



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 OPENS AN OFFICE IN DJIBOUTI



IOM Djibouti office was opened by the Regional Representative Mr. Ashraf El Nour

The International Organization for Migration has opened an office in Djibouti. IOM signed a Country Cooperation Agreement with the Government of Djibouti, effectively adding Djibouti to the number of IGAD member countries where IOM is operational in the region.

Djibouti has unique migration challenges owing to its location at the crossroads linking Europe, Asia and Africa. It is also a gateway from the horn of Africa to the Middle East and although not documented, is increasingly becoming a source and transit country for movements across the Gulf of Aden and beyond. The move to establish a presence in Djibouti therefore will see IOM expand its activities in the horn of Africa.

Djibouti is increasingly becoming a source and transit country for movements across the Gulf of Aden

In his inauguration remarks, the IOM regional representative for East and Central Africa Mr. Ashraf El Nour said that together with the

Government of Djibouti, IOM will aim at reinforcing Djibouti's border and migration management regime. "The main activities will include a capacity building training in migration and border management for senior government officials; conduct a technical border assessment for appropriate policy and operational response, profiling irregular migrants residing in or transiting through Djibouti as well as strengthening existing task force on migration, said Mr. El Nour.

Migration is currently becoming a major cross-cutting issue in national programmes as well as in regional agendas and IOM is actively supporting the incorporation of migration issues within regional policies. IOM has already implemented a program to improve migration management in the IGAD region through funding from the European Commission.

The importance of an IOM presence in Djibouti has to be acknowledged, as Djibouti is an important step in the mixed migration route to Yemen. In addition to the interest from the Djiboutian government, there is a clear lack of agencies and therefore a gap where IOM can fit.

**Charles Kwenin,
Chief of Mission, IOM SLM Ethiopia**

The inauguration was attended by the Djibouti government authorities, the US and French Ambassadors in Djibouti as well as representatives of international and regional organizations working in Djibouti.

The new IOM premises is temporarily located within the Ministry of Employment offices, at the Cité Ministérielle, government building.

IOM CONDUCTS MIXED MIGRATION TRAINING IN BOSASSO CITY

IOM NAIROBI CONDUCTS A NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP



Participants of the MMTF training workshop in Bossaso City

IOM Puntland, in collaboration with the Somalia Mixed Migration Task Force (MMTF) and IOM Nairobi, last month conducted a 3 day inaugural training workshop in Bosasso.

Members of the MMTF participating in the workshop were UNOCHA and UNHCR. The opening ceremony was attended by the Mayor of Bosasso City. The Governor of Bari Region handed out certificates to participants at the closing of the workshop.

In view of this objective and as a result of an assessment carried out in Puntland by MMTF, it was recommended by all the members to hold a training workshop on Mixed Migration. This training would be aimed to increase the capacities and knowledge of the Migration Response Centre (MRC), which was established in April with IOM support, local NGOs, and traditional leaders/elders in order to further clarify the referral and emergency response system.

The training proved successful for IOM in terms of the results achieved by the attendants as well as the participation from various partners. Authorities in Puntland appreciated IOM's continued efforts in the region. The training hopefully will consolidate MMTF cooperation and lead to more activities of this kind among member agencies and organizations.

MMTF was created in 2007 with the objective of providing a clear strategic direction for improving responses to protection and humanitarian needs of migrants and asylum seekers transiting through Somalia.



The Governor of Bari Region hands out certificates to participants

IOM conducted a capacity building, needs assessment and strategic planning workshop for senior Somali government officers.

The workshop, part of a CBMM project funded by the Japanese government through TICAD, was held on the 13-14 May in Nairobi and drew participation from the various departments with migration functions in Somalia.

The workshop, being the first of its kind, aimed at sensitizing the participants on the importance and relevance of effective migration management while helping the participants to identify needs and possible solutions to the challenges of migration facing Somalia.



MRF Nairobi's CBMM consultant, Mr Mbole, and the participants of the workshop from various departments with migration functions in Somalia

IOM aims at assisting South Central Somalia to enhance migration management through capacity building and policy development, rehabilitation of border control points, building a training center for immigration officials and countering human trafficking and smuggling.

While closing the workshop, the Somalia Ambassador to Kenya, H.E Mohammed Nur, thanked IOM for its continued assistance to the management of migration in Somalia. *"I hope that the participants are now better placed to perform their duties after the training. I would also like to appeal to IOM to offer capacity building to the human resource capacity of Somali, to better manage migration."* He said.

A follow up training workshop for immigration officers and members of the Somalia Police force is planned for the second half of June 2009.

IOM CONDUCTS AWARENESS RAISING WORKSHOP IN LUNGA LUNGA

KENYA IN COUNTRY NETWORK INAUGURAL MEETING ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE



SOLWODI Kenya representative training participants on combating human trafficking

IOM, in partnership with Solidarity with Women in Distress Kenya (SOLWODI-K) and the Catholic Justice Peace Commission (CJPC), conducted a capacity building and awareness raising workshop for government representatives, civil society and community leaders on human trafficking. The participants were drawn from the Kenya-Tanzania border divisions of Lunga Lunga and Jua kali, Msambweni district at the Kenyan coast.

The workshop’s overall objective was to raise awareness and enhance prevention of human trafficking. Government, civil society and community representatives were introduced to basic concepts on human trafficking, and discussion centered on the scale of the problem, cultural practices that may promote trafficking, victim identification and structures within the community that may provide assistance to victims.

The stakeholders formed a counter trafficking in person’s network for Lunga Lunga with the objective of continuous awareness raising to enhance prevention and strengthening the response mechanisms on the ground.

There are three border points between Mombasa and Lunga Lunga, on the border with Tanzania, but there are many unauthorized border crossings according to an immigration officer in Lunga Lunga.



Community awareness raising activity in Lunga Lunga market where trainers discussed human trafficking

The Kenya In-Country Network on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse held its inaugural meeting at the UN complex in Nairobi last month.

The network, chaired by Aeneas Chuma, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, and Abbas Gullet, Secretary General, Kenya Red Cross Society, seeks to prevent acts of sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel within their field of work. Following the core six principles relating to sexual exploitation and abuse recognized by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Working Group in July 2002, each endorsing organization, IOM being among them, seeks to incorporate these principles into organization-specific codes of conduct, rules and regulations.



Abbas Gullet, Secretary General for KRCS, Njoki Wainaina, Founder of Femnet, and Aeneas Chuma, UN Resident Humanitarian Coordinator during the signing meeting

The inaugural meeting observed the signing of the statement of commitment by Mr. Chuma and Mr. Gullet on behalf of all endorsing organizations. “*This meeting today is an amalgamation of UN in country team in preventing sexual exploitation and abuse*”, said Mr. Chuma. He stated that due to the lack of knowledge on how and who to report sexual exploitation and abuse, it is essential that organizations create mechanisms to ensure there is such a system.

Mr. Chuma and Mr. Gullet stated that ever since the post election violence, cases of sexual exploitation and abuse have been brought forward and this increased the gravity and accountability for organizations, therefore this meeting is timely to advocate for change. One way for an organization to ensure that its personnel are tolerant on the issue of sexual exploitation and gender has been through training sessions.

IOM conducted its own sexual exploitation and abuse training for its personnel in April. The workshop aimed at heightening the level of awareness among staff on the existence of sexual abuse and exploitation among humanitarian organizations, while creating an importance on the need to treat the people we serve with respect and dignity.

MRF NAIROBI HOSTS REGIONAL RETREAT AND ALL AFRICA MRF MEETING



Participants of the MRF Regional Retreat

IOM MRF Nairobi last month held a two day regional retreat for missions in the region to help develop a shared vision and find a coordinated working environment within the region.

The retreat, which is the second of its kind in the region, provided the various missions an opportunity to share their projects and activities and was attended by the Regional Representative, Chief of Missions from Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Ethiopia, as well as colleagues from these missions.

MRF Nairobi's regional representative MR. Ashraf El Nour presented an overview of IOM activities in the region, followed by an outline of projects and activities as well as challenges and best practices by the various chiefs of missions.

Participants also shared common expectations for the retreat. These included building the regional team, learning more from different missions, having a common vision for the region, finding synergies in projects areas across the region, learning how the MRF can improve support to other missions in the region, sharing working experiences, establishing strategic mission and unified purpose with a focus to develop cross border programmes and agreeing on a mid-term regional plan.

Participants also had an opportunity to discuss and provide input that would give a regional shape to the kind of responses provided in migration service areas such as migration health, emergency and post crisis, capacity building in migration management, counter trafficking, assisted voluntary return, migration and development in Africa, labour migration and regional dialogue.

IOM offers many comparative advantages due to its solid experience in Migration and Development and to some flagships programmes, such as MIDA, and is therefore recognized among other agencies.

Regional coordination, collaboration and information sharing was also intensively discussed. The participants also had the opportunity to learn more about the OneUN programme currently implemented in Tanzania.

The retreat proved successful as a regional dialogue among the colleagues within the mission was re-established and most of the colleagues met for the first time.

The outcome of the retreat is a strategy paper that will spearhead IOM activities in the region.

Participants showed a high interest in the possibilities offered by regional integration for IOM activities and suggested the creation of an internal mechanism to facilitate information sharing between country missions and regional level and enhance the inclusion of regional issues that might be of national relevance.

IOM, MRF Nairobi also had a chance to host the All Africa MRF meeting. The meeting also provided an opportunity for the regional heads to share their programmes and activities with their counterparts as well as to review practical issues that cut across the region such as regional structures and staff rotation.

The meeting brought together regional representatives in Africa and provided a space for outgoing colleagues to meet their counterparts from other MRFs and for the incoming regional heads to learn about activities in other regions as well as the missions they will be heading.

"I hope the colleagues who will be coming to this region will find the meeting helpful in preparing to adjust when they finally join us." said Mr. El Nour.



The regional representative heads of office meeting in Nairobi