



IOM begins construction work on the main section of the new Ghazni Hospital, Afghanistan. © IOM 2007 - MAF0258 (Photo: Katsui Kaya)

IOM and Migration and Development

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental body, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration, advance understanding of migration issues, encourage social and economic development through migration, and work towards effective respect of the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

Introduction

Migration and development are highly interdependent processes. Migration cannot be a substitute for development, and development is not necessarily dependent on migration. However, each of these two processes can profoundly influence the other. International migration is the movement of persons from their countries of origin to countries of destination with the intent to remain for an extended stay; in the development context, it relates primarily to people who have freely chosen to move for reasons of personal choice. Development, meanwhile, is a dynamic process implying growth, advancement, empowerment and progress, with the goal of increasing human capabilities, enlarging the scope of human choices, and creating a safe and secure environment where citizens can live with dignity and equality. In the development process, it is important that people's productivity, creativity, and choices are broadened and that opportunities are created not only for the present generation, but also for future generations.

Maximizing the positive relationship between migration and development has long been a focus of IOM's work; however, it is especially relevant in this era of globalization and unprecedented mobility. The objective of IOM's migration and development programme is to contribute to the work of the international community to harness the development potential of migration for the benefit of both societies and migrants, to contribute to sustainable development and poverty reduction.

IOM's approach addresses the root causes of migration by providing interventions in areas vulnerable to high rates of economically-motivated migration, caused by a lack of economic opportunity and of livelihood opportunities. IOM also promotes the view that migration, if properly managed, can contribute to poverty alleviation and the growth and prosperity not only of individuals but also of both countries of origin and destination.



IOM International Organization for Migration

Recognizing the global trend that nearly half of the world's migrants are now women, IOM integrates gender perspective into its migration and development work as a key underlying concern. Additionally, in regions that have been recently affected by armed conflicts, the Organization strives to contribute positively to the nexus between post-conflict situations and development. It works to provide return-friendly environments for displaced persons, and to harness the resources of the diaspora for reconstruction projects, which has led to an early awareness of the need to achieve socio-economic development for sustainable peace.

To achieve these multi-faceted goals, IOM engages in many types of migration and development-related activities. Its approach addresses the different levels of migration and development, focusing on economic and community development, skills transfer and remittances.

IOM activities

I. Economic and Community Development

Economic and community development is a major component in IOM's effort to make migration work for development. It contributes to addressing the root causes of **economically-motivated** migration by enhancing the ability of governments and other key actors to focus development actions more strategically on country of origin migration dynamics. It focuses on expanding economic opportunities and improving social services and community infrastructure in specific geographic areas prone to **economically-induced** outward migration, or in need of development to absorb and sustain the return of migrants to that region.

Rehabilitating traditional Kahriz water systems in Azerbaijan

The Kahriz traditional water systems have been a critical, environmentally-friendly source of drinking and irrigation water in Azerbaijan for centuries. They are a key to the life of many impoverished



Using drinking water from a renovated Kahriz (traditional water system), Azerbaijan. © IOM 2008

communities who face chronic water shortages. Kahrizes have been neglected for many years, and their capacity had been greatly reduced. Since 1998, IOM and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) developed a project named "Community-Owned Sustainable Water Use and Agricultural Initiatives Project" (COSWA). As more than 3,177 families have gained improved access to irrigation water, IOM and SDC decided to implement a fourth phase of the project, named "Economic Development and Income Generation in Nakhchivan Rural Communities through Kahriz Rehabilitation (NAR)" in 2008. A total of 26 Kahrizes have been started so far. Almost 1,681 families have gained improved access to water for consumption and agriculture.

For more information, see:

<http://www.iom.az/projects/MD/coswa/>

Developing infrastructure in Ecuador

In Ecuador, IOM has been implementing an infrastructure development programme called the "Integrated Programme for Municipal Development (IPMD)" since October 2007. Based on a local integrated development approach, this programme has financed water sanitation systems, rural roads, and irrigation canals. It has also assisted local governments to improve services and participation in local economic development, and sought to contribute to enhanced and participatory local governance. Around 60,000 persons benefited directly from this project in 2008.

For more information, see:

<http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/pid/449>

2. Return and Reintegration of Qualified Nationals (RQN)

The return and socio-economic reinsertion of skilled and qualified nationals abroad aims to benefit the national development or rehabilitation and reconstruction processes of developing countries, countries with economies in transition, or countries that are recovering from conflict. Through its RQN programmes, IOM helps countries to develop their human capital through assisting the return of highly-qualified nationals with relevant skills and their placement in key sectors of the economy. In recent years, return may not necessarily be permanent. Increasingly, return is temporary, on a one-off or repeated basis.

Return of Qualified Afghans programme

IOM's Return of Qualified Afghans (RQA) programme, which began in 2002, assists Afghans residing abroad in returning home and helps to place them in key positions within ministries, government institutions and the private sector, thus enabling them to contribute to development activities. The candidates who have been selected have come from countries in Europe, Africa, the

Middle East and North America. To date 846 Afghan experts have returned home from 32 countries with IOM's assistance. One of the main current RQA projects is called "Socio-Economic Reintegration of Afghans Returning from Iran and Pakistan (RARIP)". It targets return and reintegration of 30 qualified Afghan expatriate professionals residing in Iran. Eight candidates including five female candidates have been selected, recruited and placed in both the private and public sectors of Afghanistan.

For more information, see:

http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/activities/countries/docs/afghanistan/rqa_programme_08.pdf

Temporary Return of Qualified Nationals

This project aims to assist with the temporary placement of qualified nationals in key positions in several countries of origin: Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ethiopia, Georgia, Sierra Leone and Sudan. The project has assisted 160 temporary return assignments so far. Its second phase, which began in July 2008, is expected to facilitate 300 temporary return assignments, assisting in capacity building through a "training of trainer" approach in a number of identified sectors per country. More than 25 per cent of participants are female.

For more information, see:

http://www.iom-nederland.nl/english/Programmes/Migration_Development/Projects/Migration_Development/Temporary_Return_of_Qualified_Nationals_TRQN_II

3. Remittances

Although remittances are private transfers, they also offer possibilities for enhancing wider development for families, communities and countries of origin. They are concrete outcomes of migration and represent the most direct link between migration and development. As global migration has grown, so have remittance flows, and so has their potential impact on development. IOM's work in this area seeks to facilitate the development of policies and mechanisms that improve remittance services to migrants and enhance the development impact of remittances. In doing so, IOM's current focus is on data collection, policy dialogue and dissemination of good practices, and pilot project implementation.



Colombia, Receiving remittances from a family member working abroad.
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Improving Knowledge of Remittance Corridors and Enhancing Development through Inter-Regional Dialogue and Pilot Projects in South-East Asia and Europe

This project aims to promote the link between remittances and development in South-East Asia and provide support to the European Union's ongoing efforts to manage migration challenges and promote development in the region. Through data gathering, policy dialogue and pilot project activities, this project seeks to mainstream migration, development, and remittance in national development planning, promote transfers through formal financial institutions and support initiatives that promote productive use of remittances through saving and investments. The project's target countries in South East Asia are the Philippines and Indonesia, while the Netherlands and Italy are the counterparts in Europe.

For more information, see:

http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/site/myjahiasite/shared/shared/mainsite/activities/countries/docs/philippines/aeneas_2.pdf

International remittances study in Colombia

Underlying its practical work on remittances, IOM has also developed its research expertise in this field. The "Study on International Migration and Remittances" in Colombia is an example of this. It is an extensive field study on remittances which aims to identify the beneficiary population of remittances, estimating the total amount remitted and defining current remittances use, so as to evaluate their impact. On this basis, the project intends to identify the potential to support the productive use of remittances and to identify new action lines for optimal investment. The third component of the study, focusing specifically on remittances beneficiaries in Money Exchange Bureaus, is presently being developed.

For further information (in Spanish only), see:

<http://www.oim.org.co/>

4. Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA)

Based on its long experience in the Return of Qualified African Nationals (RQAN), IOM launched the MIDA programme in 2001 to help mobilize the skills acquired by African nationals abroad, through the short-term return of African professionals. The MIDA framework aims to strengthen IOM's capacity-building efforts, assisting African countries to achieve their development goals through the creation and reinforcement of sustainable links between the Diaspora and their countries of origin. The framework is currently being adapted to the Latin American context in the Migration for Development in Latin America project (MIDLA).

For more information on the MIDA framework, see:

<http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/pid/1306>

The MIDA Great Lakes Programme

The MIDA Great Lakes programme aims to strengthen the capacities of institutions in Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo to achieve their national and regional development goals, by enhancing the mobility of the qualified and skilled human resources from these countries' diasporas residing in European countries. The fourth phase of MIDA Great Lakes (2008-2012) adopts a new project approach: a two-stage call for project proposals was launched by IOM in March 2009, addressed to institutions in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda working in priority sectors for national development: health, education, and rural development. Around 30 projects are due to be supported locally during a three-year period through the mobilization of approximately 200 qualified experts from the diasporas of the Great lakes region. Approximately 20 per cent of Diaspora experts registered in the MIDA Great Lakes database are women, who are strongly encouraged to apply for the programme. For more information (French only), see:

www.midagrandslacs.org

W-MIDA: focusing on women

IOM is currently implementing a MIDA project which specifically targets West African migrant women in Italy as development agents for their countries of origin. The initiative entails the registration of those migrant women who are interested in promoting and supporting entrepreneurial (SME) or social projects to benefit and directly engage their origin communities. In this project, migrants' investments and the channeling of remittances to-

wards job generating activities as well as migrants' capacity to engage their social networks in hosting and origin communities (the co-development perspective) are encouraged. Participants also have the possibility of undertaking temporary returns.

For more information, see:

http://www.italy.iom.int/images/pdf/Call%20for%20Proposals%20WMIDA_ENGLISH.pdf

5. Building the Capacities of Migrant Organizations to Participate in Development

The EC-UN Joint Migration and Development Initiative

The Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI) is an interagency partnership between IOM, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Labour Organization. Funded by the European Commission, this initiative aims to build the capacities of migrant and diaspora organizations to promote development primarily in 16 target countries. By gathering and sharing best practices through an online community of practice and supporting small-scale projects linking these organizations with their countries of origin, the initiative aims to empower these organizations to work independently and sustainably to promote development. IOM is particularly involved in the community of practice and the selection of projects.

For further information, see:

<http://www.migration4development.org/>

Migration and development resource material

- Global updates on current Migration and Development publications, discussions, programmes can be found on the IOM's Office of the Permanent Observer to the United Nations: <http://www.un.int/iom/IOM-HLD.html>
- "Migration and Development within and across borders: Research and policy perspectives on internal and international migration". Downloadable in PDF format from: <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/cache/offonce/pid/1674?entryId=20582>
- "Migration and Development: perspectives from the South". Downloadable in PDF format from: http://www.iom.int/.../shared/shared/mainsite/published_docs/books/MD%20Perspectives%20from%20the%20South.pdf
- Migration Research Series 34 "Migration and Development: Achieving Policy Coherence". Downloadable in pdf format from: <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/cache/offonce/pid/1674;jsessionid=04CDAA8FA8178329E33DB70AAFF1B449.worker02?entryId=19847>
- Migration Research Series 35 "Migration, Development and the Environment". Downloadable in pdf format from: <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/cache/offonce/pid/1674;jsessionid=04CDAA8FA8178329E33DB70AAFF1B449.worker02?entryId=20403>

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