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IOM LAUNCHES A MIGRATION RESPONSE CENTER IN BOSASSO, PUNTLAND



IOM representative addresses the meeting during the launch of the MRC center

IOM in Bosasso in collaboration with the Government of the Bari region of Puntland State of Somalia have launched a Migration Response Center (MRC) to provide for a consolidated effort in managing migration by all stakeholders. The MRC that was launched on 5th April 2009 is a result of intensive consultations between IOM, the government of the Somali State of Puntland, International Organizations and the civil society and is projected to address migration challenges for actual and potential migrants that are coming and going through Bosasso.

The MRC will serve to collect and analyse migration related data, provide referral services to actual migrants, advocate for support to actual migrants, legal counselling to actual and potential migrants, provide information services to both actual and potential migrants, create hot-line services for migrants, conduct information campaigns and outreach activities and establish a migration library.

Speaking during the launch, the Governor of Bari Region of Puntland Dr. Muse Gelle Yousuf reaffirmed his government's commitment in addressing migration challenges with respect to the fundamental human rights and reiterated the

government's responsibility in ensuring the success of the centre. He thanked IOM for initiating and supporting the establishment of the MRC.

The Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs Dr. Yousuf Ahmed Kheir also applauded the establishment of the MRC. He reiterated the support of the Government of Puntland State of Somalia in continuing the efforts aimed at the establishment of a functional migration management system. "The data collected by MRC will provide the authorities with reliable information about the number and composition of the mixed group of migrants travelling through the region. IOM's assistance to the Puntland community is invaluable and we are responsible to properly maintain it and provide its sustainability," he said.

Bosasso has over the last decade been an epicentre for migration flows of mixed migrants, trying to cross the Gulf of Aden. The uncontrolled movement has led to social and economic pressure, that the threatening the stability of the region.

The launch was also attended by representatives from IOM, government officials from the Puntland state of Somalia, traditional elders, NGOs as well as the refugee and IDP community.



The MRC Director ,Mr. Mohamed Jama Muse, officially launches the centre

IOM CONDUCTS CT ASSESSMENT AND TRAINING IN NORTH EASTERN PROVINCE

IOM has finalized a pre-campaign assessment in North Eastern Province of Kenya and in Eastleigh Nairobi, to determine the communities' awareness level on human trafficking. The assessment aimed at enabling IOM design a strategic information campaign to educate the population on human trafficking and preventive measures.

The assessment revealed a general acceptance of the existence of human trafficking in the North Eastern province of Kenya. The proximity of the province to the Somali border subjects it to the possibilities of irregular migration in form of human smuggling, trafficking and asylum seekers from the protracted insecurity in Somali. The Eastleigh residential area on the other hand is a transit for many migrants en-route to other regions of the country and the world.

Factors contributing to human trafficking among the Somali community range from the non-existent governance system and conflict in Somalia, lack of infrastructure and employment opportunities. Poverty and the retrogressive practices like early marriage make girls vulnerable to human trafficking. Promises of better life, education and better job opportunities are used to lure people to migrate.

The situation analysis will enable IOM Kenya to mount an awareness campaign on human trafficking. IOM is already holding talks with community leaders in an attempt to create an understanding and entry point into the South Central Somalia. IOM is also supporting the refurbishment of the Kenya/Somalia Liboi border point.

“The Quran recommends that women migrating or even moving for long distances should be accompanied by male relatives. This reduces their vulnerability to exploitation”... Sheikh Hussien Mahad, Garissa



IOM Community Outreach Consultant makes a presentation during a workshop in Garissa

Separately in Garissa, IOM held a two-day workshop for stakeholders from the target project areas to sensitize them on the problem of human trafficking with a view of getting their support in countering trafficking in persons through community awareness and assistance to victims.

IOM NAIROBI OFFERS BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COURSE TO VARRP UK RETURNÉES

IOM Nairobi successfully carried out a business management course for eleven VARRP beneficiaries. This is the first training that IOM has held for the returnees this year and is aimed at helping them manage the businesses they set up with help from IOM, since their return from the UK.

“This training shows us that we are appreciated when we come home and that there is somebody who can help!” Alice Wanjiru, beneficiary of the training

The trainees expressed their appreciation for the training adding that they may not have managed to settle back home without the help they received from IOM.

Martin Mutiga Nderitu, one of the beneficiaries of the business training returned to Kenya from Britain in 2008. He had gone to the UK as a student and later attempted to join the British army. Due to health complications involving his back, he was unable to complete his training as an army recruit and was forced to look for work elsewhere. He found work as a casual labourer, but was unable to carry out his duties due to his back problems. Returning to Kenya proved a challenge to him as he was unable to afford his ticket. He decided to seek IOM's assistance to come back home.



Martin Nderitu talks to Mariana Kipsy of IOM during an evaluation of his business

Martin also a beneficiaries of IOM's reintegration fund has since his return managed to start up a Saloon and Barber business in the outskirts of Nairobi. He has five employees and is happy with the growth he is experiencing in business. He is able to take care of the office overheads and provide for his basic needs.

Mr. Nderitu's long term goals are to invest, expand and start up a beauty and fashions school that will teach and employ the Kenyan youth, as well as to open a beauty and cosmetic shop.

IOM TANZANIA CARRIES OUT ACTIVITIES TO STRENGTHEN CAPACITY BUILDING IN MIGRATION MANAGEMENT



Participants of the Harmonization of Border Procedures Workshop

The Capacity Building in Migration Management (CBMM) Programme cross-border activities for Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania, and a special component implemented in DRC, is providing technical assistance aimed at supporting the authorities in the respective countries to enhance their migration and border management capacities. The main objective is to assist the authorities through sustainable technical as well as institutional capacity building activities.

To achieve this objective, IOM Tanzania over the past two months conducted a training of trainers workshop for officials from the Tanzania Immigration Department and installed Personal Identification and Registration System (PIRS) at five border posts, Regional Immigration Offices and the respective border posts in Burundi and Rwanda. These new tools will facilitate the data transfer to a local server where they will be stored for use when needed. The data will enable the Regional Immigration Offices to have an overall view of the regular migration incoming and outgoing flows of the region.

In addition to the technical aspects, the programme also focused on wider policy issues by organizing a two week workshop on *Harmonization of the Border procedures in the Great Lake Region*, held at the Tanzanian Regional Immigration Training Academy (TRITA).

Participants to the workshop agreed on a set of recommendations, which will serve as an important guideline for other officials working on migration related issues within the region.

“We are all aware of the ever growing human mobility, emerging trends of illegal migrants and the associated challenges towards efficient and effective management of our borders. Our borders are quite wide and unfortunately porous. This makes it difficult for our officials to effectively control the movements of migrants. This workshop has come up with reco-

mmendations on a way forward, particularly on issues pertaining to harmonization of border management procedures. It is my hope that these recommendations will be enforced to bring a difference in border management,” said the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Amb. Khamis Kagasheki.

In his closing remarks Hon. Kagasheki expressed appreciation to IOM, on behalf of the Government of Tanzania, for facilitating the workshop, saying that it enabled officials from the Great Lakes Region to share their experiences and challenges on border management procedures in the region.

The workshop was attended by the Tanzanian Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Ambassador Khamis Sued Kagasheki, Commissioner of Immigration Services (Legal Matters), Magnus P.J. Ulungi, IOM Head of Technical Cooperation Division, David Knight, IOM Tanzania Chief of Mission, Par Liljert, Deputy Commissioner of Immigration Services, Abdullah L. Abdullah, Senior Immigration Officers and Police Officers from Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda and Congo DRC, among others.



Participants of the harmonization workshop, who included Senior immigration officials and Police Officers from Tanzania

“It will be a welcome idea if this institution becomes a catalyst in reviving the spirit of Pan Africanism. It could initiate integration with other Regional Integration Initiatives in Africa through joint training programs, exchange and sharing of related information”
Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein, Tanzania’s Vice President.

TRITA was officially opened on 12th December 2008, and works to enhance the regional exchange of knowledge and skills as well as the harmonization of laws, policies and procedures through multi-country training programs being offered to immigration officers from the five East African countries of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda.

AUSTRALIAN CULTURAL ORIENTATION (CO) TRAINERS TAKE A CO REFRESHER COURSE

IOM Nairobi's Australian Cultural Orientation (AUSCO) trainers and their West African counterparts have undergone a refresher training of trainers course. The training that was organized by the Australian Cultural Orientation Coordinator, Paula Kansky, sought to refresh the trainers on the curriculum used for Australian Orientation Abroad.

The two day training of trainers took the AUSCO team through: approaches and training methodologies; code of conduct expected of the trainers; the AUSCO business plan, risk management and quality assurance plan; and strategies for meeting the donor expectation.



East and West African AUSCO team pose for a photo after the training

The training also offered an opportunity for Ms. Kansky to meet the AUSCO trainers and help her understand the training environment in the region.

VISITING SETTLEMENT ADVISORS ON A MISSION TO KENYA

Separately, two Australian advisors and former migrants to Australia were on a ten day mission to IOM Kenya to share their on-shore settlement experience with AUSCO trainers in Nairobi.

The settlement advisors, Mr. Joseph Bol and Ms. Rosemary Kariuki, are currently working with refugee settlements in Australia and were sponsored by the Department of Australian Citizenship (DIAC) to come and share the on-shore settlement experience as well as to learn the off-shore (pre-departure orientation) programme in Kenya.

To gain an understanding of the resettlement procedure, the two visited the Australian High Commission, UNHCR, IOM and Kakuma Refugee Camp. They had an opportunity to attend a Cultural Orientation training session in Kakuma for migrants who have been approved for resettlement in Australia. They sat through the five day training session and had a chance to respond to the migrants' concerns regarding on-shore resettlement in Australia.

They appreciated and described as significant the role of cultural orientation for migrants preparing for resettlement. Noting that they never benefited from cultural orientation before resettling in Australia, Bol, who once lived at the Kakuma Refugee Camp, acknowledged that it could have lessened the problems he experienced when he was resettled in Australia.

KENYA YOUTH LABOUR MIGRANTS BENEFIT FROM PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION

64 Kenyan Youth last month benefited from a pre-departure cultural orientation, offered by IOM, after a successful recruitment procedure with a specialist recruiting company, Silver Ray LTD. The youth are being recruited to work in Iraq through the Youth Employment Scheme Abroad (YESA).

This is the second training that IOM has conducted for youth labour migrants following an agreement between IOM and the Youth Enterprise Development Fund last year.

According to Silver Rays' Managing Director, Margaret Mugwanja, the labour migrants will be working as non combat guards in Iraq, to man airports and dining facilities. The youth all have paramilitary training from the National Youth Services (NYS) and will be deployed to their various work places after a two year additional training, also to be conducted in Iraq.

The group that included 57 men and seven women were upbeat about going to work in Iraq. *"The pre-departure orientation has helped open up grey areas regarding the work situation in Iraq. We have received information about the facilities where we will be stationed to work, the climate, the people, the food and even the language,"* said Veronica Ndila, one of the recruits. Veronica hopes to be able to support her family with the money that she will earn.

Silver Ray Limited, the recruiting company, has partnered with the YESA since 2007, to help the Kenyan youth access employment abroad. YESA is a programme segmented under the Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF), a Kenya government initiative that seeks to address the problem of youth unemployment in the country by facilitating young people between the ages of 18 to 35 to access employment abroad.



IOM trainer Isaac Adan takes the youth through the pre-departure CO