



# IOM HAITI

## Cross-Border & Migration Management



### Overview

The Cross-Border & Migration Management (CBMM) is a 26-month Program (Feb. 2009—March 2011) aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Government of Haiti to manage migration and improve the security of Haitian borders. The CBMM is funded by the Stabilization and Reconstruction Task Force (START) of the Government of Canada. Specifically, the CBMM fosters a unified approach to migration and border management in Haiti through coordinated activities involving all relevant public institutions. In partnership with the Ministry of the Interior and of Collective Territories and its Office for Immigration and Emigration, the main counterpart of this program, the CBMM, which is now in its second phase, is currently implementing a number of activities on the base of the recommendations and results achieved during its pilot phase, (March 2007 - March 2008).

The Program aims in particular at reinforcing the technical as well as human capacities responsible for migration management of the Haitian Government. As far as the technical resources are concerned, the Program includes:

- The extension of a Border Management Information System (BMIS) to control migrants' entry and exit fluxes on the main land, air and sea ports;
- A review and update of the existing national legislation on migration, as well as the organization of regular Regional Consultations tackling migration issues common to Haiti and its neighboring countries;

As for human development, the Program includes:

- The creation of a permanent Training Unit on Border Management within the Ministry of the Interior for Immigration, Police and Customs Officers;
- Counter-Trafficking/Smuggling Training for Law Enforcement Officers, with specific reference to borders.



### Aims and Objectives

The CBMM Program aims at improving the current capacity of the Haitian Institutions responsible for regular and irregular migration management through the provision of in-depth Training on Border Management as well as specialized Security Equipment on all major border posts to humanely manage movement, allow communication and information exchange among border posts and provide a reliable database on migration. Specifically, in its five Modules, CBMM proposes to undertake the following activities:

- Two Evaluation Exercises of the existing BMIS, currently installed at the main airport in Port au Prince and of the Passport Production and Issuing System, PPS, including the data collection system. The extension of the BMIS to at least 13 land, sea and air border posts in Haiti;
- In-depth, theoretical and practical Border Management Training jointly offered to Immigration, Police and Customs Officers to foster effective unified border management in Haiti. Building the linguistic (Spanish and English) and IT skills of at least 200 Immigration Officers in Port au Prince and provinces. Improving the counter-trafficking and counter-smuggling capacities of at least 350 Law Enforcement Officers with specific reference to activities on the border;

The organization of Regional Consultations tackling the most urgent issues connected to migration and border management of common interest to countries in the Caribbean region, specifically to Haiti and its neighbours, in particular the Dominican Republic;

- A continued support to the Government of Haiti for the adoption of a comprehensive Draft Law on Counter-Trafficking, already drafted in collaboration with an Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Counter-Trafficking in 2007-8;
- An adequate response to emergency on borders in the aftermath of the earthquake of 12th January 2010, through provision of condensed Border Management Training (Mobile Sessions) delivered at border posts to boost the Law Enforcement Officers' capacity to face the surge in activities (legal and illegal). Reinstallation of the BMIS at the airport in Port au Prince after damage by the earthquake. Decentralisation of the PPS headquarter in Port au Prince to lighten their post-12.01 workload.

### Background

Despite a clear improvement in the security situation since 2004, the violent events of 2008 and the recent earthquake of 12th January 2010 have shown that Haiti is indeed still exposed to shocks of multiple nature. All such factors represent a considerable challenge for the country. This, in terms of migration management, translates in porous borders and ineffective border control. Such weaknesses are easily exploited by organised criminal networks which have transformed Haiti into an important place for the trafficking of drug, arms and people.

Illegal migration transiting in, or originating from Haiti towards more developed countries of the North leads to increased social tensions with Haiti's neighbouring countries in the Caribbean, specifically the Bahamas, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the Dominican Republic, as well as further afield.

Moreover, the current Haitian context, already marked by insecurity under various aspects (food, employment and personal safety) and further exacerbated by the recent earthquake, risks to lead to even higher level of irregular movement. It is therefore imperative for Haiti to have the support of the international Community to strengthen its credibility specifically regarding migration and border management. The CBMM2 Programme fosters an integrated approach to migration and border management. More specifically, it proposes to achieve its aims through an inter-agency approach. It tackles the need for an improved capacity to fight the crimes of trafficking and smuggling in person and to effectively manage borders for an improved migration management and security in the country and in the region. The CBMM Programme, in its pilot and second phases, provides clear proof of the Government of Haiti's intention to work with the International Community to ensure a radical change in the above mentioned fields.



*Certificates being handed out to police officers on completion of a training in Port-au-Prince, May 2009.*

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