MIGRATION MANAGEMENT TRAINING FOR IGAD MEMBERS

MRF Nairobi’s regional representative, Mr. Ashraf El Nour, encouraged the participants to share the knowledge they gain in the training with their colleagues, to effectively manage migrations. He called on IGAD member countries to have a united front in countering migration challenges in the region.

Emphasising on the importance of migration management, the IGAD Executive Secretary Eng. Mahboub Maalim said, “It is a fact that people will always move and migration has a socio-economic impact on countries of origin, transit and destination. For this reason, it is important to put in place migration management systems to ensure that negative impacts of migration are minimised.” He encouraged participants to generate ideas aimed at improving migration management in the region for deliberation and implementation by legislatures in respective IGAD member states.

In his opening remarks Mr. Emmanuel Kisombe, the Permanent Secretary in the ministry of state for immigration and registration of persons gave the government’s commitment to find pragmatic and permanent solutions.

Participants in the training workshop who were drawn from government ministries with a migration function, including immigration officials, police, intelligence and foreign affairs, were trained on best practices in migration management, international migration and border security and irregular migration including human trafficking.

Mark Richmond, one of the trainees during the workshop, discusses with the participants on various issues of migration management.

The training is part of an EC-funded project: The East Africa Migration Route: Building Cooperation, Information Sharing and Developing Joint Practical Initiatives among Countries of Origin, Transit and Destination.
IOM TANZANIA CONDUCTS FIRST REGIONAL IMMIGRATION TRAINING COURSE

At the Tanzania Regional Immigration Training Academy (TRITA), a course was provided in October 2008 for East African countries to develop a training programme for 2009-2010.

The training course, which was jointly funded by the EAC and the Government of Tanzania, was attended by 19 training and human resource officers from Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The training focused on sharing experiences regarding the application of teaching methodologies in the region; the various tools and resources available on the internet that can be used to support training programs; reviewing a newly developed 400 page training manual for immigration training recruits; and formulating a proposed training schedule for 2009-2010.

TRITA, which is located in Moshi, Tanzania, was established with IOM’s support to offer training and capacity building for migration officials within the East African region in recognition of the fact that training and capacity building for migration officials is critical to strengthening migration management.

IOM PROVIDES TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO STAKEHOLDERS COORDINATION MEETING ON HIV AND TRANSPORT IN EAST AFRICA

At the invitation of the East African Community, IOM provided technical support to the Regional Cross-border Transport Corridors HIV and AIDS Responses Stakeholders Meeting, convened 7-8 October 2008 in Arusha, Tanzania. This was the first time that governments and implementing partners in East Africa had met together to address the challenges of harmonizing regional programmes for mobile and mobility-affected populations along transport routes and ports.

Hosted by the EAC Secretariat and the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) Secretariat, the meeting included national and regional governments, associations, and development partners. The meeting was a first step in promoting improved coordination and quality of prevention and treatment services along regional transport corridors and ports. IOM partnered with UNAIDS Regional Support Team for East and Southern Africa, who offered logistical, financial, and additional technical support.

IOM presented a detailed regional epidemiological synthesis, proposed a comprehensive regional transport programme model, and distributed a compendium of existing strategic information on HIV and transport. As a result of the meeting, Partner States recommended the establishment of a Regional Multi-sectoral Partnership on HIV and Most-at-Risk Populations in East Africa, to further operationalize the EAC strategic plan on HIV/AIDS. The next meeting is planned for May 2009 in Kisumu.

THESIS COMPLETED ON REFUGEE AND IMMIGRANT HEALTH TRENDS 2003-2007

In partnership with the Department of Tropical Hygiene and Public Health of Ruprecht-Karls Universitat Heidelberg, IOM facilitated a Masters of Science candidate to complete a descriptive analysis of IOM pre-departure health assessment data.

Through its global travel health assessment programme, IOM provides fit-to-travel health services to immigrants and refugees, per the requirements of receiving countries. The thesis examined tuberculosis, syphilis, and HIV data of 87,490 health assessment clients in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania from 2003-2007. 84% of records were refugees. 78% of immigrant clients and 44% of refugees reported Nairobi as their place of residence. Countries of origin were largely conflict-affected. Descriptive statistics were reported for all key variables, comparing proportions of refugees and immigrants with health assessment outcomes by sex, age, and urban or rural current residence.
Last month, IOM Kenya conducted a pre-departure orientation for 60 Kenyan youth destined to work in Qatar and Kuwait, through the Youth Employment Scheme Abroad (YESA) Programme. The pre-departure orientation is one of the services that IOM is anticipated to provide for the programme.

YESA is a programme segmented under the Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF), a government initiative that seeks to address the problem of youth unemployment in Kenya by facilitating young people between the ages of 18 to 35 to access employment abroad.

The IOM regional representative for East and Central Africa, Mr. Ashraf El Nour while opening the training workshop acknowledged the step taken by the government in creating opportunities for the youth. He reiterated that IOM was ready to work with the government to promote labour migration ventures. He highlighted additional services that IOM can offer, including pre-departure medical assessment, travel related assistance and facilitation of remittances.

Taking into account the fact that Kenyan youth constitute 61% of the population and that 75% of them are unemployed, Mr. El Nour congratulated the government on the YEDF initiative. He noted that IOM together with YEDF are in the process of developing a memorandum of understanding that will provide a framework for collaboration in the youth labour initiative.

YEDF Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Umuro Wario, said that the YESA Programme has developed a structured youth labour export framework that is expected to guide the process of labour export for the youth in Kenya. He added that YESA aims to support migration of the youth by establishing partnerships with job agencies for international placements of Kenyan youth and coordinating with educational and technical institutions for labour export.

The Youth Fund, which was started in June 2006 focuses on enterprise development as a key strategy that will increase economic opportunities for, and participation by Kenyan youth in nation building. In realization of the fact that not all young people are entrepreneurs, the fund also facilitates employment of semi-skilled/skilled youth in external labour markets.

**IOM CONDUCTS AWARENESS RAISING WORKSHOP IN DADAAB REFUGEE CAMP**

IOM Nairobi conducted a one-day awareness-raising workshop for agency staff providing services to refugees at the various camps in Dadaab, the Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) and the police.

The overall objective of the workshop was to sensitize participants on the basic elements of human trafficking, how to identify, communicate and provide assistance to victims. The participants were introduced to the basic elements of human trafficking and took part in activities to test and increase their understanding on the subject.

During the training session, the participants mapped out available services for victims of trafficking within the various Dadaab camps and had an interactive session during which they shared their ideas on best practices in providing assistance to victims of trafficking.
The IOM Somalia Support Office in Nairobi conducted a three day training workshop for Somali immigration officials as part of the Capacity Building to Enhance Migration Management, Security and Protection in South/Central Somalia and Kenya project. The project was funded by the Government of Japan with the overall objective is to enhance the migration management and protection capacities of immigration departments of both Somalia and Kenya, specifically at the Kenya-South Central Somalia border points.

IOM’s Regional Representative for East and Central Africa, Mr. Ashraf El Nour, in his opening remarks, said that the training of immigration officers is a crucial component of border security because it keeps them abreast with developing practices and technologies. He also noted that the training will aim to raise the officers’ awareness of human rights issues, and thus offer better protection to victims of trafficking and smuggling.

The workshop covered technical elements related to migration management such as border management, fraud detection of travel documents, as well as aspects of irregular migration including migrant smuggling and trafficking. It is expected that the knowledge gained during the workshop will increase the efficiency of migration management by providing the officers with the necessary skills, tools and confidence that will allow them to effectively manage migration in Somalia.

At the end of the workshop, participants identified they required training needs such as development of training manuals, traveler’s profilers, document checking, verification and evidencing, managing interagency and international coordination, training on registering and interviewing illegal arrivals, among others.

**IOM CONTRIBUTES TO UGANDA’S DRAFF BILL ON COUNTER TRAFFICKING**

The draft Private Members Bill in the prevention of trafficking of persons in Uganda received a technical and insightful support from IOM Uganda, in a series of workshops, supported by British High Commission and LAW-Uganda. As part of the technical support, IOM Uganda also conducted a training workshop for selected members of the Justice and Order Sector (JLOS), primary prosecutors, police, prison officials, and immigration and labour officers.

The stakeholders at the workshop were introduced to the concepts of human trafficking, patterns of trafficking in Uganda, the laws available to address trafficking and gaps in the law, as well as an outline of the proposed bill.

The workshop, which was a follow-up of a similar one held in May this year, aimed at introducing stakeholders to the basic concept of human trafficking as well as to the key legal and law enforcement challenges.

The organizers also took the opportunity to create awareness and support around the counter trafficking bill that is pending in the Uganda parliament.