



RAC Technical Working Group Meeting (March 2011)



## CAPACITY BUILDING IN MIGRATION MANAGEMENT IN EAST AFRICA

**“THIS PROJECT AIMS TO ENHANCE THE CAPACITY OF THE EAST AFRICA COMMUNITY TO HARMONIZE MIGRATION MANAGEMENT AND ALLOW FREE AND SAFE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS”**

The regional integration process of the East African Community (EAC) Partner States was revived in 2000, when the Treaty on the Establishment of the East African Community came into force.

In 2005 the EAC partner states signed the Customs Union. The Common Market Protocol was signed in November 2009.

The East African community is fast tracking the regional integration agenda by

putting in place a strict time schedule on the implementation of the various components. Additional to the common market protocol and the customs union, The EAC plans to introduce a common monetary union in 2012 and a Political Federation in 2015.

These processes are intrinsically tied to migration opportunities, such as the free movement of persons, increased legal labour migration and remittances. There also are challenges such as irregular migration, smuggling and human trafficking. A clear migration policy and strong capacity in migration management is required to effectively address these migration concerns.

In the framework of the

Memorandum of Understanding signed between IOM and the EAC in May 2006, calling for effective cooperation and liaison between the two institutions, a joint project in the area of capacity building in migration and border management was initiated and through it, IOM is enhancing the capacity of the EAC to support the mainstreaming of migration issues in the

### IOM IN ACTION

**This project aims to:**

- Establish a migration desk and migration resource centre to increase the capacity of the EAC Secretariat to address migration issues
- Mainstream migration issues into the operationalization and implementation of the Common Market Protocol and its annexes
- Establish an institutional framework to oversee the implementation of the migration management aspects of the Common Market Protocol through formation of a Regional Advisory Committee.

**The implementation of this project will be done in coordination with the chiefs of immigration and officers from relevant agencies to:**

- Ensure migration issues are mainstreamed in the operationalization and implementation of the Common Market Protocol
- Organize workshops and visits to border posts to familiarize officers on good practices in border management
- Build consensus on the regional priorities
- Establish an implementation oversight body, the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC), to ensure that efforts at policy level translate into the harmonization of operational procedures amongst partner states. By the end of the project, the constituted RAC will set priorities for future steps towards a harmonized migration policy within the EAC region.

**Achievements**

- Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) has been established, with 10 members (two from each partner state) who serve as a technical arm to the chiefs of immigration on matters of the Common Market
- Workshops have been organized for the chiefs of immigration and other senior immigration officers to discuss the Common Market and other immigration matters.
- A Principal Immigration Officer has now been posted at the EAC secretariat.

- A study visit was organized for RAC members to the Tanzania – Rwanda border at Rusumo to experience operation border operation procedures and cross border collaboration.
- Prepared a draft monitoring and evaluation tool on the protocol implementation as it relates to migration matters; a draft handbook on the Common Market Protocol for immigration officers; and a draft training of trainer’s manual on immigration aspects of the Protocol.
- The 1st joint OSBP sensitization workshop was held in Tanzania to take stock of the implementation of the common market protocol and its provision on free movement of persons.

**Upcoming Activities**

- Establish a migration desk and resource center at the EAC Secretariat once the principal immigration officer is on board.
- Establish a migration/immigration web portal linked to the EAC website as a tool for information sharing and networking.
- Organize a technical workshop on one-stop-border-post and integrated border management for senior immigration and customs officers and another workshop on regional migration management in the framework of the Common Market Protocol.
- Organize a study visit to Zambia/Zimbabwe border for Chiefs of Immigration and RAC members.
- Host a training of trainers (ToT) session to test the draft manual.



Meeting for Chiefs of Immigration. July 2010, Kampala, Uganda

**MANAGING MIGRATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL**

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**WITH THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS:**

