



IOM International Organization for Migration

**KENYA**

## PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION PROGRAMME IN KENYA

“PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION ASSISTS MIGRANTS TO ACQUIRE THE INFORMATION AND SKILLS NECESSARY TO GRADUALLY ADAPT TO A NEW SOCIETY AND CULTURE.”

Pre-departure orientation is the information provided to migrants before their move to another country; either for resettlement, as is the case with refugees, or for work, as is the case with labour migrants. This orientation helps migrants gain knowledge, acquire skills, and develop the positive attitudes needed for a smooth transition to their new environment.

Pre-departure orientation aims at facilitating the smooth settlement and integration of all migrants. It provides refugees, for instance, with information about their travel and about the reception services available in the country of resettlement. It also provides a wealth

of general and specific information about climate, geography, education, health, housing, employment and how to adapt and integrate in their new home.

For anyone moving to a different country where life and culture differs from their own, pre-departure orientation helps migrants to know what to expect when they arrive in the resettlement or host country. The primary purpose of the pre-departure orientation programme is to ensure the smooth adaptation of migrants in the initial period following arrival in the resettlement or host country.

### Programme Description

Pre-departure orientation presents migrants with the tools to assist them in making their early days/months more manageable, as well as to familiarize them with a new language and society.

From Kenya, training sessions are conducted for refugees resettling to Australia and Canada, with smaller numbers going to the United Kingdom. Sessions are conducted across the East and Southern African regions and are usually 3 to 5 days long.

Pre-departure orientation sessions are also conducted in collaboration with the Youth Enterprise Development Fund in the Ministry of Youth and Sports, targeting Kenyan youth labour migrants destined to work in various parts of the world; predominantly to the Middle East.

## IOM IN ACTION

Pre-departure orientation consists of four projects:

- Canadian Orientation Abroad (COA)
- Australian Cultural Orientation (AUSCO)
- Cultural Orientation for the United Kingdom (UK-CO)
- Kenyan Youth Labour Migrant Programme

**The Aim:**

Pre-departure orientation aims to facilitate the smooth settlement and adaptation of migrants in the receiving countries.

Although pre-departure orientation sessions cannot cover everything that a migrant needs to know about their new environment, migrants have a chance to ask questions that relate to their individual situation during the sessions and to interact with other migrants going to the same destination.

With support from receiving countries, IOM facilitates pre-departure orientation and, in some cases, language training to migrants resettling to Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom.

Upon request, however, IOM can offer pre-departure orientation to migrants moving to countries other than the countries specified above.

Pre-departure orientation provides migrants with information about their country of destination. Such information includes facts on the following:

- Weather and geography
- What to expect in the journey to the country of destination
- Rights and responsibilities as well as the basic laws in the host country
- Cultural adaptation
- Housing
- Healthcare
- Education
- Employment
- Transport services in the country of destination
- Necessary tools to deal with the initial adaptation concerns as well as different stages of cultural, social and economic adaptation.



“Pre-departure orientation equips migrants with the necessary tools to deal with the initial adaptation concerns and the varying stages of cultural, social and economic adaptation”

Mr. Abdullahinur Kassim,  
Pre-departure Orientation Trainer, IOM Nairobi

**WE ASSIST:**

- Refugees
- Labour Migrants



**MANAGING MIGRATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL**

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