



IOM International Organization for Migration  
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International Organization for Migration  
 Mission with Regional Functions For Eastern Africa,  
 Church Road, Off Rhapsa 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>

## RELOCATION BEGINS FOR 12,700 SOMALI REFUGEES FROM DADAAB TO KAKUMA



Refugees wait to relocate from Dadaab Refugee Camp

IOM has started relocating some 12,700 Somali refugees from the overcrowded Dadaab refugee camp in North-Eastern Kenya to Kakuma refugee camp in the North-West.

6,392 refugees have been relocated so far. IOM Nairobi's Operations department will carry out 21 rotations of 600 refugees over a three month period with an estimated two or three convoys departing each week. The plan is Vulnerable refugees will be assessed and airlifted to Kakuma. The movement is being carried out in collaboration with UNHCR and the Kenyan Department of Refugees.

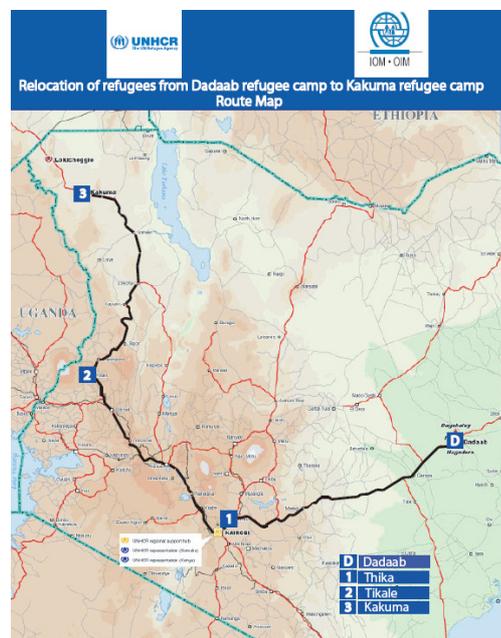
The refugees' relocation from Dadaab is one way of reducing the congestion from the eighteen year old Dadaab refugee camps, which currently host more than thrice the population they were designed to accommodate. The escalating violence and humanitarian crisis in Somalia has driven thousands of Somalis out of their homes, many of whom have fled to the neighbouring countries. Over 43,000 Somali refugees, have since January this year, sought refuge in the Dadaab camps, bringing the total number of refugees in the three camps to a record 289,500. Kakuma refugee camp on the other hand has over the years witnessed a reduction of the number of refugees due to the Sudanese repatriation process and resettlement exercises. The camp currently hosts some 41, 000 refugees

mostly from Somalia and Sudan.

*"This joint relocation operation represents another wonderful manifestation of the longstanding partnership between UNHCR and IOM to enhance the protection and welfare of refugees, while searching to avail them with more durable solutions. Thousands of refugees and host communities will as a result, benefit from better access to services in the camps as well as from reduced burden shouldered by host communities."* said Mr. Ashraf El Nour, IOM Regional Representative.

*"We are happy that we have finally started to move some of these refugees as one of the ways of easing congestion in Dadaab refugee camps."* said Ms. Liz Ahua, UNHCR Representative. *"We hope to complete the transfer before the onset of the long rains."*

The journey is estimated to take 3 days each way with preparation days and rest days in between convoys. Upon arrival in Kakuma, the refugees are provided with blankets, sleeping mats and kitchen sets, before being transferred to their new home.



## FORMER LRA COMBATANTS BECOME COMPANY DIRECTORS

TIC MATEK ANYIM WA Company Limited, which loosely translates as ‘hard works pays,’ is a new processing and packaging business in northern Uganda that is entirely run by war-affected youth and ex-combatants from the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA).

Two of these employees/directors are demobilized ex-LRA combatants that received amnesty from the Government of Uganda as part of the peace process, but struggled to secure employment after returning from the bush. The other four are vulnerable youth whose livelihoods were severely affected by the protracted 20-plus year conflict, which resulted in tens of thousands of war-related deaths and hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons.



IOM Uganda donated a maize milling machinery to Tic Matek Anyim Wa Company Limited to assist in production of their goods

To ensure equity and fairness in the workplace in relation to the distribution of profit margins, and to counterbalance the LRA’s notoriously hierarchical command structure, each of the company’s six employees is also a director with equal shares.

The company, which received maize milling machinery from IOM Uganda, hulls, grinds and packages maize grains into flour known as ‘posho’ fit for human consumption. It began selling its products in late August, with sales rapidly increasing every day.

*‘It is a wonderful feeling to see customers buy products which we produced all by ourselves. The ‘market is available and we have the machines to produce the desired quality.’* Says Richard Odong a co-director/employee of the company

TIC MATEK ANYIM WA Company Limited is facilitated by IOM Uganda, with support from the United Nations Development Programme and the United States Agency for International Development.

## IOM PROVIDES LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES TO 13 WOMEN IN THE RIFT VALLEY

Mary Kadenyeka at a close look does not seem out of place as she puts up shelter structures for returning IDPS in Uasin Gishu. She freely gives instructions and mingles with her male colleagues as they construct houses, a profession that has over time been reserved for men.

*“Never be selective, always be ready to undertake any task available”*, Mary responds to questions on why she chose to be a carpenter. The mother of three is one of the 13 female carpenters contracted by IOM to help construct shelter for returning IDPs who are currently living in tents, in transit sited near their homes.

Mary solely depends on her work to feed, clothe and pay school fees for her 3 children as well as compliment her husband’s income.

*“She has inspired many women who are also now working as carpenters or unskilled helpers to the carpenters. She is one of our best carpenters,”* says Marion Mayende, Supervisor, IOM shelter Project.



Mary Kadenyeka (in green t-shirt) works with IOM staff to construct a shelter for one of the returning IDPs

IOM has provided 13 women with livelihood opportunities through the construction of shelters for returning IDPs in the Rift Valley province through the Japanese funded *Shelter and Livelihoods for Peace and Reconciliation* project. IOM Eldoret Field Office has constructed 2,141 out of the targeted 8000 shelters.

## IOM NAIROBI CONDUCTS COA TRAINING OF TRAINERS IN BANGLADESH AND COA SESSION IN AL-HOL REFUGEE CAMP



**IOM Nairobi's COA trainer, Idle Gure, conducting the training to the new trainers, Ms. Shama Waris, Ms. Nilufar Begum and Mr. Riazulhuq.**

IOM Nairobi's Canadian Orientation Abroad (COA) conducted a three day training of trainers for three new on-call cultural orientation trainers in Dhaka, Bangladesh, to prepare the trainers and provide relevant information and skills for effective delivery of COA sessions in the future. A COA session was also carried out by IOM Nairobi's COA trainer to Rohingya refugees who were cleared for resettlement to Canada out of Bangladesh.

The training was facilitated by IOM Nairobi's COA trainer, Idle Gure, who has vast experience in coordinating and conducting mobile COA sessions for refugees with a similar background as the caseload in Bangladesh. The trainees were Ms. Shama Waris, Ms. Nilufar Begum and Mr. Riazulhuq.

Recommendations from the training were; translation of the COA materials into the languages of the refugees; creation of a COA database; exposure to Canada for trainers to receive first hand experience on reception and placement services; and incorporation of basic literacy and numeracy material into the 5 Day curriculum, particularly for those with limited English skills like the Rohingyas.

IOM Nairobi also conducted one of three five day COA sessions for 39 Palestinian refugees in Al-Hol camp at the border of Syria and Iraq between August 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> under a mobile mission. IOM trainers from Syria and Ethiopia conducted the other two sessions for 80 Palestinian refugees.

The mobile mission was a good opportunity for the IOM Nairobi trainer, Kassim Abdullahinur, to participate and expand his training scopes and get experience in training people from a background that is different from the migrants from the larger Africa.



**IOM Nairobi's COA trainer, Kassim Abdullahinur, with some of the participants of the COA session**

## IOM TANZANIA DONATES A PHOTOCOPIER TO THE TANZANIA REGIONAL IMMIGRATION TRAINING ACADEMY



**The IOM Training Specialist, Mr. Sean Burke, presents the photocopier to the Commandant, Mr. Abdullah Abdullah**

As a component of a 1035 funded project to support the development of training curriculum for the Tanzania Regional Immigration Training Academy (TRITA), IOM Tanzania recently purchased and donated a photocopier to the Academy to facilitate the production of handouts that are used for in house training courses.

The installation of the photocopier represents a significant benefit to the capacity of the Tanzanian Government to deliver training courses, since one of the major challenges of training delivery is the expenses incurred with reproduction of training materials. With the photocopier being available in-house, the cost of reproducing training materials will more affordable and will directly enhance the retention and access to knowledge, for even years, after training courses have been conducted.

The photocopier was delivered and unofficially presented to the on August 17, 2009.

**MIGRATION HEALTH KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE VISIT TO THAILAND**



**Director of the Department of Health Promotion, MOPHS Kenya (at left) visiting an IOM-supported and government-run migrant community health post in the border district of Mae Sod, Tak Province, Thailand. 20 August 2009. Credit: G. Irving, IOM.**

IOM last month organized a knowledge exchange visit of four officials from Kenya’s Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation (MOPHS) and one official from the South Africa Ministry of Health to Thailand. IOM Thailand and two staff from IOM Nairobi also participated in the visit.

This knowledge exchange offered opportunity for decision-makers in governments facing unique, yet somewhat similar migration challenges, to share lessons learned in developing sustainable policies and programmatic responses on border health and to promote the health of migrants.

The visit involved a briefing with IOM Bangkok Chief of Mission and programme staff, a briefing with the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Thai Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), visits to observe IOM, government, and NGO health activities *in situ* in Tak and Samutsakhon provinces, and participation in the dissemination conference of the 5-year MOPH-IOM pilot programme “Healthy Migrant Healthy Thailand”.

During the debrief session, participants offered feedback on the Thai model and determined next steps in preparation for the 7<sup>th</sup> Global Conference on Health Promotion, the 63<sup>rd</sup> World Health Assembly, and for the further development of migration and border health programming in Kenya.

The visit was co-facilitated by IOM missions in Thailand, Nairobi, and Pretoria, and funded through the IOM project “Technical Cooperation on Managing Migration Health in Kenya”.

**IOM CONDUCTS A STUDY TOUR OF KENYAN BORDER POINTS FOR SOMALI OFFICIALS**



**Kilindini port immigration officers and Somali immigration officers pose for a group photo after the port tour. Photo by IOM 2009.**

IOM Nairobi conducted a study visit to experience border operations of some of Kenya’s busiest ports for five Somali immigration officials and police officers at the end of July. The visit was organized by IOM with support and facilitation from the Kenya Department of Immigration Services. The visit follows a CBMM workshop that was conducted in Nairobi for Somali immigration officials in efforts to ensure security and better management of Kenya’s border posts with Somalia.

The study visit aimed at familiarizing the officers with border management procedures with a view to build their capacities in border management and migration management as a whole. The visitors toured the port of Mombasa (old port and Kilindini), the Namanga border post and the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport

The officers were informed on real time traveler processing at the ports of entry, document verification at the Document Forgery Detection Unit at the JKIA and ways of handling of stowaways at the sea port of Mombasa. The officials also visited the Immigration headquarters in Nairobi, where they were introduced to the structure and operations of the entire department.



**Mr. Mathai, Chief Immigration officer of the Coast region, explains how to handle stowaways at Kilindini port to the Somali immigration officers**

## IOM PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT TO IDPs

IOM continues to provide psychosocial counseling to individuals affected by the post election violence. Focus is currently on Cherenganyi, Trans Nzoia East District, an area that hosts displaced persons from various communities who lost their source of livelihood, a situation that has resulted in increased level of poverty in the area.

The response from the community has been encouraging, signifying the need to heal and face life with fellow community members. Beneficiaries of psychosocial support range from people who lost their means of livelihood, were physically assaulted during the violence, lost loved ones in the skirmishes and lost property. Several community members still feel insecure and need support to settle back home.

A particularly moving case is of a HIV positive widow from the Turkana community who fled with her ailing husband at the time to seek shelter from the violence that marked the general elections. The now sick lady has no means of livelihood and relies on well wishers to provide for her children. IOM is offering individual counseling for her and her children as well as advice on overcoming her strain.

Cases such as these are many among returning IDPs as well as the host communities. Communities also feel neglected and say the Government is not doing enough to help get them back on their feet.

Children have also missed school sessions because their parents are not able to raise the most basic of their needs, enough to have them attend school comfortably.

The IOM field office in Eldoret is carrying out counseling sessions for those that need it. *“It is taking quiet some time for us to reach everybody but we are getting there. Ones an individual accepts that they need help, healing can begin”*, say Wamai Njeri, IOM psychosocial supervisor.



IOM's psychosocial counsellors speak with village elders in Trans Nzoia East District

## IOM CONDUCTS A PEACE AND RECONCILIATION MEETING IN SHAMTRACK



Participants of the Peace and Reconciliation Meeting in Shamtrack location, Uasin Gishu District

IOM's peace building efforts in the North Rift Valley are begin to bear fruits as communities that hitherto were suspicious about each other open up and begin talks on reconciliation.

A peace building meeting convened by the IOM Eldoret peace building staff saw a section of the Kalenjin community give back items that they stole from the Kikuyu community such as livestock and household items following the post election skirmishes.

Participants at the peace and reconciliation meeting agreed to forgive each other and pledged to take the bold step of forgetting the past differences and forging ahead through respect and love for one another.

Together, as a sign of unity and embracing each other's culture for a lasting peace, they planted trees and drank *mur-sik* (a Kalenjin traditional sour milk) and *mokimo* (the Kikuyu traditional food).

The community is also engaging in interaction through self-help groups that practice poultry farming and cultivate mushroom to enhance food security and development of the area.

However, challenges still abound in regard to community outreach. The community peace committees need additional skills to help enhance their delivery to the community. They feel that capacity building will help improve community interactions.

The peace and reconciliation meeting was held in Shamtrack Location, Uasin Gishu District in the Rift Valley Province. The project *Shelter and Livelihood for Peace and Reconciliation* is facilitated with funding from the Government of Japan.