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THE GOVERNMENT OF BURUNDI AND IOM SIGN A COMPREHENSIVE COOPERATION AGREEMENT



IOM Regional Representative for East and Central Africa, Mr. Ashraf El Nour, and the Burundi Minister of External Relations and International Cooperation, H.E. Augustin Nsanze, exchange notes during the signing ceremony.

IOM and the Government of Burundi, through its Ministry of External Relations and International Cooperation, have signed a comprehensive cooperation agreement aimed at paving way for more IOM presence in Burundi and growing contribution to the country's peace consolidation and development programmes.

The agreement follows Burundi's recent entry into the East African Community (EAC) integration process, and is engaged in the effort to effectively shape and manage a common market and enable the free movement of people and goods within the EAC region.

IOM has been implementing quite a number of projects in Burundi, providing resettlement assistance up to 1,600 refugees since 2006 and voluntary return assistance to its nationals residing in European countries since 2009.

A Japan TICAD funded pilot-project on "Building Capacity to Manage Migration in the Great Lakes Region- Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania" was successfully completed in August 2009, that provided the Burundi Immigration Department with modern equipment for two

border posts, training for 33 immigration officers on harmonized border procedures, and installation of a training facility in Bujumbura Immigration Department Headquarters.

Migration and Development in Africa (MIDA) programme has also been under implementation in Burundi, and recently launched its three-year phase IV activities (2010-2012) in the Great Lakes region, that is aimed at helping Europe-based qualified nationals of Burundi, DRC and Rwanda to contribute to their home countries' and region's development.

This MIDA phase IV is currently launching eight projects focusing on knowledge and skills transfer in targeted key areas such as education, health, and rural development.

Burundi has been an IOM member state since November 2007, shares with IOM the principle of acting together for humane and orderly migration that respects migrants' dignity and promotes benefits of host and origin countries. Migration is nowadays coming high in policy-makers' and public's attention at the national and international level"

Ashraf El Nour,
IOM Regional Representative

A "Capacity Building for a Migration Policy in Burundi" project has recently been approved and funded by the IOM 1035 Facility to start implementation in early March 2010.

Under the Burundi Ministry of Interior's request and leadership, the project aims at putting in place an inter-ministerial committee to address the country's urgent need for a comprehensive national migration policy.

IOM OFFICIALLY INAUGURATES WAUNIFOR PEACE CENTRE IN THE RIFT VALLEY PROVINCE AND CLOSES THE SHELTER AND LIVELIHOODS FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION PROGRAMME



The Assistant Minister for the Ministry of Special Programmes, Hon. Mohamud Ali Mohamed, officially opens the Waunifor Peace Centre, an outcome of the Peace building programme in Eldoret East District.

The International Organization for Migration has received accolades from the Government of Kenya, the Government of Japan as well as the United Nations for work well done in facilitating the recovery and reintegration of returning IDPs and the host community in the North Rift Valley of Kenya.

During the launch of the most anticipated Waunifor Peace Center in Eldoret East District in the North Rift, peace messages prevailed among the communities that were adversely affected by the ethnic violence that followed the 2007 general elections.

The center, one of its kind in Kenya, was inspired by the necessity to create a non violent space and enhance a peaceful resolution to conflict among the various ethnic communities in Waunifor, promoting unity in diversity. Two other similar peace centers are being constructed in Lugari and Wareng Districts of the Rift Valley. The peace centers will act as hubs where peace building initiatives and activities/trainings will take place for the benefit of the community.

The Japanese Ambassador to Kenya, H.E Shigeo Iwatani, acknowledged the effort that was put in the construction of the peace center and other projects undertaken by IOM.

"After observing all the projects whose culmination we are witnessing here today, I am pleased to say that it has been a great success"

Ambassador Iwatani

In January 2009, IOM, through funding from the Government of Japan and in close cooperation with the Ministry of State for Special Programmes, sought to support recovery efforts and help bring back stability to the livelihoods of the families affected by the post election violence in the Rift Valley Province.

This programme was implemented in six districts and provided low cost housing for up to 8,470 families. Both agricultural and non-agricultural livelihood support was provided to 10,000 families across the districts. The peace building and reconciliation component, which formed the bedrock for the programme, reached out to at least 200,000 affected people, provided 12 small grants to local peace organizations, and constructed three "Peace Centres" to demonstrate the effect of building a culture of peace among communities that experienced violent conflict.

The Assistant Minister in the Ministry of State for Special Programmes Hon. Mohamed Ali Mohamud in his speech also gave great compliments to IOM.

"IOM has and will continue to play an important role in the overall stabilization of displaced and vulnerable populations as this is fully in keeping with IOM's mandate, which is to manage migration for the benefit of all. In this regard, I wish to thank IOM for a job well done"

Hon. Mohamud Ali, Assistant Minister, MoSSP

The ceremony was also attended by the UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Aeneas Chuma, Member of Parliament for Eldoret East, Hon. Prof. Kamar, Director of Mitigation & Resettlement, Mr. Wilfred K. Ndolo, UNIDO Country Representative, Mr. Alexander Varghese, representatives from FAO, Africa Development Alternatives, and provincial administration among others.

"I must commend the excellent work carried out by the IOM Eldoret Team and the leadership provided by the Government of Kenya and funding that has enabled all this, by the Government of Japan. The United Nations family which IOM is part of, will endeavor to support and work with the Government of Kenya and other well wishers to implement courses such as this. I am impressed with the work we have witnessed today."

Aeneas Chuma, UN Resident Coordinator



Assistant Minister for MoSSP, Hon. Mohamud Ali Mohamed, Area MP Prof. Margaret Kamar, and Ambassador of Japan Shigeo Iwatani recite the Pledge for Peace during the inauguration ceremony of the Waunifor Peace Centre

IOM DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL VISITS MRF NAIROBI



The Minister for Immigration & Registration of Persons thanks the DDG for the support that IOM has provided in the framework of numerous projects, and requests at the same time to continue the good bilateral cooperation and collaboration with a view to the future challenges within the regional area of free movement of persons and goods between Kenya and the other EAC partner countries.

IOM's Deputy Director General, Ambassador Laura Thompson recently paid a six day visit to MRF Nairobi Kenya in order to better acquaint herself with the mission, its programmes/activities as well as understand first hand IOM's structure from within during her first months of assignment as the DDG. The visit also marked her first to IOM in Africa, where she was also provided with the opportunity to meet various officials from the Government of Kenya, the UN as well as donors, of which IOM closely works with in the region.

During her visit, the DDG met with the Minister for Immigration & Registration of Persons, Hon. Otieno Kajwang', and officially handed over four Toyota Land cruisers, donated by the Japanese and the Danish Governments, equipped with state-of-the-art radio communication equipment, for Liboi and Mandera Border Posts. At the same time, some urgently needed IT and radio communication equipment, supporting Immigration officers to process cross-border movements more quickly and to gather data and information on regular migration to and from the country, will be installed at Moyale and Lwakhakha Border Posts, at the common border with Ethiopia.

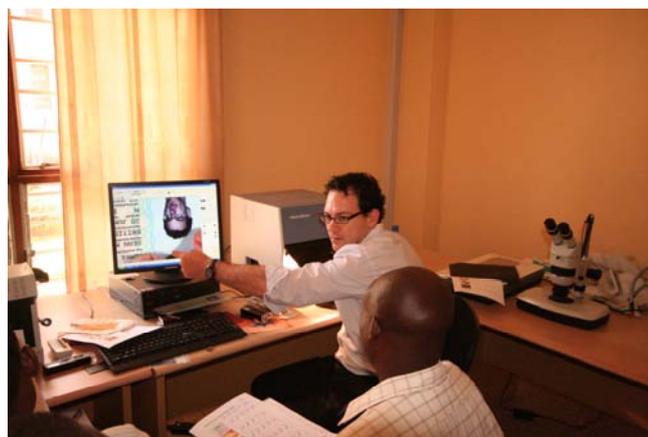
The Minister and government officials expressed their concerns about the predominately uncontrolled influx of peoples across their borders, where the DDG affirmed that IOM will continue to provide technical assistance and support to the Government of Kenya, in order to enhance the capacity of national immigration services to face the challenges in migration and border management in the dawn of a new era, with the free movement of persons and goods across the borders within the five partner countries of the East African Community.

TRAINING OF TRAINERS WORKSHOP AT THE AFRICA CAPACITY BUILDING CENTRE, MOSHI

The use of fraudulent documents is a widespread trend and often linked to human smuggling and trafficking of persons. Thus, the identification of false documents, as well as establishing of clear and profound evidences for such alterations or falsifications in travel documents is a key tool for Immigration and Police Services, in order to effectively tackle criminal networks and successfully intercept offenders. Due to its well developed transport infrastructure, Kenya has increasingly become a hub for international smuggling and trafficking rings, which puts high pressure on the officers working at the migration counters at the international airports and border crossing points to the neighboring countries.

It is due to the foregoing that a training workshop was designed for the Kenyan Immigration Service, Administration Police as well as officers from the Criminal Investigation Department, to equip them with the requisite knowledge and skills on identification of fraudulent documents at the Africa Capacity Building Centre (ACBC) in Moshi, Tanzania.

The two week training of trainers that took place in February empowered participants with knowledge on security features and advanced printing technology that is currently being used by fraudsters, as well as the ability to train their colleagues in the course of the service-intern training programme.



ACBC Training Specialist Mr. Sean Burke demonstrates the use of state-of-the-art document examination equipment, in order to check security features and applied printing technology in current travel documents used worldwide.

The ACBC is a valuable and promising capacity building centre for the entire African continent with cutting-edge border management equipment to assist in delivering training for border and immigration officials.

The close cooperation and collaboration of the ACBC with international experts on document fraud, in particular with the Airline Liaison Officers, ensures that the training curriculum is constantly updated and new trends and developments are included in the training modules.

IOM BEGINS SHELTER CONSTRUCTION FOR IDPs RETURNING TO KENYA’S RIFT VALLEY PROVINCE



Hon. Shaban officially launches the shelter construction of the ADB funded programme which aims to provide three roomed houses to returning internally displaced persons in the Rift Valley who were affected by the 2007 post election violence

A month after signing an agreement with the government, IOM has completed over 1,100 of 1,784 shelters for internally displaced people (IDPs) returning to Burnt Forest, a town in the Uasin Gishu district of the Rift Valley.

The shelters are part of a US\$ 1.89 million IOM shelter construction project funded by the African Development Bank through Kenya’s Ministry of State for Special Programmes (MoSSP) to build 5,184 shelters in five Rift Valley locations. The 1,784 shelters are among the first lot to be constructed by IOM.

The shelters, which are scheduled for completion by June 2010, will be built in Rugiri, Lorian, Kamuyu, Rokoine and the greater Burnt Forest area.

The area experienced massive displacement and loss of property following recurrent election violence that began in May 2008. Thousands of families subsequently fled to IDP transit camps.

Construction of the new, three-roomed shelters began in January and similar to the initial shelters that IOM constructed in the past, are made of timber with mud walls and iron sheets for the roof. The improvement to the model include fascia boards, which prevent rain water from directly hitting the walls and also provide support for gutters, which channel rainwater into 500 litre water tanks.

Speaking during the project launch, the Minister of State for Special Programmes, Hon. Dr. Naomi Shaban, acknowledged the effort put in by IOM, adding that the organization was ready for more work.

Ms. Joy Muriithi, Deputy Director of the ADB Division within the Ministry of Finance, commended IOM’s effort within the shelter construction.

I came here to assess the work that has been done with the money we looked for and my report back to the ministry is that work is going on well,”
Joy Muriithi

The shelter construction project also includes a peace-building component, encouraging community dialogue and sports for young returnees. This will be implemented by IOM Kenya’s peace and conflict prevention team, which includes 20 peace animators and 800 volunteers recruited as part of an earlier program funded by Japan.



The three-roomed shelters under the ADB funding include fascia boards and provide support for gutters to channel rainwater into 500 plastic water tanks.

Since the onset of the post elections violence in January 2008, IOM has worked closely with the Government of Kenya – specifically the MoSSP – to support recovery efforts and help bring back stability to the livelihoods of the affected families in the Rift Valley. Through the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) IOM constructed in 2008 700 low-cost houses in Molo, Uasin Gishu and Lugari Districts. Furthermore, the Government of Japan availed recovery funding to construct 8,000 units of low cost shelters, support livelihoods and bring about peace, the MoSSP identified IOM as the agency to implement this programme on its behalf.



Hon. Dr. Naomi Shaban, Minister of State for Special Programmes inspects the shelters constructed by IOM in Kamuyu Division Uasin Gishu District