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## IOM COMPLETES REFURBISHMENT OF BOSASSO SECONDARY SCHOOL



IOM's Senior Operations and Programme Officer, Maher Ahmad, addresses the students and guests during the closing ceremony in Puntland

**"Education will help our youth achieve its dreams and ambitions"** was one of the messages echoed by the Mayor of Bossaso while attending the closing ceremony for the newly rehabilitated Bossaso Secondary School in Puntland State of Somalia, a school utilized both by the host and migrant community.

The rehabilitation of four of the six blocks of the school, implemented by IOM and funded by the Government of Japan, sought to support basic infrastructure development while providing livelihood opportunities to the host community and migrant/IDP community. The rehabilitation is one of IOM's first projects under the livelihood and light infrastructure component of the Mixed Migration in Somalia programme.

The school rehabilitation commenced on October 8, 2009 and was completed on December 30, 2009. 320 workers from the host and migrant community are livelihood beneficiaries of the school project.

*The Bossaso Secondary School was near to collapse when the IOM renovated it. On behalf of my students, I would like to extend my thanks to IOM for the school refurbishing and I would like also to thank the people of Japan who funded this project and Al-Najah General Trading and Construction Company who contracted and rehabilitated the School*

**Mr. Said Osman, Director of Bossaso Secondary School**

Refurbishment included concrete roofing, painting, installation of new doors, window and ceiling boards, complete electrical installation, reconstruction of septic tank and playground area, and paving of the yard area. In total, nine classes, three offices, one laboratory, one library, 11 latrines, one water tank, one generator room and one preparation room benefitted from the project.

*When Somali government built this school in 1978, I was one of the first groups of students who attended and graduated here, and I am very happy today to attend the closing ceremony and seeing that the school continues to exist*

**Mr. Mohamud Farah Mohamud, Bossaso Mayor**

Vulnerable members of the migrant community, who constitute approximately 30% of the students, are not required to pay school fees at this facility. Within the 2009/2010 school year, a total of 916 students were registered as students, with 219 of them coming from the IDP/migrant community. 200 vulnerable students out of the 916 do not pay school fees. Since the completion of the rehabilitation, an additional 104 students have enrolled to the school.

The closing ceremony was attended by the former Governor of Bari Region, Mr. Muse Gelle Yusuf, Mayor of Bossaso, Mr. Mohamud Farah Mohamud, Director General for the Ministry of Security, Mr. Ali Mohamed Abdulrahman and representatives Ministry of Education, Education Development Centre, UNGOM, local government and IOM.



A look at the newly refurbished Bossaso Secondary School

## KAKUMA RESIDENTS RECEIVE PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT FROM IOM



IOM staff in Kakuma hand out materials to Kiteyarai Youngsters Association, aimed at helping them with their income generating activity

In the past few months, IOM has facilitated the provision of psychosocial services to some of the residents in Kakuma. This targeted both individuals and groups in various communities and included counseling, training activities as well as supporting income generating activities (IGA).

One lucky group, Kiteyarai Youngsters Association, which is based in Kakuma town, was given materials to start up income generating activities. The group, comprising of men and women, is registered with the Ministry of Social Services and makes a living out of the small businesses they engage in such as bicycle repair, beadwork and baking. In addition they have set up a car wash, a venture that generates for them small incomes on a regular basis.

The group, which has been undergoing psychological counseling from November 2009 to April 2010, was encouraged to adopt positive coping mechanisms in order to deal with the harsh environment they are exposed to as a result of drought and insecurity facing the region. The IOM Psychosocial team strengthens such groups through capacity building and life coping skills that see them develop a positive frame of mind towards life.

IOM also held Gender Based Violence (GBV) training in Kakuma on the 30<sup>th</sup> and the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2010. The objective of the training was to generate awareness on how sexual and GBV negatively affect communities and the best response mechanisms. The target audience included community, religious, and civic leaders as well as other partner organizations. The training was vital and timely due to the harsh realities like insecurity, conflict, loss of life, displacement and drought which face communities in Turkana West District especially women and girls who get affected the most.

This is one area that requires more peace building activities so as to restore calm and engage communities in development matters. The 33 participants that attended the training are influential persons in the community who were willing to work towards achievement and productivity in the region. The training was also a platform where the participants shared information and put in place measures that will deal with future issues.

## CANCELLATION OF FLIGHTS TO EUROPE AFFECTS DEPARTING REFUGEES

The month of April was quite challenging for IOM Operations in Kenya after MRF Nairobi was compelled to reschedule approximately 20 pro-flight movements following the grounding of flights in the region. More than 200 passengers that were meant to depart the region for resettlement between April 15<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> could not travel. This was due to a huge cloud of volcanic ash that paralyzed air travel across Europe forcing approximately 30 countries to either close or restrict their airspace..

The most affected were IOM clients who were predestined for the United States, Canada and Italy. A few of those travelling under IOM sponsorship were fortunate after their flights were re-booked in just a period of three days, but for many the pressure was on as they weren't able to be re-booked for at least one week.

Tanzania too felt the brunt as their charter flights, which comprise a large proportion of the U.S. Resettlement Program (USRP) departures from the region, were put on hold for they pass through Kenya while on transit at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, where transit support facilities are minimal. Moreover the cancellation of the charter bookings adversely affected bookings bound for Australia because some of the pro-flight movements were to be transported to Nairobi on the same charters as the USRAP passengers. Malawi as well was not left behind. Its departure bookings comprising virtually 40 percent were also affected. Seventy-nine passengers on two separate pro-flights had to be postponed from April 20<sup>th</sup> to approximately a month later. This presented a significant challenge in relation to departures from southern Africa since IOM is not present in Malawi and therefore a special escort had been arranged with the IOM mission in Pretoria.



(Photo credit: Brian Sagali, IOM 2010)

At the end of it all, the month of April did end well as Europe's airspace was re-opened and departing refugees on transit through Europe were able to embark on their journey.

MRF Nairobi, through its Operations Department, is responsible for establishing support mechanisms for transportation activities. The department assists with the resettlement of refugees accepted by resettling countries through arranging safe and reliable movement.



## IOM COMPLETES SOLAR LIGHTING PROJECT IN AYAX II IDP CAMP, SOMALILAND



Drama performance during the ceremony. The performance demonstrated the street lights' benefits including the shops opening hours and the reinforced security for women. The drama also included some awareness messages on human trafficking and migrants' protection.

A solar lighting project has been completed in the Ayax II IDP camp in Hargeisa, Somaliland as part of IOM's efforts to support livelihoods of host and IDP/migrant communities in Somalia. The project was implemented in partnership with HAVOYOCO (Horn of Africa Voluntary Youth Committee) and funded by the Government of Japan.

*I deeply thank the Government of Japan, IOM and Havoyoco for their effort in supporting the IDP Village with a solar lighting. We are forever very grateful for your support and would we would also like to request from IOM to expand the solar system to the whole village*

**Mr. Yonis Omer Sheikh Yusuf, Chairman of Ayax II Committee**

IOM officially handed the project over to the community council of the IDP camp during a ceremony held on March 29<sup>th</sup> 2010 in Hargeisa. The ceremony was attended by representatives from UNHCR, UNHABITAT, the Migration Response Centre, Somaliland government officials, as well as members of the area municipality and the media.

2,000 people have so far benefitted from solar powered street lighting in the area, including small shops and business. 54 IDPs were recruited for the construction and installation of the solar system, based on their high level of vulnerability.

Located in the southern part of Ahmed-Dhagah district of Hargeisa city, the residents of this camp include Somaliland returnees from camps in Ethiopian, Somaliland IDPs and a few Ethiopian refugees. The settlement was established in 2005, through the collaboration of Somaliland government and UNHABITAT. IOM commenced implementation of the solar lighting project in the final quarter of 2009.

The camp residents earlier did not have access to public or private electricity, hence the need for construction of a lighting system. This now allows continuation of trade during the evening hours as well as increasing security within the area.

*I can feel the impact within the village and the tangible support that IOM provided to the people. This support has come from people like you who made an effort to improve your living conditions, - take care of it*  
**Hon Minister, Mr Adan Ahmed Elmi, Somaliland Minister of Justice**

## IOM CO TEAM RECEIVE VISITORS FROM CANADA

IOM's Canadian Orientation team in Kenya welcomed five Service Provider Organization (SPO) officials from five provinces and organizations in Canada last month. The officials visited Kenya in order to better acquaint themselves with the cultural orientation and resettlement process from this side as they assist refugees upon arrival in Canada. The visitors were Getachew Woldeyesus, Marufa Shinwari, Heather Asbil, Gulalai Habib, and Carlos Vialard.

The group attended and actively participated in COA class in Kakuma refugee camp and had the opportunity to see refugees' dwellings in a camp set up. They were provided with the opportunity to interact with the refugees and receive first hand information on refugee life. As an outcome of their interaction and refugee visit, they were able to assess their perspective/perception and expectations of the refugees in their settlement support process.



Mr. Carlos Vialard, a Settlement Services Manager from the Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council Inc. during his visit to Kakuma refugee camp in Northwestern Kenya

Both the COA trainers and the SPO officials immensely benefited from learning the work done for refugees before and after as they were able to share experience and knowledge in their respective areas of work. The trainers were able to appreciate the diversity of settlement support services provided to refugees upon arrival by the SPOs in each of the provinces. They also shared the gaps, challenges and best practices which will greatly enhance the delivery of CO. The most salient lesson learnt is that there is need for more interaction and exchange between the trainers and the service providers across Canada.

Since the beginning of 2010, a total of 144 migrants have received COA training.

IOM, under its Cultural Orientation programme, prepares migrants for their new lives in receiving countries. Cultural orientation equips the migrants with the necessary tools to deal with the initial integration concerns and the varying stages of cultural, social and economic adaptation.

## TRAFFICKED TO SOUTHERN SUDAN AND EXPLOITED FOR LABOUR IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY



IOM's CT Programme Officer, Alice Kimani, interviewing a victim of trafficking at the Center for Domestic Training and Development (CDTD) shelter supported by IOM

### *Morris's\* story, as narrated to Noela Barasa (IOM's Counter Trafficking Legal Assistant)*

Morris had been living in Nairobi since 2002, after moving from Western Kenya.

"I graduated from the National Youth Service in 2003 and got a job with an alcohol distilling company where I worked for three and half years until my contract ended in 2008. I was looking for another job when I met Obed\* at a notice board along Tom Mboya Street in Nairobi. He offered me an opportunity to work as a logistics Officer with the United Nations (UN) in Juba, Southern Sudan, at Ksh. 3000 per day (an equivalent of 40). Obed promised to cater for the cost of travel by road which was Ksh. 4000 (USD 53) as long as I could acquire a passport.

Two weeks later I had my passport. We made the overnight journey to Kampala, where we picked four Ugandan men, who had been promised similar opportunities with the United Nations. Subsequently a three day journey took us through Gulu, in Northern Uganda to Atiak, the Sudan-Uganda border. At the Namule border point our travel documents were cleared by the immigration authority who issued us with work permits after Obed paid the requisite Ksh. 3500 (USD 46) fee per head. We then proceeded to Juba. In Juba Obed told us that we would work at a place known as Bor, in Southern Sudan where we would construct a primary school as we waited for the UN jobs. I did not have any experience in construction but the Ugandan men did. Obed, and the five of us slept in tents at night and he supervised our construction work during the day.

Food was scarce and Obed often went to Juba for supplies, leaving us with no food for days on end. Whenever he returned Obed would threaten us because we were not working fast enough. We ate only once a day at 4pm. Water was very scarce and we relied on trucks passing by with their collection from the Nile. After three months, the construction half complete, with no UN jobs in sight we requested Obed to pay us our dues so we could return to our respective homes. Obed said he could only pay us upon satisfactory completion of the project. If we wished to return to our respective countries we could do so on our own.

We had no money and were in the middle of nowhere, with little interaction from the sparsely populated surrounding community who only spoke their local language. We had no option but to continue with the construction.

The work was complete after five months, except the roofing. We did not have a carpenter, or the technical expertise to do the roofing but Obed insisted we had to do it ourselves. Following a lot of pressure and threats, we gave in; however in the process I fell to the ground on my head, sustaining head injuries compounded by frequent severe migraines. Obed refused to take me to hospital, claiming there was no medical facility in the area, but he still pressured me to continue working and if I was too sick to work, then I would lose the single meal per day he offered us.

***We were expected to work for food and conditioned to eat once a day, at 4:00pm***

Six months later, the classrooms were complete. A Sudanese soldier came to the site and introduced himself as the owner of the school. He told us to vacate the premises in three days, and when we protested about our dues, informed us that he had already settled all costs related to the construction with Obed. Obed as he usually did had left the site, promising to return. However he did not return and we did not see him again. We pleaded with the soldier to show compassion and he offered us a job in his house for 300 Sudanese pounds.

I took the offer but the Ugandans rejected it. After completing the task, the soldier refused to pay me and told me to disappear in three seconds or he would shoot me. I returned to the site and re-joined the Ugandans. On expiry of the three days deadline the soldier returned to the site with two armed men and ordered us to vacate. We decided to find our way to Juba, on foot, did not know the direction and could not ask for help because of the language barrier. On our way however, we met UN peacekeepers who after explaining our predicament, agreed to take us to Juba. They fed us and advised us to contact our respective embassies on arrival at Juba.



IOM's Deputy Director General, Laura Thompson and MRF Nairobi's Regional Representative, Ashraf El Nour, and Ms. Edith Murogo during a visit to the CDTD in February 2010. (IOM 2010)

story continued on next page

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On the way to the Kenyan Embassy in Juba, I saw a Kenyan truck parked by the roadside. The driver was willing to assist me to get back home but since he was en route to Kinshasa to deliver some goods, he suggested I accompany him and then return to Nairobi with him. The journey to Kinshasa and then to Lokichogio in Kenya took two weeks. At this point I was very weak and on the brink of losing my mind.

When we arrived in Nairobi, I went in search of my sister, the only relative I had in Nairobi. I walked to her house in South B about 5km from the Capital; unfortunately she had passed away three months back. The news was devastating and I decided to seek assistance from good Samaritans. I went to Kawangware and luckily bumped into a lady who agreed to host me in a house she shared with her family. She worked as a volunteer social worker.

Later that week IOM conducted a sensitization workshop for community members from Kawangware and surrounding areas on human trafficking. My host attended the workshop and shared my story. I met with an IOM official a week later who interviewed me and I was accepted into their victim assistance programme. The assistance package included shelter, food and other basic amenities as well as medical assistance and psychosocial support. I stayed at the shelter for nine months and also received training on entrepreneurship, cookery and housekeeping. I am grateful for the assistance I received.

The shelter staff were like family to me and I was able to recollect myself due to the counseling I received and the support system the shelter provided. I am now on the path to rebuilding my life with startup capital assistance from IOM. I transferred the skills I acquired at the center to my wife who is also nursing our baby. My utmost gratitude to IOM and their partners for the assistance they provide to victims of trafficking.

The greatest challenge after my ordeal was when I returned to my rural village. Expectations were high because I had come from abroad and everybody expected me to be financially empowered. I have lost the respect of my siblings because I came back empty handed. I am however grateful to my parents who have been very understanding.

***Expectations were high. I was supposed to be rich, after all, I was going to work with the UN***

Trafficking in men is a trend less considered by many and based on my experience; I would urge everyone to follow stipulated procedure when seeking employment abroad. Verify all job offers with the Ministry of Labour or seek advice from IOM. I found myself in this situation because of ignorance. Had I died in Sudan, nobody would have known what became of me. I saw IOM in Juba, Southern Sudan but did not seek their assistance because I did not know what they do. IOM should have campaigns to educate the public on their work.”

\*Names have been changed to protect the identity of the individuals