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## AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE ADOPT A CONVENTION ON REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND IDPS AT A SPECIAL SUMMIT HELD IN KAMPALA



**IOM Senior Regional Adviser Mr. Charles Kwenin explains IOM's assistance to IDPs and Refugees to the Somali President, Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed**

African Heads of State last month endorsed a convention on the protection of and assistance to internally displaced people (IDPs) in Africa during a Special African Union Summit on Refugees, Returnees and IDPs in Kampala, Uganda on 22-23 October.

IOM Director General William Swing who attended the summit welcomed the move by the AU to adopt the convention. *"The adoption of the convention by the AU heads of states and governments indicate their commitment and that of the African Union to find durable solutions to forced displacement on the continent. It shows that Africa is now taking a global lead in adopting a legally binding instrument on internal displacement,"* Swing said.



**IOM showcased 5 panels portraying IOM activities in Africa in forced displacement, protection, assistance to vulnerable populations, partnership, and addressing different people and their needs.**

Forced displacement is a particularly pressing issue in Africa, often at the centre of development challenges as well as peace and stability on the continent. Africa is also host to three of the largest IDP crises in the world - Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Somalia. Sudan alone has nearly five million IDPs.

Nineteen countries across the continent host an estimated 11.8 million IDPs, according to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). Although Africa still hosts almost a half of the world's total number of IDPs, which stands at 26 million, the ratio of IDPs to the region's total population has, however, fallen significantly.



**IOM's Director General, William Swing, is briefed by Charles Kwenin and Ashraf El Nour on IOM's response in Africa on forced displacement**

The adoption of a convention on the protection of and assistance to IDPs is of particular interest to IOM, an organization that is heavily involved in the humanitarian response to internal displacement in Africa and elsewhere in the world.

The Organization's programmes across Africa since the 1970's seek to promote and strengthen national and regional measures to prevent, mitigate or eliminate root causes of internal displacement as well as to contribute to providing durable solutions. This includes IDP and refugee voluntary resettlement, voluntary repatriation, reintegration, as well as emergency and post-crisis assistance.

## IOM AND THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN HAND OVER MANDERA AND LIBOI BORDER POSTS TO THE KENYAN GOVERNMENT



The Deputy Chief of Mission for the Japanese Embassy, Seiji Okada, tests the new communication tools at the refurbished Liboi border post

The Government of Kenya now has capacity, facilities and equipments to manage two of her border posts with Somalia, after IOM with the support of the Embassy of Japan refurbished and handed the Mandera and Liboi Border Control Posts in the North Eastern region to the Government of Kenya.

Speaking during the hand over ceremonies, the Japanese Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Shigeo Iwatani, said *the refurbishment of the border posts were a great stride towards strengthening migration management capacity at important border points between Kenya and Somalia*. He reaffirmed Japan's commitment made at TICAD IV, on ensuring human security, achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and consolidation of peace being one of the three development priorities committed.

The border posts rehabilitation and refurbishment is one of the outcomes of the IOM \$1million *CBMM* project, funded generously by the Government of Japan through Tokyo International Conference for African Development (TICAD). The project aims to enhance migration management and protection capacities of immigration authorities along the Kenya-Somalia border.

Refurbishments of the border posts included physical infrastructure, communication, and IT capacity to strengthen the immigration capacity of border police and immigration officials in Kenya and South Centre Somalia through training. This will help the ministry of immigration to effectively enhance border management and efficient system of processing migrants.

Somalia's lack of capacity to manage migration poses immense challenges to Kenya. The closure of the Kenya/Somalia border in 2007 has impacted the protection and livelihood of both Kenyans and Somalis, those crossing the borders and those living close to the border.

## IOM TANZANIA CONDUCTS A STREET SHOW TO RAISE AWARENESS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

IOM Tanzania, through funding by the Japanese Development Cooperation, has set up an awareness raising street show, *Pambazuko (Awakening)*, conducted by a Parapanda Lab theatre group, to sensitize and involve the rural communities in Tanzania on issues relating to human trafficking.

The street shows, which began in Ilala district in July, will conclude in Mburuhati during the month of November. The theatre group performed 101 shows in 25 districts, with attendance of over 40,000 people. Regions visited by the group included Iringa, Mbeya, Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Morogoro, Singida, Zanzibar and Dar es Salaam.

The theatre group used an interactive method with the members of the public by involving them in the show through allowing them to ask questions, openly discuss and provide inputs on the drama, during and after the show. The theatre shows had a very positive response from the audience and the local authorities that were fully involved in their districts, as evidenced by the active support provided by the local authorities, mainly District Commissioners Offices, in the preparation of the shows and their participation during the shows and the discussions.

Although there is incidence of people being trafficked to Tanzania to work in various industries including fishing, human trafficking in this large East African country is mainly internal. And while there is also evidence of trafficking for sexual exploitation, Tanzanian children are largely trafficked for labour, especially to big cities like the capital and to Zanzibar to work not only in the domestic market, but also in the fishing industry and as petty vendors in the Tanzanian streets.

"Through our outreach efforts and direct assistance to victims of trafficking, we know that 80 per cent of victims are trafficked by either family members or close family friends," says IOM's Tanzania, Monika Peruffo. "In some cases, people are using their own siblings as slaves."



Members of the public watch Parapanda Lab perform the theatre show

## KAACHONJO: HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS CAMPAIGN IN KENYA



IOM Kenya's Counter Trafficking team within the Kenya Emergency Post Crisis Unit launched a nation wide information campaign dubbed *Kaa Chonjo (Watch out)* on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2009 in Eldoret, Rift Valley Province.

The campaign, a component of a larger project titled *Integrated Response to Food Insecure Vulnerable Families in the Rift Valley and Northern Regions of Kenya*, funded by the Government of Japan and supported by the Government of Kenya, is a response to the protracted emergencies across Kenya, including drought, the food crisis, and civil and political unrest, which often results in forced displacement.

The *Kaa Chonjo* campaign aims to create awareness and generate discussion on issues related to human trafficking; more so within the context of emergencies and increasing poverty. Campaign messages will be sent out through multimedia channels including, radio, television, bill boards, mobile cinemas, posters and road shows. The campaign will target Northern Kenya and the North Rift Valley.

In addition to awareness raising, the counter trafficking team has established a referral system that enables vulnerable households within the targeted areas to embark on livelihood activities. This in turn has the effect of stabilizing families who may be susceptible to human trafficking, smuggling and other forms of irregular migration in search of livelihood options. These livelihoods activities include grants for school and small scale entrepreneurship, and are implemented in an holistic and integrated manner as part of a larger recovery initiative. IOM works in synergy with other UN agencies and small organizations in all areas of operation.

An assessment carried out by IOM in the target regions cites poverty and the search for livelihood as key factors that render people vulnerable to trafficking.

## 7TH GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTH PROMOTION

The 7<sup>th</sup> Global Conference on Health Promotion is the latest in a global process that began in Ottawa in 1986, advocating to increase health promotion programming. With the theme of "promoting health and development: closing the implementation gap", this latest conference concluded with dissemination of the "Nairobi Call to Action", which provides direction and leadership to guide health promotion at both national and international levels for future years.

Supported through the IOM project "Technical Cooperation on Managing Migration Health in Kenya", and in partnership with WHO, IOM undertook a number of actions during the week, culminating in inclusion of the health of migrants in the Nairobi Call to Action.

MRF Nairobi and WHO co-convended a sub-plenary session entitled "Health Promotion: An Approach for Improving the Health of Migrants". The session involved presentations from health ministries of Thailand, Mexico, and Spain, highlighting concrete policy and programmatic actions undertaken by governments to reach migrants and host communities. IOM also sponsored participation in the workshop of health experts from the East African Community (EAC), African Union (AU), and East, Central, and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC).



Mr. El Nour delivering keynote address on the health of migrants on Africa Day. 25 October 2009. Credit: G. Irving, IOM.

In addition, as one of four keynote speakers on Africa Day, Mr. Ashraf El Nour, IOM Regional Representative for East & Central Africa, reminded conference participants that "promotion of the health of migrants fosters community integration and social well-being, and contributes towards the social and economic development of Africa".

The sub-plenary session report, government presentations, and other resources will be available in the final conference report to be disseminated early 2010. Information is also available on the conference website: <http://www.who.int/healthpromotion/conferences/7gchp/en/>.

## UN UNDERSECRETARY GENERAL VISITS LOBANYA RESETTLEMENT IN UGANDA



**United Nations Undersecretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, Sir John Holmes during his visit to Lobanya**

During his visit to Uganda whilst attending the African Union Special Summit on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons on 23-27 October 2009, United Nations Undersecretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, Sir John Holmes, visited the Lobanya resettlement community in the district of Kotido, Karamoja, Uganda.

The Lobanya resettlement community was established in January 2009 by the Jie people in the Karamoja Sub-Region. Lobanya's fledgling community of 900 people were seeking a fresh start, having endured years of food and water shortages, cattle-raiding, and congestion back home in their places of origin. The new settlement located in the Kapeta Valley offers plenty of fodder, an abundance of farmland, and vastly improved access to artesian and river water sources.

Pastoralists are under pressure everywhere. Pastoralism is synonymous with conflict as we can't pretend the issue of cattle-rustling isn't there. There is no magic solution- agriculture or pastoralism. Climate change is part of the problem, but so is adaptation," said Sir John.

Sir John walked around the resettlement observing the various initiatives Lobanya's industrious community has engaged in, ranging from a health clinic, housing and small farm plots. He interacted with the community members, commended their alternative agriculture-based livelihood efforts and advocated for resettlement and agro-pastoralism in the Karamoja Sub-Region that is environmentally-friendly.

In August-September 2009, IOM in Uganda conducted a feasibility study in Lobanya at the request of the Kotido District Government. This study is part of a broader effort by IOM Uganda along with the Kotido District Government partners and U.N. Agencies to develop resettlement action plans that reinforce durable solutions to human security challenges faced by pastoralist communities in the Karamoja Sub-Region.

## IOM PROVIDES TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY COUNSELORS IN ELDORET

IOM, in October, conducted a three day training course for community counselors in Uasin Gishu, Lugari, and Trans Nzoia East and West districts.

The participants were trained on community development, roles and functions of community workers, community counseling, counseling skills and processes, crisis intervention and management, facilitation of grief work, and application of counseling skills in the community in an integrated way.

The training targeted youth leaders, religious leaders, women group leaders, opinion leaders, commercial sex workers, former Militia group members, and volunteers from Handicap International.

The skills the counselors have acquired will help them identify people who need counseling and refer them to the relevant professionals like IOM counselors or other stake holders. One of their roles will be to mobilizing their community members and sensitizing them about the recreational centers. The community counselors will be helpful to other IOM staff in providing relevant information about their areas e.g. the shelter project.

The participants feedback of the training was; acquired skills and knowledge of community counseling; gaining an understanding of self and the community; knowledge of crisis management; challenges of poverty eradication; gaining knowledge management of available resources; need for community to own their projects; and learning that they should social agents of change.

The training provided greater understanding of the social, economic, psychological and physical issues for the counselors in the areas they are working in.



**Participants of the community counseling training**

## IOM OUTBREAK RESPONSE ASSISTANCE IN CHOLERA-AFFECTED DISTRICTS OF KENYA



Handwashing demonstration in Kamuyu transit camp, Uasin Gishu District of Rift Valley Province. August 2009. Credit: V. Namasaka, IOM

Supported through a grant of \$176,015 from the Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF), IOM is implementing the second phase of a cholera prevention programme in affected districts in Nyanza, Western, and Rift Valley provinces of Kenya.

Since January 2009, Kenya has faced cholera outbreaks which were exacerbated by failure of the long rains leading to severe water shortages in the country. Affected communities lack access to safe water sources, skills in personal hygiene, and latrines for basic sanitation.

In collaboration with the local health authorities and community leaders, IOM has deployed four teams of registered community health nurses and clinical officers which perform participatory community sensitization to build cholera prevention skills. The teams also provide and build skills in use of chlorine tablets for water purification and oral

rehydration solution. In partnership with UN partners and the Ministry of Health's Department of Health Promotion, IOM is supporting translation and printing of the national cholera awareness materials into Kiswahili.

Particularly in IDP areas in the Rift Valley, communities urgently require access to basic health services through integrated mobile medical clinics – IOM is seeking donor support to extend services to these populations.

## IOM NAIROBI AWARDED GRANT TO CATALYZE HIV PROGRAMMING IN SEAPORTS

IOM Regional Mission for East & Central Africa has received a grant of \$174,950 through the "IOM 1035 Facility" to support development of a multicountry programme framework on HIV and health services in seaports on the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, as well as Indian Ocean ports in Somalia and Kenya.

The project will be implemented in partnership with the UNAIDS Intercountry Team for the Middle-East and North Africa (UNAIDS – MENA), as well as IOM Member States, including Egypt, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen.

This proposed 18-month project fills in technical and logistical gaps of regional partners, towards collaboratively establishing the framework and mobilizing resources for implementing a multicountry harmonized programme to reduce HIV risk and vulnerability, and improve access to services (incl. ART), for populations within and nearby major seaports.

Working in support of government focal points, IOM will assist UNAIDS and other stakeholders to compile strategic information, offer technical support to resource mobilization and framework development, and co-facilitate a regional workshop to gain agreement on a standard package of services with referral mechanisms and common monitoring and reporting systems.

In addition, the project will support activities of the "Global Partnership on HIV and Mobile Workers in the Maritime Sector", with IOM Geneva serving as Secretariat, as well as activities that have been initiated by IOM Pretoria and partners in Southern African countries.