

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

Support to NEPAD

Period of Report: July 2007 to June 2008

Collaboration with other UN agencies in support of NEPAD

UN/NEPAD Education/ICT sub-cluster

In support of the Action Plan of the Second Decade on Education and in accordance with the African Union (AU) strategic programme framework, the following activities were undertaken during the reporting period:

- IOM continued its collaboration with institutions of higher education including virtual learning centres with the primary objective of expanding programmes in virtual education involving the Diaspora. In 2007, a regional training session was organized in Rwanda to train 15 professors from partner universities in using an e-learning platform to benefit from distance learning courses developed by the Diaspora.
- A second round table on e-learning was held in Bujumbura, Burundi from 21-23 in April 2008. This round table was aimed at strengthening the role of the Diaspora in the educational sector, gather key distance learning actors in the region and to develop synergies between them. In early 2008, the 'Université Lumière de Bujumbura' began its first distance MBA course sponsored by IOM's programme on migration for development in Africa (MIDA).

UN/NEPAD Health sub-cluster

Within the framework of the AU/NEPAD Health Strategy, the following activities were undertaken by IOM regional and country offices in Africa:

- In IOM Uganda, the HIV/AIDS department has been a key member of the JUNTA/ JUSPSA (Joint UN Team on AIDS / Joint UN Programme of Support on Aids) programming and implementing a Hot Spot Mapping of Kampala -Juba Route. HIV Hot-spot mapping for Hard-to-Reach Risk Populations in Somaliland was finalised and the report was officially launched to the Joint UN Team on AIDS (JUNTA) in February 2008.
- In the Southern African region, IOM continued its support for the second phase of the regional programme, Partnership on HIV/AIDS and Mobility in Southern Africa (PHAMSA), to address the impact of AIDS among migrant and mobile workers and their families throughout the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. It focuses on selected sectors in the SADC region characterized by high levels of population mobility.
- In partnership with UNAIDS, efforts are also underway with the HIV and AIDS Unit of the SADC Secretariat to assist member States to draw up a regional

programme on cross-border issues as well support the Secretariat to develop mechanisms to better manage the problem of brain drain and human resource development.

- In Zimbabwe IOM continues to run its migrants reception and support center at the border with South Africa assisting an average of 15,000 deported migrants a month. Health activities include medical care and treatment, HIV prevention, and care and treatment for victims of sexual and gender based violence. Similar centres were open in two other districts within the country in the border with Zambia.
- In West Africa, awareness programmes in HIV/AIDS and STIs targeting youth in Senegal, Mali, Mauritania and Guinea were initiated in 2007 and will continue through 2008. These are aimed to lessen the vulnerability of young people and to improve their knowledge of reproductive and sexual health especially amongst the border communities where mobility is high.

UN/NEPAD Environment, Population and Urbanization sub-cluster

Pursuant to the AU Council and Assembly Decisions on the environment and climatic change, during this period, IOM has engaged in the following activities:

- To raise awareness amongst policy makers on the role of migration and its impact on environment, population and urbanization. In November 2007, the 94th session of the IOM Council addressed migration and environmental issues.
- IOM contributed to the UN High Level Thematic Debate on Climate Change held in New York on 11-12 February. In partnership with the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), IOM organized a research workshop that brought together international experts in the fields of migration and environmental research from 16 to 18 April 2008 in Munich, Germany. The findings will be presented in the UNU-EHS organized International Conference on Environment, Forced Migration and Vulnerability in Bonn in October 2008.
- To increase political and public awareness of the challenges that climate change, environmental degradation and migration may pose to human security and of the implications of these challenges to research-based policy. IOM, together with the Greek Chairmanship of the Human Security Network, co-hosted a conference on “Climate Change, Environmental Degradation and Migration: Addressing Vulnerabilities and Harnessing Opportunities” on 19 February in Geneva.
- Under TICAD IV Environment and Climate Change cluster targeting Africa, IOM will contribute its expertise to a number of areas including stabilizing communities prone to environmental degradation; facilitating internal migration and population resettlements and managing urbanization.

- IOM has also been participating in a number of research projects in the area of migration and the environment. IOM together with UNDP, UNIDO, FAO, WFP and UNESCO, is undertaking a research and technical cooperation project in Senegal. The objective of this is to reverse the decline in forest ecosystems and to encourage the sustainable use of forest ecosystem services in Senegal through building national/local capacity to design and implement a structured eco-tax system. IOM in cooperation with UNU-EHS and other partners is participating in the Environmental Change and Forced Migration Scenarios (EACH-FOR) project, which conducts case studies in a number of regions including Africa to explore the extent to which environmental factors play a role in the decision to migrate. IOM acts as an implementing partner in Mozambique, Niger and Vietnam.

Human Resource Development, including reversing the brain drain

In order to promote the NEPAD priority area of *Human Resources Development including Reversing the Brain Drain*, IOM has continued to provide direct financial and technical support to African countries in establishing programmes for reversing the brain drain, e.g. Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA).

- In the Great Lakes region – Burundi, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo – following the conclusion of Phase III in March 2008, IOM has begun preparing for Phase IV with a revised strategy that will call for and select a number of development projects proposed by institutions in the region, working with Diaspora members.
- In West Africa, IOM will initiate a programme designed to mobilize the skills and expertise of migrant women from West African countries living in Italy. The programme will engage in an outreach campaign as well as support co-development projects proposed by migrant women and their associations.
- In the Eastern African region, IOM Ethiopia and UNDP will contribute to strengthening the institutional capacities of the government for the implementation of the government's Plan for Accelerated and Sustainable Development to End Poverty and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
- In order to meet both immediate humanitarian needs for essential social services, and to foster the long-term economic advancement of Sudan's underdeveloped regions, the Government of Sudan in collaboration with IOM continued its activities aimed at strengthening the human resource capacities in Sudan and particularly in Southern Sudan.
- In the health sector, following a successful second MIDA Ghana Health Project that was concluded in December 2007, MIDA Ghana Health III strategy proposes to continue to engage Ghanaian health professionals from mainly the Netherlands, Germany and the United Kingdom in the capacity development of human resources in the health sector of Ghana.

- In December 2007, during the Africa Gender Forum, organized by FAS in Dakar, Senegal, IOM in collaboration with FAS and Africa Recruit launched a database on African women to mobilize their support in the socio-economic development of the continent.

Financial support for NEPAD programmes and projects

IOM has provided direct support to African Governments and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to implement above-mentioned programmes that assist countries in promoting the NEPAD priority areas in education, ICTs, health and human resource development and reversing the brain drain. During this period, IOM has also raised funds from donor countries (Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, and United Kingdom) including the European Commission and UNDP that have been deployed to support the efforts of AU member countries.

Institutional support to the NEPAD Secretariat

IOM's partnership with the AU and the RECs is in the context of the NEPAD and AU's strategic programme framework. IOM works closely with various departments of the AU Commission (as migration is not covered by a single unit); with SADC, CENSAD, EAC, ECOWAS, IGAD, ECCAS and other stakeholders to address the challenges of migration in and from Africa. Over the years, IOM has steadily increased its participation as well as technical support to the AU and the NEPAD which has largely paved the way in advancing the agenda of migration both at the country and regional level.

Advocacy work and other activities in support of African Development

During the reporting period, IOM continued to support African countries in preparations for the Global Forum on Migration (GFMD 2) to be hosted in October 2008 by the Government of Philippines. To this effect, briefings with African Ambassadors accredited to the UN in New York, to the AU and ECA in Addis Ababa, Geneva and Brussels are being organized on several thematic areas.

IOM participated in the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) held in Yokohama, Japan from 28-30 May 2008 under the theme "*Towards a Vibrant Africa: A Continent of Hope and Opportunity*" where efforts were made to mobilize the knowledge and resources of the international community in the core areas of boosting economic growth; ensuring human security (including achieving MDGs and consolidation of peace) and addressing environment/climate change issues.

Pursuant to the decision of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from the 25-30 January 2007 that migration issues be included as a regular item on the Pan-African Parliament agenda as a priority and to increase collaboration with national and regional parliaments to monitor progress and exchange experiences, in May 2008 IOM addressed the African Parliamentary Union that organized a conference on the theme "Africa and Migration: Challenges, Problems and Solutions" with the technical support of a number of other agencies, under the sponsorship of the International Parliamentary Union.