



MIGRATION IN THE AMERICAS

International Organization for Migration

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IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. IOM is an intergovernmental organization composed of 125 Member States and 16 Observer States.

Painting the Future of Les Cayes



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Rodine St.Jean
IOM Haiti

As a young painter in Les Cayes, Haiti, Joubert Alerte would have given up everything to pursue his passion - painting - had he known what he knows today, that his talent has made him one of the most famous painters of Les Cayes.

Ever since Joubert's paintings were featured in the Avenir Community Center, refurbished as part of IOM's PREPEP program, which focuses on community stabilization in Haiti, he has been in high demand by the business and entertainment community of Les Cayes.

Joubert began to learn painting at a community school near his hometown of Jeremie in southwest Haiti. But due to his family's precarious economic situation, he

had to abandon art school and moved to Les Cayes where he started working as a professional painter and jewelry-maker. He also set up the "JPC Art Gallery and School," where he teaches art to the youth of Les Cayes.

Concentrating on his work and trying to make a living did not leave Joubert much time to participate in community activities.

When he was approached by IOM staff to provide his services as a volunteer to paint the wall of the Avenir Community Center, he immediately rejected the idea. IOM then turned to two of his art students, who accepted but said that they needed Joubert, their teacher, to work with them. They said that the complexity of such a project required a higher technical capacity that they did not possess. Joubert finally agreed to join them and together they

painted a scene of women dancing on the street.

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Joubert Alerte at the JPC Art Gallery and School

Working on the project as a volunteer meant that he was only provided with supplies and some food while he painted.

As the painting progressed, many people in the community and those passing through started to express great appreciation for his work. Several people who just happened to be walking by gave him money to express their thanks.

Joubert has received two awards for his painting, from IOM and from the Haitian Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Following the accolades he received for the mural, Joubert has received many requests for paintings from businessmen.

He is doing his best to keep up with all the new demands.

More students have approached him to take classes, but he says he can't take them all because he does not have enough materials.

And when other artists ask to meet with him, Joubert says, "I never thought that other artists would want to meet me."

One of the expressions Joubert has been using lately is: "kote m pran tan, pou map pedi tan." By saying, "I have no time to lose," he means that he is so busy with his newfound notoriety that he has no time to waste on other activities. And he adds, "This is all thanks to my participation in the IOM project."

Though at first he did not want to participate, Joubert now thanks IOM for giving him a chance to make his talents and skills known to the community. His achievements have inspired greater self-confidence, courage, and determination to continue using his talents to improve his life and his community. This experience has also taught him the importance of seizing any and all opportunities to transform his community.

His painting at the Avenir Community Center will be a lasting legacy for him and a constant reminder to everyone of the importance of community involvement.

IOM's PREPEP program (Programme de

Revitalisation et de Promotion de l'Entente et de la Paix) is a continuation of IOM's Haiti Transition Initiative, which began in 2004.

PREPEP works closely with the Government of Haiti in the pursuit of its four objectives: to enhance citizen confidence and participation in a peaceful political transition; to empower citizens and the Haitian government to address priority community needs; to build cooperative frameworks between citizens and government entities at all levels; and to promote peaceful interaction among conflicted populations.

IOM staff work with vulnerable communities and the Haitian national and municipal government bodies in an effort to assist with the stabilization of volatile neighborhoods through the rehabilitation of key infrastructure, such as roads, markets, schools, and social/cultural activities.

To date, the program, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has approved more than 1,400 grants with a total value of US\$ 30 million.

For more information on IOM's work in Haiti, please visit:

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



Survey of Temporary Labor Migration from Guatemala to Canada

The second evaluation carried out by IOM Guatemala on temporary labor migration to Canada highlights the strengths and shortcomings of the program as well as the impact on the migrant workers and their families.

The labor migration program from Guatemala, managed by IOM, began five years ago with 215 participants. In 2007, 2,255 migrants participated in the program; 46% traveled to Canada for the second time and 30.6% had participated

in the program at least three times.

The IOM survey confirms that the participants hail from the poorest municipalities in Guatemala; 27.6 percent of them live in municipalities with a poverty rate greater than 71 percent.

Günther Müssig, IOM Chief of Mission in Guatemala, says the project has become a successful model for temporary labor migration. "The past five years have proven that it is possible to carry out

a safe, dignified and orderly flow of migrant workers, thereby contributing to better management of migration flows. The project provides benefits all around – to the countries of origin and destination and to the migrants and their families. The success of the programme is evident: 93.2 percent of the participants fulfilled their contracts."

An important aspect of the program, and as a service to the migrants and their families, IOM Guatemala has added a

health care component. Working with its partners, IOM has put in place a health care plan for family members in Guatemala who do not have access to health care. The plan has different levels and costs which range from basic medical care to surgery and hospitalization. The health care component is also available for Guatemalan migrants in the United States.

The project “Temporary Agricultural Workers to Canada” was created by IOM and the Guatemalan Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Labor and Social Affairs, following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between IOM and the Fondation des entreprises en recrutement de main-d’œuvre agricole étrangère, or FERME, a Canadian Foundation based in Quebec that deals with the recruitment of foreign agricultural labor. FERME represents more than 350 employers and coordinates the seasonal

hiring of some 4,000 temporary migrant workers.

The workers perform seasonal agricultural work planting and/or harvesting lettuce, tomato, broccoli, strawberries, and other fruits and vegetables.

Seventy-four per cent of those surveyed said they had acquired new skills which range from new planting and harvesting techniques to classifying and packing the produce, which they would apply when harvesting their land in Guatemala.

The wages received by temporary migrant workers are higher than the minimum salary in Canada and are covered by Canadian labor laws. The participants confirmed to IOM that wages earned in Canada are spent on health, education, housing, clothing and other basic items, but they are also able to make major improvements to their homes and buy land.

The 2005 survey showed that 45.3 % of the earnings were spent on building homes, whereas in 2007, 31.9% was set aside in savings accounts.

IOM provides technical assistance to the Guatemalan Government, participates in the selection of workers, advises those selected on travel documents and other requirements for travel to Canada, and arranges their flights. The Guatemalan consulate in Canada verifies the working conditions and provides support, as needed, in conflict resolution.

The agreement stipulates that all migrants must return to their country of origin at the end of their contracts, which range between four and eight months.

A copy of the report is available at:
<http://www.oim.org.gt/Cuaderno%20de%20Trabajo%20No.%2025.pdf>



First International MERCOSUR Congress on Human Trafficking and Child Pornography

Elena Solari and Sabrina Roth
IOM Buenos Aires

International and regional experts, officials of MERCOSUR countries, lawmakers, and representatives of international organizations recently gathered in Buenos Aires for the First International MERCOSUR and Partner States Congress on Human Trafficking and Child Pornography.

The event, organized by the Ministry of Justice, Security, and Human Rights of Argentina, included experts from Argentina, Brazil, France and the United States who shared their experiences and presented best practices on national programs and strategies to combat human trafficking and child pornography and to assist and protect its victims.

The participants attended several workshops on: prevention of human trafficking and sexual exploitation, investigation and prosecution, protection and assis-

tance to victims, and the use of the Internet for human trafficking and child pornography.

Trafficking cases in Latin America mainly affect vulnerable groups, including women and children from rural and poor backgrounds. Although quantitative estimates are difficult to produce, according to estimates provided by different governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental bodies, at least 2.4 million persons were victims of internal and international human trafficking worldwide between 1995 and 2004; some, 250,000 of those victims hailed from Latin America and the Caribbean.

The aim of the organizers is for the region to work together to combat human trafficking and child pornography from a security perspective, while incorporating human rights, gender, and protection for victims; to make headway on cooperation mechanisms concerning research and data sharing; encourage meetings of ministers of Justice and Interior of MERCOSUR

nations; and to foster links between MERCOSUR and the European Union to combat trafficking.

IOM Regional Representative, Eugenio Ambrosi told the participants, “We must deal with the social, economic, cultural, educational and institutional weakness that create the perfect climate for traffickers to operate in. But the fact that MERCOSUR and its ministers of justice have come together for two days to discuss the issue of human trafficking and to find ways to effectively combat it says a lot about the commitment of this region.”

The IOM regional office in Buenos Aires works with governments in the region to strengthen institutional capacity including training officials, creating inter-institutional networks, designing mass information campaigns, and providing protection and assistance to victims of trafficking. All of these activities are funded by the United States Government.



Organic Fertilizer Plant Employs 30 Colombian Men and Women Demobilized from Illegal Armed Groups

Adriana Correa
IOM Colombia

The second of 10 planned organic fertilizer plants, which will provide employment to 300 men and women demobilized from illegal armed groups, recently opened in the city of Medellín.

The plants raise earthworms to produce solid and liquid humus, an organic substance consisting of partially or wholly decayed vegetable or animal matter that provides nutrients for plants and increases the ability of soil to retain water.

The 2,500 square meter plant treats up to 3.5 tonnes of organic waste per day, which translates into a monthly production of 40 tons of solid humus and 3,000 liters of liquid humus; all of which will be purchased by Biprocol Company.

Biprocol Company is implementing the project under the coordination of Colombia's High Commission for Reintegration (ACR), with technical support from IOM, and funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Mayor's Office of Medellín.

The employees receive government as-

sistance for education, health care and psychosocial support, while they are training to become technicians in earthworm raising.

At the plant's opening ceremony, Andrés González, General Manager of Biprocol, said he is proud that the private sector, the government and international organizations have a chance to work together to create employment for Colombians who believe in contributing to a peaceful country.

The Presidential High Commissioner for Reintegration, Frank Pearl, added that these joint endeavours lead to the successful economic reintegration of demobilized persons who need support in order to fully reintegrate and become autonomous citizens.

From November 2003 to August 2006, more than 31,000 members of the illegal self-defense groups had demobilized as a



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result of a peace process with the Colombian government. IOM provides its support to the government of Colombia for the reintegration process of these men and women as they transition into civilian life.

The other plants are planned for the cities of Montería, Sincelejo, Valledupar, Cartagena and Pereira.

For more information visit:
www.oim.org.co



Estrategia Interfronteras contra la trata de personas en cuatro puntos fronterizos del Perú

Juan Pablo Casapia
OIM Lima

La OIM, con el apoyo del Instituto de Estudios por la Infancia y la Familia (IDEIF), ha organizado los "Encuentros Interfronteras", actividades de información, capacitación y prevención contra la trata de personas en cuatro puntos fronterizos de riesgo que son atravesados, cotidianamente y de manera irregular, por cientos de ciudadanos, muchos de los

cuáles son víctimas de este delito.

Esta iniciativa surge con el objetivo de contribuir al fortalecimiento de los controles fronterizos a partir de la capacitación normativa de operadores de la ley y autoridades, así como sensibilizar e informar a los periodistas, funcionarios y población en general sobre el tema y la existencia de una legislación relativa que condena hasta con 25 años de prisión a quienes cometan este crimen.

Cuatro ciudades ubicadas en las fronteras del Perú han sido escenario de los encuentros: Puno (Bolivia), Tacna (Chile), Tumbes (Ecuador) y Puerto Maldonado e Iñapari (Brasil - Bolivia). En cada lugar se llevó a cabo una conferencia de prensa con periodistas de los países involucrados, un taller de capacitación para personal de Migraciones y Policía, y una mesa de trabajo con autoridades de cada país con la finalidad de fortalecer alianzas y lograr acuerdos bilaterales para trabajar contra la trata de personas.

De esta manera, alrededor de 80 periodistas, 80 oficiales de migraciones y policías y 120 autoridades y miembros de organizaciones sociales de Perú, Bolivia, Ecuador, Chile y Brasil fueron capacitados y compartieron experiencias e información para enriquecer el conocimiento en materia de la lucha contra la trata y mejorar la gestión de las fronteras con el objetivo de prevenir y reducir la acción de las mafias de tratantes.



IOM's Regional Office in Peru conducted a series of on-site trainings at four international borders used by thousands of persons on a daily basis; including irregular migrants, many of whom could be potential victims of trafficking.

With support from Peru's Institute for the Study of Childhood and the Family (IDEIF by its Spanish acronym), the "Cross-border Strategy," provided information and training on human trafficking and migrant smuggling, and the tools needed to combat and prevent these crimes, including the recently passed law which provides for up to 25 year sentences for convicted traffickers, to border authorities and officials on the frontlines.

The sessions were held in the Peruvian borders towns of Puno (Bolivia), Tacna

Cientos de personas cruzan diariamente las fronteras que separan al Perú de sus países vecinos. Lo inaccesible de gran parte de este territorio, los limitados recursos de los gobiernos, las numerosas transacciones comerciales, la pobreza y el elevado flujo de trabajadores se suman al desconocimiento normativo, facilitando la trata de personas y el tráfico ilícito de migrantes en esos puntos.

El 16 de enero de 2007 se promulgó la Ley N° 28950 contra la trata de personas y el tráfico ilícito de migrantes. Sin embargo, ésta es aún poco conocida entre quienes tienen a su cargo la seguridad de las fronteras.

La OIM viene trabajando desde 2003 en la lucha contra la trata de personas,

a través de campañas de difusión y prevención, capacitaciones y cooperación técnica con el Estado peruano. A solicitud de éste, diseñó el documento técnico del primer Plan Nacional de Acción contra la Trata de Personas, que fue validado en julio de 2007.

Además, creó la Línea de Asistencia e Información 0800-2-3232 en marzo de 2006, la cual ha recibido, hasta el momento, alrededor de 10,000 llamadas y derivado 90 casos para su investigación. A la par, ha capacitado a un estimado de 3,000 personas entre periodistas, autoridades y actores de la sociedad civil, en 12 diferentes puntos del país.



International Borders Strategy Offers On-Site Training

(Chile), Tumbes (Ecuador) and Puerto Maldonado and Iñapari (Brazil - Bolivia), to raise awareness amongst journalists, practitioners and the general public.

Some 80 journalists, 80 immigration officials and police and 120 local authorities and NGO staff from Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Chile y Brazil participated and are shared their experiences and lessons learned in order to strengthen their knowledge on the issues and improve border management.

Thousands of persons cross Peru's borders on a daily basis. But in remote border crossings, the lack of resources, the volume of commercial transactions, the large numbers of migrant workers, and basic ignorance of the law, create a climate that is ripe for human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

Law number 28950, aimed at combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling went into effect in January of 2007, but the law remains largely unknown by those in charge of border security.

Peru is a country of origin, transit and

destination for human trafficking with a predominance of internal trafficking of women for sexual exploitation. Children and men are trafficked to work in the mining and timber industries, and agriculture. There are also high rates of human trafficking for domestic labor. At the international level, there have been cases of Peruvian women taken to Argentina, Japan, Spain and other countries for sexual exploitation.

IOM Peru has been working since 2003 to combat human trafficking through information campaigns, training and technical cooperation. At the request of the Peruvian government, IOM produced the technical draft for the National Plan of Action on Human Trafficking, which was approved in July 2007.

IOM also created a human trafficking information and assistance hot-line in March 2006, which has received some 10,000 calls, including 90 cases that are being investigated by the authorities. IOM has also provided training to more than 3,000 persons.



Returning Home

Juliana Quintero
IOM Colombia

Juan* says he will never forget the day he woke up knowing that hours later he would be sitting on a plane making the long trip back to his birthplace of Risaralda in Colombia. After living in London for four years and trying desperately to start a new life, who can blame him.

Those four years of his life had been filled with new experiences in a country with a different culture and language, and getting to know people from all over the world, who like him, arrive in the United Kingdom daily in search of new opportunities.

For this 29 year old man, it will be hard to forget the endless hours of work that began at 5 every morning. Juan worked for a cleaning company in London and many times he felt exhausted, but he could not afford to stop, an hour without work meant 5£ less to live on.

The hard work and long hours were not the biggest issue for Juan; being an irregular migrant in the United Kingdom was his main concern. He did not have a visa, so every week he changed his identity using false documents. Juan recalls, "One week I was Pedro from Spain and the following week I was Luis from Italy. I was changing my identity in order to avoid being detected by the authorities."

But this hide and seek life came at a high price for Juan; he was always on the run. When he was on the metro, on the street, on his way to work; he was always fearful and overwhelmed with anxiety that he would be caught and maybe deported. And one day it happened; he was detained. It felt like his world was collapsing, he thought that he would be immediately deported to Colombia. He explained to the authorities the reason why he had left his country, and he found out that based on his circumstances it was possible to apply for asylum.

Luciano, a 35 year old Ecuadorian had a different experience in the United Kingdom. He arrived in 2002 with his wife and daughter and filed for asylum. While the case was being decided, he did not have the right to work.

decided to invest part of the allowance in his father's business, and with the rest he set up an internet café, that just a few months later provided enough earnings to buy a small farm where he is growing coffee. All his businesses are booming.



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Luciano with his taxi

Both cases were denied and so Luciano and his family and Juan would have to return to their countries.

They were given the option to return in a safe and dignified way with IOM's VARRP program. The VARRP program provides assistance for return (necessary documentation for travel, air ticket, and a cash allowance), and facilitates reintegration in the countries of origin.

Return and Reintegration

And so Juan and Luciano returned to their countries and decided to set up their own businesses.

Once back home, the returnees contact the local IOM mission to begin working on their economic plan in order to invest the second part of the monetary assistance offered by the program. They can choose between opening their own businesses or pay for their own or their children's education.

Since 2007, the return program includes an excess luggage allowance, temporary accommodation upon arrival, vocational training courses and assistance with employment search.

Juan, with advice from IOM Colombia,

For his part, Luciano, bought a taxi and is transporting passengers to other cities inside Ecuador.

However, for Juan and Luciano, as it is for the majority of returnees, things were not easy in the beginning.

"To be able to manage a business and its earnings was not easy, but I stayed focused on making the business grow. I believe it has been a very good experience," confirms Juan.

And Luciano says, "The most difficult thing was to gain the trust of my clients in this transport business."

Since the VARRP began in 2002, IOM has assisted more than 560 migrants from Latin America that have decided to return to their countries voluntarily.

And now, as they have come full circle, Juan and Luciano have something in common: they are living new lives in their countries of origin.

** Names have been changed*



Volver a casa

El día que Juan* despertó sabiendo que horas más tarde emprendería el viaje de regreso a su natal Risaralda en Colombia después de haber vivido en Londres no podrá olvidarlo.

Y no es para menos. Fueron cuatro años viviendo nuevas experiencias en un país con cultura e idioma diferentes, conociendo gente de todas partes del mundo que como él llega todos los días al Reino Unido en busca de nuevas oportunidades.

Pero para este joven de 29 años es inevitable también no recordar las interminables horas de trabajo que comenzaban a las 5:00am en un barrio al norte de Londres.

Juan desempeñaba labores de limpieza. Muchas veces se sentía cansado pero no podía pensar en parar, pues una hora sin trabajar le significaban cinco libras esterlinas menos para vivir.

Juan era un migrante irregular en el Reino Unido. No contaba con ningún tipo de visa. Cada semana cambiaba de identificación para no ser reconocido por las autoridades. Juan recuerda: “una semana me llamaba Pedro y era de nacionalidad española y a la semana siguiente mi nombre era Luis, de nacionalidad italiana”.

Esto tenía para él un costo muy alto. Estaba siempre huyendo. Cuando estaba en el metro, cuando estaba en la calle, cuando iba a sus lugares de trabajo siempre estaba agobiado. Siempre estaba pensando en el momento en que pudiera ser descubierto y tal vez deportado a su país.

Un poco diferente a lo que vivió Luciano*, un ecuatoriano de 35 años que llegó al Reino Unido en el 2002 con su familia y solicitó asilo. Mientras esperaba que su caso fuera resuelto, ni él ni su familia tenían derecho a trabajar.

Mientras tanto Juan seguía cambiando de identidad tratando de escapar la detección

y deportación. Pero un día, tal como temía, fue detenido con sus documentos falsos. Sintió como su mundo se le derumbaba, pensó en que sería deportado inmediatamente a Colombia. Sin embargo, tuvo la opción de contar a las autoridades sus motivos de salida de Colombia y fue así como se enteró que con su caso también podía solicitar asilo.

Después de un tiempo ambos casos fueron negados. Luciano con su familia y Juan debían regresar a sus países.

La opción para regresar dignamente la recibieron del programa VARRP de la OIM en Londres, que además de un retorno digno, les ofreció la posibilidad de empezar sus vidas con nuevos proyectos.

La Reintegración

Cuando Juan y Luciano regresaron a sus ciudades natales decidieron montar sus propios negocios. Esto, gracias a que la OIM en Londres a través del VARRP, además de ofrecer a los migrantes en el proceso de retorno la ayuda logística del viaje (documentación necesaria para el viaje, pago de billetes aéreos, dinero en efectivo como una primera parte de ayuda económica), les facilita su reintegración en los países de origen.

Al llegar a sus países, los retornados contactan a la misión de la OIM para acceder a la segunda parte de la ayuda económica que les ofrece el Programa. Con esa ayuda, pueden elegir entre montar sus propios negocios o pagar la educación de ellos o sus hijos.

Además, gracias a un nuevo enfoque iniciado en el 2007, el Programa ofrece la posibilidad de que el retornado lleve equipaje extra, reciba acomodación temporal desde el momento de su llegada, cursos de capacitación técnica y un empleo que podría ser conseguido por la OIM o por el individuo.

Juan, por ejemplo, con el asesoramiento de la OIM Colombia, invirtió parte de la ayuda en el negocio de su padre y con la otra parte montó un café Internet, que meses más tarde le dio ganancias para comprar una pequeña finca donde sembró café.

Luciano, por su parte compró un vehículo para prestar el servicio de transporte a otras ciudades en Ecuador.



Juan en su café Internet

Sin embargo para Juan y Luciano, así como para la mayoría de retornados, las cosas no fueron fáciles al principio. “Ser organizado con la administración y las ganancias del negocio no fue fácil, pero siempre pensé en crecer y ampliar mis negocios y creo que ha sido una muy buena experiencia”, explica Juan.

Mientras que para Luciano “lo más difícil fue ganar la confianza de mis clientes en el medio del transporte”.

Así, desde la creación del Programa VARRP en 2002, la OIM ha beneficiado a más de 560 latinoamericanos que han decidido regresar a sus países voluntariamente.

Hoy por hoy, Juan y Luciano a pesar de haber vivido experiencias tan diferentes y difíciles en el Reino Unido tienen algo en común: están viviendo una nueva vida en sus países de origen.

** Los nombres han sido cambiados*

Providing the Tools to Fight Human Trafficking

Amy Mahoney
IOM Washington

As momentum to fight human trafficking in Trinidad and Tobago grows, IOM recently held two major counter-trafficking activities to further strengthen the nation's response capacity.

Trinidadian labor inspectors were provided with new skills to identify and screen potential victims of trafficking and refer case-related information accordingly. The training, conducted at the request of the Department of Labor, was prompted by a recommendation from one of its senior officials who had participated in a previous IOM training seminar.

There is concern that inspectors could be encountering exploitative labor situations that not only break national laws, but also may qualify as cases of trafficking. This concern is also supported by IOM's Exploratory Assessment of Trafficking in Persons which identified forced labor, domestic servitude, and sexual exploitation as Caribbean regional trends.

In the past year, there have been several articles in Trinidad's media related to trafficking cases for sexual exploitation.

Investigative journalism on human trafficking requires adherence to strict standards in order to keep victims, assistance providers, and even journalists safe.

IOM held an awareness and sensitization workshop for Trinidad's journalists, which focused on ways of reporting these types of stories in a way that helps victims without re-traumatizing them or compromising their safety.

Trinidad and Tobago is in the early stages of assisting victims of trafficking, with the authorities having officially identified four cases. Yet the sentiment is that, if the country has just one victim, a collaborative and proactive response is required.

"Even if only one of you manage in your career to bring relief to a victim, the time and effort for this course will be well spent," declared Anthony Le Gendre, Immigration Officer, during the opening ceremony of IOM's training in Tobago.

IOM Washington will publish exploratory research on human trafficking in Trinidad and Tobago and will assist in the launching of a local counter-trafficking information campaign later this Summer.

In partnership with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the counter-trafficking activities are a part of IOM's larger projects on *Technical Cooperation and Migration Management* and the *Caribbean Counter-Trafficking Initiative*, funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) and the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA).

Combating human trafficking is a cross cutting theme within the government's migration management strategy. Through IOM's project for *Strengthening Technical Capacity*, the government has worked to bolster the capabilities of immigration and other law enforcement agencies by updating legal and regulatory frameworks, improving migration security technology, building institutional capacity, and fostering regional cooperation.

"There is often a link between the use of fraudulent documents and human trafficking," remarked Mr. Le Gendre, who is also the administrator of the Document Examination Laboratory. "The Laboratory, established by IOM, is an important part of the holistic response to organized crime."



Caribbean Counter-Trafficking Model Legislation

Since January 2008, IOM has been working with Caribbean partners to develop model legislation to counter trafficking in persons. During two working-group sessions, legal experts from CARICOM and 10 Caribbean countries reviewed and commented on the provisions in IOM's counter-trafficking model legislation. The group provided constructive feedback and insight to the various legislative systems across the Caribbean. This will ensure that the final product and accompanying guidelines will reflect the local and regional context. IOM anticipates these will be available sometime during summer 2008. This project is supported by the U.S. Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (G/TIP).

A trabajar y a cantar

Juliana Quintero
OIM Colombia

Hasta mayo de este año, Dairo, un colombiano de la costa norte, se había dedicado a cantar y a hacer presentaciones con el grupo de música vallenata del que hace parte en el Cesar, la ciudad donde nació.

Un día de mayo su vida cambió: mientras hacían una presentación en su pueblo, el grupo recibió una propuesta laboral que para ellos no solo era oportunidad económica, sino la de realizar el sueño que siempre habían tenido como grupo: Ir a otro país a difundir su cultura vallenata y presentarse en festivales en extranjero.

Él y sus tres compañeros musicales son muy conocidos en su región por su música y por animar los eventos especiales de los Cesarenses, para quienes el vallenato, además de ser su música típica, simboliza su cultura y sus raíces costeñas.

El vallenato, dicen los artistas, representa culturalmente el mestizaje del que nacieron sus antepasados en la costa norte del país y los tres instrumentos (acordeón, guacharaca y caja vallenata) surgieron de la mezcla de tres culturas: la española, la africana y la indígena.

Dairo, de 27 años, interpreta el acordeón desde que era un niño porque sus abuelos y tíos le enseñaron. Los otros tres músicos también se han dedicado desde pequeños a la música, pero por razones económicas, han tenido que realizar paralelamente labores en el campo y otros sectores para su manutención y la de sus familias.

Dairo fue seleccionado junto con su grupo val-

lenato y otras 300 personas de su región para participar en el Programa de Migración Laboral, Temporal y Circular (MLTC), implementado en Colombia por la OIM y la Unión de Pagesos / Agricultores Solidarios en España, con el financiamiento del Programa Aeneas de la Comisión Europea.

Como participante en este Programa, Dairo trabajará por un período de seis meses recolectando frutas en Cataluña, tiempo al cabo del cual regresará a Colombia, con la opción de repetir el ciclo el próximo año.

El grupo musical fue seleccionado por la Fundación Carboandes de Valledupar no sólo porque tienen habilidades para el trabajo en el campo sino porque el programa MLTC busca también promover actividades culturales con el fin de ofrecer no solo posibilidades laborales a los migrantes, sino además entretenimiento y difusión de sus culturas.

El 1 de julio Dairo y sus compañeros salieron rumbo a Cataluña. Mientras estaban en el aeropuerto al lado de sus maletas, interpretaban algunas canciones en ritmos de paseo, puya y son, típicas de su repertorio. Recordaban a sus familias,

a las que esperan ver pronto y a su gente del Cesar quienes para Dairo “son más que el motivo de regreso, de volver a cantarles y a contarles cómo es la vida allá al otro lado”.

Trabajarán de lunes a viernes en las granjas recogiendo frutas, y durante los fines de semana se dedicarán a ofrecer conciertos en la región de Cataluña, explicando la historia de cada una de las canciones y acompañados de trajes típicos. Además los cantantes asistirán al evento anual de la campaña agraria de Cataluña en el que se realizan muestras culturales de diferentes países, y harán presencia en un festival intercultural en Francia.

“Nunca imaginamos que pudiéramos ir a otro país a hacer lo que nos gusta y que además nos ofrecieran la oportunidad de trabajar y aprender otras cosas”, cuenta Henry Pinto, el cantante del grupo.

En seis meses este grupo regresará mientras otros Colombianos de otras regiones del país preparan sus maletas para irse bajo el mismo Modelo de migración, que ha beneficiará en este año a 1800 personas.



Los músicos de vallenato van a España

Singing While You Work

Until recently, Dairo, a young man from Colombia's northern coast, made his living singing the folkloric *vallenato* rhythms with his group at special events in his native city of Cesar.

But one day last May the group received an offer they couldn't refuse: to travel to Spain as part of an IOM-managed temporary labor migration program, earn money and spread Colombia's *vallenato* musical culture. This was the group's dream come true.

Dairo and the other three members of the group are well known in this part of Colombia where they are hired for special events where the *vallenato* is more than just music, it symbolizes their coastal roots.

According to the artists, the *vallenato* represents the *mestizaje*, or cultural mix of those who have shared for centuries the lush tropical land of Colombia's northern coast. The three instruments used to play *vallenato*, *accordion*, *guacharaca* and the *vallenato box*, came together as did the three cultures – the indigenous, the Spanish, and the African.

Twenty-seven year old Dairo, who plays the accordion, says he learnt the instrument and *vallenato* music from his grandparents and uncles. The other members of the group have also played since childhood, but were less fortunate because they could not devote themselves 100 per cent to their music and had to work the fields and do other jobs in order to provide for their families.

Dairo and his group were selected along with 300 other applicants to take part in the Temporary and Circular Labour Migration Programme (MLTC by its Spanish acronym) implemented by IOM Colombia and the Unió de Pagesos / Agricultores Solidarios of Spain, with financing from the Aeneas Program of the European Commission.

The selected migrants will work for six month harvesting fruits in the Catalonia region of Spain, with the option of participating in the program next year.

IOM's local partner, the Fundación Carboandes de Valledupar, selected Dairo and his friends not only because of their experience in agricultural work, but because MLTC wants to promote cultural activities as part of the program.

So on the 1st of July, Dairo and his friends took off for Catalonia. But while waiting for their flight, and to the delight of the public, they gave an impromptu performance at the airport. They played *paseos*, *puyas* and *sons*, typical sounds of their extensive repertoire.

The music made them a bit melancholy and made them think of their families being left behind. Dairo said, "Our family is the reason we will return soon. But also because we want to continue to entertain our friends and neighbors in Cesar, and to tell them how others live on the other side of the ocean."

The men will work in the fields Monday thru Friday and the weekends will be spent playing their beloved *vallenatos* in full costume at music festivals and other events throughout Catalonia and in neighboring France.

"We never imagined that we would travel to a foreign land to do what we



Dairo, the *vallenato* musician heads off to Spain

love best – playing *vallenatos*," explains Henry Pinto, the singer. "But also we will be making money and learning new things!"

In six months the group of 300 will return home while other Colombian labor migrants pack their bags to take part in the MLTC program, which aims to benefit 1,800 Colombians in 2008.

For more information, please visit the IOM Colombia website at:
www.oim.org.co



La OIM asiste al gobierno en la modificación del código penal de Chile

La oficina de la OIM en Chile proveyó asistencia técnica jurídica a la Cámara de Diputados y al Senado de Chile en la formulación del proyecto de ley que se propone a modificar el Código Penal, el Código de Proceso Penal, la Ley de Extranjería (Decreto Ley n° 1094/ 95), la Ley Orgánica de la Policía de Investigaciones de Chile (Decreto Ley 2470/ 79), la Ley que regla la libertad condicional para los penados (Decreto Ley n° 321/25) y la Ley que fija las normas generales de indultos en Chile (Ley n° 18050).

El proyecto de ley está actualmente en tramitación en el Senado de Chile, a

través del boletín n° 3778-18. Al ser una materia en que existe acuerdo y consenso general entre los senadores chilenos, la OIM Chile solicitó a la Presidencia del Senado la integración del proyecto en la tabla de "Fácil Despacho" de acuerdo con el Artículo 85° del Reglamento del Senado de Chile para rápida votación y aprobación.

Por unanimidad la Sala del Senado aprobó el 4 junio del 2008 el proyecto que tipifica los delitos de tráfico ilícito de migrantes y trata de personas, y acordó remitir la iniciativa a la Comisión de Derechos Humanos y luego a la de

Constitución, para su análisis en particular.

Además, fijó como plazo, el lunes 16 de junio 2008 para que los senadores hagan llegar sus indicaciones. La OIM Chile participará activamente ofreciendo asistencia técnica jurídico a los senadores participantes de ambas comisiones.

De acuerdo con el procedimiento legislativo chileno, después de las indicaciones de ambas comisiones, el proyecto volverá a la Sala del Senado para la votación y probación final.



Exploratory Study Looks at How Migration Impacts Nicaraguan Women

Berta Fernández
IOM Nicaragua

A new study by IOM and the UN's Population Fund (UNFPA) sheds light on the impact that migration has on Nicaraguan women who migrate to Costa Rica and encourages sound policies to uphold their human rights.

The IOM /UNFPA exploratory study examines the migratory patterns of Nicaraguan women who migrate to Costa Rica, focusing on the problems they face as women migrants, and provides recommendations to make their experience more positive.

Nicaraguan women interviewed for this study overwhelmingly say they decided to migrate to escape poverty and lack of jobs at home and to find better paid jobs in Costa Rica. Other reasons for migrating included fleeing domestic violence and an idealistic perception of life in Costa Rica.

"Many women, like me, thought that

there were plenty of jobs in Costa Rica, and that we were going to be treated well. But when we arrived, we realized this was not the case at all," confirms one interviewee.

Another migrant woman in Costa Rica recalls her domestic nightmare: "He had his house and family, but he would not leave me in peace. One day he put a gun to my head and told me that I would never leave him. That is why I had to leave Nicaragua."

How does migration impact a woman's daily life? For the most part the experience has had negative impacts, because the majority of the women interviewed are irregular migrants and therefore more vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. The women confirmed they were exploited by their employers and felt more vulnerable as women. They also cited a difficult time accessing health and reproductive health services, as well as housing or shelter programmes.

The women interviewed also felt they had paid a high emotional price because they

were forced to leave their children and extended families behind. Being a woman meant an increased sense of guilt, as they are expected to be there for their children; many confirmed this causes depression and anxiety.

The authors recommend the creation of a bi-national committee to create policies, including access to health and other social services irrespective of a person's migratory status; the creation of jobs and investment opportunities in the country of origin; sustainable and dignified return to Nicaragua; the set up of a shelter in Costa Rica for migrant women in need; implementation of an information campaign, aimed at the Costa Rican public, on the positive aspects of migration; and strengthening hometown associations, amongst others.

The full report, in Spanish can be found on the IOM website at: www.iom.int



Rescued children at rehab center proudly show their bead work



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The United States Association for International Migration (USAIM) is IOM's private sector partner organization in the United States.

USAIM's mission is to increase public awareness and mobilize private sector resources in support of international programs that provide assistance to migrants and refugees.

USAIM concentrates its efforts on human trafficking, health, emergency relief, and public information campaigns. It does so primarily by supporting and promoting the work of IOM, as it is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society.

In 2007, USAIM's status as a 501(c)3 organization made it possible for the Peery Family Foundation to make a tax-deductible contribution to an IOM project in Argentina that enables im-

poverished migrant families living in the slums of Buenos Aires to undertake income generating activities so that their children can attend school instead of having to enter the labor force.

Most recently, USAIM has worked to support emergency relief efforts in post-cyclone Myanmar by raising funds from individuals and corporations in order to provide clean water and shelter to disaster victims.

USAIM is committed to its mission of raising public awareness of and support for victims of trafficking, migrants and displaced populations.

Currently, USAIM is engaged in raising funds to support IOM's Trafficked Children of Ghana project, which is working to rescue, rehabilitate and reintegrate hundreds of trafficked children working in the fishing villages along Lake Volta in Ghana.

Additionally, USAIM has undertaken fundraising initiatives to garner support for IOM's project in Moldova, which aims to rescue young women and children from sex trafficking, provide them with a safe shelter, and give them the tools necessary for social and economic reintegration into society.

As part of its partnership with IOM, USAIM hopes to bring more attention to global humanitarian issues such as human trafficking and displacement of persons and to increase the resources available to IOM for fighting these problems.

For more information or to get involved please visit :

www.usaim.org

or write to USAIM at:

info@usaim.org