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IOM KENYA HOLDS AN INPUT FAIR FOR FARMERS IN THE RIFT VALLEY



Farmers line up to purchase farm inputs at a seed fair in Uasin Gishu, Rift Valley Province

IOM Kenya last month hosted a Seeds Fair for farmers displaced during the post election crisis and vulnerable host communities in Uasin Gishu District, in the Rift Valley Province. The Seed Fair, a first of its kind for IOM globally, is part of the livelihoods component of the Japanese funded *Shelter and Livelihoods for Peace Building Programme*, that is being implemented by IOM.

The Seeds Fair, which will be replicated in three other affected districts in the Rift valley, is IOM's response to boost agricultural production, promote durable agricultural solutions and diversify agricultural activities in the Rift Valley, which is historically an agriculturally productive region.

IOM targeted 5,200 farmers who were given vouchers worth Ksh. 7,500 to facilitate the purchase of vegetable seedlings, fruit seedlings, agro-chemicals and fertilizers. Vouchers were handed over to the beneficiaries who in turn are exchanging them with various farming inputs.

While closing the seven day Seeds Fair, Kenya's Minister in the Ministry of State for Special Programmes, Hon. Dr. Naomi Shaban, thanked IOM for the continued commitment in ensuring returning IDPs and the host community had a

means of livelihood. She reminded farmers of the significance of the Rift Valley as the country's bread basket and discouraged them against selling their inputs. She also thanked the Government of Japan for the funding that facilitated the Seeds Fair.

The Japanese Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Shigeo Iwatani, reiterated the importance of peace in the region and in Kenya as a country.

"Food insecurity has been a threatening challenge and each farmer should benefit from this Seeds Fair and improve their livelihood. In order to achieve complete harmony, the three components of the programme; shelters, livelihoods and peace building, need to be tackled together for a durable solution," he said

Kenya is experiencing widespread food insecurity with 1.2 million people in dire need of food assistance and an estimated 70% of the overall population affected by rising food prices.

In view of the fact that not all people affected or displaced by the post election crisis were farmers, IOM Kenya is also scheduled to hold a non-agricultural livelihood initiative in identified areas in the Rift Valley.



Hon. Dr. Naomi Shaban and H.E Shigeo Iwatani are shown seedlings that were available for farmers at the Seed Fair

IOM KENYA HELPS IN DRAFTING KENYA'S DRAFT MIGRATION POLICY



Hon. Otieno Kajwang addresses participants at a stakeholder's workshop that was debating the draft National Migration Policy

Kenya's Minister in the Ministry of Immigration and Registration of Persons, Hon. Otieno Kajwang, last month presented for debate a draft National Migration Policy, developed by IOM in Kenya, in a ground breaking ceremony held in Nairobi.

The draft policy was presented on the first day of a two day *Stakeholders' Workshop on the Immigration Policy for Kenya*. The workshop, which brought together more than 25 national stakeholders, of which included judiciary, other Ministries and governmental agencies, public service providers, as well as International Organizations and Embassies interested in migration management in Kenya, aimed at addressing gaps in Kenya's National Migration Policy, which has not been reviewed since the 1950s.

The workshop was designed to provide an overview of the draft migration policy in Kenya and to create a platform for inter-ministerial discussions on it. The draft, developed through the assistance of IOM, will be enhanced with the provided input and comments made by the stakeholders before being forwarded to the cabinet and to the Kenyan Parliament for approval.

Speaking while opening the stakeholders' workshop, the Immigration Minister, Hon. Otieno Kajwang, acknowledged IOM's initiative in spearheading the development of the draft policy.

"The draft policy that we have laid for debate should support broad national economic, social and human interests through effective border policing while still encouraging international trade, foreign investments, social interaction and regional integration..."

Hon Otieno Kajwang, Kenyan Minister for Immigration and Registration of persons

In light of the current migration challenges in Kenya, IOM's Regional Representative for East and Central Africa, Mr. Ashraf El Nour, underscored the importance of a migration policy that addresses the migration concerns in the country. *"Our collaboration with Ministry of Immigration and Registration of Persons since 2004 has brought forth several achievements including conducting of legal and regulatory review of migration policies, establishing a resource and training center at the Ministry of Immigration, and developing immigration procedures for Kenya to all front line immigration officials."* said Mr. El Nour.

The drafting of the migration policy is one component of the IOM project, *Capacity Building in Migration Management: Enhancing Migration Coordination and Safety in Kenya*, funded by the Danish Embassy

In his closing remarks, the Director of Immigration Services, Amb. Musasia, pointed out the importance of having achieved a broad consensus on the new Immigration Policy within two days.

"The numerous comments and recommendations made by the different stakeholders have clearly shown that immigration is in the core interest of many ministries, other law enforcement agencies and even the judiciary, which requires close cooperation among these stakeholders in order to avoid inconsistencies or even contradictions with other legal provisions and regulations." said Amb. Musasia

Amb. Musasia also confirmed his intention to follow a similar drafting process on ongoing policy development initiatives, as well as future drafting of a national legislation related to migration issues, to ensure coherency and effectiveness of the proposed legal provisions.



IOM's regional Representative Mr. El Nour addresses the stakeholder's workshop

EFFORTS BEGIN TO IMPROVE COUNSELLING OF TRAFFICKED CHILDREN IN TANZANIA



Participants in the consultation workshop pose for a photo outside the Regional Immigration Training Academy

A two-day consultation last month between the Tanzanian Government and non-governmental (NGO) partners involved in countering child trafficking in the country focused on how to improve the counselling of rescued child victims.

Jointly hosted by IOM and Tanzanian NGO Mkombozi, which has built up significant experience in supporting the mental health of over 1,000 vulnerable street children in the Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions, the consultation on 22-23 June in Moshi aimed to provide basic guidance on the principles of counselling for all those engaged in fighting human trafficking in the country.

The consultation was a much needed opportunity to strengthen an important aspect of the counter-trafficking response, in view of the limited HIV/AIDS counselling experts in Tanzania.

Although there is little knowledge and awareness of human trafficking in Tanzania or of its true scale, the significant rural-urban migration in recent decades has led to a large demand for rural children to work mainly as domestic labourers in burgeoning towns and cities.

With children often trafficked by a family member or close family friends, the betrayal by someone who was supposed to care and provide for the child leaves a victim facing a multitude of emotions including anger, distrust, depression, shame, guilt and isolation. Child victims also become emotionally withdrawn, lose self-confidence, anxious and subject to nervous breakdowns.

Although IOM and its partners have assisted 237 victims of trafficking since December 2005, the need for tailored counselling programmes for child victims by well-trained counsellors has now become urgent.

Funded by the US State Department, GTIP Office, the consultation took place at the newly created Regional Immigration Training Academy (TRITA) in Moshi.

AU INITIATIVE AGAINST TRAFFICKING CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

IOM Ethiopia, in partnership with the African Union and other partners, last month launched a campaign, *Let's Combat Trafficking in Human Beings Especially Women and Children: 2009-2012*. The campaign intends to set the pace for the fight against trafficking in human beings as a priority on the agenda of the continent.

The launch aimed at raising awareness of the media and Civil Society Organizations (CSO) in Africa, AU member states and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to put trafficking at the top of the national agenda as well as inform policy makers and LAW enforcement agencies about the Ouagadougou Action Plan to combat trafficking in human beings, especially women and children, adopted by the AU Executive Council in January 2007.

Trafficking in human beings should be dealt with using legal provisions and stiffer penalties raised on child exploitation.

Bience Gawanas, Commissioner for Social Affairs of the AU Commission

South Africa's Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, H.E. Major General Lungile C. Pepani, expressed concern on possibility of increased vulnerability of young girls and women to human trafficking during the World Cup football tournament scheduled to be held in South Africa in 2010. He called on Africa's leaders and citizens to ensure that the continent's moment of eminence does not impact negatively on women and children.



Richard Danziger, the Head of Counter Trafficking and Assisted Voluntary Returns Service (CTS/AVR) Department in Geneva, addresses participants at the launch

A follow up regional workshop on awareness raising and establishing a road map for the AU member states, RECs and CSOs is scheduled to take place latter this year.

The partners in this initiative include IOM, United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UNICEF, UNHCR, International Labour Organization (ILO), UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), EU Delegation to African Union, and US Delegation to the African Union.

IOM TO IMPLEMENT AVRR OF SOMALI NATIONALS FROM UK TO SOMALILAND

The UK government with IOM London is set to resume Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) of Somalilanders to Somaliland through IOM Hargeisa. IOM Hargeisa will play a support role in transport, follow-ups, reception, monitoring and evaluation of the programme.

This was the outcome of a two day meeting between the IOM London team, AVR/CT Team from Geneva, MRF Nairobi officials, the Government of Somaliland, UK Border Agency representative from London and representatives of the British Government in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



All stakeholders were well represented in the consultative meeting

The meeting was called to discuss the possibility of resuming AVRR Programme of Somalilanders from the UK to Somaliland. IOM explained the programme to the Government of Somaliland to improve their understanding and allay the concern that returnees would exert additional pressure on already scarce resources in Somaliland. The returnees are expected to receive individual reintegration, and this reintegration assistance will also have a community component according to the community needs of where the returnee is returning. The Somaliland Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Recovery will be the technical counterpart and IOM's main partner under VARRP-UK. The first referral case to Somaliland comes into effect as of 1st July 2009.

IOM SIGNS A LETTER OF AGREEMENT WITH UNDP SOMALIA TO IMPLEMENT QUESTS-MIDA PROJECT

IOM Somalia Support Office has signed an amendment to a Letter of Agreement with UNDP Somalia to facilitate the implementation of joint project on Qualified Expatriate Somali Technical Support–Migration for Development in Africa (QUESTS-MIDA). This amendment brings the total amount of the project to 752,000 USD.

Based on IOM's expertise in Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA), and the existing framework that IOM operates in under MIDA, UNDP seeks to utilize and maximize on IOM's capacity to implement QUESTS-MIDA.

QUEST-MIDA carries on a QUESTS project that UNDP Somalia had been implementing for nearly four years and aims at providing Somali Diaspora professionals residing legally in North America, the UK and the Nordic region with an opportunity to help in the development of Somalia. The project will foresee the temporary return of qualified Diaspora in the fields of local governance and institutional development, including human resource development and public financial management. This will be done mainly through peer-to-peer/on the job training and supporting institutional development and capacity building in other governance projects.

The project will also make valuable use of IOM's operational capacity to engage networks of Somalis in the Diaspora through IOM's missions including MRF Washington, DC, MRF London, and MRF Helsinki. There will be a QUESTS-MIDA Diaspora Liaison Assistant in each of these offices.

IOM JOINS REFUGEES IN MARKING THE WORLD REFUGEE DAY

This year's commemoration of the World Refugee Day was marked with pomp and colour by organizations working with refugees as well as the refugee community in Kenya. This year's theme, *Real People, Real Needs*, was appropriate for the event in view of the challenges faced by refugees away from their home.

IOM Kenya joined fifteen other organizations that work with refugees to mark this day. IOM was able to show case services offered to refugees in lieu of resettlement including cultural orientation services, pre-departure medical assessments and resettlement.

The event was highly covered by the media and officiated by the Kenyan Minister of Immigration and Registration of Persons, Hon. Otieno Kajwang.

Separately, IOM indulged a number of refugees currently staying at the IOM transit center in Nairobi while awaiting resettlement. They had an opportunity to prepare and showcase their traditional food as well as display handcraft, woven mats, bedcovers and other cultural items. A skit on life at the camps was also presented by a group of Transit Centre residents. Children also had the opportunity to enjoy their day with a bouncing castle and face painting.



Hon. Otieno Kajwang, Kenyan Minister of Immigration and Registration of Persons, learns of IOM's services offered to refugees and IDPs at the IOM booth

RESETTLING RETURNING IDPS: IOM ELDORET FIELD OFFICE SETS THE PACE

Following the post-election violence and the ensuing displacements, IOM through the Emergency and Post Crisis Unit in Geneva, deployed a team to respond to the Kenya Crisis. The humanitarian emergency was evolving fast as election protests and counter protests spread throughout the country. IOM in Kenya moved fast in response to the emergency with focus on the Rift Valley, which was largely affected, and started work in Eldoret on 3rd January 2008.



IOM was fast to respond to the quickly evolving humanitarian crisis

The magnitude of response required in the Rift Valley following the election skirmishes led to the establishment of an IOM field office in Eldoret, in the Rift Valley and with strong backing from the Emergency and Post Crisis Unit in Nairobi, the Eldoret team played key roles in supporting recovery activities in the Rift Valley. The Role of IOM in Eldoret has extensively been recognized by the Government of Kenya and Various donor agencies, which have overtime supported IOM in the recovery phase for the benefit of returning IDPs and host communities.

The Emergency response mounted by IOM was done in collaboration with the Government of Kenya, Kenya Red Cross Society and UN agencies. IOM during this period signed a MoU with the Kenya Red Cross Society and to this end was extensively involved in camp coordination and camp management which included setting up camps for the IDPs, registration of IDPs, and logistical support, with funding from the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund. Additionally, IOM provided transportation for IDPs to and from the camps during the emergency and post emergency periods.

Within the quickly evolving humanitarian crisis, the effects of gender based violence, physical and psychosocial trauma, displacement, loss of livelihoods and access to services on the affected populations needed to be identified and addressed. From the onset, IOM initiated the much needed psychosocial support outreach program and in "June 08" IOM received funding from Norwegian Embassy to continue this outreach.

With return to normalcy and government led initiative to have IDPs return to their homes (Operation Rudi Nyumbani), many returnees had no houses to move into and most pitched camps in transit sites near their homes. IOM led in assisting voluntary

returns and with funding from the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (UN CERF), facilitated the construction of 700 low cost shelters for returnees and affected host communities in selected areas in Uasin Gishu, Lugari and Molo.



IOM is helping to put up shelters for returning IDPs in the Rift valley

Further funding from the Government of Japan in January 2009 for USD 7 million is currently implementing a *Shelter and Livelihoods for Peace and Reconciliation* project in the Rift Valley. The project is funding the construction of 8,000 low cost semi-permanent shelters in Uasin Gishu, Lugari, Trans Zoia East and Trans Zoia West, providing livelihood options for 10,000 households and promoting an overall culture of peace through the creation of four Peace Centers.

IOM has already established livelihood activities and has so far held an input fair for farmers in Uasin Gishu District, in the Rift Valley. IOM targeted 5,200 farmers who were given vouchers worth Ksh. 7,500 to facilitate the purchase of vegetable seedlings, fruit seedlings, agro-chemicals and fertilizers. Similar activities will be replicated in three other affected Districts. Non-agricultural livelihood boost will also be offered for non-farmers.



Farmers in Uasin Gishu benefited from a seed fair organized by IOM

The peace building initiative is considered the bed rock of IOM's recovery response in the Rift Valley. Twenty peace animators have already been engaged to work with the returnees and host communities in this regard.

The IOM Eldoret field Office has a committed team of 75 staff members that's composed of 20 peace animators, 20 shelter support team, nine people in the livelihood team, 8 in psychosocial support and 15 office based support staff.