



IOM International Organization for Migration

KENYA

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME IN KENYA

“IOM NAIROBI ASSISTS WITH THE RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES WHO HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY RECEIVING COUNTRIES.”

Kenya continues to host hundreds of thousands of refugees from neighboring countries in camps as well as in urban settings due to its geographical location and porous borders.

Refugees in Kenya mainly originate from neighbouring countries such as Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan.

Two refugee camps, Kakuma in North West of Kenya and Dadaab in the North East, host a large number of refugees. Since the early 1990s, IOM has been implementing a large resettlement programme, drawing many of its applicants from these sites. The Dadaab Refugee Camp

has become the biggest refugee processing center for IOM in Kenya

IOM Nairobi facilitates resettlement from Kenya to various destinations including USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and at least 10 European nations under governmental resettlement projects. Thousands of migrants are assisted each year.

The movements are organized through IOM's worldwide network of field offices in close collaboration with UNHCR and other international agencies, governmental bodies, NGO's and private sponsors.

Programme Description

Refugees register with UNHCR when they arrive in the host country before they are assigned to

camps, where they can then be assisted and protected. Those who prefer to stay with relatives outside the camps may indicate this and are recognized as urban refugees.

Refugees' applications for resettlement are processed by UNHCR. If eligible, refugees undergo a thorough interview process by the embassies of respective receiving countries, before they are granted approval to resettle there.

IOM IN ACTION

Refugee Movements

- In 2010, IOM Nairobi facilitated travel of 9,712 individuals from Kenya and other neighboring countries under different resettlement programmes.

Family Reunification

- In 2010, IOM Nairobi facilitated travel for 1,810 individuals under family reunification programmes.

Assistance to stranded migrants

- In 2010 IOM Nairobi facilitated return of 712 individuals to their home countries in East African region.

Self Paying Migrants

- IOM has facilitated movement for 897 self paying migrants to the USA, Canada, Australia, and European countries.

THE RESETTLEMENT PROCEDURE

Health assessments

At the request of the receiving states, IOM Nairobi provides pre-departure health assessments to refugees approved for resettlement. The objective is to better manage the potential public health implications in receiving communities as a result of population mobility; facilitate the integration of refugees through disease detection and cost-effective management of these conditions, as well as to provide useful data on the medical condition of in-coming refugees. The migrant's health is assessed either by IOM or a panel of doctors as per the requests of the resettlement country governments. Pre-departure treatment for conditions such as malaria, tuberculosis and sexually transmitted infections is also offered to ensure that refugees are fit to travel. Medical escorts are arranged for refugees who require assistance and care during the journey.

Cultural Orientation

Refugees approved for resettlement often migrate to countries where tradition, values and cultural practices are perceivably different from their own. This can be a challenging experience without prior preparation.

IOM, under its cultural orientation programme, prepares migrants for their new lives in receiving countries. Cultural orientation equips the migrants with the necessary tools to deal with the initial integration concerns and the varying stages of cultural, social and economic adaptation. Cultural orientation in IOM is divided into four programmes.

- Canadian Orientation Abroad
- Australian Cultural Orientation
- Cultural Orientation for the United Kingdom
- Labour Migration Cultural Orientation (for Kenyan migrants to work in the Middle East)

Refugee Movements

Movement of people and the essential activities to facilitate systematic migration accounts is a sizeable share of IOM Nairobi's operational programmes. In 2010 IOM Nairobi facilitated travel of 9,712 individuals from Kenya and other neighboring countries under different resettlement programmes to the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, France, the UK, Ireland, Switzerland, the Netherlands.

IOM Nairobi Operations Department is responsible for establishing support mechanisms for transportation activities. It facilitates refugees transport as well as provides operational back-up to field offices in situations that require central coordination or expertise not readily available locally. IOM has global agreements with airlines that minimize travel expenses for resettlement programmes.

Refugees must report to IOM Nairobi Transit Centre five days prior to travel day for required preparations. IOM can also provide an escort to migrants who need assistance during the journey. The resettlement process ends once IOM has safely assisted the movement of refugees to their country of resettlement and handed them over to the relevant authorities in that country.

IOM, US Resettlement Support Centre (RSC) staff or externally hired professionals may escort refugees to the point of entry or even to final destination if needed in the receiving country. The escort's primary duty is to ensure that their clients' travel is as comfortable as possible until they arrive at their destination. Escorts also play the role of cultural arbitrator in making sure the refugees act in an acceptable behavior on international flights not to attract any negative attention from fellow passengers.

A medical escort may be allocated for an individual or group of individuals, for whom the organization is responsible, and needs or may need medical and/or logistic assistance during travel. In 2010 IOM used over 300 individuals to escort USRP cases.

Other Resettlement Programmes Include:

• Family Reunification

IOM facilitates movement for migrants who have been approved to join their families or relatives abroad. To facilitate their movement, migrants may undergo health assessment as per the requirement of the receiving country, cultural orientation and finally depart to the country of destination.

An important feature of family reunification is the preparation of migrants for their move to a new country through pre-departure health assessment as may be required by the host country. In 2010 IOM Nairobi facilitated travel of 1,810 individuals under family reunification programmes to different countries of the world. Most of them are family members of refugees or asylum seekers who were already resettled before from East Africa.

For family reunification cases travelling under the IOM auspices, the following procedure is followed to facilitate their movement:

- Original Visa or travel Document is sent to IOM by the embassy of the receiving country.
- IOM sends the documents to the Department of Immigration where exit permit is applied for.
- Although not a must under family reunification, cultural orientation may be provided as required by the host country, to better prepare the migrant into settling their new community.
- Family reunification cases arrive IOM office and get transportation to the airport for all required procedures for an international departure (check-in, customs, immigration, and other formalities).

• Emergency and Stranded Migrants

IOM is frequently asked by governments and international agencies at a very short notice to provide humanitarian emergency assistance to migrants, particularly those who find themselves in difficult migratory circumstances for which funding is not readily available. Although the responsibility to assist stranded migrants rests on the home country governments, they are often unable to do so and call on IOM for assistance. In 2010 IOM Nairobi facilitated return of 712 individuals to their home countries in East African region.

During such operations, IOM will provide: pre-departure medical assessment to ensure that migrants are fit to travel. In the event that they may need medical assistance while on transit, a medical escort will be provided; food/snacks; movement to safety.

• Self Paying Migrants

Self paying and sponsored migrants travel abroad to work, study or settle. IOM Nairobi provides assistance in facilitating their movement under an organized and regular migration schemes. IOM does this by improving existing processes to make it easier, more efficient and reliable for both migrants and the government concerned.

WE ASSIST:

• Self-Paying migrants

• Refugees



MANAGING MIGRATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL

International Organization for Migration
Coordinating Office for the Horn of Africa

Church Road – off Rhapta Road, Westlands
PO Box 55040 – 00200, Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: +254 20 444 4174
Email: piunairobi@iom.int

<http://nairobi.iom.int>

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