

# Emergency and Post Conflict Activities

February/March 2003



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*Afghanistan: a young girl and her sibling wait while their family prepares to leave the Maslakh camp, to return home.*

## Aceh – Indonesia

The EPC team member on TDY in Asia has continued the discussions with the Government of Indonesia (GoRI). Discussions are underway between IOM and Government leaders (ministers and Indonesian military leaders). These discussions should lead to the confirmation that the GoRI would run its Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) framework through IOM's programme. The agreement would be signed through a Letter of Cooperation. The Canadians have shown a strong interest in helping IOM to start the DDR programme in Aceh. The start-up costs are estimated at US\$ 102,000 for an initial period of three months.

## Afghanistan

**Security:** On 18 February the IOM office in Kunduz came under bomb attack. Due to the shock wave, all office windows and two windows in the vehicles were destroyed. Due to heavy snow at the time, local IOM staff who work outside in the compound had taken shelter in a shed, so there were no casualties or injuries during the explosion.

In Western Afghanistan IOM has started **IDP return movements** from the Maslakh camp Herat. Nearly 500 families (2,005 persons) were assisted in February. In the last two

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*Afghanistan: A young girl beside the IOM truck which will eventually take her home.*

months, 263 IDP families (1,311 persons) have been registered and given return assistance in the central region. Return registration activities in Northern Afghanistan are currently being discussed with the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation and with UNHCR. On their home journey the returning IDPs have overnight stays in nine ECHO-funded IOM transit centres in Western and Northern Afghanistan. For the return assistance IOM runs a fleet of 100 trucks and 25 light vehicles.

**The Return of Qualified Afghans Programme** continues to facilitate the returns and the employment of the Afghan

Diaspora. Up to now, 409 experts from 24 countries have been assisted. 177 RQA returnees work in 21 ministries of the Afghan Interim Authority, 78 in governmental institutions, 153 candidates work in NGOs, international and other organizations and one candidate is self-employed.

**The Assisted Voluntary Return Programme:** The Airport Coordination Cell in Kabul assisted 107 returnees from different countries in February with customs and immigration procedures, temporary accommodation and with onward transportation to the returnees' final destination.

The **Afghanistan Transition Initiative Programme** continues to work with offices in Kabul, Bamyan, Gardez, Kandahar, Herat, Maimana and Mazar-e-Sharif and covers 22 provinces.

**Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Programme (DDR) in Afghanistan:** The EPC Team Member presently on TDY in Asia has just spent two weeks in Kabul to discuss, in coordination with the Chief of Mission in Kabul, the feasibility of implementing DDR programmes in Afghanistan. The objective of the trip was to follow up on DDR opportunities, based on recent meetings in Tokyo/Kabul that have generated pledges of US\$ 25 million for UNDP/UNAMA from the Governments of Japan, US, Canada and UK. As UNDP is not an implementing agency, it is still expected that there is a role for IOM as main implementer. Meetings were arranged with Sultan Aziz, UNDP/UNAMA, with Miguel Reabold, USAID/OTI, and with Yusuf Pashtun, Minister for Housing and Urban Development.

## Bosnia and Herzegovina

### *Transitional Assistance to Former Soldiers in Bosnia and Herzegovina*

Last year over 12,000 soldiers were discharged from the armed forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since April 2002, IOM has been implementing a programme to facilitate the financial independence of these former soldiers and to assist them in their transition to the civilian community and workforce with as little economic and social disruption as possible. The programme is successful and has been well received by both former soldiers and the Ministries of Defence in BiH.

The support provided includes assistance with employment, one-to-one educational and career counselling, business and agricultural consulting services, including planning and trade kits for those who can engage in sustainable employment. Examples include former soldiers who, through IOM, have been trained as deminers, firefighters, and driving instructors, thus securing sustainable employment. IOM also continues to provide technical and financial support for small businesses (including the purchase of tools and trade kits) and agricultural enterprises.

In order to further reduce military spending, it may be necessary for the armed forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina to discharge up to 6,200 soldiers this year.

This project contributes to the development objectives of Bosnia and Herzegovina by aiming to maintain peace and stability, foster economic recovery, reduce unemployment and generate income for its citizens. This programme has been supported by the American, Dutch, British, Italian, Norwegian, and Polish governments. However, in order to assist all of the former soldiers that have asked IOM for assistance, additional funding is necessary.

## Colombia

### *Post-emergency Assistance to Displaced Groups and Receiving Communities*

**Emergency:** IOM has provided humanitarian assistance to 522 IDPs families from the Munguido area, who are sheltered in Quibdó and Chocó. These families were forced to migrate due to war activities undertaken by the illegal armed forces in the Munguido area. The assistance package was comprised of food, a personal hygiene kit, and a clothing and shelter kit. Also, a person was hired to coordinate shelter logistics and support the organization of the return process to the communities of origin fostered by the Government of Colombia. The amount invested in this operation was US\$ 25,000.

**Post-emergency:** During February, 17 projects worth US\$ 341,100 were approved to assist the internally displaced population at the post-emergency stage. The projects aim at supporting IDPs in initiatives of income generation, housing and infrastructure, education, health and institutional strengthening. These projects will be implemented throughout the nine field offices that IOM has set up to assist victims of the internal armed conflict.

**Post-conflict:** The programme has been supporting reconciliation initiatives from Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and the Government of Colombia (GOC) through the High Commissioner for Peace and Co-existence Office, aiming to increase the participation and to promote stabilization in high-risk zones, which ultimately will contribute to the construction of a peace environment during the conflict and prepare civil society and the GOC for the post-conflict. In addition, during February, the IOM office in Bogota signed an extension agreement to sponsoring Colombian Mines Observatory, specifically for the mapping of potential areas where landmines have been planted, the systematization of this information, and awareness raising and training to the communities located in high-risk areas. Also, during February the construction of a community centre was contracted; it is expected to be finished by the beginning of July.

### *Support Programme for Ex-combatant Children*

**Emergency:** The Programme has supported two different types of emergencies:

- 1) *Individual:* In this case, IOM has financed transportation, room and board and humanitarian kits. This has been carried out in close coordination with the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF) that has the legal mandate to protect children in Colombia. During February, 21 new children were assisted.
- 2) *Massive:* Although it was expected, there was not a massive demobilization during February. There is a Contingency Plan that assigns different tasks to 11 agencies. Among them are IOM, UNICEF, the Colombian Family Welfare Institute, the International Red Cross, the Ministry of Health and the Ombudsman Office. This Contingency Plan was updated during February, due to the possibility of demobilization announced by the Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia (AUC). In this framework the Programme received 26 children in December.

**Post-conflict:** The Programme is assisting children who demobilized from the armed groups and who are going through their reinsertion process. In February, 350 children were assisted in 18 centres, managed by the Colombian Family Welfare Institute, and 96 indigenous and Afrocolombians were assisted through a non-institutionalized context.

## Côte d'Ivoire

According to the current humanitarian scenario, there are two groups of third-country nationals at risk that urgently need to be repatriated: one in Côte d'Ivoire, where Abidjan represents the concentration point, and the second in Liberia close to the border with Guinea. IOM's planning considers therefore two operations:

- the first from Abidjan to/through Ghana and Burkina Faso to Mali.
- the second from the northern part of Liberia, to/through Guinea and Mali to Burkina Faso.

IOM actively continues to contact donors for funding.

An EPC team member is planning to travel to Côte d'Ivoire to support the IOM mission in the development and the setting up of the emergency response, both for evacuees and refugees.

## Middle East – Contingency Planning for a Possible Iraq Crisis

IOM has now raised US\$1.2 million of the US\$1.9 million that it needs for the preparatory phase of its contingency plan for a possible war in Iraq.

The money, from Switzerland, the UK and the US, is being used to build the capacity of IOM offices in Jordan, Syria, Turkey, Iran, Kuwait, Egypt and Cyprus to cope with a possible outflow of some 275,000 people. A small team of IOM specialist staff, including security, medical, communications and logistics experts, has already been deployed to the region.

Under the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)'s overall contingency plan, IOM's responsibilities include:

- Support and return transportation to their home countries for up to 70,000 third-country nationals (TCNs) fleeing Iraq into neighbouring countries. Most of them are expected to exit via Jordan, and to return to Egypt, Sudan and Eritrea.
- TCN transit facilities in neighbouring countries.
- Transportation for some 205,000 refugees and asylum seekers from border areas to designated camps in neighbouring countries.

The cost of an IOM operation involving, if necessary, the movement of up to 275,000 people, would total some US\$ 26 million over six months, including the US\$ 1.9 million preparatory phase. IOM is currently briefing potential donors.

In addition to the preparatory phase, IOM was requested by OCHA to plan assistance for IDPs in the centre and south of Iraq, should there be a military intervention. It was agreed that IOM will be responsible for camp management, registration, non-food items and return transportation.

IOM has received an advance of 1 million US dollars from UN/CERF towards this activity.

## Sri Lanka

The EPC team member on TDY in Asia has been continuing his efforts, in coordination with the Chief of Mission in Colombo, to get a Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration programme started in Sri Lanka. The Office of Transition Initiative/USAID local representative has verbally pledged the amount of US\$ 100,000 to start operations. This money will cover one international staff for three months. This verbal pledge should be followed by a written confirmation from OTI.

## Sudan

The latest round of peace negotiations in Machakos, Kenya, between the Government of Sudan (GoS) and the opposition have restarted. However, progress is reported to be slow. Nevertheless, a deadline of June is still planned by the International Community.

The IDP Survey project is now completed and the reports drafted for approval and distribution. The survey results have been enthusiastically received by GoS, UN and international agencies. Indeed, more surveys are planned, but IOM's involvement will be dependent upon funding.

This IDP survey project forms the basis of IOM's strategy for displaced persons-related programmes in Sudan. This strategy foresees a two-phase approach to programmes, with a first phase of planning activities to be carried out prior to the Peace Agreement, and a second phase of return activities, linked with community intervention programmes coming after peace.

Phase 1 will involve further surveys and the establishment of Advice Centres for IDPs in camps. Planning has begun on these Phase 1 interventions and proposals. However, funding of IDP-related programmes has been slow and at present there are no funds to continue IDP-related work beyond 31 March 2003. As a result, Chris Petch has been reassigned to IOM Cyprus to assist in planning for the post Iraq crisis IDP-related work.



*Dinka women from Abyei, carrying goods for trade in South Sudan*

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