IOM TANZANIA PROVIDES A ROAD MAP ON ENGAGING THE DIASPORA IN THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

As part of its mission, the MFAIC, through its Diaspora Department, has supported UK Diaspora groups in forming an umbrella association, through which they collaborate with the UK Centre of Commerce and Tanzanian institutions. The Diaspora Department is encouraging Tanzanian Diaspora in Uganda, Botswana, South Africa, Rwanda and Kenya to formulate diaspora associations as well as support the formation of an association of ex-Diaspora members based in Tanzania.

“I am so proud of what we have achieved,” said an unusual but influential voice, Mr. Pär Liljert. “It is paramount to establish the Identity of Tanzanians in the Diaspora, the skills they possess and the support they require to effectively engage them in the national development process.”

Diaspora members have embraced the Government’s vision by developing a network of diaspora associations in their host countries. Representatives from the Diaspora Networks in the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Rwanda and Uganda presented progress reports on the developments within their associations.

Commercial banks were encouraged to develop cost-effective remittance platforms, particularly for the Diaspora within East Africa. The Bank of Tanzania was challenged to improve remittance data and support the commercial banks to develop appropriate financial products.

Hon. Salula highlighted the ministry’s progress in creating awareness on the potential role of the diaspora in Tanzania’s development. He also spoke of the increased political will regarding mainstreaming diaspora policies which facilitate registration of migrants and moving towards pro-diaspora citizenship and finance laws that encourage the Tanzanian diaspora to contribute to national development.
In the framework of the project “Improving protection of migrants en route through the gulf of Aden” co-funded by the governments of Japan and Switzerland, IOM organized a two-day-workshop in Djibouti on August 7th and 8th 2010.

The workshop aimed at improving the understanding of mixed migration, migrants’ rights and protection within mixed migration flows. Also reinforcing the cooperation with authorities of Djibouti to propose a coordinated and coherent response to mixed migration flows in Djibouti.

Participants included representatives from the Ministry of Interior, Justice, Women Affairs and Defense as well as governors from the different regions, Police, National security and UNHCR.

In his opening remarks the IOM Regional Representative Mr. Ashraf El Nour welcomed the cooperation and active participation of partner agencies in responding to the needs of migrants in the horn of Africa. He gave an overview of the mixed migration flows in the region while highlighting the migration routes.

The Secretary General in the ministry of Interior Mr. Guedda expressed the interest of the Djibouti authorities in having more training sessions on migration issues because Djibouti is caught at the heart of the migration flows in the horn of Africa.

The Mixed Migration Programme Officer Ms. Odile Robert detailed the major push and pull factors and highlighted the risks and primary points of danger. She pointed out IOM’s response in assisting host countries and countries of origin in managing their migration challenges, including support to stranded and vulnerable migrants.

The workshop concluded by identifying action points which include; the establishment of a migration advisory group with representatives from the different participating authorities. The workshop also called for a regional consultation with neighboring countries, assessment of the migrants in Djibouti and a similar workshop with government authorities in early 2011, in order to present the achievements of the program at that time.

Participants also discussed the possibility of a capacity-building in migration management for Djiboutian authorities to ensure balance in migrant rights and state security. IOM Mr. Ashraf El Nour suggested continuing the initiated dialogue on mixed migration and stated that IOM would be ready to provide secretariat support to the establishment of a forum for all stakeholders involved in mixed migration in Djibouti.

In the framework of the project “Improving protection of migrants en route through the gulf of Aden” co-funded by the governments of Japan and Switzerland, IOM organized a two-day-workshop in Djibouti on August 7th and 8th 2010.

The workshop aimed at improving the understanding of mixed migration, migrants’ rights and protection within mixed migration flows. Also reinforcing the cooperation with authorities of Djibouti to propose a coordinated and coherent response to mixed migration flows in Djibouti.

Participants included representatives from the Ministry of Interior, Justice, Women Affairs and Defense as well as governors from the different regions, Police, National security and UNHCR.

In his opening remarks the IOM Regional Representative Mr. Ashraf El Nour welcomed the cooperation and active participation of partner agencies in responding to the needs of migrants in the horn of Africa. He gave an overview of the mixed migration flows in the region while highlighting the migration routes.

The Secretary General in the ministry of Interior Mr. Guedda expressed the interest of the Djibouti authorities in having more training sessions on migration issues because Djibouti is caught at the heart of the migration flows in the horn of Africa.

The Mixed Migration Programme Officer Ms. Odile Robert detailed the major push and pull factors and highlighted the risks and primary points of danger. She pointed out IOM’s response in assisting host countries and countries of origin in managing their migration challenges, including support to stranded and vulnerable migrants.

The workshop concluded by identifying action points which include; the establishment of a migration advisory group with representatives from the different participating authorities. The workshop also called for a regional consultation with neighboring countries, assessment of the migrants in Djibouti and a similar workshop with government authorities in early 2011, in order to present the achievements of the program at that time.

Participants also discussed the possibility of a capacity-building in migration management for Djiboutian authorities to ensure balance in migrant rights and state security. IOM Mr. Ashraf El Nour suggested continuing the initiated dialogue on mixed migration and stated that IOM would be ready to provide secretariat support to the establishment of a forum for all stakeholders involved in mixed migration in Djibouti.

IOM is engaging in peace building and conflict prevention activities targeting the host community and the refugees in the vast Dadaab area. Dadaab hosts over 2 million residents comprising the local community and refugees, who own large herds of livestock and compete for the same resources, a situation that has had adverse effects on the Dadaab environment.

Common conflicts in Dadaab include land disputes between the refugees and the host community. The host community feels that refugees have crossed set boundaries and are now settling on undesignated areas. The feud has seen the locals threaten to protect at whatever cost what belongs to them.

Watering points which are shared by both the refugees and the host community for their household needs and animals are also a source of disagreements. Cases of theft have also been reported across both communities.

The influx of refugees to the Dadaab Refugee camp is said to have eroded cultural values and beliefs among the hosts, a scenario that some hosts dislike. Environmental degradation, increased cases of human trafficking and child kidnappings are also a source of tension.

To help mitigate these issues, IOM has established community dialogues with the help of opinion leaders in the community. Peace animators are sharing experiences and ideas that have worked in other places through public barazas, group discussions, inter and intra community dialogues and capacity building exercises. The Dadaab community has embraced the peace building efforts and are taking lead in spearheading peace building events.
IOM ENJOY THE DADAAB COMMUNITY IN A CLEAN-UP EXCERCISE

IOM last month joined the Saretho community of Dadaab in a community clean up campaign that aimed at promoting good hygiene and peace among the residents of Dadaab.

The communal work helped in wiping out minor indifferences between the community members and also in developing a sense of reliance and trust for peace to be harmonized from grassroots levels. The residents who participated in the clean up exercise hope to stage more of such activities in the future and support youth empowerment so as to eradicate poverty and idleness that can contribute to conflicts.

The community was grateful to IOM and all the stakeholders involved in the clean up campaign. The peace and conflict resolution team encouraged the community members to take up responsibility and enhance peace from household level.

Dadaab is a town in northeastern Kenya approximately 100 kilometers from the Kenya-Somali border. It hosts mostly Somali refugees and others from Kenya's northern neighbors. Most of Dadaab's local population is made up of nomadic camel and goat herders. Much of the rest of the town's economy is based on services for refugees.

IOM TRAINS PEACE ANIMATORS IN KAKUMA

IOM through its integrated response to the effects of climate change in Northern Kenya, in July held a community based peace and conflict management training for the IOM staff in Kakuma.

The training aimed at equipping participants with knowledge, skills and understanding on the dynamics of handling peace building and conflict prevention issues among the host, refugee and pastoralist communities. The Peace Animators work closely with these communities on numerous issues and offer support to various activities spearhead by the communities.

The dynamics of handling peace building and conflict prevention issues are very fragile

The 22 staffs were drawn from livelihoods support, counter human trafficking, peace building and conflict transformation components of the project.

The region has had conflicts between the host community, refugees and pastoralist communities due to religious orientations, social lifestyle and influx of refugees in the region. The conflict is further pronounced by limited resources like water, health services, relief food, education and labour. Cross border conflicts are also common given the culture of cattle rustling that is to some extent influenced by cultural practices like dowry payment, value placed on livestock and the search for water and pasture which has been affected adversely by global climate change.
In support to the socioeconomic reintegration of Rwandan returnees and vulnerable groups in Southern & Western provinces, the International Organization Migration (IOM) and Rwanda’s Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs (MIDIMAR) on September 2nd launched a project that aims at addressing the “Enhancement of socioeconomic reintegration opportunities for Rwandan returned refugees and other vulnerable groups”.

The launch focused on sharing key findings of a rapid needs and capacity assessment that was carried out by IOM on reintegration opportunities for returned refugees, as well as recommendations of the returnees profiling including; identifying market, skill training facilities and government capacity building needs, and the project implementation strategy in line with the priorities set out by the Government of Rwanda.

The project will aim at strengthening the capacity of the Government of Rwanda (GoR) to manage returnee data collection and analysis as well as the capacity of local training institutions to provide marketable skills training to identify returnees and other vulnerable community members to promote alternative livelihood options for returnees and community development.

Rwanda lacks adequately trained human capital, particularly for technical professions, as a result of the 1994 genocide, in which many members of the educated and skilled workforce were lost. As a result, the government has called for a well-trained, motivated and adaptable workforce as key to its economic and social development. Returnees can thus, benefit from training in alternative livelihoods, to equip them with skills that can help them generate income. At the same time, the Rwandan government has adopted an integrated community based approach to reintegration, broadening the scope of those who can benefit from reintegration assistance to include other vulnerable groups.

It is estimated that there are 72,530 Rwandan refugees outside of Rwanda, mainly in the DRC, while more than 20,000 returned to Rwanda in 2009.

IOM’s adopts a collaborative approach to the implementation of this project, working closely with GoR counterparts at national and community levels as well as to civil society and international agencies, to ensure the sustainable delivery of project results.

IOM, with funding from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and with technical support from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) last month conducted a livestock restocking fair for pastoralist host communities in Turkana.

200 hundred households benefited in this project that seeks to support pastoralists in recovering their livelihood in an initiative titled; Immediate livestock support to pastoralist host communities affected by impacts of recurrent droughts and floods in North Western Kenya.

Beneficiary households were chosen with the help of the community resource persons, local community based organizations, the churches and the government departments. Each beneficiary received a voucher worth Ksh 15,000 which enabled them to purchase five goats from the selected local vendors during the days of the fair. The beneficiaries had earlier been clustered into groups of 25, each with a cluster management committee of five to train on best and sustainable livestock production practices.

The exercise that was launched by the Kakuma District officer started in Kimukoe where 75 households were restocked, Natir with 50 households and lastly Nadapal with 75 households. A total of 1000 animals were distributed. Stakeholders who included, government officers from the ministry of livestock development, NGOs representatives from agricultural/livestock production sectors were mobilized and participated in providing technical support to the beneficiaries.

The project covers the Turkana West District, Kakuma Division which has a prolonged history of drought and floods due to unfavorable climate changes in the region. The project aims to address and respond to the urgent restoration of livestock livelihood needs of the vulnerable people affected by conflicts and climatic hazards.

The project will additionally look into addressing pastoralist needs through establishment of grazing land, provision of feed concentrates, capacity building of community animal health workers , improvement of water harvesting structures and distribution of drought resistant crops in the district.
IOM Nairobi last month bid farewell to Mr. Barraghi Feridoon, the immediate former Regional Resource Management Officer for MRF Nairobi. Mr. Barraghi is moving to MRF Pretoria in the same capacity in a rotation exercise that follows the IOM structural review.

Feridoon joined IOM in 2001, having worked for UNHCR in Iran. He joined IOM Iran in the capacity of a finance assistant before moving to Geneva as accounts assistant, with special assignment to help in managing financial assignments relating to Afghanistan. He later returned to Tehran, Iran, having completed his assignment.

In 2004 Feridoon got his first international assignment to Kosovo and later joined MRF Nairobi in 2007. His assignment in Nairobi came at a time that Kenya was undergoing civil turmoil in the wake of post-election violence. He led the team that helped manage the resources in IOM’s response to the post election crisis.

“Financial working tools require creative and relevant solutions incase of a problem. I tried to fill loopholes while adhering to the IOM rules and regulations that govern the financial system.” He said in an interview during a send off ceremony held in his honour by the IOM Nairobi staff.

The Regional Representative Mr. Ashraf El Nour applauded Feridoon’s leadership in the finance and administrative departments. “He has contributed to several proposals to donors, implemented various improvements to the IT department and developed a tender system for Nairobi. I wish him the best in his assignment in Pretoria.” Said Mr. El Nour.

Feridoon Barraghi has been succeeded by Mr. Chaabane Nadir who joins IOM Nairobi from IOM in Haiti. Nadir joined IOM in 2006 as RMO in IOM Haiti. Before joining IOM, he worked with UN/WFP Algiers and Dili (East Timor) as Finance and Administrative Officer. He also worked in other private organizations in various capacities (finance) in Algiers.

IOM Nairobi BIDS FAREWELL TO THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICER, FERIDOON BARRAGHI

MRF NAIROBI WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE DONORS AND PARTNERS WHO HAVE FEATURED IN THIS MONTH’S NEWSLETTER AND WITH Whose SUPPORT THESE PROGRAMMES HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE

International Organization for Migration
Mission with Regional Functions For Eastern Africa,
Church Road, Off Rhapta Road. Westlands
PO Box 55040- 00200-Nairobi, KENYA
Phone: + 254 20 4444167/174
Fax: + 254 20 4449577
E-mail: mrfnairobi@iom.int
Website: http://nairobi.iom.int