of other issues intended to improve efficiency within the missions operations.

The internal retreat was followed by a staff meeting called by the regional representative, to share and inform the IOM Kenya staff on the outcome of the retreat.

"The retreat offered the senior management staff an opportunity to come together, take stock and develop a fresh outlook for the missions future projects and activities," Mr. El Nour told the staff. He elaborated to the staff the overview of IOM in the region, the activities that IOM had been pursuing in the past one year and the achievements in 2008. The regional representative also shared with staff the missions' vision for 2009 and allowed the staff to explore other possible areas of work and intervention for the mission.

The Regional Resource Management Officer Mr. Feridoon Barraghi shared the possible challenges ahead for the mission in 2009.

He set up recommendations on management support team to balance growth and quality. These recommendations include use of the internet, PRISM, developing career opportunities of staff members, training opportunities for staff, team building, improving working conditions of emergency contract staff, meeting with SAC on a regular basis and enabling Kenyan senior staff to participate in senior management team meetings.

Mr. El Nour thanked the staff for continued commitment and promised to look into the issues they raised during the meeting. "The biggest advantage for this mission is the staff that we have. We have the largest number of staff compared to all the MRFs and I want to thank you for your involvement and hard work," he said.