

# Migration Initiatives Appeal 2009

## PANAMA

### Migration issues

Panama has become a transit country for undocumented migrants headed to the US. This has resulted in increased trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. Additionally, Panama receives thousands of migrants from Colombia, who have been displaced by forty years of conflict and growing economic difficulties. Panama is an active member of all regional initiatives on migration. Panama is also home to an indigenous population near the border with Costa Rica. Each year, 12,000 Ngäbe-Buglé migrate into Costa Rica to pick coffee. IOM is currently working with partners to provide health services to this population. Strategic partnerships established with the Regional IASC group have highlighted the need to create interagency regional humanitarian stockpiling depots, as well as capacity building in IOM's cluster area of CCCM. Finally, in the context of the expansion of the Panama Canal, IOM is seeking funds to work with its partners to help the government prepare and respond to challenges related to migration of workers.

### PROGRAMME AREAS

#### Migration Health

#### Health Promotion and Assistance for Migrants

The IOM "Finca Sana" (healthy farm) project provides health education and health services to Panamanian indigenous migrants during the coffee season in Costa Rica. IOM and its partners are seeking funds to expand this successful programme along the migration

### Total Funding Requirements for Panama - USD 1, 017, 000

#### International Organization for Migration (IOM) Panama

International Organization for Migration  
Panama Administrative Centre  
Calle Vicente Bonilla, Edificio 800  
Ciudad del Saber, Clayton  
Panamá  
República de Panamá  
Telefax: + 507.305 33 50  
+ 507.305 33 51 to 52  
Email: [iompanama@iom.int](mailto:iompanama@iom.int)

#### HEADQUARTERS Donor Relations Division

17, Route des Morillons CH-1211 Geneva 19  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41.22.717 9111  
Fax: +41.22.798 6150  
Email: [drd@iom.int](mailto:drd@iom.int)

route, in collaboration with indigenous authorities, as part of a bi-national effort.

- **IOM-UNFPA bi-national health programme for indigenous migrants**  
— USD 350,000

#### Migration Health Assistance for Crisis-Affected Populations

Given the extremely poor health indicators of the Ngäbe-Buglé population, IOM is working with its partners in Panama and Costa Rica to ensure that disaster preparedness efforts include this important, highly-marginalized population. Pandemic preparedness and

related education is an important part of these efforts and IOM is seeking related funding.

- **Pandemic preparedness among highly mobile indigenous migrants**  
— USD 123,000

### Regulating Migration **Counter-trafficking**

Panama is the only country in the region without a national commission to combat trafficking in persons. Given the movements into and through Panama, particularly from South America, it is essential to facilitate the formation of such a national response.

IOM recently carried out training with its partners and is seeking funding to respond to requests from the government for additional support.

- **Promoting a national response to trafficking in persons in Panama**  
— USD 119,000

### Facilitating Migration **Labour Migration**

In the context of the upcoming expansion of the Panama Canal, IOM and other partners have begun discussions on how to facilitate and manage the potential huge flow of foreign workers and associated services.

- **Technical assistance to the government during the Panama Canal expansion**  
— USD 350,000

### Migration Policy, Research and Communications **Migration Research and Publications**

In preparation for the expansion of the Panama Canal, a research assessment is needed to identify key action areas and provide clear evidence for the related technical assistance project.

- **Potential implications of the Panama Canal expansion** — USD 75,000