

# MIGRATION

Summer 2010

Haiti:  
**SIX** months  
after...



IOM International Organization for Migration

# MIGRATION

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# We remain committed to the people of Haiti

By William Lacy Swing,  
Director General, IOM

Six months after the January 12 earthquake that devastated Haiti, the country and the international community are still reeling from the human tragedy: some 230,000 people dead, an estimated 300,000 injured and 1.5 million Haitians left homeless. This is undoubtedly one of the greatest humanitarian crises in the history of the Western Hemisphere.

In the aftermath, IOM was able to offer immediate assistance to earthquake victims through the Haiti mission, which has provided relief and development services since 1993. Through the Camp Coordination Camp Management (CCCM) cluster, IOM has registered more than 720,000 displaced individuals, documenting the conditions and critical needs of spontaneous settlements and disaster affected communities. This information is then made available to international partners who are able to respond to the needs of the affected communities.

IOM also provided emergency assistance through the Non-Food Item (NFI) team which helped displaced

▼ © IOM 2010 - MHT0489 (Photo: Mark Turner)





▲ Children playing in one of the temporary camps around Port au Prince. © IOM 2010 - MHT0440 (Photo: Mark Turner)

communities by distributing essential items such as tarps, blankets, hygiene, kitchen and medical kits. The NFI team is often the first to respond to the needs of the displaced and frequently serves as a triage unit which refers individuals and communities to other departments and agencies for further assistance. Since January 14, close to 2 million non-food items have been distributed to 200,000 families, in cooperation with 178 NGO and other partners.

The IOM/CCCM Camp Management Operations, Shelter, and Site Planning units are working closely with the Haitian Government and with humanitarian partners to map the actual situation of displaced communities and respond accordingly through upgrading of existing shelters, construction of transitional shelters, and planning and implementation of emergency relocation sites for those at severe risk of flooding or other environmental disaster. The Migration Health team also provides crucial psychosocial support to earthquake victims as a first step in rebuilding the health system and encouraging the earliest possible return to communities.

In order to provide help to the most needy, in line with the priorities of local government and displaced communities, IOM employs a team

of Community Mobilizers to provide information on health, security and other issues, as well to listen to the concerns of displaced communities. These concerns are then shared with government and humanitarian partners in order to find shared solutions and responses.

Today, hundreds of thousands of displaced remain in some 1,300 sites in spite of major efforts by IOM and a web of humanitarian organizations on the ground to build large numbers of transitional shelters. The challenges facing the country are gargantuan, and the pace of recovery and reconstruction often painfully slow.

In partnership with the international community, through the UN cluster system, IOM and the Camp Management Camp Coordination Cluster are focused on urgently needed deliverables in Haiti. These include : building 125,000 hard temporary shelters for 600,000 people; moving at least 30,000 families back to safe 'green' and repaired 'yellow' houses; ensuring sufficient numbers of communal hurricane shelters are ready to accept displaced communities, by retrofitting or rebuilding some 900 sites designated for this purpose; supporting the Haitian Government plan for decongestion and regional development through distribution of cash and in-kind incentives and

improving social services in priority communities and new settlements outside Port-au-Prince.

Six months after the earthquake, IOM is continuing to support the Government of Haiti and international partners in moving from crisis management to disaster risk reduction and sustainable development. IOM is working towards this via such activities as: hazard mapping for disaster response; assisting to develop a robust civil protection regime; monitoring population movement to inform and assist planning; facilitating public works projects providing employment opportunities; implementing environmentally sustainable development; and supporting social stability efforts focusing on decentralized development.

*This issue of Migration Magazine is a compilation of articles written by a dedicated team of Haitian journalists from the Haiti Press Network. Their stories illuminate the grave challenges Haiti faces, the indomitable Haitian spirit, and the international community's commitment to provide the unfailing support that the people of Haiti so richly deserve and so desperately require in this, their greatest hour of need.* **M**

# IOM Non Food Item Distribution Team Assists Displaced Families

Six months after Haiti was devastated by the earthquake, an estimated 1.5 million people are living in shelters, some of them in well organized camps, others in impromptu settlements.

The IOM Non-Food Item (NFI) team helps these communities by distributing essential items such as tarps, blankets, hygiene, kitchen and medical kits. The NFI team is often the first to respond to the needs of the displaced and frequently serves as a triage unit which refers individuals and communities to other departments and agencies for further assistance.

“Many people know IOM because of our distribution among “hidden pockets” of the population. This programme serves as an entry point to the humanitarian system for these

communities”, says Stéphane Trocher, NFI distribution programme manager. “Our teams were among the first on the ground immediately following the January 12 quake, distributing items to affected communities both in displaced camps and in neighbourhoods.”

Since January 14, close to 2 million non-food items have been distributed to nearly 300,000 families in cooperation with 178 NGO partners, in order to reach the broadest range possible amongst the disaster affected population.

IOM and partner aid organizations are trying to react as quickly as possible to requests from neighbourhood communities, small associations and agencies in the city as well as outside Port-au-Prince, in areas devastated by the quake, says Trocher, but gaps still remain.

Support for the programme comes from diverse sources including, the US Agency for International Development, the UK Department for International Development, the Government of Japan, and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation and for Humanitarian Assistance. **M**



▲ Earthquake victim collecting non-food items at an IOM distribution in the Turgeau neighbourhood of Port-au-Prince. © IOM 2010 - MHT0355 (Photo: Mark Turner)



▲ The NFI team provides disaster victims with critical items such as tarps, blankets and hygiene kits. © IOM 2010 - MHT0417 (Photo: Mark Turner)



# Registration Programme Identifies the Needs of the Displaced

By Witzer Cinéus, Haiti Press Network

▲ Homeless families line up for registration.  
© IOM/Haiti Press Network 2010 - MHT0591

The devastating impact of the 12 January earthquake, which killed between 217,000 and 230,000 people according to Haitian government estimates, injured another 300,000 persons and made homeless 1.5 million persons, continues to be felt throughout the island six months on, with many survivors still living in camps and spontaneous settlements throughout the country.

In order to collect as vital information as possible on the displaced, to better identify and prioritize their needs, IOM established in February a partnership with Haiti's Civil Protection Directorate to register displaced Haitian families. The aim of this ambitious programme was to identify specific short and medium term humanitarian responses

to address the most urgent needs of homeless families.

In the Port-au-Prince neighbourhood of Carrefour, a large crowd has gathered in the courtyard of a school run by Salesian brothers and sisters. All have come to be registered by IOM. They queue patiently under the burning sun, each with a story to tell.

"I used to live in a little house with my two children," says Résia Elois who lost her house and all her worldly possessions on 12 January. "Three days after the quake, I found the body of one of my children in the morgue set up in the building of the Haitian Navy in the neighbourhood of Bizoton. He had suffered severe head wounds. The leg of my second

child was badly wounded and he subsequently lost two toes. The little I managed to salvage from the rubble was stolen at the hospital. Today, I have nothing left."

Speaking to an IOM registration team, she said all she now needed was a safe shelter for her and her surviving child.

"For the past couple of months, we have been living under a tent. It's not ideal, but there's little choice. We have to stay in this camp for the time being."

While the living conditions of many homeless families remains dire, IOM has deployed teams to systematically register displaced families. Since

February, more than 165,000 families or approximately 720,000 individuals have been registered in more than 267 sites.

The registration takes place in three phases. Initially, IOM registration teams distribute coloured coupons to heads of families living in a camp or spontaneous settlements. Then, the teams meet family heads to register all family members living under the same roof. The collected information is then entered into a database, which is accessible by all governmental and humanitarian partners providing relief to quake victims.

"Registration allows us to collect vital information on the size and composition of the family and on their place of origin," says IOM's registration officer Jean Sébastien Jérôme. "This is crucial to track secondary displacement. We also ask about their future intentions, which is important for planning purposes."

Overall, IOM registration staff have reported that most quake survivors

say they wish to be sheltered in camps as close as possible to their former homes.

Resia Elois who comes from Belle Anse says she'd rather go to the nearby commune of Croix-des-Bouquets. Her neighbour, Michelson Denis who lives in the capital's district of Cote-Plage with his two children simply wants his family to be registered.

"We're ready to go as far as Léogane but no further as we would be too far from relatives. Ideally of course, I'd like to stay in the neighbourhood of Carrefour, because that's where I can find work."

IOM's Jean Sébastien Jérôme notes that the initial stages of the registration process were plagued with misunderstandings. "Initially, some people thought we were registering them so they could get food or shelter. Others were reluctant to come forward because they simply did not understand the reasons behind the registration process. This is why it was crucial to set up communication

strategies for our community mobilizers who regularly visit families in camps and settlements."

He says the oncoming rainy and hurricane season has put a special urgency on the registration programme. "We have to do as much as possible now because bad weather will seriously limit our operations," says Jean Sébastien Jérôme.

The data collected is crucial in planning the relocation of quake affected communities away from areas at high risk of flooding or landslides. To date, it has contributed to the smooth relocation of vulnerable displaced families to safe and planned sites in Tabarre Issa and Corail-Cesselesse, located 10 and 20 kilometres respectively from the capital Port-au-Prince.

When completed, the registration data will provide invaluable information to the government of Haiti and to all humanitarian actors who continue to seek appropriate medium to long term responses to the many needs of the displaced. **M**



▲ Registration of homeless families. © IOM/Haiti Press Network 2010 - MHT0597 (Photo: Witzer Cinéus)



**M**oments after the 12 January earthquake struck, a few radio stations that had been decommissioned by the devastating 7.0 tremor managed to resume broadcasting. Many others fell silent however, buried under collapsed infrastructures. Many of the surviving journalists not only found themselves jobless but very often homeless.

Out of this tragedy came a wave of solidarity and sympathy as dozens of young and at times less experienced journalists took it upon themselves to keep Haitians and the world informed of the situation, hour after hour, day after day.

Showing exceptional courage and dedication, teams of journalists and talk show hosts rallied to the few remaining radio stations that were still transmitting to set up a 24/7 broadcast to inform the public as to which buildings had collapsed, where voices of survivors could be heard and which hospitals were still operational.

Without a functioning nationwide public communication system, the few private radio stations in the capital Port-au-Prince that were still broadcasting, opened their airwaves to an incessant flow of information that undoubtedly saved thousands of lives.

Six months on, although some journalists continue to live as displaced persons in camps and spontaneous settlements, their commitment towards supporting the media in the reconstruction effort remains unchanged.

“Communication will remain indispensable throughout the reconstruction period and radio will be central to this”, says Sony Estéras who coordinates a network of community radio stations.

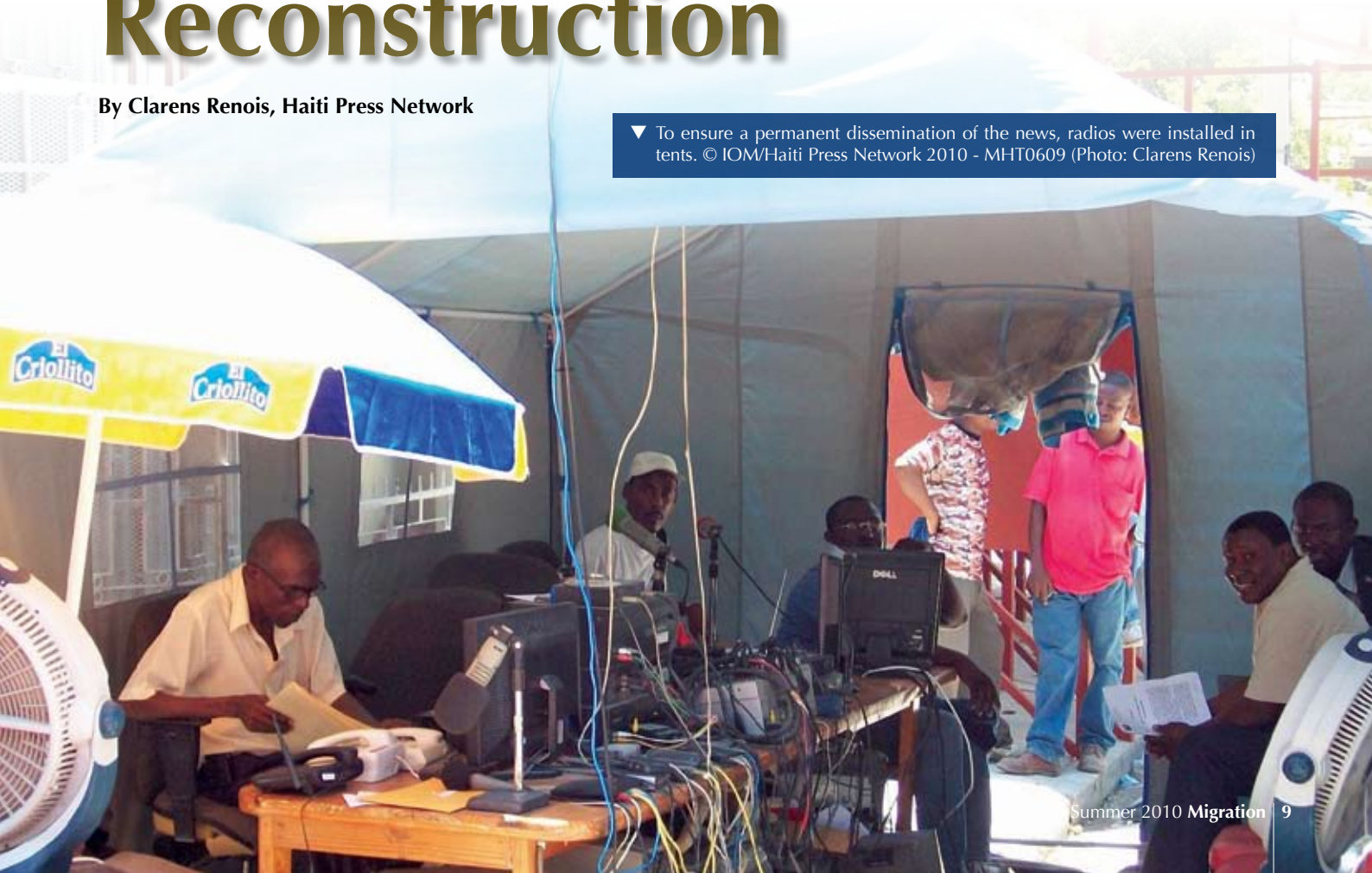
In a country steeped in oral tradition, radio continues to play a predominant role in the lives of an overwhelming majority of people.

Information, whether on health issues or the latest in arts and sports, is transmitted through the airwaves to be picked up throughout the country by radio hugging Haitians.

# The Role of the Media in the Reconstruction

By Clarens Renois, Haiti Press Network

▼ To ensure a permanent dissemination of the news, radios were installed in tents. © IOM/Haiti Press Network 2010 - MHT0609 (Photo: Clarens Renois)



# GWO LAPLI AK VAN AP VINI, FÒK NOU PARE !!!

**MEN KIJAN POU NOU FÈ CHAPANT AK FONDASYON PI DJANM**

RANBLEYE TWOU YO AK WÒCH AK RÈS DEKONB

NAP RANFÒSE KWEN KAY LA AK PYÈS BWA. (1), OU BYEN AK KÒD (2)

**MEN KIJAN POU NOU BYEN FIKSE PRELA YO**

PRELA : NAP MARE PRELA YO AK YON KÒD (1) KE NAP MARE NAN YON RÒCH OU BYEN YON MÔSO BLOK KE NA P METE ANBA TÈ APRE NAP KOUVRI L AK TÈ (2)

BYEN KLOUWE PLASTIK LA. METE YON BOUCHON OU BYEN YON MÔSO KAWOTCHOU POU ANPECHÈ PLASTIK LA CHÈRE.

**MEN KIJAN POU NOU PREPARE SÒL KAY LA EPI FOUYE KANAL**

FOUYE KANAL TOUITOTOU KAY LA EPI FÈL KONTRÈ AL LÒT KANAL POU DLO A PA FÈ DEPO

EPI METE TANT OU BYEN TI KAY LA CHITA SOU YON BAZ KI FÈT AK BLOK (1) OU BYEN FÈ YON LANTOURAY AVÈK BLOK EPI RANPLI L AK RÈS DEKONB (2) OU BYEN KOUVRI L AVÈK YON PRELA OSWA YON TAP (3)

**PREKOSYON KONT SIKLON**

- TANDE RADYO POU PLIS INFO POU LÈ SIKLÒN NAN ROUT  
- CHWAZI YON BON KOTE POU PARE SIKLÒN NAN  
- CHITA PALE AK KOMITE KAN YO

▲ Creole language outreach materials on emergency preparedness efforts.

Today, more than 3,000 radio community stations have resumed broadcasting a non-stop flow of information about and for the community. The capital Port-au-Prince has more than 50 stations that broadcast a mix of news, views and entertainment 24/7. From giving a voice to the survivors in the days that followed the quake, radio stations are now encouraging Haitian listeners and those from the diaspora to take part in an increasing variety of programmes covering some of the many challenges that communities have to face.

Staff from radio stations that had been badly damaged in the earthquake showed a remarkable sense of duty to keep their public informed and a high degree of resilience and ingenuity to find ways to keep their programmes on air.

Basic studios were set up in whenever and wherever possible, in houses left standing or in some cases, under tarpaulins and tents. Their sheer determination was rewarded, both inside and outside of the country.

Radio Signal FM, which is based in the neighbourhood of Petion-ville, recently received an award from the US National Association of Broadcasters Education Foundation (NABEF) for its vital role in keeping the Haitian diaspora closely informed throughout the crisis.

The fact that this radio station gave a voice to the voiceless, and offered an opportunity for them to tell their own stories of survival and fortitude, gave hope to many who were without news of their loved ones.

“Radio kept us all informed with a sense of togetherness in the darkest hours of the quake”, says Sony Estéus. “It will now act as the cement that will bind us together, whether we live in cities or the countryside, as engaged citizens in the rebuilding and development of our country”.


The unconditional love of Haitians for diverse broadcasts stems from the days under the Duvalier regime when only a handful of media close to the regime were allowed to

broadcast. Those that didn't tow the line of the regime were promptly shut down.

At the fall of the regime in February 1986, the airwaves suddenly opened up. Requests for broadcasting licenses subsequently mushroomed, and in less than a decade, Haiti boasted more than thirty community radio stations. They continued to grow, ultimately reaching the 3,000 mark nationwide.

“All Haitian media and radio in particular want to play a positive role in the reconstruction of the country”, says Godson Pierre, who heads a group of alternative media.

As for Max Chauvet, who owns Haiti's oldest newspaper Le Nouvelliste, he believes the time has now come for the Haitian press to take a leading responsibility in the rebuilding of Haiti. “We represent the public opinion and our collective responsibility is to engage and guide debates on issues of national importance”. As for President Préval, he has promised to guarantee press freedom in Haiti. **M**



▼ IOM Community Mobilizers are a key link in the effective flow of information between displaced communities, humanitarian organizations and government counterparts. © IOM 2010 - MHT0561 (Photo: Jared Bloch)

# Informing the population through Community Mobilizers (CMOB)

By Mackendy Jean Baptiste, Haiti Press Network

The day after the January twelve earthquake, the half-a-dozen radio stations that managed to stay on air were a lifeline for a Haitian population faced with despair.

Way before the intervention of the humanitarian agencies and before local authorities could react, the radio remained the only method of communication for 1.5 million Haitians suddenly displaced, as well as those safe but frightened in houses still standing.

The radio was used to send messages for help, to spread news about the fate of relatives, and to share experiences of the earthquake. Haiti's oral media was for once, much more social than political and it was to stay that way for many weeks after the earthquake.

Internews, a US non governmental organization (NGO) quickly stepped in with "Enfomasyon nou dwe konnen" News You Can Use, broadcast daily in Creole through many of Haiti's independent radio stations (21 in all).

Today, six months after January 12, the government, International organizations and the NGOs are far better coordinated. However in the

two departments most affected by the earthquake, the majority of the displaced population is still living in camps.

Many are out of work and penniless and keen to join the 'cash for work programmes' whereby they get paid to clear canals or debris. Many say they have received no aid for weeks. Rumors that forced evictions may occur is spreading talk of popular resistance. Every time humanitarian teams arrive in camps, there are expectations that there will be distribution of free food.

To help avoid misunderstandings and the risk of chaos because of a lack of reliable information, the IOM has deployed special communicators to explain the situation to camp dwellers.

This is what community outreach means and these young Haitians are playing a key role in preventing misunderstandings from blowing up into violence. Humanitarian agencies on the ground all value the work of the 'community mobilizers'. It has quickly become a key element in communicating between the

humanitarian community and the displaced population.

## Getting closer to the people

"Now, it's about getting closer to the people who do not always understand the action of NGOs, nor of the government," said Pascale Verly, IOM's communication officer overseeing the community mobilizers section. "When we distribute coupons to the people, often they think that we are going to give them food", said Stephanie Daviot, IOM Registration Team Officer. In Vallée Bourdon camp, for example, hundreds of IDPS surrounded those who came to register the population. The population is often frustrated and confused about the role of those who come to the camps. The community mobilizers work to dissipate confusion, by engaging in dialogue and providing realistic explanations.

Supported financially by the Japanese government and the Emergency Relief Response Fund for Haiti (ERRF), IOM's communication department in Haiti helps the government transfer messages to the IDP population. In fact, government messages often

reach the IDPs effectively because of the Community Mobilizers. Their key role is to inform and sensitize the people affected without leading to inflated expectations and subsequent disappointment and anger.

### Mobilizing the Community

Most of the Community Mobilizers are university graduates. They are recruited based on their capacity to engage in dialogue with the communities, to work in a stressful environment and their ability to maintain good relationships with different segments of the population. These basic qualifications are then complemented through ongoing training.

The Community Mobilizers support other IOM teams with their work. "The other departments of IOM are like clients to whom we provide a consistent communication service to facilitate their own task in the field", said Elisabeth Labranche, a 25 year old philosophy major, befitting her role as a Community Mobilizer.

"Upstream or downstream", the communication team has a fundamental place in the registration process", explained Stephanie Daviot. Her team's main responsibility is to collect precise information on the families living in the camps, and the families do not always understand the reason for and the implication of these activities.

Based on this, a campaign of sensitization and information outreach, orchestrated by the Mobilizers who must have a good rapport with the population, is necessary before the Registration Team can undertake their work. The Mobilizers continue to inform the population throughout the registration process. At the end of the registration, those registered always want to know what action will be taken as a result of the information collected.

Other times, the Mobilizers are used to ease the fears of camp managers.

"Many NGO have already done a registration here" complained Gerson Edée, Manager of Centre Sportif in Carrefour, which accommodate more than 780 IDP families.

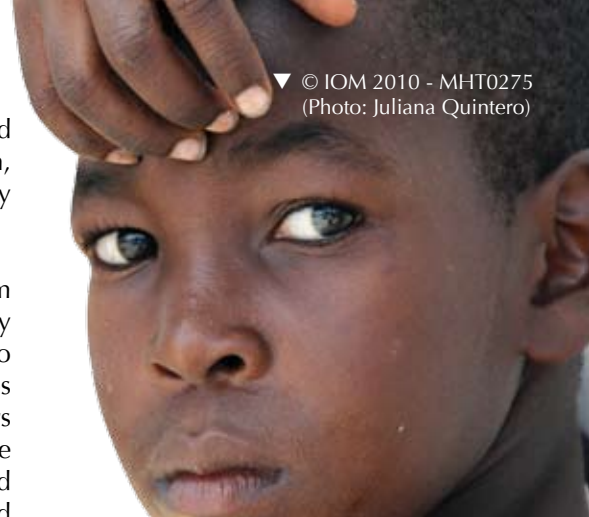
Edée, was worried that this would be just one more registration which, once again, will be left without any follow up.

The IOM Communication Team also uses alternative media; Kenny Mix, a Disc Jockey (DJ), known to many Haitians, toured the camps as the mobilizers handed out flyers to describe the different steps of the registration. "We favour oral and visual communication" explained Pascale Verly. Tragically, Kenny passed away in June and is mourned by many in Haiti.

The Mobilizers were able to ease the concerns of the population of the Vallee Bourdon when the government wanted to relocate to another safer camp. Relocation is only one of the five options for the displaced but these people were hesitant to move far from their original communities and their way of life.

In response to concerns from both those being relocated and the host community, IOM encouraged committees to form to welcome the IDPs. Members of these committees explained how the new settlement camp would function in order to ease apprehension among the IDPs. As a result of this work more than 7,300 people have decided to relocate since the beginning of the relocation process.

The communication flows in the reverse as well so that IDPs provide feedback to the humanitarian actors through IOM's mobilizers.



▼ © IOM 2010 - MHT0275 (Photo: Juliana Quintero)

"The information gathered during our registration campaign allows us to create a database that will serve in the reconstruction process for the country", said Pierrot Rugaba, a manager with the IOM Registration Team.

According to Rugaba, "this is the beginning of a communication process that will inform the reconstruction of the country, a process that takes into consideration the essential needs of disaster affected Haitians." **M**



▲ © IOM 2010 - MHT0280 (Photo: Juliana Quintero)



▲ IOM community staff discusses concerns with camp resident. © IOM 2010 - MHT0560 (Photo: Jared Bloch)

# Voluntary Relocation: The case of Corail Cesselesse and Tabarre Issa

By Louis-Joseph Olivier, Haiti Press Network



▲ Residents of flood-prone Vallée de Bourdon being assisted with relocation to Tabarre Issa Camp. © IOM 2010 - MHT0594 (Photo: Daniel Desmarais)

With row upon row of tents neatly pitched on a vast area of cleared ground, the size of twenty football fields, its roads, health care centre and check point manned by the Haitian police and UN blue helmets, Corail Cesselesse looks like a recently built small town.

Located some 20 kilometres from the capital Port-au-Prince, Corail is now home to more than 1,300 families who lost everything in the 12 January earthquake.

Within days of the tragedy, large population displacements occurred, with tens of thousands of homeless people converging on free open spaces, in schools and other public and private buildings.

Soon after, spontaneous settlements mushroomed in and outside of the capital of Port-au-Prince and in many other parts of the country.

“My house was completely destroyed and my children were terrified”, says Guilaine Lapointe. We had no choice but to quickly find a place to shelter”.

Guilaine and her family eventually found refuge in the courtyard of college Saint Louis de Gonzague, a private institution in the capital’s Delmas 33 neighbourhood.

Public parks close to the destroyed Presidential palace were quickly taken over by the homeless and desperate crowds.

In the panic that followed the quake, survivors paid little attention to the potential dangers that their place of refuge could represent. Issues relating to site preparation were simply



▲ A father and his daughter at Tabarre Issa.. © IOM 2010 - MHT0616 (Photo: Jared Bloch)

not taken into account, nor were immediate measures to improve the living conditions of the displaced.

“Days after the 12 January, our main goal was to avoid having blocks of concrete fall on our heads and because it wasn’t raining, we were not concerned about flooding and landslide risks”, says Ronald Vital who settled in Tabarre Issa camp.

Up to 50,000 displaced persons found refuge on the grounds of the Petion-ville golf club, which sprawls above Port-au-Prince. Of these, some 5,000 settled in areas declared by the Government of Haiti to be at high risk of flooding.

With Haiti in the midst of the rainy and season and with every likelihood that hurricanes will strike the island, many camps and settlements hosting tens of thousands of people are at grave risk of flooding. Many sites are difficult to access or are established on steep slopes or areas at risk of landslides, as is the case for the Vallée de Bourdon site, which lies beneath the main road to Petion-ville.

Coordinated efforts to encourage families to move away from high risk zones towards safer neighbouring areas continue.

As part of the global strategy, five options were identified by the Government of Haiti and the humanitarian community for people living in unsafe areas.

Option 1: The first, and preferred option, is for people to return to their homes, whenever deemed safe. This effort is led by the Government of Haiti, working with UN partners, which are carrying out structural assessments of houses and buildings and communicating which houses are safe, as well as answering community concerns and responding to their needs.

Option 2: People may also wish return to their home area if their houses are destroyed. This might involve building a temporary shelter on a plot of land, or moving to a “proximity site”. This option involves the removal of rubble from affected areas by engineers from the Government of Haiti, the US

army and a number of international organizations.

Option 3: Where they cannot go home, people may find a family to host them – perhaps relatives or friends. Numerous humanitarian actors are involved in supporting host communities.

Option 4: Where people cannot go home, or find a host family, they might be able to remain in the temporary settlement where they already are. IOM and its partners in the Camp Management, Camp Coordination Cluster (CCCM) and other clusters ensure that basic services are provided and that the settlements are healthy and safe.

Option 5: It may be that none of these first four options is available. In that case, IOM is part of a group of organizations working with the Government of Haiti to establish a series of new sites on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince. The responsibility for identifying new land and brokering agreements with landowners lies with the Government of Haiti.



▼ Tabarre Issa Camp - one of the three emergency relocation sites established with IOM assistance.  
© IOM 2010 - MHT0593 (Photo: Daniel Desmarais)



Two sites have been established in the periphery of the capital, Corail Cesselesse and Tabarre Issa, which are managed by the American Refugee Committee and the NGO Concern respectively.

During the first two weeks of April, more than 500 families had been resettled in Corail and 1,300 in Corail Cesselesse with IOM's assistance.

IOM also lent its expertise to government counterparts to relocate displaced families living in the high risk areas from Vallée de Bourdon to Tabarre Issa and from Petion-ville golf club to Corail Cesselesse.

IOM's site planning teams also provide expertise in camp planning and management and in Corail Cesselesse, the Organization covered camp management needs during the second part of April.

"The relocation of families all took place on a voluntary basis. As families had several options, we had to carry out an intensive outreach effort to inform people," says IOM's Bertrand Martin.

This was particularly the case for the relocation of families to the Corail Cesselesse camp. Working with community representatives in the Petion-ville golf club camp, IOM presented all available options to families living in high risks zones.

'Go and see' visits to Coral were also organized for community members, which allowed them to provide feedback to IOM as to how best to set up the facilities.

Information kiosks were also set up in Petion-ville with IOM and community representatives always at hand to answer questions from concerned families.

Maps and photos of the new site were also presented to affected families as was a list of all services and facilities that would be available.

"We also regularly provided flyers, posters and banners to keep the population informed and explained to them how the relocation would happen," says Martin.

The relocation from Vallée Bourdon to Tabarre Issa followed a similar approach after the US Army Corps of Engineers identified some 500 families who were most at risk.

IOM's Community mobilizers quickly moved in to explain to the families why they had to consider relocation to another safer site and to explain how the process would unfold.

"Engaging the families paid off as a genuine and constructive dialogue took place," says IOM's Martin. "As a result, we managed to dispel some of the misunderstandings and rumours

that were abounding at the time of the relocation process."

The relocation to Corail Cesselesse took just over a fortnight with IOM team members always on the ground to meet the families as they arrived. After being registered, heads of families were provided with a registration card and the family taken to the plot of land where a family size tent had been erected by IOM shelter teams.

As the hurricane season arrives, IOM is now setting up transitional shelters. With a living space of up to 18 square metres, these will give families more protection from the elements.

"I feel much better here," says Rodrigue Paulinis, who has settled with his wife and two children in Corail. "This place feels more secure for me and my family. The only important missing thing is work. Despite this, we will stay for the time being."

IOM, which leads the Camp Coordination, Camp Management cluster, lends its support to the American Refugee Committee now in charge of managing daily operations at Corail Cesselesse. IOM backs another 189 humanitarian partners involved in providing assistance to displaced populations living in some 1,400 sites in and around the capital Port-au-Prince. **M**

# IOM Monitoring Provides a Vital Overview of Situation in Camps

By Jonel Juste, Haiti Press Network

As in many spontaneous settlements, the needs are familiar; they include food, housing, water and sanitation. For the past month, a group of five young women have been up early in the morning touring Accra Park in the Delmas 32 district of Port-au-Prince as part of IOM's ninety strong team of environmental health monitors, operating in many of the estimated 1,000 camps and spontaneous settlements.

"The displaced families are always ready to cooperate with us", says IOM's Roselaure Charles. "Sometimes, we meet people who are less cooperative and simply ask for food coupons. That being said, the overwhelming majority of the camp's 20,000 residents understand the need

for us to constantly monitor living conditions".

Accra Park appears to be relatively well organized, with schools and latrines recently set up by international organizations. IOM's environmental health monitoring role is part of a Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) funded project.

IOM's monitoring officer Jean Max Baulière believes this activity is crucial to the wellbeing of camp residents. "Before the onset of the rainy season, many organizations had not paid enough attention to the quality of ground on which the shelters were built. In some cases, those were built on refuse and waste. This explains why latrines and other structures

collapsed as soon as rain fell". In this case, the information collected by IOM monitors was immediately shared with the organization in charge of managing the camp and very soon, latrines were dug in another area.

"Monitoring allows the daily collecting of information on critical situations so as to reduce the response time of organizations present on the ground", adds Baulière.

Charles Dériverois is a member of the local camp committee, charged with managing Accra Park. Barely twenty years old, he arrived on the site on 12 January. For him, IOM's monitoring activities are important in more than one way.

"Before, it was up to us to evaluate



▲ IOM's environmental health monitoring team and camp mitigation joint task force (in this picture) give an overview of situations in camps, helping organizations on the ground respond quicker to the needs of the displaced families.. © IOM 2010 - MHT0587 (Photo: Jared Bloch)





▲ The Joint Task Force conducting risk assessments of IDP sites. These assessments lead to immediate camp mitigation efforts such as digging drainage channels and clearing debris from canals.  
© IOM 2010 - MHT0584 (Photo: Jared Bloch)

the water and sanitation needs of the camp and then put pressure on local NGOs to meet these needs”.

He says things have changed for the better as IOM monitors report existing needs and assistance gaps directly. “As a result, our needs are promptly met”.

Every morning at 8 o’clock, IOM monitors begin their tour of Accra Park to check if latrines are in working order, to check the quality of water and the overall cleanliness of the site, including the removal of waste. They then write a report which clearly indicates what follow up actions must be taken before returning to the camps later in the afternoon to check if identified needs have been met.

This activity has also allowed many unemployed young people to find a new job. Twenty year-old Magalie who lost her job as a result of the

earthquake, is delighted to be given this opportunity. “This initiative is great because it gives hope to young people who feel they are useful to the relief effort”, she says.

IOM monitors are selected on several criteria, including most importantly their residence in the camp they will monitor. “It is important to employ someone who lives in the camp to ensure continuity in the monitoring and to promote a sense of purpose”, says Jean Max Baulière.

Selection of the environmental monitors is carried out in coordination with the camp management coordination committee. Once selected, the new recruits attend training on practical monitoring and reporting techniques in the camp and in shelters.

“IOM’s monitoring programme also provides an excellent overview of environmental health needs, which evaluates, informs and guides our programme responses”, says IOM’s



▲ IOM/Joint task force for site assessment. © IOM 2010 - MHT0586 (Photo: Jared Bloch)

Christian Poteau. For him, this programme provides an invaluable bird's eye view of conditions that prevail in camps.

He adds that although at times, monitors feel undervalued because they do not actually provide direct assistance, their role is essential to identifying the needs of affected families.

“Findings from our monitoring teams also help to shape our plan of action”, adds Poteau.

To date, 90 monitors have been trained to cover the camps supervised by IOM. But only half are deployed, the other half are currently on standby to cover emerging needs. As a rule, one monitor is needed per 5,000 displaced persons.

For Félix Diesner, who manages the programme, monitoring is vital, not only because it provides daily reports but because it helps communities to manage their needs.



▲ Leisure area for children at Accra Park. © IOM/Haiti Press Network 2010 - MHT0610 (Photo: Jonel Juste)

“Or daily presence in the camps and our contact with beneficiaries allows us to anticipate water shortages, for instance. It also allows us to identify their medical needs which are linked to poor hygiene, such as diarrhoea and skin infections.”

He adds that much remains to be done, despite the presence on the ground of an increasing number of

agencies. To meet those challenges, IOM and its partners are setting up more rapid reaction teams that will be able to rapidly address the needs of the displaced.

“Furthermore, the system which has been set up will be useful beyond this immediate emergency because it will allow officials to monitor the health and hygiene conditions in the communes in general”, Diesner says. **M**



▲ IOM environmental health monitors help to ensure sanitary conditions in displaced communities such as regular maintenance of latrines. © IOM 2010 - MHT0585 (Photo: Jared Bloch)

# Transitional Shelters Bring Relief to Homeless Families in Mangeoire

By Chenald Augustin, Haiti Press Network

The neighbourhood of Mangeoire, which stretches above Port-au-Prince, was once a peaceful wooded area where rural migrants who came to the capital first settled. Under the dictatorship of Jean-Pierre Duvallier in the seventies and eighties, it turned into the slum that it is today.

“Once upon a time, Mangeoire was almost empty”, says 71 year-old Millien Paul, who lives in what is still known as le petit village. With an air of nostalgia in his eyes, he says residents used to grow cassava, maize and beans.

Facilities and services did not keep up with the dramatic population increase of the last decades. As a result there are no roads, no water system, no electricity, no health care centre and no schools today. Hardships are commonplace in Haiti, but it is hard to imagine a more difficult place to survive and in which to raise children.

“Some the children have to walk all the way down to a catholic primary school in the neighbourhood of Croix-des-Prés”, says resident Emmanuel Elizaire. He adds that older children have to trek to schools in distant neighbourhoods such as Turgeau, Bois-Vernat and Lalue.

For years now, residents in Mangeoire have been left to fend for themselves while living in dire poverty. That is until the 12 January earthquake.

“It’s the earthquake that put us on the



▲ One of the 80 transitional shelters benefitting displaced families in the Mangeoire neighbourhood. © IOM 2010 - MHT0582 (Photo: Leonard Doyle)

map,” says Philippe Millien. “Before that, everyone had forgotten us.”

Roughly a thousand persons lived in pre-earthquake Mangeoire, most of them in tumble down shacks built haphazardly at the bottom of a narrow ravine, which is regularly flooded during the rainy season.

The earthquake wreaked havoc on the slum. More than 20 people died and seventy percent of dwellings were destroyed or severely damaged. Because of its location, aid took some time to reach the survivors who had huddled together under makeshift shelters pitched in cramped and insalubrious areas.

Later on, families moved their improvised shelters to nearby land that belonged to local landowners, Catherine and Nathalie Hermantin.

Families lived there without water, sanitation or other basic facilities until a group of youth from Mangeoire decided to do something for their unfortunate peers. They set up a small association with the objective of catching the attention of international organizations in order to get relief assistance.

The Committee for the Survivors of Mangeoire contacted the IOM in April to ask for water, sanitation and shelter assistance. IOM quickly responded to

*continued on page 22*





▲ Photos from top left clockwise : © IOM 2010 - MHT0380 (Photo: Jean-Philippe Chauzy), © IOM 2010 - MHT0395 (Photo: Mark Turner), © IOM 2010 - MHT0484 (Photo: Mark Turner), © IOM 2010 - MHT0293 (Photo: Juliana Quintero), © IOM 2010 - MHT0617 (Photo: Jared Bloch), © IOM 2010 - MHT0615 (Photo: Jared Bloch)



▲ Transitional beneficiaries such as the women above are nominated by their communities. © IOM 2010 - MHT0620, © IOM 2010 - MHT0621 (Photo: Leonard Doyle)

*continued from page 19*

their call for help and is now in the process of building a first batch of 80 transitional shelters on land that has been cleared of debris.

These family shelters offer a living space of some 18 square meters each. They are built out of fire resistant wood and plywood with corrugated iron roofs.

A workshop employing a dozen masons and carpenters was set up to speed up and standardise the production of the shelters.

Over a number of weeks, the first ten of a total of eighty transitional shelters were built to the delight of homeless families, who also took an active part in the construction effort.

Their initial contribution consisted in removing the wreckage and rubble and transporting the building materials, including IOM donated sand and cement for the foundations. Families were selected according to their vulnerability in consultation with representatives of both the community and of the local authorities.

Forty-three year old Mercia Jean-Baptiste is delighted at the prospect

of having a proper roof over her head. "I'm happy to move into my new house, even if it is a small one. It's much better than what I had before and I can now move out of the shelter that I had built on the land of the Hermantin sisters".

She adds that the sisters had agreed to lend the land to the homeless but only for a limited period of time.

"The shelters built by IOM are a godsend because we will not be evicted from the sisters' land."

IOM's transitional shelter activities

in Mangeoire are part of a broader programme which has seen the construction of 40 shelters in Petit Bois. Work on shelters in the commune of Aux Cadets, in Petion-ville has also started whilst foundations have been laid in the courtyard of the State hospital in Port-au-Prince for the construction of two large transitional shelters with a capacity of 56 patients each.

IOM initially aims to build up to 10,000 transitional shelters with funding from the Governments of Japan and Sweden and from the Emergency Response Fund for Haiti. **M**



▲ Makeshift shelters built by flood feeder property sisters Hermantin. © IOM/Haiti Press Network 2010 - MHT0596 (Photo: Chenald Augustin)

# Culture, Sport and Music Contribute to Post Earthquake Psychosocial Therapy

By Louis-Joseph Olivier, Haiti Press Network

Six months on, the 12 January earthquake continues to haunt many Haitians who have been deeply traumatised by the unprecedented trail of death and destruction. Many families are today still struggling to come to terms with the loss of their loved ones. The grief remains, but Haitians are a resilient people and hope is returning to the lives of many with the help of church, music and other cultural activities.

Heartbroken parents continue to mourn the loss of their children and

the country now has to assist tens of thousands of traumatized orphans.

The grief of the survivors is aggravated by the fact that many did not have the opportunity to pay their final respects as bodies were hastily buried in mass graves in the days that followed the quake.

The trauma suffered by many of the 1, 5 million displaced persons currently living in camps often manifests itself by an overpowering feeling of weariness, exhaustion and lack of appetite and desire for life.

“Why should I work now that I have lost my precious ones and 35 years of my life,” sobs Myrlaine Paul, who lost her two children who were buried under the rubble of her house.

Yet, despite all the grieving and suffering, life has to go on for traumatized survivors who can benefit from a degree of psychosocial support provided by various groups and organizations, including the IOM.

A variety a support activities are being organized in camps, churches, schools and other humanitarian institutions

▼ IOM psychosocial support team hosts mother's day celebration with children activities at Tabarre Issa. © IOM 2010 - MHT0600 (Photo: Jared Bloch)





▲ Camp residents take part in community sport events at Tabarre Issa. © IOM 2010 - MHT0611 (Photo: Daniel Desmarais)

to help survivors resume their own productive lives.

In the Champs de Mars camp, a psychosocial clinic has been set up in the grounds of the Faculty of Ethnology, which provides daily counselling to traumatised camp residents.

On Place Boyer in Pétion-ville, films, documentaries and video clips are regularly played on giant screens to large audiences. "It allows me to relax and I always feel better afterwards," says Martine who particularly enjoyed the video performance of Barikad Crew, a famous local hip-hop group.

Similarly, sporting events take place in camps for young people who are always eager to take part. In park Sainte Thérèse at the periphery of Petion-ville, teams of young players regularly participate in hotly contested tournaments.

For younger children, "Plas timoun" or "The Children's Place" is probably the best known initiative. Set up by the first lady Mme Elisabeth Préval, "The Children's Place" allows children to take part in recreational and educational activities. With the help

of local educators, children engage in drawing and painting, dancing and story telling.

With funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), IOM has deployed multidisciplinary teams to camps. They include psychologists, social workers and performers.

"We've deployed several teams since March in and around Port-au-Prince," says IOM's Jean Jeune Desrisier. "Haitian culture is at the heart of many of our activities. This allows children and their parents to jointly take part with a view to further the development of the little ones."

Dancing, painting, pottery making are among recreational activities that aim to help community members come to terms with their trauma.

In Tabarre Issa, which recently received some 500 families who chose to relocate from the flood prone Vallée Bourdon, an IOM psychosocial team help parents and children develop and put in place community support groups.

According to IOM team member Jean Mozart Feron, the trauma suffered sometimes leads families to simply lose their means of communicating. "This is why we pay particular attention to helping family members to talk and express their feelings as a first step in the healing process."

Thirty-two year old Marjorie has been attending sessions organized by Jean Mozart and his team. She says they "offer hope in the future even if there are things I will never be able to forget."

Jean Jeune Desrisier says very good results have been achieved since the launch of the programme. "Traumatized children who had lost all self esteem have regained confidence and joie de vivre. They talk and play and look forward to the future."

He adds that awareness, prevention and direct intervention appear to have reduced marital violence and violence against children.

He adds that the rebuilding of Haiti will only be successful once the minds of the people of Haiti have found peace. **M**



# Six Months On, Women Continue their Daily Struggle for Survival

By Géralda Sainville, Haiti Press Network

Living under tents, female survivors of the earthquake may no longer be openly mourning the tragic loss of their husbands and children. But as HPN's Géraldine Sainville reports, six months after the earthquake, many continue to struggle for their daily survival

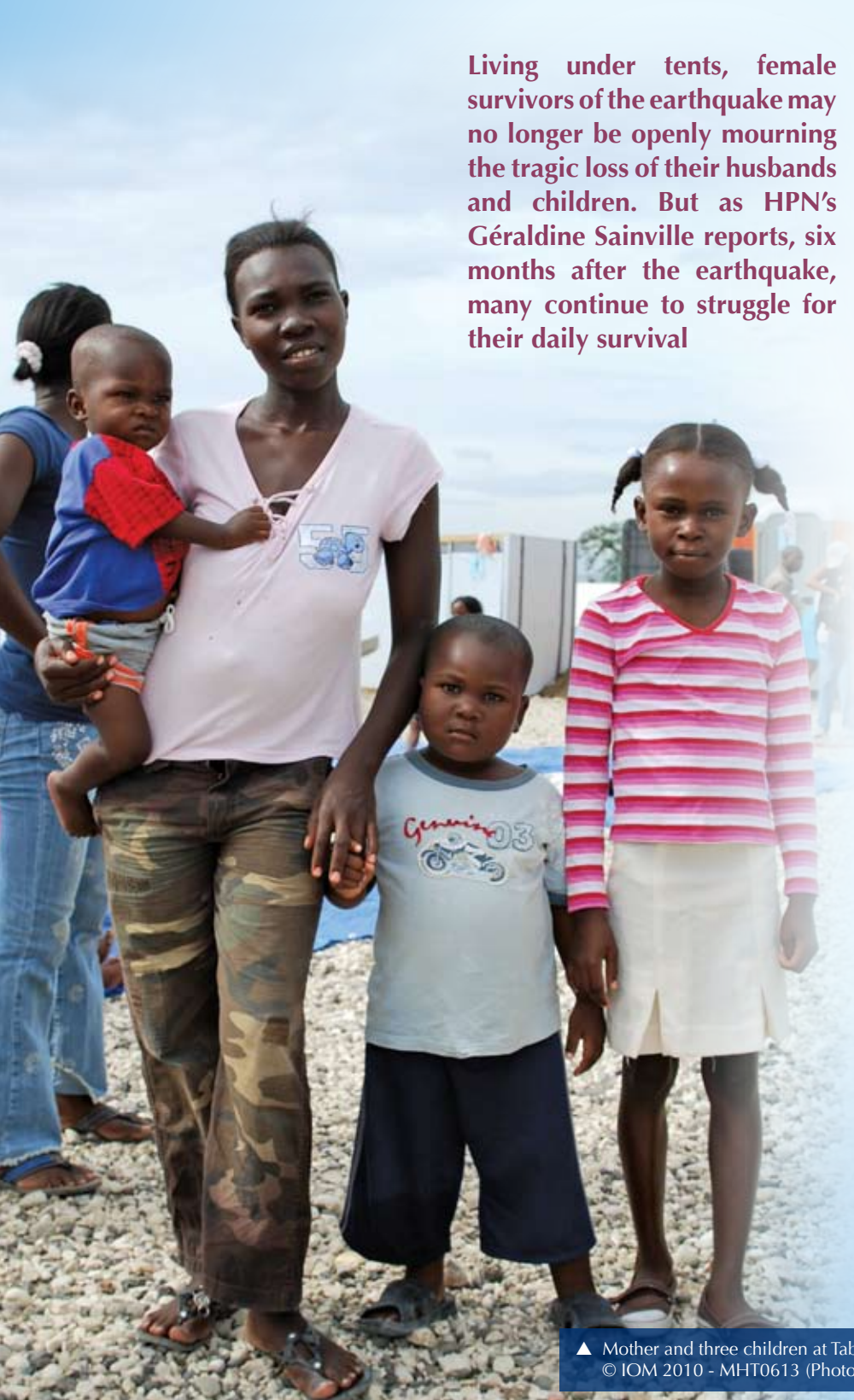
Sitting on a rickety chair wedged between rows of tightly packed shelters, Stalia is doing the daily chore of washing clothes. Despite the shade, sweat drips from her young but prematurely weathered face. With a faint smile, this mother of three talks of a life of discomfort and at times distress living among 47,000 other homeless people in an overcrowded camp set up in the neighbourhood of Carrefour, which sprawls south of the capital Port-au-Prince.

"I always feel ill at ease, living with no privacy, no respect", says Stalia. "My life has changed for the worse" .

Cooking utensils piled up high in a nearby washbasin are proof of the tough conditions in which this 30 year old mother and her three children are forced to live.

"Another family lives in this shack," says Stalia, pointing to a shelter patched up with sheets of plastic pitched in the middle of the recreation area of Carrefour camp.

Living in the cramped and overcrowded conditions, women have to face daily risks. Despite efforts deployed by IOM and other organizations working on water and sanitation issues, an overwhelming majority of displaced women continue to lack access to areas which protect their privacy.



▲ Mother and three children at Tabarre Issa Camp.  
© IOM 2010 - MHT0613 (Photo: Jared Bloch)



More than 1,000 camps have been set up in and around Port-au-Prince, many with inadequate sanitation. Overcrowding breeds violence and increases health risks, especially among women.

“The living conditions are deplorable overall”, says Yolette Mengual from Haiti’s Ministry for the Status of Women and Women’s Rights. “Some camps continue to be plagued with water and sanitation problems. As a result, 80 per cent of women in camps suffer from vaginal infections”.

Efforts are being deployed by the Ministry in partnership with humanitarian organizations to improve sanitary conditions in the camps and a mobile unit has been set up to help women in camps.

Violence against displaced women is also rampant in camps and spontaneous settlements.

“Overcrowding and poor living conditions are conducive to violence against women, including rape”, says Myriam Espérance, who works for the local NGO Réseau des Femmes pour Gagner. Present in three camps, this grassroots NGO based in the neighbourhood of Martissant, provides support to victims of sexual violence.

It also seeks to raise awareness in the camps. “Despite on-going efforts, much more needs to be done”, says Myriam Espérance.”

IOM’s Camp Management Operations and Health Unit also play an important

role in helping and referring victims of sexual violence to partners in the protection cluster providing victim support and follow up services.

The Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster (CCCM) keeps a confidential record of all sex crimes, which is shared with appropriate partners to make sure the needs of victims are met.

IOM’s medical and psychosocial teams are part of a network that provides psychosocial support to victims in 21 camps and in the psychiatric hospital of Beudet.

IOM also supports the training of psychosocial caseworkers among the humanitarian community as well as camp managers, regarding follow-up mechanisms for victims of sexual violence.

As part of this initiative, data on sexual violence is compiled with a view to map areas experiencing high rates of violence. The information collected, which is shared with the UN police and the Joint Operations Task Force is essential to set up adequate protection, support and referral services and further advocacy efforts to try and limit violence and abuse against women.

On an operational level, IOM’s site planning teams continue their efforts to make sure separate toilet and shower facilities are set up to mitigate risks to women and girls. Improving the current living conditions in camps is an important step forward. However, women’s associations in Haiti believe a lot more needs to be done to eradicate this crime. **M**



◀ Yolette Mengual, Chief of Staff at the Ministry for Women and the Rights of Women. © IOM/Haiti Press Network 2010 - MHT0622 (Photo: Géralda Sainville)

# Persons Living with HIV Find Employment in Les Cayes

By Chenald Celestin, Haiti Press Network

Since 1993, IOM Haiti has put in place numerous programmes to promote social empowerment through the setting up of income generating opportunities for individuals and communities. These have been carried out in partnership with international organizations and local grassroots associations to benefit individuals and communities living in often underdeveloped and impoverished areas.

These projects range from the refurbishment and construction of paved roads, canal and sewer clearance, irrigation and soil conservation work. Schools and health centres have also been built as part of efforts to boost local employment, which is key to

community stabilisation and social development.

Since August 2008, the Haitian town of Les Cayes has benefited from many such projects, which include the refurbishment of irrigation canals, public drainage works, the rehabilitation of schools and the construction of a medical centre and public roads.

In Les Cayes, the beneficiaries are mostly HIV/AIDS carriers, according to IOM's Louis Chanel. The programmes are carried out in partnership with the Association de la Solidarité Nationale (ASON), Haiti's first AIDS community advocacy group, together with the mutual assistance group, the

Association des Personnes Vivant avec le VIH (APVIH).

"Beneficiaries, receive medical support from the Immaculate Conception hospital in Les Cayes, and are employed at a daily rate of 200 to 250 gourdes", (USD 5 to 6) says Chanel. To date, more than 2,600 people have gained employment through the USAID-US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) programme.

"This has allowed me to set up a small retail business," says Eugène Solange who has recently joined ASON. "I sell rice, oil, spaghettis and soap".

Luckner Brunal has also joined the

▲ IOM beneficiary. © IOM 2010 - MHT0618 (Photo: Leonard Doyle)



▲ IOM community stabilization project. © IOM 2008 - MHT0223 (Photo: Patrice Dougé)



▲ IOM agricultural programme manager. © IOM 2010 - MHT0619 (Photo: Leonard Doyle)

community advocacy group ASON. With the money he received for his involvement in PEPFAR projects, he bought his family a piglet, which he intends to fatten up and sell. "This programme is a real life line for my family. It has allowed us to better feed and clothe our children."

The programme initially launched by IOM in Les Cayes to help HIV carriers has now spread to the neighbouring communes of Port-à-Piment and Coteaux. Programmes are carried out in partnership with the Haitian Movement for Rural Development, which is based in the capital Port-au-Prince. Thanks to these projects, a significant number of people affected by HIV/AIDS in these areas have found employment.

"The work is always carried out in a spirit of conviviality, sharing and happiness," says Louis Chanel. "This contrasts with the prevalent hostility

and stigmatisation that HIV carriers usually have to put up with."

To counter prejudices against people with HIV, the advocacy group APVIH organizes regular awareness raising sessions among the general population.

Apart from infrastructure projects carried out by IOM and its partners in Les Cayes, a variety of projects were launched in February 2009 to encourage local food production with funding from PEPFAR. As a result, hundreds of HIV/AIDS affected persons directly benefited from this initiative.

USAID's Programme de Revitalisation et de Promotion de l'Entente et de la Paix (PREPEP) works with community-based groups in targeted, conflict-prone areas to identify small scale, high-impact projects designed to engage a wide cross-section of the

community in its own stabilization and improvement. The programme aims to bridge the gap between the government and marginalized communities by creating opportunities for dialogue and collaboration around the rehabilitation of small infrastructure and socio-cultural activities, especially for young people.

The US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) programme has also assisted NGOs, associations and organization in sub Saharan Africa, the Caribbean and in other parts of the world to combat HIV/AIDS. Through PEPFAR, Haiti received USD 100 million in fiscal year 2008 to provide comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care programmes. By implementing these projects, IOM not only contributes to community development and job creation but it also directly assists persons living with HIV, an important step in promoting more tolerance and understanding among the general population. **M**

# Canal Rubble Clearance Gathers Momentum Ahead of Rainy Season

By Mackendy Jean-Baptiste, Haiti Press Network

A group of twenty volunteers wearing yellow t-shirts with a government of Haiti logo are hard at work emptying a canal choked-a-block with rubbish and rubble in the outskirts of Cité Soleil, one of the capital's impoverished and overcrowded neighbourhoods.

Equipped with boots, gloves and masks, they wield machetes and spades to clear the undergrowth and remove the garbage from "Projet Drouillard", a canal that used to channel rain waters away from the rickety houses that cramp Cité Soleil.

Since early April 2010, IOM with funding from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) has lent its support to the government of Haiti in its efforts to clear tens of thousands of tons of accumulated rubbish from several key canals to mitigate the risks of flooding ahead of the rainy season.

"In less than three weeks, IOM teams cleared more than 100,000 tons of trash and rubble from canals in Port-au-Prince", says Nader Joiséus, an engineer by training who has the challenging task of supervising canal

clearance for Haiti's ministry of public works. He adds that this represents more than 6,250 truckloads, each filled to the brim with 16 tons of rubbish.

"We even managed to scrub canal St George clean of all garbage thanks to IOM's support, a task which the municipality had failed to complete in the past because of a lack of means".

To complete this vital canal clearance work, IOM employs a team of 25 engineers, each responsible for clearing a section with the help



▲ Canal clean up, heavy machinery and cash for work. © IOM/Haiti Press Network 2010 - MHT0601 (Photo: Mackendy Jean-Baptiste)



▲ Canal Projet Drouillard Sarthe - Cité Soleil. © IOM/Haiti Press Network 2010 - MHT0602 (Photo: Mackendy Jean-Baptiste)

of mechanical diggers and other heavy lifting equipment. For areas not accessible to machines, such as sections under bridges or in overcrowded neighbourhoods, IOM has set up a cash-for-work programme to employ local residents in need of work.

Short term contracts were signed with the engineers, who were also responsible for teams of local workers who were paid on a daily basis.

“IOM supervises the work of daily labourers to make sure the clearing project moves ahead”, says Philippe, a community leader from Cité Soleil.

Colette has lived for 36 years in Cannibale, a sector of Cité Soleil that remained mostly “out-of-bounds” because of chronic insecurity. She says this is the first time this canal has been cleared of rubbish.

“Only a month ago, you couldn’t see this canal because it was so full”, says Jim Kelly Guiteau, a local engineer hired by IOM. He says in some areas, the canal had to be excavated from scratch.

Colette welcomes this clearing work noting that, “Rains used to push many people to seek refuge on the roof of their houses. Those who could afford it left the sector sometime ago”.

IOM has been working for several years now with the Haitian Ministry of

Public Work to build canals and other vital public infrastructure.

Without proper garbage disposal mechanisms, residents have for many years used canals as a dumping ground for household garbage, with sometimes lethal consequences when rain waters are not properly evacuated towards the sea.

Nader Joseius acknowledges that this important canal clearing work must continue, at least for the duration of the six-month rainy season. Funding from USAID will ensure this vital need is fulfilled.

The first phase of canal clearance was finalized in mid May. In some cases, IOM and its partners had to convince

local residents that it was in their best interests to move away from the immediate vicinity of the canal so as to allow the construction of solid walls to channel the rain waters.

Cash-for-work programmes have also been implemented for residents of the Delmas neighbourhood, who were employed to build containment parapets. For Manno, a local stone mason who has lived for a decade within yards of the canal, this programme was the best thing that could happen to him and his family.

Not only did he earn cash for his work but his environment has been made much more secure. **M**

▼ Canal Projet Drouillard Sarthe – Cité Soleil. © IOM/Haiti Press Network 2010 - MHT0603 (Photo: Mackendy Jean-Baptiste)





▲ Charlotte displays her paintings for visitors.  
© IOM/Haiti Press Network 2010 - MHT0605  
(Photo: Jonel Juste)

# The Shattered City of Jacmel slowly Heals from Quake Devastation

By Jonel Juste, Haiti Press Network



▲ "Happy Day Jacmel", reads a banner on 1st May 2010..  
© IOM/Haiti Press Network 2010 - MHT0606 (Photo: Jonel Juste)

With its 40,000 residents, the port city of Jacmel lies some 40 kilometres south of the capital Port-au-Prince. With its delightful gingerbread-style houses, it has long been a vibrant tourist destination.

But this charming city was badly damaged by the earthquake. More than 450 inhabitants were killed, 2,500 houses totally destroyed and thousands were made homeless, according to the local authorities,

The quake also destroyed many of the city's architectural treasures, including many of the famous 19th century gingerbread houses. A large number now lie in ruins, alongside other monuments attesting to Jacmel's

famous past as the capital of Haiti's South-East.

However, the inhabitants, known locally as the Jacméliens have decided to fight back by promoting local assets not destroyed by the 12 January quake. This includes its beaches, people, hospitality and artists.

Jacmelian art, and more specifically painting, has gained world-wide recognition through its most famous son, the artist Préfète Duffaut. His renowned imaginary city landscapes have been strongly influenced by the city of Jacmel.

The family of Canada's Governor General, Michaëlle Jean, also hails from Jacmel and she herself is the niece of the famous Franco Haitian poet and essayist René Depestre.

Little wonder then that this shattered city should be so close to the heart of so many Haitians. They also fondly remember its unique carnival which used to take place every year in mid February.

"The festival used to attract some 30,000 visitors from all parts of the country and beyond", says Dithny Joan Raton, who works for the city's tourist office. "The other highlights of the year are the festivals for the patron saints of the city, Saint Jacques and Saint Philippe".

Although this year's carnival did not take place, thousands of citizens gathered to celebrate May 1st as best they could.

"Our sea and coastline are unique and we will certainly do our best not to let them go to waste", says Daniel Fouchard, who heads to city's



▲ © IOM 2010 - MHT0287 (Photo: Juliana Quintero)

tourist office, "The fact that so many people gathered to celebrate May 1st proves that our fellow countrymen are determined to enjoy life, despite the tragedy that befell us".

Despite this will to start afresh, the city bears ugly deep scars from the quake, six months on. In places, those scars have started to heal, with

the help provided by organizations such as the IOM that bring assistance to the homeless that continue to live in five spontaneous camps that have appeared in and around the city.

The largest camp, which shelters close to 1,000 families, is located on a football pitch in the neighbourhood of Pinchinat.





▲ A view of the camp where life slowly begins again. © IOM/Haiti Press Network 2010 - MHT0607 (Photo: Jonel Juste)

IOM's Ben Oduwa, camp coordinator and camp manager in Jacmel says those families need to be relocated at the earliest possible opportunity.

"Families are living in very cramped conditions under khaki tents provided a few months ago by the Venezuelan army", says Ben Oduwa. "The heat inside is at times unbearable and the ground turns into a swamp every time it rains".

Charlotte Charles is a member of the camp's coordination committee. She hopes all displaced families will soon be relocated to a better site. "We really hope things will improve on the new site, because currently when it rains, people have to stand up under the tents because of the flooding".

Following the artistic tradition of the city, Charlotte, who wears dreadlocks,

shows her paintings to the few people who visit the camp. "I used to live in an apartment and I owned an artist's studio in Jacmel. My apartment was flattened and the studio was badly damaged", says Charlotte.

She adds that she's been living since 14 January in a tent given to her by the NGO Shelter Box. With tears in her eyes, she says her life is really hard.

"It's not normal to live like this, with nothing to do all day long. Before, my life revolved around art, working with young artists. The 12 January quake has changed all that".

She adds that IOM's assistance has been crucial and has helped camp residents to organize themselves and to learn a lot about camp management.

Andral Maxito is an unemployed mechanic who found refuge in Pinchinat after the quake. "IOM helped us to organize ourselves, which in turn helped us to clearly express our needs to humanitarian organizations", he says.

In Jacmel, efforts are on-going to try and prepare for the return of tourists.

"There's work going on to repair a couple of damaged hotels and to identify those that are structurally sound enough to reopen soon", says Michaëlle Craan, a tourist industry personality in Jacmel. "Despite the devastation, the lack of hotel rooms and the closing of the local airport, we're seeing a few fragile green shoots. Continued assistance and the resilience of our people will help us through those difficult times." **M**

# Haiti: The diaspora at the heart of reconstruction

Clarens Renois  
Haiti Press Network

Haitian geographer George Anglade, who died during the 12 January earthquake, had a passion for literature and for all things Haitian. He used to say that the 4 million strong diaspora was a pillar of the country, contributing some 2 billion dollars yearly in remittances. Today, many say the diaspora should play a leading role in the reconstruction of the country.

It's a view shared by Haiti's Minister in charge of Haitians abroad, Edwin Paraison, who believes Haitian expatriates play an indispensable role in the reconstruction of this shattered country.

Until his nomination a year ago, Paraison was a vicar in the Haitian Anglican church. He is a strong advocate for bringing together Haitians with the skills, knowledge, expertise and financial know how for the reconstruction effort.

Over the past six months, Paraison has travelled the world to meet expatriate communities and potential Haitian investors to convince them to take a more active role in reconstruction efforts.

Clarence Renois from Haiti Press Network met with him as he was about to embark on a tour of European countries where he was



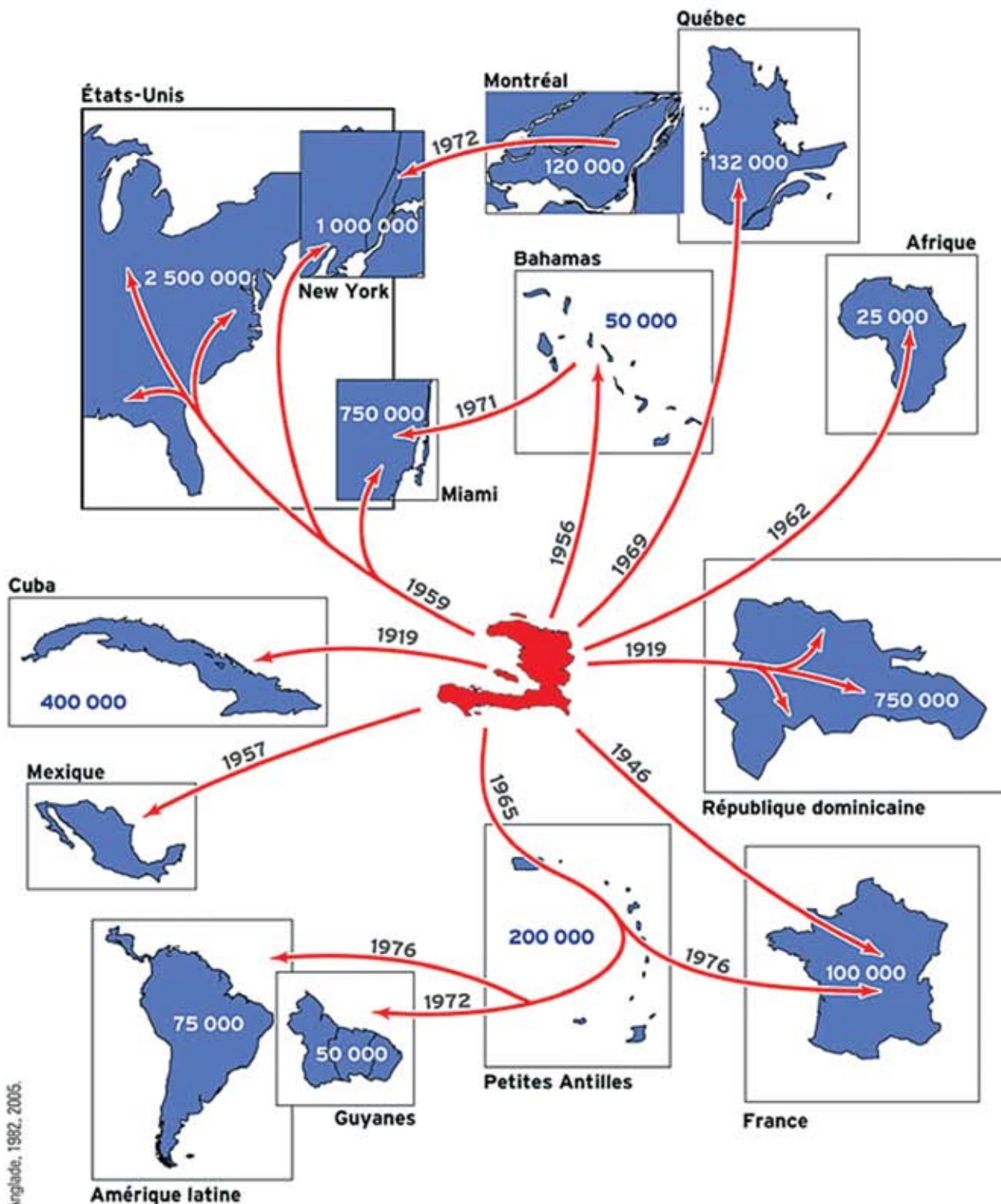
▲ Edwin Paraison, Minister in charge of Haitians abroad. (Photo: Clarens Renois)

to meet and hopefully convince Haitians, especially professionals, of the urgency of returning to help their home country.

Among Renois' first questions was whether or not diaspora representatives would have a voice in the government's decision making process.

Edwin Paraison: The diaspora already has a place within the Government of the Republic of Haiti and my role as a minister is to engage in a constructive dialogue with the 4 million Haitians abroad. Furthermore, the diaspora will be represented within the International Reconstruction Committee, which has been set up to coordinate and manage

# Les Haïtiens dans le monde



© Georges Anglade, 1982, 2005.

Les deux grandes vagues migratoires du XX<sup>e</sup> siècle, 1915-1935, 1965-1985, ont créé la diaspora qui, au Tricentenaire, 2005-2104, fait partie du nouvel espace haïtien.

▲ Geographic distribution of the Haitian diaspora.

the reconstruction of Haiti. Although the diaspora representative will not have a voting right, it will have one representative. This proves, if need be, the government's political will to anchor members of the Haitian diaspora in the reconstruction process. Of course, now we need to decide who will represent the diaspora and this will be done through a consultative process.

Clarens Renois: Realistically, what role could Haitian expatriates play? How important is their participation?

Edwin Pasraison: The diaspora really wants to take an active part in the programme of reconstruction, on two levels at least. Experienced managers could come back with the support of the private sector or of international organizations. Their expertise and local knowledge would also be an asset to companies and agencies operating in Haiti. Secondly, many Haitians abroad have expressed their desire to return home as part of philanthropic activities. Finally, there are many Haitian entrepreneurs

who would like to set up businesses locally and we will, help them to do so by making their return possible. We are planning to work closely with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the IOM on pilot projects to facilitate the return of qualified Haitians. Despite the huge degree of solidarity shown by expatriate Haitians, especially among the young, they remain prudent. We therefore need to put in place concrete measures that will reassure them so that we can all benefit from their skills and knowledge.

Clarens Renois: What is the true economic weight of the diaspora?

Edwin Paraison: It's difficult to say right now but its economic clout is bound to increase. Before the 12 January quake, some 4 million Haitians sent back more than 2 billion US dollars per year, which was used by families to purchase goods. The truth is that most of the money is not put to productive investments. We therefore need to find ways to encourage direct investments from Haitian entrepreneurs abroad.

We need to reach out to them because to 2 billion US dollars sent back every year represents less than 15% of the total financial assets abroad. The human and financial assets of the diaspora must therefore be put to good use in the reconstruction efforts.

Furthermore, according to the Interamerican Development Bank, 83 per cent of all qualified Haitians have left the country. After the quake that killed some 300,000 people, we believe some 20,000 professionals left the country as part of family reunification programmes put in place by some developed countries. The recent Organization of American States meeting, which recently took place in Washington, has allowed the Haitian diaspora to establish the foundation of its participation in the reconstruction of the country. This and pledges made by the international community to make more than 10 billion US dollars available for the reconstruction will help Haiti, which remains the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. **M**

▼ Pascale Verly at Corail market.  
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# Anpa Syèl La



ÉPISODE # 2

Adaptation en BD du feuilleton  
réalisé et produit par Jacques Roc.

DESSIN + SCÉNARIO : CHEVELIN PIERRE

3 JOLI APRÈ ...

... PRENS, MIEN TE BYEN BEZWIEN FÈ VON KOZE AVÈ W SOLI SA KI TE PASE LÒT JOLI A ...

OU KONNEN KE PAPA W MOURI ...

... MEN TOUT MOUN ISI A RENNEN W ! PAPI JANJO, GRAN ... OU KONNEN TOU VO GRANMOUN ANPL. LE OU DEPLASE SAN OU PA DI PÈSONN KOTE OU YE OU FÈ VO INKYE !

MIEN KONFRAN N PA BEN KOTE LA POLI JWE ; SE NAN YON KAN NOU YE, NOU PA LAKAY NOU, PLEN LÒT MOUN KE NOU PA KONNEN, NENPÒT BAGAY TE KA RIVE W. PWOMÈT MIEN PROCHÈNN DWA W AP DEPLASE W AP DI SA ...

... KONSA SI MIEN PA OKPE M A ALE AVÈ W, OKPE F KOUNYE A NOU PRAL FÈ VON TI PLANEN...

NA P TOU PWORITE JWE VON TI SOLBÒL ANSAN M, SA W WÈ ?

YON TI TAN APRÈ ...

KOTE MESYE VO F BAGAY LA TÈLMAN BON KOUNYE A VO GAYE !

AAA ! ÈKSPERYANS W! OU MANKE ! TI CHER, LÈ BASON VO PA CHITA NAN KAY LA LI PI BON W. SI VO TE LA OU TAP TANDE VO BRANSOU, VO ANVI BWE JI ...

SA SE ZAPÈ FANM LONTAN. MANTALITE ÈSKLAV. KOTE M PRAN TAN POLI M OKPE BASON ! MIEN PA BÒ N !

... PIGA W VINN PLENVEN !!!

... PASKE MIEN PA WÈ KOLMAN NON MIEN PRAL KANPE DEVAN FANMI M POLI M DI VO AKIM MANDE W DIVÒS ! PA BEN BAGAY KONSA NAN RAS MIEN TANDE, M PALE !

WE FANM MODÈN ! SÈLMAN LÈ L LEVE L ALE, AL JWEANN VON LÒT FANM ...

SE OU MI KI FANM BATE PAPA M, MEN M JAN LI KA ANVI BWE JI, LI KA PRIE F SITRON TOU ...

ANTOUKA, SI M TE BEN VON MÈS TANKOU MARI W LA MIEN TAP DIVÒSÈ YO FINA DEJA, ... KÒM LI DEJA PAPA M ...

O ! MEN JANJO MIEN TANDE YWA L DEVO A AK VON LÒT MISYE, JANJO F JANJO ?

ATÒ SA W BEN LA F MIEN PA WÈ W DEPI M MATEN, MIEN TANDE YWA W, M RELE W BONSWA MISYE !

KITE MALGRÈ M NAN JAN LI YE A J DAVÈ MIEN FÈ KALKIL MIEN TRÈ BYEN, MIEN BEZWIEN L RETE POU LATRISTÈS PA VIN N PRAN M LÈ M KOMANSE GRANMOUN AVAN M MOURI.

OO ! SAK BENYEN F BEN REPLIK ANKÒ F MIEN PA SANTI L NON !

MISYE SA TAP ÈKSPLIKE M VON BAGAY ÈPÒTAN LA EPI OU DERANJE NOU !

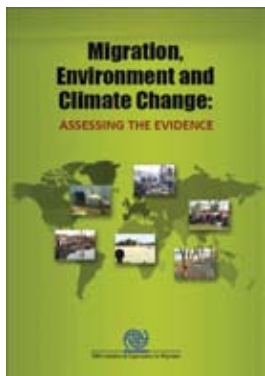
IOM in partnership with MINUSTAH is producing a comic strip that tells the story of a displaced family living in a camp. This comic strip is the pending version of a soap opera, shown in camps and aired on national TV. Each episode contains key messages from the aid agencies to affected communities.

The 2nd episode talks about the registration of the displaced population, which began on 25 February 2010. This complex process is led by the Government of Haiti's Department of Civil Protection (DPC) in close partnership with IOM.



À SUIVRE

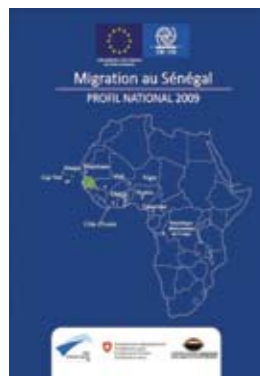
In this episode, a crook, missing the identity of an IOM agent, is trying to sell a registration card to a family ahead of the registration which is about to take place in the camp. The villain is trying to sell the card for USD 1000 by telling the family it will give them the right to a new house. Fortunately, members of an IOM registration teams and community mobilizers save the family from being cheated by explaining to true purpose of this registration exercise.



**Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Assessing the Evidence**

Gradual and sudden environmental changes are resulting in substantial human movement and displacement, and the scale of such flows, both internal and cross-border, is expected to rise with unprecedented impacts on lives and livelihoods. Despite the potential challenge, there has been a lack of strategic thinking about this policy area partly due to a lack of data and empirical research on this topic. Adequately planning for and managing environmentally induced migration will be critical for human security. The papers in this volume were first presented at the Research Workshop on Migration and the Environment: Developing a Global Research Agenda held in Munich, Germany in April 2008. One of the key objectives on the Munich workshop was to address the need for more sound empirical research and identify priority areas of research for policy makers in the field of migration and the environment.

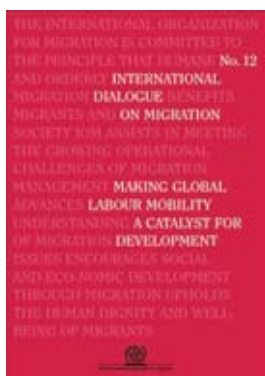
2009/Softcover, 448 pages  
ISBN 978-92-9068-454-1  
English  
US\$ 78.00



**Migration au Sénégal: Profil National 2009**

"Migration in Western and Central Africa: Country Profiles 2009" is a series of migration profiles produced by IOM with the financial support of the European Union, the Swiss Federal Office for Migration (FOM) and the Belgian Development Cooperation. These country reports bring together existing information from different sources in a structured manner, and provide a comprehensive overview of key international migration and socio-economic development trends in selected West and Central African countries (Cameroon, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal). The reports cover a range of statistics and other data related to immigration, emigration, return migration, remittances, labour migration and irregular migration, including trafficking and smuggling. Besides explaining some of the key factors underlying current migration patterns, the country reports also provide an assessment of the institutional and policy framework governing migration (domestic legislation, institutional actors, bi- and multilateral cooperation, etc.) and its effectiveness. Drawing on the information and data presented, these country profiles indicate existing data gaps and possible strategies to improve migration statistics, and present key recommendations for policy maker to improve current migration management.

2009/Softcover, 148 pages  
ISBN 978-92-9068-564-7  
French



**International Dialogue on Migration N°12 - Making Global Labour Mobility A Catalyst for Development**

This publication includes the materials of the two-day workshop on "Making Global Labour Mobility a Catalyst for Development", held in Geneva, Switzerland on 8 and 9 October 2007. IOM would like to thank the Governments of Italy and the United States for making this event possible. This publication was prepared under the overall supervision of Michele Klein Solomon, Director, MPR and Philippe Boncour, Head, IDM Division, MPR. It comprises two main elements. Part I contains the report of the workshop, which is based on the presentations and discussions. Special thanks for the preparation of Part I are owed to Françoise Moudouthe – the principal author – and to Ryszard Cholewinski. Part II includes the workshop agenda and background paper.

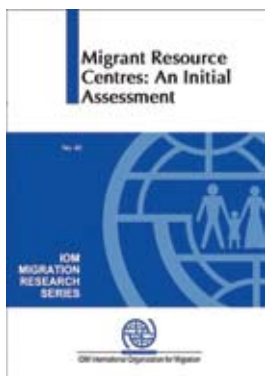
2010/Softcover, 60 pages  
ISSN 1726-2224  
English  
US\$ 16.00



**Working to Prevent and Address Violence Against Women Migrant Workers**

Almost half of the total number of migrant workers in the world today are women. It is important to acknowledge that labour migration may benefit them through economic and socio-cultural empowerment, however, due to their dual vulnerability as migrants and women, they are still disproportionately exposed to a variety of risks arising from their mobility. At every stage of their migratory experience, women migrant workers may be more exposed to human rights violations such as discrimination, exploitation and abuse compared to their male counterparts. This publication presents the approach IOM takes toward the protection and empowerment of women migrant workers. By displaying key IOM activities in that area, the report seeks to better inform policy makers, practitioners and the public of the vulnerability of these women and of good practices for the protection of their human rights throughout the labour migration cycle.

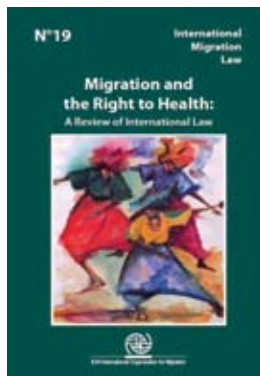
2009/Softcover, 56 pages,  
ISBN 978-92-9068-552-4  
English  
US\$ 10.00



**MRS N°40 - Migrant Resource Centres: An Initial Assessment**

While there has been significant growth in the number of Migrant Resource Centres (MRCs) in recent years, there has been no attempt to date to examine the impact of these centres on migration management goals. This study aims to help bridge the gap by providing an overview of good practices employed by MRCs to help migrants move to their destinations in a legal, voluntary, orderly and protected manner. This assessment covers the work of 17 MRCs in Albania, Australia, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon, Mali, the Philippines, Portugal, Slovakia, Sri Lanka and Tajikistan. It focuses on the role of MRCs in empowering migrants for development and self-protection. The assessment also covers MRCs' strategies for ensuring their smooth operation and long-term sustainability. The study shows that MRCs are increasingly working to build the capacities of migrants to contribute to country-of-origin development. Efforts by MRCs to facilitate low-cost remittance transfers, offer investment advice and assist migrants in their search for appropriate jobs support this goal. In addition, MRCs are also actively helping migrants to protect themselves, by providing information on migrant rights, the risks and consequences of migration and related laws and procedures, as well as legal counselling, dispute resolution assistance and referrals to health and other social services.

2010/Softcover, 71 pages  
ISSN 1607-338X  
English  
US\$ 16.00



**International Migration Law N°19 - Migration and the Right to Health: A Review of International Law**

The objective of this publication is primarily to promote respect by the State for the right to health for all those who migrate. Secondly, the publication aims more generally at guiding the reader through the myriad of norms and principles contained in international instruments impacting on migrating persons' right to health. Finally, considering the importance of the application de iure and de facto of the human rights norms which are at the core of migrating persons' protection, examples of compliance or non-compliance by States with relevant articles of human rights instruments have been added. It is hoped that this publication brings us one step closer in ensuring implementation of the law by way of policies, programmes and projects that are respectful of the human rights of all, including those who migrate.

2009/Softcover, 461 pages  
ISSN 1813-2278  
English  
US\$ 55.00

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