

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Support to NEPAD

Period of Report: July 2008 to June 2009

Collaboration with other UN Agencies in support of NEPAD

Education/ICT: IOM continued its collaboration with institutions of higher education including virtual learning centres. IOM continues to support the process of regional consultation among higher education institutions on the use of ICT and will offer support to projects encouraging the involvement of diaspora experts in distance learning courses in Burundi, DRC, and Rwanda. Furthermore, in collaboration with World University Service (WUS), IOM initiated a programme on “Migration and higher education: Developing skills and capacity” in order to train human resources in migration management in selected African universities.

Health: IOM continued its support for the regional programme ‘Partnership on HIV and Mobility in Southern Africa’ aiming at reducing HIV incidence and impact of AIDS among migrant and mobile workers and their families in Southern Africa.

In coordination with WHO and UNICEF, IOM has been designated as the lead agency for cholera response in border areas of Zimbabwe – Manicaland, Mashonaland West and Matabeleland North. IOM is also working closely with its NGO partners in the field on disease surveillance and reporting, case management, food, water, and health and hygiene promotion.

IOM has provided humanitarian assistance, including health, water and sanitation services to vulnerable populations in selected border areas through Migrant Support Centres in Chirundu (Zambia), Beitbridge (Zimbabwe) and Plumtree (Zimbabwe).

IOM, in partnership with WHO, organized a regional consultative process, the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA) workshop on “Promoting Health and Development: Migration Health in Southern Africa” (Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 10-12 June 2009). The MIDSA brought together SADC officials from Ministries of Immigration, Health and the National Aids Councils, to facilitate regional dialogue and cooperation in working towards the implementation of the World Health Assembly resolution on Migrant Health.

In West Africa, following the implementation of the first phase of a regional programme to reduce the vulnerability of youth to HIV/AIDS and STIs and to strengthen their reproductive and sexual health in cross border communities with strong sub-regional mobility in West Africa in 2007/2008, IOM developed a five year second phase of the programme involving Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal.

A supplementary programme has been developed with institutional partners to reduce the vulnerability of professionals and road and rail transport users (including their host communities) to HIV/AIDS. Country specific (Ivory Coast, Mauritania, Republic of Congo, Senegal) projects on HIV/AIDS concerning several categories of mobile populations are also being implemented in partnership with UNAIDS and governments.

In Nigeria IOM supported the Government to develop a health component in the National Policy on the Protection and Assistance to Trafficked Persons. In Sierra Leone activities aimed at reducing the vulnerability of mobile workers to HIV/AIDS by establishing a

Partnership on HIV/AIDS and Mobile workers are ongoing. In Liberia, the beneficiaries of IOM Monrovia's Reintegration Programme for Ex-combatants have been required to complete an HIV/AIDS sensitization course to qualify for reintegration support. The course has been conducted in partnership with UNAIDS.

In Central Africa, specifically in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a 15-month project targeting medical and health assistance to the dependents of the Congolese Army (FARDC) was initiated. In cooperation with the ministry of health, IOM rehabilitated several medical centres and conducted a number of awareness campaigns on HIV/AIDS, STD, malaria and diarrhetic diseases in the provinces of Equateur, Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu and Kinshasa.

In collaboration with the East African Community, IOM and partners have assisted in undertaking national assessments on data management, policy reviews, and impact of migration of Human Resources for Health in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania. In Kenya, with the support of IOM and ILO, the related National Steering Committee and National Technical Working Group are elaborating a national 5-year strategy to address brain-drain and brain-gain in the health sector.

In Somalia, in collaboration with UNAIDS and WHO, IOM has undertaken groundbreaking research on the vulnerabilities of mobile and most-at-risk populations to HIV infection and completed a survey to identify HIV risk behavior and HIV prevalence among female transactional sex workers.

In collaboration with IGAD, UNAIDS and Partner States, IOM is completing a regional review of HIV among nomadic populations to advise development of the IGAD HIV strategic plan.

In addition, IOM as member of the UN country team, under the leadership of WHO, continued its capacity building activities for Member States on the contents and structure of national pandemic influenza preparedness plans for the health sector.

Environment, Population and Urbanization: IOM participated in the Environment, Population and Urbanization Cluster meeting held in September 2008 in Nairobi, Kenya. In its plan for 2009 the cluster has included migration as a key area of focus by way of organizing workshops, sponsoring research and identifying joint activities at country and sub-regional level in collaboration with the AU and the RECs. IOM has also engaged in the following activities:

- IOM continued its awareness raising activities amongst policy makers on the impact of environment and climate change on population displacement.
- To assist Mali in adapting to the climate change security implications IOM, along with UNEP, has developed a strategy aimed at providing the balance between practical actions and further research, analysis and planning; and ensuring national level ownership of the project processes and results.
- In Monrovia within frame of IOM's Post-Conflict Reintegration Program designed to provide technical know-how and opportunities for sustainable livelihood to ex-combatants to facilitate their reintegration within the Liberian society, IOM is also addressing the waste management needs of four targeted communities in Monrovia and its immediate outskirts, through the initiation of the first phase of a long-term local environmental action program.
- In Darfur, Sudan a programme addressing environmental degradation and climate variability challenges will be implemented with partner organizations, including UNEP and national and international NGOs. The project addresses the immediate challenges

facing populations affected by conflict and climate variability in North and South. The main four project activities include: (1) environment and livelihood vulnerability mapping, (2) developing rapid environmental assessments and community environmental action plans in camps and return/reintegration areas, (3) providing matching grants and micro-enterprise support to contribute to environmentally sustainable community stabilization in rural Darfur, and (4) direct aid delivery focusing on environmental mainstreaming humanitarian aid planning and delivery.

- With respect to issues pertaining to migration and displacement as a result of climate change and environmental degradation, following a request from the IASC Working Group, IOM in collaboration with other organizations convened an Informal Group on Migration, Displacement and Climate Change and hosted two meetings of the Informal Group in 2008 to consider appropriate terminology and typologies on migration and displacement and climate change, and to identify possible operational and analytical gaps in the context of the humanitarian response.
- IOM participated in a number of research projects in the area of migration and the environment and conducted case studies in a number of regions to explore the extent to which environmental factors play a role in the decision to migrate. IOM assisted the implementation of the project in Mozambique and Niger.

Human Resource Development, Including Reversing the Brain Drain: To promote the NEPAD priority area of *Human Resources Development including Reversing the Brain Drain*, IOM has continued to develop its long-standing initiatives, e.g. Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA), to reduce the effects of the so-called brain drain by engaging members of African Diaspora communities in development activities of their countries of origin.

In the Great Lakes region – Burundi, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo – the third phase of the MIDA Great Lakes programme was successfully concluded, with over 200 expert missions having been carried out in the sectors of education, health, and rural development in all three countries. In the framework of the fourth phase of the programme, IOM has now launched a call for proposals for multi-annual capacity building projects in the same priority sectors involving Diaspora experts from Europe.

In West Africa, building on MIDA Italy projects for Ghana and Senegal, IOM is involved in coordinating the MIDA Women programme. Follow-up of other preliminary phases implemented in Benin and Burkina Faso is being done and new programmes like MIDA /Senegal-Spain, with the objective of facilitating the direct involvement of Senegalese Diaspora living in the Canary Islands through initiatives directed towards development and capacity building, are developed and in discussion. In Nigeria IOM supported government efforts to develop a national migration policy. IOM is working with Nigeria to finalize the endorsement process of the draft Migration Policy.

In the East African region, Rwanda requested IOM to assist the Diaspora Directorate General of the Rwandese Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Cooperation to develop a database on the Rwandan Diaspora in Belgium and a dynamic website for the purpose of information exchange between the Government and the Diaspora and thereby enhancing linkages between the two to promote development and investment in Rwanda.

The Kenyan Ministry of Labour sought IOM support to enhance its capacities at better management of labour migration. This initiative also seeks to establish linkages with the Diaspora, particularly in the UK, and to establish an internet based tool to capture

information on the Diaspora; develop a skills inventory database to determine the skills surpluses and deficits in the country as well as matching them with labour demand abroad.

IOM received funding from the Italian government to establish linkages between Somali Diaspora communities in Italy with local communities in Somalia for purposes of investment and development. IOM is working in Italy to strengthen local Somali women organizations and IOM Hargeisa/Nairobi will select activities to be supported in Somaliland. At the same time, the Government of Finland is funding IOM for a Somalia MIDA project entailing the temporary return of Somali health workers living in Finland. On a wider scope IOM and UNDP have finalized a collaborative agreement to implement the joint QUEST-MIDA project for Somalia targeting Diaspora from all over the world.

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 resources capacities in Sudan and particularly in Southern Sudan.

Advocacy work and other activities in support of African development

During the reporting period, IOM continued to support African countries in their preparation for the Global Forum on Migration (GFMD 2) that was hosted in October 2008 by the Government of Philippines. IOM in collaboration with HCR also hosted a side event on Migration, Population Displacement and Sustainable Development in Africa on 22 September 2008.

Additionally, IOM made significant contributions towards the ADF VI held from the 19 - 21 November 2008 at the UNECA in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the theme: "Action on gender equality, empowerment and ending violence against women in Africa." IOM also contributed to the issues paper on Empowering African Women focusing on violence against women including issues of human trafficking as well as land and property rights as key developmental issues. In 2008, IOM actively participated in the preparatory meetings leading to the second Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development held in Paris on 25 November 2008.

Within the framework of the December 2008 Knowledge Fair of the Joint Migration and Development Initiative, which is funded by the European Commission, IOM hosted a side event showcasing the MIDA Great Lakes project and other initiatives promoting diaspora involvement in the development of their countries of origin.

Cooperation with Regional Economic Communities

In 2008, IOM, in collaboration with IGAD and the AU, launched a regional program The East Africa Migration Route: building co-operation, information sharing and developing joint practical initiatives amongst countries of origin, transit and destination, which aims to address policy and operational challenges associated with migration in East Africa through inter-state and intra-regional cooperation in migration management.

With the technical support of IOM, an IGAD Regional Consultative Process (IGAD-RCP) was launched in May 2008 as a forum to promote and facilitate regional dialogue and cooperation on migration policy issues amongst the IGAD Member States and to foster greater understanding and policy coherence on migration management amongst countries.