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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

IOM launches Cholera Response Project in the Rift Valley 1

Cycling for Peace: Rift Valley Youth put their Best Foot Forward to Promote Peace in the Region 2

Countering Human Trafficking: Private Employers in Kenya Map out their Role 3

Efforts Continue to Ensure Better Management of Kenya's border Posts with Somalia 3

Refugees in Umukulu Refugee camp, Eritrea, benefit from Cultural Orientation 4

Transit Sites Begin to Close Down as IDPs Move into their New Houses in the Rift Valley 4

IOM LAUNCHES AN EMERGENCY CHOLERA RESPONSE PROJECT IN RIFT VALLEY

IOM has deployed two mobile teams to respond to a cholera outbreak that started in January 2009 in the Rift valley and Western provinces in Kenya.



Open drainages such as this one are a constant risk to the spread of cholera

The cholera outbreak in Kenya has been spreading rapidly, including to geographical areas that are not endemic to cholera outbreaks. The presence of transitional internally-displaced populations (IDP) camps in parts of Rift Valley, with lack of clean water and poor hygiene and sanitation standards, poses an increased threat to the spread of the cholera and other diarrhoeal diseases.

The mobile teams have since their deployment on July 1st reached over 13,000 people with cholera prevention messages and held health promotion activities through community meetings and to school children through meetings organized by primary school head teachers.

The project launched in partnership with the District Health Medical Teams in the Rift Valley is promoting the prevention of cholera

and other diarrhoeal diseases throughout outreach activities that include community mobilization, health education, provision of Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS) and provision of treated potable water.

IOM has already conducted training for twelve participants in the Health Response and Peace-Building Response teams. The training that was done in collaboration with the Department of Health Promotion in the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation equipped the participants with communication and health promotion skills, developed communication plans relevant to the affected districts and conducted mapping of the affected districts.

Cholera Outbreak is spreading rapidly to areas that are not endemic to the disease

The project is funded through the United Nations Central Emergency Fund (CERF) and is implemented in collaboration with the World Health Organization.



Cholera communication training at IOM Eldoret. July 2009

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CYCLING FOR PEACE: YOUNG MEN IN LUGARI PUT THEIR BEST FOOT FORWARD TO PROMOTE PEACE IN THE RIFT VALLEY

Lugari District in the Rift Valley this month witnessed a rare peace initiative staged by IOM, local authority and the Lugari youth. In a “Youth for Peace” initiative, young men from the community came in large numbers to participate in a race with bicycles locally known as Bodaboda, with the aim to promote peace in their communities.

The 80km race drew 80 youth from various ethnic communities residing in Lugari and adjacent Eldoret West Districts. They came with their loved ones who cheered them on throughout the race.



The young men from Lugari came in their number to support peace initiatives in their District.

With support from the Officer in Charge of Lugari Police Division, the event organizers had an easy time as police controlled the traffic and the crowd of supporters. The race was sanctioned by the government of Kenya and supported by civic leaders from the area.



Friends and family came out in large numbers to cheer the cyclists



Winners went home with bicycle goodies

Winners of the event went home with new bicycles and bicycle parts, provided for by IOM.

The 80 km race drew 80 participants from Lugari District and adjacent Eldoret West District... Local residents described it as a rare peace initiative.

Participants in the race have all interacted at a personal level with IOM peace animators.

“This is the only organization that has been with us from the time we were IDPs back to our homes. Their effort does not go unappreciated...”

Bodaboda bicycles are the most popular means of transport that connects the main highways with the villages. While ferrying persons and goods, the young Bodaboda riders often engage their clientele in conversations which are loud enough to attract the attention of other pedestrians. The peace race aimed at creating a rapport with the cyclists, sensitise them alongside the community on the importance of peace, encourage them to pass peace messages to the people they serve and also to serve as ambassadors of peace in areas where IOM peace building team may not be able to reach.

IOM with funding from the Government of Japan and in partnership with the Government of Kenya, is leading the efforts to promote peace in the Rift Valley province.

COUNTERING HUMAN TRAFFICKING: PRIVATE EMPLOYERS MAP OUT THEIR ROLE

IOM Nairobi within the framework of countering human trafficking in Kenya project last month conducted a sensitization workshop for the Kenya Association of Private Employment Agencies (KAPEA). The workshop aimed at raising awareness on the role of private agencies in preventing labour related trafficking, in view of the fact that large number of trafficking cases in Kenya has been labour related.



IOM counter Trafficking officer, Alice Kimani addresses KAPEA participants during the training.

The workshop drew 35 participants from Nairobi and Mombasa where cases of labour related trafficking has been rampant. The workshop focused on the basic concepts and terminologies of trafficking in persons, regulatory framework for private employment agencies in Kenya, best practices in recruitment for private employment agencies, challenges experienced by private employment agencies, the role of the Ministry of Labour in regulation as well as the role of the ministry of youth in foreign employment.

KAPEA is an umbrella body which provides a regulatory framework for private recruitment agencies. Membership to KAPEA is voluntary and comprises of 40 or so active agencies.

The Ministry of Labour was represented by Ms Hellen Apiyo, a Labour Officer who highlighted the Ministry's role in promoting safe migration as a means of preventing labour related trafficking. Also present was a representative from the Ministry of Youth Affairs. IOM hopes to continue building the capacity of KAPEA members in order to enhance their recruitment processes.

EFFORTS CONTINUE TO ENSURE BETTER MANAGEMENT OF KENYA'S BORDER POSTS WITH SOMALIA

Efforts to ensure security and better management of Kenya's border posts with Somalia continue as IOM Somalia conducts migration management training for Somali immigration officers and members of the Somalia police force.

The two day training held last month was a follow up in a series of migration management workshops that are laying groundwork for a training of trainers workshop that is scheduled for mid august 2009.

The training addressed migration and security issues on effective border management, counter terrorism, document examination and traveler profiling.

While opening the training workshop, the deputy chief of mission at the Japanese Embassy in Kenya, Mr. Seiji Okanda reiterated the commitment of the Government of Japan towards rebuilding Somalia through projects aimed at improving security initiated by international agencies like IOM and other UN organizations.

Participants to the workshop included the directorate of immigration and naturalization at the Mogadishu Airport, the consulate of the Somalia embassy in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. The Government of Kenya was represented by the Assistant Deputy Director of Immigration Services Mr. Joseph Munyoki, while consular Mohamed Osman represented the Embassy of Somalia.

The workshop was funded under the Japanese government through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development.



Participants to the migration management training workshop held on 28th and 29th July 2009

**REFUGEES IN UMUKULU CAMP IN ERITREA
BENEFIT FROM CULTURAL ORIENTATION**

MRF Nairobi last month conducted cultural orientation for 120 Australia and Canada bound Somali refugees at the Umukulu refugee camp in Eritrea. This was the second cultural orientation to have been conducted in Eritrea since 2007.

The refugees who were resettled to Australia and Canada soon after the orientation consisted 20 children, the largest number of children to have received cultural orientation at ago, in the history of cultural orientations done by the MRF Nairobi team.

“It has never been easy for us to access and train such a big group of children at ago. This training was a success for us the children’s class was easy to manage due to the choice of venue. The camp is a place they are all familiar with.”



Children formed part of the group that benefited from CO

Umukulu refugee camp hosts Somali refugees from the Madiban tribe, who migrated to Djibouti following the ousting of Siad Barre in 1992. They latter crossed from Djibouti to Eritrea in 1993 in search of better protection and job opportunities, and settled in Assab, the second largest port city of Eritrea. Due to the influx of refugees, UNHCR established a camp 20km south of Assab but was forced to close down and relocate refugees to Umukulu, following the Ethiopia-Eritrea war in 1998. The camp currently hosts 4000 refugees and continues to witness new monthly arrivals.



A view of the Umukulu refugee camp in Eritrea

**TRANSIT SITES BEGIN TO CLOSE DOWN AS IDPs
MOVE INTO THEIR NEW HOUSES**

Transit sites are closing down in the Rift Valley as returning IDPs move into their newly constructed shelters. IOM Eldoret field office has completed the construction of 1600 shelters out of the targeted 8000 shelters in affected areas in the Province.

The sites have already closed down in Kiimbaa (one of the areas adversely affected by the post election violence), Kimuri, Jasho, Tanning, Camp Thomas, Soy, Kamagut, Malel, Mafuta farm, Kipkenyo, Kokwet, Kilimani and Kapyemit.

With help from non-displaced communities, the shelter beneficiaries’ are now back to the farms, where they were violently evicted following the post election crisis in early 2008.

“It has been very encouraging to see the beneficiaries appreciate the houses by constructing the walls with mud and moving in immediately...”

During a prayer event held by returning IDPs in Kimuri location last month, Bishop Cornelius Korir of the Eldoret diocese encouraged the community to uphold peace. The prayer event was also attended by the non-displaced community members who helped demolish tents and welcome their neighbours back home.



Transit sites such as this one in Kimuri could be spotted in adversely affected areas in the Rift Valley. IOM provided timber and iron sheets that were used to construct shelters for returning IDPs.

IOM, with 7 million dollars funding from the government of Japan aims at constructing a total of 8000 low cost shelters for identified IDPs in the four adversely affected districts in the Rift valley. Other earmarked projects with this funding, include; psychosocial support, livelihood and peace building initiatives.