



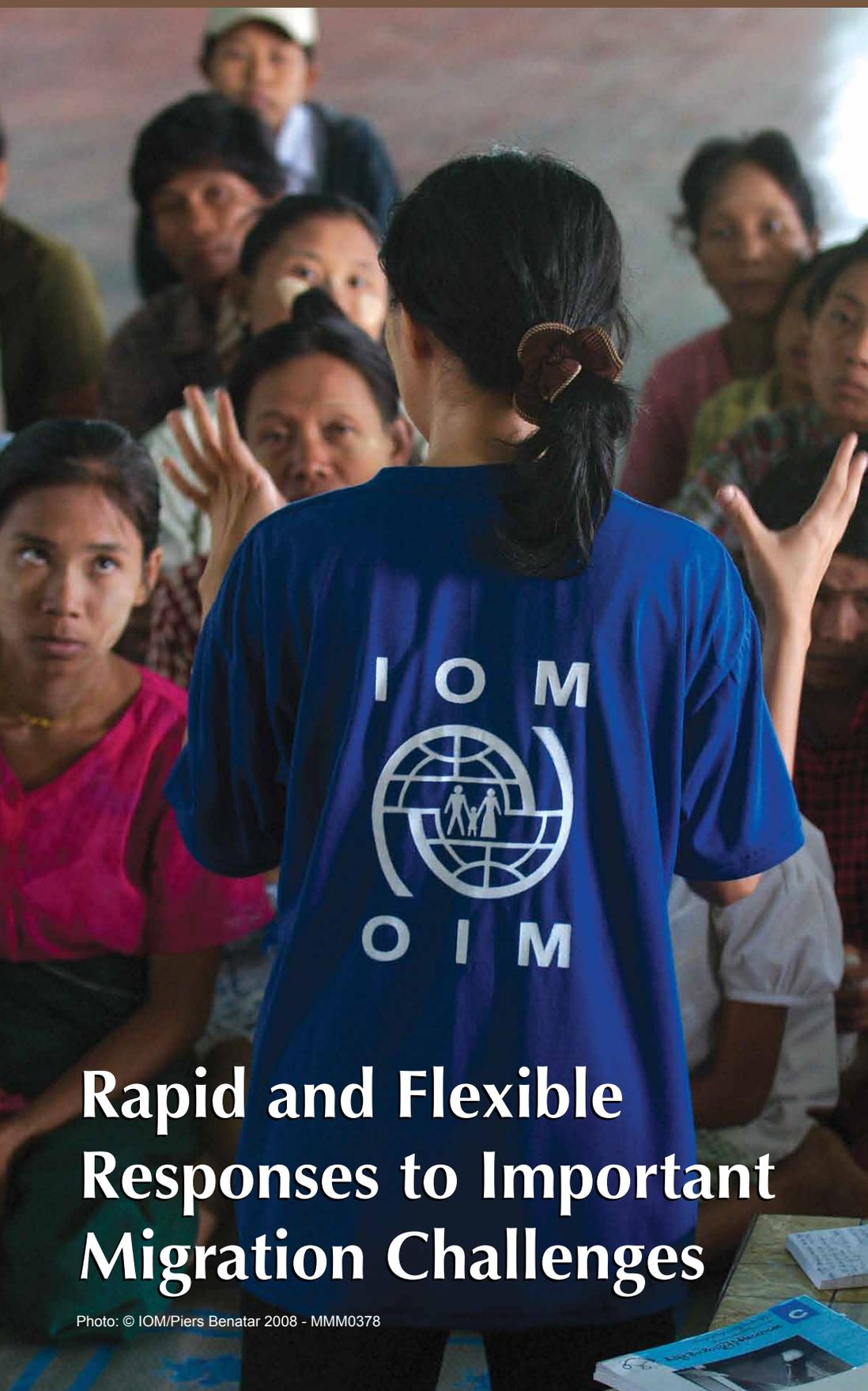
IOM • OIM

Spring 2010

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

1035 Facility

N E W S L E T T E R



Rapid and Flexible Responses to Important Migration Challenges

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IOM Global Fund for Capacity Building in Migration Management

The 1035 Facility is a rapid, flexible funding mechanism for migration related capacity building projects. Established in 2001 by IOM Member States, the 1035 Facility has funded more than 300 projects, benefitting some 90 countries. Following a request from IOM Member States, the 1035 Facility was expanded in 2008 to provide additional funding to eligible Member States. We are pleased that more than USD 5 million is now available for programming in 2010. IOM is also encouraged by the increasing number of contributions to the 1035 Facility, including from Austria, Belgium, Italy, Spain, and the United States.

The articles in this newsletter provide details on a number of projects being implemented through the 1035 Facility and their positive impact on migration management. Care has been taken to showcase in this newsletter the diversity of initiatives supported by the 1035 Facility; as well as the close collaboration between IOM and its Member and Observer States in implementing these important projects. We often receive queries on the different types of projects that the 1035 Facility supports; in this regard, we encourage readers to learn more about the 1035 Facility by visiting our website at: www.iom.int/1035/.

William Lacy Swing
Director General

Assisting Sudan in the Establishment of the Sudan Centre for Migration Development and Population Studies

IOM Sudan, through 1035 Facility funding, is supporting the Secretariat for Sudanese Working Abroad (SSWA) to establish a Sudan Centre for Migration Development and Population Studies.

Inaugurated in Khartoum in September 2009 in the presence of IOM's former Chief of Staff, Mr. Ala Almoman, Sudan's Migration Research Centre is currently developing the country's first Migration Profile.

An international expert, Giambattista Cantisani, is working with staff at the centre to gather information on stocks and flows of migration. The research team is also mapping the institutions involved in migration to help improve information management and policy development.

A Technical Working Group has been established to support the research. Made up of representatives from all government institutions involved in migration (such as the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Labour), as well as the Central Bureau of Statistics, this collaborative effort will help ensure the end result – the Migration Profile – will be accepted and owned by all institutions and used to develop appropriate migration policies. The Migration Profile should be available by July 2010.



Inaugurated on 27 September 2009 the centre will collect manage and analyse migration data in a bid to help the Sudanese government manage migration



Training session on migration data for the staff of the Centre for Migration Development and Population Studies 19 to 20 January

An essential component of this 1035 Facility funded project is capacity building for the research centre itself. Focusing on data collection, data management and analysis, and essential research skills, IOM is providing on-the-job training, as well as focused training courses for centre staff. For example, IOM's Research team helped run a training course on Migration Profiling for the staff and Technical Working Group, and other training has been identified in demography, migration and computer skills. This will help ensure that centre staff have all the necessary skills required to regularly update the Migration Profile and undertake other research projects. IOM is also ensuring the research centre has the necessary equipment to carry out its functions and, through the provision of migration-related books, journals and periodicals, is also supporting the development of a Migration Documentation Centre.

Finally, IOM will support the research centre to undertake a research project later this year. Focusing on the Sudanese diaspora in the UK, the research will examine return intentions in relation to professional skills. This will support the development of appropriate initiatives to encourage returns in line with both the development needs within Sudan and the desires of the diaspora.

Impact of remittances on development in Pakistan

At the request of the Government of Pakistan, IOM launched a study with financial support from the 1035 Facility to measure the nature, use and impact of remittance flows from Pakistani migrant workers in Saudi Arabia on households in Pakistan.

Responding to an absence of empirical data on the effects of inflows of remittances on the receiving-households in Pakistan, the study sought to fill this gap by assessing the economic and social impact of remittances on migrant-sending households.

“The study will support new legislation enhancing the development impact of these remittances on local, regional and national level development in Pakistan and also help improve remittance services for Pakistani workers in Saudi Arabia,” says Hassan Abdel Moneim Mostafa, IOM Regional Representative for West and Central Asia.

With the help of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), the Ministry of Labour, and the Bureau of Emigration, IOM conducted a household survey in 9 high-migration districts including in Punjab, Sindh, NWFP and Balochistan. Some 500 households were surveyed.

The survey was carried out during the period June-August 2009 when the country was facing the challenge



Household survey carried out by trained interviewers

of more than three million internally displaced persons (IDPs) from the northwest.

A comprehensively structured questionnaire, developed jointly by IOM and PIDE, was administered to the respondents in each sampled household through trained interviewers.

The analysis of the study shows that relatively young people prefer overseas migration, and their level of educational attainment is much higher than the national average.

The review of earnings and savings of migrants shows that workers were able to double their monthly savings amounting to 41 per cent of household monthly income; and the total average remittances received per household since migrants went abroad was recorded as Rs 1.05 million (approximately US\$ 13,145).

The analysis also reveals that a large proportion of remittances is spent on four sectors in the country - real estate and agricultural machinery, food, marriages and savings.

One of the interesting findings from the study was that the Global Economic Crisis (2008-09) appeared to have little effect on the outflow of workers or inflow of remittances to Pakistan.

Among its key recommendations for reaping the developmental benefits of remittances to Pakistan, the study suggests that the cost of overseas migration needs to be reduced by improving the recruitment system and controlling the exploitative practices. It also recommends that Pakistan's banking sector needs to be made more efficient to attract remittances through formal channels and directing them towards investment in the country.

Liberia Network Against Trafficking (LNAT) - Building Capacity and Connecting Stakeholders in Liberia

“Liberians need to be sensitized on the perils of human trafficking. The need to equip our law enforcement agencies with knowledge and skills to combat trafficking cannot be understated”, said Minister of Labour Tiawon Gongloe at the opening ceremony of the Counter Trafficking training workshop organized by IOM Liberia in Monrovia. The Minister, Chair of the Liberian Anti-human Trafficking Task Force has spearheaded efforts to step up the fight against trafficking and has encouraged agencies to work together to stem the increasing number of trafficking cases.



Family members of Victims of Trafficking (VoTs) that benefited from the 1035 Facility reintegration assistance

Recognizing the incidence of trafficking cases in the country and heeding the government’s call for support to combat the problem, IOM Liberia commenced a 1035 Facility-financed Counter Trafficking project in September 2009. This project is designed to enhance understanding of the trafficking phenomenon and to build the capacity of law enforcement officers and civil society to combat the crime. The project is also supporting the Liberian Government’s efforts to establish a National Referral System (NRS) for victims of trafficking in or from Liberia, and is piloting the provision of assistance through the NRS methodology to 35 trafficked persons and their families.

The project kicked off with a high profile training workshop attended by law enforcement officers in the capital city of Monrovia, followed by a series of training

workshops attended by more law enforcement officers, religious and community leaders in Cape Mount, Margibi and Grand Bassa counties. Thus far, 135 law enforcement officers and 138 religious and community leaders have attended the training workshops.

Through the workshops, awareness of trafficking in persons has increased considerably and as evidence of this and the empowering nature of the training provided, activities to counter trafficking have been implemented in the border areas. Training has involved key civil society figures who in turn have started to put in place protective measures in local communities, churches and mosques. For example, at the Bo Water, Grand Cape Mount County border crossing point, strict measures have been put in place to prohibit anyone traveling with a minor from crossing the border without proper documentation. Law enforcement officers have also increased their presence and vigilance at border points in Montserrado, Roberts International Airport, and various check points in Grand Bassa County.

Community groups are also now reporting suspected cases and community involvement has recently resulted in the rescue of 11 Bangladeshi nationals illegally brought into the country with the purpose of exploitation of their labour. The alleged perpetrators have been arrested and IOM and partners will provide assistance during their stay in a safe home.

Among persons identified and assisted through this project are a 15-year old Liberian boy trafficked to Sierra Leone, who was reunited with his mother and a Nigerian woman rescued from sexual exploitation. The latter was recruited under the false promise of a well-paid nursing job, and is currently under protection of local law enforcers while recovering from her ordeal and reflecting on the return to Nigeria. The international and inter-agency joint efforts in identifying and rescuing victims highlight the positive results of the collaborative working methods central to the success of a counter-trafficking project, but unfortunately underscore the growing phenomenon of regional trafficking. As the case of the Nigerian nurse proves, even educated individuals are susceptible to the prospects of a better life offered by the traffickers.

Continued next page

In response, 1035 Facility funding in partnership with the National Anti-human Trafficking Task Force, has embarked on an awareness-raising campaign to inform villagers of the hazards of trafficking. Alerting parents to the dangers of giving their children to strangers in exchange for education or money is an ongoing challenge. Stories of the victims and lives shattered are shared with the communities, hoping to discourage the practice. Information is also disseminated on agencies that assist trafficked victims.

In addition to these activities, and in recognition of the hardships faced by the families, reintegration packages to jumpstart small businesses are provided through this project. The parents of child VoTs and adults assisted are now engaged in micro-enterprises with the assistance of IOM, in the hope of generating enough income to feed their families and to send their children to school. IOM continues to monitor not only the reintegration and well-being of the assisted victims but their families as well.

Strengthening the national capacity in collecting, storing and sharing migration-related data in Azerbaijan

Through the provision of 1035 Facility co-financing IOM Azerbaijan is implementing a 12-month project jointly with UNFPA and the State Statistical Committee.

The project seeks to support the development of an effective migration management system in the country by contributing to the:

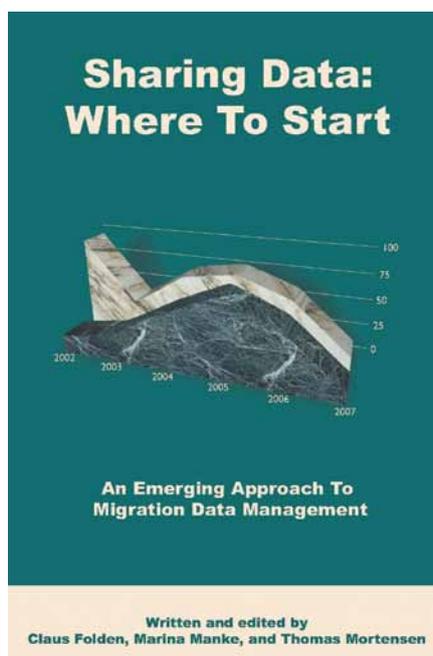
- establishment of a comprehensive, user-friendly statistics and data management scheme within the State Statistical Committee; and,
- enhancement of cooperation and coordination of Government agencies dealing with migration related statistics.

The implementation of the project is based on a participatory approach involving key Government agencies working with migration data and statistics, namely the State Migration Service, State Border Service, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population, Ministry of National Security and the State Statistical Committee.

The action is the first of its kind for Azerbaijan as it applies a multi-disciplinary approach to address challenges in collecting, storing, processing and sharing migration-related data and statistics in the country.

The project aims to identify new tools and indicators related to migration and population movements, by testing them during a series of three surveys. These new indicators are believed to enable the national authorities to collect measurable responses that are categorized in a logically sound and practical way.

In addition to organizing training for migration authorities, IOM provided the Azerbaijani authorities reference materials including its publication entitled 'Sharing Data: Where to Start – An Emerging Approach to Migration Data Management'. As one of the key activities of the initiative, IOM, together with relevant authorities, is facilitating the assessment of a national migration data management system that will also lay down macro-level policy recommendations which will be presented to the Government for consideration and possible adoption.



Finally, IOM is organizing a study tour for migration authorities to Poland to facilitate observation of and further learning about the European data management system which could serve as a model for

further development of migration data management systems in the country.

Strengthening the capacity of immigration officials for improved migration management in Namibia

As a recently joined Member State of IOM, this 1035 Facility funded project represents an important initiative to train some 140 Namibian immigration officials on facilitating migration and border management during September 2010.

The project was initiated by IOM's regional office for Southern Africa in Pretoria, in response to the Government of Namibia's request for assistance to address migration challenges posed by the growing volume of border movements. This volume is expected to escalate with big events such as the approaching FIFA World Cup in South Africa.

According to the Deputy Director of Immigration & Border Control at the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration, Mr. Nehemia Nghishekwa, "The project is timely since Namibia, as a newly independent country, lacks experience in managing migration and has become a destination for tourists and asylum seekers from all over the world."

"With the implementation of two major protocols by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) which are the Protocol on the Facilitation of

Movement of Persons in SADC, and the Protocol on Tourism providing for a UNIVISA system for tourists, it is important for Namibia to give clear operational guidelines to immigration officers who are deployed all over the country in order to ensure uniformity in action and also to make the provisions of the Immigration Laws simpler and understandable," says Mr. Nghishekwa.

A 2008 Migration Management and Border Control Assessment carried out by IOM found that there is inadequate structured training for immigration staff and very limited policy and procedural documentation to guide them in carrying out their responsibilities under existing legislation.

In response to this challenge, IOM kicked off a programme of holding consultations with the Namibian Immigration Authority in February 2010. This was closely followed by an assessment which will culminate in the development of a manual of Policy and Procedural Guidelines, as well as a training curriculum. These activities will be implemented with the technical assistance of the African Capacity Building Center (ACBC). ACBC was established in 2009 by IOM Member States in Moshi, Tanzania, to strengthen IOM's capacity building programmes for Governments in Africa and to promote a better and common understanding of migration issues.

Deputy Director Nghishekwa is optimistic that this programme will greatly benefit his Ministry: "Once the curriculum is crafted and implemented, it is our expectation that our officials will be performing better to help us attain our vision of being rated among the best migration managers in the world by 2015. Also, the manuals will assist our officials in carrying out their work and thus successfully address the concerns of our clients."



IOM consultations with the Namibian Immigration Authority to formulate a training curriculum

Promoting effective management of labour migration in Mauritania

Funded by the 1035 Facility, the project aims to strengthen and support Mauritanian government capacity to manage labour migration. The project's activities, which were been carried out from August 2008 to July 2009, focused on three components:

Assessment of labour migration policies, legislations and practices: In order to have a better understanding of labour migration challenges in Mauritania, a national labour migration assessment has been carried out. The study gives an overview of (i) the characteristics of labour migration flows to and from Mauritania, (ii) labour migration policies and practices (institutional framework, policy framework, recruitment practices), and (iii) the legislative framework governing labour migration in Mauritania (international conventions, bilateral agreements and national legislation concerning both labour emigration and labour immigration). The study also provides recommendations for future initiatives in this area. An assessment report was presented to the various stakeholders during a national restitution workshop and has been translated into Arabic.

Training of government officials in partnership with ILO: In partnership with ILO, a national labour migration training workshop was organized in



Labour Migration Training Workshop in Mauritania (November 2008)

Nouakchott. The aim of this training was to enhance the capacity of government officers and workers unions to manage labour migration and to protect migrant workers rights. The training targeted officers from the Ministry of Labour and the National Employment Agency, as well as Worker's Union's Representatives.



Labour Migration Training Workshop in Mauritania (November 2008)

Sharing experiences and best practices in labour migration management through a study visit in Morocco: In February 2009, a Study Tour to Morocco was organized with the aim to exchange best practices and share experiences in the area of labour migration management. A visit to the ANAPEC (Morocco's National Employment Agency), an institution with extensive experience in managing labour migration programmes to France and Spain, was part of the programme of the Study Visit.

The government of Mauritania has shown a great interest in the 1035 Facility funded project activities. The partnership with ILO has also been appreciated by all stakeholders. According to the IOM Regional Representative, Abye Makonnen, "this project funded by the 1035 Facility has strengthened Mauritania's government capacities to manage labour migration and protect migrant worker's rights. We hope that other programmes can be developed in the future to further support labour migration management in Mauritania, taking into account government, civil society and migrant interests."

Supporting an affordable electronic remittance transfer system between Tanzania and Uganda

In 2009 the 1035 IOM Facility, in collaboration with the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and the respective line Ministries in each country, supported IOM Tanzania and IOM Uganda, to develop a pilot project to analyse the remittance flows between the two countries.

The project aimed at improving and expanding the formal remittance services in Tanzania and Uganda, in particular through the Post Offices, on the assumption that the Post Offices have the potential to play a significant role for people sending and receiving money through its widespread presence and low transfer costs. To this purpose the project also examined the UPU's electronic money transfer system (IFS), installed at local Post Offices in Uganda and Tanzania.

The project began with a field assessment conducted in 16 districts in Uganda and Tanzania which found that there was a net flow of funds in favour of Uganda. Furthermore 50 per cent of the money received, was

used for educational purposes, mainly sponsoring Tanzanian students at universities in Uganda. It was also discovered that 60 per cent of the interviewed migrants preferred informal remittance channels, primarily because of the low transfer cost.

Among several findings, the assessment found that both countries lacked a proper monitoring system to record official remittance flows. Such a system is imperative to fully understand the volume and impact of remittances on development. One recommendation was therefore to introduce a specific category on remittances in the central bank's statistical tools.

In order to effectively share these findings and to inform the development of Government policies and daily activities, a capacity-building workshop on the role of remittances for national development was organized in November 2009, targeting Ugandan and Tanzanian staff from key Ministries and the respective Post Offices.



Tanzanian and Ugandan participants of the capacity building workshop held on 26 November 2009 in Dar es Salaam

The findings from the assessment were officially presented as well to the Government of Tanzania and stakeholders through a ministerial level meeting held in Dar es Salaam in November 2009. During the meeting the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Tanzanian Ministry of Communication, Science and Technology, Mr. Patrick Makungu, stated that *“Remittances can be used for various developmental aspects that could benefit our country. The recommendations from the IOM-UPU field assessment need to be integrated within the Government policies and system.”*

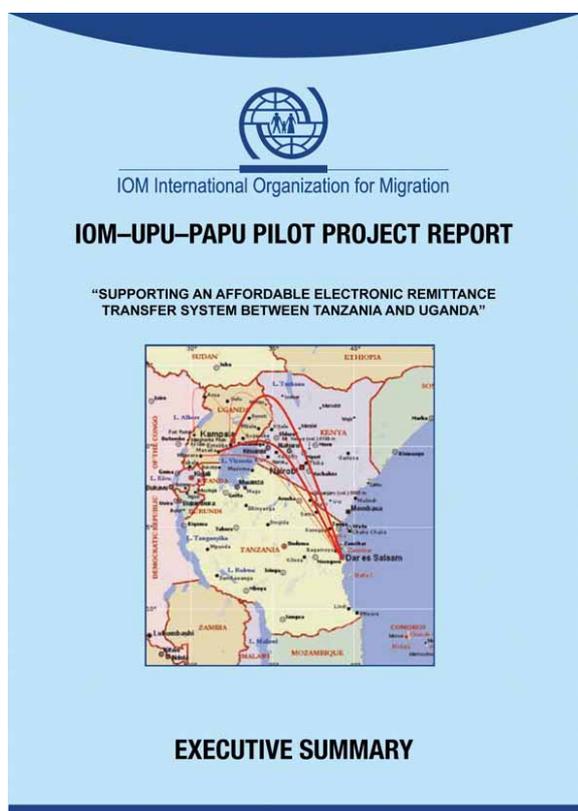
The activities of this project have played an important role in informing policy makers and Government officials on the importance of remittances in supporting national development. The project has also stimulated a wider discussion on how to better and more actively involve diaspora in the national development process. This increased sensitivity led to an enhanced dialogue with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, which resulted in a joint coordination meeting between the Ministry and IOM on the role of the Tanzanian diaspora, described as a *“first of its kind meeting in Tanzania”* by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Honourable Mr. Bernard Membe.



Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communication, Science and Technology, United Republic of Tanzania, Mr. Patrick Makungu, during the presentation of the finding of the assessment of remittances to stakeholders

The project helped to illustrate some of the positive effects of migration as a driver of development, emphasizing the importance of the transmission of remittances and the role played by the diaspora in the national development process in Tanzania. The seeds sown through the 1035 Facility's funding are now coming to fruition; the new collaboration between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and IOM has led to a joint project, where IOM will support the establishment of a diaspora framework for Tanzania.

Furthermore, in May 2010, IOM and UPU signed an agreement in Bern pledging closer cooperation between the two organizations on joint activities aimed at furthering the development impact of remittances.



The economic crisis is still a hot topic

Initiated by the Ministry in charge of the Moroccan Community Abroad and IOM, in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the Ministry of General and Economic Affairs, the Council of the Moroccan Community Abroad, the Hassan II Foundation for the Moroccan Community Abroad and the United Nations Development Program, an international conference in Rabat, co-funded by the 1035 Facility, has touched the fundamental question of the repercussions of the crisis on migrants.

“Politics that reinforce national identity, the closing of labour markets and borders, are regrettable measures that contribute to reinforce prejudices against migrants and foster further feelings of xenophobia in the host countries. These politics explain the downtrend of

Ameur, Delegated Minister in charge of the Moroccan Community Abroad. This reduction of remittances is negatively impacting important recipient countries such as Morocco which ranked 5th worldwide and 2nd in the MENA region for remittances.

Drawing on an extensive review of the impact of the five major financial crises of the 20th Century on migration patterns and processes, Khalid Koser from the Geneva Centre for Security Policy outlined lessons learned from the previous crises. “Migration impacts are significant during financial crises, but not always for the reasons expected. Migration trends tend to be resilient even during financial crises, although they have an impact on migration and development through a reduction in remittances, the acceleration of the ‘brain drain’, the flight of highly-skilled expatriates, and where large-scale returns occur”.

Senior government representatives and eminent international experts from both, countries of origin and destination, and from different continents (America, Asia, Europe and Africa), shared their expertise and experience on the impact of the crisis and proposed strategies to mitigate the negative impacts.

Participants agreed that migrant workers require protection during financial crises, not only due to unemployment, but also because

of deteriorating conditions and exploitation in the work place. During the proceedings, the Philippines shared their pro-active strategy, as a migrant-sending state; to protect overseas migrant workers, to cooperate on the return of irregular migrants, and prepare for large-scale return and reintegration.

Pragmatic proposals expressed were based on international solidarity in order to consolidate the North-South partnership and guarantee the dignity and rights of each migrant.



Opening speech by M William Lacy Swing, the Director General of IOM, at international conference in Rabat

remittances sent by immigrants to developing countries”, stressed Mr. William Lacy Swing, Director General of IOM, in his opening speech at the international conference that took place on 12 and 13 October 2009 in Rabat, under the high patronage of His Majesty the King Mohammed VI.

“If the economic recession negatively affected the industrialized countries, the shock of this crisis is still progressively touching those countries that were not initially concerned, namely the emerging countries and their migrant population”, stated Mr. Mohamed

Enhancing linkages between Rwandan government and its diaspora to promote development and investment

The Government of Rwanda (GoR) has stated its firm belief that the Rwandan diaspora constitutes a great potential resource for national development that cannot be ignored, as formulated by the GoR in its Diaspora Policy adopted in July 2009. Despite the small size of the country, the Rwandan government encourages all Rwandans to participate in the country's development process, including those in the diaspora. However, the Diaspora Policy also attributes a high significance to the role of the Diaspora in shaping the image of Rwanda abroad, which in turn can have an influence on the tourism to the country.

In this spirit, the GoR requested IOM's assistance in 2008 to enhance the government's linkage with the diaspora, particularly with nationals in Belgium which is the largest Rwandan expatriate community worldwide. Hence, the project funded by the 1035 Facility was designed jointly to gather more information about the diaspora and to enhance the communication and information sharing between the government and the diaspora.

The project began with a survey, in the beginning of 2009, aimed at profiling the Rwandan diaspora in Belgium in order to map their pooled resource of skills, needs and interest in Rwanda's development. Initially, the survey focused on gathering relevant information and data on the Rwandan diaspora in Belgium, its organizational structures and the agenda of diaspora associations.

The research consultant, hired for the project, himself a member of the Rwandan diaspora in Canada, conducted focus group discussions and in-depth interviews with diaspora representatives and established that there are more than 40 active diaspora associations in Belgium. The associations grouped around goals of cultural and social themes and expressed a high interest in cooperating with the government.

The consultant also gathered quantitative data from over 1,100 diaspora respondents through an anonymous questionnaire, focussing on their migration

history, education, professions, interest in Rwanda, investments and remittances. The Rwandan Embassy in Belgium facilitated the process of data collection. This information assisted in the creation of a GOR database and informed the design of a dynamic website to serve as an interface for better communication between the Diaspora General Directorate (DGD) of the Rwandan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and the Rwandan diaspora worldwide.

In fact, one of the main findings of the survey was the interest of the Rwandan diaspora in Belgium in receiving more information from the GoR, and the perception that there is a need for more interaction and transparency. The website (www.rwandandiaspora.gov.rw) now offers a whole array of information about employment and investment opportunities in Rwanda and government policies and projects as well as offering ample opportunity for comments and exchanges between the DGD and the Rwandan diaspora.

The results of the survey and the website were presented during the 4th Diaspora Global Convention in December 2009 in Kigali and generated high interest amongst the over 150 representatives of the global diaspora present at this Convention held under the theme *Integrating Rwandan Diaspora into National Development Strategies for the Benefit of All*. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Hon. Mushikiwabo, noted the significance of such studies and the enhancement of linkages between the GoR and the Rwandan diaspora in stating: "The message in line with this theme for the GoR is that the Diaspora is Rwanda's strength, it is Rwanda's riches – it is important that it is utilized productively. The will is there. The government has it and the Diaspora has it."

It is not surprising that after this successful pilot project, the GoR is now considering replicating these tools and sharing the expertise gained from the survey, in other countries with important Rwandan communities. If regularly maintained and updated, the database and the website will remain important tools for continued dialogue between the GOR and the Rwandan diaspora.

Government and International Agencies Initiate Migration Health Policy in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition (MOH) during the month of May 2010 met with representatives from IOM, the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Central Bank and relevant ministries to initiate the development of a migration health policy for Sri Lanka.

The meeting, which was co-funded by IOM's 1035 Facility, discussed a migration health policy to address outbound, inbound and internal migrant flows.

Outward flows include some 1.8 million Sri Lankans who are employed abroad and play a critical role in the economy, sending home over US\$ 3 billion a year in remittances. Other flows linked to the end of the country's long running conflict in 2009 include displaced people returning to their places of origin,



Hon. Minister Nimal Siripala De Silva, addressing the inter-agency stakeholders meeting to discuss the development of a migration health policy for Sri Lanka

returning refugees from abroad and an expected rapid expansion of tourism.

"Sri Lanka needs to formulate a migration health policy that will make its migrants smarter, healthier and better protected. While migration in itself is not a risk factor to health, the circumstances surrounding the migration process increase vulnerability and expose migrants to various health risks," says IOM Sri Lanka Chief of Mission Mohammed Abdiker.

The meeting was attended by Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Sri Lanka's Minister of Irrigation and Water Resource Development and the outgoing Minister of Health, who is the current president of the World Health Assembly - the governing body of the WHO.

He was a key player in the adoption of the 61st World Health Assembly Resolution on Health of Migrants, which calls on WHO Member States to "promote migrant-inclusive health policies and to train health professionals to deal with health related issues associated with population movements, among others."

Speaking to participants, he said that many of his constituents migrated from their villages to the Middle East and he had seen first hand the difficulties and negative impacts that they faced with regards to their health.

"Our migrant health policy must be respected by migrant receiving countries in order to be effective. It needs to offer strong guidelines for policies which can be adopted by other countries," he said.

THE 1035 FACILITY PROVIDES SPECIAL SUPPORT to IOM Developing Member States and Member States with Economy in Transition for the development and implementation of joint government-IOM projects to address particular areas of migration management. Since its inception in 2001, the Facility has supported over 300 projects in various areas of IOM activity and has benefited over 90 Member States.



IOM International Organization for Migration

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