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Inside this Issue

- 1 News from HQs
- 2 News from the Field
- 8 Food for Thought
- 9 WGGI Pearls
- 9 Gender Quiz
- 9 Upcoming Events

IOM GENDER AND MIGRATION NEWS



Dear Colleagues,

You will be receiving in the near future a draft booklet on generic gender and migration indicators. This booklet was devised to assist you in bearing the gender dimension in mind when developing projects. You will be invited to provide samples of your own indicators used in past project development. Once complete, we are hoping to publish it in time for the Council in November, and with your cooperation it will illustrate organization-wide ownership.

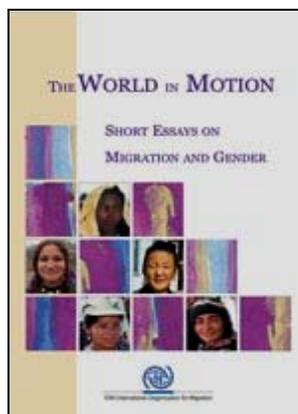
As ever, the WGGI needs and counts on your support in all future endeavours to improve gender mainstreaming throughout the Organization. IOM is fortunate to have 92 Gender Focal Points. Our combined work will bring faster, better, and more tangible results.

Looking forward to renewed and increased impetus,

The Working Group on Gender Issues (WGGI)

NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

We would like to remind you that the WGGI-sponsored book written by former GFP, Lauren Engle, is on sale or available in pdf format for IOM Gender Focal Points and staff. For details, contact the WGGI Head.



NEWS FROM THE FIELD

AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

IOM Luanda

GFP Luz Tantaruna reports:

As Angola looks forward to the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections, the question is:

WHAT DO WOMEN THINK?

Preparations for presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for 2006 are already underway. After a long period of war, these will be the second elections Angola has ever held in a climate of peace, and with the several political parties in the running.

It is for this reason that the Government and NGOs, including those fighting for women's rights, are eager to train their members.

The Angola National Programme on Strategic Framework for the Promotion of Gender Equality is coordinated by the Ministry of Family and Promotion of the Woman (MINFAMU). And as part of this Programme, MINFAMU requested assistance from IOM, UNFPA and UNDP to assist in the preparation and delivery of training sessions on gender and democracy.

In Luanda MINFAMU, IOM and UNFPA held a seminar entitled "Gender and Democracy" in March 2005. Participants included 15 female representatives of four political parties: MPLA, UNITA, FNLA, and PRS¹.



Representatives of Women's Groups from the main political parties in Angola (MPLA, UNITA, FNLA and PDR)

The IOM Gender Focal Point facilitated the seminar where topics discussed included: basic concepts of gender, instruments of gender analysis, democracy, citizenship and political and civil rights. During the debates the participants analyzed the political presentations of the women, including the difficulties they faced, especially refugee women who have recently

returned from neighbouring countries.

The seminar ended on a motivational note and a commitment to multiply the training activities in their respective parties, including women from the municipalities and districts of Luanda Province.

Attesting to the success of the seminar, IOM continues to receive requests from political parties headquartered in Luanda to support more training seminars for women.

Training for women of the FNLA began with the seminar on "Gender, Leadership and Democracy" held in Luanda in May. Forty-seven participants, including coordinators, delegates and secretaries of the Luanda Province municipal cells attended.

During the seminar the women discussed the barriers that limit women's participation such as: illiteracy, work overload to meet the needs of the family, caring for small children, and frequent movement in search of security and better living conditions for the family.

Some of the suggestions put forward to eliminate these barriers included: efforts to increase awareness on civil and political rights with meetings, pamphlets and media campaigns, involve men in these activities, enlarge gender awareness activities for policy makers, and to reach out to politicians so that they can support women's training and female candidates.

¹ Acronyms:

MPLA - Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola (Popular Movement of Angola Liberation)

UNITA - Unidade Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (National Unit for the Total Independence of Angola)

FNLA - Frente Nacional para a Libertação de Angola (National Front for the Liberation of Angola)

PRS - Partido de Renovação Social (Party of Social Renewal)

IOM is also taking part in trainings for women along with UNFPA, UNDP, and UNIFEM, and MINFAMU to reinforce the national capacity for advocacy on gender and human rights.



IOM Focal Point together with the participants

* **

IOM Iraq (temporarily based in Amman)

GFP Zahra Bolouri reports:



An Iraqi child with his mother leaving for treatment

This year's IOM Director General's Annual Award for Excellence was awarded to, among others, three IOM Doctors working for the IOM Iraq Mission. Despite working in the most difficult of conditions, the three

female doctors continue to show great bravery and dedication to their work, continuing to work despite car bombs, death threats and family tragedies which mark their day-to-day lives. Since the withdrawal of almost all international staff from Iraq following the August 2003 bombing of the UN Headquarters in Baghdad, IOM has relied heavily on the expertise and dedication of local staff working on the ground in Iraq. At present, IOM Iraq manages approximately 15 projects in Iraq, including assistance to IDP's, Capacity Building in Migration Management and the Iraqi's Building Iraq programme.

The three women doctors, who are not named or pictured for security reasons, have been working for the ECHO- funded IOM Iraq Medical Evacuation and Health Rehabilitation Project for Iraq, and the successor project, the Health Rehabilitation Project for Iraq, which provides much needed support to medical infrastructure, including the training of Iraqi health professionals and support to the Iraqi Ministry of Health.

Statements from the three doctors on winning the awards:

Dr. was sitting in an apartment in Munich with a blanket on her shoulders and the central heating on high when she heard the news. 'I had just spent the coldest hours of my life on a football

terrace. My feet had chilblains and my voice was hoarse from shouting! I felt very proud that we three females, three doctors, three Iraqis... would win this award. It was a happy day'

Dr... had been escorting Marwa, a young girl who had lost a leg in Iraq and was attending a clinic in Munich to have fitted a prosthetic leg.

* **

Dr. ... was working in Baghdad. 'I would like to thank Mr. Rafiq and everyone else very much for all their confidence and appreciation in our work. I believe very much in IOM and have seen its great achievements in Iraq. I am glad for the opportunity to assist in helping to heal my country.'

* **

Dr. ... similarly was also in Iraq, and was eager to stress that the award was the result of teamwork. 'I am so proud to be one of the team that supports Iraq... this award is for all of the team. I never thought that our work would reach out to the world...

We are three female doctors, each with her own specialty and have accomplished a lot. What unites us is our commitment to build a new Iraq...'



Medical evacuation for Iraqi cases

THE AMERICAS

MRF Buenos Aires
GFP Elena Solari sends us
this piece:

Argentina – Mujeres trabajadoras en la recuperación de materiales reciclables

A partir de los resultados de un estudio realizado en Argentina por la OIM y UNICEF sobre el trabajo infantil en la recuperación de materiales reciclables, se pueden extraer algunas reflexiones en torno al rol de las mujeres en la generación de ingresos para los hogares carenciados de los grandes centros urbanos.

El estudio constató que aproximadamente la mitad de los trabajadores en recuperación (conocidos como “cartoneros”, “cirujas”, “carrereros”, entre otros) que trabajan en las localidades analizadas son niños, niñas y adolescentes. Esta flagrante vulneración de los derechos de los niños y niñas afecta a más de 4.000 niños y niñas

del principal aglomerado urbano del país.

Cuatro de cada diez familias que se dedican a esta actividad en los barrios analizados son migrantes internos o externos.

La recuperación es una actividad económica que oficia de primer eslabón de los circuitos de reciclaje de materiales, y si bien tiene relevancia económica y ambiental se realiza en la informalidad y en condiciones laborales sumamente precarias: trabajo nocturno, en contacto con materiales contaminantes, sin medidas de seguridad, sin reconocimiento de derechos laborales, sin seguro de salud, etc.

Este trabajo forma parte de una estrategia de vida de carácter familiar en la cual la mujer, desde niña, tiene una participación significativa. La dependencia de los ingresos de la cantidad bruta recuperada incentiva a los hogares a volcar a todos sus miembros desde temprana edad en esta actividad ante la falta de otras opciones laborales. De hecho, la incorporación de la mujer en el mercado laboral ha crecido a la par de la necesidad de los hogares de aumentar sus ingresos² sin que esto haya por otra parte detenido el

² Melina Con - Elisa Epstein – Ana Pacetti – Agustín Salvia, “Cambios en la estructura socio-ocupacional en el GBA durante los '90. Una mirada desde la problemática del género” en *Laboratorio*, informe de coyuntura laboral, 2003 número 11/12, Buenos Aires.

crecimiento exponencial de la pobreza y la indigencia en la Argentina.

Se ha observado que detrás de la incorporación de la mujer en el trabajo de recuperación le siguen sus hijos. Este fenómeno se ve acentuado por las situaciones de crisis familiar que recortan los soportes relacionales de estas familias, la falta de lugares alternativos y guarderías donde dejar a sus hijos y el déficit del sistema educativo para contener a los niños.

Este cóctel se torna explosivo en un contexto barrial de violencia y precariedad: los barrios marginales que crecen en Argentina a la par de la pobreza han podido ser analizados a través de las entrevistas a familias e informantes clave que dan cuenta de su complejidad, y la confluencia de problemáticas familiares, precariedad habitacional, violencia e inseguridad, en el contexto de la propia conformación socio histórica barrial. En muchas de las entrevistas y encuestas realizadas, se observa que el miedo a dejar a los niños solos en el barrio es un factor clave que explica la presencia de los mismos acompañando a sus padres durante las largas jornadas de caminata nocturna en busca de papel, cartón, plástico, metal, entre otros materiales presentes en la basura depositada en las calles.

Las instituciones barriales cartoneras que podrían apoyar a estas familias en la propia comunidad son incipientes y con escaso impacto para las

dimensiones que adquiere la problemática en la actualidad, y poco pueden hacer frente a la situación de violencia e inseguridad que parece ser la norma en los distintos barrios. En forma adicional, salvo alguna experiencia aislada, no se observó el tratamiento de la problemática de género presente en este fenómeno en las experiencias relevadas.



Madre y hija trabajando en la recuperación de materiales reciclables

Los resultados del estudio muestran que las niñas que pertenecen a familias de recuperadores tienen sobre sus espaldas responsabilidades distintas a las de los varones y se espera de ellas el cumplimiento de roles domésticos ante la ausencia de sus padres. Desde temprana edad, éstas deben asumir roles de adulto, como el trabajo doméstico y las tareas de separación y clasificación de materiales recuperados por el resto de la familia para su posterior venta a los intermediarios. Asimismo, las mujeres se encuentran expuestas a mayores vulnerabilidades cuando trabajan en la calle debido a su menor resistencia

física desempeñando una labor que implica pesadas cargas y la exposición a violaciones y abusos a cambio de favores por parte de sus “clientes” quienes entregan voluntariamente a estos trabajadores los desechos que pueden ser recuperados.

WGGI Note : the English text is available upon request.

IOM Bogota

The story of Luz Elena Izquierdo – beneficiary of IOM Colombia’s Peace Programme

*Prepared by Karen Mora
Press and public Information Unit monitor
Translated by GFP Linda Eriksson*

The Peace Programme in Colombia has two components. The first provides support to the Colombian Government in its efforts to achieve peace and co-existence, aiming at facilitating the community approach and to reduce the gap between governmental entities and the community, and to encourage and empower them for the strengthening of good governance.

The second component follows strategies of reconciliation and assistance to victims, support to the young and minors at risk, information dissemination through various media, and development and implementation of peace models.

The following story is taken from this component.

After several day-long meetings, the “Mamos” (spiritual leaders of the different ethnic groups in the Sierra Nevada mountains) decided to christen their new community centre “*Sheteyumum*” – a name that means health and welfare, and that perfectly represents the purpose of the centre.

The word “*Sheteyumum*” also has a very special meaning for Luz Elena Izquierdo, a female indigenous leader who throughout her work has been trying to ensure that indigenous groups have sufficient tools and mechanisms to face the social and humanitarian consequences of the internal conflict in Colombia.

Luz Elena, a 47 year-old mother of three, works as a coordinator for the indigenous NGO “*Dusakawi*” which receives financial support from USAID and technical support from IOM Colombia. The main objective of “*Dusakawi*” is to strengthen community processes by promoting human rights, peaceful conflict resolution and the preservation of the cultural identity of all indigenous groups in the region.

Over the years, Luz Elena witnessed how members from different indigenous groups did not communicate; how they were indifferent to the social consequences of the internal conflict that was tearing them apart; how

friends and relatives preferred to die or suffer instead of asking for support from a public health service indifferent to the cultural differences and needs of the indigenous communities.

This prompted her to study to become a nurse, and together with other ingenious leaders, form the NGO “*Dusakawi*”. The founders wanted to provide friendly health services and to create a community centre where all indigenous groups in the region could meet and discuss issues of concern.

And the latest step in her quest to help the indigenous communities is the creation of “*Sheteyumum*”, which will benefit the 500 members of “*Dusakawi*” and some 3,000 other members of various indigenous groups in César y Guajira.

She also hopes to use “*Sheteyumum*” to promote a change in the prevailing attitude amongst the indigenous groups in order to decrease violence-related deaths, domestic violence and alcoholism, while also promoting the participation of women in the different community processes and decision-making in matters of health and welfare; as well as to support young indigenous leaders based on their cultural heritage.

Luz Elena is proud to point out that the community centre was designed and built in harmony with the traditional buildings used by

the indigenous groups. “We wanted to provide an environment that feels like home to the members of the indigenous groups living in the region and using the “centre.”

ASIA

MRF Dhaka

GFP Dr. Riffat Hossain Lucy reports:

Internal Migration: rural to urban push for Bangladeshi women in search of better livelihoods

Internal migration towards urban areas is receiving increased attention, taking the limelight from international, rural-rural and other forms of migration.

For the first time in human history, and in the next few years, urban migration will be responsible for half of the world’s population living in mega cities. Evidence shows that developing countries are undergoing a great urban explosion. From 1950 to 1995, the number of people living in urban areas of the developed world nearly doubled from 452 million to 882.9 million; in the developing world it increased six-fold from 285 million to 1.7 billion. Urbanization is more prevalent in Asia, where in 1995 some 46% of the world’s urban population, or 1.2 billion people, lived (UN, 1998: 38).

As is the case in other developing countries,

migration is one of the major contributors to urban growth in Bangladesh. In the past century the urban population grew by some 35 million, an increase of more than thirty-fold. But at the same time population increase in rural areas increased from 28.2 million to 103.1 million. Since the country’s independence in 1971, internal migration has been responsible for about two-thirds of urban growth. The proportion of people living in urban areas rose from 6.2% to 9.9% in 1975, and reached 25% in 2000 (UN 2002). Another study supports these findings suggesting a high rate of migration to the city, 63% between 1982 and 1996 (Afsar 2002). The figure of rural-urban migration far exceeds the 24% figure for transnational migration and 10% for rural-rural migration

Over the last decade, urban migration has gained greater importance as a component of people’s livelihood strategies. Also, it has made important contributions in shaping the national economy, with improvements in markets, communications and transport, and access to modern amenities, such as electricity. The countryside is no longer just a source for food production, but has become a resource for manpower for the urban areas (Toufique and Turton 2002).

Estimates of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) suggest that internal migration has increased significantly in the country. The proportion of

lifetime migrants doubled from 3.4% (1974) to 7.4% (1982), reaching 10.2% in 1991 (BBS 2000). Net migration (migrants/1000 population) has not only increased in the urban centres, but also in rural areas. Net migration in Bangladesh was found to have increased dramatically from 1.2 to 16.4 in the urban areas between 1984 and 1998 and at a slower pace in rural areas when compared to urban areas (BBS 2000).

Studies confirmed that between 1974 and 1991 more men migrated to urban areas. The ratio at the national level is 106 males per every 100 females (BBS 1993). Over time, however, the sex ratio in the country evened out as women began to move to the urban areas independently. It happened as a result of the boom that took place in the mid-80s in the ready-made-garment (RMG) industries. The garment industry is absorbing a large number of female workers. Although the cultural norms in the country were mostly against the formal employment of females, the increased demand for labour in the garment industry propelled the increase in female migrants.

While rural to urban migration is increasing at an unprecedented rate to Dhaka, the situation is changing in other cities such as Chittagong, which had the highest sex ratio in 1974, but then declined to 119 per 100 in 2001. The sex ratio for

three other major cities also fell to 123, 112 and 110 in 2001 (Afsar 2002).

Like other mobility, internal migration has both social and economic consequences for women. While opportunity for financial gains are greater for women in cities like Dhaka and other metropolitan cities compared to their villages, the remarkable social costs that are often incurred put in question the concrete benefit of migration to women. Cost-benefit analysis can be done to ascertain the actual changes in the lives of these women when they migrate. The issue of rural to urban migration of women in Bangladesh needs extensive gender sensitive analysis.

IOM Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

GFP Gloria Ko reports:

Some insight into the progress of gender equality in China

The China National Working Committee on Women and Children (NWCWC) reviews the achievements China had made since the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995.

The China Daily quoting a NWCWS report, writes that since 1998 the National People's Congress (NPC) has formulated and revised a series of laws to highlight the legal rights of women. The most important ones are the

Marriage Law and the Law on Contracted Land Leasing in Rural Areas.

The revised Marriage Law focused on the areas of the marriage system, matrimonial property, domestic violence and relationships among family members and divorce.

Ten years ago domestic violence was treated as a family affair and therefore outsiders could not intervene, but in 2002 the law was revised to clearly outlaw domestic violence. In many cities, local judiciary and the police have begun to work with women's federations in programmes designed to intervene and fight domestic violence.

Today, nearly 2,000 courts and collegiate bench panels are dealing with cases concerning women's rights. And more than 10,000 women leaders have been invited as special jurors.

Article 6 of the Law on Contracted Land Leasing in Rural Areas, states that "Women shall enjoy equal rights to men in the leasing of contracted land in rural areas," making men and women equally entitled to land resources.

To support the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, the NPC is working on revising the Law on Protection of Women's Rights and Interests. The revision is setting up systems for women leaders to serve as jurors and as legal supervisors

for labour protection. Nationwide there are 2,300 women leaders in the 29 provinces, autonomous region and municipalities.

In the area of poverty alleviation and improvement of living conditions for rural women, in the past 10 years more than six million women have received varied vocational training and 2.6 million were helped to start new careers.

The report also provides some interesting figures: In 2002 the number of women leaders at the provincial governor and minister level was increased by 13.9 % to 221, over the figure for 2000; employed urban women increased from 43.4% in 2000 to 45.5% in 2002; the level of education amongst urban women jumped to 98.5% for girls studying in primary schools, to 47.4% in junior or middle school, and to 43.9% in higher education.

Some interesting figures on gender equality at international conferences

Although a lot has been done to promote gender equality, there is evidence that the gap between the two genders is still pretty wide.

Taking the example of participants at international conferences, male participants usually outnumber females.

During the Berne Initiative – Asia Consultations held in Guilin, Guangxi China last

July, the percentage of male participants was 71% as opposed to female participants, which accounted for only 29%.

The Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, held in Macau last September, male participants made up 84% of the audience, while female numbers only reached 16%.

At the Regional Conference on Migration and Development in Asia held in Lanzhou, Gansu, China this year in March, male participants outnumbered women with 65% as opposed to 35%.

Well, it seems there is still lots of work ahead of us!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The following is an excerpt from a Special Issue of *IN BRIEF*, September 2004, BRIDGE³, edited by Susan Jolly, on:

GENDER MYTHS

“We live in a world of gender stereotypes. We are surrounded by messages about women being weak and men being strong, about women being better carers and men being better at earning money; a world in which everyone is supposed

to be heterosexual and married or wanting to be. These kinds of ideas are all too familiar, although the content of each stereotype varies from place to place.

Feminists have fought against these stereotypes. Sometimes arguments have been simplified in order to get the message across, and counter-stereotypes have been created in the process: men drink, women are sober and reliable, men perpetrate violence, women are capable, men are lazy, and so on. Sometimes we do this deliberately for a particular purpose – yes we are capable and reliable, give us credit. Sometimes, we are less simplistic. However, even if we do not simplify our arguments, our ideas get picked up and used by others for a variety of purposes. Some of these ideas come to be taken for granted. We stop wondering if they are true or not, and they come to gain an almost mythical quality, being put beyond question.

“Gender myths” provide a series of images of women and men that encourage us to understand what they do – or do not do – in particular ways. In development, they have given feminists much constructive material to use in the pursuit of gender equality – for example the image of men as perpetrators of violence and women as their victims has helped mobilize much-needed opposition to gender-based violence. But these myths may also create the opposite effect to the one we had hoped for – the same

³ ©Institute of Development Studies 2004 ISSN: 1358-0612

image of men as naturally aggressive with hard-to-control tempers lends support to the idea that it's women's responsibility to stay calm and sober, defuse the situation and keep the family together.

Recognizing some of the generalizations that have been made in Gender and Development about women's and men's behaviours, natures or tendencies as 'gender myths' and bringing them into question is not intended to undermine the hard work and progress made on gender issues. Instead, it give a much-needed opportunity to revisit some of the ideas that we have come to take for granted, to review where they have got us and to use this as a starting point to look to the future and to the new myths we may need."

WGGI Note: if you are interested in reading some of the myths referred to, please send a message to the Head of the WGGI.

WGGI PEARLS



©Dina Ionescu

GENDER QUIZ

The answer to the question in the last issue of who said:

“If there hadn’t been women we’d still be squatting in a cave eating raw meat, because we made civilization in order to impress our girl friends. And they tolerated it and let us go ahead and play with our toys.”

Orson Welles
American actor, writer, & director

This issue’s question is:

“Men are motivated and empowered when they feel needed. Women are motivated and empowered when they feel cherished.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

June

19 - 24 June 2005, Seoul, South Korea, Title: Women's Worlds 2005: 9th International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women. Theme: "Embracing the Earth: East-West / North-South". Host/Sponsor: Korean Association of Women's Studies, Ewha Women's University, Ministry of Gender Equality of Republic of Korea

20 - 21 June 2005, Washington, DC, USA Title: When Women Gain, So Does the World: IWPR's 8th International Women's Policy Research Conference

Host/Sponsor: Institute for Women's Policy

July

5 - 22 July 2005, UNHQ, New York, USA

Title: Thirty-third session of CEDAW

Host/Sponsor: UN Division for the Advancement of Women (DESA/DAW)

14 - 16 July 2005, London, UK, Title: 6th International Women into Computing Conference "The Gender Politics of ICT"

Host/Sponsor: School of Cultural and Innovation Studies, University of East London

August

10 - 13 August 2005, Edmonton, Canada

Title: Learning and Leadership: Women's Influence on Policy, Research, and Practice

Host/Sponsor: International Association of Physical Education and Sport for Girls & Women

Opinions expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of IOM.