



IOM • OIM

MIGRATION IN THE AMERICAS

International Organization for Migration

No. 1, March 2006

Inside...

HAITI: COMMUNITY
STABILIZATION

COUNTER-TRAFFICKING:
TRAINING MODULES

COLOMBIA:
CONSTRUYENDO UN
SUEÑO

CARIBBEAN: HIV/AIDS
CAMPAIGN

ECUADOR: VISIT TO THE
NORTHERN BORDER



iomwashingtonbookstore@iom.int

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. IOM is an inter-governmental organization composed of 116 Member States and 21 Observer States.

Message from the Regional Representative

Dear friends and colleagues,

As many of you may already know, I am leaving my position as Regional Representative this month, in order to take up responsibilities as the Director of Human Resources in our HQ in Geneva, Switzerland. At times like this, it is usual to look back and try to evaluate the work that has been accomplished. Instead, I would rather look forward, and imagine the future opportunities and challenges that migration will pose for the region of North America and the Caribbean in the next few years.

The strong growth of IOM's project base in the region underlines the significance that migration issues have acquired in the last five years. Activities in the area of counter-trafficking, in the area of migration and health, in the stabilization of communities coming out of conflict, in enhancing border security and other migration management procedures, and in finding sustainable solutions for migrants returning home on a voluntary basis – are all key issues identified by policy makers in the hemisphere. Given the ever-increasing emphasis on security and population flows throughout our hemisphere and beyond, I can only predict that migration issues will continue to present challenges into the foreseeable future. Working with Governments in the region, IOM will continue to devise appropriate strategies and solutions, keeping the needs of migrants and their families front and center.

The debate on immigration reform in the United States offers a unique opportunity for sustainable and realistic solutions to the problems faced by migrant workers, especially within our hemisphere, and within a legal and equitable framework. These are issues that are being dealt with by countries around the world, given the changing demographics of developed societies and the increased access to far-flung employment markets through globalization. They certainly underline the view that people will migrate in one way or another if they have the opportunity to make a better life for themselves, and therefore it is crucially important to find ways to manage migration flows, for the benefit of migrants and societies. IOM looks forward to bringing its own global expertise to the table in exploring concrete multi-lateral solutions for these complex challenges.

As I leave the region, I am leaving a wonderful and professional team in place which will continue seamlessly in carrying out the IOM mandate. The new Regional Representative, Mr. Dick Scott, will be arriving in May and I have absolutely no doubt of his credentials and capacity to lead this remarkable team. I have every confidence that they will continue to work with all our regional counterparts in building productive partnerships to meet regional migration challenges well into the future.

*With very best regards for all the support and good collaboration,
Fran Sullivan*

COMMUNITY STABILIZATION IN HAITI

By: Stephanie Broughton
IOM Port au Prince
Email: sbroughton@iom.int

February began with the auspicious event of presidential elections finally taking place. After months of frustration, Haitians were finally given the opportunity to vote for their new president, and Rene Preval was the clear front-runner. Unfortunately, due to a series of uncertainties coupled with poor communication, Preval was not immediately declared the winner after the first round. His supporters took to the streets and paralyzed Port-au-Prince for several days until a compromise was agreed which declared Preval the first-round winner.

February is always a special month in Haiti, with the highlight being Carnival. And this year's was described as the first "normal" Carnival in a few years. As with last year, Carnival presented opportunities for IOM/Haiti Transition Initiative (HTI) action.

In Petit Goave, IOM/HTI responded to a request from the municipality,


police and UNPOL to sponsor a stage in the town center to concentrate activities and assist in crowd control and law enforcement during the festivities.

But the real highlight of the festive season was a Carnival celebration in Martissant which brought with it a strong motivation for peace and a final tip in the balance of power to the peaceful community leaders of Grand Ravine. The strategy of these leaders was to announce the activities at a Carnival party and publicly state that all of the proposed neighborhood enhancements would be cancelled if there was any violence during the implementation process. Not only did festivities continue peacefully for an additional three days, soon after the announcement, warring local gangs declared a ceasefire and members of the gang "Ti Machete" requested a meeting with members of other armed groups, facilitated by MINUSTAH, to discuss their intention to disarm.

An Arbitration Committee was formed to negotiate the disarmament. With IOM/HTI and MINUSTAH support, the committee organized a day of football to raise awareness amongst youth.

IOM/HTI is also working with MINUSTAH and the committee to organize a special event that will include a symbolic destruction of weapons and a match between mixed teams of former members of warring armed groups.

IOM/HTI staff in Petit Goave have conducted surveys on the impact of projects on the stability in the town. Respondents have replied that IOM/HTI has positively contributed to improvements in security, primarily thanks to the installation of public lighting in key locations and providing employment at a critical time.


The IOM/HTI works with vulnerable communities and the Haitian national and municipal government bodies in an effort to assist with the rehabilitation of key infrastructure and to support the processes of political stabilization, community recovery and development. IOM is implementing the HTI in coordination with USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives. Since IOM/HTI got underway in 2004, a total of 221 projects totaling US\$4.5M have been completed. Another 165 projects totaling US\$4.5M are ongoing. 

Milot, Cap Haitien

The Milot neighborhood of Barriere Battant is a Lavalas stronghold, and a desperately poor community with very few public services. The residents have accused the Mayor of Milot (a member of the Convergence party) of neglecting them for political reasons and excluding them from communal affairs. For many months, the mayor was unable to enter the neighborhood for fear of physical attack.

In spite of this hostility, the mayor prioritized Barriere Battant for IOM/HTI intervention, supporting several proposals made by the local NGO "Comité de Surveillance de Barrière Battant."

One of these was the cleaning of a canal, that continuously overflowed during the rainy season and had increased tensions between the community and the government.

IOM/HTI was able to build confidence and heal the mistrust as residents saw the interest of the Mayor and his staff. More than 110 workers are employed to clean the canal, which should be completed before the start of the rainy season, in May. Most importantly, the Mayor can now walk through Barriere Battant knowing that there is a positive connection and continued dialogue with the community. 



Workers in the process of transforming the canal.

COUNTER-TRAFFICKING TRAINING MODULES

Amy Mahoney
IOM Washington
Email: amahoney@iom.int

IOM developed the Counter-Trafficking Training Modules in response to the need for practical, "how to" training materials for NGOs, government officials and other IOM partners engaged in counter-trafficking activities around the world.

Despite increasing awareness of the problem, there is still tremendous misinformation about trafficking in persons. The complexity of human trafficking requires targeted education and awareness-raising, training and capacity building at a variety of levels in order to develop an effective, multi-pronged approach – from victim service providers to law enforcement officers, media and advocacy groups to legislators and policy advisors within government agencies.

The Modules are designed to enhance understanding of some of the key elements necessary in building a comprehensive counter-trafficking strategy.


The Modules series provides an introduction to essential components of counter-trafficking activities. As a part of the field driven approach to this project, each Module is piloted during the drafting phase.

In February, staff from IOM offices in Bulgaria, Cambodia, Ghana, Vietnam, and Washington, in coordination with IOM Cambodia, conducted a pilot training for 25 participants from civil society, government agencies, and IOM offices

of a draft Module on Children in Battambang, Cambodia.

The participants had some level of knowledge and experience related to the issue of trafficking and persons. Many were familiar with IOM's work in the region and had extensive knowledge working with children in their own organizations. IOM Washington will also pilot the draft Module on Direct Assistance in Paramaribo, Suriname in March.

This piloting process is an essential part of testing and creating these materials. Participation and input from civil society, government, and various IOM counter-trafficking staff from different regions. This enabled staff to work together to reach consensus on IOM's best practices regarding different issues specific to human trafficking, including working with children and providing direct assistance in a variety of different contexts.

Topics currently available are: Information Campaigns, Cooperation and Networking, Return and Reintegration, and Capacity Building. Training Modules on Victim Identification and Interviewing Techniques, Children, and Direct Assistance are currently under development and will be available in the fall of 2006. 



© IOM 2006 Amy Mahoney

Participants interact during a Modules exercise in Cambodia.

CONSTRUYENDO UN SUEÑO



© IOM 2005 Juliana Quintero

Mr. José Baca building his new home.

Por Ivonne Rangel
OIM Colombia
Email: irangel@oim.org.co

El proyecto de infraestructura que implementa la OIM desde hace cinco años en Colombia aporta soluciones al problema de carencia de vivienda y hacinamiento, y a su vez, los beneficiarios tienen la opción de acceder a créditos que incluyen instalaciones de agua y saneamiento básico, además de la participación de la construcción y mejoramiento con mano de obra cualificada.

Flor y José Baca han sobrepasado las dificultades que la vida les ha puesto. Se vieron obligados a salir de Puerto Guzmán (departamento de Putumayo ubicado en el sur de Colombia), y comenzar una nueva vida en Los Andes de Sotomayor (departamento de Nariño, al suroeste del país), a causa de las amenazas de los grupos armados ilegales que los obligaron a salir de esa tierra.

En Los Andes de Sotomayor creció la familia de Flor, nacieron sus dos hijos. José decidió junto con su esposa brindarle un techo a su familia. Su familia, como la de muchas otras afectadas por la violencia generada por los grupos armados ilegales en el país, se registró ante el gobierno local para recibir asistencia como familias desplazadas. A fecha de diciembre de 2005, el Gobierno de Colombia había registrado a más de 1,7 millones de personas en sus bases de datos.

Flor y José se acogieron al subsidio de vivienda rural del programa del Banco Agrario que tiene el apoyo financiero de la Agencia de los Estados Unidos para el Desarrollo Internacional (USAID) y la asistencia técnica de la OIM, y se animaron a ser parte activa del proyecto de infraestructura de su vivienda, construyendo su casa como ayudantes de obra, responsables de la construcción. Para ellos era algo nuevo porque no sabían de construcción, pero gracias a la ayuda que les brindaron aprendieron

de albañilería y empezaron poco a poco a construir su vivienda.

En los últimos tres meses la OIM, ha construido 4.000 viviendas, beneficiando a más de 13.000 familias, dotándolas del servicio de acueducto, plantas de tratamiento y unidades sanitarias. Unas 170.000 personas han podido mejorar su calidad de vida y han sonreído después de encontrar un nuevo hogar que los acoge y los apoya.

Familias como la de Flor y José, no sólo cumplieron su sueño de tener una vivienda digna, sino que además ahora se encuentran recibiendo capacitación sobre otras áreas como la orfebrería, apoyo que presta también la OIM con programas de generación de ingresos, para mejorar sus condiciones de vida y la de sus dos hijos.

Actualmente la OIM y la Fundación Panamericana para el Desarrollo, FUPAD están iniciando una nueva etapa de asistencia a población

continued from page 4

desplazada y comunidades receptoras, y a otros grupos vulnerables en Colombia durante los próximos cinco años, igualmente con el apoyo financiero de USAID. La Alianza PILAS (Alianza y Sinergias a Largo Plazo de FUPAD y OIM), busca de este modo continuar el apoyo al gobierno colombiano en la asistencia a la población desplazada víctima de la violencia en el país.

Desde el inicio de sus programa de asistencia a población desplaza, hace mas de cinco años, la OIM ha asistido a más de un millón de personas, tanto desplazados como residentes de comunidades receptoras, y otros grupos vulnerables con programas de infraestructura, generación de ingresos, salud, educación y fortalecimiento institucional.



Newly built homes for internally displaced persons.

© IOM 2005 Juliana Quintero

AIDS AFFECTS US ALL

Berta Fernandez
IOM Washington
Email: bfernandez@iom.int


HIV/AIDS Public Awareness Campaign for Youth in the English Speaking Caribbean

In an effort to curb the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Caribbean, IOM, the Pan American Health Organization, the AIDS Institute, and the Art Center College of Design in California partnered in conceptualizing, designing and developing a public awareness campaign using animated public service announcements.

Last January 26, a workshop took place in Pasadena, California to discuss HIV/AIDS as it affects youth in the region, Caribbean culture and values, the creative process as an advocacy tool, and the relationship between migration and health.

The campaign targets populations vulnerable to HIV/AIDS in the English-speaking Caribbean, particularly migrant and mobile populations. Its focus also includes strategic communication for influential outreach to youth.

Caribbean students from the George Washington University School of Public Health in Washington DC are also participating in the project.

The partners plan to present the campaign at the upcoming International AIDS Conference scheduled to take place in Toronto in August 2006. 



Group photo from the workshop in Pasadena.

© IOM 2006

USAID and ECUADORIAN OFFICIALS VISIT IOM SUPPORTED COMMUNITIES

By: María Isabel Moncayo
IOM Ecuador
Email: mmoncayo@iom.org.ec

Mike Megan, Deputy Administrator of USAID for Latin America and the Caribbean, Alexandra Panehal, Director of USAID-ECUADOR, and Maximiliano Donoso, Executive President of the Northern Development Unit of the Government of Ecuador, recently visited several IOM projects along Ecuador's northern border.

The group visited the new irrigation system of La Encañada, a pedestrian suspension bridge over the Chota River, the water treatment plant of Mira and a water storage pool and an irrigation canal in Santa Isabel. These projects are directly benefiting some 12,000 persons living in Carchi Province, and are part of the Northern Border Development Program, implemented by IOM since 2001 with funding from USAID.

The infrastructure projects are carried out with input from the local governments and communities who have provide support in areas such as project design, labor, transport and provision of materials, amongst others.

The majority of Carchi's population works in agriculture, mainly producing corn, beans, oats, and potatoes. Every summer they risk losing their production due to the intense cyclical drought. It's for this reason that water and irrigation systems are the most important projects developed by IOM in this area.

IOM's support in Carchi Province has been broad in scope. Potable water has been brought to various communities through the construction of the water system which serves the communities of San Antonio, Las Parcelas, El Mirador, La Portada and San Marcos, and the water system of El Naranjito and the water treatment plant in the city of Mira. Improvements have been made to existing irrigation systems through repairs to

the irrigation canals of Pisquer, Huaquer, Piquer, Pueblo Viejo and the revitalization of the run-off irrigation river of Santa Isabel.

The aim of this IOM program is to provide much needed support to the local residents and to Colombians displaced across the border.

Since 2001, IOM projects have provided support to some 267,000 persons. Completed projects include: 87 potable water systems, 17 sewage systems, 43 bridges, six roads, eight irrigation systems and one retaining wall.



Crossing Chota River using the newly constructed bridge.

© IOM 2005

Migration in the Americas is a Supplement to IOM's quarterly Migration

Editors: Erin Foster and Niurka Piñeiro

International Organization for Migration • 1752 N Street, NW, Suite 700 • Washington, DC 20036

Tel: 202-862-1826 • Fax: 202-862-1879 • Email: mrfwashington@iom.int



IOM publications are now available to purchase through the office in Washington, D.C.

Contact the bookstore: iomwashingtonbookstore@iom.int

Subscribe to the publications update and find a complete list of IOM publications on the IOM website: <http://www.iom.int>